When you think of flooding, you probably think of springtime and rain. Flooding is a year-round risk that can happen even in winter. Heavy snowfall, rapid snowmelt and intense rainstorms can lead to flooding that can put lives and property in danger.

To protect yourself and your property, practice inspecting your property regularly and take preventive action before winter’s extreme cold, snow and rain are upon you:

- **Drainage around your house.** Clear window wells and gutters of debris, and be sure downspouts extend at least two to three feet away from the house.

- **Sewer back valve.** Winter storms can flood town and city sewer systems, causing raw sewage to back up into the homes they service. Installing a sewer backwater valve can minimize the risk of this happening to your property.

- **Basement walls.** Inspect your basement and foundation walls and caulk any cracks on interior walls to prevent water from seeping through. You may also consider using a waterproof sealant on the exterior foundation, especially if your home is susceptible to flooding.

The best way you can proactively protect your home from flooding is by signing up for the [National Flood Insurance Program](https://www.nfip.gov) (NFIP). It is a federal program that seeks to reduce the impacts of flooding by providing affordable flood insurance policies to people.
Read the latest Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Quarterly Newsletter.

New Way to Connect

The Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy has a new Facebook page where you can get the latest information from the Academy including up-to-date information on current classes.

FEMA Updates

FEMA has released the revised In-Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness “Are You Ready”. It was last released in 2004. It is available in both English and Spanish.

FEMA has released the Long-Term Community Resilience Exercise Resource Guide, which focuses on designing whole community exercises to prepare for the effects of a changing climate.

FEMA's Individual Assistance (IA) Division Office of Regional Field Coordination (ORFC) invites all FEMA employees, Regional IA staff, IA field staff, and the SLTT community to join us for the first session of the IA Virtual Symposium Series on January 20th, 2022, from 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM ET. This will be the first of four sessions to be held during 2022.

During this virtual symposium, the IA Division will provide an information sharing update. Additionally, the Federal Insurance Directorate (FID) will discuss the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and its correlation to the

Learn more about the program at in.gov/floodinsurance

Best Regards,

Mary Moran

IDHS Director of Emergency Management

Response and Recovery Update

IDHS RACES AUXCOMM is hosting a HF net on Saturday March 12, starting 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!

Exercise Updates

The IDHS Exercise Section is offering a cybersecurity workshop in March 2022. Participants will be able to 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.

Elaina Derrer Aprea was hired as the Central Exercise Program Manager to support IDHS Districts 5-7. She started Jan. 3, 2022. Her contact information is EDerrer@dhs.in.gov; 317-617-6940

An IPPW survey from GovDelivery went out this week, so please be on the lookout. IDHS is requesting information on your upcoming exercises. IDHS still recommends holding a 2022 county and/or district TEPW/IPPW, but it is not required. For those participating, please submit your survey answers by
Individuals and Households Program (IHP).

Please register for the webinar here. Questions can be submitted through the registration page. Attendees will also be able to submit questions during the virtual symposium.

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.

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

Feb. 1, 2022. If you hold a county/district TEPW/IPPW submit any outcome materials to Exercise@dhs.in.gov by May of 2022. Outcome materials for an IPPW are the Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) and Integrated Preparedness Schedule (IPS). Outcome materials for a TEPW are the Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan (MY-TEP). FEMA updated the TEPW model to the IPPW model in 2020, and IDHS adopted the change.

If your county/district decides to hold one, IDHS will accept either and include your information provided regardless of the model you choose. IDHS appreciates your submissions as it will help aid in preparedness efforts and situational awareness, among many other benefits, for the whole community.

Hazmat Updates

Reminder! The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) legal notice is due Jan. 31. This submittal must include the meeting schedule for 2022 and proof that the information was made publicly available either by newspaper or electronically. The Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) decided to extend the guidelines set in 2020 for another year. The current guideline is that the IERC will not withhold funding from LEPCs who cannot complete the meeting or exercise requirement. Virtual meetings and virtual exercises are allowed and encouraged.

Please contact Casey Kenworthy ckenworthy@dhs.in.gov or Mike White mwhite@dhs.in.gov for any IERC, LEPC, or general hazmat questions.

The 2021 Tier II reporting year began on Jan. 1, 2022. Facilities who have extremely hazardous chemicals or hazardous chemicals over threshold must complete their Tier II report before March 1, 2022. Please contact Casey Kenworthy ckenworthy@dhs.in.gov with questions.

Planning Update

Happy New Year from the Planning Section! First of all, we would like to thank all of the EMAs for their incredible work in 2021 and look forward to serving you in 2022.

For those of you that do not know, IDHS has 2 new Planners in our section – Selena Rosas, who is the Critical Infrastructure and Logistics Planning Manager and Beth Carpenter, who is the Emergency Services
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.

Planning Manager. The Mass Care Planning Manager position is open and IDHS will be hiring soon.

The updated State Emergency Operations Plan is on the Governor’s desk for promulgation. Once it is signed, it will be posted on our Planning website along with other updated plans and annexes.

IDHS would like to thank all EMAs for submitting their HIRA/SPR/NIMS/CPG 101 and SEAR reports for 2021 IDHS continues to appreciate your hard work and efforts! To see all the new updates regarding the HIRA/THIRA and SPR click here.