

Safeguarding Hoosiers by Planning, Preparing and Responding

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The Hoosier Responder

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Better Fire Safety in Hotels Saves Lives

As the summer months approach, Hoosiers hit the road to conferences and on vacations. During this time, many will be staying in hotels, motels or condominiums. While everyone is there to relax and enjoy their time, it is important to remember fire safety in those temporary housing locations.

The threat of fire may be a remote thought for the seasoned business traveler, but the fact is, when staying overnight at even the nicest of establishments, you may be at a greater risk than you ever imagined. The U.S. Subcommittee on Science, Research and Technology

finds that as many as 85-percent of hotels in the United States lack fire sprinkler systems.

Each year, more than 32 million fires strike American homes, hotels and workplaces. A new fire occurs virtually every second of every day, and it is the third largest cause of accidental injury and death in the United States. This is why it is so important to be prepared in the event of an emergency.

Before leaving on your trip, be sure to pack a flashlight and portable smoke detector as well as your travel alarm. The flashlight



serves as a guide through a dark and smoky hall, and a battery-operated smoke detector will alert you to possible fires at night. Remember, do not place the smoke detector near an air conditioner or in front of an air supply duct, as the fresh airflow may prevent smoke-filled air from setting off the alarm.

Once arriving at your destination, it is important to become familiar with the surroundings. Be sure to read the fire evacuation

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From the Director's Chair



Recovering from an emergency or disaster has many important tasks, however, one of the most important is damage assessment. Damage assessments of both public and private non-profit and individual homes determine the subsequent types of federal/state assistance that is available. Each type of assessment is designed to quantify the eligible amount of damage to a community.

Damage assessments can take days and sometimes weeks. High flood waters can delay a damage assessment because it can be difficult to

access those areas until flood waters recede. The damage assessment teams we had in place earlier this year for flooding in Northern Indiana spent 4 weeks on the ground looking at homes and assessing damage.

Damage assessments are a joint effort among local, state and federal officials. Capable damage assessment teams are necessary to conduct an accurate damage survey. These teams should be identified and trained prior to a disaster so they will be ready when needed. Oftentimes, damage

assessment teams are comprised of:

- City and county engineers
- Utility company personnel
- Police and fire officials
- Property appraisers
- Building inspectors
- Health officials
- IDHS response personnel

The composition of these teams will vary depending on the severity, type of damage, and the availability of

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Catastrophic Earthquake Planning Project

By: Phil Roberts

Indiana lies within two earthquake seismic zones: the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) and the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone (WVSZ). Both zones have produced significant earthquakes, with New Madrid having the most notable quakes which were the events that produced some of the most powerful earthquakes in U.S. history. There were three quakes during the winter of 1811-12 that measured 8.0 on the Richter scale. Scientists predict that, over the next 50 years, there is 7-10% chance of a 7.7-8.0 and a 25-40% chance of a 6.0 or larger earthquake in the NMSZ.

Both of these seismic zones remain very active with hundreds of small earthquakes (1.0-2.5 magnitude) every year, with larger tremors occurring from time to time as evidenced by the April 18th 5.2 WVSZ

quake. Although this quake did little damage, it brought to the forefront the fact that we need to be prepared for a larger event. As a point of comparison, if it had been a 6.2 magnitude, it would have been at least 30 times more powerful and much more significant damage would have occurred. As a further comparison using today's standards, we can see the tremendous numbers of injuries and deaths, as well as the massive destruction caused by the May 12th 7.9 earthquake in China. This magnitude is comparable to the 1811-12 New Madrid quakes.

Following two of the most recent catastrophic disasters, 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, FEMA launched the NMSZ Catastrophic Earthquake Planning Project in the latter part of 2006. The project is the single largest

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Amusement Ride Safety Sticker



The elevators and amusement ride section of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Fire & Building Safety Division inspects amusement rides at least once annually to ensure compliance with state rules and regulations. Before operating any amusement device or ride, the operator must obtain a permit from IDHS. If the sticker above does not appear on the amusement ride, it has not been cleared from IDHS. If you spot a ride without the sticker, you are encouraged to call (888) 203-5020. Each sticker is good for one year from the date shown.

Remember, being inspected DOES NOT guarantee that the ride is being operated safely, or in the case of inflatable rides, that the ride has been installed correctly on the site.

How You Can Conserve Fuel

It doesn't seem so long ago that gas was 20-25 cents per gallon and \$5 could fill up the tank, however this is no longer the case. As gas reaches \$4 per gallon, the high cost is affecting nearly everything we do and our personal budgets most of all. This is also true for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). IDHS has many state owned vehicles so that we can provide the services required of us.

