



# Hoosier Responder

DECEMBER 2009

Volume 5, Issue 11

## DON'T BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD: Remember these tips for a safe holiday season

By Chief of Staff Mike Garvey and State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson

As the seasons change in Indiana, once again frosty weather heralds the coming holidays and a variety of enjoyable outdoor activities. Together, we can help keep this winter a safe one by reminding Hoosiers about several important measures they can take to protect their loved ones.

Snow and ice on highways and bridges create hazardous driving conditions and lead to many accidents, which are the leading cause of death during winter storms. It is best to avoid traveling during snow storms, but if you must be on the roads remember, "Ice and snow, take it slow!"

Cold winter temperatures encourage many Hoosier families to explore the use of space heaters, wood burning stoves, fireplaces and other alternative heating options to warm their homes. It is important to only use alternative heating sources which have been designed for home heating and to use those sources cautiously to avoid the risk of fire and burn injuries.

Holiday lights and other decorations should also be used with care to avoid injuries and property damage.



Replacing any string of lights with worn or broken cords or bulbs, not overloading electrical outlets, and never leaving candles unattended, are just a few of the ways Hoosiers can help keep the holidays safe and fun.

Sledding, snowman building, snowball fights, cross-country skiing and other outdoor activities are extremely popular across Indiana during the winter months. Everyone should make sure to wear appropriate, protective clothing when engaging in these activities and spending time in frigid temperatures. All Hoosiers need to be able to

*(Continued on page 2)*

## In This Issue:

Fire Spotlight: Evansville FD	2
FEMA Awards Grants Totaling Nearly \$1.5 Million to Fort Wayne	2
Paramedics May Participate in H1N1 Mass Vaccination Programs	3
EMA Spotlight: Henry County	3
District Coordinator Training	3
Distinguished Chiefs Teach Carmel Firefighters About Leadership	4
EMS Spotlight: Pendleton Emergency Ambulance Service	4
First Responders Help Scouts Learn About Preparedness	4
First Responders, EMTs, Paramedics Urged to Meet Recertification Deadlines	5
EMA Spotlight: Tipton County	5
EMA Workshops	6
New to IDHS: Scott Perez	6

## From the Director's Chair — Executive Director Joe Wainwright

This season, Hoosiers across Indiana will be celebrating the holidays in diverse ways. For many Hoosiers, gift giving is a treasured tradition, albeit an occasionally complicated one. For some of us, choosing the perfect gift can be a challenging endeavor. As the holiday shopping season progresses, I encourage you to consider a few of the following emergency preparedness and general safety gift ideas. After all, what could be a better gift than something that protects the lives of the ones you love?



A weather radio is a small gift that could make a big difference to the recipient during an emergency. NOAA Weather Alert radios are easy to find online and at many local retailers. Extra batteries make a perfect accompanying gift item or stocking stuffer.

Assembling a disaster kit for the home, office or dormitory with such items as a first aid kit, bottled water (one gallon per person/per day—three day minimum), non-perishable food, blankets, flashlight and batteries is an excellent gift for anyone who doesn't already have one.

You could also assemble a smaller preparedness kit for an individual's automobile. Consider including such items as jumper cables,

flashlight, blankets, sand and a small shovel. Other items such as medicines, extra clothing and pet care items might also be included in a home or car kit.



Even if you cannot assemble a complete disaster kit, a portable container stocked with a few items will get your loved one started and hopefully encourage them to begin completing the kit. For a printable checklist of items to include in any disaster kit, visit [www.in.gov/dhs/2777.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/2777.htm).

*(Continued on page 2)*

## FIRE DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

The Evansville Fire Department in Vanderburgh County promotes EMS awareness by opening its stations to public tours, attending community public safety events, participating in career days, and being an active participant in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program.

The department also supports many local events financially, including donations of \$1,500 to the National Night Out Against Crime event, \$500 to a local high school to buy cribs for needy families, \$500 to Easter Seals, and \$20,000 to a fund to build a group home for people with the genetic disorder, Prader-Willi Syndrome. During this year's Indiana Emergency Response Conference, the department was awarded BLS Non-Transport Provider of the Year. ■



## FEMA AWARDS GRANTS TOTALING NEARLY \$1.5 MILLION TO THE CITY OF FORT WAYNE

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved two Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) projects totaling nearly \$1.5 million for the city of Fort Wayne, Indiana. The funds will be used to acquire and remove 40 homes susceptible to annual flooding.

