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## IDHS Working to Make Risk Management Plans Specific to Each County

The Training and Exercise Division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) will soon begin working alongside other state and county agencies to develop more cohesive and thorough risk management plans.

Beginning on June 30, training and exercise will begin implementing Readiness Training Identification Preparation and Planning (RTIPP) courses that help to better assess the specific risks that each county in the state faces. The courses, which follow the pre-RTIPP sessions that began May 6, help to establish which areas need strengthening in each county. This assessment also

*(Continued on page 9)*

## New Laws Affecting Responders, Inspectors Begin July 1

A handful of new Indiana laws affecting safety and security professionals in the state take effect July 1.

Elements of the new laws focus on training, school-building safety and mutual-aid requests.

One of the new laws, House Bill 1182 ([Public Law 40-2015](#)), allows the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to establish the Indiana State Fire and Public Safety Academy Training System. The bill authorizes the development of training programs for public safety personnel, and for cooperative agreements with other agencies, organizations and educational institutions.

Another law, Senate Bill 193 ([Public Law 75-2015](#)), designates the Northwest Indiana Law

*(Continued on page 8)*

## High-Path Avian Flu: With One Diagnosed Flock, Indiana Hopes to Avoid More Cases

To date, Indiana has had one occurrence of avian influenza (AI) that, fortunately, was relatively short-lived. However, the scenario is playing out much differently in other Midwestern states, where state and federal animal health officials are waging a battle against this virus that has affected some 44 million birds on 200 poultry farms in 20 states. Staff at the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) realizes that the situation could change locally at any time, and have vowed to be prepared.

The H5 strains of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) circulating in the U.S. are a foreign animal disease – meaning they have not been diagnosed in this country. The rapid and deadly spread through commercial poultry operations, especially egg laying and turkey facilities, is evidence of why containing this disease is such a high priority for state and federal animal health officials.

Spread primarily by wild, migratory water fowl, the HPAI H5 viruses can kill a barn full of poultry in just a day or two. Fortunately, Indiana's single infected site was a backyard poultry flock, diagnosed in Whitley County in early May.

*(Continued on page 9)*

# ► What's Going On

## 2015 IERC Classes Announced

The Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) has announced the schedule of classes for the 2015 conference.

Subjects planned include building partnerships, planning for emergencies at manufacturing and industrial facilities, ins and outs of Narcan®, shared public safety facilities, railroad safety and many more.

The 2015 IERC will be held August 19-22, Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel at Keystone Crossing. For more information, or to register, visit the [IERC website](#).

Each year, IERC works to provide exceptional education and networking opportunities for public safety, including emergency medical, fire, law enforcement, communications, emergency management, hazardous materials and special operations.

## 2015 Search and Rescue Conference June 12-14

The Indiana Search and Rescue Conference will take place at Camp Atterbury June 12 through 14.

Conference attendees can choose from one of seven tracks for the weekend instruction, including:

- K-9 Tracking and Trailing;
- K-9 Wilderness/Air Scent;
- Introduction to Disaster Dogs;
- Cadaver/Human Remains Detection;
- Rope Operations;
- Ground Search Skills;
- Advanced Rope Rescue Skills.

Additional speakers will present over the two-day course on several topics, allowing participants to choose classes on subjects such as the Response to the Oso Mudslide, Courtroom Testimony, and Lost Person Behavior.



For more information, or to register for the conference, visit the [Midwest Search Dogs website](#).

## Franklin County EMA Director Nominated for FEMA Award

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) has nominated a Franklin County man for a national award in recognition of his efforts to protect residents of mobile and modular homes from severe weather.

Edward Hollenbach, director of the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency, was nominated for a Community Preparedness Award sponsored the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

For more than a year, Hollenbach has visited more than 1,000 households – traveling about 780

miles in his county – to deliver free weather alert radios. Hollenbach said the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) radios are cost-effective and more appropriate than a siren for the topography of his county.

“I can get nearly 600 of these weather radios for the cost of one quality siren,” Hollenbach said. “And the radios don’t require the same kind of maintenance that the sirens do.”

Hollenbach has developed a detailed mapping system showing where mobile and modular homes are in Franklin County, which is in

southeastern Indiana along the Ohio border. His mapping system also indicates which homes have received weather radios.

