The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) have launched a program to collect Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) foam from Indiana fire agencies. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), evidence has shown exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse health outcomes in humans.

The PFAS initiative focuses on protecting firefighter safety. 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.

Minimizing exposure to Class B firefighting foam will have a big impact on the health of firefighters across Indiana.

In 2020, the Indiana General Assembly passed House Enrolled Act 1189, prohibiting the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS for training purposes (Read relevant Indiana Code). The new collection and disposal program allows Indiana to protect Hoosier firefighters and the environment.

To better understand how much PFAS-containing AFFF firefighting foam is present in Indiana, all fire service organizations are asked to voluntarily complete the survey below. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and collaboration regarding this joint initiative.

Note: Only one representative from each fire agency should complete the survey. Do not complete the survey if you have submitted previously.

Click here for additional information about PFAS and the program.

Complete the Survey Now

Mary Moran
IDHS Director of Emergency Management
Exercise Updates

The FEMA National Exercise Division is still accepting Fall 2021 requests for exercise support from the National Exercise Program (NEP). The NEP offers no-cost assistance to state, local, tribal and territorial jurisdictions for exercise design, development, execution and evaluation to validate capabilities across all mission areas.

Fall submissions are due **no later than Nov. 1, 2021** and decisions will be sent by **Dec. 10, 2021**. To submit a support request, please email the completed nomination form and required supporting documentation to the [National Exercise Division](mailto:NEP@home). The nomination form and detailed instructions on how to submit your support request package are available on the [NEP website](http://www.nep.gov).

Jurisdictions not ready to submit a request at this time, the NEP will hold additional exercise support rounds in spring and fall of 2022. If you have any questions, please contact the [National Exercise Division](mailto:NEP@home).

- The Central Exercise Program Manager departed Oct. 22, 2021. Exercise support questions for Districts 5 and 7 can now be directed to Casey Fizer at [CFizer@dhs.IN.gov](mailto:CFizer@dhs.IN.gov). Exercise support questions for District 6 can now be directed to Jason Chapman at [JChapman@dhs.IN.gov](mailto:JChapman@dhs.IN.gov).

Save the dates:

- **Nov.10, 2021**
  - Concept and Objectives/Initial Planning Meeting for 2022 Logistical Staging Area/Commodity Points of Distribution Full Scale Exercise (Districts 5-7)
  - Civil Unrest Tabletop After Action Conference (Districts 1-4)

- Reminder that if you attended the EMAI Conference, the EMA Orientation Seminar on Tuesday night was HSEEP compliant. Additionally, the Cascading Events Plan Seminar Thursday afternoon was HSEEP compliant.

- The Civil Unrest Table Top Exercise (TTX) After Action Conference with northern districts is scheduled for Nov. 10, 2021. More information can be found [here](http://www.nep.gov).

- The CCTA FSE After Action Conference is TBD at this time.
Exercise planning is beginning soon for a Cybersecurity Workshop with southern districts and all EMAs will be invited to the Workshop. It will be facilitated through Microsoft Teams. Please watch your email inbox for further information on developing the two workshop exercise planning teams or you can email the South Exercise Program Manager (Casey Fizer) at CFizer@dhs.IN.gov or the Exercise@dhs.IN.gov inbox.

Search and Rescue Update

Meet Pi, the newest IDHS Search and Rescue dog. Pi got first-hand training when DOC conducted a HAZMAT class at the IDHS Search and Rescue Training Center facility in Brazil, Indiana.

The full SAR schedule for the rest of 2021 and 2022 has been updated and can be found here.
Hazmat Update

The next IERC meeting will be on Nov. 8 at 1:30 p.m. It will be hosted at the MADE@Plainfield facility and virtually.

Learn more and add to your calendar here.

Planning Update

The Planning Section finished the Indiana County EOP Template and uploaded the document to WebEOC in the State Plans Library folder. The document is in Word format for ease of use. Feedback and recommendations from EMAs regarding the document are encouraged. You can send your comments to planning@dhs.in.gov.

Two important events are fast approaching:

- State Preparedness Review (SPR) due date (Nov. 15)
- NIMS/CPG 101 Survey Responses due date (Nov. 30)

If you have any questions, please contact Joshua Kiilu at jkiilu1@dhs.in.gov

Indiana Department of Homeland Security
pio@dhs.IN.gov
dhs.IN.gov