View this email as a webpage.

MONTHLY BUGLE

February 2025

Quick Links

IDHS Online Registration and Recertification Instructions

Educational Opportunities

IAC Title 655

IDHS Training Information

PSID Lookup

New PSID Request

WebForms

After-hours Certifications Help

Academy Training Staff

Academy Director
John Shafer

Field Operations Section Chief
Mike Parks

Planning Section Chief
Zach Mathews

Fire Safety Education Coordinator
Cora Showalter

Academy Program Manager (Districts 1 and 4)
Ryan Thoma

Academy Program Manager (Districts 2 and 3)

Message from the Director

Greetings to all,



At the end of this month, I will have been privileged to serve as the Director of the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy for two years. I am very grateful for the excellent opportunity to have such an amazing group of dedicated people who work day in and day out to serve the fire service of Indiana.

During that time, I have worked hard to be an accessible director instead of hiding behind my desk in Plainfield. I have kept the pedal to the metal through two years of non-stop traveling to every corner of the state to personally meet countless firefighters, instructors and leaders from the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association, Indiana Fire Chiefs Association, Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana and other stakeholders.

As I write this month's edition of the Bugle, I write it with a sad and broken heart to have learned that my friend and a student of our program. Leroy Terrell was tragically killed in an accident on his way to work a shift at his fire station

TR Hagerty

Academy Program Manager (Districts 5 and 7)
Loren Tewes

Academy Program Manager (Districts 6 and 9)
Chuck Gunter

Academy Program Manager (Districts 8 and 10)
James Warren

Academy Certification Staff

IFSAC Accreditation and Academy Information Officer
Robin Nicoson

Certification Supervisor
Nichelle Elliot

Program Coordinator
Regine Johnson

Clerical Assistants
Antoinette Hammack
Hannah Hagerty

After-hours Certifications Help

New Mental Health Courses on Acadis

HEA 1321, passed in 2023, requires that after Dec. 31, 2024, mental health and wellness training be included in the minimum basic training requirements for full-time firefighters. Fire departments also must submit an annual report to IDHS certifying that all full-time firefighters have completed yearly mental health and wellness training.

To support fire departments and firefighters, the Academy has funded three new mental health and wellness courses created by Brandon Dreiman, a world-renowned fire service mental health expert.



Terrell attended both years of our Winter Fire School and when we spoke just weeks ago, he was all fired up and passionate about the skills he was learning that weekend and was eager to put them into action in his rural community in southern Indiana. In honor of Leroy, I would like to dedicate this edition to his memory

John Shafer
Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy Director



Winter Fire School Recap

The Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy drew students from 160 different agencies (full time and volunteer fire departments, emergency management, state and law enforcement agencies) from 61 counties to its MADE@Plainfield training hub for three days of free training for the second annual Winter Fire School. More than 450 students attended, doubling the turnout from the first Winter Fire School in 2024

These courses are available for free on Acadis by searching the keyword "Psychological Health." The courses include:

- Psychological Health – Psychological Health Toolkit
- Psychological Health – Suicide Awareness
- Psychological Health – Resilience & the Mind-Body Connection

---

Instructor Adult Education opportunities:

Last year, the Academy began offering free adult education sessions as part of district fire training council meetings to make them more accessible. These sessions are available in all 10 regional homeland security districts.

Click here for the 2025 schedule of district training meetings, each offering at least one hour of adult education.

"Tips of The Trade" with Dr. Candace Ashby, Battalion Chief of the Indianapolis Fire Dept.

When the alarm sounds, the decision-making process begins long before firefighters arrive on scene. Battalion Chief Candace Ashby of the Indianapolis Fire Department breaks down the critical elements of scene size-up and evaluation, emphasizing the importance of constant reassessment and communication. From identifying fire conditions to understanding building construction, every detail matters in ensuring the safety of both responders and the public. Do not miss this insightful breakdown. Click here to read the full article.

Fire Instructor Renewal Steps Video



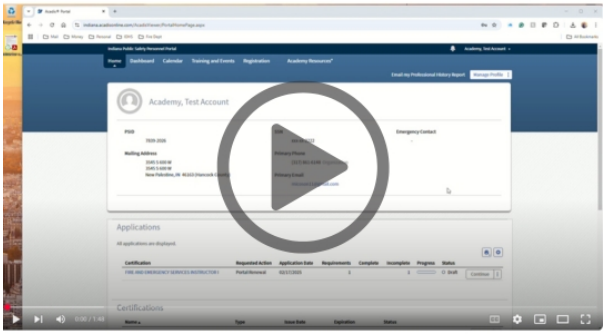
Class: Training Operations in Small Departments
Instructor: Mike Parks





Class: Tried and True Forcible Entry for the Modern Firefighter
Instructor: Chris Overpeck, Steve Yelich, & Cody Dyer





Fire Instructor Certification Audit:

Previously, when Acadis randomly selected someone for an audit, they had three days to notify the office and submit documentation proving they met the 655 Indiana Code requirements to maintain certification. Individuals could renew their certification by clicking the renew button without submitting the recertification form upfront.

