



# Hoosier Responder

JULY 2010

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## INDIANA OFFICIALS BRING VALUABLE ANTI-TERROR TRAINING FROM ISRAEL

Law enforcement officers from across the state traveled to Israel to attend an 11-day anti-terrorism exercise with the support of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). Public safety officers must be trained to respond to a wide range of natural and man-made emergencies, including terrorism.



**The Bakhar market in Jerusalem has seen violence, terrorist bombings and civilian attacks by use of vehicles and construction equipment.**

Using a federal grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security

and the support of Governor Mitch Daniels, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, and Executive Director of IDHS Joe Wainscott, Sheriff George Sheridan, Jr. of the Delaware County Sheriff's Department led the

trip to Israel.

Sheridan is the president of the Indiana SWAT Officers Association, subcommittee chairman of special operations committee, and member of the Homeland Security Committee of the National Sheriff's Association. Along with Sheridan, Sgt. Cory Culler of the Indiana State Police, Officer Pete Koe of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department,

Investigator Mike Fisher of the Knox County Sheriff's Office, and Officer Mark Geradot of the Ft. Wayne Police Department attended the training exercise.

[Continued on Page 2](#)

### In This Issue:

Fire Spotlight: Survive Alive	2
EMA Spotlight: Morgan Co	3
New Law Took Effect July 1	3
Government Center Hours	3
K9 Crisis Response Team Helps	3
State Mitigation Group Uses Modeling Technology	4
Silver Jacket Group Provides Flooding Solutions in Report	4
Amusement Ride Stickers	5
National Watch Program Comes to Indiana to Train	5
NEMA Seeking Nominations For Service Award	5
Brown County EMS Station	6
Diversion From Fire Training Causes Near Miss for Firefighter	6
Two-Day Course Aims to Protect Public Venues	6

## From the Director's Chair-Executive Director Joe Wainscott Indiana's Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REPP)

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) hosted an annual meeting focusing on the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REPP). The purpose of this meeting was to update nuclear power plant representatives and other state and local stakeholders who are involved with Indiana's REPP.

This program plans and prepares the state of Indiana to respond to incidents that may occur at one of the four nuclear power stations closest to the Indiana borders and could include a release of radioactive material that could impact Indiana. These four power stations are within a 50-mile Ingestion Pathway Zone (IPZ). Within the IPZ, the largest risk of exposure to radiation is the consumption of radioactive materials as a result of the radioactive particles from a release entering into the food chain through exposed crops and livestock. Two of these stations,

Braidwood and Dresden, are located in Illinois, and the other two, DC Cook and Palisades, are located in Michigan. All nuclear power plant off-site response activities are regulated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

IDHS cannot overstate the importance of the Indiana REPP as a response planning effort to help protect Indiana citizens from the effects of a nuclear power plant event. IDHS works in coordinated effort with the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and nuclear power plants in all planning efforts for a REPP response.

All Indiana property is outside of the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of all nuclear power plants; however, there are 11 Indiana counties that are within the IPZ. In the event of an incident, IDHS has implemented plans and will

provide public notification through newspapers' websites, radio and TV broadcasts, the emergency alert system, and social media. IDHS's website provides additional information to assist the public.



A REPP brochure has been developed to share information with farmers, food processors, distributors, and all Indiana residents on ways to protect individuals and the food chain during a REPP response. In addition, the REPP brochure covers topics on use, disposal and recovery of food sources, nuclear emergency terms and actions, explanation of radiation and contamination, information on nuclear power plants, and health effects of radioactive contamination.

[Continued on Page 2](#)

## Director's Article: REPP *Continued from page 1*

During a REPP response, IDHS will also dispatch personnel to assist the local community with response efforts. These efforts may include collecting samples of milk, forage, crops (seasonal), processed foods, soil and surface water in the IPZ. These samples will be analyzed to determine the level of contamination, if any. The field data and information received from the nuclear power plants will be used by IDHS to determine the best course of action to protect Hoosiers and the food chain.

