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CERT Train-the-Trainer Course Graduates 19

Nineteen individuals from nine counties across the state completed the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer course, which was held at the Hamilton County Training Center from February 10-12. The graduates are now qualified instructors to teach the CERT Basic course in Indiana.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security organized the course, and it was hosted by the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency. The course instructors were Jessie Olvera, formerly with the Indiana State Fairgrounds, Debbi Fletcher, American Red Cross, and Jon Baldwin, Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency.

Students learned about managing all different aspects of the CERT

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'Family' Helps Recruit and Retain Volunteer Firefighters

For volunteer fire departments, recruiting and retaining volunteers can be a challenge, but a shift in approach can help.

In the Summer 2015 issue of Fire Chief, Indiana Department of Homeland Security's (IDHS) John M. Buckman III, State Fire Training Director, advised volunteer fire chiefs to observe four 'musts' regarding recruiting and retaining for their organizations:

1. Conflict within the organization must be kept to a minimum.
2. The organization must be fun to belong to.
3. People must like who they volunteer with.
4. Leaders must treat volunteers' time with utmost respect.

The *Hoosier Responder* caught up with Chief Jeff Lane, who's led the volunteer Aurora Fire Department in Dearborn County since 2000, to get his opinion on cultivating a robust volunteer force. Chief Lane has overseen a steady increase of staff all while weathering retirements and departures. (Please note: This interview has been edited and condensed for space).

Hoosier Responder: What is the size of your roster currently?

Lane: "35. All of our firefighters are certified up through Firefighter I and II and hazmat ops except for five who are in training in Versailles."

HR: How many on average can your department turn out for a run?

Lane: "Daytime — around 12, nighttime — 16-25."

HR: What are the keys to recruiting volunteers?

Lane: "We do a lot of public relations. We have a safety trailer and we go to our local fair and local schools. We have a cadet program that's gone well for us. We've gotten 10-12 volunteers out of the cadet program.

"Southeastern Indiana Vocational School in Versailles, Indiana, teaches



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IDHS Mass Fatality Course Set for April 5-7

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security's (IDHS) Mass Fatality Incident Management course is scheduled for April 5-7, 2017, at the Hamilton County Training Center. The 24-hour course prepares response personnel to handle mass fatality situations effectively and work with survivors.

Personnel that would have a role in a mass fatality incident, such as coroners, funeral directors and emergency management coordinators are encouraged to consider attending. There are 30 total spots available.

The course will be led by Jason Smith, IDHS Southeast EMS District Manager Program Coordinator; Dawn Simpson, funeral director and FEMA Region V Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team member; and Bryant Garibay, Director of Safety for CountryMark Energy Resources in Evansville.

The course will consist of roughly two days of lecture with a third day for a field exercise. At the end of

this course, students should be able to:

- Assess the local Mass Fatalities Annex to determine their jurisdictions' preparedness for a mass fatalities incident.
- Describe the critical operational activities: Notification, staging, search and recovery, morgue operations, media relations, and family assistance.
- Explain how a family assistance center is used to support families and to aid identification of the deceased.
- Identify the requirements to ensure that the psychological needs of mass fatalities responders are addressed.
- Recognize the importance of critical incident stress debriefings for responders at a mass fatalities incident.

- Identify the resources that are available at the local, state, and federal levels during a mass fatalities incident.
- Apply the principles of ICS in response to a simulated incident.

EMS professionals and funeral directors will also be able to use a portion of the hours from the course towards their continuing education credits.

The Hamilton County Training Center is at 7925 East 160th St. in Noblesville. Lodging may be available for students traveling more than 50 miles to the course. To register for the course, log in to Acadis at <https://acadisportal.in.gov/acadisviewer/Login.aspx>, go to 'Training and Events', then 'Browse or Sign up for Training' where the courses are organized alphabetically. Please direct questions to Jason Smith at jsmith@dhs.in.gov.

CERT Train-the-Trainer, Cont.

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Basic course, including demonstrating and relaying knowledge about the CERT Basic course, communicating the core values of the CERT program, managing classroom dynamics and schedules, implementing effective teaching techniques and modeling appropriate behavior as an instructor.

Below is a list of the new instructors organized by county:

Decatur County
Sean Durbin
Delaware County
John Coutinho
Hamilton County
Bill Deas

Bryan Kercheval
Dorel Hunt
John Betzold
Mary Davidsen
Johnson County
Lori Ahmed
Lake County
Brian Miller
Kimberly Butala
Jodi Richmond
LaPorte County
Greg Wireman
Marion County
Andrea Henemyer
Jason Lopez
Justin Donica
Richard Redell
Skip Donnell
Monroe County
Lisa Kane
Noble County
Dan Ward



John Betzold of Hamilton County leading a teach-back, where participants practice teaching the class a portion of the CERT Basic course.