The following list provides good habits to help keep the cost of fuel down for our agency. IDHS has a limited amount of funds to operate and every dollar we spend on fuel is one less that is available for other things needed. Each extra mile per gallon adds up and helps keep the fuel cost down for our agency.

By choosing the most efficient vehicle that meets your needs, you can save \$200-\$1500 in fuel costs each year.

Follow these 10 helpful tips to stretch fuel economy on your vehicle.

1. Keep your car maintained. Change your oil and fluids regularly, keep oil filters clean and schedule a tune up. A well-tuned engine will burn less fuel. Make sure that the tires on your car are inflated to the maximum limit and that your wheels are properly aligned. Under-inflated tires waste fuel and wear out the tire tread.
2. Fill up in the morning - cooler gasoline is more compact, so you'll get more bang for your buck! Also, be sure to secure the gas cap, as fuel can evaporate easily.
3. Added weight lowers fuel economy, so take out unnecessary items that may be weighing the car down. It doesn't take much to acquire an extra 40-50 pounds of "stuff."
4. Avoid having your car sit and idle. Start it only when everything is packed in the truck and you're ready to go. If you have to wait for



more than two minutes, it is cost efficient to shut off the engine. Restarting burns less fuel than idling for extended periods of time.

5. Obey posted speed limits; fuel economy decreases substantially at speeds over 60 miles per hour. As a rule of thumb, you can assume that each 5 mph over 60 mph is like paying an additional 20 cents per gallon for gas. Also, remember to set your cruise control to maintain a constant speed, which in most cases, saves gas.
6. If your car has overdrive, use it! When you use overdrive gearing,

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EMA Spotlight



Hamilton County

David Bice is the Executive Director of the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency. He started this position on April 21, 2008. He began his career as the Hamilton County EMA Deputy Director in March 2001, Interim Director in March 2004, and the Director of Operations in March 2005.

He is certified by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security as a Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) and a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Instructor, is certified by the US Department of Homeland Security as an Instructor for National Weapons of Mass Destruction Standardized Awareness Training, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He is a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers, the National Emergency Management Association, and the Indiana Emergency Management Alliance. He is an FCC licensed amateur radio operator with the call

sign KC9AMV.

While serving as a volunteer member of the Cicero Fire Department from 2001 – 2005 he was certified in 24 Hour Mandatory, Basic Firefighter, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Firemedic II, and HAZMAT Operations. He was also an EMT-Basic with certifications from the State of Indiana, the State of Michigan, and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

Bice was a Combat Medical Specialist in the United States Army from 1987-1996. He served with the 1st Infantry Division in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield and on the front lines in Kuwait and Iraq during Operation Desert Storm. He is a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6246 and is also a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 450 and the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 540 in Noblesville.

He is an avid motorcycle enthusiast



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and his other hobbies include hunting, fishing, and SCUBA diving where he is certified in Open Water, Advanced Open Water, and Diver Propulsion Vehicle specialty.

David is married with three daughters and is soon to have seven grandchildren.

Madison County

The Madison County Emergency Management & Department of Homeland Security Agency (MCEMA) is responsible for protecting the residents and property of Madison County from natural, man-made or technological disasters. The agency is led by C.R. "Dick" Brown, who is the executive director. Brown began his EMA career in 1964 as a volunteer. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1965 serving 3 years as a radioman aboard the U.S.S. York County. He was hired by General Motors as a laboratory technician in 1969. He worked his way up to senior management and retired from Delphi Corporation in 2003 with 33 years of experience, 25 years was spent as a manager of several departments.

Brown was hired by Madison County in

1971 as a part time administrator for Civil Defense. He became Director of Emergency Management in 1985. After he retired from Delphi Corp. in 2003, the county made him a full time director and is currently serving as executive director.

Reporting to the executive director is the staff, which is comprised of 7 Division Directors. The agency is divided into 8 divisions: Operations, Warning, Communications, Hazardous Materials, Emergency Operations Center, Fire Investigation, Training, and Public Affairs. There are approximately 150 volunteers who are assigned to one or more divisions within the agency.

The Operations Division is supported by approximately 30 members who provide traffic control, site security and landing



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zones when requested. This is our busiest division, averaging 2-3 calls per week in Madison County. Year to date, the Operations Division has been

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Studying For a Certification Test

By: John Buckman

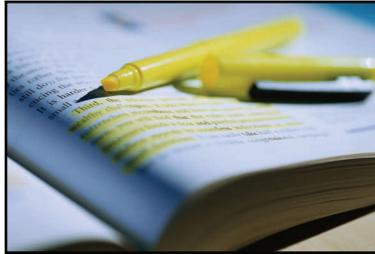
An individual who desires to be certified by the Board of Firefighter Personnel Standards and Education (BFFPSE) must attain a score of 70% or higher on the written test and successfully complete to standard, 100% of the practical skills.

