INDIANA EMERGENCY RESPONDERS DEPLOYED TO HURRICANE SANDY

Indiana was the one of the first states to respond to requests for assistance from the East Coast in anticipation of Hurricane Sandy. More than 100 responders were provided from the state and local levels as part of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security’s Incident Management Assistance Team and District Response Task Force initiatives.

The following link can be referenced to show the counties included in each of IDHS’s 10 districts:

www.in.gov/dhs/2797.htm.

EMS Strike Teams

Emergency Medical Service professionals and 24 ambulances were deployed from Districts 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 to New Jersey and arrived shortly before the storm. EMS crews responded to 9-1-1 calls, supported emergency shelter needs, and assisted search and rescue teams provided medical attention to victims of the storm. In some cases because of the flooding, when ambulances could not make it to their assigned areas, other first responders brought those who needed medical treatment to the EMTs and paramedics. All of these

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From the Director’s Chair

Executive Director Joe Wainscott

COOPERATION & FORWARD THINKING NEEDED TO ADDRESS MOUNTING CYBER SECURITY THREAT

Our daily lives are based around advancing technology; from technology to support utilities, critical infrastructure and utilities, to shopping, working and social networking, we depend on technology to deliver and process our messages.

In Indiana alone we mine millions of tons of coal every year and have thousands of miles of electric distribution lines that serve hundreds of thousands of customers. Indiana also produces roughly 35,000 barrels of petroleum and consumes roughly 160,000 barrels every year, the production and distribution of which all rely on technology to facilitate.

Our hospitals, fire services, 9-1-1 operators, law enforcement, and other public safety professionals all rely on technology to communicate and save lives. The productivity and effective operations of Indiana Small businesses, schools and government entities are all tightly interwoven with technology.

We consume so much technology every day that sometimes we forget to step back and determine the risks associated with this kind of rapid and open information and data sharing.

Increased connectivity brings increased crime, making cyber security one of our country’s most important national security priorities. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta recently voiced the alarming reality that the United States is facing a potential “cyber-Pearl

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crews have now returned to Indiana.

**Incident Management Assistance Teams**

One IMAT and two AHIMT teams were deployed beginning Sunday, October 28. The teams assist with incident management, including command, planning, logistics, local coordination and public information.

The first team to deploy was the state level IMAT, who was deployed to Maryland. The team included personnel from Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana University, Indiana Department of Correction, Integrated Public Safety Commission, Indiana Office of Technology, Indiana Department of Labor, Indiana State Police and the Family and Social Services Administration, with help from Montgomery County, the City of Lafayette. The IDHS District 2 Incident Management Team also was deployed to Maryland. A third Indiana Incident Management Team from District 7 was deployed to New York. Each team consists of about 15 personnel.

As of Monday, November 5, 2012, all three of Indiana's incident Management Teams have been reassigned and combined into one team where they have been deployed to Nassau County, which is on Long Island in New York. They are currently supporting local response and recovery operations for the communities in that county.

INTF-1 was activated by FEMA as part of the national Urban Search and Rescue program. They were staged outside of the impact area until the storm passed and were initially deployed to the Long Island, NY area as well. The 70 member team that made up Indiana Task Force 1 has returned to Indiana.

**TWO CLARK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS IMPROVE ISO RATINGS**

Clarksville Indiana will have a new fire facility to call home with new equipment, more space and a gym.

“The new station is going to help open opportunities to further the training of our firefighters,” said Clarksville Fire Chief Tom Upton.

The station also has a new 3-story training tower with a rescue maze, repelling points for rope rescue, stand pipe for high rise drills and a floor opening for confined space training.

The department’s four bays, which currently house two engines, will eventually include a special operations trailer and a brush truck which fights brush fires. The station also has 12 bedrooms and a state of the art exercise room.

On any given day, the station will have three to four firefighters on duty.

“The new facility has already helped the community in that during our latest ISO [insurance service office] rating the town went from a class 5 to a class 4 rating,” said Upton. “Part of the improvement in the rating is due to the new training facilities. With the soon to be addition of a new training coordinator for the department, we feel that a class 3 rating on our next ISO inspection is achievable.”

The Clarksville Fire Department is currently working on a long range capital improvement plan/schedule in hopes of purchasing new equipment.

New Albany Fire Department, in nearby Floyd County, has earned a drop in the Insurance Standard Office rating (ISO) from a four to a three, and become one of the 40 communities in the state have an equal or lower rating. This rating could potentially lower insurance premiums for commercial, industrial and residential customers. ISO representatives rate fire departments and coverage areas every ten years.

