



ANNUAL REPORT

IDHS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SECTION



A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR KRAIG KINNEY

2022 was a year of growth for Indiana EMS. Big challenges are ahead for EMS, but steps are being taken to improve EMS and set us up to meet those challenges. The momentum created with the recommendations of the Governor's Public Health Commission has created newfound support and awareness of the EMS system, perhaps more than ever.

Personnel changes this year impacted the EMS Commission and the EMS Section of IDHS. The following personnel left formal EMS service with the state:

- Tony Pagano retired after 35 years of service to the state of Indiana, most recently
 as EMS Training Coordinator. Pagano returned in 2023 as EMS training adjunct. His main duty will be to
 administer the EMS practical exam.
- Dr. Michael Kaufmann left the EMS Medical Director position after four (4) years of key service and leadership for Indiana EMS.
- Brittany Fortinberry left the mobile integrated healthcare (MIH) coordinator position after 18 months of service, most notably building up the EMS support and tracking of MIH programs throughout Indiana.
- Myron Mackey, Chuck Valentine, Teri Hamilton, Dr. Thomas Lardaro and John Ryan departed the EMS Commission.

Key figures also were added to EMS service for the state:

- Dr. Eric Yazel, from Clark County, was appointed as EMS medical director, bringing a rural perspective but also a strong EMS and public health background to the position. Dr. Yazel has actively engaged frontline EMS personnel and visited more than a third of Indiana counties in just six months on the job.
- Ken Foster joined the EMS Section as the EMS & fire data manager. This position was previously in the IDHS IT Section but was transferred to the EMS section.
- Kari Lanham was hired as the northwest district manager, handling Districts 1 and 2.
- New members accounted for about half of the EMS Commission.

Key statewide EMS accomplishments in 2022 included:

- Legislative changes in 2022 updated the EMS definition language to be more accurate, allowed EMS data sharing and mandated self-reporting of criminal convictions by EMS professionals.
- The EMS Commission adopted new fatigue recommendations and shared with all EMS providers.
- Scope of practice changes allowed EMTs and AEMTS to administer COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations, independent of the pandemic. A more recent change allowed EMTs and AEMTs to administer over-thecounter (OTC) medications and intranasal glucagon with a medical director's approval.

- Internally, changes were made to better serve customers and improve efficiency. One primary change was the overhaul of the audit system, which was one of the primary complaints seen typically but now rarely experienced. Webforms in ACADIS created a system that allows primary instructors to use workflows or automation to speed up course-related activity.
- The EMS Section conducted five (5) district forums in conjunction with EMS leadership education during 2022.
- The EMS Section successfully hosted the first Great Lakes in-person regional meeting in years and the first regional meeting for National Association of State EMS officials since 2019.

The theme for mobile integrated healthcare in 2022 was growth. With the help of an MIH coordinator, the number of tracked MIH programs in Indiana grew from around 20 to nearly 60 in a single year! Besides better tracking, IDHS also launched a new interactive map of the MIH programs across the state. The EMS Section is in discussion with FSSA about creating MIH program sustainability funding. Additionally, former MIH Coordinator Brittany Fortinberry and I presented at the EMS World Expo as part of the MIH Summit. Indiana had a solid attendance as a whole and was recognized as a key state leader in MIH growth and support.

I am proud of these accomplishments in 2022, and the EMS Section looks forward to promoting positive changes for the entire Indiana EMS system in 2023. Key projects include a statewide workforce study in conjunction with the Bowen Center for Public Policy, an agreement with Biospatial for EMS data sharing and reporting, statewide implementation of the Handtevy pediatric resuscitation system and the full integration for Indiana into the national EMS Compact.