The written test questions for every certification are based upon the objectives in the appropriate NFPA standard. It is important to review the objectives for the certification category you are testing. Test questions are validated by finding the conclusion/answer in at least two publications.

When it comes to preparing for written exams, students must plan their study time, use specific study strategies and have the right motivation. Unfortunately, many students come to a class lacking good skills in this area. The instructor should be aware of how this will impact the final scores achieved on the written test.

While recently watching one of my firefighters study for a firefighter I/II exam I realized he was not aware of what he needed to study. I asked what he was doing. He said, "studying for my

firefighter I/II exam." I realized what he was doing and he answered my question, but he did not understand the reason behind the question. I asked him again what he was studying and he again repeated his previous answer. I then explained to him how he could be studying for this exam. I asked if he realized the answers to the questions are in the book he was reading, but the questions and



answers are tied to the objectives. He did not understand my question. I explained the purpose of the objectives at the beginning of the chapter and how those objectives resulted in test questions. The answers to the questions on a test are in the objectives, usually spelled out at the beginning of each chapter of the book used in the curriculum.

The majority of firefighter test taking success is due to motivation and time

management. Anyone who tells you they can get through firefighter I/II without studying, or that they make great grades without studying, is pulling your leg. These tests are difficult. These tests require you to study regularly. Success takes effort.

This means that if you want to do well you must be willing to set aside time to study. You may have to sacrifice at times.

How often have you heard (or said), "I don't understand why I failed that exam?" Students put in time studying and wonder how much time will ensure they will pass. Time studying is not the issue if you are studying the wrong thing. Students must study with purpose. Reading the written text on the page isn't adequate. You need to engage your senses so the information will "stick" in your brain.

When you take a written test.

- You are demonstrating your ability to understand course material.
- Successful test taking avoids carelessness.

Employee Spotlight - Stan Capobianco

Charles Stan Capobianco is a hazardous material specialist for the Fire & Building Safety Division of IDHS. He is fairly new to the department as he began his current position on March 17, 2008 after serving 31 years with the Terre Haute Fire Department.

Capobianco's primary responsibilities include providing assistance 24/7 to support local emergency agencies during major fires, hazardous material incidents, and suspected terrorist attacks from chemical or biological agents. He also provides real time air monitoring to help the local community to establish a working evacuation plan. Capobianco assists with IOSHA

(Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration) compliance and



develops an incident action plan to safely bring the incident under control. He provides technical advice of new technologies to protective clothing, spill

containment and abatement procedures.

Capobianco's favorite thing about his job is meeting and interacting with all emergency agencies and providing a resource for them to call upon.

Fishing with friends, hiking, camping and riding his bicycle are things that Capobianco enjoys. He describes his favorite food as pie stating he has three favorites... hot, cold and any.

Capobianco lives in Terre Haute and has two daughters and two beautiful granddaughters.

What is 28 CFR Part 23?

In helping to maintain its motto of "Sharing Intelligence for a Secure Indiana," the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center (IIFC) strives for mission accomplishment by thorough and complete intelligence operations. To ensure that the privacy and constitutional rights of individuals are protected, the IIFC is governed by federal and state regulations. In this article, 28 CFR Part 23 will be discussed.

28 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 23 is a guideline for criminal justice agencies that operate federally funded multi-jurisdictional criminal intelligence systems. It contains implementing standards for operating federally grant-funded multi-jurisdictional criminal intelligence systems. It specifically provides guidance in five primary areas: submission and entry of criminal intelligence information, security, inquiry, dissemination, and the review-and-purge process.

28 CFR Part 23 standards apply to all multi-jurisdictional criminal intelligence systems operating under Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended.

The IIFC collects and maintains criminal intelligence information concerning an individual only if there is reasonable suspicion that the individual is involved

in criminal conduct or activity and the information is relevant to that criminal conduct or activity.

The IIFC is prohibited from collecting or maintaining criminal intelligence information about the political, religious or social views, associations, or activities of any individual or any group, association, corporation, business, partnership, or other organization unless such information directly relates to criminal conduct or activity and there is reasonable suspicion that the subject of the information is or may be involved in criminal conduct or activity.

The IIFC must establish Reasonable Suspicion or Criminal Predicate when information exists which establishes sufficient facts to give a trained law enforcement or criminal investigative agency officer, investigator, or employee a basis to believe that there is a reasonable possibility that an individual or organization is involved in a definable criminal activity or enterprise.

The IIFC is not allowed to include any criminal intelligence system information which has been obtained in violation of any applicable Federal, State, or local law or ordinance. In an inter-jurisdictional intelligence system, the

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Employee Spotlight - Doug Johnson

Doug Johnson is the Station Liaison Commander for the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center (IIFC). He has served the past 17 years with the Indianapolis Metropolitan



Police Department (formerly Indianapolis Police Department), the past 3 have been at the IIFC.

