The number of newly reported cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the U.S. has slowed dramatically in recent weeks—just two cases in two weeks. The Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH), is the primary agency for response and recovery.

That’s a dramatic turnaround from the daily totals of new case reported in April and May. Nationally, more than 220 sites have been infected with the virus, resulting in the loss of nearly 50 million birds.

The collaboration among IDHS and its local and state partners brought this situation to a swift conclusion, although sadly not before the loss of life,” said David Kane, IDHS Executive Director. “The professionalism and expertise of Indiana’s emergency management personnel were evident throughout the search.”

(Continued on page 9)
Indianapolis DHS Offers Cyber Security Courses

In 2013, the Indianapolis Division of Homeland Security began offering two-hour cyber security courses as a way to educate residents and organizations in Marion County about best practices to stay safe online, which has become increasingly difficult these days since even one seemingly small mistake can compromise a whole network.

“There have been several organizations breached because one person opened up an email, got a virus, and infected the whole place,” said Leo Doyle, who leads the courses for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Cyber Defense Force.

Part of the problem, Doyle explained, is that the steady stream of corporate breaches in the news – such as Wal-Mart, Target, and Anthem – have desensitized people to the urgent matter of secure cyber practices. Accordingly, Doyle and his team use their course to combat that complacency.

“The first hour we try to scare people,” said Doyle. “We tell them what’s happening out there; what the different threats are. People think it’s not real until it happens to them. This makes it more real.”

In the second hour of the course, people learn how they can defend against those threats, which are plentiful: viruses, malware, phishing and social engineering. Doyle and his team teach participants how to create more secure passwords and how to tell if their computer has been hacked. Antivirus software can only detect 70 percent of viruses, so computer users need to know the symptoms when something seems amiss.

“The trick is to be savvy enough to not be an easy target.”

Leo Doyle, Indianapolis Metropolitan Cyber Defense Force

Doyle has decades of experience in the information technology field, and he and his team have been trained by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in cyber defense, including techniques on how to hack a computer.

“The theory is that if we know how it’s accomplished, we can defend against it,” explained Doyle.

The courses are free and available to any group of at least 20 or more. In 2014, the Indy Cyber Defense Force trained more than 600 people all over Marion County and beyond, even conducting a session in Huntington.

“Cyber seems to be an odd duck,” said Doyle, noting the difficulty in staffing trained personnel for cyber security, “so I feel an obligation to help out anyone wants it.”

Doyle and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Cyber Defense Force are willing to teach courses outside of Marion County; all they ask is reimbursement for travel expenses, 20 or more people in attendance and a facility to host the event. Visit www.indy.gov/cyber for more information.

Indy Firefighters Lead Smoke Alarm Blitz

About 400 smoke detectors, donated by Riley Hospital for Children, were distributed June 17 to families living around the intersection of 38th Street and Post Road in Indianapolis.

Working out of the Indianapolis Fire Department’s Station 2, firefighters and volunteers installed the devices in residences during the third of six smoke detector “blitzes” scheduled in Indiana’s capital city for 2015.

Representatives of the Indiana State Fire Marshal took part in the blitz, along with volunteers from the American Red Cross, Eli Lilly, Marion School of Nursing and Riley Hospital for Children Trauma Services. The blitz program began 15 years ago in Indianapolis in partnership with State Farm Insurance.

Anyone in Indianapolis who needs a smoke detector may call the Indianapolis Fire Department’s Smoke Detector Hotline at 317-327-6093.
Response to June Floods is Intense Locally and Statewide

First responders and emergency management professionals in areas affected by June flooding put in long, hard hours to handle threats caused by rising river waters.

Many state officials, including the governor, worked to support those on the front lines in the flood battles of June.

On June 18, Gov. Mike Pence visited Adams, Huntington and Wells counties to quickly learn, first-hand, the challenges faced by citizens and first responders in flooding areas. Gov. Pence was joined in surveying the floods by U.S. Representative Marlin Stutzman and Indiana Department of Homeland Security Executive Director David Kane. On July 1, Gov. Pence met with farmers whose lands in Cass and Jasper counties were pummeled by heavy rains and threatened by flood waters.

In Indianapolis, the state’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) increased staffing beginning June 18 in response to flooding in the northern part of the state. The EOC worked to coordinate assistance to affected counties.