During a REPP response, IDHS will cooperate with other federal, state, and local agencies to ensure the response is handled as quickly and efficiently as possible. The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) will assist with surveying livestock and other animals and animal products, such as eggs and milk, within the IPZ to ensure that they have not been contaminated with radioactive materials. Radiation levels in the air, ground, and water will be monitored by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Water, plants, and crops will be inspected for levels of radiation that exceed levels found naturally, and this information will be used to determine the best course of action to protect Hoosiers and the food chain.

This 2010 annual meeting allowed participants to share information on changes, issues or concerns with the Indiana REPP. Meeting attendees included representatives from all four

nuclear power stations near the Indiana border, FEMA Region V REPP, IDHS, ISDH, and several other state and local agencies. Presentations by IDHS and partners included updates from FEMA, ingestion pathway and radiological planning at the local and state level, an ISH radiological health program review and equipment capabilities, public information warnings and emergency response operations.

In 2012, IDHS will participate in an Ingestion Pathway Exercise with the Palisades nuclear power plant in Illinois. As an ingestion-only state, these exercises take place once every six years. This will test Indiana's ability to respond to a radiation emergency and will provide valuable information about what improvements could be made to ensure the safety of Hoosiers.

Other items discussed were IDHS projects including the final revision of the Indiana Ingestion Pathway Plan, the REPP awareness training being provided locally to the 11 Indiana REPP counties and neighboring counties, and the online REPP awareness training option that will be available soon. IDHS is also in the process of partnering with state and local agencies to revise the sampling team training and procedures to be presented at the end of 2010 through 2011. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security continues to actively seek ways to improve upon the REP Program to ensure an effective response and to protect all Indiana citizens.\*

## ISRAEL TRAINING

*Continued from page 1*

While in Israel, the officers were trained in protecting critical infrastructures, securing major events, defending against attacks with explosives and small arms, intelligence gathering, surveillance techniques, protective service for VIPs, managing homicide/suicide bombers, post blast investigations, protecting airports, transit systems, and locations where there are large groups of people gathered, and terrorist ideology facing the United States and its allies.

According to Sheridan, the message from the trip to the West Bank was clear; "terrorist operatives can easily blend into society through the use of local customs and behaviors. Thus, agencies in the United States have to be cognizant of U.S. citizens that have developed terrorist ideologies."

Sheridan says the training experience and skills gained in Israel will be used to train and prepare law enforcement officers and safety organizations across the state to mitigate terrorist threats.

However, citizens should also keep a watchful eye and report any suspicious behavior to the appropriate agencies.\*



## FIRE SPOTLIGHT: Survive Alive, Indianapolis

Most fire casualties happen in small numbers in one to two family dwellings and apartments, according to the State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). After the success of a fire and life safety program in Mishawaka, the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD) created a similar program in Indianapolis. Directed by Indianapolis firefighter Aleatha Henderson, the program gives participants the opportunity to gain life-saving experiences to escape a house fire, using the old Fire Station 8 building to recreate a home environment.

"The most important thing for the child to learn is to not hide under a bed or in a closet when they smell smoke," Henderson says. "It increases the amount of time exposed to the smoke and other gases from the fire." Henderson and her staff emphasize getting out quickly, if it's safe. If it isn't safe, make lots of noise to attract attention from firefighters.

Since April of 1995, the Indianapolis Survive

Alive House has utilized a two-bedroom home environment complete with bedrooms, kitchen, laundry room, bathroom, living room

and closet, along with simulated fire and smoke to give program participants the experience of an actual fire and life-saving skills to escape the perils of a fire in their home.

Designed for 6-8 year olds, the program can be adapted for any age citizen, including people with physical and mental disabilities. Classroom sessions teach the children about smoke alarms and ignition source safety. Children also learn how to put out fire on their clothing and how to respond to a fire in their home. Hands-on training verifies a participant's knowledge of fire safety. The Survive Alive house is equipped with smoke, heated doors, and appropriate lighting.

Since the program has started, the IFD has noted significant decreases in fire-related fatalities and burn injuries.