Johnson coordinates the participation of law enforcement agencies within the IIFC and enjoys enabling the sharing of information between public safety agencies.

He says that "as an officer with the Indianapolis Metro PD I have been impressed with the high degree of professionalism I have encountered with my peers at IDHS. Their diligence and resolve have made working as a task force member rewarding and enjoyable."

In his spare time Johnson likes to read, run, golf and SCUBA dive.

How You Can Conserve Fuel

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your car's engine speed goes down. This saves gas and reduces engine wear.

7. Hang with the big rigs! A constant speed keeps shifting to a minimum. It takes much more fuel to get a vehicle moving than it does to keep it moving. Slow and steady saves gas. More fuel is used when hitting the accelerator, lowering your gas mileage by 33-percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.

8. The air conditioner in your car may increase fuel economy in some cases. It is usually more efficient to drive with the air conditioner on when driving at high speeds as closed windows creates less air resistance. Check your owners manual for specific information about your own vehicle's fuel efficiency when operating the air conditioner.

9. Combine trips. If you're planning on visiting two cities in the same county, visit them both on the same day. By taking care of all of your



errands in the same area you'll be visiting, you'll save gas and time.

10. Leave the car at home! Take a bus or carpool to your travel destination. If you're not going far, consider walking or riding your bike.

Employee Spotlight - Ken 'Woody' Woodall

Ken "Woody" Woodall is the Assistant Division Director of Training at IDHS. He has worked for IDHS since December of 2003, but began his current position in April of 2008.

The position of Assistant Director of Training is an integral component to IDHS and the team concept of the Training Division's "Tier Training" initiative. Woody serves as a supervisor



for the tier one, tier two and tier three training, which involves providing comprehensive Homeland Security/Fire Responder guidance, assistance, training, and coordination to districts and counties for the State of Indiana. He serves as the primary point of contact in the absence of the Division Director in order to preserve continuity of operations within the training division.

Woody has served most of his life as a responder in law enforcement and the emergency medical service. He enjoys being able to continue in the public service community.

He likes to engage in the game of golf. He says that he is the Tiger Woody of golf hackers. In addition, Woody enjoys watching most sporting events and states his favorite food is anything on the "Barbie."

Woody graduated from Vincennes University in 1987 where he received his Associate's degree in Law Enforcement. He currently resides in Montgomery County.

Fire Safety in Hotels

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plan carefully (typically on the back of the hotel door), locate the closest two exits from your room, count the number of doors between your room and exits, and locate the fire alarms on your floor. Remember to keep your room key by your nightstand so that you can easily reach it in an emergency, and don't forget to report any unusual behavior or fire hazards to hotel management.

If a fire alarm sounds while on your trip, leave the building immediately. Be sure to take your room key with you, so you can return to your room if the exits are blocked by fire or smoke. Before opening the door to your room, feel around the cracks for heat. If the door is warm, use your second way out or stay in your room and begin procedures for staying put. If the door is cool, open it cautiously and check to make sure your escape path is clear of fire and smoke. Remember, do not plan to use the elevator, as elevator shafts suck smoke and heat upward. If you are able to escape through smoke, get down and crawl under the smoke on your hands and knees to your exit (counting

the doors before an exit is helpful in this case, as you may not be able to see the exit sign.)



If you are unable to escape and are trapped in your room, immediately call the fire department and let firefighters know your exact location. Be sure to shut off fans and air conditioners because they can draw smoke into the room. Wet towels and/or sheets and stuff in the cracks around all doors and vents between you and the fire. If you can, open the window at the top and bottom, but be prepared to shut them if smoke comes into the room. Do not break the glass unless it is absolutely necessary because heavier smoke may begin to enter from the outside. Stand at the window and wave a light-colored cloth or flashlight to signal firefighters that you are in the room.

Keep in mind, no matter what safety measures the hotel and its staff provide, the best protection in a fire emergency is an alert individual who knows what to do in a fire.

Indiana EMT, Volunteer Firefighter to Compete in Miss Indiana

An Indiana EMT, volunteer firefighter and engineering student will compete in the Miss Indiana pageant in June. Tamara Esche from Evansville is a lieutenant on the German Township volunteer Fire Department and a certified emergency medical technician. She also graduated from the University of Evansville with a degree in mechanical engineering earlier this month.

Esche will be competing against 28 other ladies for the title this year. Scholarships are available to ladies competing, and each contestant is required to have a platform. Esche's platform is titled:

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Catastrophic Earthquake Planning

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disaster preparedness project in U.S. history, is fully federally funded and involves eight states (Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama). These same states comprise the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC). CUSEC brought the states together in the 1980s to focus on the New Madrid earthquake threat and is a primary partner in this FEMA project. Joe Wainscott, by his position as the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Executive Director, is a member of the CUSEC Board of Directors.

