



Hoosier Responder

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE FORUMS TO ASSIST WITH INFORMATION SHARING

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) forums will be held across the state to introduce EMS stakeholders to EMS officials with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

“These forums will serve as an information sharing platform,” said State EMS Director Rick Archer. “We hope to gain a better understanding of issues that affect our EMS Community; and we hope that attendees gain a better understanding of state initiatives designed to enhance the ability to provide optimal emergency medical service across the state.”

The forums will inform stakeholders of initiatives relevant to providing emergency medical services and allow for EMS stakeholders to share ideas and suggestions with state EMS officials.

“The forums will be used as part of an overall study of the state’s EMS system that will culminate in a two-day workshop, which will assist the EMS Commission in setting priorities. This will lead to a long-term strategic plan for improving EMS across the state,” Archer said.

The forums will be held through September and October for all EMS stakeholders including

providers, training institutions, sponsoring hospitals, medical directors, emergency room (ER) staff, first responders, all-levels emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics, primary instructors (PI), and local government officials. For more information contact Rick Archer at rarcher@dhs.in.gov.

Dates of Forums by District

District	Date
1	9/28/2010
2	9/29/2010
3	9/30/2010
4	10/8/2010
5	9/21/2010
6	10/18/2010
7	9/10/2010
8	9/15/2010
9	10/14/2010
10	10/15/2010

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From the Director’s Chair-Executive Director Joe Wainscott INDIANA’S MOVE OVER LAW REQUIRES DRIVERS TO SLOW DOWN

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) encourages the safety of all first responders and law enforcement officers who must be the first ones on the scene during an emergency.

In order to allow safe passage on the roadways for emergency vehicles, other motorists must be vigilant and adhere to Indiana’s Move Over Law. This law requires drivers to change lanes or slow down for specified emergency vehicles, including police cars, ambulances, fire and rescue trucks, highway response



vehicles, highway maintenance vehicles, utility service vehicles and tow trucks.

Recently, two changes have been made to this law. The first requires drivers to reduce their speed to 10 mph slower than the posted speed limit and proceed with caution if the driver is unable to safely change lanes. The second change extends the law to include stopped utility service vehicles.

Vehicles that ignored the Move Over Law have killed more than 150 law enforcement officers since 1999, according to a study by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. But statistics are getting better for public safety officers. The memorial fund group identified a 21 percent drop in the number of officers killed in traffic-related incidents from 2008 to 2009.

Decreases in traffic accidents involving emergency vehicles could be attributed to a heightened public awareness of move over laws. A partnership founded by the National Safety Commission in 2007 launched the campaign “Move Over America” which distributes information to Americans about “Move Over” laws and how the laws protect public safety officials who risk their lives to protect the public.

The National Sheriffs’ Association and the National Association of Police Organizations help support this cause. Public safety officials can help continue to decrease traffic accidents by promoting the message of the Move Over Law.

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IDHS PLAN REVIEW ASSISTS JAPANESE COMPANY RENOVATION

With assistance from the Plan Review staff in the Fire and Building Safety Division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), the Japanese company KN Platech America Corp. plans to renovate a facility in Shelbyville to manufacture plastic flex-molded components for Honda, Nissan and Toyota vehicles.

After working with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, KN Platech America was directed to IDHS staff to begin the process of building plan review. The plant is expected to bring 100 to 200 new jobs to Indiana.

"Meeting with developers to explain the state process for construction design release gives Indiana an edge in bringing new businesses to Indiana," said Plan Review Director Bonnie Robison.

Staff reviews plans for construction and alteration of buildings housing the public or employees for compliance with applicable adopted codes and standards, and prepares design releases for approval by the State Fire Marshal. Three main programs are included in this process: project filing, review and release documentation.

"We want buildings built safely," said Robison. "We are willing to work with a company to accomplish this feat."

Plan reviews ensure that construction and

alteration plans are in compliance with building safety code. The reviewer sometimes meets with the company to discuss building plans. Plan review staff look at all aspects of a building project.