Respectfully,

Kraig Kinney

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State Director and Counsel of EMS



IDHS ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS

DIRECTOR KINNEY REPRESENTATION

- ◆ Indiana EMS Commission Ex Officio member
- Indiana Mobile Integrated Healthcare Committee, chairperson
- ◆ Indiana EMS Education Workgroup
- ◆ Indiana EMS Association Board Ex Officio member
- ◆ EMS Compact Indiana commissioner
 - Vice-chairperson
 - Bylaws and Rules Committee chairperson
- National Association of EMS Officials (NASEMSO)
 - Great Lake's regional chairperson
 - · Member of the Board of Directors
- ◆ National Registry of EMTs (NREMT)
 - State Advisory Council member
 - Appointed to four-year term on board of directors (2023-2027)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- The EMS staff conducted EMS District Forums, which had EMS updates in the mornings and leadership offerings in the afternoons.
 - Five total offerings were completed successfully:
 - · Central on July 14 (Plainfield),
 - Northwest on Aug. 11 (Monticello),
 - · Northeast on Sept. 8 (Huntington),
 - Southwest on Oct. 6 (Greene County Fairgrounds), and
 - Southeast on Nov. 10 (Seymour).
- ◆ April 28-29 FDIC Conference
 - EMS District Manager Stan Frank coordinated roundtables on EMS fatigue.
- ◆ May 24 Public Safety Day at MADE Facility
 - Staff manned a CPR and Stop the Bleed EMS booth.
- ◆ June 16-19 Indiana Coroners Conference
 - EMS District Managers Stan Frank and Jason Smith presented on the Deployable Portable Mortuary Unit (DPMU) in Indiana.
- ◆ July 16 Supporting Heroes Gala
 - Director Kinney, Jason Smith, Brittany Fortinberry and Lee Turpen all participated.



- ◆ Aug. 17-21 Indiana State Fair
 - Staff assisted with the IDHS public safety booth that included CPR and Stop the Bleed demonstrations.
- Sept. 20-21 National Association of State EMS Officials Great Lakes Regional Meeting
 - Hosted by IDHS EMS at the MADE@Plainfield facility. Director Kinney and Brittany Fortinberry coordinated with all EMS staff participating.
- Sept. 22-23 Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC)
 - Keynote speaker was Dr. Eric Yazel with "Recent Updates in EMS Care."
 - Director Kinney presented on "Patient Consent."
 - EMS District Manager Robin Stump presented on "Indiana EMS Update."
 - EMS District Manager Stan Frank co-presented on "Breaking Bad News."
 - EMS District Manager Kari Lanham presented on "Hidden Dangers of Sleep Deprivation."
 - MIH Coordinator Brittany Fortinberry presented on "Helping Before 911."
- ◆ **Sept. 29** Lutheran Health Network
 - Director Kinney presented on "EMS Well-being" to more than 50 employees of the Lutheran Health Network in Roanoke outside Fort Wayne.
- ◆ Nov. 29-30 Greene County Paramedic Refresher.
 - Director Kinney presented on "EMS Documentation."
 - Stan Frank presented on "EMS Fatigue" and "Fetal Alcohol Syndrome."
- Dec. 1-2 Indiana EMS Association/Emergency Nurses Association Conference.
 - Director Kinney and Dr. Yazel were part of a legislative roundtable discussion on EMS.
 - Director Kinney presented on "EMS Customer Service" and "Indiana's MIH System."
 - EMS District Managers Stan Frank and Kari Lanham presented on "EMS Fatigue."
 - EMS District Manager Stan Frank co-presented on "Breaking Bad News."





EMS COMMISSION

EMS COMMISSION MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS

Jan. 21:

 Upon recommendation of Education Oversight Committee, the commission approved three nonrule policies that modified EMT clinical requirements, required a cognitive summative course examination for EMS classes and clarified AHA-RQI programs.

March 11:

- EMS Commission ethics refresher conducted by Office of General Counsel.
- EMT testing video from NREMT approved to be included in the ACADIS LMS to help students understand the NREMT testing process.

May 13:

- EMS Fatigue Committee recommendations approved by the EMS Commission.
- Dr. Eric Yazel confirmed as appointment to EMS Medical Director by the EMS Commission upon selection by former IDHS Executive Director Steve Cox.

◆ July 15:

- A non-rule policy on the ACS Field Trauma and Triage Guidelines was approved by the EMS Commission.
- The EMT and Advanced EMT scope of practice were extended to allow administration of COVID and influenza vaccinations.
- The EMS Commission approved an IDHS policy statement on ALS accreditation in response to the NREMT proposed policy change.

