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Bartholomew County Receives Hazardous Materials Grant

Bartholomew County will provide eight hours of Hazmat education to local law enforcement and county township fire departments in the area during 2018.

Approximately \$6,500 dollars from the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Program (HMEP) was received in February 2018. The training will be held prior to Sept. 30 and will increase awareness for law enforcement officers and firefighters to determine hazardous substances.

HMEP grants are used to develop, improve and implement hazardous materials emergency plans and train public sector hazardous materials emergency response employees to respond to accidents involving hazardous materials. For more information visit dhs.in.gov/4089.htm.

IDHS Provides Flooding Update to Gov. Holcomb; Potential for National Declaration

Indiana Gov. Holcomb has received a full assessment from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security regarding the Feb. 14-March 4 statewide floods, setting the stage for Indiana to request a Major Disaster Declaration from the President.



The floods prompted 35 counties to declare disasters and attributed to at least six deaths across the state. IDHS and FEMA completed the initial assessments of nine counties and more than 1,800 homes impacted by the flooding as part of a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment for Individual Assistance. In addition, 27 counties were assessed and would potentially qualify for Public Assistance, which includes different assessment criteria. Together, the JPDA teams thoroughly examined and discussed all affected areas. This included evaluating the damage to the community as a whole by talking with residents, understanding the unique challenges of each community and addressing immediate needs to sustain and support residents.

Should Gov. Holcomb request a Major Disaster Declaration from the President, this would provide funds and resources to help thousands of residents impacted by floods. According to the joint assessment by IDHS and FEMA, 11 homes were destroyed; 631 suffered major damage; 684 suffered minor damage and an additional 539 homes were affected.

Preliminary assessments indicated the biggest impact was to public property, including debris, utility infrastructure, bridges, roads, buildings, water systems, wastewater treatment plants, water control devices, emergency response and parks and recreational areas.

Gov. Holcomb has until May 3 to file a request for Major Disaster Declaration.

IDHS and American Red Cross *Sound the Alarm* on Fire Safety

The American Red Cross will distribute more than 13,000 smoke detectors in Indiana as part of a nationwide campaign to *Sound the Alarm* for fire safety, kicking off on April 28.



Local fire departments, volunteers and other community partners will canvass Indiana neighborhoods and install smoke alarms for families in need. Individuals with existing alarms can have volunteers test the alarms to ensure they are working properly and replace dead batteries. *Sound the Alarm* is a vital part of the American Red Cross' Home Fire Campaign that launched in 2014 with one goal in mind: saving lives. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is proud to partner with the American Red Cross to promote fire safety.

Indiana is ahead of pace for fire-related deaths this year, with 42 fire deaths reported to IDHS already in 2018. (A total of 70 fire deaths were reported in 2017.) In most cases where a fire fatality occurs, a functioning smoke alarm in the home cannot be verified. State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson wants Hoosiers to recognize the necessity of working smoke alarms.

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County EMAs Encouraged to Update Travel Advisory Map Regularly

With the February 2018 flooding now in the recovery stage and the more traditional flooding season approaching, IDHS is reminding county emergency management agencies about the travel advisory app and map.

The two systems gather and aggregate information from WebEOC, allowing citizens to check the status of counties in their area and make better informed decisions before traveling.

The systems also capture the last time the county updated their status. While this is intended to show citizens how recent the status update is, it also means that counties should consider updating their status once a month to "normal" in order to show residents that the information is reliable and timely.

Nearly 100,000 Hoosiers have installed the Travel Advisory app on their phones, and together they have checked updates nearly 2 million times. IOT also has recently enabled travel advisory status through Alexa smart home systems, giving Hoosiers another route to check travel safety. Updating the status of the travel advisory map regularly will help citizens know the map is a reliable source for information during severe weather.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security County Travel Status for

Warning

The highest level of local travel advisory, means that travel may be restricted to emergency management workers only. During a "warning" local travel advisory, individuals are directed to:

- (A) refrain from all travel;
- (B) comply with necessary emergency measures;
- (C) cooperate with public officials and disaster services forces in executing emergency operations plans; and
- (D) obey and comply with the lawful directions of properly identified officers.

Watch

Means that conditions are threatening to the safety of the public. During a "watch" local travel advisory, only essential travel, such as to and from work or in emergency situations, is recommended, and emergency action plans should be implemented by businesses, schools, government agencies, and other organizations.

Advisory

The lowest level of local travel advisory, means that routine travel or activities may be restricted in areas because of a hazardous situation, and individuals should use caution or avoid those areas.



IDHS Welcomes New EMS Medical Director

Dr. Michael Kaufmann has joined the Indiana Department of Homeland Security as the State Emergency Medical Services Medical Director.

As one of the first physicians in the country to become board certified in the newly established medical specialty of Emergency Medical Services, Dr. Kaufmann comes to IDHS with impressive credentials and accomplishments. Starting his medical career in 1992 as a certified emergency medical technician for then Bloomington Hospital, Dr. Kaufmann went on to receive his Doctor of Medicine degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1998. He continued his training in emergency medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Metro Health program in Cleveland, Ohio, where he also flew as a flight physician for more than three years.

