

# THE HOOSIER RESPONDER

JULY 2023



## ON THE FRONT LINES

Surplus emergency vehicles from Indiana making a difference in Ukraine

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- Schools Have New Opportunities Available through the Secured School Safety Grant
- Step Right Up: Inspectors Make Amusement Ride Safety a Top Priority
- DNR Shares Important Water Safety Reminders
- The Burning Questions about Responding to Battery Fires
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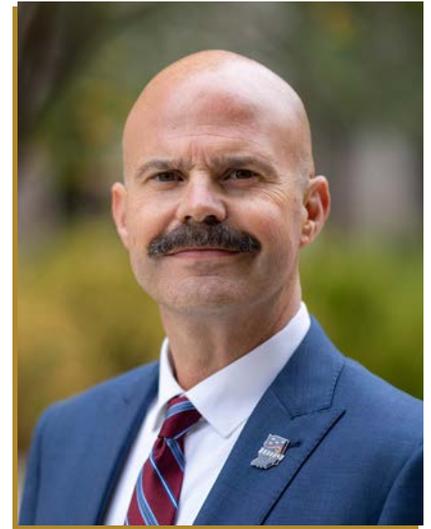
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# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hoosier communities are tested every year on their resilience to survive and recover from tragedy. From unpredictable weather patterns to massive public events, each community must constantly train, prepare and evolve to protect itself from all hazards.

Thankfully, most counties employ a full-time emergency manager (EMA director) who is trained in emergency response and in identifying risks or gaps for his/her community. These men and women work closely with IDHS each week sharing information, training together and ultimately recovering from disasters together. It is the single most important working relationship in the field of emergency management.



All disasters start and end locally. The local first responders step up to help people following a tornado, for example. The sequence from local to state to federal assistance plays out according to the level of damage, but even if a federal disaster is declared (as in the case of the March 31/April 1 Indiana tornado outbreak), it will be the local community that must build back stronger and smarter. The locals also must prepare for the next disaster.

That is how IDHS can serve as a valuable resource. We train and exercise regularly with first responders and EMAs, developing relationships with critical personnel before an event occurs. Our Planning Section can help you develop tailor-made plans that are unique to your community. The Exercise Section schedules opportunities to stretch your knowledge and add to your experience. Our Mitigation and Grants sections can guide you through the FEMA maze, offering training and guidance on grant funds to help realize your strategies to strengthen your community.

Individuals and families can implement changes suggested on the IDHS preparedness website ([GetPrepared.in.gov](https://www.getprepared.in.gov)) to make themselves more resilient. Some simple actions and planning can enhance community resilience in three primary areas: Prevent. Prepare. Recover.

FEMA's [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) program (BRIC) offers state and local governments funding to build resilience, also known as hazard mitigation, before disasters strike. To be eligible, applicants must have a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan. If approved, the federal government funds 75% of the cost of an eligible project. This could be a redesign of a flood plain, construction of a communitywide storm shelter or support for infrastructure projects that help prevent damage during a disaster, among other things.

Do not wait until tragedy hits your community to begin thinking about how to make yourself more resilient. Planning provides protection. You can never be 100% prepared, but a community working together to protect its people and property is a much stronger foe for a natural disaster.

IDHS has been working hard with communities impacted by tornadoes this year. We look forward to partnering with even more Hoosiers on the mission to make Indiana a more resilient state, ready for the next challenge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Thacker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray background that features a faint, stylized graphic of a quill pen.

Joel Thacker  
Executive Director



## THE KASEY PROGRAM

# EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SKILLS



In a world where fire safety is paramount, one program takes a different approach to educate children about the essential skills to prevent and respond to fire emergencies. The Kasey Program was founded in 1994 by Jeff Owens, a retired career firefighter/paramedic, and has become a beacon of hope for students across the United States. Partnering with the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office, the program is expanding its reach and providing invaluable knowledge to children from preschool to sixth grade.

The Kasey Program employs black Labrador retrievers as teaching aids. These canines exemplify critical safety techniques, says Owens: "The Kasey Program uses our black Labrador retrievers to demonstrate the safety skills taught, i.e., Kasey demonstrates "Stop, Drop and Roll," checking the door to see if it's hot, crawling under the smoke, as well as many other skills."

The Kasey Program has experienced tremendous growth through the years, thanks to the support of its sponsor, Koorsen Fire & Security. Today, the program travels extensively, conducting over 400 programs annually and reaching 400,000 children nationwide. As the country's only full-time, nationally touring fire prevention program, the Kasey Program is a testament to its founder's commitment and the team's passion.

The dogs that Owens uses in the program are extensively trained. "We start working the day they come to us," said Owens. "I get a new dog every five years. Between the ages of 10 to 11 is when they retire, but even a retired dog will still travel with us.

