



Hoosier Responder

November 2010

Volume 6, Issue XI

INDIANA DRY WEATHER CONTINUES

Recent dry conditions have contributed to a conservative estimate of \$1.5 million in fire damage.

Dry conditions led to at least 139 wild land, field, and grass fires in Indiana since September 1.

While recent rain has improved conditions in some areas, much of the state is still very dry and burn bans are still in effect.

Even though some counties have let previous burn bans expire, accidental fires are still a threat.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommends additional caution to avoid sparking a fire this fall.

According to the US Drought Monitor, more than half of Indiana is experiencing drought conditions, with some areas near Jackson and Jennings counties classified as extreme drought conditions.

It is important for Hoosiers to be aware of actions that increase the risk of an accidental fire.

"In these dry conditions fires can ignite and spread very quickly," said State Fire Marshall Jim Greeson. "Know what burn ban restrictions affect your area, but always use caution when handling anything that produces heat or could produce a spark."



NOTICE: Burn ban status information is provided by each county's emergency management agency.

Red: Countywide Burn Ban In Effect
Orange: Local Area Burn Ban In Effect
Green: Previous Ban Lifted

For more information about burn bans and drought conditions, click on the "Statewide Burn Ban & Fire Safety Information" link at www.in.gov/dhs.

In This Issue:

State to Provide 1,200 Specialized Smoke Alarms	2
Carefully Choose Christmas Trees For Holiday Safety	2
EMA Spotlight: Marshall County	3
Business Offers Training and Resources to Assist Fire Service	3
State Universities to Receive Grant Money for Programs	4
District 2 Response Task Force Conducts Convoy Exercise	4
Goshen Fire Chief Named New IFCA President	5
Prepare Citizens for Winter	5
Morgan County EMA Director Helps Prevent Bridge Collapse	6
State IBEAM Team Trains in CPR at DPMU Fall Exercise	6
Author Will Speak at Hazard Conference	6
Proposals Requested to Change Firefighter Board Rules	7
Data Collection System Measures Outcome of Care	7

From the Director's Chair-Executive Director Joe Wainscott IDHS SPONSORS CERTIFICATION FOR 20 INDIANA EMERGENCY MANAGERS

Whenever I talk with emergency medical technicians, paramedics, fire fighters or emergency managers about their careers and the services they provide, it's almost always immediately apparent how passionately they care about the people they serve.

At IDHS, one of our most important commitments is to help provide these dedicated individuals with the most up-to-date training and resources available to help them to do their jobs.

In line with that commitment, I am pleased to share that IDHS was recently able to sponsor 20 emergency management personnel in attaining certified emergency manager and associate emergency manager designations through the International Association of

Emergency Managers (IAEM).

The IAEM, which has more than 5,000 members worldwide, is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to advancing the emergency management profession by providing information, networking and professional development opportunities.

I strongly encourage all emergency responders and managers to pursue any opportunities for enhancing their knowledge and skills. In achieving this level of certification, these 20 individuals have demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm and devotion to serving the people in their communities.

IDHS is delighted to have helped provide this important educational opportunity, benefiting

both the emergency managers and the Hoosiers in their jurisdictions.

As we head into the new year, IDHS will continue to work closely with all emergency management and response agencies to help ensure that Hoosiers have expertly trained emergency response and emergency management personnel prepared to assist quickly and effectively in any emergency.



STATE TO PROVIDE 1,200 SPECIALIZED SMOKE ALARMS

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, announced recently that more than 1,200 free smoke alarms, designed for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, are being purchased for distribution to financially qualifying Hoosiers throughout the state.

IDHS will be accepting applications from individuals in need through the IDHS website. These smoke alarms produce a bright strobe light to notify someone that the smoke alarm has gone off.

In addition, an attachment placed underneath a mattress will shake the bed if the strobe light does not wake the person. This will allow individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to be notified in time to properly take action and evacuate his or her home.



The alarm produces a bright strobe light to notify someone of smoke or fire. An attachment placed under a mattress will shake the bed to wake a sleeping person.

"Many fire departments around the state have programs to help individuals obtain standard smoke alarms," said Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson, "but this program will help meet the less widely addressed, specialized needs of Indiana's residents who are deaf or hard of hearing. Indiana has a population of more than 500,000 individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, and while the state doesn't have the resources to reach everyone, the alarms can make a difference for the individuals who do receive them."

This program is funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the United States Department of Homeland Security.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program will provide \$300,000 to purchase these alarms through the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant. The purpose of the grant program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters against fire and fire-related hazards.

Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing are encouraged to apply for an alarm. If you qualify, the alarm will be installed in your home by your local fire department without charge.



State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson demonstrates how to use the smoke alarm, designed for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Individuals who are interested in receiving a specialized smoke detector and cannot afford to purchase one on his or her own should apply online at www.in.gov/dhs by clicking on "apply for free smoke alarm."

If you know someone who is in need of one of the alarms, please inform them about the program and direct them to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's website.

IDHS continues to make efforts to provide information and materials to help keep all Hoosiers safe from fires and other disasters.

CAREFULLY CHOOSE CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SAFETY

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, there are approximately 25-30 million live Christmas trees sold in the U.S. every year during the holiday season.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, recommends carefully choosing and handling trees for holiday safety. Certain types of fires and injuries associated with holiday decorating are common during this season.

A heat source placed too close to a dry tree is a fire hazard. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow very quickly. Move the tree from the home when it begins dropping needles. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Ideas can be found at www.christmastree.org/recycle.cfm.

Use the following guidelines when choosing and handling a Christmas tree:

Picking the Tree

Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

If you choose an artificial tree, be sure it is identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.

Maintaining the Tree

Before placing the tree in the stand, make a fresh cut 1-2 inches from the base of the trunk to allow water to absorb. Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source. Make sure the tree does not block an exit. Add water daily to the tree stand.



Lighting the Tree

Never use lit candles to decorate the tree. Replace any string of lights that have worn or broken cords, and broken bulbs. Always turn off Christmas tree lights when leaving home or going to bed. Do not overload electrical circuits when plugging in the tree.

For more tips on selecting and caring for a live tree, visit indianachristmastree.com/pages/selection-care.php.

For more information on Christmas tree and holiday safety, visit www.in.gov/dhs/3374.htm.

EMA Spotlight: Marshall County

In a worst case scenario, Marshall County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) provides District 2 with mass casualty capabilities.

A mass casualty trailer stationed in the county was deployed to supply oxygen tanks to South Bend last summer when an assisted living community loss power.

Clyde Avery has served as Marshall County's EMA director for almost five years, after retiring from the Plymouth Police department where he had worked in every position from dispatcher to chief. Now he serves every position of the EMA as its sole employee.

Since becoming director, Avery has been able to rewrite the county's emergency management plan (CEMP), becoming National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant. The director works with emergency support function partners to support annexes such as a public information plan, a communications plan and a debris management plan.

He has also helped the county achieve StormReady certification through the National Weather Service. The director participates in many public outreach programs such as the emergency alert radio giveaway.

Marshall County is continuing to transition to 800MHz radio with its

law enforcement completely converted and mostly converted in other areas.

Avery remains an active member in the district's planning council where he serves on several exercise committees. He also serves the district through a leadership role in service and support, planning the logistics for transportation, nutrition, shelters, supplies and medical needs after a disaster.

**Clyde Avery, director
Marshall County EMA
112 W. Jefferson St. - Room 300
Plymouth IN 46563-9075
(574)936-3740
ema@co.marshall.in.us**



BUSINESS OFFERS FREE TRAINING TO ASSIST FIRE SERVICE

Fire departments from across the state recently participated in a machinery rescue train the trainer course, sponsored by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's State Firefighter Training System.

The training was held at Fishers Fire Department and Zore's Towing Service. Zore's facility provided tools and vehicles to recreate accident scenarios with manikin victims so participants can perform extraction exercises in realistic situations. Twenty-four fire departments have used the training facility as well as many other groups including bomb squads, dive teams, and police departments.

With the large supply of equipment, Zore's can recreate nearly any hazard scenario. Zore's facility helps fire departments with

training exercises that would otherwise cause a heavy financial strain on the department. In addition to providing a free facility to recreate accidents, Zore's uses private equipment donations so participants can practice with tools that will be used in real situations. Being able to practice rescue situations in this environment prepares first responders for actual accidents, which could mean the difference between life and death for a victim.

"Zore's is an excellent example of a public/private partnership that benefits both parties," says State Fire Training Director, John Buckman. "Zore's is committed to assisting fire departments, law enforcement and emergency medical services personnel with realistic, hands-on training opportunities that is difficult if not impossible to replicate."

These training exercises are held multiple times each week at the Zore's facility at 1300 N Mickley Avenue in Indianapolis.

In addition, Zore's has been called on to assist fire departments in the rescue of trapped victims or recovery of damaged vehicles. In 2009, after the explosion of a tanker at the I-465 and I-



A manikin is placed inside a large piece of machinery for participants to remove.

69 interchange, Zore's provided invaluable assistance to first responders. The company also was called upon by the Zionsville Fire Department after an accident involving a semi-trailer and a small car with two victims trapped inside the car. The Fire Department Instructors Conference in 2009 recognized Zore's efforts with a Special Service Award.

Zore's willingness to provide training resources and assist emergency responders in the field has made it an important asset to IDHS and the state of Indiana.

"Zore's will continue to cooperate with emergency responders in our state to help keep them trained and to provide live saving support to Hoosiers," said Tim Moore, operations manager at Zore's Towing Service.



Members of various fire departments use air bags to lift the vehicle and safely pull the victim out from underneath it.

STATE UNIVERSITIES TO RECEIVE GRANT MONEY FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Indiana University and Purdue University have received a combined total of more than \$1 million in grant funds to help develop, or review and improve, and fully integrate campus-based all-hazard emergency management planning efforts.

Indiana University in Bloomington received nearly \$650,000, while Purdue University in Calumet was awarded almost \$500,000. The Emergency Management for Higher Education (EMHE) grant program will allow both campuses to create or update their emergency management plans without passing the cost onto taxpayers or students.

The funds will be spent in various areas of emergency management. In addition to funding the development or updating of emergency plans, the universities will also be able to train campus staff, faculty, and student in emergency management procedures. The campuses will coordinate with state and local government emergency management efforts in developing these plans.

This plan will include protocols for medical, mental health, communication, mobility, and emergency needs of persons with disabilities, as well as for those individuals with temporary special needs or other unique needs.

It will also develop or update a written plan that prepares the campus for infectious disease outbreaks with both short-term implications for planning and long-term implications for planning.

Ensuring coordination of planning and communication across all relevant components, offices, and departments of the campus is a key component of the grant program. Other uses for the grant funds include:

- Training campus faculty, staff, and students in emergency management procedures;
- Coordinating planning across all relevant components, offices, and departments of the campus as well as the local community;
- Coordinating with local and state government emergency management efforts;
- Supporting the implementation of the National Incident Management System;
- Pre-establishing roles for faculty, staff, students and first responders;
- Creating web-based emergency management portals for information sharing on campus;
- Conducting drills and exercises with faculty, staff, students, and community partners;
- Completing comprehensive vulnerability assessments of campus facilities; and,
- Purchasing emergency equipment and technology necessary to improve overall campus safety and preparedness.

EMS SPOTLIGHT



The Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) named the Perry County Memorial Hospital EMS Department the 2010 Paramedic Provider of the Year. This is the fourth time Perry County has been honored with this award, receiving it in 2004, 2006, and 2007.

Established in September of 1986, Perry County EMS has quickly become a leader in providing emergency medical care. The service advanced to Paramedic Provider level in 1993 with support from the local hospital, physicians and county government officials. Perry County EMS continues to improve the quality of service.

On scene treatment has improved due to the numerous services and medications that have been added to each of the ambulances. Stemming from an anonymous donation of six automatic defibrillators (AEDs) in 2004, officials have created a program that allows defibrillators to be carried in personal vehicles by all staff members, EMTs and paramedics. This program allows the staff to respond to cardiac arrests immediately in their community, even when EMS employees are not on call.

DISTRICT 2 RESPONSE TASK FORCE CONDUCTS CONVOY EXERCISE

On October 21, the Indiana District 2 Response Task Force conducted a Functional Mobilization Convoy Exercise in preparation for the Full Scale 2011 National Level Exercise.

The mobilization began at the Rochester Fire Department and travelled to Tippecanoe River State Park in Winamac.

Participants included the Indiana National Guard, paramedics, incident commanders, firefighters, policemen, tactical and water rescue specialists, mental health workers, public information officers, support personnel and



Participants in the convoy exercise discuss the scenario of a major earthquake.

comfort dogs and their handlers.

Participation from 32 agencies included the following counties: Fulton, Pulaski, Starke, Marshall, Kosciusko, St. Joseph and Elkhart counties.

Upon arrival, the District 2 Response Task Force set up its command center to coordinate the exercise.

The goal of these exercises is to prepare for a large scale disaster within the state. In this case, the scenario simulated a major earthquake within the region. The District Response Task Forces are called upon to assist local first responders

with rescue and relief efforts.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security evaluated the exercise and provided suggestions to help improve the response. Sherry Fagner of the Pulaski County Health Department helped organize the exercise.

"The good thing is, this was an exercise and we had time to plan for it. If we were hit for real, we'd have six hours," Fagner said.

The mission of a District Response Task Force is to improve state and local emergency response capabilities and provide specialized expertise and resources in a variety of emergency response disciplines. These specialized resources will be utilized to save lives, stabilize incidents, and protect property and the environment.

GOSHEN FIRE CHIEF NAMED NEW IFCA PRESIDENT

Goshen Fire Chief Dan Sink was recently elected president of the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) at the annual Indiana Emergency Response Conference.

Sink has served as the chief of the Goshen Fire Department for the last five years. Since joining the department at the age of 22, Sink quickly climbed the ranks of the department, having been named to the positions of captain lieutenant, chief paramedic, associate chief, and finally chief of the Goshen Fire



Department. He achieved the top rank in 2006 after the previous fire chief, John Alheim, stepped down from his position.

"He is a proven leader," says former IFCA President Joe Kruzan. "He has always been involved with the chiefs and been helpful. He's a natural leader and is very committed to his work in fire and emergency service."

Being named president of the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association is a big honor for the Goshen firefighter. The position is a four

year commitment that brings various responsibilities.

Sink will be tasked with leading the organization, which recently organized the Indiana Fire Alliance. This alliance united members of the Fire Chiefs Association, Indiana Firefighter Association, Volunteer Firefighter Association, and the Professional Fire Union. The goal of the alliance was to help the fire organizations in Indiana speak with a unified voice on major issues.

The IFCA hosts the Indiana Emergency Response Conference each year, which is attended by firefighters, paramedics and EMTs in August at Indianapolis. The conference also includes training, networking and visiting with vendors.

"We try to foster quality legislation and quality education for Hoosier firefighters," Sink said of the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association.

Sink has always felt it was important to participate, not just in his area, but in fire service across the state.

FIRE SPOTLIGHT: PETERSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 23 years as the fire chief of the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department, Phillip Taylor has seen a lot.

He was recently recognized as Fire Chief of the Year for a combination/volunteer department at the Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC). But Taylor doesn't do it alone. The entire department deserves credit for its hard work and professionalism while keeping the city of Petersburg safe.

Major disasters have hit Petersburg hard in the past. In 1990, the city saw a levee break along the White River which washed out a water supply line. Through cooperation with other fire departments from the region, the Petersburg Fire Department was able to keep water in the water tower and assist in the construction of a replacement water supply line.

Weeks later, a deadly F3 tornado moved through the city causing major damage. The department led a search and rescue effort at every residence to find victims of the powerful tornado.

The 25 member department has shown that despite its size, it can respond effectively to major disasters in their city. With only two Class A fire engines, one quick attack/rescue truck, one pumper/tanker, and one brush fire truck, the department's limited resources require highly trained individuals to quickly respond to emergencies in the area.

In addition, the Petersburg Fire Department also provide basic rescue and automobile extraction services, as well as limited non-transport medical first response services.



Petersburg Fire Department

PREPARE CITIZENS FOR WINTER CONDITIONS

Despite an unusually long hot summer, winter is finally creeping toward the heartland once again. It's time to remind Hoosiers to prepare for ice, snow and cold temperatures.

Health and Safety Concerns: Remind constituents how to recognize frost bite and hypothermia and how to dress in warm, loose layers to avoid these issues. On snowy days, encourage everyone to take frequent breaks and stay hydrated when digging out vehicles, or shoveling snow from driveways.

Disaster Kit: Encourage them to stock up on water and non-perishable food items to prepare for storms. Strong storms may leave Hoosiers snowed-in, or without electricity for a few days. Flashlights, a portable radio, extra batteries, and warm blankets are also good items for families to have on hand and easily accessible. You should have a kit for your home and another for your vehicle.

Travel Safety Everyone should also be encouraged to keep a few essential items in their vehicle. A small shovel or other tool for digging wheels out of the snow, flashlight and emergency blanket are a few of the most basic items to keep in your vehicle. It is also a good idea to keep at least a half tank of gas in your car at all times

during winter months to keep fuel lines from freezing. Always carry a cell phone with you when driving on cold or snowy days. Keeping your tires properly inflated and checking the tread depth can improve your traction in dangerous conditions. You should also be sure to check your battery, exhaust, heater, antifreeze, oil, windshield wipers and wiper blades.

Hoosiers can also check the travel advisory map at www.in.gov/dhs/files/travel-advisory-map for travel information as reported by their county.

Alternative Heating: Many Hoosiers choose to heat their homes with space heaters and other alternative sources of heat. Remind your constituents to follow simple safety guidelines such as keeping space heaters away from draperies, blankets, bedding and other flammable materials, and never plugging them into extension cords or overloaded electrical outlets.

For printable fact sheets visit www.in.gov/dhs/getprepared and click on winter weather.

If you are planning any winter readiness events or activities for your community, email pio@dhs.in.gov.

MORGAN COUNTY EMA DIRECTOR HELPS PREVENT BRIDGE COLLAPSE

During heavy rainfall in 2008, a large logjam was dislodged from the State Road 39 bridge over White River in Morgan County.

After flowing downstream, the logs became entangled in Indiana Southern Railroad trestle just south of Martinsville along State Road 67.

This caused excessive pressure on the trestle, which then collapsed into the river, causing more than \$200,000 in damage.

Jeff Neal, Director of Morgan County EMA, noticed another log jam this year on the State Road 39 bridge. He contacted the Indiana Department of Home-



A 2008 response removes a logjam from the State Road 39 bridge over White River.

land Security which cooperated with Indiana Department of Transportation officials from the area, Indiana Southern Railroad, and Morgan County EMA officials to assess the situation. Only a few weeks later, the process of removing these logs had begun.

While the removal is still in progress, Neal's attentiveness may have prevented another expensive bridge collapse which could have potentially caused a million dollar loss to the Indiana Southern Railroad.

The collapse could have also caused a critical coal shortage to the Indianapolis Power & Light Eagle Valley Generating Station.

STATE IBEAM TEAM TRAINS IN CLEARING AIRWAYS AND CPR

Don Watson of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security recently trained 21 members of the Indiana Building Emergency Assessment and Monitoring (I-BEAM) Team in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and clearing obstructed airways.

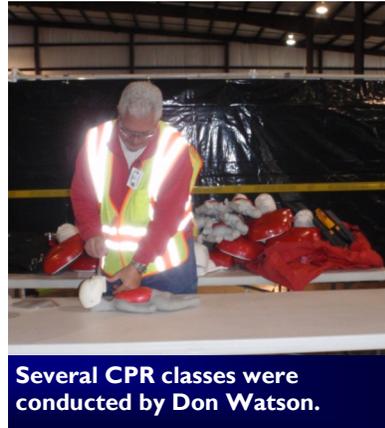
The I-BEAM Team held an exercise with its deployable equipment during the Indiana Disaster Portable Mortuary Unit's (I-DPMU) fall exercise held on October 27, 28, and 29. Some members serve on both teams.

The DPMU operational team is made up of 30 volunteers from IDHS personnel who setup and manage the morgue. A full inventory and labeling of supplies was also completed at the

exercise.

"The fall exercise was very valuable for the team," I-DPMU Operations Chief Mike Bigler said. "Sometimes people learn a new skill or procedure just by helping another team member complete a task."

During the exercise, the DPMU tested many pieces of equipment such as a



Several CPR classes were conducted by Don Watson.

tent used as a full body x-ray unit, new x-ray aprons, longer 125 foot main power distribution cables, and other equipment with an engine.

The team also tested its reprogrammed 800MHz radios. Other training activities included working on standard operating procedures for the gathering of valuables of victims and using personal protective equipment.

The team had 65 visitors tour the mortuary unit, including firefighters, EMTs, doctors, nurses and EMA directors.

AUTHOR WILL SPEAK AT HAZARD CONFERENCE

Respected author and journalist Amanda Ripley will share her insight on disaster preparedness on November 18 at the All Hazards Resilience Conference in Plainfield.

Her book, "The Unthinkable" describes how the brain works during disasters, and her conclusions about how individuals can handle emergencies better. The book is being published in 15 countries and was selected by Hudson Booksellers as one of the Top 10 Nonfiction books of 2008. New York Times described it as "a fascinating and useful new book", and National Public Radio hailed it as "The thinking person's manual for getting out alive."

Ripley has presented her books findings to various groups including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the United States Senate, the Pentagon, the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department, and the Peace Corps. She has

also written or contributed to the New York Times Magazine, Atlantic Slate, the Times of London, National Geographic Adventure, Washington Monthly and more than a dozen TIME cover stories.

The conference will also include a presentation by Dr. Dan Miller, author of A Tragic Turn: Six Leaders and the Death of Martin. This will use the example of Martin Luther King Jr. to review historical perspectives on leadership. Dr. Dipak Chowdhury will discuss earthquake potential in Indiana, and Margarita Hart will speak on strategies for engaging leadership from culturally diverse populations.

The public is welcome to attend the conference. The cost is \$60 and advanced registration is required. Visit www.INallhazards.org to register, or www.amandaripley.com to find more information about the keynote speaker.

PROPOSALS REQUESTED TO CHANGE RULES

IDHS is requesting that fire officials, instructors and educators take part in revising the Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education administrative rules.

Proposed changes need to be submitted by November 26. The current board rules can be found at www.in.gov/dhs/2366.htm. The board rules pertain to procedures for achieving various fire service certifications.

To submit a proposal, return a proposal form to bgoble@dhs.in.gov. The form can be found at www.in.gov/dhs/files/proposal_form.doc.

Any member of the fire service may submit a proposal for consideration by the committee and the board. There is no limit to proposal submissions for consideration, but only one proposal can be submitted per form.

INDIANAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT HOSTS FIRE SAFETY EVENT FOR CHILDREN

More than 1,300 children attempted to set a world record during a fire safety event held by the Indianapolis Fire Department at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

The children hoped to set the record for the most people simultaneously performing the "Stop, Drop, & Roll" technique.



The Guinness Book of World Records has been notified and is in the process of verifying whether this attempt counts as a world record.

While the children may have been most excited about potentially setting a world record, they received extremely valuable information that will help keep themselves and their families safe.

Children spent much of the event visiting various stations that taught them skills that could help them in the event of a fire.

At one station, children were asked to draw a map of their house and then create an escape plan with multiple routes out that included a meeting point for all family members outside.

Other stations at the event helped prepare children by teaching them about hazards in the home, how to call 911, and a safety trailer that taught them how to escape a fire.

DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM WILL MEASURE OUTCOMES OF INDIANA EMERGENCY CARE

A data collection system used by emergency medical services (EMS) in Marion and Hamilton counties affects patient care by measuring outcomes of EMS care.

Using a data collection software program, EMS services from throughout Marion County and Hamilton County has compiled patient records onto one patient care reporting system. This allows for quality improvement of EMS throughout these counties.

The data collection system benefits EMS by using enhanced data to look at technician skills, usage of medications and scene response times.

EMS Chief Steve Davison of Fishers Fire Department has been actively involved in incorporating the system into all EMS throughout Marion and Hamilton County.

He hopes to expand the system throughout District 5 and possibly the whole state of Indiana.

"We have a robust system which will make it available to anyone that wants to be a part of it," Davison says. "It's a wealth of information to develop protocols and how protocols affect patient care."

The system is dependent on grant funding and involving other agencies lowers operating costs. The system was started using the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant through the Department of Homeland Security.

Some services involved include fire and EMS agencies throughout Marion and Hamilton counties, including Carmel Fire Department, Fishers Fire Department, Indianapolis Fire Department and Wishard Hospital.

Services involved in the system are working on pulling the data out of the collection database. Medical directors are reviewing the data to determine best practices. The database will help create a syndromic surveillance system to use data to look at patient complaints, look for spikes in symptoms and determine early identification of a condition.



Indiana Department of Homeland Security



Leadership for a Safe and Secure Indiana

302 West Washington Street
 Indiana Government Center South
 Room E208
 Indianapolis, IN 46204
 317.232.3980 or 800.669.7362



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 317.234.4214 or pio@dhs.in.gov.