Robison says many out of state companies prefer to work with Indiana because of the timeliness and in-person meetings with plan review staff.



Director's Article

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Local emergency management agencies, emergency medical services and fire stations can support one another by promoting the move over law in their own community.

A 2007 national poll supported by the National Safety Commission estimated that 71 percent of Americans have not heard of the Move Over laws.

It is vital that any motorist driving on Indiana roadways adhere to this law, including the newest changes. Those who violate the law may be fined up to \$10,000. A violation that causes damage or injury to emergency equipment or workers can result in a suspended license for up to two years. If unable to change lanes, motorists should avoid coming to a complete stop in the road to avoid a chain reaction crash.

While the first responder's safety is paramount, responders should also be conscious of traffic. Indiana's Traffic Incident Management Effort (InTIME) works with all first responders to reevaluate how roadside response is handled to maintain responder, incident victim and traffic safety. This is particularly important during accident response on the interstate highway where heavy traffic flow is common.

Tom Melville of the Indiana State Police says that the program aims to open traffic lanes more quickly than before to prevent secondary accidents.

Response vehicles at an accident scene should attempt to keep vehicles on one side of the roadway to allow for thru traffic.

FIRE SPOTLIGHT: Lake County

Comprised of 23 full-time employees and 50 paid-on-call firefighters, the Crown Point Fire-Rescue Department in Lake County responds to an average of 3,500 calls for service every year. The combined department includes service in ALS ambulance, fire suppression, rescue and technical rescue including: dive, trench, structural collapse, rope, confined space and Project Lifesaver. Project Lifesaver is a national program for Alzheimer and autism patients. Patients wear a bracelet that emits an electronic signal. When patients wander from home, the department uses tracking equipment to find them.

Michael J. Parks serves as training officer for Crown Point Fire as well as District I training coordinator for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's (IDHS) Firefighter Training System to provide training opportunities for members of fire departments in an organized and consistent



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manner. Parks has saved lives and property during his 20 years in the fire service as a firefighter/paramedic.

Parks is also committed to the development of District I Task Force element response teams such as mass casualty, all hazard incident management, technical rescue, fire suppression, HAZMAT and law enforcement. He works with the District Planning Committee (DPC), District Planning Oversight Committee and the District Exercise and Planning Committee to train and exercise these groups.

"Our department is very supportive of the district response efforts. It is important to extend response efforts beyond our department's jurisdiction to the entire district," Parks said. "These are efforts that IDHS gave the blueprint for and we are applying that outline to develop these teams."*

EMA Spotlight: LaGrange County

Pam Soule became director for LaGrange County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) on January 1, 1999.

Previously, she worked as a project manager for an environmental consulting firm. Her responsibilities included oversight of remediation projects in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and New York. She also led the hazardous materials spill response team and taught OSHA courses.

For the past several years, LaGrange County EMA, along with other county agencies, has participated in numerous exercises to improve the county's response capabilities.

This year, LaGrange County will operate its emergency operations center (EOC) during a county-wide full scale exercise involving a terrorist-based scenario with an improvised explosive device (IED) at the Shipshewana Flea Market.

This exercise will test communications, the



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Incident Command System and EOC operations.

"We minimize the county's vulnerability to hazards by reducing liabilities and through capacity building," Soule says.

Recently, the EMA has completed training with its Incident Management Team. The team assisted the city of Topeka during its 17th annual Horse Farm Progress Day. Soule sees the agency's role as an entity which coordinates, plans and develops a strategy to help all county groups work together more effectively.

After receiving a master's degree in criminal justice with an emphasis in Emergency Management, Soule teaches several undergraduate and graduate courses in emergency management. She enjoys playing with her grandson and supporting her two children in their endeavors.

TRAINING SITE DEDICATED TO HONOR COMMUNITY LEADER

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) helped honor the re-dedication of the Putnam County Emergency Services Training Grounds as the Dr. Alfred Page Emergency Services Training Grounds. This honors Dr. Page's community leadership and life-long dedication to public safety.

