About Us

The Division of Fire and Building Safety (DFBS) will develop, foster, and promote methods of protecting lives and property of the citizens of Indiana and provide building safety and permit coordination.

The DFBS consists of the following sections:

Code Enforcement

- Boiler & Pressure Vessels
- Building & Fire Code Enforcement
- Elevators & Amusement Rides
- Plan Review

Emergency Services

- Fire Investigations
- INFIRS & Risk Management
- Reduced Ignition Propensity (Fire Safe) Cigarettes

For More Information

Office Hours:
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
(800) 423-0765 or (317) 232-2222
www.in.gov/dhs/fireandbuilding.htm

Fire Investigations:
(317) 232-6435

Boilers & Pressure Vessels:
(317) 232-1921

INFIRS &
Risk Management:
(317) 232-2227

Elevators &
Amusement Safety:
(317) 232-2670

Public Education
& Outreach:
(317) 232-6632

Fire & Building
Code Enforcement:
(317) 232-1407

Plan Review:
(317) 232-6422

24 Hour Emergency Contact Numbers
Emergency Operations Center (Dispatch)
(800) 669-7362 or (317) 233-6115
Arson Hotline
(800) 382-4628

Indiana Government Center South
302 West Washington Street
Room E241
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-232-2222
www.in.gov/dhs

Indiana Department of Homeland Security
Leadership for a Safe and Secure Indiana

STATE FIRE MARSHAL
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INDIANA

IDHS
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mitchell E. Daniels Jr.
Governor

Joseph E. Wainscott Jr.
Executive Director

James Greeson
State Fire Marshal

Fire Investigations

The investigations section employs investigators throughout the state. With nearly 900 fires investigated annually, the staff, which includes the chief investigator, an administrative assistant and ten field investigators, carries a heavy caseload. Each field investigator, most of whom come from fire service backgrounds, covers anywhere from nine to 13 counties.

The section assists local fire departments and law enforcement agencies in the investigation of cause and origin of fires and explosions. In cooperation with the Indiana Arson and Crime Association, the Arson Hotline (800-382-4628) is stationed within IDHS.

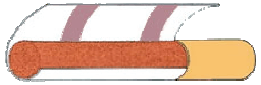
INFIRS/EMS & Risk Management

INFIRS was created to actively pursue fire and EMS incident reports and provide data that is not only required, but worthwhile to local, state and federal government agencies. Fire departments throughout the state have assisted in this venture by computerizing incident reports and providing more data than ever before.

Many fire and EMS departments are now reporting their incidents to the state each month. They report every type of call from ambulance assist to community assistance, fires, good intent calls, and cancelled enroute calls.

Reduced Ignition Propensity (Fire Safe) Cigarettes

In 2008, Indiana residential structure fire statistics, through the National Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), revealed 138 unattended cigarette smoking related fires. These fires caused four deaths and eleven injuries with $3.4 million in property loss. Indiana and the 49 other states have enacted Fire Safe Cigarette (FSC) regulations on all cigarette tobacco products sold. The FSC cigarettes place two bands (speed bumps) on the cigarette paper that are more dense than the surrounding paper and are designed to self-extinguish unattended, lit cigarettes.



Building & Fire Code Enforcement

The Fire and Building Code Enforcement Branch encourages the development of fire and building code enforcement programs within political subdivision and exercise any program of the supervision that is approved by the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission.

The Branch conducts inspections on public buildings; which include, but not limited to new construction and existing building inspecting which include, but not limited to schools, hospitals, nursing homes, daycare centers, correctional facilities, restaurants, hotels and retail establishments. These buildings shall be in compliance with the various adopted fire and building codes. The state is broken down into geographical areas for field staff to perform inspections, based on work load and population.

The Branch encourages the professional development of staff, local fire and building officials and related professional organizations such as Fire Inspector Association of Indiana, Indiana Association of Building Officials and International Association of Electrical Inspector's Indiana Chapter.

Elevators & Amusement Ride Safety

There are 19,000 regulated elevators, escalators and amusement rides in operation during the year. Ensuring the safety of these mechanical devices are 17 nationally certified inspectors.

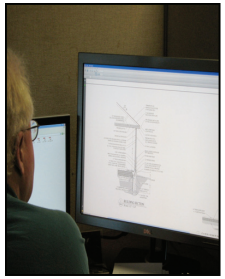
These inspectors perform inspections annually in office buildings, factories, hospitals, schools, nursing homes and in other not-so-common places such as TV towers, smokestacks, steel mills and grain storage buildings. These same inspectors will be found at fairgrounds, theme parks and indoor amusement parks inspecting amusement rides throughout the spring, summer and fall and at ski lodges in the winter.

Boiler & Pressure Vessels

The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Section (BPVSS) licenses boiler and pressure vessel inspectors meeting requisite national education and experience criteria, and that have passed the requisite qualifying examination and to inspectors employed by insurance companies that carry the requisite designation as listed by the Indiana Insurance Commissioner. The BPVSS is responsible for oversight of inspections of insured objects made by inspectors employed by all insurance inspection agencies, as well as mandated inspections made directly by the BPVSS. The BPVSS is responsible for receiving and processing all reports of inspection, and establishing and maintaining a database of all regulated objects, and issuing certificates of inspection for regulated objects, when their condition, as determined by inspection, warrants doing so.

The BPVSS also conducts conformity assessments of organizations that manufacture, repair or alter regulated pressure equipment in Indiana. These organizations are required to possess certificates of authorization that must be initially issued, and periodically renewed.

Plan Review



The Plan Review staff reviews plans for construction and alteration of Class I structures for compliance with applicable adopted codes and standards, and prepares design releases for approval by the State Fire Marshal and Building Commissioner. Three main programs are included in this process: project filing, review and release documentation. The stated goal of this process is to accurately review and release construction plans within 10-15 working days of their filing. Another program, not directly affecting the release turnaround time, is customer correspondence.