Putnam Co. CERT Launches New Equipment Trailer

Putnam County launched a newly equipped Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trailer on February 15, 2017.

The trailer contains an antenna for radio operators, a generator, flood lights, medical supplies, personal protective equipment, and other emergency equipment and supplies that Putnam County CERT can use to help local responders if needed.

“We decided to put this trailer together so it would benefit all the different public service units in the county,” said James Spore, Deputy Chief of Putnam County CERT.

Putnam County purchased the trailer with the help of a \$3,000 grant from Indiana Department of Homeland Security and then loaned its use to the CERT program (PC CERT), which raised money in 2016 to purchase equipment.

The primary fundraiser was a road rally last summer that encompassed 90 miles of roads through Putnam County. Participants paid a registration fee and prizes were donated by local businesses. PC CERT also participated in fundraising dinners with fire departments and the Red Cross, which has helped strengthen its relationships with local responders.

“One of the hardest parts of being a CERT operation is getting the trust of the local responders. It’s taken us three years to get to the point we are now,” said Spore. “We invite the public service people to our organization’s meeting nights so they know who we are, we participate in [public safety] activities so they know we’re a serious and sincere operation, not just out here having fun. They trust us now and realize we’re an asset to the county, and when they need more help, they know we’re there to help them.”

After acquiring the trailer, PC CERT began to compile a list of equipment to stock it with, developed in part through conversations with public safety personnel at PC CERT’s monthly meetings.

“When [public safety personnel] came to [CERT meetings to] talk,” said Spore, “we’d ask them: ‘What do you need? What equipment do we need to help you?’ ”

The resulting list amounted to about 80 items totaling \$8,000. PC CERT purchased the items from local retailers (Spore: “We tried to stay local as much as possible”), big box hardware stores, and online outlets. Some items were also donated by CERT members. Then it took about two months and an estimated 160 hours of work for PC CERT to outfit and organize the trailer.

“The equipment [PC CERT has] will speed up our response time to assist the regular full-time officers and the fire departments, and the extra manpower is tremendous,” said Tom Helmer, Putnam County EMA director. “We’re really proud of them.”

PC CERT holds meetings at the Putnam County Emergency Operations Center on the second Monday of each month, and the group plans to roll out the new trailer for a practice demonstration in the near future.

For more information about the CERT program in Indiana, visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/citizencorps.htm>.



District Meetings Goal to Help Local Personnel Plan for State Exercise

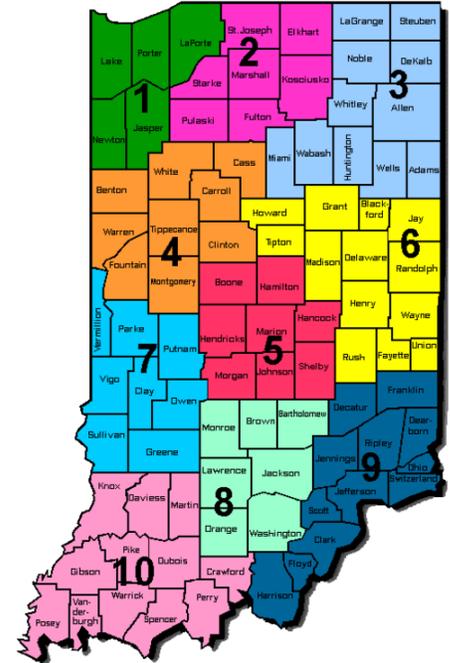
As a precursor for the 2017 State Level Exercise, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is holding information sessions with the three IDHS districts that will participate.

This year's new building block approach is an effort to help inform district emergency response agencies on the potential scenarios the agencies will encounter. In previous years, IDHS has not held these sessions leading up to the exercise.

The meetings also provide the districts a chance to iron out additional details before the

exercise starts. There is one more information session scheduled in IDHS District 6 on March 9 and IDHS District 5 on April 4.

This year, districts 5, 6 and 7 will participate in the week-long training held on August 27-31. The exercise will take place at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center where participants will receive position specific training, and then face a realistic disaster setting that allows all aspects of the response effort to be executed and evaluated without placing any lives at risk.



