

THE **HOOSIER RESPONDER**

AUGUST 2022



SCHOOL SECURITY

Taking a 'whole community' approach to keeping Indiana children safe.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- EMA Response to the 2022 Avian Bird Flu Outbreak
- Zionsville Fire Department Renames Firefighter of the Year Award After Fallen Teammate
- Wake Up! Take EMS Fatigue Seriously
- New Suicide Hotline Number 9-8-8 Is Now Operational
- The Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy Gets IFSAC Accreditation
- FEMA Public Assistance Gets a Significant Boost



CONTENTS

EMA Response to Avian Bird Flu

4

KnowBe4 Services Available Free to Local Governments

6

Conference Registration for IERC

6

Historic Grant Closing

7

Zionsville FD Renames Award After Fallen Teammate

8

Recent Burn Bans in Indiana

9

FEMA Hosting Summer Webinars

10

Wake Up! Take EMS Fatigue Seriously

12

Haunted House Permit Reminder

15

New Suicide Hotline Number

15

School Security Requires a 'Whole Community' Solution

16

Secured School Safety Grant Update

20

Operation Unify Exercise

22

IFSAC Academy Accreditation

23

PFFUI President Motivated by Progress

24

County and State Fair Ride Permits

26

FEMA Public Assistance Gets a Significant Boost

27

Upcoming Trainings

28

Upcoming Events

30



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

All my life, I've had a strong desire to help people, to make a real difference in my community.

Thanks to the recent appointment by Governor Eric Holcomb, I have an opportunity to make life better and safer for Hoosiers as the new Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. This role offers immense potential to build relationships that improve safety and preparedness from hazards across this great state.

This new appointment does not bring any monumental changes to the direction of IDHS. My predecessor and I were on the same page about improving culture and morale from within while serving as a customer-first state agency. IDHS contributes substantially to training, emergency management, building code safety and much more. My previous role as Indiana State Fire Marshal allowed me to witness firsthand the many citizens and communities IDHS impacts through its daily work. This is accomplished through committed state employees with the knowledge and background to understand the public safety community. As an agency, our staff is our greatest resource and our conduit to helping Hoosiers.

As an agency, we will build on the momentum gained from our partnerships and collaborations across disciplines. This includes everyone from public health, public safety, emergency management and EMS. If there is a silver lining to the pandemic, it would be that it highlighted the need to understand our strengths and weaknesses and to train and work together more effectively. Additionally, I will work to ensure Indiana first responders (EMS, emergency managers, firefighters and law enforcement) are *"Stronger together. Always prepared. Ready for the next challenge,"* as the IDHS Vision Statement indicates.

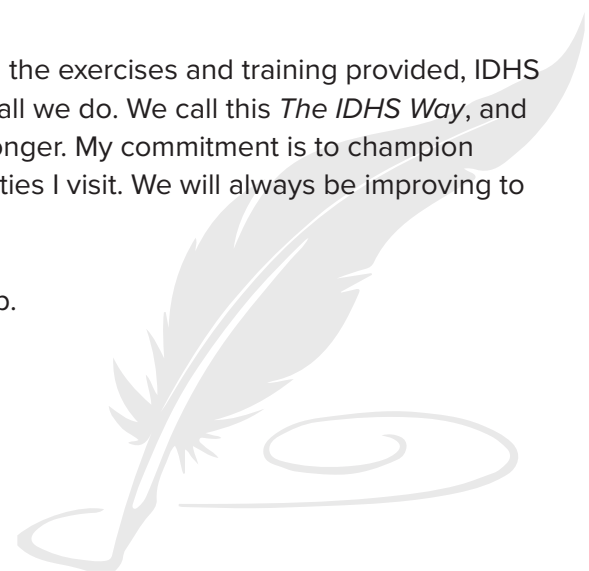
Even amid the chaos we're seeing in the world today, the first responder community is one of steadfast commitment. We saw it during the height of the pandemic, and it continues to ring true. A career in public safety entails a sacrifice for the greater good — the public good — and I'm extremely proud to help continue that tradition as head of IDHS.

Whether it is through federal and state grant expenditures or through the exercises and training provided, IDHS will show up every day and provide Service, Integrity and Respect in all we do. We call this *The IDHS Way*, and we know it makes a difference. It truly does make this great state stronger. My commitment is to champion this role and this agency and listen to and learn from all the communities I visit. We will always be improving to better serve the people of Indiana.

On behalf of all IDHS staff, thank you for your support and partnership.



Joel Thacker
Executive Director





LESSONS LEARNED

2016 RESPONSE TO AVIAN BIRD FLU HELPS INFORM 2022 RESPONSE

Experience makes all the difference when responding to an event in your jurisdiction.

It is why firefighters and EMS personnel go through hours of training before their first official day on the job. The IDHS Training Section offers emergency management and response courses year-round for first responders and Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs). The IDHS Planning and Exercise sections are available to help local governments and businesses set a plan for all types of emergencies, and then exercise those plans to see where the faults are and what can be done better.

Even with all the training, everyone hopes the day never comes when you must put an emergency plan into action.

But in February, Dubois County EMA Director Tammy Humbert got the call that there was a positive test for highly pathogenic avian influenza in Dubois County. “It was

a complete change from what we went through in 2016,” Humbert said. This time, Humbert knew her role in this outbreak: help with the local logistics of the response.

“The poultry industry called me and let me know what was happening. We were all in sync together,” Humbert said. She was tasked with finding a large water supply for the foam used to depopulate the sick animals. It is the sort of thing that people may not know about unless they plan for it or experienced it before.

“So many lessons were learned from the original event in 2016 that it really went like clockwork. Don’t get me wrong. There was a lot of work involved and people were exhausted,” said Humbert.

The 2016 response involved a little more chaos and a massive response. Humbert described getting the call on a Thursday night and being told that hundreds of people were coming to her county that weekend to respond

to the outbreak. She had to act quickly to find an operation center that could hold a large group of people.

“There were 500 people that came into Dubois County that year. Not everyone worked out of the center, but it gives you an idea of the amount of people involved.” Humbert says she and her staff had to learn on the go about the virus, how it spreads and the procedures on how to stop it from spreading.

This time around, Humbert and her team had the background knowledge to anticipate what might be needed. But, while she was ready to go, her involvement was not an all-hands-on-deck type of deal. Humbert says it is because the poultry industry also learned a lesson from 2016.

“I can’t praise the industry enough. It was smooth sailing,” said Humbert. According to Humbert, the poultry industry had procedures in place in 2016, but it learned what did not work, and improved those procedures in preparation for another outbreak.

She added that when the first test came back positive this year, the farms were able to immediately act and isolate and depopulate. Then the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) and USDA came in to assist the farms.

BOAH Communications Director Denise Derrer echoes that praise. “The poultry industry got the message. They’ve stepped it up big time,” Derrer said. The industry used the lessons learned from the 2016 outbreak to review their virus outbreak response plans and even hold full-scale exercises on how to handle a flock that is sick and how to depopulate the flock without the virus spreading to other birds or farms.