The two HMGP grants, one for \$749,513 and the second for \$745,880, will be available once a final agreement is signed among the city of Fort



Wayne, FEMA and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). HMGP provides grants to state and local governments to implement long-term risk reduction measures. Through HMGP, FEMA will pay the 75 percent federal share of the nearly \$1.5 million projects, with the city of Fort Wayne providing the remaining 25 percent of the project cost. IDHS administers the mitigation program.

"Indiana continues to recover from the long-term effects of the 2008 flooding. This assistance is a key step for those who had their homes damaged

or destroyed. It's important for them and their community's recovery," said IDHS Executive Director Joseph Wainscott. "The partnership and teamwork among the city of Fort Wayne, IDHS and FEMA helped provide this much needed relief."

HMGP funds will be used to remove these repetitively damaged homes from flood prone areas, returning the area to open space in perpetuity. HMGP projects like this are the cornerstone of disaster prevention efforts, and illustrate the importance of local, state and federal governments working together for the benefit of citizens. ■



### Director's Article *continued from page 1*

State Fire Jim Marshal Greeson says home safety gifts such as smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are also thoughtful presents that are proven to save lives. Other fire safety and prevention gift ideas suggested by the State Fire Marshal include ABC-rated fire extinguishers, foldable ladders for second-story emergency escapes and flameless scented candles.

Whether you decide to purchase a smoke alarm or assemble a preparedness kit for a loved one's vehicle, you should be able to find most of the items you need at your local hardware and department stores.

Whatever your holiday traditions and plans this year entail, I hope you are able to devote some attention to assessing and bolstering your personal level of disaster readiness and the readiness of the friends and loved ones around you. Disasters never take a holiday, but you can take the holidays to prepare for a disaster. On behalf of IDHS I wish you and your loved ones a safe and very happy holiday season! ■



### COLD *continued from page 1*

recognize the signs of frostbite and hypothermia and know how to appropriately respond to these emergencies.

Ice skating on frozen ponds, creeks and other small bodies of water can provide hours of exercise and entertainment, but venturing onto ice of an unknown thickness can very quickly lead to a life threatening emergency. It is impossible to judge the strength of ice by its appearance, thickness, daily temperature, or snow cover alone. Ice strength is dependent on a number of factors including water depth under the ice, water area size, water chemistry, currents and load distribution on the ice. As a rule of thumb, four inches of clear, solid ice can usually provide a stable platform.



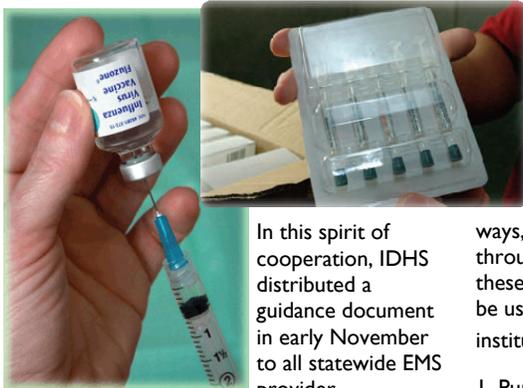
Many Hoosiers look forward to bringing in the New Year with sparklers and fireworks displays. Remind your constituents to follow local fireworks laws and to exercise safe handling practices when enjoying these types of devices. Encouraging Hoosiers to follow these and other safety precautions

keeps the holiday season a joyous time of year for everyone. For more information about staying safe this winter, visit <http://in.gov/dhs/2930.htm>.

Mike Garvey is an EMS professional with 33 years of experience. Jim Greeson is a career firefighter and former chief of Indianapolis Fire Department. ■

## PARAMEDICS MAY PARTICIPATE IN HINI MASS VACCINATION PROGRAMS

In September, IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott began urging EMS providers to respond to the coming flu season by being flexible and prepared to assist hospitals, public health officials and emergency managers in activities beyond their traditional roles. EMS provider organizations continue to be strongly encouraged to work with these entities to mitigate the effects of the ongoing pandemic. For the full podcast of Executive Director Wainscott's discussion, please visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3189.htm> and click on HINI video.



In this spirit of cooperation, IDHS distributed a guidance document in early November to all statewide EMS provider

organizations outlining the use of paramedic personnel in HINI mass vaccination programs. The guidance document was provided to

address how paramedic provider organizations may assist local health officers in delivering HINI vaccinations in mass distribution programs in their jurisdictions. This effort is intended to provide local health officers with additional personnel resources to assist in administering HINI vaccinations in health department organized vaccination clinics. The guidance is not intended to provide a mechanism for paramedic providers to store or otherwise handle vaccine, or participate in post-vaccination follow up care or monitoring. Provider organizations will receive additional instructional material about HINI vaccinations prepared by the Indiana State Department of Health.

