



Hoosier Responder

October 2013

Volume 8, Issue VII

Indiana Emergency Response Conference Announces Award Winners

The Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) presented its annual awards in late August. The conference is for firefighters, emergency medical services, law enforcement, hazardous materials professionals, special operations and those who are part of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs).

The IERC was planned by the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety Medical.

Nominations can be made by any emergency response personnel, or other person that has been aided by a

department they are nominating. Narrative about the recipients has been taken from nomination applications.

Ambulance Provider Public Relations Award: Harrison County Hospital EMS.

The Ambulance Provider Public Relations Award recognizes those who help the public better understand the EMS system and industry.

Dispatcher of the Year: Rita Hughes; Three Rivers Ambulance Authority, Fort Wayne, IN.

The Dispatcher of the Year award can recognize either years of service or outstanding performance relating to a

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State Fire Marshal Encourages Hoosiers to Prevent a Common Hazard: Kitchen Fires

The State Fire Marshal is encouraging Hoosiers to participate in Fire Prevention Week from October 6-12. The theme of the week is 'Prevent Kitchen Fires.'

The Fire Marshal's Office is a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

"Kitchen fires are the most common type of fire and are easily preventable," said Jim Greeson, Indiana State Fire Marshal. "Often

when we're called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the residents tell us that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes. Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start."

During this year's fire safety campaign, fire departments will be spreading the word about the dangers of kitchen fires, most of which result from unattended cooking, and teaching local residents how to prevent kitchen fires from starting in the first place.

In 2012, fire departments in Indiana responded to more than 1,500 cooking fires. Most kitchen fires occur from unattended cooking. Residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more likely to survive a fire.

According to the latest National Fire Protection Association research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen, more than any other place in the home. Cooking

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“Great ShakeOut” Earthquake Drill Set for October 17

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security has announced that the fourth *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut* earthquake drill is scheduled for **Thursday, October 17, 2013, at 10:17 a.m. local time**. Individuals and communities throughout 10 states in the central U.S. will take part in the drill, designed to encourage participants to take steps to become better prepared for earthquakes and other disasters.

During the self-led drill, participants practice how to “**Drop, Cover, and Hold On**”. Endorsed by emergency officials and first responders, the proper response to an earthquake is to:

- **Drop** to the ground
- Take **Cover** under a sturdy table or desk if possible, protecting your head and neck
- **Hold On** until the

shaking stops

To take part in the *ShakeOut*, individuals and organizations are asked to sign up in the drill by visiting getprepared.in.gov. Once registered, participants receive information about showcase events in their area and regular information on how to plan their drill and become better prepared for earthquakes and other disasters. Participants include individuals, schools, businesses, local and state government agencies, and many other groups.

“Being prepared for an earthquake means you’re prepared for the hazards Indiana faces each year,” said IDHS Senior Public Information Officer John Erickson. “Many of the same preparations for an earthquake apply to tornadoes, flooding and winter storms. A large earthquake in or near Indiana could have a major impact on the population and national transportation,

communication, utility, and financial systems. The *ShakeOut* is a great annual event to help keep Hoosiers thinking about preparing for earthquakes and other possible emergencies.”

Nearly 3 million people participated in the third *Central U.S. ShakeOut* in February 2013, which was coordinated by the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) and the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee. To align with other states and regions throughout the country, Erickson said the *Central U.S. ShakeOut* will occur the third Thursday of October going forward. This drill will include not only 10 states in the central U.S. but also 40 other states and territories nationwide, with about 12 million expected participants.

Prevent a Common Hazard: Kitchen Fires (continued)

fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries.

Safety tips to always keep in mind while cooking:

- Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- When leaving the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it

regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer.

- Use the stove’s back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- The kitchen is not a play area. Keep children’s play sets and toys outside of the kitchen.
- When cooking, wear clothing with tight-fitting

sleeves.

- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from the stovetop.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country.

Indiana Emergency Response Conference Announces Award Winners (continued)

specific emergency event.

EMS Advance Life Support Provider of the Year (non-fire department based): Memorial Hospital Ambulance, Dubois County. The Provider of the Year should possess unique qualities that serve to elevate the standard of professionalism and the quality of patient care throughout the EMS industry.