One of many cases, a local fourth grader helped to save his family from a house fire two years after going through the Survive Alive program. For more information about the program and to schedule a tour of the facility, contact Aleatha Henderson at 317.327.6094 or visit the website at [www.survivealive.org](http://www.survivealive.org).



**Colin Wence of Perry Township knew what to do when his family experienced a house fire, after a visit to Survive Alive. He received an Outstanding Service Award presented on behalf of the mayor for his actions.**

### EMA Spotlight: Morgan County

Jeff Neal has worked with the Morgan County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) for nearly 10 years, becoming director in 2006. The county EMA has operated an ambulance service since the 1960s when it was Civil Defense. In 2007, Neal saw a need to expand to a 24/7 ambulance service. The EMS Division Chief Kay Dodson assists with operations of the ambulance.

The agency continues efforts to update equipment and dispatch centers to provide better public service. Since he took over as director, Neal has secured \$1,577,968.56 in grants. Most of this money helped provide all fire departments in Morgan County with 800 MHz radios and to update dispatch centers.

In 2005, Neal helped establish the Morgan County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Since the program was started, Neal has received several thousand dollars to assist the program. This program has improved recovery efforts to recent

major flooding events in Morgan County. Neal continues to look for grants and other opportunities to improve the service offered by the Morgan County EMA. •



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### NEW LAW FOR IDHS PERMITS TOOK EFFECT JULY 1

Starting July 1, the new provisions of the statute relating to the transportation of low and high level radioactive waste became effective. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) will be issuing permits for the transportation of low and high-level radioactive waste through Indiana. The permit fee for high level waste will be \$2,500 per truck, and rail shipments will be \$4,500 for the first cask and \$3,000 for each additional cask. Permit fees provide financial support for equipment and training for public safety responders. Indiana State Police (ISP) will enforce the new law with a maximum \$1,000 fine and seizure of vehicle and cargo if in violation of this law. •



**A nuclear fuel cask on a railcar**

## K-9 RESPONSE TEAM COMFORTS DISASTER SURVIVORS

Comfort can come in all shapes and sizes. The State of Indiana K-9 Assisted Crisis Response Team, part of Indiana's Division of Mental Health and Addiction-Disaster Management program, is a team of dogs, handlers and mental health personnel who are available to respond statewide in the aftermath of disasters and other tragic events. Established in late 2008, the dogs provide emotional comfort, care and support to first responders and survivors of disasters and tragic events.

Andrew Klatte oversees all Disaster Mental Health Services for the state of Indiana.

"I appreciate the professionalism of the K-9 team and its dedication to training and response," said Klatte.

Team Leader Dr. Jean Marie Thompson believes in the power of the dog. "We have scientific evidence of the dogs' unique ability to reach people who are

traumatized or demoralized," Thompson said. "The dogs provide disaster behavioral health services that are outstanding."

Sue Dancer has worked with the team as a dog-handler since its creation. Her dog, Pumpkin, has helped people talk about the tragedy they've experienced.



**Fr. Bert Woolson (left) and his dog Rain comfort.**

"The dogs help people open up," Dancer said. "People say things they wouldn't normally say. I believe they find a release in that."

The team deployed to Winamac in November 2009 to provide comfort and a distraction for the hundreds of people attending and working at an H1N1 vaccination clinic for Pulaski County. Walking among those waiting in long lines, the teams helped relieve both the boredom and anxiety of the many children waiting to receive the vaccine.

"It is much easier to give a small child a shot while they're distracted petting a dog," said Fr. Bert Woolson.

Woolson, a state police chaplain, became involved with the team as a dog-handler in the spring of 2009.

"The dogs on our team come in all shapes and sizes, and the handlers of these dogs are also very diverse," said Fr. Woolson. "But what all these dogs and their handlers have in common is a real dedication to serving the community."

K-9 Assisted Crisis Response team members have participated in many other events during the past year, including a mock pandemic exercise. Four days of training exercise at Camp Atterbury helped establish group solidarity.

