



Hoosier Responder

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State Officials Monitor Novel H1N1 flu

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) are closely monitoring cases of novel H1N1 flu virus infections.

In addition to intensifying surveillance among flu sentinel physicians in the state, the ISDH has also sent information out to public health workers over the Indiana Health Alert Network and will share with physicians the interim guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). IDHS is urging public safety professionals, including paramedics, EMTs, police officers, firefighters, and emergency management workers to take necessary precautions to safeguard their health as they interact and preserve the safety of the public.

As of May 26, 120 Hoosiers have been infected with the H1N1 flu virus. State officials expect that number to grow.

"It's too early to be classified as a pandemic," said Joe Wainscott, executive director of IDHS. "Each of us can make a difference. Limiting contact with others can help slow the spread of illness. Together, we can help protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. In most instances of the flu, those suffering can be cared for at home. Be aware, plan ahead, and share with others what you have learned."

"We advise Hoosiers to stay calm and practice normal precautions to avoid influenza and other respiratory diseases. If you have milder symptoms of influenza, we advise you to stay home and contact your health care provider for advice," said State Health Commissioner Judy Monroe, M.D. "This is a novel human virus, which means we do not have a vaccine to prevent it."

The symptoms in the Indiana cases have been relatively mild, along with the cases being seen in the rest of the United States. Dr. Monroe said the important message she wants Hoosiers to understand is that the flu is always serious.

"More than 36,000 people die each year in the United States from flu-related illnesses every year," said Dr. Monroe. "It is important to note the precautions we have taken and the positive public health messages on good cough and hand hygiene are of significant benefit in protecting those in our state who are at greatest risk for serious complications from the flu."



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From the Director's Chair

The recent series of disasters in Indiana demonstrates the tragedy that can result if Hoosiers fail to prepare. What people once viewed as the exception is now seen on a routine basis, yet those same people still fail to take the steps to be prepared.

We've all heard, "why isn't the United States more like Israel when it comes to preparedness?" The answer is clear, the Israeli response system is highly centralized and closely integrated with the Israeli military in times of crisis, while the United States response system is based more closely on a business model and is highly decentralized and

competitive. Israelis have made their healthcare systems' preparation and response to mass casualty events a national priority while the U.S. treats mass casualties as "exception events" and does not treat them as a daily national priority.

In today's world, both natural and man-made disasters happen with little or no warning. There are a host of potential disasters, from earthquakes, pandemics, flooding and tornadoes. Our task as Hoosiers is to be ready. While it still remains the duty of local, state and federal governments to prepare for and respond to a disaster, true preparedness begins

in your home and neighborhood. We must take preparedness measures of our own, ahead of time, to enable us to respond safely and efficiently when an emergency occurs. The opportunity is now, before disaster strikes, to create a mindset of preparedness.

As we've seen in the past, disasters are unpredictable, as we saw with Hurricane Ike. It is assumed that first responders will routinely ride to the rescue and arrive in time to meet human needs. Unfortunately, such an outcome



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Importance of Mutual Aid Agreements

The formulation of organizational mutual aid agreements is a rapidly growing trend in many state and local governments and private organizations. These agreements provide emergency assistance in the event of disasters or other crises. The conditions of the agreements may be to provide reciprocal services or to receive direct payment through specific labor and equipment rates outlined in the agreements.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) generally reimburses mutual aid agreement costs associated with emergency assistance.

- To be eligible for reimbursement by FEMA, the mutual aid assistance should have been requested by a requesting entity or incident commander, be directly related to a Presidentially-declared emergency or major disaster, or a declared fire, used in the

performance of eligible work, and the costs must be reasonable.

- FEMA will not reimburse costs incurred by entities that "self-deploy" except to the extent those resources are subsequently used in the performance of eligible work at the request of the requesting entity or incident commander.
- The reimbursement provisions of a mutual aid agreement must not be contingent on the declaration of an emergency, major disaster, or fire by the federal government.
- This policy is applicable to all forms of mutual aid assistance, including agreements between requesting and providing entities, statewide mutual aid agreements, and the mutual aid services

provided under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) maintains that states should participate in these agreements and should look to establish intrastate agreements that encompass all local jurisdictions. Intrastate mutual aid supports local and regional mutual aid efforts within a state, as well as regional mutual aid agreements and compacts involving local jurisdictions that cross State boundaries, or are adjacent to a neighboring state.

Each state, county, or local agency should consider implementing or revising their mutual aid agreements to ensure that they are compliant with FEMA regulations for reimbursement. To view FEMA rules regarding mutual aid agreements, visit www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/9523_6.pdf.

MUTC Goes to the Dogs

By Sgt. Brad Staggs, Muscatatuck Urban Training Center Public Affairs NCO

Lisa Harper was hoping that her hidden compartment in the closet of the house would be enough to fool Bessie, the bloodhound that was tracking her. She had even been carried into the house so that her scent would not be found easily outside.