The HINI vaccine is administered in two ways, either by intramuscular injection or through a nasal mist. Paramedics are trained in these methods of drug administration and may be used to administer the HINI vaccine by instituting the following procedures:

1. Pursuant to 836 IAC 2-2-3 (k) (2) the paramedic provider organization's medical director may, with local health officers, develop a protocol for the administration of the HINI



vaccine. The protocol, along with a letter from the medical director stating that the HINI vaccine is an approved drug for administration by paramedics under his/her supervision, shall be provided to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security as soon as practicable. Providers are urged to review and utilize 856 IAC 4-1-2 required components of immunization protocol for administering vaccinations (<http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T08560/A00040.PDF>) as a guide in developing local protocols. Documents may be emailed to Gail Fennell ([gfennell@dhs.in.gov](mailto:gfennell@dhs.in.gov)) or faxed to 317-233-8394.

2. The paramedic provider organization's medical director and provider organization shall provide training to each paramedic administering the HINI vaccine. Training rosters, with original signatures of each attending paramedic, shall be maintained by the provider organization. Training requirements shall be determined by the medical director in coordination with the local health officer. Providers are urged to review and utilize 856 IAC 4-1-1 Education and Training (<http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T08560/A00040.PDF>) as a guide in determining training requirements.

The paramedics must be in an "on-duty" status with their provider organization that shall have an understanding with the local health officer regarding the administration of the vaccine by the provider organization's personnel. ■

## EMA SPOTLIGHT – Henry County



**Ronald (Ron) Huffman**  
1201 Race Street, Suite 101  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(765) 521-0582 - office  
[ema@henryco.org](mailto:ema@henryco.org)

Since Ron Huffman began serving as Henry County EMA director on January 1, 2000, the county has added a hazardous materials team, a smoke house to teach children about fire safety, a search and rescue team, a large animal rescue team, several warning sirens and is currently building a five acre, multi-agency training facility. Huffman says the EMA's greatest achievement has been the building of partnerships among other agencies and personnel that allow them to work as a team to prepare for and mitigate incidents and emergencies.

Huffman has 24 years experience as a career and volunteer firefighter. A state listed fire instructor for propane and NH3 (similar to propane) fires, he has 14 years of experience in this service field. Huffman has been a licensed mechanic since 1984, and chaired the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) since 1999.

Huffman and his wife Cindy have two children and two grandchildren. He enjoys fishing, woodworking and riding his motorcycle.

## DISTRICT COORDINATORS RECEIVE TRAINING IN 2009

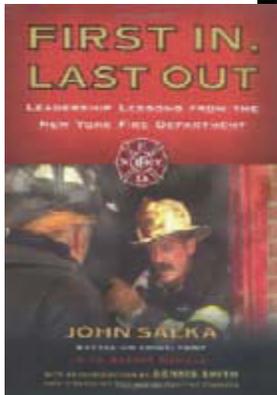
IDHS district coordinators practice swift water survival skills in South Bend, Indiana where teams of Indiana Conservation Officers and South Bend Firefighters worked together to teach coordinators potentially life saving techniques.



Coordinators also attended the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy's Emergency Vehicle Operations Course this year where participants practiced safe, high-speed driving, object avoidance, procedures for safe backing, obstacle course driving, and many other techniques designed to allow an incident free arrival. ■

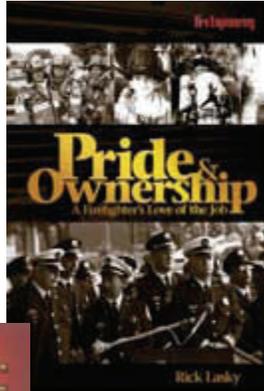
## DISTINGUISHED CHIEFS TEACH CARMEL FIREFIGHTERS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

On November 13th and 14th the Carmel Fire Department hosted two of the fire service's most well known chiefs. John Salka, Battalion Chief of the FDNY and author of the books *First In, Last Out*, *Leadership Lessons from the New York Fire Department* and his most recent release *The Engine Company*; and Rick Lasky, Chief of the Lewisville, Texas Fire Department and author of the book *Pride & Ownership, A firefighter's love for the job*, came to Central Indiana to speak to local firefighters about issues relevant to today's fire service. The first annual Fire Service Symposium sponsored by the Carmel Fire Department was attended by nearly 200 firefighters from 7 area departments.



During the Friday morning session, Chief Salka spoke to firefighters about the leadership styles and skills of effective and ineffective leaders. He was able to relate many personal experiences to the subject matter. Those in attendance ranged from chief officers to rookie firefighters. In the afternoon session, Chief Salka walked attendees through an in-depth analysis of a Line of Duty Death (LODD) that occurred to the FDNY. Prevention of LODD's and the recognition of the chain of events leading up to every LODD were the focus of Chief Salka's afternoon presentation.