IDHS District Coordinator Doug Cooke endorsed the nomination, stating that Hollenbach’s work will undoubtedly save lives in Franklin County.

FEMA will announce award winners in the fall of 2015.

## ► What's Going On

### Indiana Health and Medical Emergency Response Conference

The Indiana State Department of Health will host a conference focusing on Health and Medical Emergency Response June 10-11 at the Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis campus.

The program includes training sessions on grants, public-health-focused incident command, state laboratories and communications. Additional breakout sessions cover a wide range of topics, including mental health, animal and human health, special pathogen units, and some real-world applications of emergency management in health-related events.

Registration is currently [open online](#), and the conference is free to interested professionals.

### Indiana State Fire Marshal to Provide Free Smoke Alarms to Fire Departments

Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson announced that he has renewed a program to provide fire departments with free smoke alarms for Hoosiers. The program was made possible through a \$7,000 grant from State Farm® Insurance.

“I’m very pleased we could continue this program and provide more of these life-saving devices to fire departments that may not have the resources to purchase smoke alarms for their communities,” said Greeson.

In 2015, there have been 40 fire-related deaths in Indiana. In 2014, there were more than 75 fire-related deaths in Indiana. Most of these occurred where there was no

working smoke alarm present.

In the first year of the program, 500 smoke alarms were purchased through the State Farm grant and provided to dozens of fire departments across the state.

Fire departments can apply online at: <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3858.htm>. Grant guidelines and additional information on the program can be found at that link.

For more information about smoke alarms and fire safety, visit [GetPrepared.IN.gov](http://GetPrepared.IN.gov).

### More Counties Using HMEP Grants to Fund Training and Planning

Planning and training is critical in preparing Hoosier first responders and the communities they protect for a hazardous materials incident.

With shrinking city and county budgets, finding the money to train and plan for these incidents can be difficult. To help make ends meet, more and more counties are applying for federal money through the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP). This U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) grant, administered by the

Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), can fund activities related to planning or training for a hazardous material event.

Planning activities and expenditures covered by HMEP include plan updates, commodity flow studies, vulnerability studies, attending hazmat-related conferences and conducting exercises with scenarios involving the transportation of hazardous materials. Training activities covered by the grant include course, hazmat-related

conferences and purchasing equipment.

Roughly \$320,000 was administered to the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) of 35 counties in 2014. Currently the State of Indiana, through IDHS, is helping 38 counties during the 2015 HMEP grant cycle, and on first review there are 45 counties seeking funds during the 2016 cycle.



## District 1 Regional EMS Conference Educates First Responders



The Regional EMS Conference held May 18 at Avalon Manor drew approximately 150 first responders from throughout Northwest Indiana to follow one person's life span and gain a greater understanding of the common and uncommon experiences a patient may face.

The participants heard from 11 presenters, and topics included information on how participants can prevent injury and illness to themselves when responding to emergency situations. The regional conference helped bring important information to first responders who

often go to scenes of natural disasters all over the U.S.

Tom Bettenhausen, EMS coordinator at Community Hospital in Munster and chairman/strike team leader of Indiana Department of Homeland Security District 1, presented "Preparing for National Disasters" during the conference. The talk explained some of the partnerships being developed to create needed infrastructure for emergency response.

Another presenter included Craig Felty, president and Chief Nursing

Officer of IU Health at Starke and LaPorte Hospitals, whose talk focused on burn patients. About 500,000 burns a year require emergency treatment, and many of those burns result in death. Felty discussed some of the many causes of serious burns, including heat, chemicals, electricity and scalding.

The conference was sponsored by Prompt Ambulance Service, with partners Methodist Hospitals and Community Healthcare. Each attendee received 10 continuing education hours for participating.

## Need Resources?

IDHS offers educational material on a multitude of topics:

- Cybersecurity
- Severe Weather
- Natural Disasters
- Firework Safety
- and much more.

Visit [GetPrepared.IN.gov](http://GetPrepared.IN.gov)  
for more information and fact sheets



# Kokomo Stadium Now In Compliance

Acting in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) on Friday, May 29, announced that issues with the Kokomo baseball stadium have been brought into compliance with applicable federal laws and regulations.