Weather Spotter Training Available

The National Weather Service (NWS) has spring training sessions available for weather spotters in each of the six NWS districts serving Indiana.

The weather spotter program, or Skywarn®, was developed in the 1960s, and is a nationwide network of trained volunteers who provide reports of significant, severe and hazardous weather to help meteorologists make life-saving warning decisions.

Spotters are concerned citizens, amateur radio operators, truck drivers, mariners, airplane pilots, emergency management personnel, public safety officials and more who volunteer their time and energy to report on hazardous weather impacting their community. Although NWS has access to data from radar, satellite, and surface weather stations, technology cannot detect every instance of hazardous weather. Spotters help fill in the

gaps by reporting hail, wind damage, flooding, heavy snow, tornadoes and waterspouts, providing critical verification information that helps improve future warning services.

“The National Weather Service can see the 10,000 foot view during a weather event, but that doesn't always reflect what's on the ground. Weather spotters allow emergency management agencies to update public officials, and other groups that need to make decisions to keep people safe, such as area schools,” says Duane Davis, Director of the Jackson County Emergency Management Agency. “The work of these volunteers makes the public better prepared to respond on their own to severe weather events.”

To become a weather spotter, volunteers must attend a NWS training session. Volunteers will be enrolled in the program at the

training class, and given specific information for reporting severe weather to the NWS. Once a weather spotter, it is recommended that volunteers attend a training class at least every 2 to 3 years to retain spotter status.

To locate local programs and training schedules, visit <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/skywarn/states/in-skywarn.htm>.



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Recruit and Retain Firefighters, Cont.

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interested students Firefighter I and II [certifications] and hazmat ops. As soon as they turn 18 they can join the department. We've probably gotten four people from that.

"We have a lot of people come to the firehouse. We get the kids and the adults and we'll educate both groups on what it takes to be a firefighter."

HR: What are the keys to retaining volunteers?

Lane: "I surround myself with good line officers and we educate, we train, it's a family.... We take interest in [our firefighters]. We show them that they can give back to their community. It's special. Firefighting is an honorable thing, but it's very dangerous. When we go to a fire, we don't like losing. We're aggressive. We want to stop that fire. We're here for the public. We're here to protect and serve and reduce damage as much as we can and that's what we teach our guys.

"[Our department is] very close. We

have a chicken fry, a fish fry, and at Christmas time we have a party around all our kids. We make sure our kids get something for us being away a lot. We have a lot of fires and runs. In February, for Valentine's Day, we have a special dinner for the husbands and wives only. We like getting together and having fun.... When bad things happen or good things happen, we're all there for each other.

"I make sure they know they're appreciated. We have a hometown heroes award banquet. Representative [Randy] Frye shows up. Mr. [John] Buckman has been at a few of them. We have things to make sure they know I appreciate what they do.

"We do a lot of training. Here we make runs. I think people want to be active. We keep our equipment in good shape and try to give them the best equipment to operate with so we can get the job done."

HR: What advice would you give to volunteer departments that

struggle to recruit and retain members?

Lane: "When I was asked to become the chief, that's when I started going to state classes. They have these chief and leadership seminars each year and I make sure I go to those to keep updated on requirements. I wanted to make sure my firefighters were trained up to the standards they needed to be, especially at state certification levels, and be motivated and passionate.... I'd suggest to a fire chief, that if they haven't come to these leadership seminars, they come to one."

To find out more about the Fire Marshal Leadership seminars mentioned in this interview, please visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3601.htm>.

IDHS also has a brochure template available for volunteer fire departments to edit and use for their own outreach purposes: <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3855.htm>.

Pediatric Disaster Response Course March 27-28

Indiana Emergency Medical Services for Children is hosting a course in pediatric disaster and emergency response on March 27 and 28, 2017, 3976 Georgetown Road, Indianapolis.

The location is the Indiana EMS for Children office. The course takes place in the conference room.

The course will cover pediatric specific planning considerations including mass sheltering, pediatric-triage, reunification planning and pediatric decontamination considerations.

A 2010 report by the National Commission on Children and Disasters identified a training gap for emergency responders, first receivers, and emergency management personnel that reduced their effectiveness in responding to pediatric patients and their unique needs/considerations. This course addresses pediatric emergency planning and medical response considerations through a combination of lectures, small group exercises, and a tabletop exercise.

Space is limited and registration is available [online](#). Attendees should arrive on March 27 at 7:45 a.m. to check-in. Questions can be sent via email to margo.knefelkamp@indianapolisems.org



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 Office of Public Affairs 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