Handler Talerie Brown gave Bessie enough leash to freely roam wherever she picked up the scent, eventually leading her to the door and ultimately to the hidden compartment in the closet. Harper was found and Bessie had passed her test.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security, in conjunction with law enforcement from Louisiana and Michigan, conducted search and rescue dog training at Camp Atterbury and Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Ind., April

29 through May 2. Lillian Hardy, the department's event coordinator, said the training was for dogs of all levels from puppy to older dogs.

"[The training starts with] beginning work to make sure the dogs know how to follow a track," Hardy said. "Then we start progressing them throughout the week so that [the handlers] get better and stronger with their dogs."

Hardy said that four days was not enough time to complete training with most of the dogs, but it was a good start to fixing most of the problems between handler and animal. At the end of the week, dogs that the master trainers felt were ready to be certified would be.

The event drew more than 30 dogs from as far away as New Jersey and as varied as a Norwegian Elkhound named Tuck, a barely 5 month-old bloodhound named Aid'n, and a 2 year-old beagle named Sam.

Some dogs weren't just search dogs in training, but labors of love for the handlers and owners.

"We started out re-homing pet dogs that had been displaced," Brown says of her organization, Companion Animal Partners, out of Dayton, Ohio, where she is the head dog trainer and kennel master. "We now have a new venue that's a spin-off recognizing that there are work dogs that are at shelters or in people's homes that are going to be displaced or euthanized because they can't handle them."

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Fire Safe Cigarette Mandate Takes Effect July 1, 2009

Fires that destroy people and homes, life and property and physical and mental health are a harsh reminder of the difference between injuries and accidents. Injuries are frequently preventable, while accidents often are not.



Cigarettes are the top cause of fatal residential fires in the nation. Cigarette fires kill approximately 800 people annually. One-quarter of victims of smoking-material fire fatalities are not the smokers whose cigarettes started the fire: 34 percent are children of the smokers; 25 percent are neighbors or friends; 14 percent are spouses or partners; and 13 percent are parents.

Many people assume that cigarette fires result from carelessness, such as improper disposal of cigarette butts or intoxicated smokers falling asleep. Technology has existed for decades to make cigarettes safer and less likely to cause fires.

Traditional technology keeps a cigarette

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Kelsey, a three year-old Golden Retriever, finds Lisa Harper in her hiding place at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center.

H1N1 Guidance for Public Safety Personnel

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is issuing this guidance document to encourage all public safety disciplines to proactively prepare for a potential increased impact of the H1N1 Virus.

Local government leadership must be prepared to work together with local public health and safety officials to make critical and time-sensitive preparedness and response decisions. After coming together, it is imperative that this group collectively seek and distribute accurate and timely information that provides clear guidance for actions to be taken by local public health and safety personnel. All entities must collaborate to ensure that they have the right information at the right time to continue their jurisdictional response efforts throughout the state.

The interim guidance document is not intended to provide protocol directives, nor is it

intended to supersede existing guidance from your local public health department and/or medical director. The intent of this document is to provide interim guidance to Indiana's public safety personnel, and will be updated as needed. Please refer to www.in.gov/flu for updated information.



Employee Spotlight: Scott Lyon



Scott Lyon is the emergency management training program manager in the Preparedness & Training Division. He has been at IDHS since December of 2008 and is responsible for coordinating, scheduling and managing training. His favorite thing about IDHS is working with the emergency management directors and staff.

In his spare time, Lyon enjoys geocaching, web-surfing and 4-wheeling on his ATV. His favorite food is prime-rib and lasagna. Lyon currently resides in Bloomington after living in Cold Bay, Alaska.

IMS: The Greatest Spectacle in Sporting Events

By Larry Cooper, Fire Inspector, IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS) has been the "Racing Capital of the World" for the past 100 years. In addition to hosting three major motor sport events, the facility is the largest and highest-capacity sporting facility in the world. Starting in May of each year, the IMS comes alive with hundreds of thousands of spectators from all over the world. They come to Indiana to witness the Indy 500, Allstate 400 and the Moto Grand Prix. With a seating capacity of approximately 400,000 people, the potential for problems concerning safety are enormous. Fans visit the IMS to watch races, and few are aware of the behind the scenes work that goes into ensuring the safety of the patrons.

The IMS contains more than 400 permanent buildings ranging from business offices,

observation suites, garages, a hospital, museum and several restaurants. In addition, there are also more than 40 tents owned and operated by IMS during the various events. It is important to note that this number increased significantly when the various private vendors set up during races.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Division of Fire and Building Safety begins inspecting the various components of the IMS in February of each year. During this time, the major buildings are inspected for compliance with state building and fire codes. These codes are important in securing the safety of the employees, public and fire and EMS personnel who respond for various emergencies. Once an inspection is completed and verification of compliance is granted, an amusement and entertainment permit is issued.