“Our agency had a lot to do in this year’s response, but not nearly as much hands-on at the affected sites,” Derrer said. BOAH’s response was smaller this year



2016 ICP Team

even with the virus popping up all around the state and not just in one county like the 2016 outbreak. The commercial poultry sector’s planning allowed BOAH to focus on coordination of the response and testing neighboring farms as part of the required control area. Far, far fewer federal responders were needed.

Derrer says the poultry industry should be an example for other big

commodities in the state. Indiana has cows, pork and more. BOAH urges these industries to consider the worst-case scenario when it comes to a virus outbreak and start planning for it. It is not just about isolating the animals and depopulating the sick ones; but the industries also need to have a plan for disposal.

“We can’t just assume that because the poultry industry figured it out, that a disease event in another species won’t be more severe,” said Derrer.

Tammy Humbert says while the 2016 outbreak was stressful, the experience that all parties gained helped in the long run, even if she was not needed as much this time: “I’m so proud of that because of what we learned in 2016. It makes me happy that when it hit again, we had learned so much that the response went smoothly”

2022 AVIAN BIRD FLU OUTBREAK BY THE NUMBERS

Indiana achieved HPAI-free status on July 21 (commercial sites are free to restock their flocks)

Total number of birds affected in Indiana: Commercial Turkeys: **171,224** / Commercial Ducks: **17,279**

Current counties and number of flocks affected: Allen: **3** / Dubois: **4** / Elkhart: **3** / Greene: **2** / Johnson: **1**

INDIANA RANKING IN NATIONAL PRODUCTION

- #1 Ducks & Veal
- #2 All Eggs
- #2 All Chickens
- #3 Turkeys
- #5 Swine



STATE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES AVAILABLE FREE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

The Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) offers a free online and cybersecurity training module to all local government bodies — the same training program delivered to all state employees.

KnowBe4 is a leading company in cybersecurity training for endpoint users. The program offers free training and phishing simulations organizations can deploy to employees to increase their awareness of malicious threats and attacks. The state of Indiana has been using the service since 2020 and has seen an improvement of cybersecurity knowledge amongst the state workforce. Recently, IOT began offering licenses to any local government body at no charge, with the goal of improving local government employees' cybersecurity awareness while saving local government budget dollars in the process.

The recent offering of KnowBe4 is part of the **IN.Gov Program** that offers local municipal bodies the advantage of utilizing the purchasing power of state

contracts to get reduced costs on technology needs. Additionally, local governments can obtain an IN.Gov domain or email address completely free, while also gaining all the built-in cybersecurity features of the state-managed platform. Low-cost website options also are available for enhanced functionality, including fully hosting a website for as little as \$50 a month.

Any municipal corporation is able to take advantage of the award-winning services and resources offered by IOT, including local government, school corporations (via the Indiana Department of Education), library districts, local housing authority, fire protection districts, public transportation, airport authority or special taxing districts.

To learn more about the free or low-cost technology services, contact Taylor Hollenbeck at IOT at thollenbeck@iot.in.gov.

KnowBe4
Human error. Conquered.

REGISTER FOR THE 2022 INDIANA EMERGENCY RESPONSE CONFERENCE

Registration is open for the [2022 Indiana Emergency Response Conference](#) (IERC). The conference runs Sept. 21-24 at a new location:



Indianapolis Marriott East
7202 East 21st St.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46219

IDHS will be well represented at the conference with speakers including Executive Director Joel Thacker, State EMS Medical Director Dr. Eric Yazel, State EMS Director Kraig Kinney and more.

The IERC has extended the deadline for award nominations to Aug. 17. The [Leadership in Fitness Excellence \(L.I.F.E.\) Award](#) and the [IERC Award](#) are based on the individual's or overall organizational contributions, a body of work or sustained performance and no one single act of heroism. Questions can be directed to dhenson@indfirechiefs.org.

Additional conference information and registration can be found on the IERC's webpage. Final date to [register](#) for the IERC is Sept. 23, 2022.



HISTORIC INDIANA AND KENTUCKY GRANT CLOSING

In July 2017, FEMA announced it designated nearly \$36 million in funding for the Program to Prepare Communities for Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks (CCTA Program). CCTAs are violent assaults or series of assaults by one or more individuals or groups using one or more weapons with the intent to inflict harm on large numbers of people. The CCTA Program provided grants to selected recipients to improve their ability to prepare for, prevent and respond to complex coordinated terrorist attacks in collaboration with community partners. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) was one of those recipients.

IDHS leadership collaborated with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the Louisville Metro Government to write the grant with Indiana as the lead and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Louisville Metro Government as the co-grant recipients. The team was awarded \$2,024,000 to execute an exercise to enhance preparedness for CCTAs.

This grant took five years to complete due to the constraints of the pandemic. Janice Lee, the project manager of the IDHS Planning Section, said "when COVID hit, it made it difficult for public safety personnel to meet to plan, train and exercise; thus, extensions were provided by FEMA to allow the jurisdictions to complete the projects." After many years of hard work, this grant culminated in a full-scale exercise in October 2021 called Operation Thunderstruck.

More than 630 participants from public safety teams across Indiana and Kentucky joined on both sides of the Ohio Riverfront to simulate a response to a terrorist attack during one of the Midwest's most significant spectator events, Thunder Over Louisville. Lee said the purpose of the exercise was to "evaluate player actions against the CCTA Regional Response Plan and the CCTA Family Assistance Center Plan, both identified as gaps within the Gap Analysis."

This grant funding included more than just the exercise. IDHS delivered 27 training courses to more than 500 students across 25 agencies as part of the grant. IDHS also conducted HSEEP-compliant drills, workshops and tabletop and functional exercises before the October full-scale exercise.

Lee said one takeaway of the grant was it "provided a unique opportunity for unprecedented collaboration among regional whole community stakeholders with states and multiple cities to plan, train and exercise for a CCTA."

The program showed the need for "whole community planning," Lee said. This massive undertaking included federal, state and local entities. IDHS State Planning Director and CCTA Project Manager Peri Rogowski and collaborators presented the exercise findings at the National Homeland Security Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, in July.

Lee said that "working together with local, state and federal partners before such an event provides everyone with a better response to save lives."

ZIONSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT RENAMES FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD AFTER FALLEN TEAMMATE

Each year, the Zionsville Fire Department hands out a Firefighter of the Year award, one of the highest honors firefighters can receive at the department. Firefighters who receive the award are recognized for going above and beyond their duties, their professionalism, skills and more.

But this year and beyond, the award carries a special significance. This year the department renamed the award after a fallen firefighter who meant the world to his team. The award is now called the Cody Richardson Memorial Firefighter of the Year Award. Cody Richardson was a Zionsville firefighter and paramedic who passed away in 2013 after completing a shift at the department. His family and coworkers say the impact he left behind cannot be measured.