For more information on the team, contact Dr. Thompson at [jeanmarie\\_thompson2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanmarie_thompson2000@yahoo.com) or 574.286.7320; and to request deployment of the team, contact Andrew Klatte from FSSA-Emergency Management at [Andrew.Klatte@fssa.in.gov](mailto:Andrew.Klatte@fssa.in.gov) or 317.232.7935. •

## INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER CHANGES PUBLIC ENTRY POINTS HOURS

New hours for public entry points to the Indiana Government Center (IGC) were instituted starting May 10. The building now opens half an hour later (7:30 a.m. E.D.T.) and closes half an hour earlier (5:00 p.m. E.D.T.) to the public.

Special arrangements can be made for planned events where members of the public need to gain access prior to building opening times or

past scheduled closing times.

Events scheduled through the conference center can have arrangements made to provide for building access. There is no change for employees who work in the IGC buildings with identification badge card access. •



# STATE MITIGATION GROUP USES MODELING TECHNOLOGY TO PREDICT DISASTER LOSSES

With participation from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), Indianapolis will host the National FEMA HAZUS Users Conference on August 23-25. HAZUS is a modeling program, originally designed for earthquake planning, using geographic information system (GIS) data to predict potential damage from natural disasters. IDHS uses HAZUS-MH (Multi-Hazard) in developing state and county mitigation plans related to earthquakes and flooding.

“HAZUS was developed to give communities an idea of what resources they would likely need if a natural disaster event occurred,” said Jan Crider, state mitigation director. “It helps us prioritize and direct our mitigation activities.” This modeling technology, created by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, shows emergency management planners the effects of disaster events from various hazards including floods, earthquakes and hurricanes (only in coastal areas). It gives estimates of damage based on engineering such as elevation and building construction materials.

“During the second flooding that occurred in Tippecanoe County in March of 2008, IDHS used HAZUS-MH modeling to estimate the number of structures affected to use when we conducted damage surveys,” Crider said. “By looking at the topography, we could determine how far flood waters would hit.”

HAZUS-MH analyzes potential loss estimates, including physical damage to residential and commercial buildings, schools, critical facilities and infrastructure, economic loss such as jobs, business interruptions, repair and reconstruction costs, and social impact such as shelter requirements, displaced households and population exposed to scenarios.

HAZUS shows users an estimation of the number of buildings will be affected during an earthquake according to building vulnerabilities and where the concentration of those type of building structures are located in a community. It will generate expected costs to rebuild, time to rebuild and usability of damaged buildings. To predict flooding damage, the model uses historical information on flood plain and topographical maps to show areas that will most

likely be damaged. Across the board, it will generate possible debris, damage to structure and infrastructure, and demographics such as the number of people who are expected to seek shelter and for how long.

The HAZUS Conference will allow users such as first responders, local government officials, planners, and GIS specialists to share expertise and experience in the development and use of HAZUS-MH. IDHS’s mitigation division, along with the Silver Jackets group, has made innovative strides in HAZUS use. After moving to better modeling data, IDHS and the Silver Jackets have added flood grids to gather other damage information related to predict how fast water moves and how long the water will be elevated in a pilot area along the White River in Indianapolis using live data for existing gauges.

By using National Weather Service’s forecast crest arrival and the flood grids, IDHS utilizes a real-time GIS mapping of the location and impacts of flooding in the communities. IDHS is currently working on making this HAZUS “on the fly modeling” available to 20 forecast sites throughout Indiana. •

## FLOODING DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SOLUTIONS THROUGH SILVER JACKETS GROUP

Many Indiana agencies have come together to find a single solution to natural hazards within the Indiana Silver Jackets (ISJ). Local and state government groups, non-governmental organizations and members of the private sector that form ISJ and the Elkhart River Alliance recently discussed findings of a new study about North Branch Elkhart River flooding.

“The Indiana Silver Jackets program provides an active governmental flood management team to continually bring together federal, state and local agencies to trade and apply knowledge that reduces flooding and other risks,” said Manuela Johnson, mitigation program director at IDHS.