"I have a 7-year-old and a 3-year-old, and there is always a Kasey in the program. My older dog's name is Kalie. When I got up this morning, and we got ready to leave, I put her vest on and called her



Kasey. When I call her Kasey, that tells her it's time to go to work. They understand that that's the name they get when working."

Indiana State Fire Marshal Steve Jones recognizes the Kasey Program's invaluable contribution to shaping young students' fire safety knowledge. Partnering with the program has allowed the Fire Marshal's Office to expand its outreach efforts and reinforce the importance of fire prevention. "The Kasey Program has revolutionized fire safety education for children. Its innovative approach imparts vital skills and creates a lasting impact. We are proud to join forces with the program to ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn and practice fire safety," said Jones.

The Kasey Program's impact is felt in schools nationwide, where it plays a pivotal role in shaping the fire safety landscape. Owens said, "During a typical day during the school year, we are in a school in the morning or a school in the afternoon, and then we go home or back to the hotel, and then we do it all again."

The goal of the Kasey Program team is to ensure that students receive a comprehensive understanding of fire safety measures, preparing them to be responsible and informed citizens. Educators and administrators have lauded the program for its unique and practical approach. Owens proudly explained the program gets a lot of positive feedback. "Many teachers and principals will go, 'There's nothing like this. You are the only game in town that does it the way you do.'"

As the Kasey Program continues its journey, its influence on fire safety education remains unparalleled. With the support of the Indiana State Fire Marshal and the dedication of Owens and his team, this initiative will continue to shape young minds, empower students with lifesaving skills and promote a safer future for all. In the words of Owens, "I live an amazing life. I get up every morning thinking, 'I get paid to play with my dogs.'"

*Photo credits: The Kasey Program*

# Koorsen<sup>®</sup>

## FIRE & SECURITY

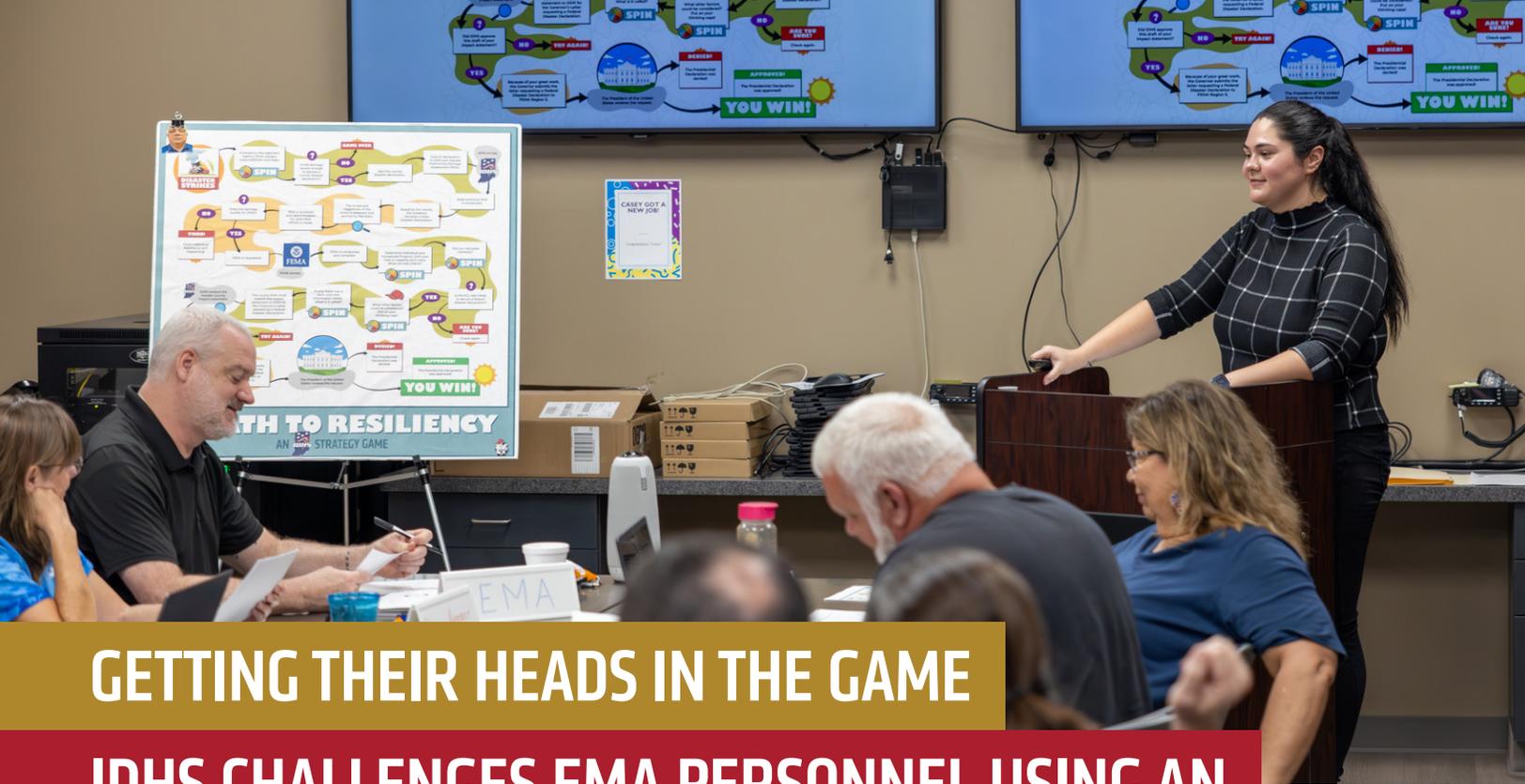
The Kasey Program is unique in its commitment to providing free access to educators and organizers, thanks to its primary corporate sponsor, Koorsen Fire & Security.