• Sept. 21:

- Meeting held in conjunction with the Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC).
- First meeting after the governor's appointment of six (6) new members and reappointment of seven (7) existing members. An orientation and overview of the function of the EMS Commission members was given.
- Indiana's participation in the NREMT for testing at the EMT, AEMT and paramedic levels reviewed with the EMS Commission.

• Nov. 30:

- Meeting held in conjunction with the EMS Association/ENA Conference.
- The EMT and Advanced EMT scope of practice were extended to allow OTC medication administration in routes approved for their levels and with a medical director's approval/oversight.
 Similarly, intranasal glucagon was approved at the EMT and advanced EMT levels with a medical director's approval/oversight.
- The migration of data elements from current NEMSIS to NEMSIS 3.5 was outlined for a 2023 implementation.
- The commission approved the usage of social security numbers (SSN) for EMS applications and to update existing certified/licensed personnel to be compliant with the EMS Compact law.
- The EMS Commission heard a request to allow advanced EMTs to be able to conduct EKGs during
 interfacility transfers as part of their scope of practice. The chairperson agreed to review and
 assigned IDHS staff and the EMS Education Oversight Committee to do a review and report back to
 the EMS Commission.

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS TO THE EMS COMMISSION

- ◆ Matthew McCullough Volunteer Fire Department, Terre Haute Reappointment
- ◆ Darin Hoggatt Municipal Fire Services, Greenwood Reappointment
- ◆ Mary Ann Dudley Volunteer EMS, Carlisle New Appointment
- ◆ G. Lee Turpen Private Ambulance Services, Evansville Reappointment
- ◆ **John Zartman** Paramedics, Lafayette Reappointment
- ◆ **Dr. Jim Nossett** Emergency Physicians, Indianapolis New Appointment
- ◆ Brian Herwig Hospital Ambulance Service, Perry County New Appointment
- ◆ **Andrew Bowman** Emergency Nurses, Indianapolis Reappointment
- ◆ Dr. Sara Brown Trauma Care, Fort Wayne Reappointment
- ◆ Jerry Harder Emergency Medical Technicians, Brownsburg New Appointment
- ◆ VACANT Public Representative PENDING
- ◆ Matt Shady ALS Training Institution Program, Fort Wayne New Appointment
- ◆ Joel Thacker IN Department of Homeland Security, Indianapolis Statutory position
- ◆ Lori Mayle Air Ambulance, Indianapolis New Appointment

Commission appointments are effective as of Sept. 15, 2022. Members will serve until Sept. 30, 2026.

IDHS EMS STAFF OVERVIEW

2022 IDHS EMS POSITIONS

- ◆ Kraig Kinney, state EMS director:
 - Designated by IDHS to supervise the EMS Section and handle all operational aspects of EMS for the state of Indiana. This position is the state representative for national EMS organizations and reports to the State Fire Marshal in the Division of Fire & Building Safety.
- ◆ Dr. Eric Yazel, state EMS medical director:
 - Statutory position appointed by the IDHS executive director. Serves to provide systems of quality patient care, model guidelines, statewide quality assurance and statewide EMS advocacy.
- Robin Stump, operations section chief:
 - Responsible for the supervision of the district managers and support for EMS organizations including organization certifications.
- Candice Pope, EMS certifications and compliance:
 - Responsible for the supervision of all individual certifications and the audit program.
- EMS district manager (Jason Smith, Don Watson, Stan Frank, Kari Lanham):
 - Responsible for providing resources or information and guidance on EMS issues in assigned district(s). The district managers participate in many local events, including meetings and trainings.
- Ken Foster, EMS & fire data manager (since April 2022):
 - Responsible for the system of collecting and processing of EMS and fire data from providers in Indiana.
- ◆ **Tim Layton**, mobile simulation laboratory coordinator:
 - Responsible for all operations with the mobile Sim Lab including training. Also handles special EMS training initiatives.



