



# Hoosier Responder

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## Counties Affected by Flood Receive Aid

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has made available low-interest disaster loans for those affected by floods in Grant, Howard and Tipton counties to help residents, businesses and non-profit organizations.

Neighboring counties are also eligible for these disaster loans. Those counties include Blackford, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Delaware, Hamilton, Huntington, Madison, Miami, Wabash and Wells.

Individuals and businesses can call the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET or by sending an e-mail to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Disaster loan information can also be completed on

SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

### Chrysler Donates

On Thursday, May 9, Chrysler announced it will be donating \$50,000 that will be split between United Way of Howard County and Tipton County Foundation for flood relief.

"The Chrysler Foundation recognizes that natural disasters such as this can have overwhelming social and economic impact on both individuals and communities," said Brian Harlow, Vice President, Head of NAFTA Powertrain Operations and Global Powertrain Manufacturing Engineering - Chrysler Group LLC.

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## Spread the word: Oklahoma needs organized volunteer and donation efforts

The nation will be focused on Moore, Oklahoma, and the stories there for some time to come. Governor Pence has encouraged Hoosiers to support the Oklahoma tornado victims.

As the public safety professionals of Indiana, we should be talking to the people in our communities about proper ways to provide support the people of Oklahoma.

**Volunteer with established groups**  
Volunteers play a vital part in disaster recovery, but if they're not organized

and expected, the organizational structure that's in place becomes stressed and diverts staffing from other areas.

Chris Gilbert with the Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (Indiana VOAD), said it well: "Well-meaning individuals who simply show up to help without coordinating with disaster management personnel can complicate or even hinder response and recovery operations already underway. Become part of a coordinated effort."

- Do not just show up to the disaster area. Reach out and contact a volunteer organization.
- Inform volunteer organizations of any specific skills or services that you can offer.
- Get trained with a group.
- Make sure to think about supplies you will need. Do



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## Guide to Infection Prevention for EMS

A *Guide to Infection Prevention in Emergency Medical Services* is now available to all EMS personnel. The guide came about after a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health survey revealed a high incidence of exposures to blood borne pathogens for paramedics.

Many of the agencies that employ EMS system responders are not hospital-based and therefore may not have the same knowledge of infection prevention as healthcare facilities. These responders are exposed to all manner of infectious diseases and need to be trained to recognize them and prevent their spread.

Infection Prevention Programs are designed to prevent transmission of infectious diseases and to provide a safe work environment for both personnel and patients. The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and

Epidemiology saw a need to develop the guide because EMS agencies needed a comprehensive, easy-to-use guide to serve as a resource to develop current knowledge of infection prevention strategies.

Although compliance with infection prevention standards may seem complex, the guide attempts to simplify the process. It contains standards and regulatory information along with templates and forms that can be used to develop an exposure control plan and monitor compliance.

The major goal of the guide is to increase awareness and provide guidance to EMS system responders who are at risk for occupational exposure to infectious materials and bioterrorism. To access the guide, visit [www.apic.org](http://www.apic.org).

## Public Assistance

Local, state and federal officials will be conducting joint preliminary damage assessments for public assistance in 18 Indiana counties starting May 20. The teams will evaluate damage caused by severe weather and flooding that began April 17.

Teams will be in the following counties: Benton, Boone, Clay, Clinton, Fountain, Hendricks, Howard, Knox, Madison, Montgomery, Parke, Putnam, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Vermillion, Vigo, Wabash, Warren.

These assessments will determine if the damage warrants a request to President Barack Obama for federal Public Assistance.

Teams will include IDHS, FEMA and local representatives.

## Flood Aid continued

For at least part of the past two weeks, roughly 500 Howard County residents have been living in temporary housing. In response, the grant has helped connect residents with flood relief resources, including food, clothing and temporary housing.

### How to Help:

United Way of Howard County: Give online at [unitedwayhoco.org/give.php](http://unitedwayhoco.org/give.php) or send checks to 210 W Walnut, Kokomo, IN 46901. Write HoCoFlood in the memo line.

Tipton County Foundation: Checks of any amount should be made to "Tipton County Foundation," and for the memo state "Disaster Relief." Mail donations to: TCF at P.O. Box 412, Tipton, IN 46072. Donors with questions may contact the foundation at 765-675-1940.

## Column continued

not assume that resources are available at the site. These should include: appropriate clothing, food and water, shelter or a place to stay.

### Money best gift

In disaster recovery, it is best to donate money to a legitimate relief agency that you know, trust and is working in the area. Sending unexpected materials and food to areas hit by a disaster can cause all kinds of logistics problems with sorting, storage and distribution. It can also divert aid workers from their primary mission.

In Indiana's deployment to Hurricane Sandy, well-meaning donors caused unfortunate logistics issues by sending trucks of goods that weren't expected or necessarily needed. Storage areas full of clothes. In such instances well-intentioned items can remain

undistributed when not properly coordinated.