The process does not stop there. Prior to each racing event, inspections are conducted on the grounds to ensure that the buildings, etc. inspected earlier in the year are still in compliance with state codes. The inspection process is done several times through the month of May.

These racing events generate a large influx of spectators in the Indianapolis and the surrounding areas. A large number of assembly occupancies (bars, night clubs, etc.) also need to be inspected, checked and monitored during the IMS event weekends.



Indianapolis Motor Speedway—Pit Row

The Division of Fire and Building Safety was contacted by IMS in early 2009 to assist in planning the location of an LP refueling site for hot air balloons that will be taking part in the centennial celebrations this year. A site was chosen after fire inspectors met with IMS personnel. The site will suit the needs of IMS while still maintaining the best possible safety for spectators attending the event, as well as the citizens living within close proximity to the race track.

Through the ongoing cooperation between the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Division of Fire and Building Safety, the safest spectator events possible are provided within the scope of the state fire and building codes in the "Racing Capital of the World."



Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum

From the Director's Chair

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cannot always be guaranteed. Responders cannot always reach those in need quickly, as a host of obstacles can delay their arrival or events can be of such magnitude that they are overwhelmed.

To create this "culture of preparedness," academia, private industry, community groups and individual households must change the way they think about preparedness. Disaster readiness is the responsibility of every part of our society.

It is imperative that schools develop a curriculum that teaches how to prepare for and better respond to crises as communities and individuals. Neighborhoods and community groups need to know about and keep track of those unable to self-evacuate or unable to care for themselves.

Each of us has a personal responsibility to be ready. We must prepare our families and our homes. These personal preparations can be fairly simple. All it takes is a shift in thinking and a few simple proactive steps.

In times of disaster, information is power. Make sure your loved ones have a weather radio. Weather radios are a comprehensive, 24-hour source of weather forecasts, watches, warnings and other hazard information including natural (tornadoes, thunderstorms, earthquakes), environmental (chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (AMBER Alerts) and generally cost less than \$50.

Another step in the culture of preparedness is the development of an emergency supply kit. An inexpensive plastic tote filled with food, water, clothes, battery-operated radio, copies of important papers, medications, cash and other family necessities is a big step toward personal preparedness.

You can help our state's responders by being better prepared to help yourself and your family.

We can live comfortably where individuals can save themselves and empower their local, regional and national governments to better respond to any disaster by being more prepared. Creating a culture of preparedness is indeed a challenge, but it is one that is well worth engaging. Don't you think it's time for Indiana to adopt this culture of preparedness?

IDHS Employees Honored at ESI Conference

Indiana Department of Homeland Security's chief of operations is one of five certified WebEOC administrators in the United States. Shane Booker completed a written and practical exam in April to receive the certification.

The exam, launched in 2009, recognizes an individual's understanding of WebEOC administration, end-user training, information board design and creation. The certified WebEOC administrator exam accurately assesses each candidate's ability to carry out the required responsibilities of a WebEOC administrator.

The written exam focuses on WebEOC end-user functions, WebEOC administration, process flow and basic board building. The practical exam focuses on the candidate's ability to administer a WebEOC system, to build boards using the WebEOC board wizard and to setup an information/process flow using process permissions.

Having a certified WebEOC administrator



strengthens the emergency preparedness program, and encourages the growth of knowledge and understanding of the WebEOC process at IDHS.

Also receiving recognition at the annual conference was Peter May, WebEOC developer for IDHS. May received the Innovation award for the development of the "Battle Rhythm Boards." The Innovation award is the highest development accolade and shows technical expertise in the WebEOC community. The award recognizes a user's ability to take a variety of existing technologies and combine them to create a unique blend of advanced board development and data exchanges.

Keeping YOUR Cutting Edge Sharp

By Bryan Wolfe, District 5 Field Coordinator, IDHS Division of Preparedness and Training

Technology changes so rapidly that even the most fiscally enriched private corporations struggle to stay in front of the "techno-curve." Cash-strapped local units of government often find themselves playing catch-up. Regardless of whether your public safety agency is Law Enforcement, Fire, Emergency Medical, or Intelligence related, it is imperative that your agency front line personnel and policy makers maintain awareness of available technology which affects your business niche. Two specific companies have made extravagant strides in assisting public safety to jump ahead of perpetrators. Awareness of this type of available technology can both recover Hoosier's stolen property expeditiously and potentially save lives.