2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IMPACTS ON EMS

HEA 1112 — MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT RATES

- Will require the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) for Indiana Medicaid to reimburse at a rate comparable to the federal Medicare rates.
- ◆ Effective July 1, 2023.

SEA 247 — 911 AND REGIONALIZED TRAUMA SYSTEMS REPORT

 Required IDHS, the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), the Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSAC) and the Statewide 911 Board to make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding 911 interoperability and the effectiveness of the regionalized trauma system.

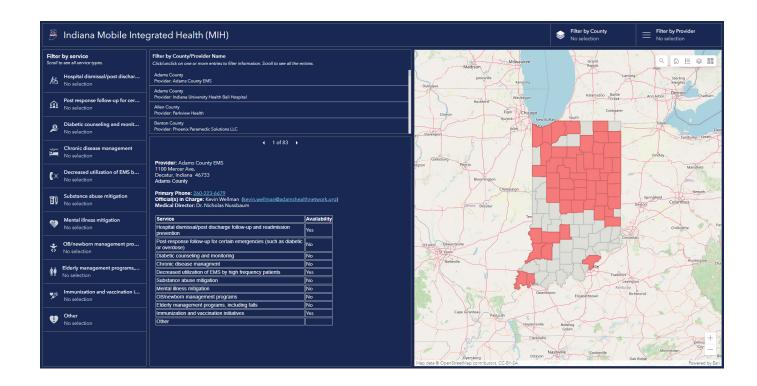
HEA 1314 — PUBLIC SAFETY MATTERS

- Highlights
 - Statutory definition changes to match current practice.
 - · Updated definitions for BLS and EMS in general .
 - · Several definition and insurance provision changes that will impact billion and reimbursement.
 - Allowance of EMS data sharing by IDHS for certain research partners, such as the Indiana Health Information Exchange.
 - EMS professionals that receive a new criminal conviction are required to report the conviction to IDHS within 90 days of the judgement order.
- ◆ Effective as of July 1, 2022.



MIH OVERVIEW

- Brittany Fortinberry served as the MIH coordinator through October, when she left to pursue other employment. Along with Director Kinney and Dr. Yazel, Fortinberry conducted many site visits and participated in countless virtual meetings. MIH presentations were made at the Indiana Emergency Response Conference, the Indiana EMS Association Conference and the MIH Summit at EMS Expo in Orlando.
- MIH Advisory Committee meetings were held six times in 2022.
 - Director Kinney is chairperson of the committee with Dr. Yazel as a key member of the committee.
- ◆ The EMS Commission approved 16 MIH programs, which could make them eligible for Medicaid reimbursement in the future. Those approved in 2022 included:
 - Jan. 21: Fishers Fire Department, Indianapolis EMS, New Castle/Henry County EMS and Parkview Health.
 - March 11: Adams County EMS, InHealth Integrated Care, Richmond Fire Department and Zionsville Fire Department.
 - May 13: Lutheran EMS, Phoenix Paramedic Solutions, Scott Township Fire & EMS and Warsaw Wayne Fire.
 - July 15: Bloomington Fire Department, Davies Community Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital.
 - Sept. 21: Rush Memorial Hospital.



IDHS LAUNCHES MIH PROGRAM DASHBAORD

The IDHS EMS Section launched an online tool to help health care agencies and personnel learn more about the growing number of mobile integrated health care programs across the state. The new Indiana MIH Dashboard offers users a map-based look at approved MIH programs, their coverage areas and the services they offer. Members of the public can also use the tool to search for services they may need.

Launching simultaneously was a new online form for MIH providers to <u>apply to become an approved</u> <u>program</u>. After the EMS Commission approves a program, the data from the form will be reflected in the new dashboard for public display.

As MIH programs grow in Indiana, the EMS Commission and IDHS will collect additional data to track MIH successes and to obtain funding for the programs.