Dr. Kaufmann also serves as the EMS Medical Director for St. Vincent Health, where he has been a board-certified emergency physician for



nearly 17 years. In that time, he has been the EMS medical director for several public safety agencies throughout the state, including the Carmel, Decatur, Fishers, Pike Township, Whitestown and Zionsville Fire Departments, to name a few. Dr. Kaufmann also has served as the medical director for the St. Vincent Critical Care Transport Program, which includes neonatal,

pediatric and maternal-fetal specialty care transport, as well as the St. Vincent StatFlight helicopter transport program.

In his free time, Dr. Kaufmann is the medical director for the Hope Free Clinic in Cicero, Ind. He is a founding member and president of the National Association of EMS Physicians Indiana Chapter. Dr. Kaufmann also was named the Indiana Fire Chief's Association EMS Medical Director of the year in both 2009 and 2015.

In his new role with IDHS, Dr. Kaufmann will oversee all pre-hospital aspects of the statewide EMS system, establish model guidelines and best practices to ensure delivery of medical care consistent with professionally recognized standards and assist IDHS Executive Director Bryan Langley in consulting with other EMS medical directors and the Indiana EMS Commission, among other duties.

Emergency Responders Should Make Mental Health a Priority

Good mental health is essential in order for emergency responders to effectively carry out their duties. Mental health affects everyone, but emergency responders consistently face mental health concerns such as depression, substance abuse, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and anxiety.

Some studies have found that as many as 37 percent of firefighters may exhibit symptoms of PTSD. A recent survey conducted with more than 4,000 first responders from Missouri, Texas, Oregon, Colorado, California and Nevada found that 6.6 percent had attempted suicide, which is more than 10 times the rate of the general population.

Although many emergency responders experience mental health concerns, there are still stigmas associated with it. Individuals who have mental health needs may believe that by discussing their symptoms with a trusted friend or coworker they are not competent at performing their job. It's important to

talk with fellow coworkers and friends about any negative thoughts or feelings, and just as important for coworkers and friends to learn techniques to support and assist individuals struggling with specific mental health needs.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and The American Association of Suicidology recommend to look for the warning signs of suicide with the mnemonic IS PATH WARM or Ideation, Substance Abuse, Purposelessness, Anxiety/agitation, Trapped, Hopeless, Withdrawal, Anger, Recklessness and Mood changes. One of the primary reasons people attempt suicide is due to a low rapport among their peers. By creating a safe environment in which individuals can express their concerns, emergency responders can potentially save lives within their own organization.

More information on suicide prevention for emergency responders can be found at <https://bit.ly/2qrVOWf>.

Stop the Bleed Campaign Offers Courses to Counties

In support of *Stop the Bleed* and as part of the agency's training and preparedness goals, IDHS is working to make Bleeding Control Basic courses and bleeding control training kits more readily available throughout Indiana. *Stop the Bleed* is a national campaign launched by the White House in October 2015 with two main goals:



- Inform and empower the general public to become trained on basic trauma care in order to stop or slow bleeding during emergencies.
- Increase bystander access to bleeding control kits.

SAVE A LIFE

Those interested in scheduling a train-the-trainer class for the Bleeding Control Basic course should contact the Training and Preparedness Division of Indiana Department of Homeland Security at training@dhs.in.gov. Counties with qualified trainers interested in loaning bleeding control training kits should fill out the Training Kit Request Form at dhs.in.gov/4095.htm.

Modern Homes More Dangerous than Pre-1970

A 2012 study conducted by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), a global independent safety research science company, found that modern homes burn eight times faster than homes built 50 years ago. Modern homes are larger, contain open house geometries and increased fuel loads and use synthetic construction materials.

Due to the faster burning rates, individuals have less time to escape a burning house. UL estimated that 30 years ago, the average person had up to 17 minutes to escape a house fire. But, in today's homes, individuals only have two minutes to escape.

Modern homes also can be more dangerous due to synthetic materials, which can include polyurethane, a form of gasoline. When burned, gases form and give off different toxic gases such as cyanide gas and carbon monoxide. Consequently, cancer is now the leading cause of death among firefighters. The International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) concluded in 2017 that 60 percent of the names on the Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Wall in Colorado Springs are IAFF members who have died from occupational cancer.

Indiana fire deaths decreased from 78 in 2016 down to 70 in 2017. Although these fire related statistics are hopeful, Indiana must continue to focus on smoke alarm importance and fire safety in order to protect Hoosiers from the ever increasing dangers of modern homes. Fire departments that need assistance acquiring smoke alarms to distribute in their community can contact the Indiana State Fire Marshal's office at 317-232-2222 for assistance.

IDHS and American Red Cross *Sound the Alarm* on Fire Safety, Cont.