Many are familiar with the company On Star, a subsidiary of General Motors. Many vehicles carrying labels of Chevrolet, Buick, Pontiac, GMC, Saturn, Hummer, Saab, and Cadillac have had On Star capability since its inception in 2007. Since then, On Star has been involved in the recovery of thousands of stolen

vehicles. On Star has made a transition from analog to digital technology, and has continued notable product development resulting in new features and services which save lives.

On the morning hours of April 20, 2009, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department received a call reporting that his 2008 Chevrolet Pick-up truck was just stolen in the IMPD South-west District. About ten minutes passed before the citizen remembered that they had On Star in their vehicle. The citizen called 888-4ON-STAR and spoke with representatives, who located the vehicle utilizing GPS technology and called IMPD to report its position. Officers were then quickly dispatched to the area but were unable to locate the vehicle. On Star dispatchers then activated the horn and flashing exterior lights on the vehicle; officers quickly located the vehicle in a backyard off an alleyway, and a foot chase of a male occupant followed soon afterwards. The suspect was quickly apprehended in a nearby abandoned home.

An exciting new feature that dispatchers, officers, and policy makers should be aware of is that on all 2009 and newer On Star equipped vehicles a new standard feature called "Stolen Vehicle Slowdown" has been added. Upon

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State Officials Monitor Novel H1N1 flu

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Dr. Monroe reminds the public to follow basic precautionary measures to prevent the spread of a cold, influenza, or any infectious disease, including:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve, rather than your hands, if a tissue is not available.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

"It's a brand new virus. We didn't know how

this virus would unfold and we didn't know how severe the disease would be. We wanted to be cautious. It's always about public safety," said Dr. Monroe.

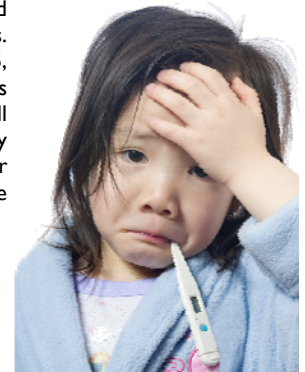
The CDC issued new guidance with regard to school closure in early May. Decisions about school closure are at the discretion of local authorities based on local considerations, including public concern and the impact of school absenteeism and staffing shortages. The ISDH encourages students, faculty and staff with influenza-like illnesses to stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care for at least 7 days, even if symptoms resolve sooner.

State health officials note the novel H1N1 flu viruses are not transmitted by food. You cannot get this influenza from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork and pork products is safe. Cooking pork to an internal temperature of 160°F kills the swine flu virus as it does other bacteria and viruses.

Investigations are ongoing to determine the source of the infection and whether additional

people have been infected with similar influenza viruses. The CDC is working very closely with state and local officials in affected states, as well as with health officials in Mexico, Canada and the World Health Organization. The CDC has determined this virus is contagious and is spreading from human to human.

Of the test results coming to the ISDH, 69-percent are negative for flu, 25-percent are regular strains of flu and only 6-percent are being sent for further testing. In an effort to cut down on the back log of testing, CDC sent test kits to the ISDH which should speed up the turnaround time for results. As of May 5, the ISDH has begun doing all confirmatory testing for Hoosiers at the State lab.



Moorefield Vol. Firefighter Receives Award

Assistant State Fire Marshal Jim Bennett presented a Governor's Meritorious Service Award to Robert Crandell of the Moorefield Volunteer Fire Department in April. Crandell has served 75 years with the department.

He stated the biggest change in technology is the motorized pumps. Crandell started out at the department as an 8-year old "water boy." He was responsible for scooping water into a bucket from nearby ponds and handing it off to a chain of people to throw on the fire.



Assistant State Fire Marshal Jim Bennett, Robert Crandell and Moorefield Volunteer Fire Department Chief, Glen Scott.

Photo by Adam Cole, Three Spot Images

District 10 Incident Dispatchers – From Concept To Reality

By Mike Mitchell

"Task Force 10 communications is established." With that declaration, announced last fall by radio operators during the District 10 Task Force Mobilization Exercise held at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, a new era was ushered in for incident communications in Southwest Indiana. For the first time, Incident Dispatchers accompanied the Task Force as members of the Communications Unit and worked alongside EMA/RACES amateur radio operators and other support staff in the District 10 Mobile Emergency Operations Center.

"Incident Dispatchers, referred to as IDTs, are public safety dispatchers trained and qualified to operate in an incident command post, tactical command post, or base camp Communications Unit," said Joe Bumpus, a Vanderburgh County public safety telecommunicator and one of the District 10 incident dispatchers. "We support incident management by assuming responsibilities for on-scene communications, resource accountability, and documentation. These are 'everyday' skills for us that can be utilized right at the command post."



District 10 Communications Unit Leader Mike Mitchell, with the help of German Twp Fire Division Chief Nick Adams, talk with the IDT class about using the SAFE-T system for incident operations.

