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Fire and Public Safety Academy Bill Signed

On Thursday, April 23, firefighters, emergency medical professionals, legislators and other partners were on hand to witness Gov. Mike Pence sign HEA 1182, which establishes the State Fire and Public Safety Academy Training System.

The academy system is designed to advance training and provides fire and other public safety partners with access to high-quality, cost-effective, and voluntary training opportunities. The ceremony took place during the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC)

2015 in the Indiana Convention Center, which draws international attendance.

“This is a big moment for the fire service in the state of Indiana,” said Greeson. “This is going to help put a more consistent curriculum in place for our state’s first responders and the entire public safety community. There was already a program in place before the bill was signed, but now we’ve got something to build on for the future.”

“*This bill is about each and every Hoosier in this state.*”

Gov. Mike Pence



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Emergency Medical Services Week May 17-23

National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, a week celebrating and honoring emergency medical services personnel, is May 17-23. The theme for this year is “EMS Strong,” and Wednesday, May 20 is Emergency Medical Services for Children Day.

National EMS week brings together local communities and medical personnel who are on the front-line of medicine. There are three goals of EMS week: to promote EMS service within the community; to educate the public on safety and health-related topics; and to provide information on new EMS procedures or equipment.

Indiana has more than 24,000 EMS personnel, 100 EMS training institutions and 700 EMS providers.

Emergency Medical Services are frequently the entry point to Indiana’s healthcare system. EMS Week recognizes professionals’ dedication and encourages communities to better know their local EMS providers.



A Keener Township, Jasper County, Ind., Emergency Medical Technician and a Columbus, Ind., Patrolman load a mock victim into a Keener Township ambulance at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butlerville, Ind., on Sep. 23, 2013, during the IDHS exercise Tipton Twister. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brad Staggs, Atterbury-Muscatatuck Public Affairs)

Help Spread the Word about Amusement Ride Safety in Indiana

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is asking emergency management and other public safety professionals to help spread the word about fair, festival and other event safety.

Summertime festivals and fairs are right around the corner, and all play a part in keeping Hoosiers safe while they have fun. IDHS works with local fairs and festivals to inspect amusement rides.

Before getting on a ride, share these important safety tips with the public:

- Read and follow all posted safety rules and listen to instructions given by ride operators.
- Obey minimum height, age, and weight restrictions. Never sneak

children onto rides if they are too small or too young for. A smaller or younger child may not be physically or developmentally able to stay safely seated.

- Do not board a ride with visibly broken parts, signs of improper maintenance or an inattentive operator.

Remain in the ride until it comes to a complete stop at the unloading point. If a ride stops temporarily due to mechanical failure or other reason, stay seated and wait for an operator to give further instructions.

Any issues with a ride should be addressed with the ride management company or venue operators first. If



the issue remains unresolved, call the IDHS Rides Hotline at 1-888-203-5020 or email rides@dhs.IN.gov.

Inspections

There are two kinds of inspections: annual and periodic. All amusement

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Fire and Public Safety Academy Bill

(Continued from page 1)

“Better training for firefighters and emergency personnel equates to better service and safety for Hoosiers,” said Governor Pence. “This bill is about each and every Hoosier in this state, who will benefit from the consistent

and uniform training of the courageous men and women serving as firefighters and public safety professionals across Indiana. I applaud State Representative Randy Frye, a firefighter himself, for authoring this legislation and the men and women of the Indiana General Assembly for backing it with unanimous bipartisan support.”

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

for more information and fact sheets



HIV Response Continues in Scott County

State and local agencies have activated a comprehensive effort to stem the spread of HIV in Scott County, found in southeastern Indiana. With 150 cases of HIV identified as of May 7, 149 confirmed and 1 preliminary positive, State of Indiana agencies have collaborated with Scott County and City of Austin officials to open a Community Outreach Center in Austin, Indiana

The Community Outreach Center houses a one-stop shop with resources for citizens, including free HIV testing and care coordination, access to state-issued ID cards, birth certificates, job counseling and local training, enrollment in HIP 2.0 insurance, substance abuse referrals, and vaccinations against tetanus, Hepatitis A and B.

Measures have also included a weekly HIV testing and treatment clinic, a needle exchange program for Scott County residents operated by county health department and an HIV public awareness campaign called *You Are Not Alone*.

Multiple organizations and agencies have contributed staff, technical expertise and services to the outbreak response, including CDC, AmeriCorps, IU Health Network, MATEC, other state health departments, local health departments and other Indiana state agencies. A joint information center, staffed by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, has also been activated to managed the massive amount of media interest descending upon the small town.

Local Response

With Governor Pence's emergency declaration, and extension on April 20, the Scott County Health Department was able to take an additional step toward addressing the injected drug abuse issues at the root of the outbreak. On April 4, the Scott County Health Department opened a needle exchange program, the first authorized in Indiana. Scott County residents participating in the program are counseled about their drug use and provided needles based upon their use for a week, as well as thick plastic containers for safe disposal of used needles.

Participants are also provided with substance abuse, mental health and other appropriate resources at every visit. The program collects basic demographic information for research and statistical purposes, but does not collect names. As of May 7, the Community Outreach Center location and newly opened Mobile Exchange Unit have assisted 250 visitors.

County EMA Participation

Scott County Emergency Management Agency Director Linda Dawson has been especially involved. Although Dawson provided assistance to the logistics team as the One-Stop Shop was built, she has taken a large role in training and safety education during the response.

Near the beginning of the response, Dawson observed an influx of volunteers from around the area, wanting to assist with needle cleanup within the community. With the potential health

hazards involved, Dawson saw a need for coordination, and immediately filled that role, training volunteers in safety procedures and providing protective equipment.

"We've been trying to make sure that everything runs smoothly and safely," said Dawson. "It's important for volunteers to know how to protect themselves while picking up a needle, as well as how to recognize portable methamphetamine labs and other potential safety hazards."

Dawson's training initiatives have also focused on law enforcement. She additionally provided blood borne pathogen training for the county jail. With the usage of opioids in the area, Dawson also took on the project of coordinating Narcan training for local law enforcement and EMS, and distributing kits to the officers.

These trainings have been an important part of the response effort, allowing local residents to participate in taking back Scott County from the current situation.

Building an infrastructure

While the number of new cases has begun to slow, disease intervention specialists are continuing to reach out to those who may have been exposed. The response in Scott County will continue for the foreseeable future. An infrastructure of assistance is being built, to address the current outbreak, and prevent another in the future.

“*We've been trying to make sure that everything runs smoothly and safely.*”

Scott Co. EMA Director
Linda Dawson

HELP PREVENT HIV

**DON'T SHARE THESE.
DON'T ABUSE THESE.**

Any drug can be abused. If you or a friend are abusing drugs, get help. Never share needles. It increases your risk of getting HIV.

HIV Services Hotline 1-866-588-4948
Addiction Hotline 1-800-662-HELP(4357)
www.StateHealth.IN.gov



YOU ARE NOT
ALONE
Indiana State
Department of Health

What's Going On

Majority of Indiana Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Reinstated

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has granted Indiana's appeal and reinstated hazard mitigation grant awards to the State of Indiana, with the exception of Kokomo.

The decision provides access to more than \$6.1 million that was suspended due to unresolved compliance issues with Kokomo's baseball stadium project and allows the majority of the state to continue to apply for future hazard mitigation grants.

Kokomo is still not eligible for hazard mitigation funds or disaster funds related to the baseball stadium.

"Restoration of the hazard mitigation program for the majority of the state is great news for communities all across Indiana," said John Erickson, Director of Public Information. "IDHS has been working diligently since late February for restoration of this important grant program."

A letter from May 7, 2015, stated that FEMA recognizes "that IDHS and the City of Kokomo are working toward bringing the deed-restricted parcels into compliance." The letter also states that if the parcels aren't brought into compliance, or if Kokomo's use of other hazard mitigation acquired properties

results in further violations, FEMA will take additional measures.

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.

The City of Kokomo applied for and was granted FEMA funds to purchase the properties.

State Fire Marshal, IDHS Participating in Westfield Investigation

State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson and a team from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) were on scene at Westfield High School on April 23 shortly after a late-evening accident resulted in about a dozen students being sent to the hospital. All students have been released from the hospital.

The investigation, which involved the collapse of a pit orchestra cover that was being used as an extension to the stage during a musical performance, is being led by the City of Westfield. As of May 7, 2015, the investigation is still active, and includes other local and state agencies.

"As soon as we were aware of the accident, we checked in at the scene



Rafael Sánchez
@RafaelOnTV

Follow

State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson on scene of Westfield stage collapse. His office can help with inspection. No request made yet @rtv6



to see if we could help," said Greeson, who oversees IDHS's Fire and Building Safety Division. "In many school corporations across the state, the agency has responsibility for school inspections."

“*We need schools to know that we're here to help if they need us.*”

State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson

”

The State Fire Marshal and inspectors are providing the City of Westfield with expertise in building code knowledge.

Days after the accident, Greeson sent an email through the Indiana Department of Education to schools across the state to let them know inspectors were available to assist with any construction that brought up questions.

"We've had some response and good discussions," said Greeson. "We need schools to know that we're here to help if they need us." Any school that needs assistance or has questions about any construction can contact the local jurisdiction or the IDHS Fire and Building Safety at 317-232-1407.

► What's Going On

Morgan County EMA Reports on Local Dam Management

The embankment of the Rolling Vista Dam, privately owned and located close to State Road 144 in Mooresville, Morgan County, is in an active state of progressive failure and is currently being studied in advance of major repair.

Morgan County Emergency Management Agency Director Jeff Neal says the corrugated metal spillway pipe is failing and an estimated 20-foot sinkhole has opened above the pipe. The sinkhole

indicates the embankment material has been eroded. There are also stress cracks on the top and slope of the embankment. Neal says there are a number of homes, properties and lives that could be impacted by the dam's failure, which are downstream to Mann Road.

Rolling Vista Dam is believed to be a state-regulated dam under Indiana's Dam Safety Statute. Neal is finalizing a contract with a local engineering firm, which is in the process of

lowering the water level eventually by 10 feet. This will allow further assessment of the situation and help in the event of rainy weather. The water is being sent into a nearby creek. Some trees on the slope of the embankment will also need to be removed.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security will continue to monitor the progress of the repair.

Indiana Wins Hackathon Challenge vs. Texas with IDHS Project

The State of Indiana took the national title of grand champion in a hackathon challenge between Indiana and Texas. The #hackINvsTX winning entry, created by a father and son from Central Indiana, was in response to the challenge set by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

IDHS asked programmers to develop software for use within a one-stop-shop, allowing Hoosiers to register and create a checklist of needed services out of those on-site following a disaster or other emergency.

Red Alert Indiana, staffed by John and Isaiah Schevola, created a dynamic web form that directs citizens affected by emergencies or

natural disasters to the proper agency or non-profit within the one-stop-shop to receive assistance. The app guides users through a checklist of potential services based on their needs, and it streamlines the data intake for service providers by sending and storing customer contact information in a database.

"We were excited to be able to participate; just working on a project with my son was a rewarding experience," said John Schevola. "It didn't really even occur to us that we could win when we submitted, and now, we not only won the Indiana challenge, but also won against Texas to claim the grand prize. It has been a whirlwind."

The Red Alert Indiana project defeated entries that focused on challenges set by, in addition to IDHS, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and Texas Department of Transportation.

The #hackINvsTX Challenge was the first digital hackathon that crossed state lines. The contest was open to any individual or team of developers charged with creating the best application using publicly-available open data, code and technology. A national panel of judges reviewed all the entries and selected the grand prize winner.

Amusement Ride Safety

(Continued from page 2)

rides are required to receive an annual safety inspection. They are also subject to additional periodic inspections. The safety inspection includes verifying that the ride is properly set up and performing as was designed.

If a ride passes inspection, it will receive a sticker that is to be placed in view of the public. It will have the State Fire Marshal logo on it, and the

date in which it received its annual inspection. This permit is valid for a calendar year from the date listed.

Anyone encountering a ride that does not have a valid sticker permit please inform IDHS by calling the IDHS Rides Hotline at 1-888-203-5020 or email rides@dhs.IN.gov. This contact information also can be used if a ride is being operated in an unsafe manner, or in the unfortunate case of an accident.

**IF THIS DEVICE
APPEARS TO BE
IMPROPERLY OPERATED
OR MAINTAINED
CALL THIS NUMBER
1-888-203-5020
IN INDIANA ONLY**

Secure Indiana License Plates Support Local Public Safety Agencies Through Scholarships, Grants

The Indiana Homeland Security Foundation is reminding Hoosiers that the purchase of the Secure Indiana license plate supports local public safety agencies, including emergency management, fire, emergency medical and law enforcement.

Local agencies are able to apply for up to \$4,000 in grants each year toward projects designed to either improve agencies' life-saving capabilities, aid in day-to-day operations, or improve existing capabilities. In 2014, the foundation awarded more than \$404,000 to 111 different agencies



around Indiana, an increase of more than \$27,000 from the previous year.

In addition to providing aid to local first response agencies, the Indiana Homeland Security Foundation will be continuing the Secure Indiana Scholarship Program for Indiana residents. Eligible students must be pursuing a higher education degree while volunteering with a local public

safety organization. The scholarship, which was originally put in place in October of 2006, awards up to \$2,000 per applicant. The scholarship program awarded a total of \$30,000 to 15 students in 2014.

Hoosiers can purchase the Secure Indiana plates from any BMV location.

Local, State Investigators Determine Warsaw Chemical Fire Accidental

An investigation by local and state fire investigators into the February 6, 2015, fire at Warsaw Chemical has been completed. Inspectors have determined that the fire, which originated in the center of the structure, was accidental.

The fire occurred at the company's facility located at 290 Argonne Road, Warsaw. Due to concerns regarding the inhalation of chemicals found in the plant, six waste water personnel and three firefighters were transported to the hospital for treatment. They were released from medical care the day of the fire. The report also indicated that the fire suppression system in the building may not have fully deployed.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) performed air monitoring during the incident, to protect neighboring residents from potentially hazardous fumes. Based on readings, the area

was determined safe by mid-afternoon, allowing the evacuation order to be lifted.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Grace College Center for Lakes & Streams were present during response activities to monitor conditions within Winona Lake during the fire suppression activities. Aeration was used to introduce oxygen into the water and help protect aquatic life. Initially, there has been no indication that

“There has been no indication that fish quantity or quality was affected by the incident.”

fish quantity or quality was affected by the incident, nor do officials anticipate that the summer swimming season will be affected.

For more information about safely eating fish caught in Hoosier waterways, visit the Indiana Fish Consumption Advisory at <https://secure.in.gov/isdh/23650.htm>.

Environmental cleanup at the site included the removal of solid waste and the disposal of liquid waste.

Agencies responding to the February 6 incident included the Warsaw Fire Department, City of Warsaw Waste Water Department, City of Warsaw Stormwater Utility, Winona Lake Fire Department, Kosciusko County Emergency Management, Indiana State Police, Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration, DNR, IDEM, IDHS and several police and fire departments from the surrounding areas.

Indiana NFA Trip Offers ‘Great Educational Experience’



From March 13-15, 38 public safety individuals attended the Indiana Weekend training at the National Fire Academy (NFA) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Attendees were offered training in Exercising Leadership within Communities and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Incident Command System.

“The National Fire Academy trip is always a great educational experience,” said Brandon Wood, Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Fire Training Manager and NFA state weekend coordinator. “This experience gave great insight to attendees on ways to improve training at their departments, and how to better integrate it with the State Fire Training System.”

Each year, IDHS organizes the trip, which is free to Indiana attendees.

“Indiana and the academy have a great partnership,” said National Fire Academy Superintendent Dr. Dennis O’Neil. “This visit also provides the opportunity for the National Fire Academy to get updates on Indiana training.”

Of the 38 individuals who traveled to Maryland, 23 attended the Exercising Leadership within Communities course, which provides fire service authority figures with information

and opportunities to learn skills to exercise leadership during ever-changing response situations. Jeff Vaupel, a volunteer firefighter from Carter Fire Department in Spencer County, said, “This training weekend had good course delivery and application of critical thinking, which will be valuable in future situations.”

The remaining 15 students attended the EMS Incident Command System (ICS) training. This course focused on the framework of ICS and how it pertains to EMS. Each course lasted 16 hours.

“The opportunity for additional, national level classes is incredibly important for Indiana firefighters,” said Indiana Assistant Fire Marshal Robert Johnson. “There is no such thing as too much training for a job of this nature. I always tell firefighters to train as if their life depends on it -- because it does.”

In addition to Wood and Johnson, representatives attending the Fire Academy Weekend from IDHS included:

- Catherine Dutton -- Hazmat Section Chief
- Mike White -- Hazmat Specialist
- Steve Gressmire -- EMS Specialist/North Manager



IDHS Catalyst for Pilot Search; Plane Found in Boone County

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) initiated a search for a small, two-seat plane that went missing after leaving Eagle Creek Airport on April 3.

The search included local agencies and volunteers in Delaware and Boone counties, other state agencies and the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). The University of Indianapolis and the American Red Cross also provided support. The U of I provided an archaeological forensics team to the efforts.

The plane, which was last seen on air traffic controller radars somewhere near Muncie, was flying at an altitude of 6,000 feet before disappearing from the radar entirely. The aircraft was found crashed in a Boone County cornfield on April 12, six days after the suspected pilot was reported missing. A body was recovered from the aircraft, and was confirmed to be that of an Indianapolis native.

Shortly after the report came to the attention of IDHS, ground and air crews were conducting a search in Delaware County near where the plane was last identified. The search then shifted to Boone County.

Search crews were able to identify where the plane crashed.

Some numbers of note:

- Total number of CAP personnel involved: 38
- Total air search sorties launched: 5 (A sortie is a mission of an individual aircraft.)
- Total ground teams used: 3

Arson Awareness Week Emphasizes Canine Importance

While Arson Awareness Week was May 3-9, it's a good reminder that everyone in Indiana should keep their eyes and ears open to signs of illegal activity.

This year's theme was "Accelerant Detection Canines (ADC) – Sniffing Out Arson." Although Indiana Department of Homeland Security fire investigators do not have that resource, they do work with agencies that have the dogs.

Some statistics of note from the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website are:

- Accelerant-detection canines' sense of smell is 100,000 times more sensitive than a human's.
- It takes a trained canine 30 minutes to achieve what it would take a human a day to cover at the average fire scene.

- It only takes three canine team-collected lab samples to identify accelerant use. By comparison, it takes 20 samples collected by a human alone.

People who see suspicious activity should, without endangering themselves, note the following:

- Number of people
- How they are dressed
- How long they are at the location
- Vehicle identification, including color, make, model, damage, license plates, etc.

Do not hesitate to call local authorities, including 9-1-1 if danger is imminent.

For more information about reporting suspicious activity, go to getprepared.in.gov or http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/arson_awareness.html.

"Thunder" Receives Support from Indiana

The Indiana State Police (ISP) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) provided support and expertise to local officials in southern Indiana as part of the Thunder Over Louisville regional celebration.

Each year, the City of Madison becomes the Incident Command Center for Indiana's celebration. The event, which attracts nearly a million people to the region annually, is the official kickoff to the Kentucky Derby Festival and the largest annual fireworks display in America.

IDHS provided the use of its Incident Response Vehicle for use as a mobile command center for the

ISP, providing a place for coordination and communications to streamline any activities that needed to occur.

IDHS additionally participated in the Hazard Interdiction Team, a specialty team that works to pre-screen locations for large events and perform crowd screening. These teams, which typically can handle chemical, biological, explosive, radioactive and nuclear issues, are designed to address the needs of the particular event.

No major incidents were reported at this year's event, closing the books on the 26th Thunder Over Louisville.

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
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Please direct any questions or comments to the
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