The program travels extensively, reaching schools and communities nationwide. While some areas have pre-scheduled visits, others can request and accommodate a visit.

To find out when the Kasey Program will be in your area, contact your nearest Koorsen branch at 1-888-KOORSEN.



By offering this invaluable resource free of charge, the Kasey Program and its dedicated sponsors aim to ensure that every child receives the vital fire safety education they deserve.



## GETTING THEIR HEADS IN THE GAME

# IDHS CHALLENGES EMA PERSONNEL USING AN UNDERUTILIZED EXERCISE TOOL

At 10 a.m. on June 23, IDHS District 8 emergency management agency (EMA) representatives gather in Bloomington, Ind., to sign in for the latest installment of their state-sponsored exercise series. Instead of sitting down to discuss current damage assessment procedures after an incident, participants are assigned job roles and play a game. The competitive spirit builds quickly.

IDHS central districts are in the middle of a three-year exercise series focusing on the recovery process after a tornado and the damage assessments needed. Damage assessments are a critical step in getting aid from the state and FEMA after a disaster,

but these assessments can be confusing, especially when done on an expedited time schedule.

Casey Fizer, a former IDHS exercise program manager, came up with the idea of a game to engage with EMAs in a different way.

“Articles I’ve read about creating games said that people got more out of it because they were invested in what was happening,” Fizer explained.

With an assist from the IDHS Mitigation Section and FEMA partners, Fizer created “The Path to Resiliency: A Damage Assessment Game.” Fizer describes it as a “Chutes and Ladders” type

of game. Participants are challenged to follow the game board and answer questions along the way. Correct answers are rewarded with a prize from a spin wheel. If participants need help, they can rely on their teammates to discuss the next course of action.

“That was perfect. It was a really good learning environment. I like the way it was facilitated. We could laugh a little and really get into the weeds of some of the things that happen based on geology,” said Brown County EMA Director Chad Jenkins.

State and FEMA partners were there during the game to insert background knowledge about why the process is set up the

way it is. EMAs appreciated hearing FEMA’s perspective and why FEMA does what it does and requires the paperwork it needs to give federal assistance.

“Just like tabletop exercises, it gives the players an opportunity to assess their plans, policies and procedures but in a fun environment,” State Exercise Officer Ashley Baldwin noted.

Positive feedback came flooding in during the hotwash and on comment cards.

“I thought it was a really good review process, especially for one of our new directors, and then for some of us who have been around for several years, it was a good reminder to know of any changes that there might have been in the process,” said Lawrence County EMA Director Valerie Luchauer.



Nationwide, this game is getting recognized as a best practice. FEMA showcased the game at the National Preparedness Symposium during a session about the importance of games in exercises.

“We’re proud and happy to develop a product that those across the nation are interested

in doing so they don’t have to duplicate the effort. It’s the same FEMA process,” Baldwin said.

The IDHS Exercise Section says it is exploring other ways to keep creating games in the future or adapting this game to other districts or local levels. Local EMAs are already planning to do games for their teams.

“War games and strategy games, I think are just critical. So, the fact that IDHS is implementing games as part of this teaching process is brilliant,” Jenkins added.

Baldwin believes this game will have a lasting effect as local governments continuously adapt and respond to incidents in their counties: “I think the fun and engagement that this provided is going to stick with them and they’re going to think about this process if and when it comes time for them to conduct damage assessments.”



# GET SHAKIN', INDIANA!

Earthquakes in the Hoosier state may sound far-fetched, but quakes are not an unrealistic event. Indiana is near two major seismic zones: the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone and the New Madrid Seismic Zone. Both zones have recorded past earthquake activity. Scientists believe incidents similar to the 1811–1812 New Madrid earthquakes will impact Indiana again, so preparedness is vital.

Remembering to Drop, Cover and Hold On when an earthquake begins is important, but staying safe is possible if that process cannot be followed.