The mission of the NMSZ project is to increase the national readiness for a possible catastrophic earthquake in the NMSZ. This will be accomplished by developing a number of annexes or supplements to existing base plans for response to and recovery from a series of major quakes in the zone and integrating them into a single document with federal, regional, state and local components. The basis of the planning effort is scenario-driven planning workshops at all four levels of government. All plans developed will be based on the best available methods of estimating physical infrastructure impact, social needs, and response and recovery requirements. Additionally, the project identifies complex response and planning shortfalls for which further attention is required. Specifically, in Indiana, we are including planning for a quake in the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone as well.

In order to accomplish the mission, FEMA embedded senior-level contract planners in each of the eight states. To date, working with the IDHS planning staff, the following preparedness tasks have been completed:

1. Completed and delivered an assessment of the state's current capabilities to respond to a catastrophic earthquake in the NMSZ and WVSZ. This capabilities assessment was based upon

USDHS's Target Capabilities List.

2. Developed a 64-page document, "A Guide for Critical Actions and Considerations for the First 72 Hours after a Catastrophic Earthquake."
3. Developed a document titled "Earthquake Response and Recovery Phases", which breaks down response and recovery efforts into a phased approach.
4. Designed and conducted 6 one-day workshops, the results of which served as a stimulus for the



development of the state's first catastrophic earthquake plan. A total of over 500 attendees from state agencies, along with federal, local and private sector partners attended the workshops which focused on the following topics:

- Direction and Control
- Damage Assessment
- Search and Rescue/ Firefighting/Hazardous Materials
- Emergency Medical and Health
- Mass Care and Shelter
- Safety, Security and Evacuation

From information collected at the workshops, a 136 page document that included annexes for each of the workshop topics was developed and distributed. These annexes are

included as a part of the present version of the state's Catastrophic Earthquake Operations Plan. These annexes cover the first two response phases (event occurrence through 10 days – prior to the arrival of significant federal resources) and focus upon life-saving and life-sustaining actions.

5. Conducted a two-day planning workshop for the counties in IDHS District 10 (Southwestern Indiana) with 159 attendees. This District would be the state's most significantly affected area should we have a quake in the NMSZ or WVSZ and includes Vanderburgh County (Evansville) and 11 other counties.

Upcoming projects include:

1. Conduct a two-day planning workshop (May 20-21, 2009) for counties in IDHS Districts 5, 7, 8 and 9. Invitees will include representatives from 35 counties that would have at least minor damage from a NMSZ or WVSZ event.
2. Conduct a one-day planning workshop (June 17) for the counties in IDHS Districts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 (northern and east central Indiana). Invitees include representatives from 45 counties. This workshop will focus on resources that could support the state's response to a quake in SW Indiana.
3. Work with FEMA Region 5 personnel to plan and conduct a federal regional planning workshop to be conducted in October, 2008 in Indianapolis.
4. Continue plan development and refinement for the state, as well as local plans, which will culminate in an 8-state NMSZ exercise in 2011 (the 200th anniversary of the 1811 NMSZ catastrophic earthquakes).

Korean Firefighter To Visit IDHS

Through a short-term foreign training program, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) will host a South Korean firefighter. Kim Gyeong Lim will be a visiting staff member from July 1 through November 30, 2008.

Lim will learn the American K-9 training policy with on the spot experience and research by attending courses and seminars. He will also research and study the training policy and the criteria of evaluation of K-9. Lim hopes to learn the management of K-9 training centers by visiting public and private organizations.

IDHS Search and Rescue Training Manager, Lillian Hardy will be Lim's immediate mentor while he is in



Indiana. Lim will temporarily join the staff of the IDHS Search and Rescue Training Center located at Camp

Atterbury (Edinburgh, Indiana) as a visiting staff member. As a visiting staff member of the training center, Lim will have full access to participate in all scheduled training events, meetings and conferences. He will have access to all areas of the facility and will be assigned such duties to perform as they will be beneficial to his learning experience.

Lim will be available to travel to other states to attend and study with other public safety organizations that are beneficial to his research between training courses and other events IDHS has planned.



From the Director's Chair

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personnel. Each team should have a leader that makes sure the proper forms are collected, maps are marked with identified areas, and transportation is available.

The damage assessment teams will be estimating the amount and type of damage including the number of homes affected and the extent of the damage to those homes. They will also be evaluating the impact on the infrastructure of affected areas or critical facilities such as roads, bridges and state and local buildings. The level of insurance coverage in place for homeowners and public facilities will also be evaluated.