Among the many efforts of the EOC was help in distributing 266,000 sandbags from state stockpiles to counties in need, allowing communities to prepare for rising water levels.

Another state agency, the Indiana Department of Correction, also helped Indiana communities fight flooding. A total of 86 offenders and 10 correction staff members from three facilities were deployed to fill sandbags in flood-threatened areas.

In several areas of the state, previous mitigation projects proved valuable in protecting communities. Open spaces created through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant projects helped limit the damage and spread of flood waters in the communities of Bluffton (Wells County) and Decatur (Adams County).

High water levels in June also caused issues at northern Indiana dams. Local, state and federal partners worked together as Huntington County’s Roush Dam and Wabash County’s Salamonie Dam underwent planned, controlled releases as preventive measures to address capacity concerns.
The Indiana Department of Homeland Security, along with local and federal partners, conducted an exercise June 12-14 with the Indiana Disaster Portable Mortuary Unit (I-DPMU). The exercise included setting up the portable mortuary and running morgue operations.

The portable mortuary is a deployable resource sponsored by the state homeland security, and designed to provide assistance during local disaster response, specifically during a mass-fatality incident. The mission of the unit is to respond and help local authorities in the identification and return of disaster victims to their families as quickly as possible, and with sensitivity and dignity toward loved ones.

“This is a resource we hope is never used,” said Robin Stump “We train to ensure that if it is needed, we can perform our tasks at the highest levels on behalf of victims and their families.”

The portable mortuary may be requested through a county emergency management agency anytime the local fatality management infrastructure, or coroner, is overwhelmed; such as during a mass casualty incident.

Once a deployment has been approved, the goal is to have the unit fully operational, anywhere in the state, within 24 hours. Once on site, crews work to set up and have the unit running in four hours. At this exercise, it took the team a little more than two hours to have the portable mortuary set up and ready for operations.

The portable mortuary team is responsible for setting up and managing the cache of equipment and supplies. This team is also responsible for the logistical needs and requirements of on-site personnel. The IDHS team that manages the unit consists of about 40 people.
LEPCs Play Key Role in Planning and Response Across Indiana

Its acronym may not be as familiar as others in the responder professions, but an LEPC plays key planning, response and reporting roles throughout the state.

LEPC stands for Local Emergency Planning Committee, and there are 88 of them functioning in Indiana at this time.

The focus of each committee is on hazardous materials – identifying their locations, keeping updated records, planning for emergencies involving them, and training for potential hazardous materials (hazmat) incidents.

For example, members of the LEPC in Jefferson County, along the Ohio River, toured local county businesses as part of the most recent updating of its emergency response plan.

“We visited each and every company (that might have hazardous materials),” said Celeste Sutter, chair of Jefferson County’s LEPC. “We also took photos in their restricted areas where materials are stored.”

A full-scale HAZMAT emergency training exercise will take place in October in Jefferson County, said Sutter, who is the director of environmental health and safety at Hanover College.

Each LEPC supports the professional first responder agencies of local governments. A typical LEPC will have members representing local emergency management agencies, emergency medical service providers, fire departments, hospitals, law enforcement officials and transportation departments. Also, a committee may include local businesses, community groups, environmental groups or news media.

The Indiana Emergency Response Commission provides funding through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security for distribution to LEPCs according to Indiana law. Funds can be used for training, exercises, response planning and administrative purposes.

Another benefit is the flexibility counties have in structuring an LEPC. For example, even 12 individual citizens can constitute a committee – even though it’s unusual – if representatives of traditional first responder organizations are not available to serve. A committee could also be a combination of agency representatives and private citizens.

In brief, an LEPC must:
- Have a response plan in place and update it annually;
- Establish and adhere to by-laws;
- Perform training exercises (ranging from table-top drills to full-scale simulations);
- Keep accurate rosters, meeting minutes, records and reports;
- Comply with open meetings and open records laws.

Sutter said Jefferson County’s LEPC also studies patterns of transportation of hazardous materials through the county, for example, mini flow studies of materials entering Indiana by the Milton-Madison Bridge over the Ohio River.

More detailed information is available through the IDHS website. A policy handbook is available from the Indiana Emergency Response Commission, which oversees the LEPC program.

IDHS Announces New State Citizen Corps Specialist

David Roorbach is the new Citizen Corps specialist for Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). In his new position, Roorbach will be working with all related programs, including Indiana’s Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

“I am here to support and serve Citizen Corps throughout Indiana,” Roorbach said. CERT is one of the primary Citizen Corps programs in Indiana and the volunteer teams do a lot of good work across the state.” “I’m eager to learn more about how CERT works and the ways it can be improved to better serve local communities.”

Roorbach holds a bachelor’s degree in communication from Indiana Wesleyan University and previously served as Governor Mike Pence’s Fellow from July 2014 until his hiring with IDHS this past May.

During the fellowship, he worked for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, and the Office of the Governor.

In the coming months, Roorbach is looking to find more ways for Citizen Corps members to stay active in their communities, but he knows that there is much to learn about how different teams function.
IDHS Supports Indiana National Guard, Israelis in United Front Exercise

Decatur Township Fire Chief Pascal Arnes recently helped lead an earthquake response training exercise in which members of the Israeli army participated.

Arnes joined other Hoosier first responders and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) in assisting the Indiana National Guard in a rescue and recovery exercise dubbed United Front, which included the Israeli Home Front Command National Search and Rescue Unit. The exercise took place June 22-25 at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center.

“Everyone at Indiana Homeland Security was happy to assist the National Guard, whose leadership in this crucial exercise was outstanding,” said Joe Romero, director of the IDHS Division of Planning and Assessment. “Their expertise and facilities are world-class, which is why experts from other countries come to Indiana for training.”

The United Front exercise was based on the scenario of an 8.4 magnitude earthquake occurring along the New Madrid fault line with direct effects on southern Indiana. That level of earthquake would cause extensive damage to infrastructure in the Evansville area and southwestern Indiana. The exercise allowed participants to share best practices in emergency response, medical treatment, search-and-extraction, and hazardous materials procedures.

Arnes, whose fire department is in Marion County, held the post of incident commander during the exercise.

“In an operation of this size, communication is always an issue, and one that we have worked through,” Arnes said. “We’ve worked to integrate resources, spanning from local to federal and international, and we’ve been pleased with our ability to successfully work together to achieve objectives.”

For the exercise, IDHS provided about 55 participants, including control staff and evaluators. The entire exercise included about 500.

IDHS staffed an incident command post at Muscatatuck and an area command post for Forward Operating Base Panther at the Jennings County Airport. Both locations were staffed by local personnel from IDHS Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10. Also participating were representatives of the Indiana State Fair and Indiana University.

A key aspect of the exercise was integration between the incident command post and the area command post for Forward Operating Base Panther at the Jennings County Airport. Both locations were staffed by local personnel from IDHS Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10. Also participating were representatives of the Indiana State Fair and Indiana University.

A key aspect of the exercise was integration between the incident command post and the area command post, according to Lauren Taverna, state exercise program manager/north. An incident command post is the location on scene from which all incident planning and tactical operations are directed. An area command post is an organization established to oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by an Incident Command Structure (ICS) organization.

Participants also conducted technical rescue operations, including structural collapse rescue, rope rescue, and subterranean and confined space rescue.

Since 2011, Indiana and Israel have participated in a small-group exchange program designed to improve cooperative response efforts internationally.

“This is a longstanding relationship born out of a shared experience in Haiti (in response to that country’s devastating earthquake), and a shared mission of saving lives,” Romero said.

For a 30-second slideshow glance at United Front images during IDHS briefings in Indianapolis and National Guard-led training at Muscatatuck, click here.
Israeli Defense Forces Leadership Receives IDHS Briefing

Leadership from the Israeli Defense Forces visited the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) June 25 during the Indiana National Guard’s United Front Exercise.

Presenting were Response Director Brad Thatcher, Communications Director Don West and Public Information Director John Erickson.

Thatcher presented on the capabilities and organization of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Response and the SEOC, which included IDHS’s reporting structure to Governor Mike Pence, and collaboration with the Indiana National Guard, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and local and other partners.

Thatcher emphasized that in Indiana, all disaster response is under local authority and the state supports these jurisdictions when they need assistance. Topics included how the SEOC is structured, mobile response units including the Disaster Portable Mortuary Unit, portable video cameras, EOC expansion, tent operations, and incident management assistance teams.

West talked about the state’s communications, including some comparisons with Israel geographically and with regard to population, National Alert and Warning System (NAWAS), FEMA National Radio System (FNARS), 800 Mhz and P25 communication systems, satellite communications, the purpose and functions of the early warning system, the structure and operation of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), and communication redundancies.

Erickson talked about strategies for safety, outreach, education, risk and other messaging. He also talked about all hazard (weather) radio distribution to the counties for those in mobile homes and/or who can’t afford a radio. Erickson also spoke about the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) in Indiana, which is under public information, and discussed the structure and training and CERT bags provided to county teams.

For a 30-second slideshow glance at United Front images during IDHS briefings in Indianapolis and National Guard-led training at Muscatatuck, click here.

Building More Bridges

A delegation from Germany was also in attendance at the 2015 United Front Exercise to learn more about the unique training opportunities available in partnership with Indiana.

Led by Vice Chief of Defense Peter Schelzig, the German delegation was able to receive an inside view of the MUTC facility. In recent years, Germany has moved to a regional support unit structure, similar to the National Guard program used in the United States. With a similar, local-focused approach to emergency response, the delegation was interested in ways to learn and improve their program.

Bridgadier General Gerd Kropf, Deputy Commander of the Territorial Tasks Command and a member of the delegation, was able to learn more about how Indiana trains reserve forces. “The professional soldiers, realistic training and incorporation of civilian efforts allows everyone to learn together effectively,” said Kropf. “I’m sure we will stay in good contact, and hope to work together in the future.”

Help Communicate Tips for Extreme Heat Safety

Summer is here, and with the long days, Indiana often sees high temperatures. Emergency Medical Services certifications, part of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is reminding all Hoosiers to stay safe when the temperatures start to rise, and encourages all local and counties agencies to join in promoting summer safety.

Overexposure to temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit can pose serious health risks such as heat cramps, heat exhaustion and even heat stroke. The risk for these illnesses increases when the heat is coupled with high humidity that Indiana often experiences. Here are some tips that can help keep Hoosiers safe this summer:

- Drink plenty of water;
- Spend time in the shade or in air conditioning, even for brief periods;
- Wear sunglasses and loose-fitting, light-colored clothing;
- Use the appropriate sun protection factor (SPF) sunscreen for your skin type.

During the summer months, it’s best to check local weather forecasts before leaving home for the day. Dressing appropriately and keeping hydrated will help prevent heat-related illnesses.

While local residents are an important audience for this message, Emergency Medical Services with IDHS encourages agencies and businesses to remind employees of warm weather safety procedures. For more information on what to do during extreme heat, visit GetPrepared.in.gov and go to “Extreme Heat.”
EMS Reporting Changing Hands

Starting July 1, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) has responsibility for all emergency medical services (EMS) reporting, a duty that was previously handled by the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH).

While the new method of reporting won’t change anything for the first responders who initially submit this information, it does mean that a different group will be forwarding the data along to the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) which helps to document EMS data across the country.

“As of now, we want all first responders across the state to continue reporting as they normally would,” said Angie Biggs, the IDHS Fire and EMS Data Risk Coordinator. Biggs will be in charge of reporting EMS information to NEMSIS as it is submitted to IDHS from the state’s first responders.

Any further instructions regarding the reporting of EMS information will come from State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson.

Training, Reporting of Naloxone Use Encouraged by Indiana State Department of Health

Naloxone (Narcan), a drug that can instantly save the life of a person who has overdosed on prescription opioids or heroin, has been available to first responders in Indiana since March 2014. A bill to expand access to the overdose intervention drug passed both the 2015 Indiana house and senate unanimously, and was recently signed into law by Gov. Mike Pence. It allows “lay responders,” including family members or friends of people addicted to heroin or prescription painkillers, to have naloxone on hand and protects them from liability should they need to administer it.

Legislators and health officials now want to be able to obtain statistics on naloxone’s use and the lives it has saved. The recently signed bill requires Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers to report pre-hospital use of naloxone to the state’s EMS registry.

“We have statistics on things like the number of deaths related to drug use and the number of people enrolled in drug treatment programs,” said Dr. Joan Duwve, ISDH Chief Medical Consultant. “What we don’t know is the number of times naloxone is administered in the field by either first responders or lay responders and the outcomes.

“Family members and friends will, most likely, get naloxone from a pharmacy or from another entity, like a support group, permitted to distribute naloxone under the new law,” Duwve said. “The law requires those who dispense naloxone to lay responders to teach them how to administer the drug and to provide information about addiction treatment services available in the area. It also requires lay responders to call 9-1-1 when they use the drug.”

Duwve said a recent Ohio pilot naloxone distribution project found that people who have been rescued by naloxone administered by a friend or family member are about 14 percent more likely to seek drug treatment afterward. She says oftentimes the compassionate response and show of concern, along with coming close to death, are motivators for people with substance-use disorders to get help.

Naloxone is not a controlled substance. It knocks opioids off receptors in the brain where they work, and then blocks those receptors so the opioids lose their effect. People who have overdosed stop breathing, but when naloxone is administered quickly they begin breathing again in a very short period of time. The dose is usually administered as a nasal spray by lay providers, and its administration is easy to learn.

For more information about setting up training for first responders, contact Joan Duwve by calling 317-233-7164 or by emailing her at jduwve2@isdh.in.gov.

More information about SEA 406 reporting requirements and reporting mechanisms is included at the links below:

- SEA 406 Reporting Law.pdf
- Naloxone Location on the Image Trend Run Form.pdf
Avian Flu (continued from page 1)

How can local communities, particularly those with significant commercial poultry operations, prepare? Begin by discussing plans for assisting in a response. Key areas of potential local support to an HPAI event include:

- Traffic control and site security. The virus can be spread by people and vehicles; traffic on and off of infected sites should be minimized. Decontamination of vehicles is essential.
- Identification of possible disposal sites. Birds and litter should ideally be disposed of on-site via composting; however, when that is not an option, identifying local options (landfills, available lands, etc.) will need to be accomplished quickly.
- Resources. Firefighting foam is often used in some barns to euthanize birds. Communities with stockpiles may be called upon to support that effort. This would include providing ample water supplies to support foaming and decontamination efforts.
- Personnel support of depopulation crews. Particularly in rural areas, feeding and housing work teams will need to be coordinated, likely through local resources.
- Local communications. Local residents, officials and others may not understand what to expect in an HPAI event. Local public safety professionals may be called upon to help BOAH organize community meetings or identify key individuals/groups for updates.

Currently, Indiana has no known cases of HPAI. In mid-May, a Whitley County backyard flock was identified with the virus, and was released from quarantine at the end of May.

However, the good news about reduced case numbers hasn’t slowed efforts by the BOAH in battling avian flu. Surveillance of reported sick or dead birds in backyard and commercial flocks continues weekly. To date, more than 50 investigations have yielded negative test results.

BOAH is partnering with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to test wild birds. All those tests have also been negative.

“This is our opportunity window to become as prepared as we possibly can,” said State Veterinarian Bret D. Marsh.

Preparedness also means coordinating with other state and federal agencies on tactics for depopulating and disposing of large numbers of birds, should a commercial operation with up to 1 million hens on one site become infected.

BOAH has met with landfill operators to determine their needs for accepting birds, should on-site disposal not be an option for an infected farm. The agency also is supporting efforts of the Indiana Department of Correction to train 300 low-level offenders to handle birds and assist with depopulation efforts, should additional labor be needed. BOAH is coordinating other resource needs with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

More information about the current HPAI situation in Indiana is available online at http://www.in.gov/boah/2390.htm. Specific questions may be directed to Denise Derrer at BOAH at dderrer@boah.in.gov.

Rush County Search (continued from page 1)

Timothy Edwards of Rushville was reported missing at 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 20, several hours after he left an Arlington campground located next to a pond. Due to inclement weather through the night, local officials postponed the search until 7 a.m. on Sunday.

IDHS’s Hardy — along with Midwest K9 Search and Rescue — responded to Rush County’s request for tracking and cadaver search dogs early Sunday morning. The team of five dogs and six handlers searched the woods and fields surrounding the pond, but Hardy’s search dog showed interest in the pond itself.

“When the dog went into this area on the docks; he didn’t give a trained indication, but I could tell by his body language there was something going on there,” said Hardy.

Hardy’s search dog was placed aboard a DNR boat and gave its first indication that it had found a lead at 10:15 a.m. DNR dragged the pond and used side scan sonar, locating the body at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Officials identified the body as the missing 19-year-old Edwards, who was pronounced deceased at the scene.

“The cooperation we had between all the agencies helped bring clarification into the search and rescue operation and closure for the family,” said Charles Kemker, Rush County Emergency Management director.

The investigation into Edwards’s death is ongoing.
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 Public Information Office at (317) 234-6713 or pio@dhs.in.gov.