## WHEN AN EARTHQUAKE STRIKES

- Take shelter under sturdy furniture and hold onto it. The furniture will help protect against any falling debris.
- Cover your head and neck with your arms.
- If outside, stay away from power lines, tall buildings, falling rocks or anything that could collapse.
- If in a vehicle, drive slowly to a location away from buildings, overpasses, underpasses and utility wires.
- If in a building or enclosed structure, never go outside.



## STUDENT VIDEO CONTEST

To encourage Hoosier students to take an active role in learning how to prepare for and react during an earthquake, IDHS launched the 2023 *Get Shakin'* Student Video Contest.

The top submissions will win their class or group a Raspberry Shake® RS3D seismograph to use for a year to track worldwide seismic activity. One grand prize winner will receive an “Indiana

Earthquake Day” event. To enter, classes and groups from public schools, charter and private schools that are eligible for federal funding can submit student-produced videos focused on earthquake preparedness and/or safety. A panel of IDHS judges will choose a winner. More information on this contest, including how to submit a video, is on the [IDHS website](#).

The contest is open now. Video entries will be accepted until Aug. 31, 2023. Additional information about the video contest and earthquake safety is on the [Get Shakin' webpage](#).

## DOWNLOAD THE RULES



# THE HISTORY BEHIND THE NEW MADRID SEISMIC ZONE

Hoosiers may find it tough to believe that Indiana experiences earthquakes, but two seismic zones sit near Indiana. If a major earthquake hits either of those seismic zones, Hoosiers will feel the impact.

In the central U.S., faults are buried deep underground and are categorized as “seismic zones” or areas where many small faults are clustered together to produce seismic activity.

According to the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), in December of 1811, residents in New Madrid, Mo., were awakened by violent shaking. It was the first of at least three large magnitude-7-or-greater earthquakes. The final earthquake occurred on Feb. 7, 1812.

Survivors reported that the earthquakes caused cracks in the earth’s surface, the ground to roll in visible waves and large areas of land to sink or rise. Damage was reported as far away as Charleston, S.C., and Washington, D.C.

Scientists estimate that the probability of a magnitude 6.0 or larger earthquake occurring in this seismic zone within any 50-year period is 25% to 40%.

Indiana officials are involved in preparedness efforts. The state is part of CUSEC, which is a coordinating hub for eight U.S. states all focused on collaborating and strengthening response, recovery and mitigation plans. State representatives in this group meet throughout the year to discuss the latest efforts in earthquake awareness and preparedness.

## NIPSCO PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT NOW OPEN

Northern Indiana utility company NIPSCO is accepting applications for its Public Safety Education and Training Action Grant until Aug. 4. The safety grant provides funding for community and youth public safety education programming, as well as first responder training.

Grants are available between \$500 and \$5,000 for organizations to use for projects such as damage prevention to underground natural gas pipelines, fire or carbon monoxide safety and first responder training and programs.

Project funds must benefit NIPSCO’s service area, which

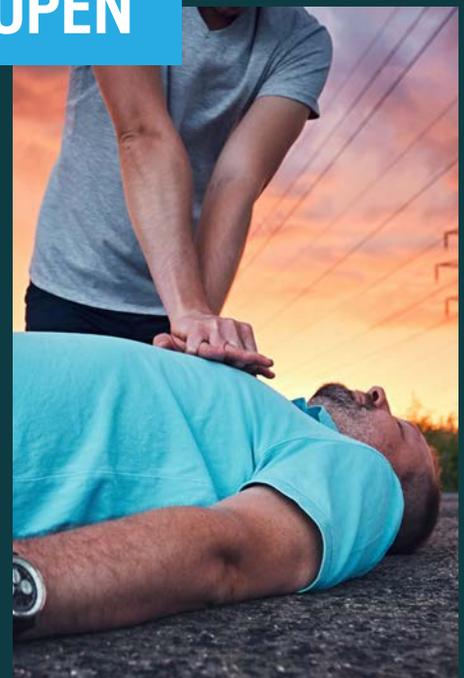
covers about a third of the state’s counties.

Previous recipients included fire departments, emergency management agencies, nonprofit organizations, police departments and school corporations.

NIPSCO awarded \$68,000 to 18 recipients in 2022.

Learn more about the grant and apply at <https://www.nipSCO.com/our-company/about-us/giving-back/safety-grant>.

The deadline to apply is Aug. 4 and grant awards will be announced in late August.





# FY2024 SECURED SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT OPENS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIANA SCHOOLS

The eagerly awaited FY2024 Secured School Safety Grant application period is open.

The Secured School Safety Grant (SSSG) program aims to bolster safety measures within educational institutions. It allocates matching grants to school corporations, accredited non-public schools, charter schools and coalitions of school corporations. The SSSG funds can be utilized for various purposes, including employing school resource officers (SROs) or law enforcement officers (LEOs).

Since 2014, more than \$133 million has been awarded to schools through the program. The recent state budget session allocated a total of \$25 million annually to the SSSG fund.