This interagency communications team provides comprehensive and sustainable solutions to natural hazard issues, including flood management. Flooding causes extensive damage to Indiana homes and infrastructure annually. The Indiana Silver Jackets team enables effective and efficient sharing of information, fosters the leveraging of available resources, provides



**Flooding occurs annually throughout Indiana, especially in low-lying areas and near rivers and lakes. The North Branch Elkhart River represents a prime example of a flood-prone body of water.**

improved service to Indiana residents and promotes stewardship of taxpayer money.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) represents a core agency in partnership with Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana National Guard, Indiana University, Polis

Center at Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis, Maumee River Basin Commission, National Weather Service, Purdue University, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Geological Survey, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

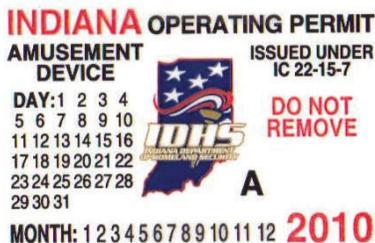
Organized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Indiana program most recently completed a report for the North Branch Elkhart River and the West Lakes watershed, culminating efforts which began in the fall of 2009. IDHS took part in an editorial role, contributing a chapter on options and opportunities to deal with flooding in these areas.

The report draws on research from several decades, and suggests that while there is no single, feasible solution to stop all flooding, opportunities exist for gradually improving the situation in the North Branch Elkhart River watershed and drainage basin. Several ecological factors that affect flooding include topography, groundwater resources and lake levels. Portions of the report are posted for public review on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ website at: [www.iwr.usace.army.mil/](http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/). •

## IDHS NEEDS SAFETY OFFICIALS TO CHECK AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY STICKERS

The elevators and amusement ride section of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) inspects amusement rides to ensure compliance with state safety rules and regulations. Before operating any amusement device or ride, the operator must obtain a permit from IDHS. If the sticker (pictured below) does not appear on the ride, it has likely not been inspected by IDHS.

Being inspected DOES NOT guarantee that the ride is being operated in a safe manner, or in the case



of inflatable rides, that the ride has been installed correctly on the site. To report any safety issue, accident, a lack of or an out-of-date sticker, contact authorities at the amusement ride hotline 888.203.5020.

Give the state number and location of ride. The state number followed by "A" (indicated on right side of permit above year) represents the specific operator.

The sticker reflects the date of last inspection. Make sure to check month and day are punched and current date is no more than one year from the date punched. •

## IDHS HELPS HOST CONFERENCE WITH INDIANA'S PARTNERS IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The 2010 Joint Conference of Indiana's Partners in Emergency Management and Homeland Security: *Together Our Group Achieves* will be held October 7-8, 2010, at the Indianapolis Marriott East located at 7202 East 21 Street, Indianapolis, IN.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana partnered to expand the conference and offer outstanding educational information for attendees. Conference sessions will run simultaneously and will highlight topics imperative to both safety and planning for the higher education and emergency management fields. •

## NATIONAL WATCH PROGRAM COMES TO INDIANA TO TRAIN SAFETY OFFICIALS ON TERRORISM AWARENESS

With cooperation from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), a national neighborhood watch program will be training public safety officials in Fort Wayne on July 21-22 to help make their communities safer. As part of USAonWatch, this Neighborhood Watch (NW) program incorporates terrorism awareness and education to emphasize the "eyes and ears" crime prevention mission of NW, empowering citizens to be active in homeland security efforts through community participation. Up to 50 law enforcement officers and Neighborhood Watch/USA on Watch coordinators may attend.



In addition to IDHS, the program is sponsored by the National Sheriffs' Association in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs and U.S. Department of Justice. The program has limited spots (50) available that are assigned on a first come, first serve basis. A sheriff's deputy, police officers who work as watch liaisons, law enforcement officers new to watch principles, community members who take a leading role in watch programs and anyone who cares about improving the security of their neighborhoods are encouraged to attend.

"Neighborhood Watch is a program to train every day citizens to look out for their neighbors," explained Alan Scott, Program Director of Indiana Citizens Corp. "Citizens are instructed on how to

spot suspicious activity such as cars driving around neighborhoods at strange hours. They report what they see to the local police department."