EMS Advance Life Support Provider of the Year (fire department based): Penn Township Fire Department, Mishawaka. The Provider of the Year should possess unique qualities that serve to elevate the standard of professionalism and the quality of patient care throughout the EMS industry.

EMS Basic Life Support Provider of the Year: Evansville Fire Department. The Provider of the Year should possess unique qualities that serve to elevate the standard of professionalism and the quality of patient care throughout the EMS industry.

Fire Chief of the Year (Career): Chief Danny Sink, Goshen Fire Department, Goshen. Nominees for this award must be actively involved in fire organizations, fire prevention education, training and safety improvement.

Fire Chief of the Year (Volunteer): Chief Christopher See, Jeff-Craig Fire & Rescue, Vevay, IN. Nominees for this award must be actively involved in fire organizations, fire prevention education, training and safety improvement.

Fire Instructor of the Year: Steffen Schrock, Goshen Fire Department, Goshen. This award recognizes an individual

who has made Indiana's fire service training safer, more effective and more professional.

Fire Instructor of the Year: District 7 Fire Training Council/John Shafer.

This award recognizes a division that has made Indiana's fire service training safer, more effective and more professional.

Heroic Rescue of the Year Award: Diane Lantz, Jeromy Yadon, Three Rivers Ambulance Authority; and Eric Zeiger, Fort Wayne Fire Department (all three for one incident).

This award is presented to EMS personnel who were actively involved in a rescue operation involving a victim in a dangerous environment. To be considered, the candidates must have demonstrated a degree of courage and bravery while showing an understanding of the seriousness of the situation.

Basic EMT of the Year: Chris McFarlan, Van Buren Township Fire Department, Bloomington, IN.

The award represents the best the industry has to offer; not only in proficiency, but in professionalism.

Advanced EMT of the Year: Donna Wiseman, Harrison County Hospital.

The award recipients for the Advanced EMT of the Year award represent the best the industry has to offer; not only in proficiency, but in professionalism.

Legislator of the Year: State Representative Randy Frye.

The Legislator of the Year award recognizes a local or state elected official who has championed fire safety, benefits or other opportunities to citizens or emergency response personnel.

Medical Director of the Year: Dr. Stevan Vuckovic, Franciscan St. Anthony Hospital, Crown Point.

The nominees for the Medical Director of the Year award should not only demonstrate proficiency in oversight, but an attitude of professionalism among all members of the EMS and hospital communities, as well as the public.

Paramedic of the Year: Marty Jones, Memorial Hospital, Jasper. The award recipients for the Paramedic of the Year award represent the best the industry has to offer; not only in proficiency, but in professionalism.

EMS Primary Instructor of the Year: Kevin Hendrickson, Deaconess Hospital, Evansville. The candidates for this award must be certified by the EMS Commission as a primary instructor and be actively involved in public education and public service going beyond their normal day-to-day responsibilities.

Indiana Fire Chiefs Association "President's Award": Terry Rake, Zionsville, executive director of the IFCA.

The purpose of the president's award is to recognize a professional in the emergency response community who has had a significant impact on the Indiana public safety community. The award is given at the discretion of the president of the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association. The immediate past president of IFCA who made the selection is Chief Jeff Fox of the Riley Fire Department in Vigo County. The current president of IFCA is Chief Gene Konzen from Wayne Township Fire Department in Marion County.

Visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3192.htm> to see extended information about the awards.

Second Team Deployed by IDHS to Alaska Brings Back Knowledge, Experience

The second team of four responders deployed to Alaska by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is back, armed with valuable knowledge, experiences and new ideas, not to mention an appreciation for the level of professionalism they witnessed.

The IDHS responder team, sent to Alaska to shadow key positions and aid in operational response to the wildfires included:

- Susan Baugher, operations quality assurance manager for Porter County;
- Michael Weber, deputy director for Porter County Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency;
- Gary McKay, manager of Emergency Preparedness, Safety and Bioterrorism Prevention for Community Hospital in Munster, IN; and
- Thomas Sivak, executive director of the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency.

Baugher and Sivak shadowed planning section chiefs, McKay the liaison officer and Weber the logistics section chief. Sivak said the experience was extremely valuable and, at times, quite eye-opening.