Frequently, it is preferred to send money rather than goods because it is more flexible. It allows volunteer organizations to more quickly obtain the vital supplies to address the most urgent needs. Also, it boosts the local economy. With everyone hurting, buying from a nearby location makes sense.

So help by spreading the word of the most effective way to give to those affected by disasters. It will take some time, but the more this mantra is repeated, the more likely effective and timely assistance will get to those who need it most.

## Thomas Bettenhausen Receives Star of Life Award

Thomas Bettenhausen, paramedic of Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service of Indiana, located in Highland, was awarded the Star of Life award; the highest honor an Emergency Medical Service worker can receive from the American Ambulance Association (AAA).

Bettenhausen received the award for his continued dedication to the field of emergency medical services. He is Superior Ambulance's operations manager for Indiana and serves as the steering committee chairman and strike team leader for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's District I EMS. He also acts as liaison to the District I Hospital Preparedness Committee. Additionally, Bettenhausen deployed to Louisiana for the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill, the 2011 National Level Exercise and most recently was convoy commander and strike team leader for the mission to New Jersey in response

to Hurricane Sandy.

"We are so proud of Tom for receiving this high honor," said Ken Sink, general manager of Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service of Indiana. "He has devoted his time, talent and strength to improving the region he serves and lives."

The AAA represents organizations serving more than 75% of the U.S. population with emergency and non-emergency care. Each year, the AAA holds the Stars of Life, in Washington D.C., to publicly recognize and celebrate the achievements of members. While in the nation's capitol, Bettenhausen joined his fellow Class of 2013 Stars for education and recognition. While there, Bettenhausen met with members of Congress to discuss legislative issues critical to EMS professionals.

## IDHS Supports Safety Efforts for 500 Festival

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security partnered with the Indiana State Police, Capitol Police and local police for the safety of the 500 Festival Mini-Marathon, an event that's part of the Indianapolis 500.

In the wake of the Boston Marathon bombing, public safety agencies conducted heightened security operations to detect explosives, including potential chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (also known as CBRNE).

The IDHS CBRNE Section provides assistance to any emergency response agency within Indiana with preparation, response, mitigation and recovery from an incident involving a CBRNE/Hazardous Material incident 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

About 35,000 people participated in the mini marathon.

IDHS also provided the same type of support for the Race for the Cure in late April. That race attracted 21,380 participants.

Shortly after the Boston Marathon bombing, IDHS, ISP and the City of Indianapolis conducted a joint press conference to encourage citizens to report suspicious behavior.



## IERC to Honor Those Who Have Passed.

The Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) is looking to honor those who have passed away in the last year, and is looking for information from agencies to help honor those personnel. As part of the upcoming IERC, a memorial service will be held. The ceremony will cover those from August 2012 through August 2013. It will include both Line of Duty Deaths and non-Line of Duty Deaths.

Please submit the following information to John Buckman at [jbuckman@dhs.in.gov](mailto:jbuckman@dhs.in.gov):

- I. Name of the deceased.

2. Department/Service/Agency.
3. Years of Service.
4. Date of Last Call/Final Alarm.
5. A photo of the deceased.
6. A picture of photo of the Department/Service/Agency patch.

Please submit all information by July 31<sup>st</sup>. Also, if you choose to submit a name for the service, please notify both the agency and the family of the deceased. The service takes place during the Indiana Emergency Response Conference on Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8 am.

## Obituaries

Ron Falls, of the Oakland City Volunteer Fire Department, passed away Sunday, April 28. Falls was a very active member of his community, even helping to start the local little league.

Ronald Taylor, of Martinsville, passed away on Friday, April 26. Taylor served as Chief Fire Investigator for the then State of Indiana Arson Division until he retired in 1993.

## Special Weeks Bring Attention to Fire, EMS, Building Safety

### Building Safety Week

The Week of May 5-11 was Building Safety Week, and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is reminding Hoosiers how building inspections help with Hoosier safety.

The Fire and Building Safety Division of IDHS is responsible for inspecting hundreds of public structures a year, including schools, child care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, restaurants and hotels.

Building codes address all aspects of construction, from structural to fire prevention, plumbing and mechanical systems, and energy efficiency.

Hoosiers can make the places they live safer by taking simple steps. A few are:

- Install smoke alarms outside sleeping areas on each level of your home.
- Test your smoke alarm each month and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Develop a family action plan for a disaster, and include an escape plan from every room in the house in case of a fire.
- To avoid damage and injuries during an earthquake, hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches, or anywhere people sit, and store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass, and china, in low, closed cabinets with latches.

You can view the Governor's proclamation at [GetPrepared.IN.gov](http://GetPrepared.IN.gov).

### Arson Awareness Week

"Reducing Residential Arson" is the theme of the 2013 Arson Awareness Week, from May 5-11. In 2012 alone, there were 610 intentional fires investigated by the Office of the State Fire Marshal which resulted in over \$3.9 million in damage.