The grant supports initiatives such as conducting site vulnerability assessments, implementing student and parent support services plans, and purchasing safety-related equipment, hardware, materials and technology. These resources

can aid in restricting access to school property and classrooms, enhancing emergency communications and improving visitor management systems.

The SSSG program also recognizes the significance of canine assistance in maintaining a secure environment. Schools can acquire funding to purchase or train canines that detect drugs, illegal substances, explosives or firearms. Additionally, the grant provides financial support for training school employees and law enforcement officers in handling trained canines.

The program allows schools to design and construct building additions or renovations. These enhancements should primarily focus on improving the overall security of the school premises.

The grant recently expanded its scope to address critical concerns such as bullying prevention and active event warning systems. Schools can now access non-matching grants to collaborate with their local sheriff's office,

enabling them to establish an active event warning system efficiently.

Moreover, the grant empowers schools to respond effectively to threats, including self-defense training and counseling provisions in the aftermath of a school shooting. These comprehensive measures showcase the commitment of the SSSG program to safeguarding students, staff and communities.

This grant offers Indiana schools a chance to enhance their security measures. The application submission deadline is **July 26 at 4:30 p.m. EDT**. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Additional information on the SSSG can be found in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

With the FY2024 Secured School Safety Grant, Indiana schools can take significant strides toward creating a secure environment for students, staff and the entire community.

TORNADOES  
FLOODING  
EARTHQUAKES  
HOUSE FIRES  
**DISASTERS**  
FOLLOW  
NO SCHEDULE





# FROM SURPLUS TO SAVING LIVES

## Donated U.S. Emergency Vehicles Helping in Ukraine

**T**wo first responder organizations in Valparaiso — inHealth Ambulance Service and the MAAC Foundation — have joined a multistate effort to donate unused ambulances and fire apparatus to support humanitarian efforts in war-torn Ukraine. The foundation develops training opportunities for firefighters, police and EMS to train together.

In March, inHealth sent its first ambulance stocked with equipment and supplies to Ukraine and is sending two more in July, including one donated by the MAAC Foundation. All the ambulances previously served communities in northwest Indiana but reached the end of their service lives here in the Hoosier State. But that does not mean these ambulances' days of saving lives are over; they are now joining more than 50 other vehicles that will arrive in Ukraine this month or are already being used to support the country's emergency service needs.

"It just shows that it doesn't matter who you are, you can make a difference. There are always ways to help," said inHealth's CEO and co-owner Ron Donahue, who is also an EMT. "An ambulance might sell for a couple thousand dollars or end up in a junkyard, but this way we are helping on the other side of the world."

These efforts are thanks to EMS providers like inHealth and fire departments across 13 states that have partnered with Illinois-based US Ambulances for Ukraine, an initiative run by former volunteer firefighter Chris Manson of OSF Healthcare in Peoria. In March 2022, his young daughter spurred the idea of how to help the people of Ukraine, and since that time he has worked to raise funds, gather donated items and manage logistics to send dozens of ambulances and fire engines to Ukraine.

Manson works with the nonprofit [UA Resistance Foundation](#) to collect donations and ship the vehicles, along with medical equipment and supplies,

in coordination with the Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago. The shipment this month will be the ninth and largest so far. It will contain more than a dozen vehicles, including 10 ambulances.

Many vehicles make it to areas on the front lines in the war with Russia, including one ambulance that was handed off about two miles from the line and was immediately put into service.

“My military contact says if I had 100 vehicles, he’d take them. If I had 1,000 vehicles, he’d take them,” Manson said. “Most go to military units and some to hospitals. The fire trucks have gone to civilian fire departments, and one went to the navy at the Black Sea and is used for de-mining operations.”

Yevgeniy Drobot, deputy consul general of the Ukrainian consulate in Chicago, acknowledged that emergency vehicles are a critical need in Ukraine, as many have been damaged, destroyed or

stolen by occupying Russian forces. He said volunteer efforts to obtain vehicles have included sourcing vans from other countries and converting them into makeshift ambulances. Receiving used vehicles from the U.S. has been a godsend.

“They are helping people hurt by missiles, explosions or the dam that flooded and affected hundreds of thousands of people. The vehicles there are helping evacuate people. The ability to transport people to the nearest medical facility is priceless,” Drobot said, noting that during a recent overnight missile attack, a fire truck from the U.S. was used. “Less than a month ago, the fire truck was sitting in a warehouse in the U.S., then last week

**“Everyone who participates in the donation process is a big hero, without understanding how big of an impact they have.”**

— Yevgeniy Drobot, Deputy Consul General of Ukraine (Chicago)

responding to the missile attack in Odesa. It makes myself and my colleagues proud we contributed to that. Everyone who participates in the donation process is a big hero, without understanding how big of an impact they have.”

Drobot said sometimes the firefighters and personnel receiving the vehicles have cried out of happiness when vehicles have arrived.