HONORARY RECOGNITIONS

EMS HONORARY RECOGNITIONS PRESENTED IN 2022

- Stork Award:
 - 64 issued
 - · Awarded for participation in childbirth delivery in the field.
- Certificate of Appreciation:
 - **25** issued
 - Awarded for events like milestone work anniversaries and special project/performance recognition.
- Retirement Status:
 - **11** issued
 - Awarded upon retirement of the certification/licensure.
 - Numbers are low because requestors may not have utilized the system and may have worked with a staff member.
- Emeritus Status:
 - 4 issued
 - Awarded to individuals that retire and have made significant contributions to their area.
- ◆ State EMS Director's Award:
 - 4 issued
 - Awarded at the discretion of the State EMS Director for special achievements.
 - · Recipients:
 - Hugh Garner
 - Culberson Ambulance Service
 - · Max J. Meyer
 - Larry Sturgeon
- ◆ Honorary Lifetime Certification:
 - 3 issued
 - Awarded to non-EMS-certified persons that make significant contributions to EMS or are involved in heroic actions for an EMS incident.
 - Recipients
 - Tony Pagano
 - Named an honorary paramedic upon his retirement.
 - Jacob Tyler McClanahan
 - Named an honorary EMT for assisting a motor vehicle collision dispatch and was killed by a gunman.
 - Alejandro Xance Martinez
 - Named an honorary EMT. He was a promising student that passed away prior to his certification testing.



EMS STAR OF LIFE DESIGNATIONS

Awarded for line-of-duty deaths as determined by the department and active-duty deaths. Dates listed in this section indicate the date the recipient passed away.

Joshua Paul Ramirez

- Pike Township Fire Department (Marion County)
- Oct. 14

♦ Richard "Hank" Potter

- Wayne Township Fire Department (Marion County)
- May 10

♦ Mark William Rapp

- Indianapolis Fire Department
- March 4

♦ Bruce W. DeArk

- · Jeffersonville Fire Department
- Feb. 6

♦ Bernard "Bernie" Noll

- Southwest Allen County Fire Department
- Jan. 14



The State of Indiana

2022 CERTIFICATIONS AND COMPLIANCE SUBSECTION

INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATIONS AUDIT INFORMATION

- ◆ **872** total audits in 2022
 - 738 Total approved audits
 - 131 Did not turn in paperwork

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS BREAKDOWN

- 17 administrative sanctions issued in 2022 (all were personnel sanctions)
 - 9 Reprimand with civil penalty
 - 1 Seven-day suspension, civil penalty and two-year probation
 - 1 30-day suspension, civil penalty and two-year probation
 - 2 Emergency suspension
 - 2 Revocation
 - 1 Denial order
 - 1 Censure with civil penalty

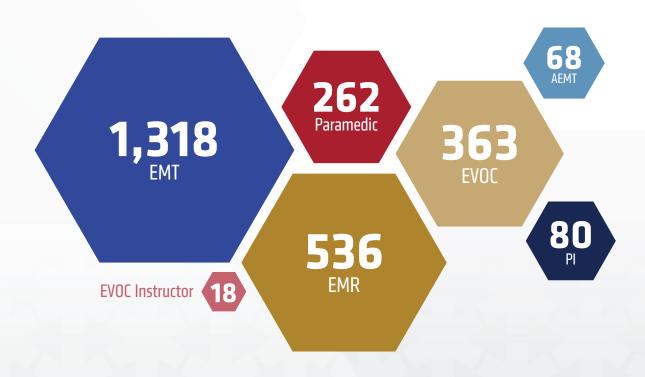
PERSONNEL WAIVERS ISSUED BREAKDOWN

- ◆ 104 personnel waivers issued in 2022
 - 1 waiver denied
 - 1 Requirement for testing to regain EMT certification
 - 103 were granted
 - 98 Primary instructor prerequisite waiver
 - 1 Requirement for PI to have an affiliation with a certified training institution
 - 1 Requirements for regaining PI certification (internship)
 - 2 Waiver to approve starting an AEMT course prior to completion and certification through an EMT course
 - 1 Waiver for 120 limit for reapplication fee for late certification