“We are so grateful for this opportunity and have come home much stronger in many ways,” Sivak said. “It was the first deployment to Alaska for many from Cal (California) I National Incident Management Team, not just groups from IDHS. Many educational opportunities took place enabling the team to form lasting relationships with Cal I team members while we worked alongside them, all while exposing the team to things like great progressions of processes, some tricks of the trade and how to recognize and document those seemingly little details that, in truth, are so important, especially as documented transitioning resources off the fire line.”

Sivak said there was a tremendous amount of documentation that needed to take place on a daily basis, much of which couldn't be put together until the end of a 16-to-20 hour day. He said he felt like he completed a master's thesis in those two weeks, mostly because of the “in-depth documentation” which was important for an accurate picture of the incident from the start to full containment.

“There's just no substitute for these types of deployments,” he said. “Our team experienced all areas of planning and documentation and it really hits home to the importance of constantly reviewing your processes and procedures.”

Exercise Assists Agencies with Coordination; Pike Township Fire and EMS, IDHS District 6, National Guard

Local, district and military units held a mass casualty full-scale exercise on September 7. Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) District 6, the Indiana National Guard Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, Radiological and high-yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERF-P) Unit, and Pike Township Fire and EMS participated in the exercise.

More than 100 individuals participated in the exercise, which simulated a mass casualty incident and tested the integration and communication across differing agencies, as

well as the ability of local operations to manage outside assets. The premise of the exercise was a county's assets were overrun by the number of injured during an event and additional assistance was requested assistance from the State of Indiana. In turn, the State Emergency Operations Center requested both District 6 and military assets.

The exercise was created through interagency cooperation, among IDHS District 6, National Guard and Pike Township, with IDHS assisting in planning and logistical support.



Visit
GetPrepared.in.gov



Indiana Fire Marshal Elected to a National Board of Directors

Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM). Greeson and three other State Fire Marshals were unanimously elected by NASFM members at its annual conference hosted in Indianapolis last month. Greeson will serve a two-year term on the NASFM Board.

"I am honored to join the Board of Directors," said Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "I look forward to working alongside the

other board members and bringing Hoosier ideas and values to the table."

The NASFM Board is led by President J. William Degnan, New Hampshire Fire Marshal. Greeson will be joined by Vice President H. "Butch" Browning, Louisiana State Fire Marshal; Secretary-Treasurer Ray Reynolds, Iowa State Fire Marshal; Florida State Fire Marshal Julius Halas; Texas State Fire Marshal Chris Connealy; Alabama State Fire Marshal Edward Paulk; and Minnesota Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl, who serves as an

Immediate Past President, a nonvoting advisory position.

Greeson was appointed Indiana State Fire Marshal in 2008. Previously, he served 38 years with the Indianapolis Fire Department, including four years as Fire Chief. Greeson also presides on the Board of the Indiana Burn Camp, the Greater Indianapolis Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the Board of Fire Fighter Personnel Standards and Education.

Radiation Transportation Exercise in Allen County



Photos by: John M. Buckman III



On August 28, the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program and Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) conducted a transportation accident exercise involving a spent fuel rail shipment passing through Fort Wayne.

The City of Fort Wayne, Town of New Haven, Allen County, the State of Indiana and Norfolk Southern Railroad played an important role in making this exercise happen.

The exercise incident consisted of an M-140 Naval spent fuel shipping container en route from the East Coast to Idaho. As the train passed through Fort Wayne, a dump truck collided with the container's railcar.

With minor damages to the railcar, the dump truck was heavily damaged with the driver stuck inside. The first to respond was the Navy escorts. They were assisted by Ft. Wayne Haz Mat Team, Ft. Wayne Emergency Medical Services and Norfolk Southern police to conduct radiological surveys and tend to the injured driver.

The rest of the exercise consisted of the following departments responding to the incident: Indiana State Police, IDHS, Department of Defense Civil Support Team and Department of Energy Radiological Assistance Program.

Indiana Homeland Security Foundation Provides More Than \$370,000 in Grant Funding to Counties



The picture above is from the Aboite Township Volunteer Fire Department check presentation. (From left to right) Capt. Dennis Pauze, Governor Mike Pence, fire department grant coordinator Bruce Keller, Aboite Township Trustee Barabara Krisher and Indiana Homeland Security Foundation Chairman Kenneth R. Neumeister were all in attendance to present a check to the local fire department and community. The department received \$4,000 to purchase a Live-Fire Extinguisher System for training. The current system in use is time-consuming, expensive and limits the number of trainees at one time. The new technology will allow different levels of training and is safe, low-cost, reusable and environmentally friendly.