“Medical workers, when they receive an ambulance, say, ‘Oh, when I get a call, I can actually respond to it!’” he said.

The Ukrainian consulate assists Manson with the logistics to get donated vehicles and supplies along every step of the way, from places like Valparaiso to staging areas in the U.S., to Europe and finally to Ukraine. Through regular communication and posts on the US Ambulances for Ukraine [Twitter page](#), Manson keeps donors updated on the status of their vehicles and shows them in use in Ukraine.

When inHealth’s first ambulance was shipped, the company’s vehicle maintenance employee volunteered to go overseas and deliver the ambulance in person.





same happened for inHealth's first ambulance, which became a focus of community support when it was preparing for shipment. A local newspaper did a story, and many residents came to sign the ambulance with supportive messages in both English and Ukrainian.

Within a day of being asked, northern Indiana medical service center HealthLinc began donating supplies, like suture kits. More donations came in from all over the area, so inHealth drove the first ambulance around picking up cases of donated supplies, religious materials, blankets and clothes.

Donahue said the trip, which took two weeks, saw his employee drive in the convoy of donated vehicles across a wide range of terrain, over good roads and gravel. A couple of the fire trucks broke down, but his employee fixed them on the ground in Ukraine.

One of the Valparaiso ambulances heading to Ukraine this month was donated by the nearby MAAC Foundation. Donahue had asked the foundation about donating supplies, which it did, but MAAC President Celina Weatherwax had more in mind.

"I asked Ron, 'Would you have any interest in a second ambulance?' and he was like, 'What do you mean?'" she said. "There was an ambulance that was donated to us, and we couldn't use it due to some

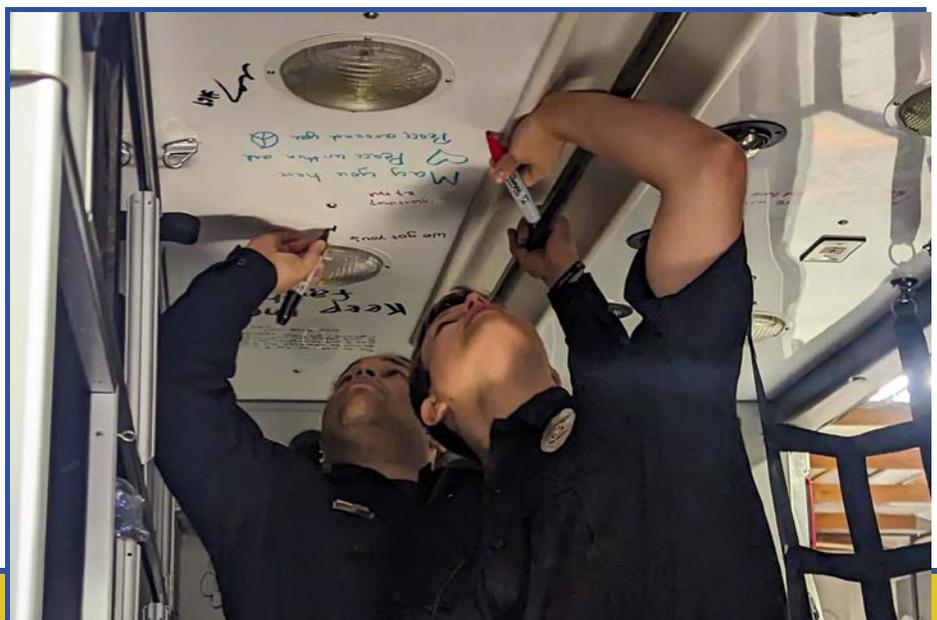
mechanical issues. Ron said he has a mechanic, so if we donated it to Ron, he could fix it up and put it to use. That is how a small thing became bigger because of a willingness to share."

Before the ambulance left, MAAC Foundation employees wrote messages of encouragement on it and helped load it with supplies and equipment. The

All the ambulances inHealth donated were sent full of donated medical equipment and supplies.

"We stocked them full — no space," Donahue said. "I said, 'Let's make sure we utilize every square inch of space.'"

According to Donahue, the donation efforts are nothing new



for inHealth, which is always looking for unconventional ways to help people. Ambulances from inHealth are set up for deployment with FEMA, were sent in the past to New York City to help during the COVID-19 pandemic and were present during the Biden Inauguration in Washington, D.C.

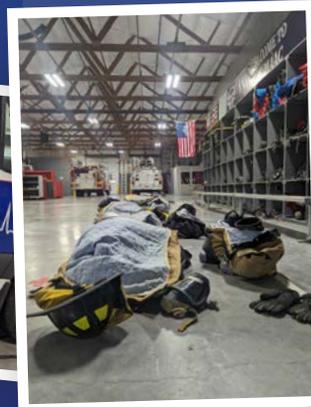
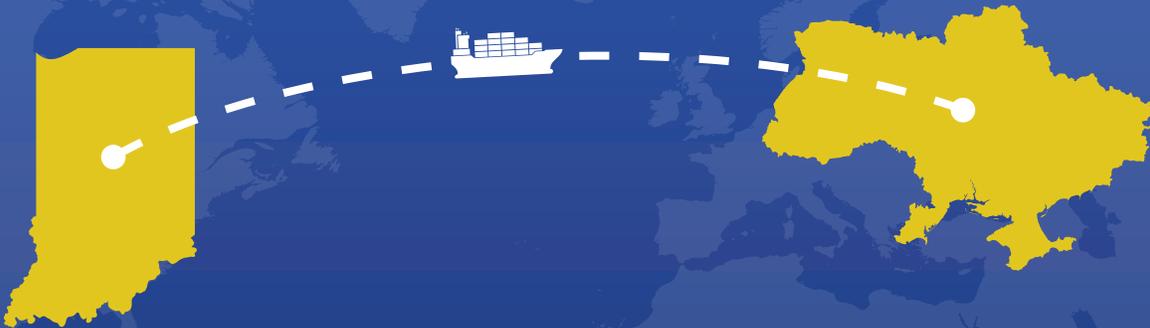
He said his agency's stance for the current international donation effort has been "helping anyone who needs it, for the good of people" and likened it to supporting communities affected by tornadoes or hurricanes.

"We see things happening around the country, and we try to help out when we can," Donahue said. "When looking at the world stage, we saw an article on Chris and

it sounded like a great fit. We'd purchased two new vehicles that were at the end of their service life. We could sell the old ones, of course, but this was a perfect fit and perfect timing."

Manson continues to look for surplus ambulances and fire

apparatus (including engines, chief rigs and SUVs) that are mechanically sound and have good frames, engines and wheels. Agencies interested in donating vehicles, or basic lifesaving equipment for trauma or burn calls, should contact him at [usambulancesforukr@yahoo.com](mailto:usambulancesforukr@yahoo.com).





## THE BURNING QUESTIONS ABOUT RESPONDING TO BATTERY FIRES

As people leave the house each day, they are carrying countless electronics on them like phones and tablets. Those same people may be climbing into electric cars, bikes or scooters. All of those things have one in common: batteries.

These batteries, like lithium batteries, are posing a challenge to firefighters because while new battery-operated products are flooding the market as fast as possible, public safety personnel are still learning the nuances of responding to fires caused by the technology.

“It seems like this day and age, with all this technology that we encounter, that the fire service typically is the last to find out how to deal with these things and we feel like we’re playing catch up even when the bell rings,” said Sugar Creek Township Fire Department’s Bryan Marr, A-shift lieutenant.

When damaged or overused, batteries can spark a fire and even go into a thermal runaway. Thermal runaway fires look impressive with smoke, sparks and flames spewing from the batteries.

IDHS recently offered firefighters the chance to sign up for a class teaching them how to assess the risks of battery fires and how to make the best response decision. The interest in the class was overwhelming.

“We’re seeing these types of fires, but I haven’t been trained on it yet. It was good to get some information and get a better feel for it,” said Josiah Bontrager, firefighter and safety accountability officer for Otterbein Area Volunteer Fire and Rescue.



**Thermal runaway:** When the heat generated within a battery exceeds the amount of heat that is dissipated to its surroundings, creating an uncontrollable, self-heating state. Thermal runaway can cause flames, smoke, the ejection of gas, shrapnel or extremely high temperatures.

Participants learned about battery chemistry, recognition of a battery fire and thermal runaway, and options on how to put the fires out.

“There are really no great solutions to our problems. I’m telling you about the best options,” said instructor Adam W. Lynch. Lynch is a firefighter and has responded to a growing number of these fires in his jurisdiction. “These fires don’t go out easily. They can flare up again.”

The approach to safely put out battery fires is more complicated than a standard fire. When firefighters approach a scene, the normal urge is to move quickly to get water on the fire to suppress the flames. But when a battery fire occurs, the best option may be to let it burn. The chemistry of a battery means that the components of the battery will stay heated, so while a stream of water will help quell the flames

temporarily, the fire is likely to spark again once water is no longer on the battery.

Identifying a battery fire can be a challenge for firefighters. While it may be an easy guess for a fire that starts with a phone, vehicle fires are not so easy to identify. Cars that run on gasoline require a different approach than battery-powered vehicles.

“Every car accident you go to, it’s a new set of dangers you have to deal with. Keep that in mind for every accident,” Lynch advised. He then shared the challenging scenario of a car crash between a



## LARGE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

Effective July 1, 2023, [House Enrolled Act 1173](#) created a statutory framework in Indiana to regulate Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). In this legislation, IDHS was charged with enforcement authority and the [Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission](#) was authorized to adopt rules to implement its requirements.

In general, this legislation regulates energy storage systems that are “capable of storing and releasing more than one (1) megawatt of electrical energy for a minimum of one (1) hour using an AC inverter and DC storage.”