"Our abilities and performance were recognized during the exercise," recalls Bumpus. "We made an impression with the task force leadership by demonstrating the benefits of bringing dispatch to the field." Less than a month later, Sherman Greer, EMA director for Vanderburgh County and member of the District 10 Incident Management Team (D10-IMT), having recognized the benefit of this new concept, insisted that the district look

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Fire Department Spotlight – Anderson Fire Department



Anderson firefighters are teaming up with neighboring towns in Madison County to build a place that every fire stricken family can call home. County officials and area fire departments have joined together to launch an effort to build a fire rescue home in Anderson. The home would serve as a temporary place for families until more permanent accommodations can be determined.

Anderson Mayor Kris Ockomon said that the project will be funded completely through donations and grants, with no tax dollars utilized. "There are no barriers, no boundary lines," said Ockomon. "This is going to be a county project."

The plan to build the fire rescue home has

drawn the attention of Jeff Saturday, Indianapolis Colts center. Saturday has agreed to visit Anderson in the next month to raise money for the rescue home.

For more information about the fire rescue home project, contact Skip Ockomon at (765) 425-1936 or Greg Vannatta at (765) 635-6539. If you would like to make a donation to the project, send a check noting the purpose of the donation in the memo section to:

Madison County Community Foundation Inc.
33 W. 10th Street, Suite 600
PO Box 1056
Anderson, IN 46016

Ultimate Credential in Emergency Management

Approximately 20 IDHS employees are working toward the ultimate credential in emergency management, the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM). The CEM program was created to raise and maintain professional standards within the profession of emergency management. Emergency managers are vital in preparing our state for disasters.

"Certifying these emergency managers in this program is a significant achievement for Indiana," said Joe Wainscott, executive director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. "I hope many more will follow suit."

The certified emergency manager program requires:

- Three years of emergency management experience.
- References
- Four-year baccalaureate degree, with some substitution of experience.
- Training: 100 contact hours in emergency management and 100 contact hours in general management
- Professional contributions in areas such as professional membership, speaking, publishing articles, serving on volunteer boards or committees, and other areas beyond the scope of emergency management job requirements.

- Demonstrate knowledge, skills and abilities through response to real-life scenarios in the management essay.
- 100-question multiple-choice exam.

The CEM program is served by a Certification Commission made up of emergency management professionals, including representatives from allied fields, educators, military, and private industry emergency personnel. Development of the program has been supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), and a host of allied organizations. Certification is a peer review process administered through the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). You need not be a member of IAEM to be certified.

To register for certification consideration, candidates must complete an enrollment process. Visit www.iaem.com to register for the CEM program today. Upon enrollment, an application booklet that includes detailed instructions, necessary forms and other helpful information to aid in successful certification completion will be provided. Completed application packages will be accepted at any time. Once credentials are approved by the Commission, the examination must be passed.

Business Continuity Considerations due to H1N1

The Novel H1N1 virus outbreak is an evolving situation and it is important for Hoosier businesses to think proactively about the situation should it become more severe. Indiana businesses need to consider what preventative measures, policies and/or procedures they may need in order to operate in a pandemic environment. The following guidelines will help evaluate business preparedness and the ability to manage the situation if needed.

- 1) Consider policies and procedures which promote good health habits and your business can enact to enhance the safety of the workforce and prevent the continued spread of the virus.
- 2) Identify your suppliers, shippers, resources and other businesses you must interact with on a daily basis. A disaster that shuts down a key supplier can be devastating to your business.
- 3) Assess how your company functions to determine which staff, materials, procedures and equipment are absolutely necessary to keep the business operating.
- 4) Identify your company's line of succession for key leadership, recommended to be a minimum depth of three employees.
- 5) Consider what activities can be implemented to limit social contact.
- 6) Include emergency payroll, expedited financial decision-making and accounting systems to track and document costs.
- 7) Encourage a plan for your staff's families to prevent the spread of infections at home.
- 8) Plan for potential absenteeism and consider staff restrictions due to employees/family members sick or thought to be sick.
- 9) Identify the critical resources needed to accomplish critical/essential functions and plan for shortages.
- 10) Consider and plan for possible travel restrictions to conferences/meetings or distribution services.

For more information on business continuity, visit www.in.gov/flu.

2009 Emergency Management Institute's National Training & Exercise Conference

Each year the FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) hosts a National Training & Exercise Conference for State Training Officers (STOs) and Exercise Training Officers (ETOs). The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is represented by Amy Lindsey and Rick Archer in these positions. The purpose of the conference is to provide updates on a variety of FEMA training and exercise programs, such as the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP), Master Trainer Program (MTP), Professional Development Series (PDS), and Competitive Training Grant Program (CTGP) as well as updates on the implementation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Framework (NRF).