Since 1969, Page has taught advanced first aid, CPR and fire training throughout Greencastle and Putnam County, as well as at fire departments in Clay, Owen, Parke and Montgomery counties. Page helped to inspire the concept of the Putnam County training facility to better train area firefighters.

"His many years of devotion to saving lives by training firefighters and EMS first responders for many different situations warrants the fire training site dedication in his honor," said IDHS Chief of Staff Mike Garvey.

Page is one of the founders of Operation Life, which provides ambulance service to the citizens of Putnam County as well as trains students and citizens how to administer first aid to patients and bring them to a hospital for further treatment. After seeing a need for citizens to learn about fire service, auto extrication and technical rescue, he received a degree in fire science from the University of Cincinnati. At the age of 77, Page currently serves as a reserve member and safety officer of the Greencastle Fire Department.



Present at the Greencastle Fire Department (GFD) training facility dedication in honor of Alfred "Doc" Page include, from left, State Representative Nancy Michael, IDHS Training Director Jim Bennett, IDHS Chief of Staff Mike Garvey, Doc Page, GFD Fire Chief Bill Newgent, Mayor Sue Murray, and State Fire Training Director John Buckman

INDIANA ENERGY ASSURANCE PLAN PROTECTS RESOURCES AND CITIZENS FROM HAZARDS

A stimulus grant was recently awarded to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to update the state's energy assurance plan. IDHS recently held an Energy Assurance Conference in June which discussed the protection of Indiana's energy resources.

Indiana has many resources such as coal, petroleum, wind, solar power, and natural gas which provide energy to the state, impacting everything we do, improving, and sustaining life. In the event of a disaster, IDHS works to ensure operability of the utility companies providing the energy from these resources.

"Indiana is susceptible to a number of different natural and man-made hazards, all of which have the potential to disrupt our energy supplies and can impede our ability to respond effectively, save lives and protect Indiana communities," said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott.

The Energy Assurance Plan, developed by the Indiana Office of Energy and Defense Development in 2008, was a huge step in the planning process. It provides information about major energy use sectors and energy providers and serves as a guide for mitigating the potential for and

managing energy shortages. The Energy Assurance Plan makes sure the power plants, pipelines, coal mines, and other energy facilities Indiana citizens rely on are well-protected against natural and manmade threats, and that response and recovery plans are in place in case of emergency.

Without electricity, the ability to accomplish even simple daily tasks is severely impeded. Deprivation of these resources on a large scale or for an extended period of time creates issues of life safety and security for Hoosiers and other Americans.

To protect the critical infrastructure of the power network, IDHS is seeking partnership with power utilities to share information regarding an energy assurance plan. Through the Indiana Energy Association (IEA), IDHS can receive multiple responses from utility companies in one message. Jennifer Richardson heads the coordination with utility companies at IDHS.

"Utility companies are best-situated compared to most businesses to be ready to respond to natural disasters such as severe weather," Richardson said.

Utility companies are asked what resources and emergency plans are in place in the event of a disaster so that IDHS can determine what resources will be needed under extreme circumstances.

IDHS serves as the coordinating entity for state resources. During a disaster, utility companies may need assistance with resources for response such as debris removal. The agency also may bring regulatory relief through other state agencies in the form of fuel or transportation waivers.*



Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman discusses Indiana's Energy Assurance Plan at the June Energy Assurance Conference.

EMS SPOTLIGHT: District 10 EMS Branch

Emergency medical service (EMS) providers in southwest Indiana came together with direction from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) to create a district task force.

The District 10 EMS Branch is led by Nathan Stoermer, a firefighter/paramedic from Scott Township Fire Department. The branch was formed to increase both response capabilities and training opportunities to EMS providers

within district 10, as well as bring public and private providers together to operate more effectively within training or disaster operations.



A mass-casualty scenario takes place in District 10. Six 100-patient mass-casualty trailers were purchased by the District 10 EMS Branch.