The majority of issues have been resolved with eight restricted land parcels that were purchased with federal hazard mitigation funds. Any remaining issues have a credible remediation plan. Monitoring will continue to ensure final compliance.

"I am very pleased the situation could be resolved," said Governor Mike Pence. "I commend the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security for working together in good faith."

FEMA and IDHS directed the City of Kokomo to make a number of significant changes to the parcels, either by changing building plans or removing existing structures or other unallowable elements. An environmental study was also required. The City of Kokomo complied with the majority of these directions within the last 30 days.

"This has been a long and avoidable situation," said IDHS Executive Director David Kane. "This is a reminder for other local governments that pre-approval for

building and other changes on deed-protected properties purchased with federal mitigation funding is necessary to successfully own or manage them. If pre-approval is not secured, there can be expensive, time-consuming complications."

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**“*This resolution is in large part due to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security’s tireless efforts and expertise to bring about a positive resolution.*”**

David Kane, IDHS Executive Director

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Eight parcels that are specified in City of Kokomo baseball stadium or peripheral plans were hazard mitigation properties that were acquired through FEMA-administered grant funding.

"This resolution is in large part due to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security’s tireless efforts and expertise to bring about a positive resolution," continued Kane. "I congratulate my staff for a tremendous amount of energy and patience."

The dispute involving Kokomo Municipal Baseball Stadium first surfaced when it was discovered last year that Kokomo officials were constructing part of the new baseball stadium on parcels of land that had previously been purchased and deed-protected as undeveloped open space using federal hazard

mitigation grant funding. In 2005, the City of Kokomo applied for and was granted FEMA funds to purchase the properties.

FEMA determined in late 2014 that parcels purchased with federal funds and being used in the Kokomo baseball stadium were not in compliance. As the grantee, IDHS has been working with the City of Kokomo to resolve compliance issues. There were questions concerning up to eight parcels.

On February 25, due to the unresolved issues with the parcels, FEMA suspended all of Indiana’s hazard mitigation grant program, which at the time had more than \$6.1 million in unapproved projects. On May 8, FEMA granted IDHS’s appeal and reinstated all hazard mitigation grant awards to Indiana, with the exception of Kokomo, which is still not eligible for hazard mitigation funds or disaster funds related to the baseball stadium.

Kokomo and IDHS will separately address court proceedings pending in Marion County Environmental Court.

## Fire-Training Props Purchased Through FEMA Grant

Six large training props – three automobiles and three propane tanks – were purchased recently to enhance realistic exercises for Hoosier firefighters.

The props allow trainers to simulate car fires and propane gas fires in controlled drill exercises. Now in production at the private company Kirila Fire, the props were purchased with a federal grant of \$275,000.

“A lot of fire departments don’t have access to the props necessary to obtain the propane training required for firefighters,” said Fire Training Manager Brandon Wood of the Fire



and Building Safety Division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). “This new program will provide fire departments more opportunities than before, as well as allow the Fire and Public Safety Academy Training System to provide

consistent, high-quality training across the state.”

The highly competitive grant was awarded to Indiana through the Assistance to Firefighters grant program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It is Indiana’s first grant from the program.

The props will circulate throughout the state so that training can occur in all 10 IDHS districts, Wood said. While the props will be used mainly for fire-fighting training, they also will be available for hazardous materials training.

## IDHS EMS Director Addresses Paramedics at Graduation

“What matters is...how you find the balance between the human you are with the superhuman the rest of the world expects you to be. And where the two intersect, at the crossroads of human and superhuman, you’ll find EMS Strong,” said Mike Garvey – quoting a [piece written by retired paramedic Jeff Lucia](#) – in his commencement remarks to the graduates of Community Hospital’s paramedic program on April 21.

“I thought [Lucia’s article] was a very appropriate reading that talked about the important parts of EMS: It’s bigger than one person’s certification; it’s a system,” said Garvey, EMS director for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. “It pushed the need for these graduates to pass their dedication, knowledge, and skills on to the next generation of paramedics.”

The eight graduates who completed the program – Bobbie Bowles, Craig Denny, Jacob Harshey, Mitchell Jacobs, Jeffrey Miller, Benjamin

Patterson, Jordan Shaffer and Brandon Throgmorton – all passed the national certification test on their first try.

“*EMS is the ultimate people-related field.*”

Mike Garvey, IDHS EMS Director

“It takes a huge commitment to complete the program,” said Garvey, who explained that it requires about 15 months to complete the 1,400 hours of coursework and training.

With a large number of students’ friends and family in attendance, Garvey stressed the importance of relationships to the graduates, and he reminded them to maintain a proper balance in their everyday lives.

“As important as this work is, it’s not the only thing,” Garvey said. “Family is important. You have to keep a balance to stay mentally healthy. The stresses are there, and every run affects you.”

The daily work of a paramedic revolves around assessment, communication and medical skills, but it’s easy to lose perspective on the most important part of the job: Humans. Garvey urged the graduates to never forget the primary focus of their work.

“EMS is the ultimate people-related field,” Garvey said. “People call you when they’re in the most desperate time of their lives. Never forget that you’re dealing with a human. It’s easy to focus in on an injury or ailment and think of that patient as that ailment, when in fact you have to treat the whole person. Sometimes the best thing you can do for someone is hold their hand and let them know that somebody cares about them.”



## State Fire Marshal Stresses Fireworks Safety



Fireworks season is fast approaching, and State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson is reminding Hoosiers to exercise caution when celebrating outdoors this summer.

Fireworks, while enjoyable to watch, carry dangerous risks when in use, many of which are overlooked. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) provides some resources, such as the tips below to

help keep your residents safe during fireworks season. Marshal Greeson leads the IDHS Fire and Building Safety Division.

- Never attempt to fix or re-light a “dud” firework.
- Use a clear, open area and keep the audience at a safe distance where the wind is blowing fireworks away from them.
- Have a fire extinguisher or water

supply nearby.

- Never smoke or consume alcohol while using fireworks.
- Only purchase fireworks from licensed dealers.

For more information on fireworks safety, as well as how to apply to become a licensed fireworks dealer, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](https://www.in.gov/get-prepared).

## Fire Investigations Lead to Arson Charges

The work of fire inspectors with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Division of Fire and Building Safety, in conjunction with work by police and firefighters in two Hoosier communities, resulted in arson charges filed against two people in different incidents during May.

A May 11 fire in Oakland City was determined to have been started intentionally in a kitchen cabinet using by-passed power lines that had been disconnected by the electric utility company. The fire caused about \$11,000 in total damage to the

home and its contents. A 43-year-old male resident of the home was arrested and charged with arson. He also faces strangulation and battery charges related to the incident.

The second fire leading to arson charges in May endangered children who were in the home at the time and caused about \$60,000 in damage to the home and its contents. The fire in Converse, occurring on May 28, was determined to have been started in a bedroom, where the perpetrator used incendiary material to set a bed ablaze. Two children, ages 1 and 12,

were in the home at the time and were evacuated by a family member. A 38-year-old man was arrested and charged with two counts of arson and one count of burglary.

The Oakland City fire was investigated by Matt Wells; and the Converse fire by Frederick Sumpter.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal oversees the Division of Fire and Building Safety.

## July 1: New Laws (continued from page 1)

Enforcement Academy as a criminal justice agency. The law also specifies that the academy is a board-certified training center.

Fire prevention and building safety issues are addressed by Senate Bill 556 ([Public Law 86-2015](#)). For example, the law amends the definition of “building law” to include sanitary conditions in K-12 schools. The law gives the Fire Prevention and Building Commission the ability to adopt emergency rules to regulate sanitary conditions and facilities in schools. Also, the law allows boiler and pressure vessel inspections to be conducted by qualified third parties under contract with the IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety.