While the conference provides an opportunity to hear updates from FEMA training and exercise staff, state training and exercise

officials also conduct many sessions which share experiences and best practices in training and exercises. Lindsey, Archer, and Preparedness and Training Division Director Brad Thatcher will be presenting topics at this year's conference ranging from integrating emergency management into collegiate programs to core competencies for emergency management state certification to orientation seminars for new STOs and ETOs.

Each year state and federal agencies speak on a variety of topics including lessons learned from incidents. Past topics have included the 2007 Greensburg, Kansas tornado, the Virginia Tech shootings, California wildfires, and the Minneapolis I-35W bridge collapse. This year's conference includes topics on NIMS Implementation, the impact of national-level exercises on states, development of FEMA's five-year NIMS training plan, evolution of the

target capabilities list, and lessons learned from the Iowa floods.

Lindsey likes to attend the conference for the opportunities it provides to network with state counterparts and federal partners. "Once a year we have a chance to find out what our training partners in other states are doing and learn from them. We are able to share training materials with other STOs and come together to develop regional training opportunities. When we have the chance to learn from each other and share resources, this conference is ultimately beneficial to our local public safety responders because STOs and ETOs can implement new training and best practices into our existing programs."

The 2009 conference takes place at FEMA's EMI in Emmitsburg, Maryland on May 12-14.

Keeping YOUR Cutting Edge Sharp

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receiving a report of an automobile theft, On Star will call the appropriate law enforcement agency to notify them of the vehicle's current location. Once an officer has the stolen vehicle in sight, On Star can confirm that it is the proper vehicle the officer sees by flashing the exterior lights on the vehicle. Upon confirmation, law enforcement can then notify On Star when they are at a safe location with appropriate manpower to initiate a felony stop; On Star can then "remove acceleration and gradually slow the vehicle."

Another techno-savvy product that is a friend to public safety is called "Computrace: Lo Jack for Laptops," by Absolute Software. For as little as a one-time fee of \$39.95, users simply install the provided software onto their laptop. Corporate research indicates that stolen laptop computers are generally quickly connected to the internet. Once a computer with Lo Jack for Laptops is connected to the internet, the installed software allows Lo Jack technicians to covertly find the location of the computer, and notify the appropriate law enforcement agency to initiate recovery. Often times instead of pawing a laptop computer, suspects sell them on the street. Without a program installed like Lo Jack for Laptops, law enforcement would have no way to locate this property until it is pawed. In the event that the laptop cannot be located, another option offered to customers is the ability for Lo Jack technicians to remotely delete sensitive hard drive data stored on the



computer, eliminating the possibility and potential liability of Identity Theft related issues.

Techno-savvy abilities such as Stolen Vehicle Slowdown and Lo Jack for Laptops give public safety officials more tools for our virtual crime-fighting tool belt. It is critical that your agency stay abreast of new technological options which your area of expertise may encounter. Consider inviting the individual in your agency who stays up to speed on technology to attend an occasional staff meeting to address advances which might need to be incorporated into your department policy manual. Knowing in advance what technology is available for your public safety field will keep responders and civilians safer, allow for a more expedient recovery of property, and improve the public perception of your agency.

Bryan Wolfe is a graduate of the University of Indianapolis and is an Indiana certified Law Enforcement Officer & Instructor, Firefighter, and Communications Officer; he works in the Central Indiana District of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Preparedness & Training Division and can be contacted at

Indiana EMS Welcomes Home the National Guard

By Becky Blagrove

As member of Indiana National Guard units return from home from active duty the status of their Indiana EMS certification will not be one of their worries. Indiana has a statute on the books that ensures their continued certification.



Indiana Code 31-3-10 (c) provides that certificates be issued to Indiana National Guard personnel returning from active duty status who hold EMT, EMT Basic Advanced, EMT-I, or EMT-P certifications. To fulfill the requirement of the statute the returning soldier must provide a copy of the document from the armed forces that called the individual to active duty. This document must be submitted, along with an application for certification renewal, to the certification section within 120 days of release from active duty.

It is recognized that Indiana Guard personnel called to active duty will not have the time or the ability to complete EMS in-service requirements. This statute allows for their continued certification in EMS after returning from serving the citizens of Indiana in a military capacity.

Back to the Basics: Being Prepared

By Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer, Southern Team Leader

Thinking back to recent disasters in the State of Indiana, one element appears to be a common theme in our response. As responders, planners and emergency managers, we must get back to the basics.

Being Deputy Director of the Bartholomew County Emergency Management Agency for 10 years gave the opportunity to make the community more prepared. During the month of March, it was common to engage the many schools, businesses, and community groups to spread the word on preparedness. In Bartholomew County, we were confident that if a disaster struck, we were better prepared than most.

