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## September 2025

## Message from the Director

Greetings to all,

### Quick Links

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### Academy Training Staff

Academy Director  
[John Shafer](#)

Field Operations Section Chief  
[Mike Parks](#)

Planning Section Chief  
[Zach Mathews](#)

Logistics & Administration Section Chief  
[Cora Showalter](#)

Emergency Management Training Program Manager  
[Justin Stump](#)

Academy Program Manager (Districts 1 and 4)  
[Ryan Thoma](#)

Academy Program Manager (Districts 2 and 3)  
[TR Hagerty](#)

Academy Program Manager



I hope this edition finds you doing well. It is hard to believe we have already reached the dog days of summer. Along with the cooler days ahead, fall has always been a time when the Academy has conducted a significant number of classes over the years.

A little over two years ago, one of my initial tasks was to create a one-stop location for advertised classes hosted around the state. This led to the creation of the Educational Opportunities page on our website, which has been very successful in the last two years. I am pleased to announce that this page has received a new facelift in this edition. It will now feature submitted trainings across all disciplines, in addition to just firefighting classes, along with a new [GIS map tool](#) and the ability to narrow searches to your regional area.

A special thank you to the IDHS Public Affairs team, as well as the designers from the IDHS GIS team, for all their hard work in developing this tool for emergency responders in Indiana.

So, be sure to check out the new look and explore all the new fall classes available around the state.

[Click Image to go to Dashboard](#)

(Districts 5 and 7)

[Loren Tewes](#)

Academy Program Manager  
(Districts 6 and 9)

[Chuck Gunter](#)

Academy Program Manager  
(Districts 8 and 10)

[Jon Hancock](#)

Thanks,  
John Shafer  
Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy Director



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## Academy Certification Staff

IFSAC Accreditation and Academy  
Information Officer

[Robin Nicoson](#)

Certification Supervisor

[Nichelle Elliot](#)

Program Coordinator

[Regine Johnson](#)

Clerical Assistants

[Antoinette Hammack](#)

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## Register for the Indiana Fire and EMS Leadership Conference 2025

The IERC Conference has rebranded to the Indiana Fire and EMS Leadership Conference to better reflect the commitment to advancing leadership, education and collaboration within Indiana's fire and EMS communities. While the name changed, the mission remains the same: to provide top-tier training, networking opportunities and industry insights to emergency response professionals across the state.

[Registration is open now.](#)

Conference Details

Dates: Sept 17 – 19

Location: Embassy Suites –  
Noblesville, IN, 13700 Conference  
Center Dr. S., Noblesville, IN 46060

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## Fire and Public Safety Expansion

The Academy has expanded its mission to include public safety training. Justin Stump joined the Academy as Emergency Management Training Program Manager and FEMA State Training Officer.

Stump has over 29 years of public safety experience, serving in various roles that include assistant fire chief, emergency medical technician, law enforcement officer, county emergency management director, and county commissioner. He holds certifications as firefighter I and II, nationally registered EMT, fire and emergency services instructor I and ICS 300/400 instructor. He also has the professional emergency manager designation.

In his new role, Stump will oversee FEMA training courses, including AWR, MGT, PER and ICS 300/400, as well as serve as the Academy liaison for federally-funded consortium programs. These include courses offered by the Center for Domestic Preparedness, Louisiana State University, Texas Engineering Extension Service, University of Hawaii and several others.



The Academy welcomes Justin Stump and looks forward to the continued growth of public safety training in Indiana.

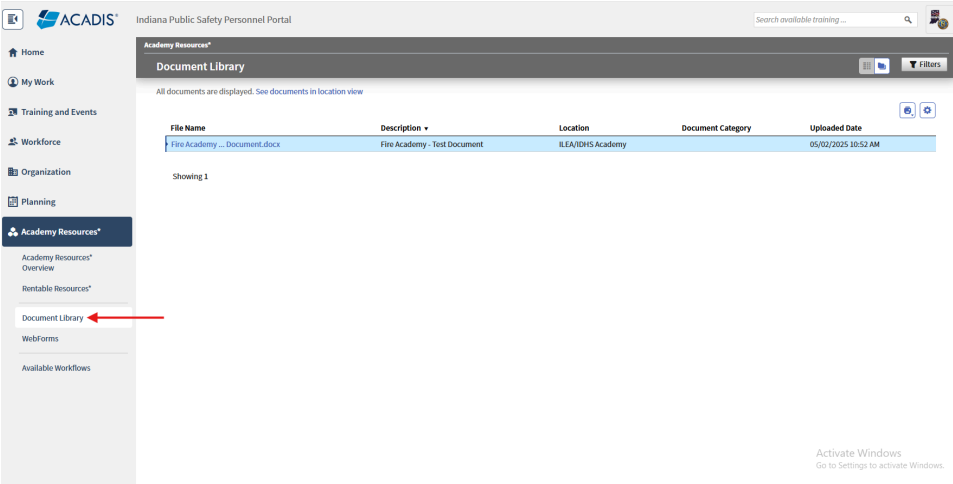
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## New Features on Acadis

The Academy has added a Document Library in the Academy Resource area on [Acadis](#). This new library will house all instructor materials, including skill sheets and course planning templates. The change is designed to improve transparency and make it easier for both instructors and students to access official course documents before registering for certification courses.

