Disasters begin and end at the local level. It’s not the state or federal government swooping in to rescue communities immediately following an event. Instead, it’s those local first responders and emergency managers who prepare, train and exercise for when that day comes. County EMAs are a critical part of that process by taking the knowledge and data specific to their community and developing plans that will best protect people and property.

EMAs truly are the “boots on the ground” that make successful responses happen, and Hoosiers should understand the immense work and training that goes in to developing county-level emergency management plans. As Indiana honors emergency managers during EMA Appreciation Week, I simply want to offer a word of thanks for looking out for your communities and being there when the state needs you.

Best Regards,

Mary Moran
IDHS Director of Emergency Management

New EMA Orientation Seminar

New EMA Staff who could not attend the New EMA Orientation Seminar can still get HSEEP credit for the event by watching a recording of the seminar and taking a short test afterwards.

Response and Recovery Update
Read the January issue of the Hoosier Responder

County Cyber Conversations

The Indiana Office of Technology and the IN-ISAC join local leaders to discuss HEA 1169 (2021) reporting requirements, the IN.gov Program, and prevention methods for a cyber-threat and attack. It’s important in today’s tech-reliant world to share information with each other before we fall victim to the newest cyber-threats and attacks.

The first discussion will be held in Miami County. Guest speakers will include Representatives Dan Leonard and Ethan Manning and Senator Stacey Donato

- 1 p.m.- 3 p.m.
- March 21, 2022
- Miami County Courthouse, GAR Room, 25 N Broadway, Peru, IN 46970

RSVP by March 16 with your name, title and email address to thollenbeck@iot.in.gov.

IDHS RACES AUXCOMM is hosting an HF net on Saturday, March 12 at 10 a.m.

The net will be done on a roll call format, based upon the IDHS districts and their counties.

Registration is required. If your county would like to participate, the frequency is 3.920 +/- 5 on LSB Register now!

The 10th biennial Operation Stay Afloat conference will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the State Government Center in Indianapolis.

This conference highlights flood preparedness and all-hazard mitigation. To register for the event, go to Operation Stay Afloat Registration.

For more information on flood insurance, visit in.gov/floodinsurance.

FEMA is hosting a Debris Management Planning Course this spring. This course provides an overview of issues and recommended actions necessary to plan for, respond to, and recover from a major debris-generating event with emphasis on state, local and tribal responsibilities. Registration is now available.

You can now view the 2022 NIMS ICS Position-Specific Train-the-Trainer (TtT) Course Schedule.

Once a course is completed, you will need to send a copy of the certification to training@dhs.IN.gov.

Exercise Updates

The Exercise Section has updated the IDHS Exercise Guide to account for the new HSEEP-compliant/consistent language. In the resources section, you will find the addition of two documents labeled “Indiana HSEEP Compliance 2020-2022” and “HSEEP Compliance for Federal Grant-Funded Exercises Policy.” The 2020-2022 document explains the differences of exercise requirements for LEPC and non-LEPC exercises for years 2020-2022.

FEMA Updates

FEMA is offering exercise assistance through the National Exercise Program.

Full Schedule

Read Here
If you are interested in learning more, there will be one-hour webinars hosted by FEMA’s National Exercise Division. The webinars will cover the following topics:

- Process for requesting exercise support;
- Benefits of submitting an exercise to the NEP; and
- Approved 2022–2022 Principals’ Strategic Priorities (PSP).

To register for the webinars, visit the NEP webinar page.

Public Safety Jobs Dashboard

Check out all the current openings on the IDHS Public Safety Jobs dashboard. If your agency is hiring and would like to promote the job, submit your information below the dashboard. It’s free.

Note: If the link above does not load, please copy and paste this address into the browser: https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/public-safety-job-postings/

Public Assistance Program

The Request for Public Assistance deadline remains open. A specific deadline for RPAs will be announced when a disaster end date for the COVID-19 pandemic is established by FEMA.

Continue checking the IDHS Public Assistance Program webpage for updates on guidance, trainings and other vital information.

The IDHS Exercise Section is offering a Cybersecurity workshop in March 2022. Participants will hear from local, state and federal partners.

- 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- March 15, 2022
- Virtual via Microsoft Teams
- Registration is now available.

In preparation for the Operation Lights Out: 2022 Logistical Staging Area (LSA) and Commodity Points of Distribution (C-POD) Full-Scale Exercise (FSE), an identical seminar and workshop will be available in Districts 5, 6 and 7. Participants will learn about FEMA’s community lifelines, how to manage a C-POD and requesting commodities from the state. This presentation will be HSEEP compliant and participants who are EMPG funded can count this as one of the three exercises needed to meet that requirement. All presentations will start at the conclusion of the district’s 10 a.m. meeting. Contact ederrer@dhs.in.gov for more details.

Dates:

District 7 in Terre Haute, IN: March 10, 2022
District 5 in Noblesville, IN: April 27, 2022

Grants Updates

FEMA’s Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) is offering a series of virtual trainings on the federal procurement rules applicable to recipients and subrecipients when purchasing in support of a FEMA award or declaration. The one-hour training sessions will be offered most Wednesdays from February through June 2022.

The training will cover a variety of procurement under grant concepts, frequent compliance issues, as well as revisions to the federal procurement standards that were effective Nov. 12, 2020.

Thank you for your patience as IDHS gets grant agreements drafted and out the door as quickly as possible. Be on the look for the DocuSign email that comes when it’s ready for external signatures.

Hazmat Updates
IDHS/IDEM collecting PFAS foam from Indiana fire agencies

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has launched a program to collect Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) foam from Indiana fire agencies.

The State will remove and properly dispose of PFAS material from any agency that requests it. **This is a free service with no additional requirements for fire agencies.**

Click here for additional information about PFAS and the program.

- 2021 Tier II reports are due on March 1. Facilities that fail to have their reports in the Tier II Manager by the March 1 deadline must pay an additional $100 late fee. Please note: due to limited staffing, facilities that at least initiate a 2021 Tier II report in the Tier II Manager by the March 1 deadline will not be impacted by the late fee penalty.

- IDHS is in the process of hiring a new LEPC Program Manager. In the meantime, LEPCs in need of assistance can reach out to Casey Kenworthy (ckenworthy@dhs.in.gov) or Mike White (mwhite@dhs.in.gov). Please note: due to limited staffing, responses to LEPC questions might be delayed.