However, when the 2005 Tri-State tornado occurred out of season, it showed how essential it is to be prepared. The Sunday morning F5 tornado resulted in lives lost, building destroyed and many lives changed forever. Being prepared is a basic message that begins at home with all first responders. The following week posed another threat of storms. It was at this time that the realization that my family was not prepared hit me.

I decided to pack up the kids, head to the local discount store and purchase a tote for each of us. We included everything in the tote that is in the disaster kit list, along with a change of

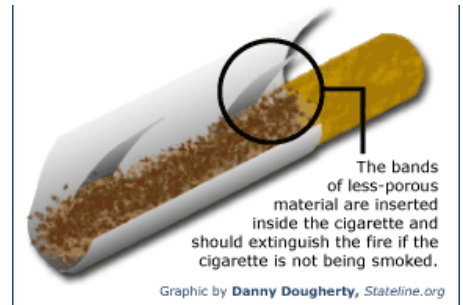
clothes and other essential items: The downstairs bathroom is our designated tornado shelter and we practice two times each year. Ever March an October we pull bathroom, turn on radios. We eat our snacks, drink our bottled water and change out the items that need changed. Because of our steps to be prepared at home, my kids and I feel safer and more "in control" if an event would occur.

As responders and EMA directors, we often try to educate the public through speaking at breakfast clubs, chief meetings, business meetings and schools. We must look at our family plans and ask ourselves, Are we prepared? Do we know what to do if something should occur? What happens if disaster strikes and we lose all communication?

As we look at our plans to exercise the possibility of a large earthquake along the Wabash Valley Fault, we should remember that preparedness always starts at home and ends at work. We know what to do and where to respond. We train it, exercise it and talk it, but do we live it? I can finally say that I do, and my family is better for it.



Fire Safe Cigarette Mandate Takes Effect July 1, 2009



Sources: Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes and Philip Morris USA

[\(Continued from page 2\)](#)

burning even without puffing. This is accomplished by including a significant amount of citrate-burning agents. Within 10 minutes, 90 to 100 percent of traditional cigarettes will cause fires in ignition tests -- and a cigarette can smolder for up to 45 minutes.

These cigarettes are not new. Patents for self-extinguishing cigarettes were granted 70 years ago. Attempts to introduce legislation for fire-safe cigarettes have not been successful, however, Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 28 established the "Reduced Propensity Standards for Cigarettes" sometimes referred to as the "Fire Safe Cigarette Act" in 2008.

In order to reduce the number of fires and fire related deaths and injuries due to cigarettes, the fire safe cigarettes place two bands on the cigarette paper that are less porous than the surrounding paper. These bands require smokers to inhale at these bands to increase oxygen and increase the temperature of the burning cigarette paper enough to burn through the bands.

In 2005, Indiana statistics on "Residential Structure Fires Causes" through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) show that 124 reported smoking related fires occurred. These fires caused two civilian deaths, 16 civilian injuries, and five firefighter injuries with property loss at nearly \$1.5 million.

Cigarettes can never be completely safe. They harm the human body and increase the odds of a number of life-threatening medical problems for smokers and those who must suffer through second-hand exposure.

Nevertheless, they can be a little bit safer if they are less likely to start a fire.

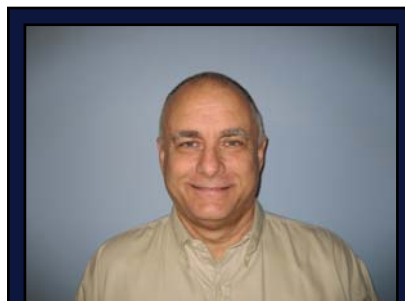


EMA Spotlight – Monroe County

Jim Comerford is the Director of the Monroe County Emergency Management Agency. Since coming to the Monroe County EMA in January 2009, Comerford has been getting up to speed with many classes. He has spent time making himself known to all EMA partners in the community and is beginning to update agency plans.

Comerford retired from Peru City Fire department after 25 years. Upon retiring he started and managed the Miami Central Dispatch Center which dispatches all police, fire, and EMS in Miami County. Comerford and his wife reside in Bloomington and have three children and five grandchildren.

Comerford credits much of the accomplishments of the EMA to Jessica Renn, his administrative assistant who helps to ensure the EMA is operating as it should.



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District 10 Incident Dispatchers – From Concept To Reality

(Continued from page 5)

into hosting an incident dispatcher training class.

Dave Larton, a member of California's USAR Task Force 3 (CA-TF3) Communications Unit and Coastal Region Communications Chief for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Communications was contacted about delivering this training to the district. Dave is the Operations Chief for First Contact 911 LLC, a business he started with his wife. Dave and his staff of instructors are nationally recognized leaders in incident dispatch. Dave accepted the invitation and flew to Indiana in late March.