On Saturday, Chief Lasky presented his program "Pride & Ownership." The various topics presented ranged from fire service



history, a fire department's mission, marketing the fire department and more. Those in attendance were entertained by Chief Lasky's ability to blend insight, humor and life experiences to draw relevance to the topics. The audience of firefighters and fire officers walked away with a renewed energy and love for the job.

Both guest speakers were well received. "Helmets off to both Chief Lasky and Chief Salka," said Carmel Operations Chief Jeff Steele. "Two information packed days described where the fire service came from, where we are today and how to make a positive impact on the future. After these lectures, you come away with a huge sense of pride for the job we do, and you're ready to do what it takes to make a difference for the generations of firefighters to come." Carmel Fire Chief Keith Smith shared Chief Steele's opinion about the conference," he said. "We believe these two fire service leaders do a good job of demonstrating leadership by example. That is, combining knowledge and experience and common sense into an everyday habit of responsibility. Chief Lasky and Chief Salka not only talk the talk – but walk the walk so to speak. Our goal is to provide our firefighters and officers with good peer examples of doing the right thing for the right reasons." ■

## SCOUTS LEARN ABOUT PREPAREDNESS

On November 19, Cub Scouts from Pack 300 at Hickory Elementary in Avon had an opportunity to practice their emergency response skills during a severe weather exercise planned and executed by scout leader and emergency preparedness planner for IDHS Nancy Morris, and Dr. John Sparzo, hospital administrator for Hendricks Regional Health.

Prior to the modified tornado drill, the scouts learned emergency preparedness and other basic first aid in their den meetings utilizing information provided by the school's "ready man" program.

As part of the exercise, participants completed a tornado drill and then rotated through several stations to practice their first aid skills, put out a fire, learn more about "hurry symptoms" and practice calling 911. Area EMT paramedics and nurses from Hendricks Regional Health, Brownsburg Fire Territory, Indianapolis Fire, Rural Metro Ambulance, Avon Fire Department and Wishard Ambulance volunteered to assist the young troops at the various stations.

Parents of all the scouts were very impressed with the attentiveness of the boys and the professionalism of the volunteers. Several scout parents indicated their approval of the event, and one parent claimed "I just wish they could do this for the entire school. The kids seem to be learning a lot." ■



**Cub Scouts practice controlling bleeding and infection during a disaster drill at Hickory Elementary School in Avon.**

## EMS SPOTLIGHT — Pendleton

The Pendleton Emergency Ambulance Service in Madison County was founded in 1975 after the local funeral home ceased to provide ambulance coverage. Since then, it has become one of the largest volunteer services in its geographical area. It promotes EMS awareness through an EMS rookie program at the local high school, providing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and training in their



use, as well as CPR training to the local community, conducting blood pressure checks and hosting a public safety day for the community. It also participates in the local "Every 15 Minutes" campaign to show the dangers of drinking and driving to students preparing for their high school prom. During this year's Indiana Emergency Response Conference, the service was presented with the EMT Basic Provider of the Year award. ■

# FIRST RESPONDERS, EMTs, PARAMEDICS URGED TO MEET RECERTIFICATION DEADLINES

The first responders, EMTs and paramedics who comprise Indiana's pre-hospital emergency care system are some of Indiana's most dedicated and passionate Hoosiers. One of the ways the Indiana EMS Commission and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) support EMS providers in sustaining Indiana's high standards of emergency medical care is by regulating the qualification requirements for emergency medical responders.

The most basic requirement for first responders, EMT-Basic Advanced providers, EMT-Intermediates and paramedics seeking recertification to remember is that all required documentation must be postmarked by midnight the day before their certification expires. As a general rule, it is recommended that you submit all required recertification materials at least 30 days before your certification expires. However, for example, if your certification expires on January 1, your recertification materials must be postmarked absolutely no later than midnight, December 31. Additionally, the submitted materials must completely provide



all required information. All required signatures of medical directors, training officers, etc., and all required continuing education and in-service hours must be completed and correctly reported. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to submit recertification materials at least 30 days prior to the expiration of their certification to allow ample time for rectifying any errors or missing components. Failure to completely submit all required documentation for recertification on time will result in the expiration of your certification, prohibiting you from providing professional medical care as a certified professional. Practicing with an expired certification is a violation of Indiana Administrative Code and punishable by up to a \$500 fine per occurrence, suspension, and in some cases, complete revocation of your ability to administer professional medical care in Indiana. The agency of a first responder, EMT or paramedic practicing on an expired certification may also be found in violation of Medicare and Medicaid laws.