The Hoosier Responder
“Harbor.” According to the New York Times, Panetta elaborated that the U.S. is “increasingly vulnerable to foreign computer hackers who could dismantle the nation’s power grid, transportation systems, financial networks and government.” That’s quite a sobering thought. Even more disturbing are the actual cyber attacks the U.S. Department of Defense confirms were recently launched against large American financial institutions.

The dangers of cyber threats continue to evolve at a pervasive rate. These risks are compounded as increasingly interconnected societies transcend geographic and physical borders through real-time communication and information sharing.

While federal officials consider what legislative, offensive and defensive measures are appropriate for ensuring national security, the question remains, ‘what can we in Indiana do to defend ourselves and our constituents against these kinds of Internet-based attacks at home?’

Because every business, industry, government and public safety entity, and virtually every person in Indiana and America who uses the Internet needs the benefit of strong cyber security, there is an absolute need to share ideas, information and resources to escalate the safety and security of cyberspace.

Therefore, as our dependence on web-based technologies increases with each step forward in innovation, so does our responsibility to protect our security and our privacy. Because our vulnerability is shared, we also share the responsibility to ensure that our networks are secure and resilient. We at the Indiana Department of Homeland Security are committed to a cyber security strategy that keeps Indiana and America protected and prosperous.

But, no government, conglomeration of governments or private industry alone can contain the myriad threats to which we are exposed in cyberspace. Without expert collaboration and knowledge sharing among individuals and stakeholders in both the government and private sectors, individual states or regions may lessen their ability to respond to threats, and potentially expose their neighbors to greater risks online, as perpetrators learn to exploit technological weaknesses.

Human behavior is one of the most vexing for cyber security. Since users are on much of the front line, remember that you can be a target. Most of us are well aware of some of the basic steps we can take to protect our own cyber environments.

Conventional wisdom includes such tips as:

- Avoid opening links or downloading software from unknown sources,
- Have virus protection installed on laptops, desk tops, tablets and smart phones, and
- Don’t visit websites of questionable credibility.

But when individual efforts to ensure security fail to prevent a breach, we must have an effective, implementable plan to protect ourselves and our fellow Hoosiers.

Together, we must maintain the focus on persistently striving for more robust defenses to cyber threats; revising our approaches and standards when necessary, to keep pace with this rapid evolution of technology in the cyber frontier. We must be open about our weaknesses so they can’t be easily exploited, and tap into all available resources in the private sector, government and academia to augment our list of cyber security professionals and bolster our defenses against a wide array of threats.

The decisions and commitments we make to promote cyber security today, will have lasting impact on the future of this state and this country.

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SAFETY TIPS WHEN USING TURKEY FRYERS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Deep fried turkeys have become a popular staple at the dinner table, but preparations can be very dangerous and lead to burns or other injuries and the destruction of property. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that deep fryers cause 1,000 home fires every year. Follow these tips for safe turkey frying:

- Consider letting professional establishments handle the preparation of deep fried turkey
- If you must fry the turkey yourself, use extreme caution and follow all manufacturer’s direction carefully
- Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors a safe distance from buildings and flammable materials
- Never use turkey fryers on wooden decks or in garages
- Make sure fryers are used on flat surfaces to reduce accidental tipping
The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) honored Elkhart and Rush counties as the Emergency Management Agency Program of the Year and Most Improved, respectively, at the Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana (EMAI) in Indianapolis October 24-26.

One county in each of the 10 IDHS districts were also honored for receiving the highest score in the district.

“Congratulations for the hard work by Elkhart and Rush counties for their state-wide achievement,” said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott. “Thank you also to the counties that have received district awards. This was no small accomplishment. Each county should be proud of its advancements to further protect the Indiana’s economy and the lives of Hoosiers.”

These awards were based on the Indiana Department of Homeland Security’s (IDHS) district/county assessment scores, which include a review of administration, operations, resources and logistics, and crisis communication and public engagement.

The EMAI conference allows emergency management directors to discuss future goals, strategies, objectives and learn about new initiatives.

2012 District Awards went to:
District 1: LaPorte County
District 2: Elkhart County
District 3: Allen County
District 4: Fountain County
District 5: Shelby County
District 6: Delaware County
District 7: Vigo County
District 8: Lawrence County
District 9: Jefferson County
District 10: Vanderburgh County

A disaster drill in District 6 helped first responders practice a scenario in which a hospital is devastated by a tornado and no longer available for existing patients or newly injured.