After a disaster, IDHS and Governor Daniels have only 30 days from the time of the event to request a major disaster declaration. This type of disaster declaration is made when hundreds of homes have been either destroyed or suffered severe damage.

While 30 days may seem like plenty of time, it is actually very short, considering the amount of work that must be done. Within this time period, local preliminary damage assessments (PDA) must be completed and

transmitted to the State. Once the PDAs have been completed, the state analyzes the information, determines if thresholds are being met and requests funding from other sources, such as federal, state, and local joint preliminary damage assessment (JPDA). The completed JPDA helps to determine the need for federal supplemental assistance, prepares the background information and identifies all impacts to local jurisdictions, counties and the state.

If the Governor determines a major disaster declaration is not in order, Indiana can apply for the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loan program for up to 60 days after the event.

This low-interest loan program allows homeowners, renters and businesses to apply for disaster loans to repair homes and businesses, replace personal property, inventory, and may provide businesses with economic injury loans. To qualify for the SBA loan program, at least 25 homes and/or businesses in one county must have suffered at least a 40-percent uninsured loss as compared to the fair replacement value.

The third type of declaration is a presidential emergency declaration, which is made for emergency

assistance as a result of disaster, such as a snow emergency declaration. This type of request must be made within 30-days of the event. All data must be collected and analyzed, impacts and/or anticipated impacts must be identified, and any other information that make a case for assistance must be collected and considered.

The damage assessment teams that evaluate the extent of damage and report back to IDHS and the Governor's office are relied upon to provide accurate information. The assessments are essential in determining what happened, what the effects are, which areas were hit hardest, what situations must be given priority and what type(s) of assistance is needed. Emergency response is more effective, equipment and personnel can be better used, and help can be provided faster if a thorough damage assessment is performed.

From the work done by these assessment teams, we have been able to provide the assistance needed to keep Indiana on track. As long as we continue to work together to prepare our families, our communities and to help our neighbors, we will be able to achieve our mission of safeguarding Hoosiers.

Tips for Taking A Written Test

By: John Buckman

Read the directions carefully, twice if necessary.

- Follow the directions.
- This may be obvious, but it will help you avoid careless errors.
- Remind yourself that you are well-prepared and are going to do well.
- If you find yourself anxious, take several slow, deep breaths to relax.

If there is time, quickly look through the test for an overview.

- Note key terms, jot down brief notes.

Answer questions in a strategic order:

- **First easy questions.**
 - To build confidence, score points, and mentally orient yourself to vocabulary, concepts, and your studies (it may help you make associations with more difficult questions).
 - Think! Avoid hurried answers. Guess intelligently.
 - Get all the help you can from "cue" words and phrases.
 - Use controlled association to see the relation of one question to another and with as many important ideas as you can develop.
- **Then difficult questions.**
 - With multiple choice tests, first eliminate those answers you know to be wrong, or are likely to be wrong, don't seem to fit, or where two options are so similar as to be both incorrect.
 - Rephrase difficult questions for yourself. Watch out for "spoilers."



▪ "Spoiler" words are used to distract you from the correct answer.

▪ When you have eliminated the obvious, your choices are usually down to two answers.

- Review the two possible answers for key words associated with the question.
- Use visual representations.
- Try to see the question in visual terms.
- This technique may allow you to re-order the material and "see" it in a different way.

• Review:

- Resist the urge to leave as soon as you have completed all the items.
- Review your test to make sure that you have answered all questions.
- Review your answers to ensure that you have not mis-marked the answer sheet, or made some other simple mistake.

- **Change answers to questions if you originally misread them** or if you have encountered information elsewhere in the test that indicates that your first choice is incorrect.

There is no "one size fits all" when it comes to being successful at taking tests. Each learner and topic is unique and may require a different approach for success.

IDHS Submits Application for Critical Emergency Preparedness and Response Funding

By: Erika Poplar



IDHS recently completed the application for the 2008 State Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) from the US Department of Homeland Security. The HSGP provides planning, equipment, training, exercise, management, and administrative funding to emergency prevention, preparedness, and response personnel, and is a primary funding mechanism for building and sustaining national preparedness capabilities.

"Submission of the HSGP grant is critical for this agency because it makes it possible to purchase equipment and support the resources needed to drive emergency preparedness and response throughout the State of Indiana," said Joe Wainscott, executive director of IDHS. "This funding not only drives state initiatives, but is also awarded to counties and other jurisdictions to meet their particular needs at the local level."

HSGP also supports the implementation of state homeland security strategies and key elements of the national preparedness architecture, including the National Preparedness Guidelines, the National Incident Management System, and the National Response Framework.

Over 120 state and local partners have requested grant dollars from the HSGP this funding cycle, and awarded funds will support a variety of programs and purchases like communications equipment, hazardous materials response, emergency center operations, disaster planning, and terrorism prevention.