The EMS branch supports a hazardous materials decontamination unit, ambulance strike teams (medical task forces), and mass casualty response-triage, treatment, and transport teams to serve all counties of IDHS District 10, which includes Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Martin, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick counties. Using district planning committee funding, the branch purchased six 100-patient mass casualty trailers to place five in counties without hospitals and one at Evansville airport to be used

in the event of an air disaster.

"We are now working with the district hospital group to work in unity with field response," Stoermer said.

The branch provides several training courses available to the EMS providers in the district. Courses include EMS incident command during mass casualty incidents, weapons of mass destruction awareness, incident command systems, and incident response to terrorist bombings awareness. The task force is currently developing a training program in hazardous materials decontamination.*

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INDIANA FIREFIGHTERS PARTICIPATE IN WEEKEND TRIP THROUGH NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY SPONSOR

One hundred eleven career and volunteer firefighters from across the state took part in the 2010 Indiana National Fire Academy (NFA) Weekend Trip, held on June 26-27 in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The weekend of training was shared with firefighters from Georgia.

"It is a great opportunity for firefighters to receive training in firefighting related courses from instructors who are experts in the fields they are teaching," said Steve Walters, state firefighter training program manager. "It was also an honor for the firefighters to visit the NFA campus where they are able to visit the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial."

Firefighters participated in courses that included Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I, Methods to Enhance Public

Safety, Training Operations for Small Departments, Leadership II, and Fire Behavior in Single Family Dwellings.



NFA weekend trip attendees pose next to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

Al Putnam, training and safety officer at Greendale Fire Department, participated in the weekend trip. He especially enjoyed the Training Operations for Small Departments course.

"As a code enforcement person, an educator, and firefighter, having delivery of training from a national level reinforces the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) protocols, helping create that great concept, 'we are all in this together,'" said Putnam.

The buses and on-campus meals for each attendee were funded through the Indiana Firefighter Training System, administered by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). The National Fire Academy funded the cost for course instructors, course materials, and lodging on campus.

FEWER FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES REPORTED NATIONALLY IN 2009; NO FIREFIGHTERS DIED ON DUTY IN INDIANA

Firefighter training assists in keeping firefighters prepared for many perils to be faced during a response.

But physical preparation goes farther than training. Firefighters must prepare themselves for the relentless stress and demanding physical requirements of fire duty by staying healthy.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), announces a nationwide drop below 100 in on-the-job firefighter deaths during 2009. There were no firefighter fatalities in Indiana during this year. A report released by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) revealed 82 firefighter deaths in the line of duty.

"The death of one firefighter is one too many. Too many children have been left without a father or mother, and spouses have been left with challenges of raising their family as a single parent," said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "The reduction in firefighter fatalities in 2009 is encouraging. I'm especially pleased that Indiana did not experience a single firefighter fatality during this reporting period."

The total is the lowest since the NFPA recorded 79 deaths in 1993. Firefighters often experience physical exertion and emotional stress while on-duty, which are triggers for a heart attack particularly in persons with existing cardiovascular disease.

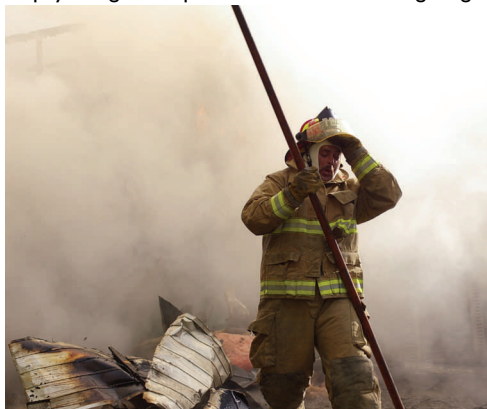
Forty-two percent of on-duty deaths were caused by sudden cardiac arrest, cited as the primary cause of firefighter fatalities in most

years. Risk factors for cardiac arrest include smoking, lack of physical exercise, stress, obesity, diabetes, and family history.

State Fire Training Director John Buckman sees health as an important aspect of a firefighter's professional and personal lifestyle.