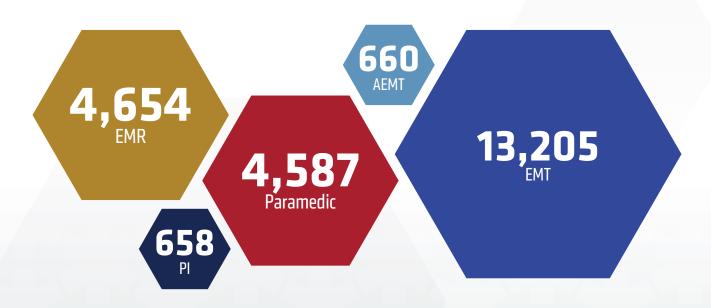
MILITARY RECIPROCITY FOR EMT

- ◆ 17 applied
 - 13 Currently certified

NEW CERTIFICATIONS ISSUED BY LEVEL



CERTIFICATIONS BY LEVEL - 23,764 TOTAL



2022 ATTRITION RATES

Attrition is the calculation of how many EMS professionals are not renewing their EMS certifications versus those electing to renew. EMS certification numbers are comprised of both the new certifications, represented previously in this report, compared to the retention numbers (those electing to keep their certifications for a new certification cycle). Tracking retention/attrition can give the EMS Section clues as to how solid the EMS workforce is and also whether there is a change over time in the number of EMS professionals renewing. These numbers represent people holding a valid certification in EMS and do not necessarily represent people actively working in EMS.

- ◆ EMR
 - 577 expired
 - 140 renewed
 - 80.47% attrition
- ◆ EMT
 - 1,826 expired
 - 551 renewed
 - 76.82% attrition

- ◆ AEMT
 - 64 expired
 - · 28 renewed
 - 69.57% attrition
- ◆ Paramedic
 - 275 expired
 - 170 renewed
 - 61.80% attrition

ATTRITION RATE HISTORICAL DATA

- **2021**
 - EMR **78.47**%
 - 667 expired & 183 renewed
 - EMT 72.05%
 - 1,451 expired & 563 renewed
 - AEMT 68.18%
 - 45 expired & 21 renewed
 - Paramedic 56.56%
 - 237 expired & 182 renewed
- **2020**
 - EMR 78.34%
 - 568 expired & 157 renewed
 - EMT 69.18%
 - 1,423 expired & 634 renewed
 - AEMT **74.39**%
 - 61 expired & 21 renewed
 - Paramedic **56.79**%
 - 230 expired & 175 renewed

- 2019
 - EMR **77.14**%
 - 621 expired & 184 renewed
 - EMT **71.55**%
 - 1,421 expired & 565 renewed
 - AEMT **72.41**%
 - · 42 expired & 16 renewed
 - Paramedic 52.81%
 - 188 expired & 168 renewed
- 2018
 - EMR 77.25%
 - 591 expired & 174 renewed
 - EMT **75.31**%
 - 1,409 expired & 462 renewed
 - AEMT **66.18**%
 - 45 expired & 23 renewed
 - Paramedic 62.89%
 - · 222 expired & 131 renewed

2022 OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

- ◆ 71 total audits
- ◆ **114** total inspections
- Complaints
 - 1,332 Received and investigated
 - 48 Currently open as of Dec. 31, 2022
- Waiver orders
 - 23 Total provider waivers
 - 9 Waivers regarding 24/7 requirement
 - 3 Waivers regarding inter-facility transfer staffing
 - 9 Waivers regarding staffing of ambulance during transport
 - 2 Supervising hospital waivers
 - 0 Total training institution waivers

ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATION STATS (AS OF DEC. 31, 2022)

841 - TOTAL PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS

516 – BLS non-transport providers

105 – BLS transport providers

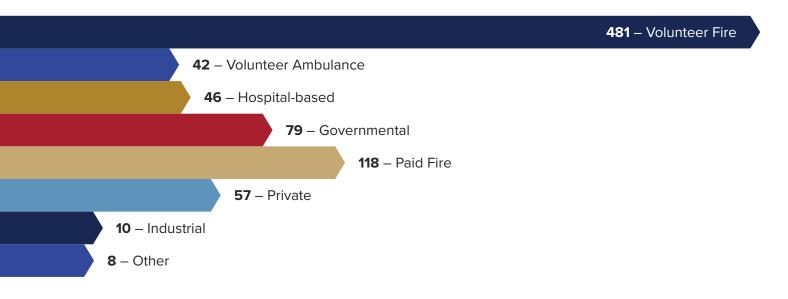
202 - Paramedic provider organizations

14 – Rotorcraft organizations

4 – Fixed-wing organizations



- PROVIDERS ORGANIZATION BY TYPE



2,464 - CERTIFIED VEHICLES BY TYPE

– Type I (Ambulance)