“Fire safety is of utmost importance and it starts with having working smoke alarms in the home,” Greeson said. “Smoke alarms play a crucial role in reducing fire-related injuries and deaths.”

“Home fires are the biggest disaster threat we face, killing an average of seven people in this country every day,” said Charlie Maltbie, regional disaster officer for the Indiana Region of the American Red Cross. “Across Indiana, we have responded to nearly 1,500 home fires in the last nine months. Please help us Sound the Alarm by volunteering to install smoke alarms in your community, making a financial contribution, or taking steps to protect your own family from home fires.”

Sound the Alarm is a year-round campaign and the American Red Cross is always looking for partner departments and organizations within the community. The campaign continues to be successful, accounting for about 100,000 smoke alarms installed each year. However, there is an additional need for partners in rural areas in order to further expand reach, especially in at-risk neighborhoods.

The smoke alarms are provided by the American Red Cross, as well as training and resources to support partner departments and organizations interested in participating in *Sound the Alarm*.

Marshal Greeson and IDHS Executive Director Bryan Langley will participate in neighborhood smoke alarm installations on May 4 in support of *Sound the Alarm*.

For more information on the *Sound the Alarm* initiative, visit www.SoundTheAlarm.org/Indiana.



Plan Now for Spring Outreach

With spring arriving, there are quite a few opportunities for emergency services and emergency management professionals to engage citizens for education! Plan ahead now to help inform citizens and colleagues as these dates approach.

Building Safety Month

Observed: May 1-31, 2018

Sponsored by the International Code Council, Building Safety Month is a public awareness campaign to help individuals understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures.

For more information about Building Safety Month, visit <https://www.iccsafe.org/about-icc/building-safety-month/2018-building-safety-month/>.

World Password Day

Observed: Thursday, May 4, 2017

Passwords are critical gatekeepers to our digital identities, granting access to online accounts that enable our shopping, dating, banking, social media, and private communication. World Password Day is a global celebration to promote better password habits, celebrated on the first Thursday in May.

More information, as well as password safety tips, are available online at <https://passwordday.org/>. Cybersecurity information from IDHS is also available at GetPrepared.in.gov.

Plan now for Spring Outreach, Cont.

Mental Health Month

Observed: May 1-31, 2018

Look for the story on Page 3 for more information on supporting the mental health of first responders.

For a mental health toolkit from nonprofit organization Mental Health America, visit <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/may>.

Arson Awareness Week

Observed: May 6-12, 2018

This year's theme, "Reducing Arson at Vacant and Abandoned Buildings," is working to help community leaders address arson and protect firefighters responding to incidents.

For more Arson Awareness Week resources, visit https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/arson_awareness.html.

National Dam Safety Day

Observed: May 31, 2018

National Dam Safety Awareness Day occurs each year to commemorate the South Fork Dam failure that occurred on May 31, 1889, in Johnstown, PA. However, more people die at low head dams than from the failure of dams themselves, showing the importance of education about these lovely, but dangerous, structures.

For more information on National Dam Safety Awareness Day, visit <https://www.fema.gov/dam-safety>. For more information on low head dams, visit <http://in.gov/dhs/4022.htm>.

Emergency Medical Services Week

Observed: May 20-26, 2018

National Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to promote safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services. This year, two days to specifically note are May 23, celebrating EMS for Children Day, and May 24, which will focus on lifesaving training for all, including CPR and the Stop the Bleed program.

For more EMS week information and resources, visit <https://www.acep.org/emsweek> and <http://www.emsstrong.org/>.

2018 Firefighter and Emergency Services Safety Stand Down

Observed June 17-23, 2018

This event highlights critical safety, health and survival issues for the fire and emergency services. This year's theme is BE AWARE – GET CHECKED. Firefighters face many risks such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, PTSD and more, and early detection through annual medical evaluations and physicals saves lives.

For more information, visit <https://www.safetystanddown.org/>.

Plan now for Spring Outreach, Cont.

Ready
Pet
Go!



Pet Preparedness Month

Observed: June 1-30, 2018

Don't let residents forget their furry friends while planning for an emergency.

For more information on disaster preparedness and animals, visit <https://www.in.gov/boah/2435.htm>.

CPR and AED Awareness Week



Observed June 1-7, 2018

Since 2007, the American Heart Association uses this week to increase the number of people trained in CPR and AED use, in order to help increase bystander response rates in cardiac emergencies. The AHA is asking organizations to use and share the tools found online (<https://bit.ly/24uvvTf>) because #CPRsaveslives.

Fireworks Safety Month

Observed: June 1-30, 2018 (and through the first week of July)

Through the diligent work of Hoosier responders, firework-related injuries continue to decrease. Continued education is the key to protecting Hoosiers.

For more information on fireworks safety, visit GetPrepared.in.gov.

Mission

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security works 24/7 to protect the people, property and prosperity of Indiana.

IDHS

Contact

The Hoosier Responder is a publication of
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