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2016 IERC Around the Corner

The 2016 Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) is scheduled for August 24-27, at the Sheraton Indianapolis at Keystone Crossing.

One major change in this year's conference will be the attendance credit tracking. Attendees will no longer be scanned at the sessions, and will instead receive a unique validation code at the end of each session they attend. Attendees will need to keep their own record of course attendance, and turn in any appropriate class information to the state during their recertification process. This year, IERC will unveil a new phone

application that will help attendees track attendance and receive conference updates.

The IERC focuses on topics of interest to fire, emergency medical services, law enforcement, hazardous materials response, special operations and emergency management professionals. Nearly 90 Indiana professionals, representing all of the emergency response disciplines, will present at the IERC this year.

For more information, the schedule of events or to register for the 2016 conference, visit www.indianaerc.com. □

Hamilton Co. EMA Holds CERT Traffic Course



On June 25 and continuing on July 16, Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program trained 12 CERT volunteers in traffic and crowd management as part of a [supplemental training course](#) created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

types of crowd behavior, how to identify safety concerns with crowds, and how to develop crowd and traffic management plans for emergency situations.

Hamilton County CERT members may employ these skills during planned events such as parades, festivals, funeral processions, or traffic checkpoints, or during unplanned incidents such as traffic accidents, weather hazards, roadway defects, traffic signal malfunctions, or natural or man-caused emergencies. □



Course participants learned about CERT concepts specific to traffic and crowd management, including how to communicate effectively both verbally and nonverbally (using hand signals), crowd psychology (i.e. "herd mentality"), how to recognize and respond to various

IFD Fire Station 1 Renamed in Honor of First African-American Chief

The Indianapolis Fire Department has renamed Fire Station 1 in honor of its first African-American Fire Chief, the late Joseph Kimbrow, Sr.

Kimbrow was known for his success in bridging the gap between African-American and white firefighters in the department. Renaming Fire Station 1 is significant because that originally was the only fire station where African-Americans were allowed to be assigned.



The renaming of the fire station recognizes Kimbrow's 37 years of service to the community. He was also the 37th chief of IFD, holding that position from 1987-1992.

Kimbrow, an Indianapolis native, remained in Indianapolis throughout his life. He passed away in July 2015. □

TEEX Offering Community Search & Rescue Class

The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) will be teaching a Search and Rescue in Community Disasters course (PER 334) on November 7-9, 2016, at the Martinsville Fire Department in Morgan County. Class times are 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. all three nights.

PER 334 is a federally funded course aimed at those who are most affected in a community impacted by a disaster: those who live and work there. It is designed to provide training for community members to safely conduct search

and light rescue response to aid their family and neighbors in the immediate aftermath of a natural catastrophe, technological accident or man-made incident.

The course guides participants to:

- Develop a survivor's mindset;
- Prepare for a disaster;
- Utilize common household items as tools to rescue themselves, their families and their neighbors;
- Determine if they are able to wait for help or if they should

evacuate;

- Begin the recovery process. The minimum age for the course is 14 years old, and anyone under the age of 18 must complete the parental consent form prior to attending.

Those interested in attending the course can register online at <http://indianafiretraining.com/get-training/district-05-classes.html>.

Questions regarding the course can be directed to Jason Coffey at jacoffey@dhs.in.gov. □

Geographic Alert System Used After Severe Weather in Brookston

Brookston, Indiana was left without power after severe weather hit the small town on June 22, 2016. In an effort to assist the town, the Red Cross established a shelter, but citizens had no way to find out where the shelter was located.

The Red Cross requested assistance to disseminate information that a shelter had been established in the town, and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security was able to

assist using the Integrated Public Safety Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) which made it possible to send a message to any cell phone within a 20-kilometer radius of Brookston informing them where the shelter had been established, and within minutes citizens were arriving at the Red Cross shelter.

A message was also sent out informing people in the surrounding areas to avoid driving to Brookston because the major

roadways were blocked by storm damage.

IPAWS is a Federal Emergency Management Agency product that enables authorized state and local agencies to send non-weather emergency alerts to the public. Alerts can be sent to cell phones using cell towers in the area or they can be broadcast over TV and radio stations in a similar way the National Weather Service sends out weather alerts. □

3 Indiana Firefighters to Present at Nat'l Conference

Three Indiana firefighters will present at the Firehouse Expo for Chiefs and Company Officers October 18-20 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Indiana presenters will join session leaders from at least 15 other states. Indiana presenters are:

- Brian Kazmierzak, battalion chief, Penn Township Fire Department.
- John Buckman, Fire Chief (ret.) German Township Volunteer Fire Department and with Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Fire Training.
- Charles Helfin with the Brooklyn (IN) Volunteer Fire Department and State Local Emergency Planning Committee coordinator, IDHS.

Firehouse Expo is for those who manage the fire department and lead firefighters, whether in the station or on the fireground.

The trio will be presenting along with chiefs, captains and others from Arizona, California, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Firefighting and Training with Technology

Kazmierzak will present how to adapt technology to fire departments to make them more effective. This course will look at all aspects of technology in the fire service, including fireground, training and management. Participants will also learn about future technology for the fire service and how it can be used in all aspects of departments.

Twenty Minutes: Get to the Point

Buckman will speak about effective teaching today and the significant changes required in

the delivery of educational content. The material must be delivered in a high-energy environment that challenges students' minds and senses. The material must be impactful, challenging and pertinent. In this presentation, Buckman will discuss the techniques needed to deliver effective presentations.