The Indiana Homeland Security Foundation has approved \$373,804.72 in grant funding to local fire departments, law enforcement agencies and emergency medical services (EMS).

The focus of the foundation is to support the future of public safety and to provide grant funding to local agencies for critical public safety needs across Indiana. Grants are provided up to \$4,000. Public safety agencies are eligible to apply for projects such as:

- Equipping emergency responders with personal protective equipment
- Acquiring equipment for use by emergency responders
- Providing radios and technology equipment
- Training for emergency responders

Visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3192.htm> to see the county and department breakdown of the grant funding amount and purpose of those funds. Information provided is from each agency's application.

Indiana University Participated in Train Derailment Tabletop Exercise

Indiana University Bloomington personnel representing various departments and offices across campus participated, with 16 county, state and federal agencies, in a tabletop exercise on Sept. 10 sponsored by the Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee. The exercise focused on a train derailment adjacent to the IU Bloomington campus.

Those IU offices and departments represented in the emergency training exercise included the Indiana University Police Department, IU Emergency Management and Continuity, IU Campus Bus Service, IU Physical Plant, IU Environmental Health and Safety, and IU Bloomington administration.

This exercise provided participants with an opportunity to assess

capabilities, plans, policies and procedures. It focused on decision-making, coordination and integration with other organizations during a train derailment.

The exercise scenario was based on a train carrying hazardous materials derailing from a track adjacent to the Bloomington campus of Indiana University, with at least one car on fire and releasing potentially dangerous chemicals into the air.

Participating agencies and organizations:

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration
- Indiana Department of Homeland Security
- IU Health Bloomington Hospital Emergency Medical Transport Service
- Bloomington Fire Department
- Indiana University Police Department
- Bloomington Township Fire Department, HazMat Team
- IU Emergency Management and Continuity
- Monroe County American Red Cross
- IU Campus Bus Service
- IU Physical Plant
- Monroe County Health Department
- IU Office of Environmental, Health and Safety Management
- Monroe Hospital
- IU Health Bloomington Hospital Emergency Management
- Indiana Railroad
- Bloomington Police Department
- Van Buren Township Fire Department
- Perry/Clear Creek Fire Department
- Monroe County Emergency Management
- Monroe County Central Dispatch
- Indiana University administration
- Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee

A Citizen's Guide to Best Practices of the 9-1-1 System

While 9-1-1 is called every day, the average person may call it very few times in their life. To ensure the quickest response time, citizens should have a plan in place and know what to do when using 9-1-1 services.

Make sure your address numbers are clearly displayed on the front of your home. It needs to be visible during the night, not just during a sunny day. If responders cannot quickly identify your address, help will be delayed.

Do not program 9-1-1 into a speed dial button. The phone may accidentally dial 9-1-1 after being jostled around in a purse or a pocket. When this happens, dispatchers are obligated to listen to determine whether or not emergency help is needed. Having to listen may keep them from answering calls in need of assistance quickly.

It is important to know when to use the non-emergency seven digit number for a local dispatch center. To report a crime in progress or

one that just occurred, or if emergency services are required, 9-1-1 should be used. In most every other case, it is more appropriate to dial the non-emergency line.

When dialing 9-1-1, stay on the line until the dispatcher says it's ok to hang up, even if you dialed on accident. There may be a longer than normal silence, however this is due to the fact that 9-1-1 calls are routed differently than other calls. When talking with the dispatcher, answer only the questions that are asked, then stop talking and be quiet. Often, what seems like silence is in fact the dispatcher communicating with responders about the situation and needs.

Emergency dispatchers face a number of hurdles when answering emergency calls. Two examples include:

- An old cell phones that have been given to a child as a toy. Even if the phone is no longer in service, it will always retain the

ability to dial 9-1-1.

- When reporting a scene to emergency dispatchers, it is important to make sure that other people aren't already calling emergency services. More phone calls will make the handful of 9-1-1 dispatchers busier answering those calls.

This is an excerpt from the article "A Citizen's Guide to Best Practices of the 9-1-1 System" by Bryan Wolfe, who began his career as a telecommunicator in 1996. The full article, which can be found here, was featured in the national publication "Urgent Communications." <http://urgentcomm.com/psap/guide-using-911-system?page=1>.

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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.

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