On October 6th, Delaware County Emergency Management along with IU Ball Memorial Hospital, District 6 Response Task Force medical element, mental health and ambulance strike teams, Delaware county EMS and a unit of the Indiana Air National Guard from Terre Haute teamed up for a one-of-a-kind mock disaster drill.

“It was great getting to work with every team for this drill. We all work very well together,” said William Gossett, IU Ball Memorial Hospital trauma program manager.

This drill was unique in that both real and plastic people were used and teams worked with responders from outside of the county and with a military unit.

“Originally designed as a community disaster drill for IU Ball Memorial Hospital, the planning and training team quickly saw the opportunity to engage other nontraditional aspects of our emergency plan,” said Delaware County EMA Director Jason Rogers. “This was not just another disaster drill, it became a short and long term simulated operational period successful from inside and outside of the hospital.”

Ambulance services from Albany, Americare, Blackford County, Grant County, Delaware County and Eaton participated and kept busy with dozens of volunteer patients and simulated patients that allowed emergency responders to record vitals on a nearby laptop.

“Many times we sign on the dotted line that we are capable with mutual aid, or additions to our plans. This is the proving grounds that let us know we are functional and legitimate in our processes,” said Rogers.

Drills help communities plan, exercise and evaluate disaster processes and capabilities in the event of an actual disaster.

“If all our citizens took just a little time to prepare for major emergencies, community distress and needed resources would be reduced. Having a home or office disaster plan can keep you calm and alive,” said Rogers.
IUPUI IS FOURTH CAMPUS TO RECEIVE STORMREADY CERTIFICATION

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis is now a StormReady university after IUPUI Emergency Management and Continuity completed sets of rigorous warning criteria. IUPUI is the fourth university campus in Indiana to be recognized as StormReady and the first IU campus to be designated.

Carlos Garcia, IUPUI Director of Emergency Management and Continuity said, “Obtaining the StormReady Program certification from the National Weather Service validates the important work that is being done by our campus. It clearly shows our commitment to the safety and protection of our students, faculty and staff, and highlights the preparedness efforts of not only IU Emergency Management and Continuity, but all of our campus partners.”

To earn a StormReady designation, a community or university must:
- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations
- Have redundant ways to receive weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions
- Promote the importance of public readiness through seminars
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan for training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.


FACEBOOK INSPIRES GENEROSITY 120 MILES AWAY
CAMBRIDGE CITY BAND STUDENTS DONATE ANNUAL EARNINGS TO HENRYVILLE

After the storm comes the calm, at least for Henryville High School Golden Band members. The Lincoln High School Marching Eagles, from Cambridge City, donated all of their prize money won from band competitions and private donations for the year 2012. About $2,500 was given to Henryville High School, a school 120 miles away from Cambridge City.

“Neighbor helping neighbor is a Hoosier tradition and a way of life in Wayne County. There may be 120 miles between Cambridge City and Henryville, but distance is overcome by caring and Wayne County is a caring community,” said Fred Griffin, Wayne County Emergency Management Director.

Lincoln High School Band Director Kathryn Ray was first aware of the damage and needs of the Henryville Golden Band through photos posted on Facebook within a couple of hours after the tornado. A check was given to the Henryville band during the Canal Days parade in Cambridge City, where 18 members, along with eight band boosters and high school staff, displayed their donation on a float.

“I am very proud of our Lincoln High School Marching Eagles, Band Director Kathryn Ray, the Band Boosters and the entire Western Wayne Community for their commitment to helping the Henryville Band. It is not easy to give away something that so many worked so hard for, but that makes the gift all the more special — and I am sure deeply appreciated,” said Griffin.

As Henryville reconstructs and rebuilds a closeness of the citizens in effected communities, Clark County Emergency Management Director Les Kavanaugh is hopeful.

“Like many of the contributions, concerts and fund raisers, I feel it [donations] helps uplift the students, faculty, school administration and parents,” said Kavanaugh.

Clark County has had to declare three disasters that have ultimately led to death and injury to citizens.

“Effected or non-effected people feel good to know that in time of need, there will be an outpouring of compassion, and giving; and in turn our county will, and has assisted others during their frightening ordeals when nature turns ugly,” said Kavanaugh.