Employee Spotlight - Nicole Baker

Nicole Baker is an account clerk within the Support and Services Division. Baker has been with the Indiana

Department of Homeland Security for more than 1 year in her current position.

Baker is responsible for accounts receivable and also serves as the mileage coordinator. She says her favorite thing about her job is assisting the State of Indiana.

In her spare time Baker enjoys reading, and her favorite foods are pasta and Mexican.

Madison County - EMA Spotlight



(Continued from page 3)

requested 91 times. We can provide generators, light towers, portable cascade system (SCBA refill), CERT members, and search and recovery.

The Warning Division is responsible for providing advance alert and notification to the community when severe weather or other significant events are occurring. The Warning Division works very closely with the National Weather Service and our Communications Division, which is responsible for tracking severe weather in Madison County. The Warning Division provides alert and notification via approximately 50 tone alert receivers in Madison County. MCEMA encourages businesses and industries to purchase tone alert receivers on our network as a means of enhancing the warning network in Madison County. In addition to the tone alert receivers, the Warning Division also activates outdoor warning sirens in various communities.

The communications division consists of approximately 50 amateur radio operators who also serve as StormNet observers. The RACES/Communication team members assist with emergency communications, as well as providing support communications during walk-a-thons, runs, and other community oriented events. The Communication Division also helps to maintain our 6 UHF repeaters, 7 UHF Simplex channels, 2 VHF Fire Ground repeaters, 3 VHF Simplex channels, and 2 Amateur Radio repeaters. In addition to these communication tools, we also utilize our

own Madison County 800 MHz law enforcement radio network and the State of Indiana SAFE-T network. The Communication Division also provides drivers and support for the Mobile Communications Unit.

The EOC team has recently been formed as a management tool to aid the incident command team with NIMS documentation, compliance and WebEOC management. The EOC team can function at the Emergency Operations Center or in the field at the Mobile Communications Unit. The EOC team is responsible to maintain the WebEOC system for all of the incident commanders to utilize as a resource of information. WebEOC is used as the primary documentation system and communication system internally in Madison County. WebEOC is only secondary to our 800 MHz, UHF and VHF Radio network used by public safety.

The Hazardous Materials Unit took possession of a new Hazmat / Cobra truck in 2005. This new truck has enabled this team to expand its responsibility to all of District 6. The Hazmat team has approximately 24 technicians and 10 operations level trained members who are also local firefighters in Madison County. The Hazmat team has two decontamination tents which can be deployed if necessary. Various fire departments in Madison County work with our hazmat team to train and provide support personnel during team callouts. The Hazmat team has been called or placed

on standby to assist several of the counties within District 6.

The Training division coordinates training, certification, and exercises for not only the members of EMA, but also local emergency responders in Madison County. Each member of the agency has completed NIMS 100, 200, and 700. In addition, EMA sponsored a NIMS 300 level training for our division directors, selected chiefs as well as surrounding police, fire and EMS agencies. MCEMA works very closely with our emergency responders to coordinate 3-4 table top exercises and at least 1 full scale or functional exercise each year to ensure our readiness is at the highest level possible.

To wrap up some of the other divisions of the Madison County Emergency Management Agency; the public affairs division is responsible for coordinating and disseminating all external press releases for the agency. In addition, EMA also has a fire investigations unit which is made up of firefighters and police officers from Madison County who are trained fire investigators.

The members of the Madison County Emergency Management and Department of Homeland Security Agency take great pride in our responsibilities, assignments and the partnership we have formed with local emergency responders in Madison County and the State of Indiana.

Updates to Codes



The Indiana building, fire, mechanical and fuel gas codes will all be effective on June 16, 2008. Visit the [IDHS website](#) to see the revised codes.

What is 28 CFR Part 23?

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project is responsible for establishing that no information is entered in violation of Federal, State, or local laws, either through examination of supporting information submitted by a participating agency or by delegation of this responsibility to a properly trained participating agency which is subject to

routine inspection and audit procedures established by the project.

The IIFC disseminates criminal intelligence information only where there is a need to know and a right to know the information in the performance of law enforcement activity.

(The Institute for Intergovernmental Research; 28 CFR Part 23)

Employee Spotlight - Carlos Garcia

Carlos Garcia is the Plans Development Branch Chief at the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. He has been in his current position for only one month, but previously worked at IDHS for nearly 6 years.

In his current position, Garcia is primarily responsible for the coordination and development of strategic, operational, and tactical plans for IDHS. He also works to support the planning efforts of our partner agencies at the state level, providing technical assistance and



guidance in development of policies, plans and procedures affecting the activities needed before, during and after an emergency or disaster.

Additionally, he provides support to local jurisdictions and their emergency management agencies, focusing on building a comprehensive public safety framework for Indiana.