According to the USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting Systems, an estimate 16,800 fires are intentionally set every year in the United States, resulting in roughly 280 deaths, 775 injuries and \$593 million in property loss annually. About 41 percent of intentionally set residential fires occur in vacant buildings.

"Intentionally set fires are unfortunately numerous and dangerous," said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "Not only do they needlessly put families in danger, they also endanger the firefighters responding to the scene."

An important tool for fire safety in an arson situation is to have properly placed and working smoke alarms. Many recent deaths have involved fires in homes without smoke alarms or improperly installed smoke alarms.

#### State Fire Marshal's Arson Hotline

The number for the State Fire Marshal's hotline is 1-800-382-4628. The hotline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Callers could receive up to a \$5,000 reward for information that leads to an arrest of the person(s) responsible for an unsolved arson case. Citizens can remain anonymous. All names will be kept confidential.

For more on Arson Awareness Week visit [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs) or [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

### EMS Appreciation Week

Governor Mike Pence has proclaimed May 19-25, 2013, Emergency Medical Services Week.

This weeklong appreciation and celebration, with the theme of "EMS: One Mission. One Team" is May 19-25.

According to the Governor Pence's proclamation, "Emergency Medical Services are a vital public service to the people and communities of Indiana. Countless lives have been saved by quality early medical treatment from the men and women of the emergency medical services community. It is important for Hoosiers to recognize the dedication and accomplishments of these highly trained professionals."

National EMS week brings together local communities and medical personnel who are on the front-line of medicine. There are three goals of EMS week: to promote EMS service within the community; to educate the public on safety and health-related topics; and to provide information on new EMS procedures or equipment.

#### ESF 8 Conference on June 28

This year's ESF-8 Conference will be taking place on June 25, 2013 at the Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel at Keystone Crossing in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The conference touches on the wide spectrum of issues that those who support ESF-8 preparedness and response are faced with, and the importance of building relationships.

To register visit

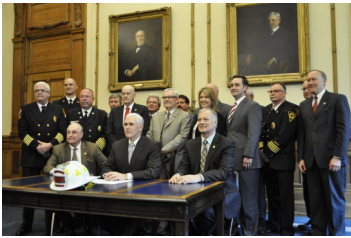
<https://2013esf8.theregistrationsystem.com/en/1717>

## Governor Pence Signs House Bill 1325

On April 25, Governor Mike Pence signed into law House Bill 1325. The bill helps mobilization efforts in disaster response.

The bill allows individuals serving as members of a mobile support unit to be considered temporary employees of the state. It also allows the state to reimburse local governments for a backfill employee necessary to fill the position and duty of personnel deployed to a mobile support unit.

Another aspect of House Bill 1325 is that it authorizes the use of money from the State Disaster Relief Fund for some entities that incur costs for contributing personnel to a mobile support unit, and allows IDHS to adopt emergency rules.



*Governor Pence pauses for pictures briefly before signing HB 1325 into law. Among those pictured are sponsors Representatives Frye, Forestal, Mcmillin and Gutwein as well as Fire Marshal Jim Greeson and IDHS Executive Director John Hill*

## Montgomery County EMA Participated in Full-Scale Exercise

More than 100 people participated in the Montgomery County Schools Notification and Reunification Exercise in April – a county level full-scale exercise to evaluate player actions against current response plans and capabilities for a hazardous incident.

The exercise simulated a release of a large amount of hazardous chemicals resulting in the school's need to shelter in place students, faculty, staff and visitors. Simulated victims were transported to the local hospital, which caused a beyond capacity surge to the local emergency room. After the plume dissipated, students, faculty, staff and visitors were moved to another location and reunification took place. The full-scale nature of the exercise allowed all aspects of the response efforts to be evaluated in a real-life situation.

The exercise objectives included testing the response of Montgomery County law enforcement in traffic control and crowd control situations; demonstrating the ability to triage and transport victims to an area hospital; assess the ability of Franciscan St. Elizabeth Health-Crawfordsville campus medical facility to respond to the effects of a hazmat incident; and to evaluate the school corporation's notification system.

"As school officials, emergency

preparedness professionals and public safety responders, we want to put the public's mind at ease that we have thought through, and are prepared for, varying scenarios that could occur," said Shari Harrington, director of the Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency. "Exercising that plan is as important, allowing you to engage the people whom are part of it and then improving that plan."

Organizations involved in the exercise included the Indiana State Police, Montgomery County EMA, Montgomery County Sheriff, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Crawfordsville Police Department, Crawfordsville Mayor's Office, North Montgomery Community School Corporation, South Montgomery Community School Corporation, Ivy Tech Community College, Wabash College, Crawfordsville Community School Corporation, S.T.A.R. Ambulance, Franciscan St. Elizabeth Health-Crawfordsville and the American Red Cross-Montgomery County Chapter. Area vocational students from various programs had also participated in the exercise.

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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

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