“We wanted to make the Firefighter of the Year Award more meaningful for our firefighters. So, we decided to honor Cody by adding his name to the award,” said Lt. Steve Hayes. “Hopefully, that will continue Cody’s legacy for many years to come.”

Cody’s family said renaming the award after Cody makes them so proud.

“It was the best thing ever. It was the best thing,” said Cody’s mother Pam Richardson. She says Lt. Hayes brought up the idea to her and her husband over lunch at the firehouse. “Steve told us that they’ve done so many things to honor Cody over the years, but there will be a day when people in this department won’t know him. He said, ‘I don’t want that to happen.’ So, we came up with a way to make sure that doesn’t happen.”

Richardson said this honor follows a special pattern of support from the fire department dating back to when Cody first passed away.

“The night he passed away, we were in the hospital for hours. He had about a hundred people show up to show support for him. Two



guards stayed with him for the entire time,” Richardson said.

The department rotated guards to stay with Cody for the entire week leading up to funeral services. “We just owe them so much thanks. Ever since then, they’ve been like family. I really think they would do anything for us if we asked,” Richardson said.

Twenty-year firefighter Benjamin “Benjy” Johnson was the winner of the 2022 Cody Richardson Memorial Firefighter of the Year Award. The Richardsons were watching as Johnson walked up to accept the award.

“We know Benjy! When we found out it was going to be him, we were so happy,” said Richardson. “We would not have minded who



Photo Credit: Zionsville Fire Dept. Facebook

got it, but to know it was Benjy who got the first award, that made it even more special. He really cared about Cody.”

“I’m a bit older than him, but we lived in the same city, in Lebanon. So, I’ve known his mom, dad and family for a long time,” Johnson said. “Cody had a huge impact on Zionsville Fire. He was very dedicated to his craft and definitely was one of the good guys at the firehouse.”

Johnson says there are a lot of people within the department that have done the work to earn the title of Firefighter of the Year, but “it was really an honor receiving this award the first year that was dedicated to him. It was great that his family attended the ball and were able to be a part of it!”

Renaming the award only seemed fitting to Lt. Hayes. “He was a very active, very healthy, very fit young man. He was very well-liked and a hard worker. His creed that we’ve adopted as our own was ‘No reserves, no retreats, no regrets.’ We’ve taken that as our own and posted it up around our fire department.”

The department has many ways that the team remembers Cody. Teammates posted his creed

around the department weight room, they still keep Cody’s gear rack empty for him and they also created decals of Cody’s badge to put on department and personal vehicles.



Richardson said all of things the fire community has done for her family has brought some comfort after the loss of her son: “Oh gosh, it’s more than I can describe.”

“We are still hearing stories about him. Nine years later, we are still hearing stories. It makes us proud of him all over again.”

RECENT BURN BANS IN INDIANA

In July, Indiana saw more than eight counties issue burn bans after Independence Day weekend due to hot and dry conditions and an increase in brush and wildfires. While some counties since have lifted their bans, burn bans are an important tool to keep in mind this summer. Many counties in the area have not seen significant amounts of rain since early spring. Arid weather also can affect a county’s crops and vegetation output. Putting a burn ban in place helps mitigate potential severe fires while dry weather continues.

Most county burn bans also restrict outdoor burning activities such as campfires, bonfires, unpermitted controlled burns and the burning of trash from a

yard or household. Many counties also ask residents to refrain from using fireworks because the use of fireworks is not covered under the “open burning” provisions of Section 307.1.1 of the Indiana Fire Code.

Any local fire chief can order burn bans for their jurisdiction as well as the local legislative body of a city, town or county. The Indiana State Fire Marshal does not declare local burn bans but does support local efforts to reduce the fire risk escalated by dry weather.

You can find current burn bans on the IDHS website by visiting the [IDHS Burn Ban Map](#).



FEMA

FEMA HOSTING SUMMER MITIGATION WEBINAR SERIES

FEMA is offering webinars to better educate stakeholders about the mitigation programs it offers. The 2022 Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Summer Engagement Series launched this month. The webinars provide detailed information about the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. Stakeholders will hear from speakers with first-hand experience navigating and managing the grant process as well as guided tours to tools and resources to help grant applicants and subapplicants.

The schedule, the description of the classes and the links to register are below.

AUG
11

Mitigating Severe Repetitive Loss and Repetitive Loss Properties

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This webinar will discuss funding available through FEMA's Fiscal Year 2022 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program to mitigate repetitively flood damaged buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Speakers also will discuss strategies in how Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs can be used to acquire or elevate individual residential homes. The session will conclude with community experiences in utilizing HMA funding to address community flooding. [Register](#)

AUG
18

System-Based Mitigation: Building Enduring Community Resilience

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This webinar will discuss the concept of building community resilience at a “systems” level. Vulnerability to natural hazards is complex and influenced by many factors, so system-based mitigation encourages projects that address the interconnectedness and provide benefits to the whole community. The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program supports the use of system-based mitigation approaches in projects by prioritizing equity, addressing future conditions due to climate change, enhancing mitigation planning and building code implementation and enforcement, supporting nature-based solutions and leveraging partnerships. [Register](#)

AUG
23

BRIC/FMA Notice of Funding Opportunity Webinar #1

4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

This webinar will be the first review of the fiscal year 2022 Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for BRIC and FMA. [Register](#)

AUG
25

Application Pitfalls

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This webinar will address common grant application errors and how to avoid them in the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant programs. [Register](#)

SEPT
1

BRIC/FMA Notice of Funding Opportunity Webinar #2

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This webinar will be a review of the fiscal year 2022 Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for BRIC and FMA. [Register](#)

SEPT
15

BRIC/FMA Notice of Funding Opportunity Webinar #3 - Tribal

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This webinar will also be a review of the fiscal year 2022 Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for BRIC and FMA. The content will be tailored to tribal applicants. [Register](#)

SEPT
22

BRIC FY 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity Technical and Qualitative Criteria

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This webinar will provide an overview and information about the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 BRIC Technical and Qualitative Criteria, as outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. [Register](#)

SEPT
29

Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Review 101

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This webinar will provide details on how communities should factor in environmental historic preservation, regulations, executive orders and laws when planning projects. [Register](#)

OCT
4

Using Grant Funding to Build Resilience: The How, When and Where of Applying for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This webinar will provide information and an overview to applicants and subapplicants on how to develop and submit applications for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which includes the HMGP Post Fire program. [Register](#)

NEW MOBILE APP

FEMA released its modernized [FEMA Mobile App](#) that gives users increased personalization options to help them take charge of disasters. The FEMA App allows users to receive real-time weather alerts, send notifications to loved ones, locate emergency shelters and more.

This resource helps users plan, protect and recover from any event. It will help users find out if their location is eligible for FEMA assistance, find Disaster Recovery Center locations and get answers to pressing questions.

The app is FREE to use and download on Google Play and the Apple App Store.



WAKE UP!

TAKE EMS FATIGUE SERIOUSLY

Everyone who serves in emergency medical services knows EMS life is tiring. Working long hours, serving overnight, covering someone else's shift, being on call and jumping between multiple jobs without sufficient sleep are part of the norm. The daily grind can wear out EMS workers, causing performance issues or burning them out to the point they leave the field, which further strains those who have to cover those shifts until replacements can be found.

But it does not have to be this way. The Indiana EMS Commission and Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) EMS Section are

trying to change the expectations for how EMS providers operate so that rest is respected and built into the profession.

In May, the EMS Commission released [seven recommendations for EMS providers](#) to combat employee fatigue. They range from simple mitigation tactics like providing access to caffeine and allowing personnel to nap while on duty to more challenging policy changes like reducing the frequency of non-emergency interfacility transfers overnight or back-to-back long-distance transports. The core guidelines are based on [extensive research and guidelines](#) developed by the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO).

"EMS fatigue has been a timely issue for longer than a short period of time, but it needs to be addressed," EMS Commission Chairman Lee Turpen said. "It is a large, multifaceted issue, and at times may seem impossible to solve. But when we as EMS professionals start to make some changes and make things a little safer in the moment, we start to make the process safer, which leads to better outcomes for patients."

Beyond better quality of life for EMS workers, reducing EMS fatigue is all about reducing the risk of accidents and medical errors. EMS workers in the field must be alert constantly as they make decisions to provide medical

treatments, within minutes or even seconds after assessing a patient's condition. NASEMSO's [main guidelines](#) cited a study that reported fatigued EMS personnel were twice as likely to be injured or make medical errors, and almost four times more likely to engage in safety-compromising behavior, compared to non-fatigued personnel.

IU Health LifeLine moved from 24-hour shifts to 12-hour shifts about five years ago after recognizing increases in call volumes and, in turn, more safety fatigue timeouts, which is when staff members are removed from service so they can sleep if they report not feeling able to safely complete a call. IU Health LifeLine also requires 10 hours of rest before clinical shifts and trainings, and crews cannot be dispatched without on-duty supervisor approval when they are 45 minutes or less from their scheduled shift end.

"We want our team members to be as rested as possible to be able to safely provide high-quality patient care and operate our ambulances," Matt Ramseyer, critical care educator for IU Health LifeLine, said. "One of the less-

tangible benefits is that we are confident that our teams are better rested on their drives home after their shifts now. In some respects, our responsibility to ensure the safety of our team members goes beyond the time clock: We need to make sure they can safely arrive at home after leaving work also."

Some of the recommendations dealing with anti-fatigue policies may be more difficult to implement because health systems sometimes demand ambulance services in order to deal with other issues in the system, such as lack of hospital beds at a facility. A sending hospital may need to free up a bed while a receiving hospital may have an available bed "right now," but that spot will be taken in a few hours if an ambulance crew does not transport a patient within the preferred time window. This means a crew may need to work additional hours to accommodate these requests.

The commission's recommendations do not mandate that EMS crews ban these types of practices, because the EMS Commission recognizes each local EMS system is different and what can work in an area with more EMS workers available may



not be possible in more rural places in Indiana, for example. But the commission does intend for EMS agencies to have serious discussions focused on mutual understanding and building trust, both internally and with partner organizations to instill the importance of boundaries to protect EMS worker well-being.

"Our ultimate goal is the same: good patient outcomes," Turpen said, adding that health partners sometimes do not understand the value of protecting against fatigue, so EMS agencies may need to help educate them and be prepared to stand firm in their decisions not to accept run requests in certain circumstances.

To spread awareness of the need to address fatigue, the IDHS EMS staff developed an hour-long training program titled "EMS Sleep Deprivation," now available on the Acadis Portal. It covers the signs and effects of sleep

(continued on next page)



deprivation, contributing factors and ways to cope. IDHS also will be holding a session at the [Indiana Emergency Response Conference](#) in September called “The Hidden Dangers of Sleep Deprivation and Other Sleep Disorders.”

The trainings will help organizations and individual EMS personnel consider their own fatigue levels, especially for those who work multiple jobs, where their managers may not be aware of their schedule or workload at the other job.

“Individuals should ask themselves, are their own actions putting patients at risk?” Indiana EMS Director Kraig Kinney said.

A free tool EMS workers and schedulers can use to help answer that question is NASEMSO’s [Shift Schedule Fatigue Risk Analyzer](#). It helps determine fatigue risks based on shift work schedules. The tool takes into account the greater levels of risk from working at night, and it offers recommendations to reduce risk, namely getting enough sleep — at night, during days off or through napping.

Underscoring the need to address EMS fatigue, Kinney tells the story of an Indiana EMS driver who was awake and working multiple days in a row due to short staffing. During a run he fell asleep and crashed into a concrete median.

The ambulance was damaged, but fortunately no one was injured. When a new ambulance came to take over the run, surprisingly, the same person was allowed to drive the replacement vehicle.

“It shows how, when we focus on the ambulance ‘being in service,’ we may miss the big picture of serving the public. Don’t we serve the public best when we look at our own risks?” Kinney said. “EMS needs to wake up and realize there’s a risk to employees, equipment and, most importantly, the patients. If we don’t look at the warning signs, then we are at risk of not protecting and helping the patients, which is our key mission.”

SEVEN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMS PROVIDERS

- 1 Implement the use of fatigue/sleepiness survey instruments to measure and monitor fatigue in personnel.
- 2 Implement a policy restricting EMS personnel to work shifts no more than 24 hours in duration, but if more is necessary, limit working hours to a maximum of 48 hours consecutively, followed by at least eight (8) hours of time off from any EMS/fire related work.
- 3 Ensure that EMS personnel have access to caffeine as a fatigue countermeasure.
- 4 Implement policies that allow EMS personnel to nap while on duty to mitigate fatigue, including allowing for sleep throughout the day when duties are completed.
- 5 Implement policies that creates education and training for EMS personnel to mitigate fatigue and fatigue-related risks.
- 6 Implement agreements between medical facilities to reduce the number of nonemergency interfacility transfers between the hours of midnight and 7 a.m., so that overnight transfers are for life-threatening or time-sensitive emergencies only, leaving those that are low acuity to a fresh on-coming crew.
- 7 Implement policies that reduce back-to-back long-distance transports for each crew, including reducing the ability of dispatch to stack calls to avoid a back-log for any crew that prevents a meaningful break or rest.

**Initiatives 1-5 are taken from the National Association of EMS Officials [Fatigue Implementation Guidebook](#).*

HAUNTED HOUSE PERMIT REMINDER



Haunted house operators must get an [Amusement and Entertainment permit](#) from IDHS and allow IDHS Code Enforcement to inspect the premises. IDHS field inspectors are looking for:

- Exit signs installed at all required exit/exit-access doorways.
- Obvious/marked exits located every 50 feet.
- No dead-end corridors.
- Fire extinguishers every 75 feet or less.
- Fire sprinkler systems are required unless the floor area of the haunted house is less than 1,000 square feet and travel distance from any point of exit is less than 50 feet.
- No open flames, temporary heaters or smoking is allowed.
- Automatic smoke detectors are required and must be interconnected.
- Maze areas must be at least 3 feet wide and 5 feet high, and one 4x2x2 section is allowed every 50 feet.
- All materials used must be flame-resistant, or flame retardant, and proof must be shown to code officials.
- Groups no larger than 20 people are allowed at a time and must be supervised by a staff member 18 or older with a flashlight.



SPREAD AWARENESS: NEW SUICIDE HOTLINE

First responders know the 911 number is a crucial tool in saving lives. Now there is another life-changing tool created specifically for those dealing with a mental health crisis.

The New Suicide and Crisis Hotline



When people call or text 9-8-8, they will be connected to trained counselors with the existing lifeline network.

While it is being called the Suicide Hotline, the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) says people in Indiana can reach out to 988 to get help for suicide, a mental health or substance use crisis or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also call 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support. The current long-form phone number 800-273-TALK will continue to be an option.

FSSA is using this 988 update as a jumping board. The agency has big plans to expand this service in the future. Read more about it on the [FSSA 988 website](#).



SCHOOL SECURITY

REQUIRES A 'WHOLE COMMUNITY' SOLUTION

Many Indiana school districts are back in session, and now the clock is ticking for school emergency preparedness plans to be ready.

Within 60 days of the start of each school year, all school districts certify with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) that their emergency plans have been reviewed and revised, if necessary. Within 90 days, schools must conduct an active-shooter drill. These exercises help the community and first responders be on the same page should disaster strike.

“Schools should be involving local first responders, and first responders should be making themselves available by reaching out and offering support,” Steve Balko, director of school building security for IDOE, said. “Children are our state’s most precious assets, and public safety

organizations with expertise in emergencies like fire departments, EMS services and emergency management agencies should all be working together to make sure students and staff are as safe and prepared as they can be if disasters strike.”

On the heels of prominent school incidents, such as the Uvalde, Texas, elementary school shooting, renewed attention has been placed on these preparation efforts. But preparing for and managing emergencies is a continual, everyday experience for Indiana first responders — whether they are law enforcement, fire and EMS services, 911 dispatch centers, emergency management agencies or even health departments. That is why many of Indiana’s state-endorsed **best practices** encourage first response agencies to be directly involved in their local schools’ emergency planning and exercises. Avon Schools Police Department Chief Chase Lyday

also serves as the president of the Indiana School Resource Officers Association. He said more frequent meetings and exercises would be helpful so school resource officers (SROs) can plan interagency responses more effectively.

“For active-shooter situations and large-scale emergencies like fires and explosions, planning how to respond and how to stage where incident command is, for example, these should be areas of focus,” Lyday said. “There is a lot of attention on products — like communications systems, hardening buildings and access controls — but personnel and processes are supremely important.”

The Wayne County Sheriff’s Office provides two of its local school districts with multiple SROs, participates in drills regularly with the schools and also provides active-shooter training upon request. The office maintains a threat assessment team that gathers intelligence, reviews it and intervenes as necessary when school security issues arise.

“As a whole, preparation and communication are critical,” Wayne County Sheriff Randy Retter said. “As long as we have open lines of communication, we can determine the threat present and decide how to manage the situation.”

Because first responders are trained in emergency preparedness and response,

public schools are encouraged not only to share their emergency operations plans with their local first responders, but also to involve them in the update process. They should be working together on the school communication plans, which may be separate from emergency operations plans, and using tools that allow immediate notification of school incidents, such as IP-based Emergency Response Systems that securely connect to local dispatch centers.



SROs from the Fishers Police Department take the lead in Hamilton Southeastern Schools building safety on a day-to-day basis as well as in planning and preparedness efforts. The SROs tailor emergency drills to be suitable for different grade levels, update vulnerability assessments for the different schools’ grounds, enact a school safety checklist and refresh the school safety plan for every building every year.

“We are constantly looking at the training, systems and processes to stay as fresh as possible, all

at the same time,” said Mike Johnson, director of school safety for Hamilton Southeastern Schools, adding that he looks for opportunities to engage the fire service too.

Incident Command System Training Courses

The state guidance also encourages schools to seek incident command system training from FEMA to ensure

collaborative coordination during emergencies. Courses such as ICS 100 (Introduction to Incident Command System) and ICS 200 (Incident Command System for Single Resources and Initial Action Incident) are recommended. Schools should request the training from their local first responders to make the experience more personal and effective.

“It does not matter what the emergency is: a tornado, fire, active shooter. What is everyone’s role when they show up?” said

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Rusty Goodpaster, IDHS Training Section chief and director of the Secured School Safety Board. “Everyone should be familiar with who’s in charge and what everybody’s role is. ICS 100 and 200 are online and available to anyone, and first responders can help get their schools signed up.”



According to the guidance, schools and first responders should be conducting exercises together regularly. Drills include fire drills, bus evacuations, relocations, bomb threats, chemical spills and active shooters. One best practice is for schools to discuss anticipated incident-response timelines with their local first responders, beginning with the initial 911 call until responders engage on scene. Regardless of the type of access control system a school uses, it should be set up to give first responders immediate facility access.

Goodpaster said practicing these plans and drills with school officials can help alleviate some of the chaos that could arise in a real

incident and “it’s a timesaver if you have been practicing it, because when you get to the scene, you don’t have to tell everyone what to do.”

Stop the Bleed/CPR Training

During an incident, it is also important that school staff are prepared to respond to medical emergencies by being trained on first aid, CPR, AEDs and tourniquets (Stop the Bleed). Many schools statewide are stocking bleeding control kits and having their staff trained on how to use them, in accordance with a new Bleeding Control Program [state law](#). The new law requires school Stop the Bleed programs to have at least five trained individuals in every building.

STOP THE BLEED PROGRAM IN INDIANA SCHOOLS

The Stop the Bleed program has been growing in Hoosier schools in [recent years](#). Certified EMS and Stop the Bleed instructor Chuck Dietrick is the program director at Ivy Tech Evansville’s paramedic science program. Ivy Tech Evansville has been certifying EMS students to do Stop the Bleed in their communities since 2017. Dietrick calls the bleeding control program “the 2020’s new CPR,” likening it to how CPR began to be promoted for use outside the medical profession several decades ago. Similarly, Stop the Bleed is this generation’s way to offer a new life-saving tactic to add to the general public’s skill set.

“My recommendation would be that any entity with potential for situations where bleeding could cause loss of life and limb should treat it like CPR and have training for employees,” he said. “Theoretically, and realistically, it could save a life.”

Indiana first responder agencies, businesses and organizations that are interested in a train-the-trainer class (or training kits) can contact the IDHS [EMS district managers](#) stationed around the state to get connected.



Certified EMS instructors like Jim Ginder, health education specialist at the Hamilton County Health Department, have found school staff to be more receptive to the training in recent years as the climate of school safety changes. Both private and public schools in his county receive the training on an annual or biannual basis, often as an after-hours event or during staff professional development days.

School Safety Commissions

The Secured School Safety Board also encourages first responders to be involved in their county's school safety commission. Local governments are required to have the commission to be eligible for the Secured School Safety Grant, which has awarded more than \$110 million to schools in the past decade to help them become more safe and secure. Hundreds

from fires to weather and earthquakes. Members pass along training opportunities and help each other stay current on school safety trends. Retter's office has provided site assessments, or safety audits, for the area schools that enabled them to apply for and receive hundreds of thousands of dollars in Secured School Safety Grant funds in recent years.

"If you are not already a part of these commissions, you should be," Goodpaster said. "All should be playing a part because the focus needs to be an all-hazards approach, not just a focus on active-shooter situations."

The county emergency management agency, local firefighters and police officers are all involved in the Hamilton County school safety commission, as are other school districts in the county. Johnson, from Hamilton Southeastern Schools, credited the collaboration among them for leading to improvements in their anonymous threat reporting system and guiding his district toward making use of their county's "smart 911" system.

"It does a building safety profile for each building within the system, so if there is a fire, for example, 911 dispatchers can pull up the building profile and have all the information necessary — contact information, maps, HVAC system information — to make a better response," Johnson said.

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"It is just like CPR training, which is recommended every two years, because there could be new information or techniques, and it is another opportunity for staff members to get their hands on the equipment again," Ginder said, adding that his department also trains staff how to use naloxone to respond to drug overdoses. "It is so important that they practice and practice so if the time comes, they do not have to think about what to do, but can react and do it."

of schools each year are awarded tens of thousands of dollars from the program. These funds go toward eligible categories, such as active-event early warning systems, threat assessments, training, student and parent support services, equipment or school resource officers (SROs). Each school prioritizes its request when applying.

The Wayne County school safety commission meets monthly to discuss safety matters ranging

The Value of School Resource Officers

Information sharing is key for SROs, Lyday said. A few years ago, he received word from local police and a community member about someone making a threat against a student using an unidentified online account. He partnered with his local police and federal resources to uncover who had used the account, and they found the target of the threat actually was the same person making the threat.



“The student was being bullied and wanted to feel validated. We communicated there was no threat to the school and there was no arrest, but we got the student new support services, including a behavioral health counselor, to help,” Lyday said.

Lyday also cited a report by the U.S. Secret Service that indicated the presence of SROs has stopped several school incidents, because SROs were made aware of the situations early on. Students tell SROs first because of trust built from their relationships. The same concept goes for first responders and SROs. The more communication they have, the better, because

“sometimes you do not know who should know,” Lyday said.

“The goal is to create relationships and free-flowing information sharing,” he said, noting interagency agreements may be needed to allow the exchanges. “Crime and danger exist at schools every day, and frequent interactions are necessary.”

Find school safety resources at the [Indiana School Safety Hub](#) and the [School Building Physical Safety and Security](#) page on the IDOE website.

Additional safety tips can be found at [GetPrepared.in.gov](#).



SECURED SCHOOLS SAFETY GRANT UPDATE

A record number of applications were submitted for the FY23 Secured School Safety Grant (FY23 SSSG). The IDHS Grants Section is currently reviewing and scoring the applications.

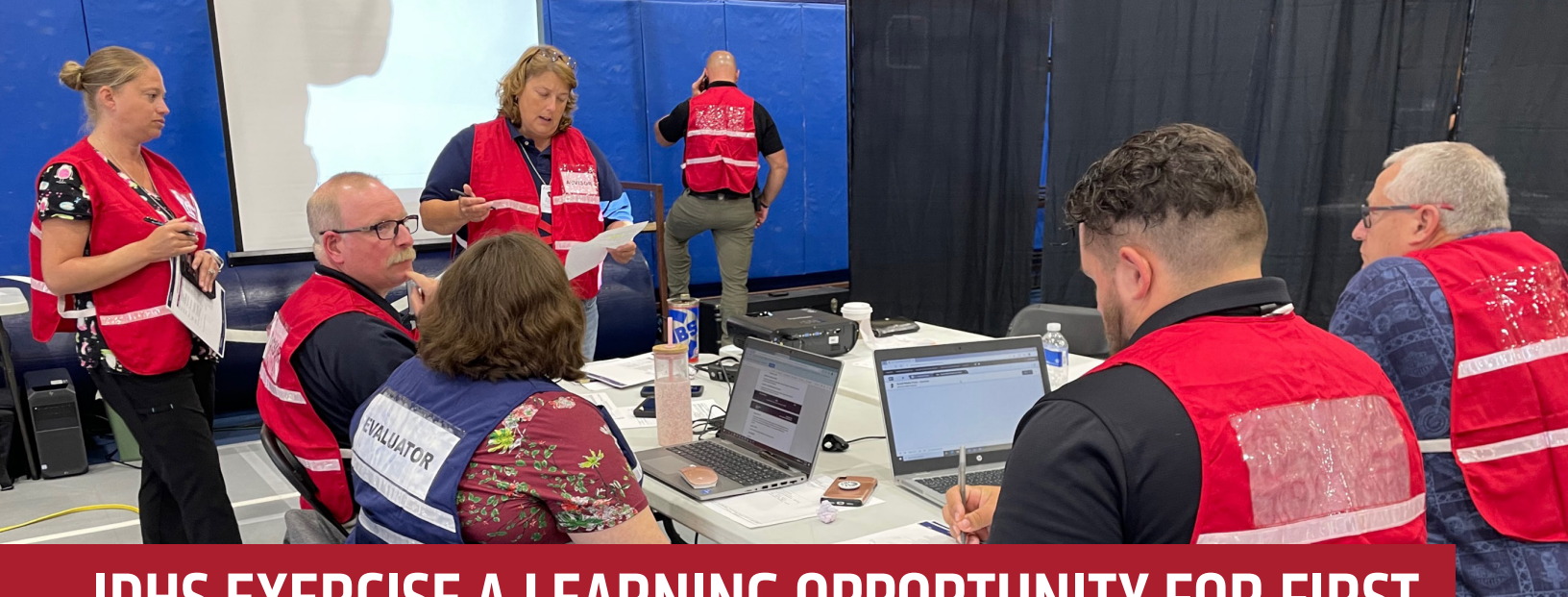
Award letters will be sent out Sept. 1, 2022. An update on the FY23 SSSG will be in the October issue of the Hoosier Responder.

Since 2014, Indiana has awarded more than \$110 million in SSSG grants to support school security. Last year, 392 schools received more than \$19 million in awards.



TORNADOES
FLOODING
EARTHQUAKES
HOUSE FIRES
DISASTERS
FOLLOW
NO SCHEDULE





IDHS EXERCISE A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR FIRST RESPONDERS IN NORTHERN DISTRICTS

First responders in northern Indiana got the chance to expand their knowledge base at Operation Unify: Civil Unrest Functional Exercise on Aug. 3, 2022. In this learning environment, first responders worked with subject matter experts to set up an emergency plan and organize a response to a simulated protest that had the potential to turn violent.

First responders were asked to organize an incident command system and respond to the evolving scenario based on their roles. It was a successful exercise with great engagement from the participants. IDHS is now collecting information from the evaluators and will put together an after-action report and improvement plan.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR STORY SUBMISSIONS!

IDHS wants to recognize and highlight the life-saving work performed by public safety personnel all year round. Maybe you have a story about how an EMT went above and beyond to save a life? Or how a community came together in a disaster? [Submit stories to IDHS](#) to potentially make it on the IDHS website publications or social media channels with your consent.

RECOVERY RECKONINGS

IDHS Mitigation has opened the 2022 pre-application period for FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. The pre-application is available on the IDHS Mitigation webpage. Pre-applications are due by 4 p.m. EDT on Friday, Sept. 16, 2022, and must be submitted to mitigation@dhs.in.gov.

BRIC is the replacement for FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. The BRIC program's funding priorities are to incentivize:

- Public infrastructure projects
- Projects that mitigate risk to one or more FEMA Community Lifelines
- Projects that incorporate nature-based solutions
- Adoption and enforcement of modern building codes

More information about the BRIC grant program can be found on the [IDHS Mitigation](#) webpage.



IFSAC ACADEMY ACCREDITATION

IDHS is proud to announce the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy (Academy) successfully received a favorable recommendation for approval for International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) accreditation. The Certificate Assembly Board of Governors (CABOG) will meet soon to approve the Academy's certification.

This means that 18 firefighter training courses offered by the Academy are recognized by the IFSAC as national certifications. Firefighters who pass any other IFSAC accredited course can take a job as an Indiana firefighter and bring their certification with them. This also means Hoosier firefighters who have passed these courses can accept jobs in other states with an IFSAC accreditation and have their certifications transferred to their new department without starting over.

Academy staff went through a vigorous process to achieve this accreditation, including a site visit.

"The IFSAC committee reviewed the Academy and Education Board's certification processes. They made sure our tests, testing processes, instructors, proctors and evaluators meet IFSAC criteria to put their seal of approval on the Academy. They certified that our trainings are up to their national standards," Academy Director Wade Walling said. "I am very proud of this team and how well they work together to get things done."

Academy program managers spent countless hours analyzing course material to make this possible. The Academy team shined during this process, and this accreditation is because of their commitment to make firefighter training and certification better in Indiana.



PROGRESS IS THE NUMBER ONE MOTIVATION FOR PFFUI PRESIDENT TONY MURRAY

The Professional Fire Fighters Union of Indiana (PFFUI) has a new leader at the helm who is already getting to work for his team. Union members are the greatest motivating factor for Tony Murray, who was elected PFFUI president June 3 after Tom Hanify's retirement. They are the reason Murray decided to run for this position.

"It's really about our members. That they understand that we care for them and that they matter. That they have quality representation at all levels of government," said Murray.

Murray said he has his eye on the obstacles that face the fire service: "One of the challenges is meeting the demands of growing communities." He offered Hamilton County as an example. In Murray's time serving that county, it has gone from largely rural, to suburban to urban in some locations.

"Keeping up with that growth can be hard with recruiting and training," Murray said. "Growth brings a lot of challenges, but it's exciting to live in that environment."

Murray acknowledged the fire service is ever-changing,

especially right now. Fire departments are called to many more scenarios than just a house fire. "We're really an all-emergency response department now. From fires and EMS to hazardous materials mitigation and special operations," Murray said.

Training for those new challenges is a major legislative goal for Murray. "For years, we've been making progress with IDHS, the General Assembly and the Governor's Office to realize the goal of expanding the level of training to firefighters and first responders and the quality and accessibility of training," Murray said.

Two other things on Murray's list of things to tackle legislatively: health and safety and a stable retirement for union members.



Health and Safety

According to Murray, the union has a lot of people on its side who are making firefighter, EMT and paramedic health and safety a priority.

"We have a lot of stakeholders in Indiana who are aware of the inherent dangers that firefighters and first responders face. Some can be seen. Some can't be seen, like mental health. We need to ensure we have processes in place to help people heal from the behavioral health issues."

Murray said the union is pushing a legislative goal to learn about how stressful runs impact firefighters and EMS crews and then point them in a direction of healing.

A Stable Retirement

Murray says ensuring members have a stable retirement will always be a legislative priority for PFFUI.

“Those that have dedicated their lives to their community should have the benefit of retirement when they’ve put in their time,” Murray said. He adds that line-of-duty deaths involve not only the loss of human life but “you’re also dealing with young people in the prime of their life who have dependents.”

Murray said he has several goals while in office, and he plans to use industry partners to get things done.

“It is essential to work with policymakers to achieve our collective goals. Together, and only together, can we reach our goal for the people of Indiana, and our members for that matter too,” Murray said.

IDHS is one of those partners. Murray said IDHS and the PFFUI have a partnership that exists to execute a goal. That goal is to keep Hoosiers safe and efficiently respond to every incident as well as man-made and natural disasters.

Murray is ready for the challenges that this role brings, and he has the experience to overcome them. Murray has been in the public safety world

since 1994 when he became an EMT. He continued his studies to become a paramedic in 1997. A few years later he was hired as a Noblesville firefighter. He moved around within the Noblesville Fire Department. He was promoted to engineer and then moved into the shift EMS duty officer role, assisting his crews with training and high acuity calls as well as operating inside the department’s Mobile Integrated Health program.

In 2002, Murray helped to organize the department with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and was elected as district president to represent Noblesville members with IAFF Local 416. That eventually evolved into Local 4416 to include all of Hamilton County in 2005 when he was elected local president, a post he is still serving in but will not seek re-election for at the end of the year. He is taking all of that experience into his role as president of the PFFUI.

“My drive comes from our members. Ensuring that our members are well-equipped, well-trained, have the ability to earn a living, have the tools to do this job and keep the passion of delivering service and taking care of our fellow citizens. At the end of the day, it is an honor to serve as a firefighter or a professional paramedic or EMT, and to have the ability to affect people’s lives.”

EMS UPDATES

The IDHS EMS Section is hosting a series of EMS District Forums and Leadership Courses. All forums will cover the same topics and will count toward EMS continuing education credits. Registration is free. You can learn more about the EMS District Forums [here](#).