District 10's first Incident Dispatch Team (IDT) training got underway March 23rd and was hosted at the University of Southern Indiana by its Public Safety Department. Nearly 30 students from around District 10, as well as five from outside the district, participated.

"We had dispatchers, police officers, sheriff deputies, EMA radio operators, and even a member of the search and rescue community attend training," said Bumpus, who sat in on the class. The training lasted two days with an optional third day for some hands-on training and demonstrations. Topics covered included: The role of IDTs in the communications unit, NIMS/ICS, responding to tactical incidents, ICS form documentation communications assets at disaster sites, and Hoosier SAFE-T radio system use. Also, group exercises in incident management were conducted.

The final day of class was used to familiarize students with the various communications platforms they may have available in district. Warrick County EMA Director Dallas Scott and Vanderburgh County EMA Director Sherman Greer made both of their Mobile Command Centers (MCC's) available for the students. They were joined by the Command Unit from the Evansville Police Department and the Operations/Communications Vehicle used

by Ohio Valley Search and Rescue.

In addition to being able to support Task Force operations in District 10, students can take their IDT training back to their home agency and use it to benefit their local jurisdictions. Already, Evansville Central Dispatch has formed an Incident Dispatch Team and has received 'buy-in' from the city's police department. "Our team is finally getting off the ground thanks to open minded administration in our dispatch center, local law enforcement, and EMA," IDT Joe Bumpus states. "It definitely takes their support to get the ball rolling."

Mike Mitchell is a supervisor and IDT leader with Evansville's 911 Communications Center. He is a graduate of Indiana's first IDHS Communications Unit Leader (ComL) course and serves as one of District 10's Communications Unit Leaders on the Task Force. He can be reached via email mmitchell@evansvillegov.org.



MUTC Goes to the Dogs

(Continued from page 2)

Bessie, a 2 year-old bloodhound, was less than two hours from being euthanized after being found in Dayton, abandoned and emaciated. Companion Animal Partners rescued Bessie, brought her back to health and is now training her to be a search and rescue dog.

Mark Matranga, a Deputy Sheriff from Assumption Parrish, La., is a master trainer and was happy with the dogs being brought to the training session.

"We have a lot of young dogs and new handlers and they are all doing fairly well for the amount of training that they have," Matranga said. "We have two or three advanced dogs that are really doing well."

The trainers weren't just at the event to watch, they were there to help handlers learn how to work their dogs for the best results. After handler Tim Hartsock of Fishers ran his beagle, Sam, from Mid-America Search through the training, master trainer Laura Totis made sure to leave him with pointers on what to watch for.

"You need to listen for the changes in the dog's breathing patterns," Totis instructed an intently-listening Hartsock. "Once you learn the dog's body language, that's most of the battle."

Some handlers know their dogs so well that they can tell when the dog is signaling them that they have found something, even if that signal isn't exactly what they were taught to do. Handler Janet Anagnos has taught her four year-old Shepherd, Bullitt, to sit at the spot that he gets a "hit" or smells something that is not normal when doing cadaver searches. But today, Bullitt doesn't sit, he simply stands still at a spot. Anagnos says that the spot is where Bullitt has found something, and she's right.



Sam, a two year-old Beagle, stands on his hind-legs in order to get a better look and smell of a piece of furniture as handler Tim Hartsock of Fishers gives him enough lead to do his job.

Hardy hopes to continue using Camp Atterbury and MUTC because the facilities are ready-made for this kind of training.

IDHS Welcomes New HR Director

John Bayse is the new human resources director at IDHS. Bayse began his duties in April.

Prior to joining the staff at IDHS, Bayse was a Highway Technician Academy Program director at the Indiana Department of Transportation. He previously worked at the Department of Correction and is a retired Air Force Master Sergeant.



Calendar of Events



1 MAY

Indiana Elevator Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission
 Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room I
 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

5 MAY

Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission
 Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room B
 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

6 MAY

Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center Meeting
 Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room B
 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

6 MAY

Counter Terrorism & Security Council General Session
 Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room C
 11:15 a.m.—12:00 a.m.

11 MAY

Indiana Emergency Response Commission Meeting
 Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room 17
 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

19 MAY

Indiana Homeland Security Foundation Project Committee
 Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room 17
 10:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

29 MAY

Indiana Elevator Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Meeting
 Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room I
 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Happy May Birthday!



- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 - Kyle McFatrige | 8 - Larry Cassagne | 17 - Rhonda Evans-Barnsbee |
| 3 - Amanda Thayer | 9 - Fred Whitaker | 18 - John Steel |
| 5 - Robert Robinson | 11 - Deb Fulk | 21 - Deepali Jani |
| 7 - Jason Smith | Katherine Oakes | |
| Heather Stegerman | 13 - Tim Thomas | |
| Dan Dexter | 14 - Gary Robison | |



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