To maintain certification, individuals must now submit the recertification form upfront, which has significantly reduced the number of audits. As a result, the Acadis audit rate has been lowered from 14% to just 1%.

If you are selected for an audit, you will receive the following notification with instructions:

"Your application was pulled for an audit. Your submitted document will be reviewed, and if there are any questions, someone from the certification office will contact you."

Contact the certification office immediately if you believe you were selected for an audit but did not receive a notification.

Phone: 1-800-666-7784
Email: firecertifications@dhs.in.gov (Enter "FIRE AUDIT" and your PSID in the email subject line)

Proctoring and Releasing of Written Test Codes

Recent issues have arisen regarding retesting and issuing retest codes to different proctors. Two cases last fall resulted in investigations and the sanctioning of



Class: Civilian Rescue: Removing the Occupant
Instructor: Sean Duffy and Justin Lorenzen



Class: Hoarder Fires: Engine Company Considerations
Instructors: Jeff Kish, Justin Knox and Chris Laws.

Top-notch instructors from nine states (including 29 from Indiana) offered more than 40 sessions over the weekend for firefighters, EMS personnel, emergency managers and law enforcement officers to develop their professional skills. Hoosier emergency responders from 61 of 92 Indiana counties will return home better prepared to serve their communities.

2026 Winter Fire School Save the Date:

At this year's fire school, the Academy distributed information about next year's winter fire school. However, the dates provided at the event have changed.

The 2026 Winter Fire School will now take place **Jan. 30-31 and Feb. 1, 2026**. Participants are encouraged to mark

instructors by the Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education.

Issuing retest codes to multiple proctors increases the workload for certification staff, and when issues occur, investigators must dedicate significant time to contacting those involved.

As a result, certification staff will not issue retest codes to anyone other than the original proctor. If the original proctor is unable to administer the retest, they must email the certification office confirming approval to send the test code to a new proctor. The email must include the new proctor's name and PSID.

Requests should be sent to firecertifications@dhs.in.gov. This policy also applies to substitute proctors filling in for the original proctor on record.

State-Funded Courses

Recently, some students have traveled to other districts for free state-funded courses and later requested a different proctor or other requests for retesting. Managing test code distribution across multiple locations is difficult for certification staff.

Effective immediately, students who attend a state-funded class must complete all testing, including retests, at the location specified on the class flyer. Certification staff will only issue retest codes to the original proctor.

New Method to Request Academy Resources:

The Academy implemented a new system for requesting training trailer props to improve efficiency and maintain the longevity of its resources.

Requests will be grouped regionally each quarter, allowing the Logistics Section to conduct preventive maintenance and reduce unnecessary resource strain.

their calendars, as this is an event they will not want to miss.

National Fire Academy Course Announcement

The Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy has been awarded a six-day National Fire Academy (NFA) course: Command & Control of Fire Department Operations at Target Hazards (N0314).

The NFA only offers a limited number of off-campus sessions. Indiana competed against all FEMA Region Five states; Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. For the first time, Indiana was selected to host this course.

- Location: Hamilton County Training Center, 7925 East 160th St., Noblesville, Indiana
- Dates: June 9-14, 2025 (Attendance required for all six days)
- Time: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily
- Register today



Always check hose lines and supply lines for kinks to ensure an effective fire attack. A general rule of thumb is that up to 30% of the flow rate can be lost due to a single kink in the attack houseline.

FD Spotlight: Westfield Fire Department

The Westfield Fire Department was established on April 29, 1904, with the

This new method ensures that training trailer props are utilized effectively and fairly across the state. The Logistics Section will carefully evaluate all requests, considering regional demand within each quarter.

Departments wishing to request a training trailer prop will now do so through the Academy's website, following the schedule below:

Request Schedule:

- Requests are due by Jan. 1, April 1, July 1 and Oct. 1.
- Requests can be submitted at any time, and departments are encouraged to plan well in advance, even for the following calendar year.
- The Academy will approve all requests 30 days before the start of the next quarter.

To submit a request, please visit https://www.in.gov/dhs/training/fire-training/equipment-requests/#equipment-reservationscomplete and complete the Smartsheet request form. This form will guide you through the necessary information and ensure a smooth request process. Equipment reservation requests cannot be made through Acadis anymore.



town purchasing its first hand-drawn chemical fire engine. R.E. Johnson became the first fire chief that May. Over the past 120 years, the department has grown alongside the community, now operating from three stations and covering 56 square miles in Washington Township and Westfield. With 97 shift members across three battalions, the department responds to emergencies with three engine companies, one ladder, three transporting ambulances, three battalion chiefs and three field resource paramedics. In 2023, crews responded to 4,859 incidents, 66% of which were EMS calls.



Beyond fire and medical response, Westfield Fire specializes in hazardous materials incidents and technical rescues, including trench, confined space, rope and water rescues. Members also assist in disaster response nationwide and provide support for major local events like Colts Training Camp. Fire prevention efforts include inspections, public education and community outreach programs such as Field Resource Paramedics, which aids discharged hospital patients and support crisis intervention efforts.

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

Contact the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy at

firecertifications@dhs.in.gov



Stay Connected with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security:
