

# Hoosier Responder



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## Ingenuity Solves Ice Jam, Flooding Issues in Huntington

Portions of the City of Huntington became flooded February 21 because a section of the Little River between East State Street and Riverside became blocked with an ice jam and resulting ice shelf. People and animals were taken to shelters and weather forecasters called for five-to-seven more days of below-freezing temperatures. Soon, more streets were affected because of additional ice jams “as broad as a pickup truck,” according to Huntington County

Emergency Management Agency Director Lindsie Goss.

City and county officials met the next morning to brainstorm potential options for dealing with the downtown flooding issue. According to Goss, the ice shelf holding back the ice jam was about 18 inches thick at an old railroad bridge. Officials decided

their best option was to try to break up the ice by blasting it with a high-pressure fire hose, hoping that would be enough to weaken and eventually break up the ice, restoring current to the river.

The Huntington City Fire Department used its tower truck to spray water, at hydrant temperature, at 100+ pounds per square inch (psi), and more than



Huntington firefighters use their high-pressure hose to spray water on stubborn ice jams to break up the ice shelf, allowing flood waters to recede.



Large ice pieces in the Little River jammed up along the ice shelf that formed during this colder-than-normal winter.

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## Ingenuity Solves Ice Jam, Flooding Issues in Huntington

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1,000 gallons per minute. Firefighters aimed first at a crack in the ice until the water broke through. Then they systematically aimed at more cracks along the ice shelf, creating perforations and starting some water flow.

“Finally the ice shelf began breaking up, and the pressure that built up behind the ice jam was relieved, allowing all of the poten-

tial energy behind the jam to transfer into kinetic energy that traveled down the Little River,” said Goss. “At that point, the flood water began to recede immediately.”

Goss said within an hour of successful ice shelf fracturing, East State Street was dry and able to be open to traffic and residents. “And in about 90 minutes after the ice

shelf was broken, the rest of the city streets were passable and residents were permitted to return to their homes in order to begin the recovery process,” she said.

Damage assessment teams began preliminary assessments later that afternoon.

## 17 Fire Academy Graduates Honored in Griffith Ceremony

In February, Griffith Fire Department Station 3 held a ceremony for the graduation of 17 firefighters.

The recent graduates completed a six-month training through the Indiana Firefighter Training System, a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security

(IDHS). The training took place at the Gary/Griffith District 1 Fire Academy.

“Training delivered by our partners in District 1 is of the highest quality. The students who participated received text-like classroom instruction and superb hands-on practice demonstration

and skills evaluation,” said State Fire Training Director, John M. Buckman. “The training they received is designed to protect them from the dangers associated with firefighting. We hope these students have a long career in the fire service.”

## Janice Hart Appointed New Howard County EMA Director

Janice L. Hart has been appointed Howard County Emergency Management Agency Director by the county’s EMA Advisory Council and the Howard County Commissioners. Hart is a 33-year member of the Howard County EMA and served as administrative assistant until the retirement of Larry Smith on December 31,

2013.

Raised in Kokomo, Hart was originally hired as secretary for the Kokomo/Howard County Civil Defense in 1981. In January 2013, an inter-jurisdictional agreement between the city of Kokomo and the county was dissolved and Howard County picked up the

funding. Upon Smith’s retirement, Hart was named interim director, followed by her appointment as director on February 17, 2014.

Hart and her husband of 32 years have three grown children and seven grandchildren.



Visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov)

## Emergency Medical Services Forums Offer Information on State Initiatives



State Emergency Medical Services Director Mike Garvey addresses the group.

Emergency Medical Services Forums are back in 2014 and more than 200 EMS, emergency management agency, fire and training personnel have attended. The forums, which used to be called provider forums, are winding up

this month, with the last two scheduled in mid April for District 5 and District 2.

“These EMS Forums are a great way for everyone to become aware of what’s going on in the EMS world and what changes have occurred with things like certification,” said Robin

Stump, IDHS EMS District Manager. “Attendees are then in a great position to pass along this new information to others.”

The agenda includes covering such topics as an overview of staff changes, rules and regulations

reminders, data collection, certification levels and changes, information about the Indiana Disaster Portable Mortuary Unit and staffing, an overview of the state’s Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative, HAZMAT training and more.

- April 15, 2014: District 5—Seals Ambulance Service, 2400 Roosevelt Avenue, Indianapolis, IN. 9:00 a.m.—noon.
- April 21, 2014: District 2—EMS Education Center, 403 E. Madison Avenue, South Bend, IN. 5:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

## Flood Conference Educates Professionals

Flooding is one of the most common disasters that Indiana and the United States face each year. As such, education about flooding and how it affects Indiana is important. To that end, the Operation Stay Afloat conference was held Thursday, March 13, at the Indiana Government Center. The conference was organized by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The goal of the conference was to use past experiences, such as the Great Flood of 1913, the flooding in June and September of 2008, and smaller flooding incidents that occur each year in Indiana, to educate and prepare for the future.

More than 140 individuals attended the conference, including emergency managers, floodplain managers, engineers, planners, and environmental managers from around the state. Session

topics included dam safety, the National Flood Insurance Program, flood mitigation and floodplain mapping.

Speakers at the conference included hydrologists from the U.S. Geological Survey Water Science Center, a filmmaker and science writer, a local engineer, and individuals from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

This was the sixth biennial Operation Stay Afloat conference.

## Firefighters from Starke County Train on State Live Fire Trainer

Starke County and surrounding fire departments had the opportunity to participate in life-like fire training March 9, thanks to the state's Mobile Live Fire Trainer trailer. The trailer is shared by all Indiana counties, coordinated by Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Fire Training Manager Brandon Wood.

"Our 53-foot trailer is available to all our districts and is really an amazing training tool," said Wood. "The interior can be rearranged to fit various structure fire scenarios, like transformed into a kitchen, a bedroom or a living room. We can set up a rollover fire situation, heavy smoke, a pro-



The Mobile Live Fire Trainer trailer simulates a two-story structure and is used by more than 500 firefighters each year. It provides firefighters with real-life mental and physical challenges.

pane fire and other real-life conditions. There's even ways the trailer is outfitted so that firefighters can practice standard ventilation practices and firefighter rescues."

The two-story trailer also provides

firefighters the opportunity to practice with their aerial ladders and serves as a tremendous training tool, especially in rural areas where fires occur less often, according to Wood. He says about 500 firefighters receive training with the trailer each year.

"This trailer is designed to travel and is on the road 3-4 months at a time," he said. "We en-

courage training with multiple departments, like we had in Starke County."

Firefighters from San Pierre, North Judson-Wayne Township, Know-Center Township, Hamlet, Washington Township, Koontz Lake, Lapaz and Walkerton fire departments all participated March 9. This training was made possible by Starke County EMA Director Ted Bombagetti, District 2 Training Coordinator John Grolich, Wood and IDHS State Fire Training Director John Buckman.

To schedule the Mobile Live Training trainer, visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3642.htm> to learn more.



Fire scenarios created inside the Mobile Live Fire Trainer are lifelike and provide valuable training experience.

## Governor Announces \$285,253 Grant to Morgan County

*FEMA hazard mitigation funds to acquire and demolish flood-prone homes*

Governor Mike Pence announced in late February that Morgan County will receive Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funds of \$285,253 to purchase homes that are prone to flooding.

Morgan County and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) worked together with FEMA to secure the grant. FEMA, part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, released the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to Morgan County for the demolition and acquisition of up to five homes located in the flood plain.

“Repetitive flooding is a costly issue throughout the state,” said Governor Pence. “Removing these properties from harm’s way relieves these families of financial stress, and also is an advantage for Morgan County and the State of Indiana.”

IDHS Hazard Mitigation Officer Jan Crider agreed. “Any time people lose their homes because of repeated flooding, it’s sad. However, in this situation, there is a silver lining,” she said. “The community of Waverly ended

up with a wonderful park area that displays its historic roots in Morgan County. Plus, these people were able to leave their homes that were in decline because of repeated flooding and move into homes that will increase in value.” Jan said a church and bank, located in the area but situated above hazardous flood elevation, were saved and will be repurposed in the park area.

HMGP provides grants to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures. Through HMGP, FEMA will pay 75 percent of the \$380,337 eligible project cost. The remaining 25 percent of the funds, \$95,084, will be provided by Morgan County. IDHS will administer the grant program.

Since 2005, 115 properties have been purchased and demolished in Morgan County. Funds from FEMA grants and the Morgan County riverboat tax fund to purchase the properties and help families in those homes relocate. Of those families, less than 1 percent has relocated outside of Morgan County.

## Bill Focusing on School Safety Signed by Governor Pence

A bill concerning education and school safety was signed by Governor Pence on March 24, officially establishing the division of School Building Security and Safety within the Department of Education.

Senate Bill 344 will establish a Division of School Building Security and Safety. This division will carry out certain responsibilities related to the school safety specialist training and certification program. It will also establish emergency protocols for schools and guidelines for using professional services to integrate physical security improvements and safety practices.

When schools are being renovated, repaired, or constructed, this new division will serve as a resource to ensure all buildings are secure and safe.

The bill, authored by Senators Lindel Hume and Pete Miller, was co-authored by Senator Dennis Kruse and sponsored by Representative Robert Behning.

### Story Ideas?

Know of a story that belongs in the Hoosier Responder? Let us know! Email us at [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov).

## Fire Department Instructors Conference Scheduled for Indianapolis April 7-12

*Experience FDIC* is the theme for the 2014 world's largest firefighters' instructional conference, scheduled for April 7-12 in Indianapolis. Speakers and instructors from all over the United States will participate, including at least four from Indiana. They are:

- **John Buckman:** State Fire Training Director, Indiana Firefighter Training System, IDHS, who will teach the course "Training to Increase Competency." This course provides information and techniques instructors and training officers can take back to their departments to better assess firefighter capability, determine goals and objectives and develop ways to meet those goals.

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## Preparedness Survey Participant Receives One of 20 NOAA Radios, Kits

Last fall, IDHS conducted an Emergency Preparedness Survey to help understand to what extent Hoosiers are prepared in case of a

tornado, earthquake or some other emergency or disaster. Part of completing the survey was a chance to receive an all-hazards NOAA radio and emergency preparedness kit. There were 20 recipients from across the state. One was Joe DeVito, of Jefferson County (right) who was given his kit by Jefferson County EMA Director Dave Bell (left), and Douglas Cook, IDHS District 9 Coordinator, who took



the photo.

Coincidentally, DeVito is the Jefferson County Veterans Service Officer and has been

working with the local Red Cross chapter and veterans service organizations to provide disaster preparedness information to veterans. After the awarding of the kit, Bell and Cook met with DeVito in the Veterans Service Office in Madison to share information that would help him get even more information out to veterans.

## New Cyber Security Resource Tool Now Available to Help Software Developers

*Indiana University Researchers, Department of Homeland Security Involved in Development*

A new tool has been designed to help software developers close critical security holes in their products, a result of the public and private sectors coming together to advance improvements to deal with emerging cyber threats. It is now publicly available and free to the software community.

The Software Assurance Marketplace, or SWAMP, created the resource to address the growth in cybercrime, and was supported by

a \$23.4 million grant from the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate. This public/private partnership also had an Indiana connection as researchers from Indiana University's Center for Applied Cybersecurity Research and University Information Technology Services' Research Technologies Division contributed to the tool's development.

Cybercrime is booming and latest figures show it is an estimated

\$100 billion industry in the United States. Recent breaches of security around the holidays at Target, Neiman Marcus and other retailers show attackers have an arsenal of weapons at their disposal, including social engineering, or phishing, that can penetrate weak security protocols and exploit software vulnerabilities. This new tool helps software developers close gaps into an organizations' IT environment.

## Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Program

The National Fire Academy offered a two-day course, the Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention, which took place in February. This course is for people who have or will have responsibility for developing and implementing a youth fire prevention and intervention program in their community. This could include:

- Volunteers
- Career Firefighters
- Fire Investigators
- Fire and Life Safety Educators
- Allied Professionals from criminal justice, mental health, social services and juvenile justice

“Key issues within the fire service provide a lack of the importance of the fire service as a whole. We put out fires to investigate why they occurred. We determine why they occurred so we can prevent them from occurring again,” said Battalion Chief/Training and Special Operations Instructor,

Stephen Coovers. “The fire service is like a 3-legged stool, prevention, operations, and investigations, with supports between the three legs representing training. Remove any part of the stool and the stool falls over.”

The goal is to empower learners with the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the job requirements of a Youth Fire Intervention Specialist (Level 1) Practitioner.

The course schedule entailed:

### Day 1:

- Unit 1 - The Extent of The Youth Firesetting Problem
- Unit 2 – Who Sets Fires and Why
- Unit 3 – Identification, Intake, Screening, Disposition and Follow-up

### Day 2:

- Unit 3 – Identification, Intake, Screening, Disposition and Follow-up (continued)
- Unit 4 – Youth Firesetting

- Educational Intervention
- Course Examination
- Course Evaluation

The guidelines and requirements are all outlined in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1035 (<http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/document-information-pages?mode=code&code=1035>)

“Instead of choosing alcohol, narcotics, aggression (bullying), or eating disorders to name only a few, they chose fire,” said Coovers. “As a society we fail these youths who may be troubled by not following up with them. The whole purpose of the fire service is to leave it better than you found it, don't ignore it.”

For more information about this course, please contact Brandon Wood at [BrWood@dhs.in.gov](mailto:BrWood@dhs.in.gov).

## Fire Department Instructors Conference (*continued from page 6*)

- **Thomas Sivak:** Planning Section Chief for Central Indiana, Type 3, Incident Management Team, who will present “Special Events and Incident Management Team Deployments.” Participants will discuss the deployment of incident management teams and how to use these events for hands-on training. Students will identify the key lessons learned and develop a full National Incident Management System-compliant Event Action Plan.
- **Benjamin Peetz:** Firefighter (Ret.), Napoleon Fire Dept., Ripley Co., who will teach “Firefighting Precautions at Facilities with Combustible Dust.” The purpose of the presentation is to provide emergency responders with a basic background in combustible dust operations and hazards in order to protect them from harm.
- **Steve White:** Battalion Chief, Fishers, Indiana Fire Department, who will teach “Large Truck Extrication.” Responders will learn about this high-risk, low-frequency event and learn the vast differences between large truck versus passenger vehicle extrication.

## When Doing Spring Cleaning, Don't Forget Medicine Cabinets

Every day in the United States, 2,500 teens abuse a prescription drug for the first time, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. One in five teens, or 4.5 million young people, has abused prescription drugs. And if those statistics aren't scary enough, 56 percent of people who use prescription drugs non-medically say they obtain these drugs from friends and relatives, indicating these medications are freely shared or unknowingly taken from medicine cabinets or other accessible places.

The FDA urges people to think about purging old medications from medicine cabinets as a part

of spring cleaning season.

The FDA urges not to flush medicines down the sink or toilet so that drug residue does not enter the water system unnecessarily. Some medicines, however, do have disposal directions that recommend flushing unused pills.

The best solution to disposing of old medications is to take advantage of community drug take-back programs that allow the public to bring in unused drugs for proper disposal. Locations that regularly participate in drug take-back programs include pharmacies and state and local law enforcement agencies. Medications can also be disposed of in household trash if

the following steps are followed:

- Remove medications from their original containers and mix them with an undesirable substance such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter. This makes the drugs less appealing and more unrecognizable to people who sift through trash looking for drugs; and
- Place the mixture in a sealable bag, empty can or other container to avoid leakage.

The FDA also suggests people scratch out all identifying information on the prescription label, or remove it and tear it up, before throwing away the original container.

## IEMSA Hosts Conference in Bloomington

Indiana Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Conference is May 1-2 at the Bloomington /Monroe County Convention Center. The Indiana EMS Association (IEMSA) is bringing together local, state, regional and national speakers for two days of education and fun. Items that will be offered are:

- National Association of Emer-

gency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) EMS Safety Course

- National FARMEDIC Course
- Two-day supervisor boot camp
- Indiana State Police (ISP) Meth Lab Safety/Awareness
- Indiana Department Homeland Security (IDHS) Mobile SIM lab
- Helicopter Safety Class
- IDHS Primary Instructor

Workshop

Reserve your place online at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/iemsa-2-day-ems-conference-beginning-may-1-2014-tickets-10485724083>.

For more information about the conference, contact [pjone-siems@yahoo.com](mailto:pjone-siems@yahoo.com).



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The Hoosier Responder is a publication of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

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