To begin a neighborhood watch, officials may encourage citizens to form a small planning committee of neighbors to discuss the needs of your community and measure the level of interest and potential problems. Committees decide on a date and place for an initial neighborhood watch meeting. It is important to contact your local police department or sheriff's office and notify them of your interest to start a watch. Crime prevention officers can attend the first neighborhood meeting.

For more information about the NW program visit [in.gov/dhs/citizencorps.htm](http://in.gov/dhs/citizencorps.htm). Contact Alan Scott at [ascott@dhs.in.gov](mailto:ascott@dhs.in.gov) or 317.234.5340 with any questions about registration. •

## NEMA SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR SERVICE AWARD

The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) will present the Lacy E. Suiter Distinguished Service Award to an individual who has made notable contributions of service to emergency management preparedness, mitigation, response or recovery at a local, state, regional or national level.

The NEMA Board of Directors is responsible for reviewing nominations and making award determinations. The board is interested in specific activities and accomplishments of the nominee rather than general background. Self-nominations will not be accepted. Nominations should include a one-page summary of those accomplishments or activities believed to merit

consideration for an award.

The deadline for award nomination is July 31, 2010. Send the nomination form, found on NEMA's website at [www.nemaweb.org](http://www.nemaweb.org), and one-page summary to address or fax below. For more information call 859.244.8233•

**Lacy E. Suiter Distinguished Service Award**  
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## BROWN COUNTY EMS FINALLY GETS OWN STATION

After years of planning, Brown County will build a new EMS station through a \$500,000 grant. The county's EMS is run through Columbus Regional Hospital Ambulance Service. The grant is one of 22 Community Focus Funds (CFF) grants from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs that were announced by Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. The goal of the CFF program is to encourage communities with eligible populations to focus on long-term community development.

"We want to get (the building process) moving along as quick as possible," explained Brown County Commissioner Mary Fouch,



"These paramedics and EMTs deserve to have a better place and those trucks need to be inside."

The new facility will offer a three-bay, 60-foot deep garage that will house the ambulances, currently kept outdoors. During the winter, the ambulances must be running 24 hours a day to keep the medical equipment in working order. The new garage will allow the vehicles to maintain proper temperatures without running the engines. The facility will also provide more operating space for EMS staff, as well as space for training sessions and other events. •

## DIVERSION FROM TRAINING CAUSES NEAR MISS FOR INDIANA FIREFIGHTER

Even professional firefighters make mistakes, sometimes with fatal consequences. Often this happens when the firefighter diverts from training. Continued fire department training such as provided by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Firefighter Training System ensures that the skills and overall proficiency of firefighters are continuously improved. The importance of fire training cannot be overly emphasized given its great impact on society.

"Humans make mistakes; learning from mistakes during fire training allows the firefighter to make the right decision when it counts, when lives are at stake," said John Buckman, the state fire training director at IDHS.

Recently an Indiana firefighter with 13 years of experience was dispatched to a car accident with injuries. A downed line lay across the road. The driver of the fire engine is a career firefighter with 12 years experience, a captain and safety officer. The driver thought the wire was only a tension cable. Police officers on the scene allowed traffic to pass over cable. The firefighter on duty was concerned that a vehicle would move the wire, increasing the danger for individuals in the proximity.

Trying to maintain safety of the scene, the firefighter in charge picked up the wire to move

it, assuming that it was a neutral return line grounded somewhere. It turned out to be a live wire. Fortunately, this firefighter came away from the mistake unscathed.

"The mistake was made out of complacency," the firefighter said. "We work around downed lines all the time. This line looked like a steel wire."



**Boswell firefighters (Benton) practice a car extraction in a training setting. Training allows firefighters to be prepared and avoid mistakes during an actual emergency.**

Firefighters are instructed to never touch a downed line until it has been determined to have no charge by the electrical company. Training gives firefighters the opportunity to apply knowledge to real life situations, putting their firefighting skills to the test and gaining practical experience. For instance, fire training provides individuals with a chance to practice important safety procedures such as how to handle downed wires.