Instructors who have downloaded materials from the previous Instructor Material

section should archive those files, as they may not be the latest versions. From this point forward, all updated documents will be stored in the new Document Library.



Acadis also now allows certification verification without requiring a PSID or email address. This feature, available on the Acadis homepage before logging in, helps simplify the process of confirming certification levels. To use this option, select "Submit a request verification" under the "Verify Certifications" tab.



## Curriculum Update

On Sept. 22, 2025, the Academy will adopt Essentials 8 for Firefighter I and II, as well as IFSTA's sixth edition for Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations. The switch is necessary because IFSTA no longer supports the Hazardous Materials fifth edition online. Essentials 8 does not include hazardous materials chapters, requiring the transition to a separate text.

Both texts are available through the IFSTA state library. The Academy recently renewed its contract with IFSTA, ensuring another year of free access to all IFSTA manuals for Indiana firefighters. Each firefighter can request an account for online access on both desktop and mobile devices by visiting <https://on.in.gov/ifsta-library-request>.

This service is only available to Indiana firefighters and fire departments. Career centers, universities, colleges and for-profit training institutions are not eligible.

National Fire Academy

Indiana has once again been awarded additional National Fire Academy (NFA) courses from funds returned by other states that could not host their allocated classes. This marks the third consecutive year Indiana has received these opportunities after completing all nine of its originally assigned NFA courses.



National Fire Academy Courses  
@ 2026 Winter Fire School  
Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2026 Location: 1610 Reeves  
Road, Plainfield, Indiana Class Cost: FREE

Best Practices in Community Risk Reduction
Link: <a href="https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-decision-making-initial-company-ops">https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-decision-making-initial-company-ops</a>
Decision Making for Initial Company Officers
Link: <a href="https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-decision-making-initial-company-ops">https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-decision-making-initial-company-ops</a>
Exercising Leadership Through Difficult Conversations
Link: <a href="https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-exercising-leadership-diffucult-conversations">https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-exercising-leadership-diffucult-conversations</a>
Fire Chiefs: Challenging Issues
Link: <a href="https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-fire-chiefs-challenging-issues">https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-fire-chiefs-challenging-issues</a>
Fire Investigations: Fire as a Weapon
Link: <a href="https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-fire-investigations-fire-as-weapon">https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-fire-investigations-fire-as-weapon</a>
Incident Command for Structural Collapse Incidents
Link: <a href="https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-incident-command-structural-collapse">https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-incident-command-structural-collapse</a>
Incident Safety Officer (This is not a state certification course)
Link: <a href="https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-incident-safety-officer">https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-incident-safety-officer</a>
Supervising Emergency Medical Services
Link: <a href="https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-supervising-emergency-medical-services">https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-supervising-emergency-medical-services</a>
Training Operations in Small Departments
Link: <a href="https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-training-operations-small-departments">https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-training-operations-small-departments</a>
Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist
Link: <a href="https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-youth-firesetter-intervention">https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-youth-firesetter-intervention</a>

Click the Image or [here](#) to open Course Registration.

The quick turnaround for these added courses makes early registration essential to avoid cancellations due to low enrollment.

Note: The Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist and Fire as a Weapon courses meet NFPA requirements and count toward Fire Investigator CE hours.

Looking ahead, the NFA Indiana Weekend will not take place in Maryland in 2026. Instead, all courses typically offered there will be hosted at Winter Fire School in Plainfield. This change is expected to improve attendance by eliminating the need for extended travel. Early registration is required to meet NFA deadlines.

Hub and Spoke Update

Since the last Bugle edition, the Academy has completed new Hub and Spoke training facilities in Spencer County at Chrisney and in Orange County at Paoli. Academy instructors have delivered training for local agencies, which are now able to conduct live fire training in these buildings.



## Spencer County – Chrisney 1403 Live Fire Training



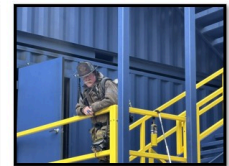
Practical Skills Session July 11<sup>th</sup>, 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> 2025



## Orange County – Paoli 1403 Live Fire Training



Practical Skills Session August 15<sup>th</sup>, 16 & 17<sup>th</sup> 2025



This brings the number of new Hub and Spoke facilities completed to nine. Four remain under construction in Seymour, Winchester, Covington and Vincennes.

The Fire and Public Safety Academy is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service and delivering professional fire and public safety training, education and certification to Indiana's first responders in support of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's mission of protecting the people, property and prosperity of Indiana.

**Contact the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy at**

[firecertifications@dhs.in.gov](mailto:firecertifications@dhs.in.gov)



**SERVICE  
INTEGRITY  
RESPECT**

**TO STAFF AND COMMUNITY  
IN ALL WE DO  
FOR ALL PEOPLE**

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