Motivation and Retention of Your Volunteers

Helfin will focus on the challenges facing volunteer agencies, as well as ways to address these challenges on limited budgets. The session will provide cost-effective ways to motivate firefighters to attend meetings, trainings and other department events. We will also discuss unique ways to reward volunteers and recruit members. □

IDHS Update to Autism Spectrum Training Program

With more updated information about Autism Spectrum Disorder continually available, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security used this research to develop and update Learning Management System (LMS) software program for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

“The update to the Autism Spectrum Disorders program will benefit public safety professionals across Indiana,” said Brandon Wood, Director of Preparedness and Training for IDHS. “The program encompasses all disciplines and uses information from recent research to provide a more valuable training to public safety professionals.”

Drew Darby, LMS Coordinator for IDHS, used information from a previous course as a platform to update the training program. Darby also used research from many autism organizations and charities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The prior Autism Spectrum Disorders training course was run by an outside company and not offered through LMS. The old course had broken links that would often make participants retake the training and completion status would not transfer over to their LMS

training profile. One of the big factors in updating the course was to move the course over to LMS so that once completed, the training would show up on the participants' training profile.

The updated program was posted to the LMS, also known as the ACADIS Portal, on July 8, 2016. The training course is available for anyone with an Indiana PSID at <https://acadisportal.in.gov/acadisviewer/Registration/TrainingEventList.aspx>. To register for a PSID, visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3207.htm>. □

Burn Victims Find Comfort in Pike Twp.'s Dempsey

When Dempsey was only eight weeks old, he was intentionally set on fire by a juvenile, then abandoned. He was burned on his underside, tail and his feet, causing him today to have no toes or paw pads. He was rescued by a shelter, survived Parvovirus and MRSA, a serious infection, and is here today because of the love he receives from his adopted mom, Eileen Orban, Pike Township Fire Department's public educator.

Dempsey is now well known and much loved at Juvenile Firesetter classes, burn camps and area schools. Dempsey is also active with the Phoenix Society, a support organization for burn survivors, and the Phoenix World Burn Congress. According to Eileen, children who have experienced burns relate easily to Dempsey, telling him their stories and their feelings, sometimes articulating them for the first time.

"Dempsey was 5 in March, has survived 12 surgeries, seven on one leg, and has made great progress through the years," Eileen said. "His injuries are still noticeable in his walk, but despite his terrible beginning, he's just a sweetheart. He's a 95-pound version of Scooby Doo."

Eileen says Dempsey, a boxer-Mastiff mix, needs medication three times a day, has a great personality and loves to be loved. Children see his noticeable burn scars and love him, with many saying, "He's just like me!"

To learn more about Dempsey and his contribution to burn victims, visit him on Facebook at Dempsey Ptfid or contact Eileen at emorban@pikefire.com. □



State Health Officials & Building Inspectors Partner to Educate State Fair Food Vendors

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Indiana State Department of Health partnered at the Indiana State Fair to educate food vendors about safety issues.

The two state agencies met with food vendors twice leading up to the fair to talk about the safety issues that they need to consider in their stands.

Health officials educated the vendors on temperature requirements for hot and cold foods as well as what vendors

should do with leftover foods each day. Another key focus for health officials was the cleanliness and sanitation of the vendors' stands.

Building inspectors discuss fire suppression and exiting strategies for vendor personnel. They also emphasized the importance that every employee knows where the fire extinguisher is located and how to use it.

Building inspectors also inspected the approximately 30

state fairground buildings that are open to the public. Throughout the duration of the fair, four to six inspectors are on-site to complete any additional inspections. Each time a new group occupies one of the buildings and equipment is brought in, a follow up inspection is conducted to ensure continued compliance with fire and building codes. □

What's the Big Deal About Space Weather?

The space weather update. It looks like an obscure, don't-bother-with-it, never-going-to-affect-me tiny part of the comprehensive emergency ops update found daily in WebEOC.

However, the often glossed-over space weather section can sometimes contain very big news indeed. That's because space weather can knock out radio communications, kill a GPS, disrupt electrical power distribution, cause chaos in aviation traffic and turn vitally important satellites into orbiting junk.

Space weather refers to the effects of activity on the sun upon the earth – not simple sunshine, but volatile activity such as solar flares (gigantic eruptions from the surface) and coronal mass ejections (the biggest explosions in the solar system).

Although highly unlikely, a nasty blast of space weather can have cascading and long-term effects on how first responders do their work, and on the types of crises to which they must respond. Although space weather may not be as immediately important as more earthly concerns, it's not out of this world to be curious about this fascinating phenomenon.

Check out the following links to learn about space weather:

- [NASA Living With A Star Program](#)
- [Space Weather Prediction Center](#)
- [White House Document on Space Weather Strategy](#)
- [White House Space Weather Action Plan](#). □

Space Fun: Spot the Station

The International Space Station is visible to the naked eye. It looks like a star or jet moving steadily across the night sky, yet its path is recognizably different, more purposeful than a shooting star's, more arcing than a jet's.

NASA's [Spot the Station](#) web site describes precisely where, when and for how long the space station is visible during one of its orbits. Just enter country, state and city locations in the site; then choose a cloud-free date and time to look into the sky – often in pre-dawn or post-sunset hours when sunlight reflects off the station. Spotting the station requires perfect timing and maybe a little practice – it appears and disappears precisely on NASA's timetable. □

Mission

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security will provide statewide leadership, exemplary customer service, and subject matter expertise for the enhancement of public and private partnerships and the assurance of local, state and federal collaboration to continually develop Indiana's public safety capabilities for the wellbeing and protection of our citizens, property and economy.

Contact

The Hoosier Responder is a publication of The Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Public Information Office at (317) 234-6713 or pio@dhs.in.gov.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security
302 West Washington Street
Indiana Government Center South
Room E208
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-3980 or (800) 669-7362