– Type II (Ambulance)

1,011 – Type III (Ambulance)

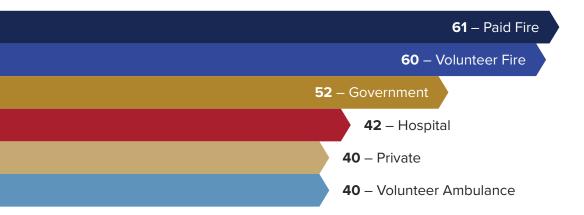
– ALS Non-transport

– Rotorcraft

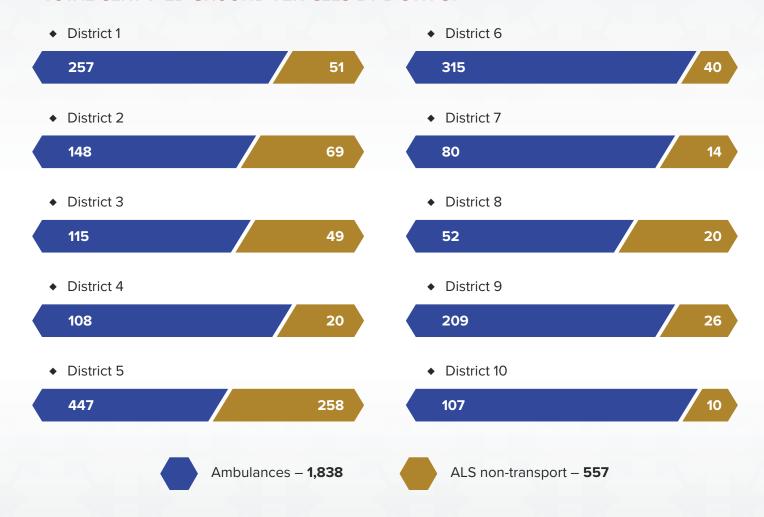
5 - Fixed-wing



295 - TRANSPORT AMBULANCE PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS BY TYPE



TOTAL CERTIFIED GROUND VEHICLES BY DISTRICT



2022 EMS & FIRE RUN DATA

EMS REPORTING COMPLIANCE

- ◆ 311 EMS agencies required to report
- ◆ **89.2**% Reporting percentage

FIRE REPORTING COMPLIANCE

- 840 Fire agencies required to report
- ◆ **75.0**% Reporting percentage

EMS INCIDENT COUNT

- ◆ 2022 **1,214,789**
- ◆ 2021 **1,247,452**
- ◆ 2020 **1,070,261**

TOP 5 EMS INCIDENT CALL TYPES

- 1. Injury-unspecified 31,898 (2.6%)
- 2. Altered mental status 31,051 (2.5%)
- 3. Complaint-unspecified 27,958 (2.3%)
- 4. Abdominal pain 25,903 (2.1%)
- 5. Chest pain 25,270 (2.1%)

FIRE INCIDENT COUNT

- **◆** 2022 **569,546**
- ◆ 2021 **682,905**
- ◆ 2020 **544,043**

TOP 5 FIRE INCIDENT CALL TYPES

- 1. EMS 322,474 (57.7%)
- 2. Good intent call **62,684 (11.2%)**
- 3. False alarm 34,878 (6.2%)
- 4. Service call (incl. lifting asst.) 27,973 (4.9%)
- **5.** Building fire **7,487 (1.3%)**

EMS 911 AVERAGE INCIDENT TIMES

- ◆ 8.04 minutes Response time
- ◆ 15.73 minutes Scene time
- ◆ 13.74 minutes Transport time