"A firefighter's choices will impact the quality of their life in the long term," said Buckman. "The training provided by the State continuously reinforces the safety aspect of tactical operations. Good habits are formed early in a career, and they need to be emphasized continuously by the training officer, company officer and chief officer."

A recent study conducted by Jim Brown, Ph.D., director of firefighter health and safety research at Indiana University-Bloomington observed 56 Indianapolis firefighters to assess their physiological responses to structural firefighting.



The researchers found the primary cause of heart attack deaths associated with firefighting was overexertion in firefighters with existing cardiovascular disease.

"Too little scientific literature exists about the rigors of firefighting," Brown said, "but if we are to prepare firefighters properly to meet the challenge of fighting fire, we must know the extent and character of the stress they endure."

Brown concluded that firefighters should be familiar with the scope of physiological stress experienced at the scene of a fire, the primary contributing factors, and what can be done to alleviate that stress. Contributing factors include the number and frequency of responses, the size of the structure and the amount of fire encountered, the exertion expended, firefighting experience, and individual physical fitness. Brown noted that ultimately, the responsibility for physical preparation lies with the individual firefighter.

"Only firefighters can alleviate the extraordinarily high heart attack rate within their population. The responsibility for physical preparation lies with the individual firefighter. No department, union, or other organization is going to do it for you," Brown said.

All of this data highlights the need for wellness-fitness programs and health screenings for firefighters across the nation. Local fire departments can assist firefighters in this effort to stay healthy by promoting health screenings and encouraging positive lifestyle choices such as a healthy diet and exercise.

COMMITTEE ADVISES STATE EMS COMMISSION

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security's (IDHS) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Commission is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of an effective system of emergency medical services.

The commission ensures that all emergency patients receive prompt and adequate medical care, which includes having the necessary equipment, personnel and facilities available.

The governor recently appointed members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), created by the state legislature to advise the state EMS Commission in the development of rules regarding EMS. The committee held its first meeting in June to discuss proposed rules by the EMS Commission and how these rules

will affect the EMS community.

TAC members are subject matter experts in the areas of EMS. Members include Faril Ward, Stephen Cox, Charles Ford, Sherry Fetters, Michael Gamble, Valerie Miller, Edward Bartkus II, Sara Brown, John Zartman, Leon Bell III, Michael McNutt, Tina Butt and Elizabeth Weinsein.

The TAC conducts research on proposed rules by forming criteria based on the national standard of care. The committee's main duty will be to discover what implications come with each rule created by the EMS Commission.

Members will compare the benefits of a rule to the fiscal impact on the EMS community. The

first rule to be considered will be the Trauma Rule which is based on the state legislature's requirement to create rules to respond to severe trauma. In Indiana, there are currently two trauma centers, so the EMS Commission is responsible for creating support to get critically injured individuals to trauma level facilities.

The TAC will also be reviewing the new National Standard Curriculum for EMTs and paramedics which all states are recommended to adopt. This rule change would increase the requirements of each level of certification. The EMS Commission depends on the TAC to determine whether rules will successfully enhance the EMS community. •

ALERT PUBLIC TO LOOK FOR UNLICENSED HAUNTED HOUSES

As fall rapidly approaches, building inspectors, public safety officers, and the public are urged to look out for newly erected haunted house structures.

Anyone who operates a haunted house is required to apply for an Amusement and Entertainment permit from the Division of Fire and Building Safety in the State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). To file for an Amusement and Entertainment permit, an operator may file online or download a printable application from IDHS's website at www.in.gov/dhs/2908.

The permit should be visibly displayed, preferably near the structure's entrance. Contact 317.232.2222 if permit is not visible. Prior to opening a haunted house, operators must adhere to building and fire code



requirements. Smoking should not be allowed inside buildings, and signs must be posted to inform customers.

Complete policy information will be updated soon on the IDHS website at www.in.gov/dhs/2376.htm. For more information, contact Fire and Building Safety at 317.232.2222. •



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