If you do miss the deadline to submit your application for recertification and your certification expires, you can petition the Indiana EMS Commission to extend the deadline. However, this is a procedural courtesy only. All in-service hours must have been completed prior to your certification expiration date. Furthermore, even if the commission allows you to submit recertification materials after the original deadline, your license is still expired between your original expiration date and the day the commission rules to reinstate you. During that



time you cannot administer professional medical care in the state of Indiana.

If you have been charged with criminal activity within the two years prior to your expiration date, you should submit all recertification materials at least 60 days before your certification expires. Recertification is not automatic in these cases and additional information about your charges and court case may be required. Failure to allow adequate time to secure this additional documentation may result in the expiration of your certification and your inability to practice.

Looking forward, IDHS hopes to begin implementing an online recertification process by early next year which we expect to make the process simpler and easier for everyone.

Maintaining high standards of professional emergency medical care in Indiana is a goal we must work toward together. Quality care begins with quality providers. If you have any questions about how IDHS is working to promote excellence among Indiana's emergency medical care providers, please refer to <http://www.in.gov/dhs/2341.htm> and <http://www.in.gov/dhs/2383.htm> or contact Rick Archer at 317-233-0208 or 1-800-666-7784. ■



## EMA SPOTLIGHT—Tipton County

James E. Beeson, has been with the Tipton County EMA since 1980, and served as part-time director since 1988. A retired industrial engineer, Beeson also served as deputy sheriff for more than 5 years.

Beeson oversaw the development of a Pan-Flu appendix to the County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), the distribution of 800MHZ radios to all county fire departments, and is currently working on the county

mitigation plan. Active in the District 6 Planning Committee, Tipton County is part of the 13 county mutual aid agreement.

One of Beeson's daughters is a nurse with Community Hospitals in Indianapolis, and his youngest daughter is a Public Information Officer with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. His grandson just got his MBA from IUPUI and works for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. ■



**James E. Beeson**  
1136 Leininger Dr.  
Tipton, IN 46072  
(765) 675-6938  
IN80601@aol.com

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY WORKSHOPS COMING SOON!

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security cordially invites your organization to the 2009-2010 EMA Workshop/District Preparedness Update to be held in your district. The event will include briefings and interactive discussions on various preparedness topics as well as a question/answer session. The first portion of the day will focus on district issues and activities of interest to all. The afternoon session will focus on information more directly related to emergency management. However, everyone is welcome to stay the entire day.

To register for the workshop, please go online to: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229SHR6FW6P>.

In addition to the Emergency Management Agencies who receive credit toward their assessment, we are encouraging participation from the following entities:

- Elected Officials
- Fire Chiefs – Career/Volunteer firefighters
- County Commissioners
- Law Enforcement Leadership
- Emergency Medical Service Directors
- District Planning Council Members
- District Task Force Leadership
- District Planning Oversight Committee Members
- Local Emergency Planning Committee Members

See the below schedule for your district's workshop.

December 15th – District 1  
 December 16th – District 2  
 December 17th – District 3  
 January 7th – District 7  
 January 8th – District 4  
 January 12th – District 5  
 January 14th – District 6  
 January 20th – District 9  
 January 21st – District 8  
 January 22nd – District 10

For workshop locations and a tentative agenda visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/files/workshops.pdf>  
 For all other questions contact Rachel Miller at [Rachelmiller@dhs.in.gov](mailto:Rachelmiller@dhs.in.gov), or 317.232.6209. ■

## NEW TO IDHS

Scott Perez, an experienced architect, is Indiana's newest building code compliance officer. He will oversee building construction and fire code enforcement, elevator and amusement ride inspections, review of construction plans, and boiler and pressure vessel inspections for IDHS. He also will coordinate enforcement efforts with all divisions of IDHS and other state agencies.

"We are pleased to have Scott join the team at IDHS," said Joe Wainscott, executive director of IDHS. "His experience and creativity will be a great asset to the building safety branch of IDHS."

"Scott has developed a strong professional relationship with the community that he has served," said Jim Greeson, State Fire Marshal and Fire & Building Safety Division Director at IDHS. "We look forward to his expertise in architecture, as well as his skills in leadership,



business management and development, project management, and process development. He will be a great asset to the citizens of Indiana." ■



## Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Leadership for a Safe and Secure Indiana

302 West Washington Street  
 Indiana Government Center South  
 Room E208  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204  
 (317) 232-3980 or (800) 669-7362



The Hoosier Responder is a publication of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Public Information Office at (317) 234-6713 or [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov).

# IDHS: Leadership for a Safe and Secure Indiana