Also beginning July 1, any political subdivision (not just cities, counties, towns and townships) can request mutual aid during an emergency without a disaster necessarily being declared. Senate Bill 484 ([Public Law 85-2015](#)) replaces the existing Statewide Mutual Aid law. New

provisions allow that the first 12 hours of mutual aid may be provided without reimbursement, and that mutual-aid requests can be made for assistance with training, exercises and planned events. The same law now provides a mechanism for the state to deploy the services of Indiana Task Force 1, an urban search-and-rescue program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Other laws that responders, inspectors and emergency managers may want to look up include:

- House Bill 1080 ([Public Law 62-2015](#)) establishes death benefit qualifications and insurance rates for employers of emergency medical service providers.
- House Bill 1414 ([Public Law 103-2015](#)) allows schools to substitute a tornado drill or man-made-occurrence disaster drill for no more than two fire drills each semester.
- House Bill 1631 ([Public Law 197-2015](#)) permits the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to issue a photo-exempt identification card to Hoosiers who meet certain conditions; however, a person may not have a driver’s license and a photo-exempt identification card at the same time.
- House Bill 1475 ([Public Law 157-2015](#)) increases certain 911 wireless and standard usage rates, and authorizes the Statewide 911 Board to audit wireless telecommunication companies for compliance with Indiana 911 laws.

Only highlights and brief descriptions of the new laws are presented here. Refer to the specific statutes for details.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Time Radiological, Nuclear Detection Conducted at Indy 500

Radiological and nuclear detection operations were conducted for the first time during the 2015 Indianapolis 500 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS).

Operations also were conducted during other 500-related events, including “Carb Day” and the 500 Festival Parade in downtown Indianapolis. Operations at the track and the parade consisted of fixed and mobile detection assets operated by teams as part of the overall security plan for these events.

A number of agencies participated in the operation led by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department

Explosive Ordinance Disposal (IMPD EOD) unit, including Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) State Fire Marshal, Indianapolis Fire Department, Marion County Public Health Department, Fort Wayne Police Department Explosive Ordinance Disposal, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis Police Department, Indiana State Police and the Indiana National Guard Civil Support Team.

Operations were also supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), the Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration

Radiological Assistance Program and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

IMPD and IDHS have been working closely with DNDO to develop a radiological and nuclear detection capability for the State of Indiana and the Indianapolis metropolitan area. The radiological and nuclear detection operations were conducted to counter the threat of nuclear terrorism. The Indianapolis 500 is one of the largest sporting events in the world, and the IMS welcomed the added security measures to protect the hundreds of thousands of spectators and participants at the events.



## Avian Flu (continued from page 1)

BOAH staff acted quickly to euthanize and test all 77 birds on the site, then initiated testing of all the flocks in a 3-km circle as well as six other flocks that supplied poultry to the owner.

“This is a devastating disease,” said Dr. Bret D. Marsh, Indiana State Veterinarian. “As one of the top poultry-producing states in the nation, we cannot afford to be unprepared for a diagnosis in a large, commercial operation. A finding of HPAI in commercial poultry will have even greater economic and international trade impacts than anything we have seen before.”

All birds on an infected site must be humanely euthanized and disposed of to prevent the spread of the virus. In Indiana, this could mean significant loss of birds when commercial poultry operations will house 30,000 turkeys to as many as 1.4 million laying hens on one farm. All farms in a 3-km zone must be tested for the disease to ensure negative status and allow products to move to market. All of this will require significant human and physical resources.

BOAH’s major goals in an HPAI incident are: Identify suspect cases, depopulate infected sites, dispose of carcasses and contaminated materials, and decontaminate the facilities and site to prevent re-infection as the farm recovers.

### Commercial Flocks

BOAH has been – and continues – working with commercial poultry producers across the state to prepare

for a large-scale disease event. BOAH is partnering with the Indiana State Poultry Association to assess, site by site and company by company, what resources are available to respond, as well as improve biosecurity measures that can prevent introduction of the virus into the flock.

### Backyard Flocks

Owners of small, backyard poultry flocks are advised to watch for signs of AI-like illness and/or sudden death in their birds. Cases should be reported to the USDA Healthy Birds Hotline at 866-536-7593. Callers will be routed to a state or federal veterinarian in Indiana for a case assessment.

### Wild Birds

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is working with BOAH on surveillance in wild birds. Migratory water fowl (ducks, geese, etc.) can be infected with HPAI, yet appear healthy, as they spread the virus in their feces. Other species, which are susceptible, when exposed, can become sick or die. That is why Hoosiers who notice five or more dead wild feeder-type birds in a small area should notify DNR at 812-334-1137. DNR biologists will make a determination about collection and testing.