The March tornadoes are an everyday reminder not only of the importance of preparedness and response, but a reminder of how communities come together in the face of disaster. ●

Sept. 9, 2012, at the Canal Days parade. Louise Ronald / Palladium-Item
INDIANA AWARDS COMMITTEES, UNIVERSITIES AND INDIVIDUALS

On September 15th, 2012, 16 Indiana Emergency Response Conference awards were presented to Indiana Local Emergency Planning Committees, higher education institutions and individual Hoosiers.

Awards and winners were:

-Commodity Flow Study
  • Noble County LEPC
  • Lawrence County LEPC
  • Gibson County LEPC
-Exercise
  • Elkhart/Noble/LaGrange County LEPCs
  • Grant County LEPC
  • Monroe County LEPC
-Outreach to the Public
  • Marion County LEPC
-Outreach to Facilities
  • Jefferson County LEPC
  • Noble County LEPC
-Planning
  • Jackson County LEPC
-Higher Education
  • Purdue University Calumet
  • University of Southern Indiana
-Service Awards
  • Roger Wolff-Meritorious Service
  • Russ Shirley– Greg Phillips Award
-Special Recognition by the IERC
  • Monroe County LEPC

HARRISON COUNTY CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF EMERGENCY SERVICE
A NEW EMS FACILITY AND AMBULANCE ENHANCES LOCAL CAPABILITIES

Harrison County Hospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) celebrated 35 years of service on October 14th. They also celebrated their designation as the advanced life-support provider of the year by the Indiana Emergency Response Conference and the dedication of a new headquarters and training facility.

The county’s newest ambulance was on display for children to sit in the driver’s seat, receive a free heart tracing, and learn about paramedic’s routines. Air Methods displayed a helicopter and the Palmyra Fire Department had Sparky the Fire Dog and a smoke trailer for children. Harrison County Police had vehicles on display as well as free car seat inspections available from certified car seat inspectors.

The new EMS facility can withstand major storms, store two weeks of supplies, facilitate an emergency generator back-up; and the classroom can be used as a command center during major storms or other agencies.

The new building is named after Paul “Pete” Martin, considered a father of Harrison County Hospital and EMS. Martin was presented with a plaque during the ceremony recognizing his contributions and dedication to the Harrison County EMS, as well as the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department.

“See Something Say Something” Campaign Extends to Simon Properties

On September 9, it was announced that twenty malls in Indiana and Virginia will participate in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s “If you see something, say something” campaign with possible expansion to other facilities nationwide.

Simon properties, headquartered in Indianapolis, will partner with U.S. DHS to provide materials and advertisements to help engage and educate the public.

Simon Property owns 393 properties worldwide, including, although not participating, The Town Center in Aurora, Colorado located near the mass shooting scene in July. The effort is to spread the public awareness campaign to shopping malls and retail centers across the United States.
I-DPMU PRACTICES DISASTER SET-UP

The Indiana Disaster Portable Mortuary Unit (I-DPMU) exercised a scenario with the new INDOT convoy on September 7th, 2012. The I-DPMU is a deployable resource sponsored by IDHS to provide assistance during local disaster response. The goal is to be fully operational within 24 hours.

The team is still working on different set up options of the morgue depending on location and space available.

“By setting this up in an exercise mode, it allows us to go through our set-up and tear down and work through any issues prior to a real life scenario,” said Robin Stump IDHS EMS Specialist.

During Fire Prevention Week, October 7th-13th, Franklin Fire Department and the National Fire Protection Association worked with Domino’s Pizza in Franklin to promote fire prevention and deliver free pizzas.

Individuals who ordered Domino’s Pizza were randomly selected and surprised by fire crews that delivered the pizza on a fire engine. If the smoke alarms in the house were working, the customer received a free pizza. If the alarms weren’t working, firefighters replaced the batteries or installed functioning alarms.

2013 NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TRIP

Registration is open for the 2013 National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The five courses offered are: Politics and the White Helmet, Training Operations in Small Departments, Fire Safety Culture: Who Protects Firefighters from Firefighters, Leveraging Technology for the Emergency Services and Juvenile Fire

Setter Intervention Specialist I.

Registration and applications are due by December 3, 2012.

Visit www.indianafiretrainings.com or email Brandon Wood at BrWood@dhs.in.gov for more information and registration.

Chief Robert Applegate, from Hancock County, passed away October 1st. Chief Applegate was a founding member of the Wilkinson Fire Department and served as chief for more than three decades.