HAZMAT UPDATES

A multi-county LEPC tabletop exercise, sponsored by Monroe, Brown and Bartholomew counties with support from the U.S. EPA, is scheduled for Aug. 24, 2022, at the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds.

The exercise is designed to allow participants to evaluate their emergency procedures during a simulated release of an extremely hazardous substance from the Mariah Foods facility in Bartholomew County.

For those interested in observing the exercise, please contact Casey Kenworthy at ckenworthy@dhs.in.gov for more information.



RIDES AT COUNTY AND STATE FAIRS IN INDIANA NEED PERMITS FROM IDHS

July and August are fair season. Indiana has county fairs in all 92 counties, with most wrapping up before the Indiana State Fair. These events happen annually like clockwork, but much of the preparation that goes into getting it off the ground is behind the scenes, including a visit from IDHS field inspectors.

Before the very first Hoosiers step under the arch of the Midway of a fair this year, an entire army of dedicated public safety professionals from IDHS spend countless hours permitting and inspecting each ride to make sure it is up to the stringent safety standards Indiana has in place to protect fairgoers. IDHS has the authority to examine all fair rides to keep them safe for eager visitors.

The process starts with an application. It is important that it is submitted well in advance of the first planned event so the necessary life safety inspections of the venue can be performed.

See IDHS inspectors in action at this year's state fair!



VISIT IDHS AT THE STATE FAIR

IDHS will be at the fair Aug. 17-21 by the Midway. Come see us and get information on how to get prepared for an emergency while playing games and getting fun prizes. We look forward to seeing you!

Aug. 19 is First Responder Day at the Fair. First responders can show their badge at the gate to get free entry.

At the Indiana State Fair, there are about 50 rides which already had their required yearly inspections. The checks on the Thursday before the fair opens are an extra precaution to ensure the safety of the visitors. The inspectors check each ride, one by one, for issues. If a problem is minor, ride operators typically can fix it on site.

If a spectator is unsure about a ride, they can look for one of two stickers located on each ride. Any ride with a 2022 inspection date has passed the IDHS inspection. The second sticker has the [IDHS Elevator and Amusement Section's](#) phone number listed to report potential dangers. If you have questions about the safety of any of the rides or the ride operator, you can call 1-888-203-5020 and get answers.



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IMPACTED BY DISASTERS GET BOOST BY FEMA CHANGE

A policy change announced this month by the Federal Emergency Management Agency significantly enhances the amount of public assistance available to state, local and tribal governments and nonprofits through the Public Assistance Grant Program.

Under the change, local governments and public entities could apply for up to \$1 million in federal funding for some damages incurred during a nationally declared disaster. Previously, the maximum amount was set at \$120,000.

“We have to make it easier for applicants to seek help following a disaster,” Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas said in FEMA press release. “Today’s important change means a smoother and faster process for getting federal disaster assistance dollars in the hands of government entities and non profit organizations.”

The \$1 million threshold applies to all projects under major disasters and emergencies declared on or after Aug. 3, 2022. Additionally, the new maximum amount applies to all unobligated Public Assistance projects between March 13, 2020, and Aug. 3, 2022 (COVID-19).

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security administers the Public Assistance Grant Fund on FEMA’s behalf for all Hoosiers. More information is available at the [IDHS website](#).

The Public Assistance Grant Fund functions under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act, which originally set the Public Assistance limit at \$35,000. The limit was raised to \$120,000 in 2015, and a review in 2020 indicated 94 percent of “small projects” could be covered with a \$1 million threshold.

To go along with the change, FEMA also simplified the process for local governments to receive grant funding for “smaller projects” by reducing administrative burdens, more effectively using resources and simplifying the program overall.

More information is available at [fema.gov](#).

UPCOMING TRAININGS

AUGUST

AUG 12-14	ICS 300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	CORYDON
AUG 13-21	ICS 300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	BRAZIL
AUG 22-24	ICS 300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	CARMEL
AUG 22-24	ICS 300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	ELKHART
AUG 25-26	ICS 400: Advanced ICS Command & General Staff	CARMEL
AUG 25-26	ICS 400: Advanced ICS Command & General Staff	FORT WAYNE
AUG 27-28	K9410: Advanced Land Cadaver Search Tech for K-9s	BRAZIL

SEPTEMBER

SEPT 7-8	MGT 318: Public Information in an All-Hazards Incident	SCOTTSBURG
SEPT 7-8	L146: Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program	EVANSVILLE
SEPT 9-10	ICS 400: Advanced ICS Command & General Staff	ELKHART

UPCOMING TRAININGS

SEPTEMBER (continued)

SEPT 10-11	K9400: Advanced Air Scenting Techniques for K-9s	BRAZIL
SEPT 16	K9600: K-9 Pretest	BRAZIL
SEPT 17-18	K9650: K-9 Credentialing Test	BRAZIL
SEPT 27-29	ICS 300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	BLOOMINGTON
SEPT 27-30	L958: All Hazards Operations Section Chief	PLAINFIELD

OCTOBER

OCT 3-7	L952: All Hazards Public Information Officer	EVANSVILLE
OCT 17-19	ICS 300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	LAFAYETTE
OCT 18-19	ICS 400: Advanced ICS Command & General Staff	BLOOMINGTON
OCT 20-21	ICS 400: Advanced ICS Command & General Staff	LAFAYETTE
OCT 24-28	L950: All Hazards Incident Commander	VALPARAISO

UPCOMING EVENTS



INDIANA STATE FAIR JULY 29 - AUGUST 21

It is that time of year again to let loose your excitement for the Indiana State Fair. This year's theme is "Fun at the Speed of Summer," meaning the fair is here to celebrate Indiana's automotive heritage. Join us Friday, Aug. 19, for First Responders Day. First responders, current and former military, and their families receive FREE admission with valid ID presented at the gate. Visit the [Indiana State Fair](https://www.indianastatefair.com) website for all your information needs.

NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH SEPTEMBER



National Campus Safety Awareness Month provides opportunities to encourage public conversation about violence prevention at our nation's colleges and universities. It also offers an opportunity to address the background of campus safety areas and to share information about an institution's campus safety programs.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH SEPTEMBER

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is a time to raise awareness on the stigmatized, and often taboo, topic of suicide. In addition to shifting public perception, this month is meant to spread hope and vital information to people affected by suicide. The goal is ensuring that individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH SEPTEMBER

National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. The month aims to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

SEESAY DAY (SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING) SEPTEMBER 25

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has designated September 25 as national "If You See Something, Say Something" Awareness Day. The "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign works with partners year-round to empower and educate the public on suspicious activity reporting.

I'll be sharing **#WhyISeeSay** for **#SeeSayDay** on **September 25th** to raise awareness of reporting suspicious activity in my community.

WILL YOU?



*The Indiana Department of Homeland Security works 24/7
to protect the people, property and prosperity of Indiana.*



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