### Potential Economic Cost

“The virus is particularly deadly to commercial turkeys, which become ill and die very rapidly,” Dr. Marsh said. “It can depopulate entire barns within hours or a couple of days. That type of

effect can cause significant economic harm to individual farms and an entire industry in a short amount of time.”

Indiana’s poultry industry is unique, because of the diversity of operations and its size. In 2013 USDA, National Ag Statistics Service listed Indiana poultry and eggs receipts (farm sales) at \$1.233 billion (USDA farm income and wealth statistics). Indiana’s rankings and production are sizeable and have much impact nationally:

#3 for laying hens (6.4 billion eggs/year, or 8% of U.S. production)

#2 in egg-type chicks hatched (26 million birds annually)

#4 in turkeys (700 million lbs. of meat per year)

#1 in ducks (73% of U.S. production; more than 20 million birds/year)

#15 in broiler chickens

Production in some areas of Indiana is very dense, and could result in significant number of quarantined sites.

Indiana agencies and partners planning and training are Indiana Department of Correction, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana National Guard, Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana State Police and the American Red Cross.

## Risk Management Plans (continued from page 1)

allows for grant funding to be more appropriately dispersed among local and state agencies, helping to focus and prioritize spending.

“These courses will be tailored to each area that we work with,” said

Jesse Minnick, the Emergency Management Training Manager with IDHS. “No two areas will go through the exact same course or assessment. Tailoring these courses helps to address each specific concern that Indiana’s counties might have.”

There will be a total of 11 RTIPP sessions taking place from June 30 through September. Each of the 10 IDHS districts will play host to one session, and the 11th will be presented to state agencies.

## Ivy Tech NW Offers Retired 737 as Training Environment



“When you get on board, it looks like it’s ready for flight,” said Joseph Ferrantella, referring to the retired Boeing 737 that Ivy Tech Northwest has converted into a training environment for law enforcement and emergency responders.

First introduced in 1967, the Boeing 737 series is the best-selling jet-airliner in the history of aviation, which makes it an ideal model for emergency responders’ training. The plane has no engines or avionics (the electronic systems used for communications and navigation), but is otherwise fully intact. A few of the potential training activities include drug interdiction, tactical operations, K-9 operations, fire and rescue activities, patient treatment, hazardous material mitigation and hostage crises.

“A training prop of this size and scale really affords law enforcement, fire or EMS the opportunity to come in and train on something that they would not normally have access to,” said Ferrantella, Ivy Tech Northwest’s coordinator of Emergency Response Training.

Ivy Tech’s 737 – valued at \$1.375 million – was made possible by a donation from the Sage-Popovich Family Trust in 2013. The purpose

was two-fold: to create a hands-on training lab for public safety personnel and to further the educational opportunities for Ivy Tech students in the criminal justice, homeland security and paramedic science programs. While Ivy Tech does not offer students direct training in the lab, the school does ask

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**“When you get on board, it looks like it’s ready for flight.”**

Joseph Ferrantella, Ivy Tech Northwest

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incoming agencies to allow students to participate as role players or observers in their exercises.

“We’ve had more than 100 students participate in the 737 training lab,” Ferrantella said. “It allows them to see firsthand the kind of activities and operations that will take place in their field of choice.”

The FBI, Houston Police Department Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and the Los Angeles Police Department SWAT have already used the facility. For these organizations,

having access to an airplane is not the problem. The real issue is that most airplanes are still in active service, which limits the types of training activities that can take place.

“It’s been more like a tour of an airplane rather than being able to train operationally on the airplane,” Ferrantella said. “Here they have the ability to train on whatever they want; whereas with planes still in service, they may not have that opportunity.”

In addition to the plane itself, Ivy Tech also has on-site classrooms available for training agencies to use. Training can be scheduled year-round, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Ivy Tech Northwest requires a two-week notice to meet all airport security and logistical requirements. There is no cost to use the facility, but Ivy Tech Northwest asks that agencies consider nominal donations (to help with maintenance) and student involvement in their exercises.

“This environment gives emergency services the ability to be better prepared to respond in times of emergency, whether that’s a plane crash, botched landing or a hostage situation,” Ferrantella said. “The first time these officers or emergency responders get out into the field to deal with something like that shouldn’t be a live event.”

## 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](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov).

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