



# HOOOSIER Responder

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## KNOW WHAT IS BELOW: Fire Services Urged to Promote Safe Digging and 811

The State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), encourages fire stations to promote safe digging in their communities. Rick Batza, chief of fire investigators for IDHS, noted that potential liabilities exist when digging occurs before calling 811, including endangerment of lives, interruption of electric service and property damage.



Digging projects that begin before calling 811 can result in hitting a utility line, causing outages or injuries and repair costs.

"The local fire department is the first line of defense in these emergencies," Batza said. "If there is a 911 call regarding an electrical fire or explosion, the fire departments have to respond on many levels from stabilizing the situation to determining the cause."

Indiana 811 and the Indiana Pipeline Awareness Association (INPAA) ask fire stations across the state to show their support to INPAA by reminding

their community members to call Indiana 811 before any digging project. A free call to 811 two full working days prior to digging starts the process of having underground utility lines marked. This call reduces the likelihood of unintentionally striking a utility line and causing outages, injuries and repair costs.

Indiana 811 suggests that you post a brief reminder to call 811 on the marquee in front of your fire station.

Here are a couple examples to consider: **Know What's Below. Call 811 Before you Dig.**

INPAA offers free pipeline awareness training to firefighters throughout Indiana. The course is certified by the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) to offer Two Certified Education Units (CEU). Visit [www.inpaa.org](http://www.inpaa.org) for more information about INPAA's Emergency Responder Training program. Contact Chuck Muller at 317.893.1404 or [cmuller@indiana811.org](mailto:cmuller@indiana811.org) for additional information. ■

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## From the Director's Chair-Executive Director Joe Wainscott PRESIDENTIAL CYBER SECURITY COORDINATOR BRINGS INSIGHT TO INDIANA

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and other agencies welcomed National Cyber Security Coordinator Howard Schmidt to Indianapolis on May 12 to present the keynote address at the Indiana Cyber Security Conference.

The conference provided opportunities for collaboration among federal and state entities and the private sector with the goal of enhancing national security. Among other topics, the conference highlighted new technologies, addressed the threat of economic espionage and offered a hands-on workshop for small businesses about strategies for survival in the digital age.

Using the same networks and links that bind us globally, cyber criminals and terrorists are able to strike from virtually anywhere in the world,

potentially causing catastrophic social and economic harm to countries, states, cities and towns that are oceans away.

As our dependence on web-based technologies increases with each step forward in innovation, so does our responsibility to protect our security and our privacy. Topics discussed in the conference offered an insightful look into the federal strategy for cyber security. Schmidt added valuable knowledge to our initiatives to tackle security problems and risks.

We at the IDHS are committed to a cyber security strategy that keeps Indiana and America protected and prosperous.

Schmidt advised that we need to focus on the improvements that have been made to cyber security, not just the problems.



He also made mention of IDHS's cyber security risk framework as one of these achievements. As you may recall, this framework was recognized by leading technological journal *Public CIO*, which called the IDHS framework proactive, and highlighted it as an example of an "effective and efficient," "top-down approach" to IT risk management.

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## INDIANAPOLIS TO HOST THE INDIANA EMERGENCY RESPONSE CONFERENCE

The 2010 Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) will be held August 11-14 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. Some workshops featured at the conference include cadaver lab, cargo tank identification, fire service marketing management, public education, understanding earthquakes in Indiana, common street drugs, emergency pediatrics and mandatory training for Indiana's first responders on autism.

The IERC will award 10 conference participants from emergency medical services (EMS) with a scholarship to attend the conference which pays for half of the registration cost (\$75.00). The same scholarship will be offered by The Indiana Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) for fire service participants. Scholarships will be awarded based on the applicant's description of how the attendee will benefit from attendance. The



deadline for receipt of all applications is July 15, 2010. Special activities such as a cooking class are planned for spouses of attendees, who may attend the conference for a fee of \$110. Also offered will be a student fee of \$75, which does not include meals, for participants enrolled in an EMS or fire service program. Students must show identification or a letter from the school or establishment upon arrival at the conference.

"We really want to promote the next generation to attend the conference," said IFCA Executive Director Terry Rake.

To recognize the vital public service emergency responders provide, individuals or divisions will be honored at the conference's awards banquet on August 13, based on nominations. Nomination forms for EMS can be obtained at <http://indianaerc.com/EMSAwards.aspx> and for fire service at <http://indianaerc.com/IFCAAwards.aspx>. Please contact Joe Kruzan at [jkruzan@schererville.com](mailto:jkruzan@schererville.com) or Danny Sink at [dannysink@goshencity.com](mailto:dannysink@goshencity.com) with any questions regarding the nomination process. All nominations must be received by August 4, 2010.

For more information about the conference, visit the IERC website at <http://indianaerc.com/> or contact Conference Coordinator Terry Rake at [rake@indfirechiefs.org](mailto:rake@indfirechiefs.org) or 317.733.1850. ■

## Cyber Security

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Technological innovation and advances beget tremendous opportunities, and the impact of these enhancements is ingrained in the fabric of our daily lives. But these great opportunities are not seized without risk.

Cyber threats demonstrate one of the most significant risks we face as a state and a nation. Without expert collaboration and knowledge sharing in both the government and private sectors, we may lessen our ability to respond to threats, and potentially expose ourselves and our neighbors to greater risks, as perpetrators learn to exploit technological weaknesses. We have a shared responsibility to protect our cyber security and our privacy. No government, conglomeration of governments or private industry alone can contain the myriad threats to which we are exposed in cyberspace. The decisions and commitments we make to promote cyber security today will have a lasting impact on the future of this state and this country.

The conference was hosted by IDHS in partnership with other agencies including the United States Attorney's Office, Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council, the FBI, Intra-Gard Alliance, Information System Security Association (ISSA) and Purdue University-Center for Education Research in Information Assurance and Security (PU-CERIAS). ■

## FIRE SPOTLIGHT: Hendricks County Fire Ops 101

Most citizens would agree that a firefighter's job is challenging, yet many don't get the chance to experience the heat firsthand. Hendricks County firefighters simulated this heat for a group of local citizens and elected officials, giving them an intimate look into the work of a firefighter.

For the third time, the Hendricks County Fire Ops 101 course offered community leaders and citizens the chance to wear firefighter gear, enter a flashover chamber (which mimics the nearly simultaneous ignition of all combustible materials in an enclosed area), extricate a "victim" from a vehicle and witness water rescues performed by the Hendricks County Rescue Task Force.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), supports Hendricks County's educational program. Jim Bennett is a career firefighter who serves as the director of

preparedness and training at IDHS.

"The Hendricks County Fire Ops 101 course seems to have been an eye opening experience for the elected officials and civilians who participated," Bennett said. "It's good for public relations as well as bringing awareness to the city officials of needed funds



Citizen firefighters put out a controlled fire as part of the Hendricks County Fire Ops 101 course where citizens and officials simulated the job of a firefighter.

for new equipment."

The Hendricks County Professional Firefighters Local 4406 union organized the event, headed by Jerry Harder, Brownsburg firefighter and president of Local 4406. The Fire Ops 101 experience will be offered again later in the year if there is enough interest. Brownsburg Fire Chief Oran True sees the class as a valuable asset in giving the community a better idea about what firefighters do.

"After experiencing this course, citizens will be better prepared in the event of a fire or other emergency," True said. "It also shows people how their public funds are used."

"Everyone enjoyed Fire Ops 101," said Harder. "Participants said that they now have a new respect for the challenges that firefighters and paramedics encounter every day."

To contact the union or alert organizers of interest in another class, call 317.852.1190 or visit [www.local4406.org](http://www.local4406.org). ■

## EMA Spotlight: HENRY COUNTY PARTNERS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

Henry County's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has taken a proactive approach in getting information to its citizens. Four years ago, the agency began working with local businesses and agencies with outdoor electronic signs to increase notification capabilities. Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) District Two Coordinator Chris Burris sees this initiative as a way to inform people who may not be paying attention to the local radio station while on the road.

Ron Huffman has been Henry County's EMA director since January 2000. He started the partnerships with local businesses to extend coverage of severe weather warnings and other emergency notifications.

"The crux of the matter is that we have to get information to the public in every way possible," said Huffman.

Of the 13 businesses approached, all agreed to



add emergency information and early weather warnings to their message boards when possible. The county EMA has provided 10 businesses with all hazards radios, starting last May, to provide more rapid emergency notification. The agency also provides weather

radios to large capacity buildings such as schools or hospitals that do not have them.

"Depending on the size of the facility, we try to make sure everyone has a weather radio," said EMA Director Ron Huffman. "Most people have taken care of their own needs and have already bought a radio."

One business that provides emergency messages is Walgreens. As part of a corporate policy, nearly 3,700 outdoor electronic signs for Walgreens stores signal severe weather alerts and missing children alerts. Henry County EMA has provided the Walgreens in Newcastle with a weather radio to continue this effort.

Located off of State Road 38 in New Castle, Dennis Equipment is participating with Henry County's EMA. Jerremy Dennis, co-owner, thought it was a good idea to collaborate.

"We get quite a few cars that drive by our business," Dennis said. "If it's possible, I will put up a message." ■

## IDHS CONGRATULATES RECENT CERTIFIED EMERGENCY MANAGER RECIPIENTS

Twenty individuals recently completed a demanding process to achieve certified emergency manager (CEM) and associate emergency manager (AEM) designations. Gerri Husband, field services director at IDHS, achieved the CEM title. In her work with emergency management agencies (EMA) across the state, Husband sees the credentials as vital to displaying dedication to the field of emergency management.

"The designation holds significant value for everyone working in emergency management," Husband said. "The certification displays a high level of dedication to the field."

Husband also notes that this certification reflects an impressive feat for anyone to accomplish due to the time and energy involved.

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) recognizes more than 1,480 CEM and AEM recipients in more than 58 countries. IDHS applauds county EMA directors who have pursued this achievement and encourages other agencies to follow suit.

"Due to an increasing number of disasters, severity of the effects and cost to local communities, we need EMAs to perform at a higher level than ever before," Husband said.

IAEM gives credentials to individuals who meet extensive requirements in emergency management. Some of these requirements include work experience, training requirements, educational experience and professional references. CEM and AEM applicants must also illustrate a combination of skills through public speaking, published writings, teaching, voluntary work and other professional tasks. Recipients have proven to be effective and efficient leaders in preparing for complex disasters as well as managing a wide-range of disasters that have already occurred. For more information about the program, visit [www.IAEM.com](http://www.IAEM.com). ■



### Certified Emergency Managers

Dave Barrabee  
Jason Carroll  
Randy Collins  
Jan Crider  
Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer  
Deb Fulk  
Carlos Garcia  
Gerri Husband  
Amy Lindsey  
Diane Mack  
Mary Moran  
Amir Mousavi  
Pam Roach  
Brad Thatcher  
George Thompson

### Associate Emergency Managers

Andrew Bertl  
Shane Booker  
Doug Cooke  
Mark Livingston  
Don West  
Ken Woodall

# INDIANAPOLIS HOSTS WORLDWIDE CONFERENCE FOR FIRE PERSONNEL AT CONVENTION CENTER

Nearly 7,000 Hoosier fire service personnel attended this year's Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC). Held April 19-24, 2010 in Indianapolis, the conference hosted 27,481 attendees and offered more than 24 hands-on training opportunities, 34 preconference workshops, and more than 160 classroom presentations for all levels of fire



A firefighter demonstrates an ultra high pressure cooling/firefighting system as part of a hands-on-training opportunity.

service practitioners. Two of these classroom presentations were given by Hoosiers. John Buckman, the state fire training director at IDHS, gave a presentation

on suburban/rural fire tactics. Buckman put forth questions about strategic priorities that firefighters must ask themselves when responding to a structure fire with two or three people. For example, what are the results of offensive or defensive strategies? These questions must be developed and a response formulated within 15 seconds of arriving at the scene of the fire. Buckman enjoyed the FDIC experience.

"FDIC is not just an exciting and energetic experience for the new firefighter, but it also brings the veteran back every year for the networking opportunities and a chance to see and socialize with old friends," Buckman said.

Another presentation on Physiological Responses to Structural Firefighting was given by Jim Brown, Ph.D., director of Firefighter Health & Safety Research at Indiana University-Bloomington. A study of 56 Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD) firefighters concluded that firefighters should be familiar with the extent of physiological stress experienced at the scene of a fire, the primary contributing factors to stress, and what can be done to alleviate that stress. Contributing factors include the number and

frequency of responses, the size of the structure and the amount of fire encountered, the exertion expended, firefighting experience, and individual physical fitness.

Also at this year's FDIC, a classroom session featured the Indianapolis public education program "Survive Alive," which educates children about fire and life safety through simulated fire and smoke in a facility representing a two-bedroom home.

Next year's FDIC conference will be held again in Indianapolis at the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium on March 21-26, 2011. ■



Fire service public educators listen intently as Survive Alive Director Aleatha Henderson describes her program.

## IDHS CONTINUES RECOVERY WORK FROM JUNE 2008 FLOODS

Two years after the worst disaster in Indiana history, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) continues recovery efforts from devastating flooding, high winds and tornadoes that caused extensive damage to homes and infrastructure across the central and southern part of the state in June of 2008. Fifty Indiana counties were determined disaster areas by presidential declaration.

All emergency support functions were engaged in the state emergency operations center (EOC) with 24-hour operations running for more than two weeks. IDHS also deployed



Columbus Regional Hospital after June 2008 flooding. FEMA gave \$100 million for repairs to Columbus Regional Hospital. The hospital paid a 25 percent match for recovery repairs.



IDHS presents the City of Columbus officials with a public assistance check to recover from June 2008 floods.

response personnel to the hardest hit areas.

More than \$75 million in U.S. Small Business Loans (SBA) were distributed to businesses and individuals. And more than \$170 million in individual and public assistance funds have been allocated to remedy disaster effects. Recovery efforts continue today through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), totaling \$25.5 million, to lessen future damage by storms and flooding. The purpose of the grant money is to buy and repair substantially or repetitively damaged homes in flood prone areas.

\$15 million has been approved by FEMA and

allocated to acquire 199 homes in Franklin (Johnson Co.), Morgan Co., Martinsville (Morgan), and Columbus (Bartholomew). Another \$5.5 million has been approved to acquire 126 homes in Johnson, Brown and Bartholomew counties, but funds have not yet been allocated as of publication of the June issue of the Hoosier Responder. A bill to provide for summer jobs and disaster relief awaits action in the U.S. Senate before funds can be distributed to the counties. An additional \$5 million to acquire 87 homes is under review by FEMA for Morgan, Brown, Marion, Owen, Dekalb, Shelby and Tippecanoe counties. Community and homeowner participation in any HMGP buyout is voluntary. Acquired properties will be converted to open space in perpetuity. ■



Part of I-70 in Putnam County submerged in flood waters stalls traffic.

## IDHS ENCOURAGES LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS TO PROMOTE SAFE FIREWORKS USE

The State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) encourages public safety officers to continue to spread the message of fireworks safety within their communities.

IDHS recommends contacting local media to assist with safety messages. Fireworks are an important part of Hoosier celebrations. As July 4 approaches, the mishandling and misuse of fireworks cause more fires than on any other day.

Always ensure that fireworks vendors are compliant with local and state laws.



Look for unlicensed vendors. If a certificate of compliance is not displayed or can't be produced, call 317.232.1407.

For fact sheets and other information about fireworks and holiday safety, visit [in.gov/dhs/getprepared](http://in.gov/dhs/getprepared). ■

## IEMSA WORKSHOP HELD

The Indiana Emergency Medical Services Association (IEMSA) presented a leadership workshop for 50 Indiana registrants on May 27, 2010 in Indianapolis.

A special guest presenter, Jay Fitch, Ph.D., gave the opening keynote speech about economic issues and leadership priorities. Dr. Fitch has been at the forefront of EMS/public safety leadership for nearly 30 years and is recognized worldwide for developing and implementing innovative organizational, strategic and operational solutions.

Fitch said "to be sustainable, emergency systems have to be effective, efficient, accountable and collaborative."

Other topics covered EMS leader survival skills and how to become a more effective leader. ■

## EMS SPOTLIGHT: Aurora Emergency Rescue

Made up of 32 members, Aurora Emergency Rescue, Inc. in Dearborn County knows the importance of being prepared. They offer all volunteer and paid members "expenses-paid" training opportunities, which include mandatory training, mass casualty scenarios, nighttime search and rescue field operations, street drug awareness and any other training that helps members be prepared for a variety of situations. The group also excels at community outreach.

The rescue unit was recognized at the 2009 Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) with the EMT Basic-Advanced Provider of the Year Award for serving its community for more than 50 years as a volunteer EMS organization and for many EMS awareness activities conducted, including station and ambulance tours, low to no-cost CPR courses, and the distribution and promotion of the Vial of Life program.

The Vial of Life is an easy-open pill bottle or "vial" containing important medical information that can assist emergency personnel in administering the proper medical treatment. Participants are encouraged to

keep the vial in their freezer with a decal on the freezer door to inform first responders of its location. Decals also put on a citizen's front door to alert first responders of patient participation in the program.

"We regularly go to the local schools and do a "show and tell," especially for the younger children who are delighted to come aboard our squad and actively participate and learn about the things that we do," said Director Ed Opp.

Aurora Emergency Rescue also supports and actively participates in local events and festivals and is a key participant with the county emergency management agency in planning for and responding to disasters. ■

**Aurora Emergency Rescue, Inc.**  
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The Hoosier Responder is a publication of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the

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