IMAGETREND TICKETS

◆ 148 – Tickets resolved

2022 EMS TRAINING

TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

- 111 Beginning total training institutions
- ◆ 111 Year-end total training institutions
 - 42 BLS training institutions
 - 79 ALS training institutions

EMS COURSES

- ◆ 90 EMR approved courses (4 cancelled)
- ◆ 244 EMT approved courses (8 cancelled)
- ◆ 7 Advanced EMT approved courses (0 cancelled)
- ◆ 29 Paramedic approved courses (0 cancelled)
- ◆ 86 EVOC (7 cancelled)
- ◆ 16 PI (2 cancelled)



- ◆ 42 State EMT practical examinations conducted
- ◆ 26 Practical exams covered by EMS section staff
- 29 Active state representatives representing all 10 districts

COMPLIANCE AND PROGRAM INTERACTION

• Minimum of 12 audits and inspections. The number is low due to the education and training position being vacant for nine months of 2022.

MOBILE SIMULATION LABORATORY

- ◆ 134 Locations deployed to, up from 100 in 2021
- ◆ 1.764 Individuals trained/educated
 - **62** EMR
 - 987 EMT
 - 65 AEMT
 - 455 Paramedic
 - 196 Non-EMS



CPR PROGRAM

◆ CPR courses offered for government workers in 2022

• 233 – State personnel trained in CPR during 2022

IN-HOUSE IDHS EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION

- ◆ 24 Employees who are EMS certified (EMRs, EMTs, paramedics)
- Monthly education presentation sessions
- ◆ Two annual skills practice sessions





AN UPDATE FROM DR. ERIC YAZEL, STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

I was honored to be selected as the Indiana state EMS medical director on June 1, 2022. Having been a medical director for both public and private EMS systems, as well as in both rural and urban settings, I look forward to bringing those perspectives to the diverse systems across our state. I would like to thank Dr. Michael Kaufmann for his assistance in making the transition a smooth one, as well as his outstanding contributions to EMS across Indiana during his time with IDHS.

My initial goal was to hit the ground running and continue the momentum that EMS has garnered for the last few years. It is a pivotal time for EMS in our state. Workforce and reimbursement challenges threaten the sustainability of numerous systems. We must continue to address the wellness and mental/physical health of our providers. We must grow as a specialty and continue to push the envelope with new protocols and expansion of mobile integrated health.

One of the roles of the state medical director is to promote the field of EMS across Indiana. I was fortunate to be a speaker at several conferences in that role:

- ◆ The Indiana Rural Health Conference
- Health Equity Call to Action Symposium
- ◆ Project ECHO EMS
- National Association of Community Health Centers Conference
- ◆ Indiana Emergency Responders Conference
- ◆ Franciscan Health Trauma Symposium
- Indiana Stroke Consortium Quarterly Meeting

I also was able to present an EMS update at our regional EMS forums across the state and at several local EMS In-services. One of my top priorities, along with one of my favorite aspects of this role, is visiting our various EMS services across the state to gain the perspective of our providers and their successes and challenges. I am proud to say in the seven months since accepting the role, I have visited 31 counties and more than 50 services.

Another responsibility of the EMS medical director is to serve on numerous committees that impact the EMS system, including:

- ◆ Indiana ACEP Board of Directors
- Stroke Consortium of Indiana
- Mobile Integrated Health Advisory Board
- ◆ EMS-Children's Advisory Board
- ◆ Indiana Non-Emergent Transport Committee
- Indiana Neonatal Transport Committee
- ◆ Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers Medical Director's Committee
- ◆ Indiana Primary Health Care Association Medical Director's Committee
- ◆ National Association of EMS Officials Medical Director's Council
- National Association of Mobile Integrated Health Medical Director's Council

As we move into 2023, we will continue to work tirelessly to advance the role of EMS. This is an important legislative session and IDHS is optimistic about several initiatives that are being discussed. We look forward to continuing to advocate for our services and the EMS field in general. Lastly, thank you for your support as I have moved into this role. We truly have an amazing group of providers that have welcomed me every step of the way. For those of you I haven't met, I look forward to meeting you soon!

Dr. Eric Yazel

State EMS Medical Director







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