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## Carfentanil Safety for Responders

State of Indiana Emergency Medical Services, part of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, is sounding the alarm on a continuing drug trend that could overdose, or potentially kill, responders with minimal contact.

A persistent increase in opioid overdoses tied to the synthetic drug carfentanil have been seen around the country, prompting concern for first responders.

Carfentanil, which is used as a tranquilizing agent for elephants and other large mammals, is 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl. It is often mixed in with other drugs such as cocaine or crystal meth — and often drug users have no idea their drugs have been tainted.

“When approaching a scene, you never know where extreme danger may lurk, so every precaution must be taken,” said Dr. Michael

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*The most recent ambulance, which is dedicated to Epilepsy awareness, was displayed at the 2017 FDIC conference in April.*

## Jennings County’s Colorful Approach to Awareness

It started while sitting around having coffee, according to Jennings County Emergency Medical Services Director Dave Gerth.

The agency had ordered a new ambulance, and was expecting it to be delivered soon. The Jennings County EMS staff, during a rare quiet moment, were sitting and chatting about the new truck. Someone asked, “What will it look like?”

“Maybe we should paint it pink,” came the reply from Daryl Maddux, a 27-year veteran of the agency.

That idea stuck in Gerth’s head. He knew that Maddux had lost two wives to cancer, and thought a colorful, eye-catching reminder might help put prevention into people’s minds. So Gerth put together some ideas, and visited a local graphics shop. And the breast cancer awareness ambulance was born, going into service in February 2008. The Jennings County EMS vehicle was popular, heading to numerous

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# Helping Hoosiers Avoid Complacency on Severe Weather

With so many warnings about severe weather being issued this time of year, it can be easy for some citizens to slip into a habit of not taking them seriously. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) encourages emergency managers and other public safety officials to help Hoosiers stay on their toes when it comes to severe weather.

Indiana has a history of destructive severe weather events during the spring and summer months, and there are plenty of recent examples that many Hoosiers will recall. A few are widespread flooding in the summers of 2008 and 2015, the Henryville tornado in March 2012, and tornadoes in Kokomo and other areas in August 2016. These examples can be a useful way to remind people that the risks are real.

Officials need to carefully consider how they share warnings and

important updates to avoid becoming the emergency managers who cried wolf. Here are a few general tips to help maintain and build trust with the public when sharing weather warnings:

- Be careful not to exaggerate, and be straightforward about the risks people might face.
- As much as possible, explain the levels of risk, e.g. the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning and the National Weather Service's severe thunderstorm risk categories.
- AVOID WRITING IN ALL CAPS BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE SHOUTING. If several warnings are in all caps, they lose impact and people can start to tune them out. Use all caps sparingly.
- Avoid using multiple exclamation

marks!!!!!! Again, the more frequently exclamation marks are used, the less impact they have, and it can look like the sender is sensationalizing the message.

- Be specific about the location(s) of the threat(s) that affect local communities. For example, if only one part of the county is affected, say that.

IDHS advises all county EMAS and other public safety professionals to encourage Hoosiers to avoid complacency, stay informed and be mindful of how the weather can affect their plans. There's no harm in being prepared.

For more information on how to prepare for severe weather, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov) or follow the Indiana Department of Homeland Security on Twitter: @IDHS or Facebook: IndianaDHS.

## Low Head Dam Film Airing on Public Television Available Online

"Over, Under, Gone: The Killer in Our Rivers," a film put together by partners in Indiana, is available online and may be airing at various times throughout the state.

The film, most recently aired on March 23, focuses on the uses of low head dams and risks and misconceptions associated with them. The 28-minute film originally aired in October of 2016, but was re-released on WFYI in the Indianapolis network area in preparation for the upcoming recreation season. WFYI also plans to air the film multiple more times throughout the year.

"Over, Under, Gone: The Killer in Our Rivers" was also played at the national Silver Jackets conference in early March. The film can be viewed at <http://www.wfyi.org/>

<http://www.wfyi.org/programs/over-under-gone/television/over-under-gone-the-killer-in-our-rivers>.

Partners for the film include WFYI TV, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, the Indiana Silver Jackets, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, Manchester University and the U.S. Geological Survey, among others.

As a reminder, National Dam Safety Awareness Day is May 31, 2017. Indiana ranks 10th in the nation for people who have died in low head dams, and the age range of dam-related deaths is between 9 and 56 years of age.

For more information on National Dam Safety Awareness Day, visit <https://www.fema.gov/dam-safety>. For more information on safety at Indiana low head dams, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).

# Help Spread the Word about Amusement Ride Safety in Indiana

With fairs and festivals in full swing and more right around the corner, the State Fire Marshal and State Emergency Medical Services are asking emergency management and other public safety professionals to help spread the word about event safety.