This Indiana firefighter learned from his mistake, understanding the importance of adhering to fire training. He gives advice to other firefighter to prevent mistakes.

"Never let your guard down; take it all seriously. You should worry about your own safety first," he said. "If you are in charge, you have to take responsibility for all of your actions."

To prevent making mistakes at the cost of people's lives, training provides an opportunity to make mistakes in a controlled environment in order to reduce their negative effects. If mistakes are made during training, the training should continue until the skill is perfected. •

## TWO-DAY COURSE AIMS TO PROTECT PUBLIC VENUES

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) recently sponsored a free two-day course to provide terrorism awareness training to security trainers within venues that don't have access restrictions, referred to as "soft targets". These public facilities include hotels, casinos, shopping malls, schools, medical facilities and large audience special events. The main purpose of the class is to help operators of soft targets train their staff on how to recognize suspicious behavior or situations and provide staff with the most expedient notification procedures.

The training reinforces vigilance and awareness of vulnerabilities in the private sector. Topics discussed include terrorism awareness, homeland security role of the frontline responder, weapons of mass destruction (WMD), improvised explosive devices (IED), terrorist planning cycle and suspicious person indicators, suspicious items indicators and types of threats, incident scene management and soft target vulnerabilities.

The course provides three levels of awareness information needed to respond to the threat of terrorism within soft target areas, detect indicators of potential terrorist activities, and make informed, controlled and safe response to incidents involving IEDs or WMDs.

The individuals representing the private sector received training materials including an instructor guide, reference materials and additional resources to bring back to protect these sites in the private sector. IDHS recommends emergency management agencies confer with partners in the private sector to see if there is local interest in this sort of training. For more information, contact Roger Koelpin at 317.232.0181 or [rkoelpin@dhs.in.gov](mailto:rkoelpin@dhs.in.gov). For more information on counter-terrorism training, visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/2611.htm>. •

# ALL HAZARDS RADIOS RECOMMENDED AS BEST BET FOR SAFETY NOTIFICATION

Severe weather is a common occurrence in Indiana during the summer months. Hoosiers need to take the necessary steps to stay safe from strong thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flooding. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security encourages all citizens purchase an all hazards radio as a primary source of emergency warning.

"All hazards alert radios are a crucial tool for every individual and family," said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott. "They are a reliable avenue for receiving timely public safety warnings and other potentially lifesaving

information around the clock."

Aside from providing warnings about potentially severe weather, all hazards radios provide valuable safety information concerning hazardous materials incidents, biological threats, contagious diseases, food contamination, industrial fires, power plant incidents and other potentially dangerous



situations. It will also relay various emergency warnings including child abductions, evacuations, local area crises, emergency action notifications and civil emergency messages. Working with other Federal agencies and the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System (EAS), all hazards radios provide

the most comprehensive weather and emergency information available to the public. These radios can be found online and at many local retailers. •

## EMS SPOTLIGHT: LaPorte County EMS

Across the state, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) face challenges that are unique to their counties. Covering the second largest county in the state by area, LaPorte County EMS provides service to county residents within an extremely diverse natural landscape, requiring a high level of training and preparation. The service has been named the State of Indiana ALS provider of the year four times since it was established in 1974.

"All of those affiliated in any way with LaPorte County Emergency Medical Services from our medical directors, paramedics, EMTs and first responders to our efficient, professional billing staff make LaPorte County EMS one of the finest EMS organizations in the State of Indiana," said Patricia Pease, Administrator of LaPorte County EMS. "I am extremely proud to be a small part of this high quality EMS service."

The provider staffs 25 paramedics and 21 EMTs from three base stations in Michigan

City, LaPorte and Wanatah. With six advanced life support (ALS) ambulances and one basic life support (BLS) ambulance, the county EMS responds to approximately 10,000 requests for assistance each year. As the weather warms, the Lake Michigan beaches, and the numerous inland lake beaches become popular destinations. The

communication among EMS, the state and local park departments is essential to providing fast and effective service to these recreation areas. •



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Leadership for a Safe and Secure Indiana

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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 317.234.4214 or [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov).