

THE HOOSIER RESPONDER

FEBRUARY 2020

THE CHANGING MODEL OF EMS AND COMMUNITY CARE

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's been a whirlwind first few weeks at the helm of IDHS as executive director. We have much work to do, but I am happy to report we have many exciting things underway at the agency to support Indiana's public safety communities. I continue to be impressed by the dedication and talent of our staff, and the many initiatives ahead this year will be a welcomed addition across the state.



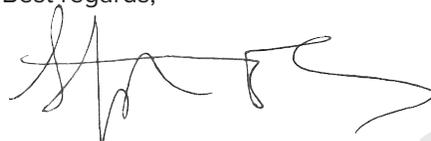
A core IDHS function is to support and expand training for first responders. With the ongoing growth and expansion of the [Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy](#), we expect the roster of diverse training opportunities to expand as well. Our first goal is to strengthen our training structure by building on our existing regional training model and supplementing the need for specialized training at a designated central location. This two-pronged approach will take high-quality, consistent training to Hoosier communities while also appealing to smaller and volunteer agencies that find it difficult to travel to train or gain professional development. We have identified a few potential sites that will allow us to host existing trainings and expand to include specialized skills for EMS, HAZMAT and dispatch staff. These efforts continue to move us forward toward a clear and comprehensive training "system" in Indiana. I hope to share these positive new developments in the coming weeks.

IDHS also continues to enhance the many online systems that are important to how the public safety community interacts with the agency. Whether it involves licensing or certifications, building plan approvals or collecting vital fire and EMS data, we are committed to not only providing systems that function well but also allow us to pull and analyze data so that we can innovate and respond to trends relevant to first responders. Much like the [Indiana naloxone administration map](#), real-time data is critical to Indiana remaining on the cutting edge of emergency preparedness and response. The IDHS [Public Safety Portal](#) has enhanced the way we do business regarding code enforcement inspections, elevators and amusement rides and fireworks permits. More business units will come on board this year, and the end goal is to have all IDHS business processes funneling through one, much-improved system. This will be a great boost to customer service and add transparency to IDHS business units.

Finally, I am excited about the agency's continued commitment to improved communication. This includes better service to our first responders, the agencies they serve and all our public safety communities. Equally important, this includes better communication to our employees. We truly are a single unit when it comes to serving Hoosiers each and every day.

Whether it involves training first responders to be the best they can be or supporting local agencies when a disaster strikes, IDHS looks forward to partnering with you for a stronger and more resilient Indiana.

Best regards,



Stephen Cox
Executive Director, IDHS



Photo credit: News and Tribune

JEFFERSONVILLE TEENAGER SAVES FAMILY ON THANKSGIVING DAY

Residential fires are terrifying for any family, especially if the people inside have no idea of the risk headed their way.

Last year on Thanksgiving, a family was enjoying time together in the basement of their Jeffersonville home when a fire started on the back porch and spread up into the attic. The family had no idea the fire was quickly spreading throughout the home.

Luckily, a neighbor down the street smelled the smoke, saw the house on fire and immediately took off running toward their house.

Bailey Blanton, a senior at Jeffersonville High School, called 911 while running to the home. After no response from anyone inside, he and his uncle decided to enter the house to make sure everyone was out.

“I didn’t have any hesitation when I saw the house on fire. I just reacted and wanted to make sure everyone was safe,” Blanton said. “In the back of my mind, I knew what could happen if I entered the house; however, I was too focused on finding anyone inside and getting them out.”

Blanton said the house was filling up with thick, black smoke when he entered, but he believed the fire was still only in the attic. Finding nobody on the main level, he continued shouting until the family downstairs finally heard him and was able to get out of the basement before the fire blocked the exit. All 10 family members and the dog escaped safely.

“Most people freeze in that situation,” said Jeffersonville Fire Department spokesman Justin

Ames. “The fact that he didn’t and was brave enough to do what he did shows how great of a person Bailey is.”

Quick thinking in the event of a fire often can be the difference between life and death.

“He sprung to action, knew what to do and provided great information to the fire department,” Ames said. “His actions that day definitely enhanced the outcome of the unfortunate situation.”

A house fire can become life-threatening in less than six minutes, making every second valuable. One of the best ways to prepare for any potential house fire is to create an escape plan and practice it regularly. Visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](https://www.getprepared.in.gov) to make your own escape plan.



FROM SEGREGATION TO INTEGRATION: STORY OF THE EVANSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

George Flowers, former Evansville fire chief and the first African American to hold the position, began his career with the Evansville Fire Department as the second person to be integrated into an all-white department.

“I was received pretty well,” Flowers said. “I guess they were instructed that I was coming and instructed to act as gentlemen and firemen.”

Until segregation ended in the 1960s in Evansville, the practice impacted many avenues of daily life for African Americans – education, public transportation and even serving as public safety personnel – but it wasn’t always that way for the Evansville Fire Department.

In 1880, Evansville Fire Department’s Station No. 9 was built to house both African American and white personnel.

In 1895, then Evansville fire chief Edward Grill segregated the department. All African American firefighters in the department were transferred to Station No. 9 while white personnel were distributed to other stations.



Segregation continued within the department but was limited to the the firemen’s living quarters, which meant African

American personnel lived separately but responded to all calls the white firemen did. In contrast, Flowers said the Evansville Police Department restricted African American officers from arresting white individuals.

Even though Flowers began his career at the time integration began, he still encountered discrimination along the way.

The single moment he felt unwelcome by his fellow firefighters occurred when a colleague left a bag of horse manure in his bunk. The situation snowballed when local newspapers published stories insinuating Flowers instigated the event. While his name was cleared, and the guilty individual left the department, it left a lasting memory for Flowers.

What really stands out, though, is an incident that occurred

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'NEXT-GENERATION' TECHNOLOGY FOR INDIANA FIRST RESPONDERS



First responders and emergency management agencies rely heavily on the benefits technology provides during disaster situations, but they often struggle to keep up with its constant evolution. The Indiana University (IU) Crisis Technologies Innovation Lab (CTIL) seeks to fix this issue by helping Indiana first responders find ways of utilizing emerging, next-generation technologies that are reliable, scalable and affordable.

Established in June 2019, the IU CTIL is a collaborative effort between the Luddy School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering (SICE) and University Information Technology Services, with the intent to help first responder agencies use data science and analytics to develop stronger disaster resiliency in their communities.

David Wild, associate professor of informatics at the SICE, serves as a co-director for the CTIL. Wild said the lack of research on emerging technology for first responders was a primary reason the CTIL was created.

“There has been an explosion of technology over the last 30 years – from smartphones to drones to data science to AI – but little attention has been given to how this technology can help first responders,” Wild said. “First responders need well-tested and well-tried solutions, and the CTIL is the ‘safe space’ in the middle to try new ways to use these technologies for first response.”

The CTIL also has received more than \$650,000 from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to work on the analysis platform for risk, resilience and expenditure in disasters (APRED) project. According to the CTIL’s [project webpage](#), the APRED project “will provide an analysis of the outcomes and impacts of the fiscal year 2012 disaster supplemental appropriation funds spent at the local, county, and state level for disaster relief over a six-year period.”

Currently in the early stages of development, the CTIL has strong partnerships with Bloomington Fire Department (BFD) and IU Public Safety and Institutional Assurance. So

far, the CTIL has worked with fire, EMS and police agencies, but hopes to expand to other emergency management areas in the future.

Jason Moore, Bloomington fire chief, works as an associate director for the CTIL. Having collaborated with IU as early as 2016, Moore explained having the BFD collaborate with the CTIL has helped his department acquire resources they normally would not have access to in Bloomington.

“Data scientists, technology experts and various experts in related academia fields have helped us solve problems that would have either been impossible or taken a long time to mitigate,” Moore said.

So far, the CTIL has helped the BFD develop its Rescue Info Net project, a data system designed to provide helpful information on buildings the BFD responds to during emergency situations. Prior to the CTIL’s official creation, IU informatics students helped the BFD with several data analytic projects, such as the creation of mapping tools for projecting response times

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and implementing geospatial data for smoke detectors.

Wild said the size and amount of resources an emergency response agency does not exclude the agency from collaborating with the CTIL.

“We would love to build relationships with local/county EMAs to see how we could help,” he said. “Low-cost, effective technology for emergency management is one area we are actively researching.”

Moore explained the CTIL is something all first responder agencies should consider utilizing, especially as emergency disaster situations continue to grow more complex.

“Not only do I recommend, I actively look for other entities to recruit into working with the CTIL,” he said. “Emergency management services are now facing greater risks and challenges than our predecessors did. Leveraging all available resources in our community to include Indiana University and the CTIL are key to our continued success.”

Indiana first responder and emergency management agencies interested in collaborating with the CTIL can do so by signing up for the [mailing list](#).

IDHS OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: NEWS YOU CAN USE



These first few weeks of the New Year (and new decade) have been busy for the IDHS Office of Information Technology.

Public Safety Portal

With the launch of the second phase of Public Safety Portal (PSP), amusement and entertainment permit data and fireworks sales and displays data becomes more readily available. The agency is incorporating ways to make this data more available, for both internal and external audiences.

Intrastate Mutual Aid

IDHS is working with representatives from the Fire and EMS communities to develop a process to help when requesting mutual aid from other departments within Indiana. This initiative is being spearheaded by Chief Brian Lott.

County Readiness Assessments

A new online tool is being developed to allow each jurisdiction's EMA to self-report its readiness prior to county readiness assessment visits by the IDHS district liaison staff.

Scheduled Events and SEAR

After receiving and analyzing feedback over the past two years of data entry in support of the federal government's data call for SEAR events, the online system is being reworked. This includes a more intuitive interface and the incorporation of amusement and entertainment permit and fireworks display permit event data.



THE CHANGING MODEL OF EMS AND COMMUNITY CARE

The calls come in by the thousands. 911 dispatchers get a request for medical help and send personnel to a location, sometimes not knowing much more than an address.

Hoosier EMS teams are prepared for almost anything. One call may require rushing a patient to the emergency room while another call may involve a disoriented elderly person. Some are true emergencies while many are not. Most can be treated at the scene with a few bandages, some guidance and some TLC. Some of the callers are very familiar to EMS crews, who may have responded to their home many times before.

“On average, EMS agencies perform more than 100,000 runs each year where a patient refuses transport (to the

hospital). But they call EMS because they know someone will come,” said Dr. Michael Kaufmann, Indiana EMS medical director. Many of these people have no other access to health care beyond a 911 call.

“On average, EMS agencies perform more than 100,000 runs each year where a patient refuses transport.”

These calls put a great strain on an EMS system that is already pushed to capacity. Even more of a challenge is the way EMS providers are paid for services. Few Hoosiers understand EMS providers are reimbursed only if they transport the person to the hospital. This cycle leads to higher costs to the patient,

crowded emergency rooms and a continuous system that treats symptoms rather than the true problem.

EMS services, especially in rural communities, are fading quickly due to lack of funding, low salaries and no revenue source to keep ambulances on the road. The number of ambulances in one Indiana district is down nearly 30 percent due to this antiquated funding model. The service area for some EMS providers has dwindled while other providers no longer transport patients between hospitals.

Although EMS is listed by statute as an essential function in Indiana, the system does not receive the same recognition and funding as other components of essential government functions.

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“Even though EMS provides health care, it is reimbursed more as a transportation benefit rather than a health care benefit,” Kaufmann said.

For the second consecutive year, the Indiana General Assembly is talking about monumental changes to the EMS system. Last year, a new law allowed the Indiana EMS Commission to establish and define the Mobile Integrated Health care, also known as community paramedicine, model in Indiana. This is a system that 33 other states have adopted (in some fashion) to provide supportive services and resources to patients who come in contact with EMS teams. This includes social work, substance abuse resources, mental health, chronic disease management and more.

More than a dozen Indiana communities have established

community paramedicine programs using private or grant funding. A bill under consideration this year would decouple reimbursement and transportation by EMS to provide a wider range of funding sources that coincide with more proactive treatment during emergency runs.

Community paramedicine flips the traditional EMS model on its head. It is designed to help EMS services keep pace with the evolution of medical care to more preventive treatment. A proactive health care approach that gives EMS personnel the training and resources to holistically treat the diverse issues they encounter only makes sense: financially, medically and from a community wellness perspective, experts say.

Among the measured benefits

experienced nationally with these programs are decreased admissions to the hospital, decreased costs of treatment to patients, better integration of EMS into the health care system and increased savings to commercial insurance companies.

“Right now, EMS is regarded as part of public safety. This change would put EMS squarely in the middle of public safety and public health and health care,” Kaufmann said.

“This is about getting patients the right care at the right time,” said Dr. Dustin Holland, medical director for [community paramedicine at Hendricks Regional Health](#).

“These programs reduce non-emergency 911 calls, which are bad for the patients and bad for the community because it over-utilizes emergency services,” he added.

Hendricks Regional used \$100,000 in private support to establish its paramedicine program in July 2019 as a partnership with Hendricks EMS agencies. The idea was borne from first responders discussing the runs they see every day and the need for a more efficient method to treat patients, add capacity to EMS crews and reduce expensive transport and hospital bills. A paramedic is paired with a social worker to ensure patients who opt in



Leroy Snyder, a community paramedic for Ball Memorial Hospital, meets with a patient in the comfort of his home.

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or are referred to the program are connected with the right resources to, hopefully, provide tailored care and avoid future emergency runs.

Holland said about 50 patients have “graduated” through the program, which has shown a “dramatic reduction in those patients calling 911 and going to the hospital or ER.”

Leroy Snyder, a community paramedic for Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, said he now spends his workday out of the office on home wellness checks in the six counties served by his community paramedicine program. These home visits, which can last 10 minutes to two hours, typically provide a complete checkup and allow Snyder to ensure the person is in a safe environment.

“Our patients can sometimes be lonely and like to talk, which I think is a good thing because that helps us build trust with them,” Snyder said. “Then, when there’s an emergency, they’re more likely to call me



directly before heading into the ER.”

[Parkview Health’s Mobile Integrated Health](#) program got its start five years ago first by working closely with patients who were at risk of sepsis. The program now works with cardiovascular patients, home health care, nursing homes and other patient populations. It was funded by a state grant for two years but now operates independently.

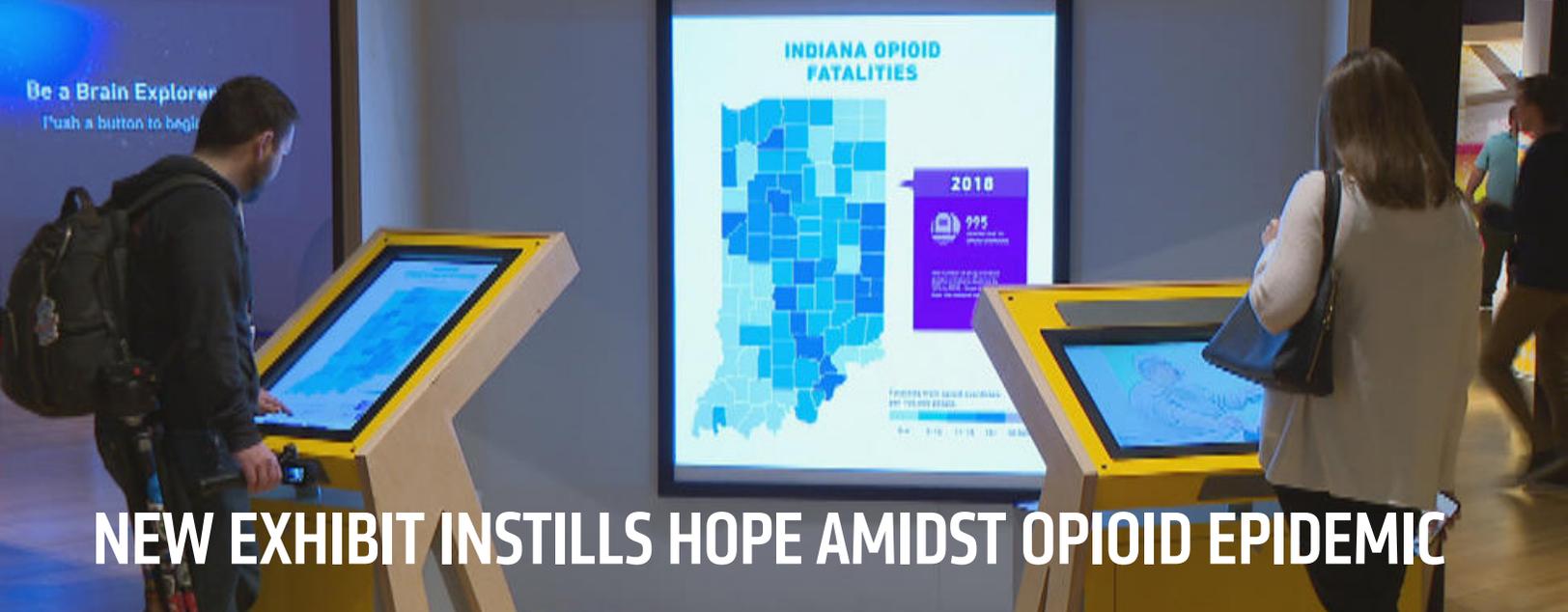
“This has impacted our recidivism a great deal,” said Chad Owen, director of flight EMS and communications. “It has mitigated our transfers to the hospitals and allows us to treat people at their bedside.”

The Indiana EMS Commission is working to provide guidance and structure to communities seeking to establish their own community paramedicine programs in the future. Organizers of these programs say sustainable funding and a true needs assessment of the community are essential.

“This is the way health care is moving, to more preventive care and efforts to keep people out of the hospital when possible,” Owen said.

Two critical data points illustrate the necessity to not only reduce emergency medical runs but also reduce hospitalizations: Since 2005, 160 rural hospitals have closed. This, coupled with a nationally aging population and serious shortage of EMS workers, puts an estimated 60 million people at risk of nobody answering the 911 call for medical help, according to a study done by the University of North Carolina Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research.





NEW EXHIBIT INSTILLS HOPE AMIDST OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Opioids continue to be a major topic of focus and discussion across Indiana. The state has launched several major initiatives as part of Gov. Eric Holcomb's [Next Level Recovery program](#), including grants and additional funding sources for recovery networks, housing for individuals in recovery and naloxone programs are among a myriad of local programs that are being implemented.

Research data is proving the efforts are helping. The [Indiana Management Performance Hub](#) reports Indiana saw a significant decline in opioid-related deaths from 757 in 2017, decreasing to 191 in 2019.

Overdose deaths are not the only impact to Hoosiers. Injection drug use also is a major vector of blood-borne pathogens. Of the new HIV cases in 2016, 12.3 percent of the cases among males were attributed to injection drug use; among females, 15.7 percent of the cases were attributed to injection drug use.

The Indiana State Museum, in cooperation with more than 50 community partners across Indiana, is highlighting the many faces of this crisis that affects all Hoosiers in a new exhibit: *FIX: Heartbreak and Hope Inside Our Opioid Crisis*.

FIX invites visitors to unravel the crisis one step at a time, including the science and biology behind opioid use disorder; the history of other health crises in the United States; personal stories from individuals affected; and an area focused on what recovery can look like. Through interactive artwork and personal stories, the exhibit will work to empower communities with insightful information and reduce the stigma surrounding opioid use disorder.

FIX will be at the Indiana State Museum from Feb. 1, 2020, through Feb. 7, 2021.

[See a preview of the exhibit here!](#)



Along with the exhibit, programming addressing the crisis will take place at the museum in downtown Indianapolis and the 11 historic state sites across Indiana. More programming will be added over the course of the year. Events can be found on the [Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites calendar](#).





IGNITING FIRE SERVICE IN HIGH SCHOOL

All high school students practice avoiding fires when the fire alarm sounds for the occasional drill, but some high schoolers in Indiana have a chance to take fire safety to the next level. More than a dozen fire and rescue programs at high schools train students on how to respond to fires and emergencies and prepare them for potential careers.

Many Indiana high school career centers offer firefighting and rescue programs that teach interested students how to become certified firefighters or EMTs upon graduation, and many offer college credit toward public safety degrees through schools like Ivy Tech Community College or Vincennes University.

Together, these institutions help prepare young people for workforce-ready jobs and careers that are in great demand. In 2019, the National Fire Protection Association [reported](#) the overall number of volunteer firefighters nationally is the lowest it has been since the organization began tracking the statistic in 1986.

About 75 percent of Indiana's fire departments have an

all-volunteer firefighter workforce, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. These departments face even more challenges to keep their ranks steady.

“My focus is public safety and making sure we have enough people who can come and help you in your home. It’s a common civilian problem of dialing 911 and expecting that someone shows up to help, but at times there is no one available to make that run,” said David Crisler, Ivy Tech’s Homeland Security Public Safety program chairman. “That’s why these K-12 programs are so important, because they fill that role for the volunteer fire departments. There aren’t enough of the high school programs, and we don’t give them enough credit.”

At the end of 2019, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security signed an agreement with Ivy Tech to support public safety training and recruitment efforts across the state to help turn the tide of decreasing volunteer numbers.

“Firefighter recruitment, especially of volunteers, is one of our highest priorities in the Fire and Public Safety Academy,” said Wade Walling, Academy administrator. “Volunteer firefighters serve a critical role in public safety, particularly in more rural areas. We are excited about our new partnership with Ivy Tech, and we are hard at work developing ways to train more volunteers in a shorter amount of time to get them out on the street serving their communities.”

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Photo credit: IVY Tech

Fire and rescue classes offered at regional career centers are two or three hours long each school day and form mock fire academies or departments, led by current or retired firefighters. Students may be assigned specific roles and are required to be in uniform. Students go through a mix of lectures, book learning, physical fitness exercising and practical skills training.

“I am proud of not just teaching HAZMAT, EMT and firefighting skills, but also coaching students on professionalism, leadership, ethics, moral duties and even math,” said Gregg Moore, a Richmond firefighter who leads the fire and rescue program at the Richmond Area Career Center.

Fire and rescue students can earn state certifications needed to work at a volunteer fire department immediately upon graduation from the one- or two-year high school program. Even with the certifications, an ongoing challenge to retention is that many fire departments still require volunteers be at least 21 years old.

“Graduates get out, and from 18 to 21 years old, you have kids who want to be in the service but get frustrated and leave the workforce. They can get certifications, but there’s got to be something to keep them in the industry,” Crisler said.

To help with that gap period, Crisler encourages high



Photo credit: Richmond Area Career Center

schoolers to use the time before age 21 to take advantage of the college credits they earned in high school and finish up a fire science associate degree at Ivy Tech. The degree requires 61.5 credit hours, and some fire and rescue graduates can leave high school with as many as 25 credits at almost no cost to them, so they are already about halfway finished. With Ivy Tech’s new [scholarship program](#) offering volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel two years’ paid tuition, Crisler said high schoolers have the opportunity to get a college degree almost for free.

“I always had a dream to become a firefighter and get into the fire service, so doing the high school program was just a good step into it. It helped with my basic certifications so that I could go apply and find jobs, and it basically got one semester out of my way at college,” said Dylan Moore, a graduate of the Richmond Area Career Center’s fire and rescue program. He went on to earn a fire science degree at Vincennes University. “The high school program gives students

the opportunity to try it out. If they are interested, they can pursue it without much invested.”

Although the primary purpose for the fire and rescue programs is to act as feeder systems for local and county fire departments, Blue River Career Center program instructor Doug Lutes said they do not necessarily churn out career firefighters. He said he tells people to remember the program participants are still young people who may not know what they want to do with their lives yet and need adults who will put value into them. Retired Indianapolis firefighter William Alfke, who started Arsenal Tech’s fire and rescue class, said these programs provide a way for students to be introduced to the principles of fire service — duty, honor and sacrifice.

“The intangibles they take away if they don’t make it, those extend into every facet of life. They may not become a firefighter, but they become very viable citizens with civic-minded abilities intact, and a lot of that can be contributed to the fire program,” Alfke said.

TWO YEARS SINCE FEBRUARY 2018 FLOODING

It has been two years since severe flooding swept across the state, bringing a federal disaster declaration on May 5, 2018, by President Donald Trump. Melting Snow and continued heavy rain across a two-week period contributed to some of the worst flooding in Indiana since the historic 2008 flooding.



While the main flooding event lasted only a couple weeks, recovery efforts are still underway. From acquiring homes damaged by the floods to repairing public infrastructure, the IDHS Recovery Section has been hard at work helping Hoosiers recover. Here's a breakdown of where recovery projects stand since the flooding.



DISASTER MITIGATION

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is currently reviewing the applications for home acquisition projects as part of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program 4363 federal award. Those projects include more than 40 home acquisitions in the towns of Andrews, Plymouth and Clarksville, along with Elkhart, St. Joseph and Morgan counties.

In total, with a 5 percent earthquake initiative and management costs, the total money likely to be awarded for these projects is more than \$2.7 million. FEMA is expected to approve the applications within the next two months. Once approved, the homes

can start to be appraised and bought using the federal dollars awarded. The local governments will have a three-year time frame to purchase the flood-impacted homes.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Public infrastructure was severely impacted by the flooding in different parts of the state. In total, 102 government organizations applied for 334 different recovery projects, totaling just more than \$14.6 million. Of those those 334 projects, 102 have been completed.

The many different types of recovery projects funded include category A and B projects, which are debris removal and emergency

protective measures. In general, the costliest projects are category C projects, which are repairs to roads and bridges. Other recovery repairs include water facilities, utilities, parks and recreation and general government buildings.

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

The individual assistance team worked tirelessly with property owners, renters and businesses to help get those affected back on their feet as quick as possible. Hoosiers in 22 counties received more than \$10 million in federal aid. This aid went toward home repairs, temporary housing, household content replacement and other essential needs.

THANK YOU, EMAS!



FIRST-EVER EMA APPRECIATION WEEK FEBRUARY 24-28

IDHS RECOVERY STAFF CONDUCTS PEM COURSES

On Jan. 7-9, recovery staff members with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) conducted two Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) program courses for various statewide government officials. The first course covered disaster damage assessment operations, and the second covered debris management operations during disaster events.

In the Jan. 7 damage assessment course, students were presented with damage assessment information for both the individual assistance program and the public

assistance program. The two-day debris management course on Jan. 8-9 discussed developing a debris plan, guidelines on debris reduction/removal, as well as an overview of the federal laws and regulations that responders adhere to during these operations.

“These courses carry a lot more significance than what most realize,” said Mary Moran, recovery branch director for IDHS. “These operations are crucial during disaster response, and it is imperative that we make sure those who conduct response and recovery

operations are as prepared as possible ahead of time.”

More than 40 officials from various governmental departments and agencies attended the course. Organizations represented included INDOT, FSSA, IDHS, Clay County EMA, Whitley County EMA, Hamilton County EMA, Louisville Department of Public Works, the California Earthquake Authority and Indianapolis Homeland Security, which hosted the course.

For future training opportunities, visit [Acadis](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL BURN AWARENESS WEEK

OBSERVED: FEBRUARY 2-8

The annual National Burn Awareness Week offers safety personnel the opportunity to share education about burn safety. This year's theme of "Contact Burns – Hot Surfaces Damage Skin!" shares information about injuries that pavement, stove burners and campfire embers can cause.

For more information regarding National Burn Awareness Week, visit ameriburn.org.

VALENTINE'S DAY

OBSERVED: FEBRUARY 14

Cooking a loved one's favorite meal, a candlelit dinner and cuddling by the fire are just a few of the common ways Hoosiers celebrate Valentine's Day. However, any of these romantic activities can lead to a visit from the local fire department. To help prevent any fire-related emergencies this holiday, share some fire and cooking safety tips with community members.

For fire and cooking safety tips, visit GetPrepared.in.gov.

RADIATION AWARENESS WEEK

OBSERVED: FEBRUARY 16-22

Although radiation is naturally present in our environment, it can have either beneficial or harmful effects, depending on its use and control. Radiation Awareness Week is the opportunity to learn more about the effects of radiation, its uses in everyday life and how to stay safe during radiological emergency situations.

For more information on radiation awareness, visit Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program.

EMA APPRECIATION WEEK

OBSERVED: FEBRUARY 24-28

Indiana's first-ever EMA Appreciation Week honors the tireless dedication emergency management personnel have for keeping their communities safe. The week's theme of "Safeguarding the Hoosier Homeland" will highlight the responsibilities and actions of these individuals. Check in on social media and the IDHS website for content regarding these hardworking professionals.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS AND FLOOD PREPAREDNESS WEEK

OBSERVED: MARCH 1-7

Severe weather and Indiana go together like thunder and lightning. Every year Severe Weather Preparedness and Flood Preparedness Week offers Hoosiers a great opportunity to create/restock emergency kits, practice evacuation plans and so much more. One way to participate is by sharing information on quick and simple ways to prepare for emergencies. Visit GetPrepared.in.gov for more severe weather safety tips.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

OBSERVED: MARCH 17

On St. Patrick's Day 2018, more than three out of five crash fatalities involved a drunk driver. Remind community members to celebrate responsibly and not leave the safety of others to the luck of the Irish this holiday. More St. Patrick's Day safety tips can be found at GetPrepared.in.gov.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

FEBRUARY

02/19	Advanced ICS Command & General Staff	INDIANAPOLIS
02/26	Isolation and Quarantine for Rural Communities	INDIANAPOLIS
02/29	K-9 First Aid	LAFAYETTE

MARCH

03/10	COOP Planners Train-the-Trainer	INDIANAPOLIS
03/10	Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents	LAKE STATION
03/10	Disaster Management for Public Services	TERRE HAUTE
03/12	COOP for Program Managers	INDIANAPOLIS
03/14	Ground Search III (Awareness)	BRAZIL
03/18	Community Cybersecurity Exercise Planning	PLYMOUTH

TAKE NOTE! MANY REQUIRED PREREQUISITES. PREPARE NOW FOR APRIL.

04/13	Advanced Public Information Officer	DANVILLE
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Register for classes on the ACADIS Portal

*The Indiana Department of Homeland Security works 24/7
to protect the people, property and prosperity of Indiana.*



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