The State Fire Marshal and State EMS are part of Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

State officials work with fair and festival staff to inspect amusement rides and help make this time of year safe and fun for Hoosiers. State EMS oversees the thousands of emergency medical responders and ambulance services that respond to accidents.

Here are a few important safety tips your agency can share with the public before they go to the fair and enjoy the rides:



- Read and follow all posted safety rules and listen to instructions given by ride operators.
- Obey minimum height, age, and weight restrictions. Never sneak children onto rides that they are too small or too young for. A smaller or younger child may not be physically or developmentally able to stay safely seated.
- Do not board a ride with visibly broken parts, signs of improper maintenance, or an inattentive operator.
- Remain in the ride until it comes to a complete stop at the unloading point. If a ride stops temporarily due to mechanical failure or other reason, stay seated and wait for an operator to give further instructions.

For more information about ride and other safety, go to [getprepared.in.gov](http://getprepared.in.gov).

Any issues with a ride should be addressed with the ride management company or venue operators first. If the issue remains unresolved, call the IDHS Rides Hotline at 1-888-203-5020 or email [rides@dhs.IN.gov](mailto:rides@dhs.IN.gov).

## Inspections

IDHS performs two kinds of amusement ride inspections: annual and periodic. All amusement rides are required to receive an annual safety inspection. They are also subject to additional periodic inspections. Safety inspections include verifying that the ride is properly set up and performing as designed. In 2016, IDHS performed 912 amusement ride inspections.

If a ride passes inspection, it will receive a sticker that should be placed in view of the public. The sticker will have the State Fire Marshal logo on it (top right), and the date it received its annual inspection. This permit is valid for one year from the date listed.

IDHS strongly encourages anyone who encounters a ride without a valid permit sticker to call the IDHS Rides Hotline at 1-888-203-5020 or email [rides@dhs.IN.gov](mailto:rides@dhs.IN.gov). This contact information can also be used if a ride is being operated in an unsafe manner, or in the unfortunate case of an accident.



# Indiana Fire Departments Assist in another Successful FDIC

During the last week of April, the 90<sup>th</sup> annual Fire Department Instructor's Conference (FDIC) took place at the Indiana Convention Center, Lucas Oil Stadium and nearby training facilities. A total of 33,979 firefighters from 58 countries attended.

“Coordinating this event with fire departments from Indiana and across the country shows our state’s dedication to the education and progress of the firefighting community,” said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. “Being among the contributors to the world’s largest firefighting convention that Indiana is fortunate to host.”

Among the 150 class instructors, 10 were from Indiana fire departments. The classes covered various subjects including meth lab fires and field amputations. FDIC also offered real time

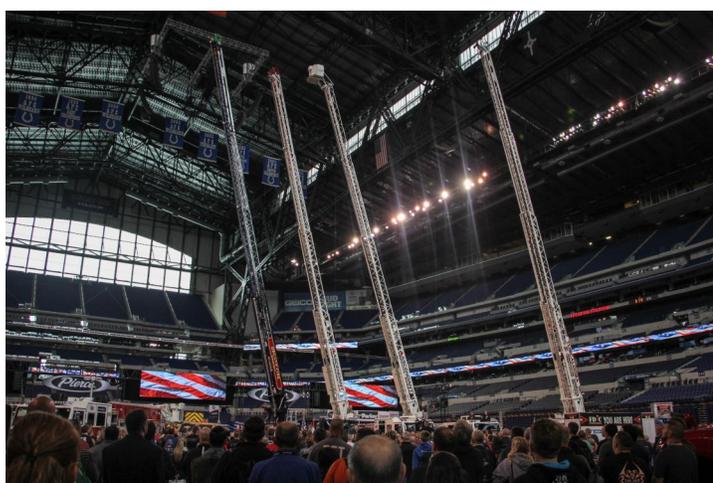
demonstrations conducted by fire rescue equipment companies.

Various events outside of the classroom were also held to boost morale among attendees. These events included the Courage and Valor 5K Fun Run, 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, Battle of the Bands, Firefighter Throwdown and Firefighter Combat challenge. Support of the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb events provides assistance to the surviving families and co-workers of the 343 firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001. The Courage and Valor 5K proceeds go to help sponsor the Ray Downey Courage and Valor Medal and Award presented each year at FDIC.

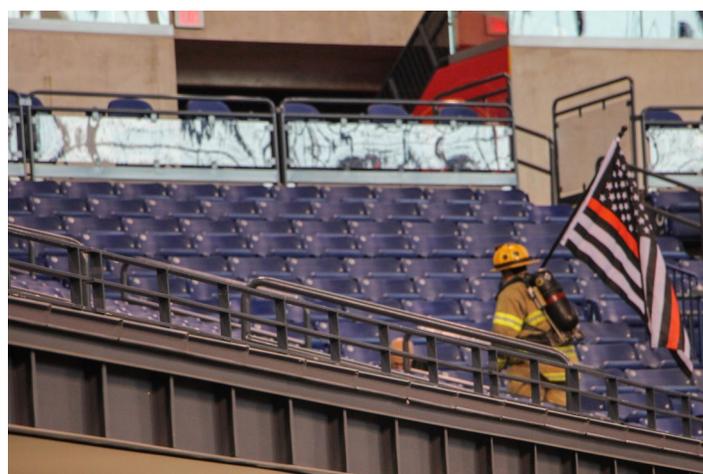
The 2018 FDIC is set to occur April 23-28, 2018 with even more attendees and exhibitors. For more information on FDIC, visit [www.FDIC.com](http://www.FDIC.com).



*Firefighters climbed the equivalent to 110 stories at Lucas Oil Stadium in memory of the 343 firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, 2001*



*A crowd formed to watch the opening ceremony of the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb. During the ceremony, aerial ladder fire trucks saluted the flag and the memory of fallen comrades.*



*A firefighter carried an American flag during the memorial climb.*



During the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb opening ceremony, firefighters raised their helmets as a salute.



Before the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, firefighters lined up and walked through a crowd of supporters.



Along with the 33,979 attendees, there were 798 exhibitors at FDIC this year.



Four Indiana fire engines and ambulances were displayed at FDIC 2017. The vehicles were from Zionsville Fire Department (bottom left), Brownsburg Fire Territory (bottom right), Danville Fire Department (middle right) and Jennings County Board of Commissioners (featured on pages 1 and 6).

## Jennings County's Colorful Approach to Awareness, Cont.

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cancer walks around the state, even to King's Island. It was soon followed by Autism Awareness, CPR awareness and most recently, Epilepsy Awareness. The colorful ambulances seem to have done their job. A while ago, a mother and daughter visited the station, asking to see the pink vehicle. Gerth took them out to look at it, and they began to get teary eyed. The younger of the two ladies, a Jennings County resident, had seen the ambulance around the county, and decided



that maybe it was time to get a mammogram. Once her test came back clear, she began talking to her mother, who lived in Arizona, about also going in

for the test. As a result, the cancer that had already been growing was found -- early enough to treat.

"It's gratifying that our efforts have helped others stay healthy," said Gerth. "We'd rather not see them in our ambulances."

## Hancock County Technical Rescue and Indiana Task Force One Team Up to Train

The Hancock County Technical Rescue Team participated in a class taught by members of Indiana Task Force One on shoring and breaching techniques to extricate victims caught in a structural collapse.

Indiana Task Force One is available 24 hours a day, locally and nationally. In cooperation with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (USDHS-FEMA), the State of Indiana, and other agencies, the task force can be mobilized once a disaster exceeds local jurisdictional capabilities and an official requests for outside help is made.

The class was conducted at the site of a dilapidated structure in Hancock County. The class organizers forced the structure to collapse in on itself to create the training conditions.

Indiana Task Force One provided equipment, logistics and all

instructors were Indiana Task Force One rescue specialists.

Class instructors included:

Lead Instructor: Captain Steve Frye, Carmel Fire Department

Lead Evaluator: Lt. James Wolsiffer, Sugar Creek Township Fire Department

Instructors:

Mike Boyd Jr., Indianapolis Fire Department

Capt. Brandon Kleine, Sugar Creek

Capt. John O'Neill, Noblesville Fire Department

Jason Porter, Avon-Washington Township Fire Department

Class participants include staff from Sugar Creek Township Fire Department and Greenfield Fire Territory .



## Plan Now for June Outreach

June is coming quickly, and IDHS is encouraging emergency services and emergency management professionals to look at events for safety and preparedness that are coming soon.

### Fireworks Safety Month

Observed: June 1-30, 2017

The bulk of fireworks injuries, nearly 72 percent in 2016, occur in July. Each year, Indiana Department of Homeland Security launches an education campaign to encourage safe use of fireworks in Indiana, and encourages local officials to join the effort.

For more information on fireworks safety, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).

### Pet Preparedness Month

Observed: June 1-30, 2017

In a disaster situation, shelters may not allow pets for safety, health and sanitation reasons. The Indiana State Board of Animal Health and IDHS encourage pet owners to have a plan in place for their pets and livestock, should a disaster hit.

For information on building a pet preparedness plan, visit <http://www.in.gov/boah/2441.htm>. For information on developing a family disaster plan, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).

### Lightning Safety Awareness Week

Observed: June 18-24, 2017

Lightning is unpredictable and dangerous. While lightning fatalities have decreased over the past 30 years, lightning is still one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. Although most lightning occurs in the summer, people can be struck at any time of year.

For more information and lightning safety tips, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov) and <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>.

## Carfentanil Safety for Responders, Cont.

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Olinger, State Emergency Medical Services Director. "That's definitely true for any drug-related scene, where even a tiny amount of the wrong substance can be deadly."

Carfentanil and other fentanyl-related compounds are a serious danger to public safety, first responder, medical, treatment, and laboratory personnel. These substances can come in several forms, including powder, blotter paper, tablets, and spray. The substance can be absorbed through the skin or accidental inhalation of airborne powder.

When responding to an overdose, response personnel should remember the following best practices:

Exercise extreme caution with any suspected opioid delivery method. Wear gloves and masks when responding to any situation where carfentanil or fentanyl is

suspected. If possible, cover as much of the skin as possible when responding to a potential overdose situation.

Be aware of any sign of exposure. Symptoms include: respiratory depression or arrest, drowsiness or profound exhaustion, disorientation, sedation, pinpoint pupils and clammy skin. The onset of these symptoms usually occurs within minutes of exposure.

Seek immediate medical attention. Carfentanil and other fentanyl-related substances can work very quickly, so in cases of suspected exposure, it is important to seek medical attention immediately. Any needle stick should be medically evaluated as soon as possible.

Be ready to administer naloxone in the event of exposure. Naloxone is an antidote for opioid overdose. Immediately

administering high doses of naloxone can reverse an overdose of carfentanil or fentanyl. In the case of more potent opioids, many more doses of naloxone may be required to reverse an overdose. Responders should be prepared with additional doses of naloxone.



*A visual of the dose of heroin, fentanyl and carfentanil needed to kill an average adult. Credit: Paige Sutherland/NHPR*

## Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant Awarded



Pictured in front of a Liberty Volunteer Fire Department fire truck: Samuel Mauller (left), Chief Randy Ried (center) and Kristen Clairday (right). Mauller, a first-year firefighter, and Clairday, a local student, helped to write the grant application for the department's new air compressor.

Liberty Township Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) in Selma, Indiana, was awarded an equipment grant by the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for a new air compressor valued at more than \$26,000.

"We're grateful to Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for its generous support of public safety efforts," said Chief Randy Ried, Liberty Township Volunteer Fire Department. "This grant will make an immediate impact on the safety

of our firefighters and the capabilities of our department, equipping us to better serve the community."

The new compressor is almost double the power of the older, less efficient unit it will replace, which will enable Liberty Township VFD to maximize the capacity of its self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) bottles. With additional oxygen in the SCBA bottles, firefighters can withstand hostile environments longer, giving them

more time to bring a fire under control or search for victims. The department's old compressor was purchased in 1990 and modified to fill SCBA bottles. When the department upgraded to higher capacity bottles, the modified compressor was unable to completely fill them. After being advised by a service center that parts were no longer made for its current compressor, the department considered taking out a loan to purchase a new unit before the grant came through.

"As a volunteer department with a limited budget, we had been running short on options to replace the current compressor, so this grant fills a critical need for us," said Chief Ried.

Liberty Township VFD, which responds to about 400 incidents each year, estimates this grant will impact more than 1,200 children and more than 900 senior citizens in its community.

The department serves the residents of Liberty Township and parts of Perry Township, has 23 members and provides basic life support, fire suppression and rescue services.

## Monroe, Brown and Wells Counties New EMA Directors

Three new emergency management agency directors have taken office in three counties across Indiana.

Allison Moore officially began working as the EMA director of Monroe County on March 2, 2017. Moore worked as a district administrator with Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) District 8 for nine years, where she helped in the formation of the IDHS District 8 Task Force. Moore is a Lawrence County

native, and also worked for two years for the Lawrence County Health Department.

Susan Armstrong began working as the Brown County EMA director on March 6, 2017. Armstrong served as a volunteer firefighter with the East Columbus Independent Fire Department for seven years. Starting in December of 2014, she worked as the deputy director with the Bartholomew County EMA. Armstrong remained in this

position until accepting her current position with Brown County.

Matthew Favory officially became the EMA director for Wells County on March 6, 2017. Favory is recently retired from the U.S. Army as a military police officer, and has approximately three years of experience working in emergency management. Favory is also a Wells County native, and has a bachelor's degree in emergency management from Ashford University.

## Mission

*The Indiana Department of Homeland Security will provide statewide leadership, exemplary customer service, and subject matter expertise for the enhancement of public and private partnerships and the assurance of local, state and federal collaboration to continually develop Indiana's public safety capabilities for the wellbeing and protection of our citizens, property and economy.*

## Contact

*The Hoosier Responder* is a publication of The Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Office of Public Affairs at (317) 234-6713 or [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov).

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