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KENTUCKY FIREWORKS SHOW DRAWS ON EXPERTISE AND TIME OF INDIANA PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and several other Indiana agencies provided public safety support for the U.S.'s largest air and fireworks show. "Thunder Over Louisville," attracted 400,000 spectators from Indiana to the all-day event on April 17.

IDHS, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC), U.S. Coast Guard, FBI, and Indiana National Guard Civil Support Team (INNG-CST) were all asked to assist in planning for and overseeing the event. IDHS District 9 coordinator Doug Cook was one of the representatives in the "Thunder Command," stationed in the Jeffersonville Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

"The Jeffersonville police department and fire department, along with Clark County emergency medical services (EMS), operated a unified command

from the Jeffersonville EOC," said Cook. "The event was flawless this year."

Cook served as a liaison between the City of Jeffersonville and Clark County during the event to provide local authorities with needed resources and personnel in the case of a problem. He also provided National Incident Management System (NIMS) support to the local jurisdiction and participated in the planning committee's 9 month long preparations.



Clark County EMA Director Les Kavanaugh and IDHS Coordinator Doug Cooke

Nationally designated radio frequencies for augmenting interoperable capabilities were made available through IPSC. These 800 megahertz (MHz) frequencies kept police radios from clogging traffic on radio towers relied on by two neighboring counties.

IDHS also provides extensive, ongoing training throughout District 9 to help first responders perform better in case of a disaster or other emergency.

"We work hard to provide a high level of preparation," Cook said. "Quality training and advanced planning resulted in a safe event." ■

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From the Director's Chair-Executive Director Joe Wainscott

TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES DO NOT LOWER PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS



It is no secret that all Indiana government and associated agencies are tightening their belts. Just last week, state agencies were directed to reduce spending by an additional 5 percent for the fiscal year beginning July 1st.

But in the public safety business, resource reductions do not equal an excuse to haul up the white flag. Hoosiers continue to rely daily on the lifesaving services we provide and our high standards of customer care.

Budgets may be lower but public expectations

remain high, so we all need to increase our level of ingenuity and be more creative with how we utilize financial and other resources for the benefit of Indiana citizens. Make no mistake, there will be difficult choices for us to make in days to come, but each efficiency and economy of scale we can find in those choices will continue to ensure the highest levels of public safety we can provide.

IDHS would like to share stories from Indiana emergency management agencies, fire and police departments, and emergency medical service providers about what you are doing to save taxpayer dollars while continuing to provide outstanding service and quality care.

Maybe your organization is

- Keeping unnecessary lights turned off to

reduce energy costs?

- Transitioning to digital data management rather than relying on more cumbersome paper based systems?
- Consolidating training and continuing education opportunities?
- Relying on conference calls more and traveling to meetings less?



Please take a moment to share your ideas and best practices. Whatever methods you have found to benefit Hoosiers by using resources responsibly, we want to hear about them. Email jnathan@dhs.in.gov, or call 317.234.4211. ■

SAME COUNTY CODES ALLOW ALL HAZARDS ALERT RADIOS TO TARGET SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

As spring ushers in an increased risk for severe thunderstorms, tornados and flooding, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) recommends using an all hazards alert radio to keep abreast of potentially dangerous weather situations as they develop.

Most radios require a county code, referred to as Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME), to limit the geographic area for notices. Here is a complete list of Indiana's codes.

COUNTY	SAME#
Adams	018001
Allen	018003
Bartholomew	018005
Benton	018007
Blackford	018009
Boone	018011
Brown	018013
Carroll	018015
Cass	018017
Clark	018019
Clay	018021
Clinton	018023
Crawford	018025
Daviess	018027
De Kalb	018033
Dearborn	018029
Decatur	018031
Delaware	018035
Dubois	018037
Elkhart	018039
Fayette	018041
Floyd	018043
Fountain	018045
Franklin	018047
Fulton	018049
Gibson	018051
Grant	018053

Greene	018055
Hamilton	018057
Hancock	018059
Harrison	018061
Hendricks	018063
Henry	018065
Howard	018067
Huntington	018069
Jackson	018071
Jasper	018073
Jay	018075
Jefferson	018077
Jennings	018079
Johnson	018081
Knox	018083
Kosciusko	018085
La Porte	018091
Lagrange	018087
Lake	018089
Lawrence	018093
Madison	018095
Marion	018097
Marshall	018099
Martin	018101
Miami	018103
Monroe	018105
Montgomery	018107
Morgan	018109
Newton	018111
Noble	018113
Ohio	018115
Orange	018117
Owen	018119
Parke	018121
Perry	018123
Pike	018125
Porter	018127
Posey	018129

Pulaski	018131
Putnam	018133
Randolph	018135
Ripley	018137
Rush	018139
Scott	018143
Shelby	018145
Spencer	018147
St. Joseph	018141
Starke	018149
Steuben	018151
Sullivan	018153
Switzerland	018155
Tippecanoe	018157
Tipton	018159
Union	018161
Vanderburgh	018163
Vermillion	018165
Vigo	018167
Wabash	018169
Warren	018171
Warrick	018173
Washington	018175
Wayne	018177
Wells	018179
White	018181
Whitley	018183



FIRE SPOTLIGHT: The Firehouse Band

Twelve years ago, the Lafayette Fire Department began a fire prevention program that has affected how children perceive fire safety. The fire department's prevention bureau sought ways to increase the effectiveness of public education programs



The cast of the Firehouse Band show pose in front of a mock fire station.

for children in kindergarten through second grade in the Greater Lafayette area.

"The musical show started with puppets and more than 40 career firefighters and police from Tippecanoe County," said Ron Ritchey, assistant fire chief of Lafayette Fire Department.

The show now includes guest appearances by characters such as Louey the Lighter and Mike the Match who try to mislead kids into dangerous actions, along with firefighters and police officers in uniform who correct the misbehavior.

"We really highlight that children shouldn't play with matches or lighters," Ritchey said.

Performances of the band will start on

October 4, 2010. Throughout a week of shows which celebrates Fire Prevention Week, the Firehouse Band and actors entertain more than 5500 kids across Tippecanoe County. Volunteers also hand out public safety material.

According to parents, teachers and band members, the children react very positively to the shows.

"The students could be found singing these songs for weeks on end after our shows," Ritchey said.

For more information contact Ritchey at 765.807.1613 or ritchey@lafayette.in.gov or visit the website at www.lafayette.in.gov/departments/division.php?fDD=6-68.

GRANTS AWARDED TO PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCIES THROUGHOUT INDIANA

The Indiana Homeland Security Foundation has provided \$141,326.90 in grant funding for the first quarter of 2009 to Indiana's emergency management agencies, fire departments, law enforcement and emergency medical services organizations to provide first responders with necessary equipment to serve the public.

Grants are funded by proceeds from the Secure Indiana license plates sold at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

To view a complete listing of entities awarded funds, visit www.in.gov/dhs/files/foundation_recipients_HR_may.pdf. ■



Grants are funded by these Secure Indiana license plates sold at the BMV. ■

EMA Spotlight: Starke County

Starke County is transitioning from a part-time to full-time emergency management agency (EMA) director. The council that appropriates money for the county realized that to meet the needs and objectives of the county, it was necessary to hire a full-time director.

"IDHS couldn't be more pleased with this change," said Field Services Director Gerri Husband. "We want to applaud Starke County's local officials for taking this valuable step in moving to a full-time EMA director. The positive impact will be seen in better preparedness and response to future disasters in the county and district." IDHS is working with Starke County to make

this process easier. IDHS District 2 Coordinator Eric Nichols is working with local officials to find a new full-time director.



Starke County Courthouse

"The demands placed on EMA directors have never been higher. In fact, they are likely to increase as continually changing factors and natural disasters require constant action and adaptation by the EMA Director," Nichols said.

Kathy Norem is one of Starke County's commissioners. She said officials used sample job descriptions from IDHS and Elkhart County to create the main job requirements for the position. The board of commissioners hopes to appoint the suggested candidate soon.

All divisions of IDHS are fully prepared to meet with local officials to provide any assistance they may require. ■

MODERN MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION MAKE HOME FIRES MORE DANGEROUS

Commercial structure fires that take multiple lives tend to get the most attention. But, research from the 2010 Firehouse World Exposition and Conference in San Diego reveals home fires have become the most dangerous fires.

"Materials and building construction have changed, which requires revised modern fire education and different firefighting tactics," warns Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. The Fire Marshal's Office is a division of IDHS.

A workshop on home fires was presented at Firehouse World by Battalion Chief Peter VanDorpe and firefighter/EMT James Dalton, both of the Chicago Fire Department and partners of Underwriters Laboratories (UL). VanDorpe affirmed that most fire casualties happen in small numbers at small incidents. While numbers of fires are slowly decreasing, deaths and injuries are not, meaning home fires are becoming more dangerous.

"With synthetic carpeting, furniture and highly-combustible materials, fires can advance sooner," Greeson said.

Greeson says that in some cases, continued education in fire behavior and new types of building materials needs to be improved.

"It's the obligation of the fire chief to keep firefighters updated on fire behavior and building construction," Greeson said.

Firefighters now have considerably less time to

get out of a residential fire. Smoke conditions from synthetic furnishings cause overwhelming conditions sooner. A modern home will flashover in fewer than four minutes, according to a video created at UL. A flashover is the nearly simultaneous ignition of all combustible material in an enclosed area.

Greeson suggests that citizens practice rolling out of bed onto the floor to prevent exposure to high-rising heat and gases. Also to be considered are modern floor plans, featuring open layouts, two-story ceilings and massive square-footage equivalent to commercial buildings.

An article in Firehouse Magazine gave the following advice for firefighters:

- Look at your Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for deficiencies.
- Visit construction sites.
- Assume every structure is lightweight construction.
- Treat each house as inherently dangerous.
- When a house is commercial size, treat it accordingly.
- Learn to recognize when older buildings have been altered or rehabbed, or are actually new and designed to look old.
- Open void spaces upon entry.
- Be more aggressive than ever before, for a very short period of time. When faced

with multiple immediate tasks of rescue and fire control, choose fire control to buy yourself time for the rescue.

Additional information used with permission by Firehouse.com. ■



Synthetic materials used in modern homes make fires treacherous to fight.

BE PREPARED FOR CHILDREN'S MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

As part of emergency medical services (EMS) Week, May 19 will be celebrated as Emergency Medical Services for Children Day. According to Bruce Bare, the EMS training manager for IDHS, pediatric runs are emotionally taxing for medics.

"The two things that effect EMS personnel the most are mass casualties and pediatric runs," said Bare. "Those are the hardest runs for EMS personnel to deal with because those are the ones that we are least experienced with."

It is important for all emergency medical personnel to understand and be prepared for children's medical emergencies and factors that can obstruct treatment. These factors include pre-existing medical conditions, allergies and sensitivities, current medications and special needs.

Two state-mandated programs that address emergency medical treatment for children include an online autism course and a course on sudden infant death syndrome. The autism course was created from the Indiana Resource Center for Autism curriculum; which all currently certified EMS personnel must complete by December 31, 2010. The Indiana EMS commission is integrating both courses into the EMS state curriculum.

Other programs required by some providers

include Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), a two-day course focusing on pediatric cardiac trauma, and Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP) offered by the Indiana Emergency Medical Services for Children program (I-EMSC).

The I-EMSC program is surveying providers across the state to obtain data regarding medical direction, equipment and training to treat children. During EMS week, I-EMSC will provide educational materials to EMS providers and hospitals upon request. Advisory members will be distributing safety-related information in their communities.

To request information from I-EMSC, contact Gurinder Hohl, project manager, at ghohl@iupui.edu or 317.630.7399.

Another program helping to fill the pediatric equipment gap is sponsored by the Indiana Kiwanis Clubs. The group raised money to purchase a Mobile Intensive Care Unit for Riley Hospital during the 2008-2009 administrative year. The club also started The Kiwanis-Emergency Medical Services for Children Pediatric Bag Project to provide first responders with a color-coded bag of pediatric equipment and emergency pediatric training.

Many EMS providers have specific programs in place to educate children about emergency

care. This education is vital to calming children's anxiety during a medical emergency.

At PROMPT Ambulance Service in Highland, employees teach children not to fear EMTs or the ambulance. Personnel from PROMPT bring equipment to schools and talk to children about emergency medical services. PROMPT is a CPR training center for the American Heart Association, new parents, local daycares and schools.

For tips on how to interact with children during a medical emergency and what to do while waiting for the ambulance, visit www.in.gov/dhs/3177.htm. ■



IDHS TEACHES DOG-HANDLERS HOW TO TRAIN RESCUE DOGS

Trainers come from across the country to learn how to train dogs at Camp Atterbury

It's about training the human, not the rescue dog, according to Lillian Hardy, Search and Rescue manager for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security at the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center's Search and Rescue Training Center.

Hardy provided oversight during a Basic Land Cadaver Course on March 20 at Camp Atterbury's SRTC in central Indiana. The cadaver course is the first segment of a three-part program designed to educate rescue-dog trainers in developing better methods for training their dogs as well as themselves. There were 14 trainers and 14 dogs representing



Jan Harkner from the Orange Township Fire Department rewards her German Shepherd "Bodo" with a chew toy for correctly identifying the target during the Department of Homeland Security's Basic Land Cadaver Course. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Sproles)

fire departments, sheriff's departments and volunteer search and rescue teams from Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

"Dogs already know how to search for things," said Hardy. "They know how to scent. It's just teaching the dog how to scent what we're looking for, and to tell us that they've found it. For the handlers, it's a lot of teaching the dogs to be able to understand and also to understand

The course also touches on dog behavior, scent theory and the development of alerts or designated signals for the dog to communicate when it has found something. Overall, the course provides dog trainers with the tools to train their dogs to progress from developing an alert to actually

searching for cadavers and using that alert effectively.

The dogs cannot learn these skills in one day. Hardy said she expects the trainers to take the information home and work with their dogs between the beginner, intermediate and advanced instruction which is spread out over a period of three months.

"I think the training facility that's set up here is an excellent facility," said Special Resource Canine Handler Nicole Mosta with the Will County Emergency Management Agency in Illinois. "You have several different disaster piles. You have an agility course which is obviously very beneficial in building the dog's confidence in how he's going to work in certain situations. I really love the way it's set up. It's a great facility. The best I've seen so far."

"Just to have the area, the space for the agility courses that they have to work with and the instructors, [some of whom] have been doing this for 20 years, is excellent," said retired Air Force Lt. Col. Richard Sismour, a dog handler with the Canine Searching Out Scent Agency in Pennsylvania. ■

INDIANA EMS TRANSPORT PROVIDERS SEE GROWING NEED FOR BARIATRIC EQUIPMENT: Part Two-Satisfying the Need

Many emergency medical services (EMS) transport providers around the state now maintain one or more bariatric transport units. Standard bariatric unit equipment may include double-wide cots up to 40 inches wide, a slip sheet to help patients slide onto cots and an automatic-winch system to lift cots into the ambulance.

Allen Smith, coroner and firefighter for Bartholomew County, emphasized the role of training in preparing emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics to provide care and transport bariatric patients. "It's important to be able to move a bariatric patient safely," he said.

CARE Ambulance Service makes up to four runs daily with its three bariatric trucks throughout Marion County and the Terre Haute area, providing mandatory training on the equipment for all EMTs and paramedics. Two of the trucks have automatic-winch systems, and their cots can hold up to 1800 pounds each.

First acquiring bariatric equipment five years ago, SEALS Ambulance Service in Indianapolis has four cots capable of supporting up to 1600 pounds.

PROMPT Ambulance Service purchased its first bariatric unit three years ago. Now, four

ambulances transport around six Lake County patients daily. Each carries up to 1400 pounds, all with automatic-winch systems to pull the cot onto the truck. Another ambulance service, STAT, serves the Columbus area as well as Franklin and Morgan counties. STAT acquired its first bariatric unit in December 2008, recently adding a second unit to accommodate increasing demand. STAT handles 15 to 20 bariatric runs weekly.

John Scharbrough, business manager at STAT, says bariatric equipment has a life-span of about 10 years and costs about 50 percent more than standard ambulance equipment. There are also logistical complications associated with making bariatric runs, which increase operating costs.

If responding to multiple emergencies in the same area, EMS providers must send an individual ambulance for bariatric patients. Services like CARE will frequently drive beyond their service areas to assist with bariatric emergencies because not all medical transport providers have bariatric units.

IDHS Certification Branch Chief Rick Archer worked for CARE when its bariatric unit was established. "A great deal of time, energy and effort went into creating the bariatric transport system," Archer said.



CARE employees showcase their bariatric unit equipment including a slip sheet. The sheets help patients glide from the floor or their bed to the cot.

PROMPT's head of operations, EMT Nick Jorkon, says the bariatric equipment makes moving patients much easier and has significantly reduced the physical impact on health care providers. "We used to see at least two injuries a week related to bariatric transport assignments," he said. "Injuries are down 100 percent with this type of equipment."

"The system is easy to use and the patient feels more secure than when they're

being lifted," said STAT driver Derek Hall. "Prior to the bariatric cot system, you needed a six-member crew to safely handle a bariatric patient," said Chris Jones, director of operations at SEALS. "Now two people can accomplish the same task."

EMTs and paramedics are quick to demonstrate the attitude of caring that defines the EMS community. Their commitment to patient care and fellow EMS personnel allows them to see shortcomings in the industry, such as the one CARE professionals identified in their inability to help bariatric patients.

"Many of the different challenges that EMTs face while transporting bariatric patients have been addressed by the equipment specially designed for heavier individuals," said Jessica Norcross, an EMT with SEALS. "Without this specialized equipment, there would be an entire population of people that we would be unable to help."

For the complete article, please visit: www.in.gov/dhs/files/bariatric_HR_may.pdf ■



STAT EMTs demonstrate how the bariatric winching system works. Ramps, stored in the bariatric truck, are attached to the back of the ambulance. A cable connects the cot to the winching system operated from inside the truck.

EMS SPOTLIGHT Wells County Advanced EMT William White

Dependability, knowledge and trustworthiness describe William White of Wells County EMS. He was recognized at the 2009 Indiana Emergency Response Conference with the EMT-Basic Advanced of the Year award. Wells County EMS Director Tina Crouse praised White's dedication and competence.

"It's important to have somebody you can count on in EMS," said Crouse. "William is very self-motivated. He's a wonderful employee, and I wish I had more employees like him."

Demonstrating an incredible dedication to

public service, White has served as an advanced medic for 10 years with Wells County, 20 years with Adams County, and 32 years with Monroe Fire Department. Well-respected by his colleagues, other providers and community members, he currently works part time for Adams County EMS and full time for Wells County EMS. White said he will respond to emergencies in his area on his days off.

White is very active in his community, coaching little league and softball. Also an avid hunter, he donates extra meat to low-income

housing communities.

Recommendation letters called White a leader by example: compassionate, honest, forthright and one who has the spirit of giving his all each and every time. ■



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ARSON PREVENTION STARTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Each year, an average of 316,600 intentional fires cause injuries to 7,825 firefighters and civilians and an estimated \$1.1 billion in property loss.

As part of a national effort by the United States Fire Administration

(NSFA), the State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of IDHS, will observe Arson Awareness Week from May 2-8, 2010, emphasizing community arson prevention. The purpose of this week is to focus attention on arson and provide communities with tools and strategies to combat arson. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report over the past ten years, nearly 50 percent of all intentional fire arrests were youth under the age of 18.

Dr. Michael Slavkin, an associate professor of education at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, has counseled child firesetters for 20 years. Arson repeats itself without intervention, according to Slavkin.

"Children use fire as a cry for help," Slavkin said. "Children who continue to start fires turn into adults who start fires. Fire departments often don't have much assistance in arson prevention or intervention, and they may not have the ability to intervene without help from mental health professionals."

Slavkin first began working in child arson prevention in 1995 with Indianapolis Firestop program Coordinator Barbara Spurlin. They took a cognitive behavioral approach to help link children's thoughts, feelings and actions.



"Initially a child may only start a small fire that causes no damage," Slavkin said. "But if no intervention is done, over time they may build a fire they can't control."

Easy access to lighters and matches is the most common denominator in all child-set fires. In Indiana, tools to start fires, including kid-friendly novelty lighters, can be sold to any age group. IDHS advises keeping these fire sources away from children, especially those with a history of firesetting.

Arson deprives communities of lives and property. To help prevent arson, communities can develop a watch program, partnering with their local fire department, law enforcement, insurance providers, business leaders, churches, and local community groups. Neighborhoods can reduce the likelihood of arson occurring by promoting neighborhood watches and educating people about reporting unusual activities, along with implementing improved security for homes and businesses.

Rick Batza, chief of fire investigators for IDHS, asks that anyone who sees suspicious or criminal activity dial 911, or if a person has information about an intentionally set fire, call anonymously to the IDHS Arson Hotline at 1.800.382.4628. The information a person provides, such as talking to people and collecting evidence is vital to finding the solution in a criminal investigation. When fire investigators respond to a fire, they use a methodical and scientific approach to their work. Specially trained dogs are used on occasion to determine if an accelerant was used.

Depending on the size and nature of a fire, investigators from different agencies may form a team. Just this past year for example, fire investigators from the Indianapolis Fire Department, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives joined to investigate the fire at the Cosmopolitan Condominiums in the heart of downtown Indianapolis. In a rapid response, the origin and cause of this devastating blaze was scientifically determined to be arson and a suspect was under arrest.

In other areas of the state in smaller jurisdictions, fire departments and police agencies may form a county or regional fire investigations task force. In some cases, a deputy prosecuting attorney may respond with the team members to advise them on legal issues. This kind of skilled team creates a cost-effective option for fire investigation. Each investigation provides more information about the causes of fires, providing more clues on how to reduce accidental fires and equipping fire investigators to find individuals who set intentional fires.

To better intervene with youth who set intention fires, the Indianapolis Fire Department will host an intervention specialist class on June 7-11, which is available to any fire service personnel working with juvenile firesetting. For more information or to register, contact Barbara Spurlin at 317.327.3473 or S7871@indy.gov.

For more information on arson prevention programs for juveniles in Indiana, visit www.in.gov/dhs/files/juvy_firesetter_HR_may.pdf.

IDHS SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) will sponsor a Search and Rescue (SAR) Conference, June 3-6 at the SAR Training Center located at Camp Atterbury. The conference will include rope operations, cadaver search, sonar training for water recovery operations, mounted SAR, visual tracking, search management, land navigation, and K-9 training to include tracking and trailing, how dogs learn, and dog-handler helper training.

IDHS Search and Rescue Training Manager Lillian Hardy has participated in three Indiana search or rescues this year. A cadaver recovery took place in February after a canoeing incident on the White River in Monroe County. The other two events took



place in Brown County.

Hardy also participated in 17 search or rescue efforts in Indiana and surrounding states last year. These included Indiana counties of Shelby, Monroe, Allen, Jennings, Marion and Tippecanoe. Through the SAR Training Center, Hardy helps connect local emergency management officials with search and rescue teams.

Other states, such as Maryland, Illinois, Michigan and Texas, have requested information from Hardy about team availability. She often recommends Laura Totis, one of the instructors at the SAR Conference.

For more information about this program or any others located at Camp Atterbury's Search and Rescue Training Center, contact Lillian Hardy at 812.526.0013 or lhardy@dhs.in.gov.

IDHS Supports National Police Week

The executive director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is expressing his support to honor America's law enforcement community as part of National Police Week, May 9-15. The week recognizes officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

"Police officers face perils each day," said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott. "We at IDHS value the partnerships we have with federal, state and local law enforcement. The collaborative process and shared commitment with police is vital to the safety of Hoosiers, before, during and after disasters and emergencies. We appreciate their continued efforts to keep Hoosier citizens safe."

Ceremonies will be held in Washington, DC, and in communities across the country to recognize the service and sacrifice of U.S. law enforcement.

STATE BUILDING COMMISSION AND IDHS ENSURE BUILDINGS REMAIN SAFE AND OPEN FOR THE PUBLIC

The safety of public buildings is essential to the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Indiana. IDHS building safety and fire prevention officials are at work year-round to guide the safe construction of buildings.

"We want to make sure we are fulfilling our role in bringing safety to the forefront," says Scott Perez, the state building commissioner. "It's time for people to realize safety is important."

For construction and building codes to be effective and enforced,

understanding and cooperation must exist between code officials and the people they serve. Building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders and others in the construction industry work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings.



IDHS personnel inspect safety of Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis

Countless lives have been saved because of the building safety codes adopted and enforced by local and state agencies. IDHS building inspectors work with businesses to correct safety violations to find inadequacies before something goes wrong.

"We will only close a building after repeated attempts to work with the business in fixing safety issues," said Dave

Smith, deputy director of the fire and building safety division. "Our sole function is to protect the people of Indiana."

Building Safety Month, sponsored by the International Code Council and the International Code Council Foundation, is an excellent opportunity to educate the public. The observance of the month is a perfect time to increase public awareness of the role building safety and fire prevention officials, local building departments, and state and federal agencies play in protecting lives and property. Everyone can take appropriate steps to ensure that the places where they work, play and learn are safe. IDHS recommends businesses take time to check safety code requirements.

Safety features in a public building should include fire alarms, clearly marked and unobstructed fire exits, and adherence to maximum occupancy, particularly in small venues with live performances. ■

LOOK OUT FOR UNLICENSED INDIANA FIREWORKS OPERATORS

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of IDHS, strongly urges public safety officials to look for a displayed certificate of compliance at establishments that sell fireworks. This certificate signifies the retailer is authorized to sell consumer fireworks, and the retail establishment has been inspected by the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office.



range from permanent buildings to temporary structures. If the certificate of compliance is not displayed, a patron may ask the retailer to present it or contact 317.232.2222 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or 800.669.7362 after business hours to report the lack of certificate.

A 5 percent public safety fee has been added to the purchase of fireworks. This fee funds the Indiana Disaster Relief Fund and the Indiana Firefighter Training System. For safety tips when setting off fireworks, visit our web

There are many varieties of fireworks retailers, site at www.in.gov/dhs/3175.htm. ■



Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Leadership for a Safe and Secure Indiana



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Please direct any questions or comments to the

IDHS Public Information Office at 317.234.4214 or pio@dhs.in.gov.