Whether it's an incoming storm or just an extended cold snap, as the thermometer outside continues to drop, it's not just important to stay warm; you need to stay safe too. Driving in winter storms is dangerous and can be deadly.

Protect you and your family this winter by following these tips:

- **Only travel if you have to.** In extreme cold, you shouldn't travel unless it's necessary. Staying inside will reduce your chance of getting frostbite or risk traveling through uncertain road conditions.

- **Warm up the car** before you drive in frigid temperatures. To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never leave a vehicle running in your garage – even with the garage door up.

- **Dress warmly.** If you must leave the house, wear several layers of loose-fitting clothes. Limit your time outside.

- **Prepare** for emergencies that may arise while traveling in winter weather by having a vehicle emergency kit ready before you get on the road.

Driving in the winter can be harrowing, especially in snowstorms and icy conditions. By getting your car ready for winter and using some simple tips to drive safely, you can face almost any weather Mother Nature decides to send your way.

To learn more winter safety tips visit [Get Prepared](https://getprepared.idhs.in.gov).

Best Regards,

Mary Moran
Please help IDHS honor emergency managers by participating in a short survey about your experiences. Answers will be used for a story on the IDHS website and, with your consent, will be featured on the IDHS social media platforms.

We look forward to hearing about your experiences.

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.

The IDHS Exercise Section is conducting an HSEEP-Compliant three-day full-scale exercise (FSE) for central districts 5-7. The FSE will validate a county’s plans for establishing and managing a Logistical Staging Area (LSA) and Commodity Points of Distribution (C-POD). The exercise will also evaluate the local response for Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan/Emergency Operation Plans (CEMP/EOPs), etc.

Participants who live further than 50 miles from the sites in Madison County will be eligible for IDHS funded lodging. Mileage reimbursement is available for non-county or non-state vehicles. Food and beverage during exercise play will be made available.

Central Region - Operation Space Storm: 2022 LSA/C-POD Full-Scale Exercise

- Date: June 7-9, 2022
- Players: Central IN EMAs, IMT and CERT members
- Location: Madison County, IN

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

Read the January issue of the Hoosier Responder

FEMA Updates

FEMA has released the revised the 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.

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.

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**Public Safety Jobs Dashboard**

Check out all the current openings on the [IDHS Public Safety Jobs dashboard](https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/public-safety-job-postings/). 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/](https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/public-safety-job-postings/)*

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**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](https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/public-safety-job-postings/) for updates on guidance, trainings and other vital information.

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**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 available publicly 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 at ckenworthy@dhs.in.gov or Mike White at mwhite@dhs.in.gov for any IERC, LEPC, or general hazmat questions.

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**Indiana Emergency Response Conference**

The Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) is planning to bring together leading experts in all facets of Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement and Emergency Management industries.

Speaking proposals are now being accepted for the 2022 IERC.

Interested candidates are asked to submit outlines of proposal topics by March 11, 2022, to be considered by the conference committee.

[Click Here to Submit Proposal](https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/public-safety-job-postings/)