Garcia's favorite thing about his position is the opportunity to make positive and real changes that can save Hoosier lives.

In his spare time, Garcia likes to read and fish. He also enjoys public speaking.

Staff Attends Training & Exercise Conference

FEMA's National Training & Exercise Conference for 2008 was held the week of May 12 through the 15th. Ken "Woody" Woodall, Amy Lindsey, Rick Archer of IDHS and Jesus Olvera of the Indianapolis Emergency Management attended the National Conference which highlighted "Partnerships for Success".

The National Conference is a key vehicle to enhance partnerships among officials from State offices of emergency management, FEMA, and other departments and agencies. The conference provided a comprehensive view of the many training programs offered by the Department of Homeland Security that are available to States and their partners.

Several State partners presented sessions on "Best Practices" and served on discussion panels on relevant issues facing the emergency management community. Woody Woodall was requested by the National Conference Planning Committee to serve as a speaker during the conference. The topic of this plenary session was Indiana's partnership with US NORTHCOM during the planning and execution of the National Level exercise

Miss Indiana Pageant

(Continued from page 6)

"RESCUE: Raising Education to Save Children Among Us Everywhere."

Under this platform, Esche hopes to work with the Indiana coroners and medical care givers to raise awareness of children and infants dying from positional asphyxiation (including Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). She plans to work with fire departments across the state to implement programs similar to the education programs she created in German Township, encouraging children to "crawl low under smoke" and "Stop. Drop. Roll." if their clothes catch fire.

Esche has been competing in pageants since she was 7 years old and says she was very shy growing up, and pageants helped her overcome it. She became interested in Miss America when she realized she could earn scholarship money for school and improve herself at the same time.

"Ardent Sentry" which was conducted in May of 2007.

The National Conference clearly focused on continuing the journey of advancing professionalism in the field of emergency management.

To review the conference agenda and presentations visit [FEMA's website](#).

"She is a beautiful young woman, but she also is not afraid to get down in the mud and get dirty, as firefighters are required to do," said John Buckman, fire training director at the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

"There's not much that grosses me out or scares me anymore," said Esche. "I get to help people. It's hard to describe how it feels to help people who can't help themselves."



Photo submitted by Tamara Esche

Esche says she continues to compete in pageants because it gives her a chance to meet new people and challenge herself, not to mention let the girly-side of her come out. Esche

won the title of Miss Ohio Valley in November, which sealed her place in the Miss Indiana competition.

"I'm most looking forward to the opportunity to be Miss Indiana and get exposure for my platform," said Esche. "I'm also really looking forward to the evening gown portion because my dress is amazing!"

As far as her goals for the pageant, Esche said, "My number one goal is to win some scholarship money to help with school. I also hope to win one of the community service awards for my work as a volunteer firefighter and EMT."

The Miss Indiana contest will be held June 16-21 in Zionsville.



Mark Your Calendar!

JUNE

- 3- Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission
Indiana Government Center South
Conference Center Room B
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 4- Indiana Boiler & Pressure Vessel Rules Board
Indiana Government Center South
Conference Center Room 12
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 4- Counter-Terrorism & Security Council (CTASC)
302 W. Washington St., Indianapolis
Conference Room TBD
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- 6- Indiana Elevator Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission
Indiana Government Center South
Teleconference Media Center
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 14- Search & Rescue Training Advisory Committee
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- 17- Indiana Homeland Security Foundation
Indiana Government Center South
Conference Room 17
302 W. Washington Street
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 19- Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education
Belterra Casino Resort
777 Belterra Dr., Vevay, IN 47020
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

25- EMA Conference Call
Call Originates at the IDHS Planning Division
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

27- Indiana Elevator Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Meeting
Indiana Government Center South
Teleconference Media Center
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

15- Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program Financial and Performance Reports
Quarterly Reports are Due
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

18- Indiana Elevator Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Meeting
Indiana Government Center South
Teleconference Media Center
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

18- Higher Education Advisory Board
Ball State University
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

28- Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education
Lafayette Fire Department Training Center
2070 S. 500 East, Lafayette, IN 479001
6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

30- EMA Conference Call
Call Originates at the IDHS Planning Division
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



JULY

- 1- Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission
Indiana Government Center South
Conference Center Room B
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 2- Counter-Terrorism & Security Council (CTASC)
302 W. Washington St., Indianapolis
Conference Room TBD
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- 14- Indiana Emergency Response Commission
Indiana Government Center South
Conference Room 1
302 W. Washington St., Indianapolis
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.



The Indiana Department of Homeland Security information board lists the latest activities that each Division would like to pass on to you. The [information board](#) is updated frequently and we encourage you to check it often.



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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 IDHS Public Information and Outreach Office at (317) 232-8303.