For those systems that are covered by this framework, by law, the following requirements apply:

- After June 30, 2023, prior to installing, or expanding the capacity of a system by more than 10% of its original capacity, IDHS must approve the installation or expansion.
- Prior to operating a system installed after June 30, 2023, IDHS must approve the ability to operate.
- All systems installed prior to July 1, 2023, must submit a registration notice to IDHS by Jan. 1, 2024.
- Operators of systems must provide responding fire departments copies of emergency response plans and offer annual training.

Additional information can be found on the [IDHS Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems](#) webpage.

gas-powered vehicle and a battery-powered vehicle. A different response may be needed for each vehicle if a fire starts, and fire departments need to be able to identify and respond correctly.

“It’s nice to have a feeling of being better prepared. Even with the things I already knew, just to refresh them. It’s nice to get the feeling of confidence, of not second guessing yourself because you went through the training recently,” Bontrager said.

Marr said classes like this are a priority for his department to stay ahead of the curve on new technology and to make sure his community and fire crew are safe. “Before coming in today, I was more worried about the toxicity and a little of

the flammability, but it seems like even a typical residential fire in our community could potentially have a lot of these connected with it and create a higher hazard for my crew.”

Marr described a recent training his department had with retirement homes. He was worried about elders dealing with fire hazards like ovens and microwaves, but he now realizes items like the scooters people use to get around may be a big problem as well.

The class was offered through a grant from the IDHS Hazmat Section. IDHS is currently looking for additional ways to bring this class back to Indiana so many more firefighters can attend.



Firefighters monitored the reaction a hot dog had to a battery throughout the class. The experiment showed what can happen with prolonged exposure to a battery or if the battery is swallowed by a child.



## LISTEN TO THE IDHS PODCAST

FEMA Region 5 Administrator Tom Sivak discusses the importance of disaster preparedness, response efforts and collaboration in the latest episode of “Hoosier Homeland.”

Listen online at [on.in.gov/hoosier-homeland](https://on.in.gov/hoosier-homeland) or subscribe to the podcast using one of the podcast services below:



# INDIANA RECOVERING AND REBUILDING FROM TORNADO OUTBREAK

As of July 1, more than \$13.4 million in federal disaster assistance has been delivered to Hoosiers who were impacted by the March 31/April 1 tornado outbreak.

The total includes \$2.1 million in assistance through the Individuals and Households Program and \$11.30 million in U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loans to individuals, renters and businesses.

The storms produced more than 20 tornadoes, damaged more than 1,000 homes and resulted in five deaths. President Joe Biden declared a federal disaster for Indiana on April 15. The application period for individual assistance has passed, although the SBA is continuing to process applications through July. Twelve Indiana counties were included in the declaration: Allen, Benton, Clinton, Grant, Howard, Johnson, Lake, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Sullivan and White.

IDHS staff has worked closely with FEMA since April 15 to deliver assistance to Hoosiers.

## Federal Assistance (as of 7/1/23)

**2,510**

Total Valid Registrations

**239**

Total Households Awarded Assistance

**\$2,124,051**

Individuals & Households Program Amount Approved

**\$1,904,070**

Housing Assistance

**\$219,981**

Other Needs Assistance

## SBA Loan Assistance (as of 7/1/23)

Loan Applications	Home	Business	TOTAL
FEMA Registrations Referred	1,915	272	<b>2,187</b>
Applications Received	253	46	<b>299</b>
Loans Approved	133	5	<b>138</b>
Amount Approved	\$10,602,300	\$795,900	<b>\$11,398,200</b>

# FEMA UPDATES

## Grant application period open for National Training Program

Local, tribal or territorial governments and eligible nonprofit organizations like colleges and universities have until 5 p.m. ET on Aug. 7, 2023, to submit an application for the Fiscal Year 2023 Homeland Security National Training Program, Competitive Continuing Training Grants.

FEMA released the funding notice for \$6 million in competitive grants in June. The funding notice is on [Grants.gov](https://www.fema.gov/grants). Grants will be available to applicants through a competitive process to help

improve the nation's ability to respond to and recover from all-hazards events through training.

This year, program focus areas consist of select priority areas with associated emerging threats and gaps that align with strategic priorities. Recipients are expected to incorporate strategic priorities into their training curriculum and training delivery funded through the program.

For the first time, FEMA selected a stand-alone focus area, "Build Tribal Capacities to Improve Readiness and Resilience." The other focus area is "Rural Preparedness for Equitable Outcomes."

## FEMA Updates Terminology Guidance

In June, FEMA published an update to the "[FEMA Acronyms, Abbreviations and Terms Book, a Capability Assurance Job and Field Aid.](#)" The book is a comprehensive list of FEMA and emergency management-related acronyms, terms and abbreviations. The updated book is available on [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov).



# FEMA

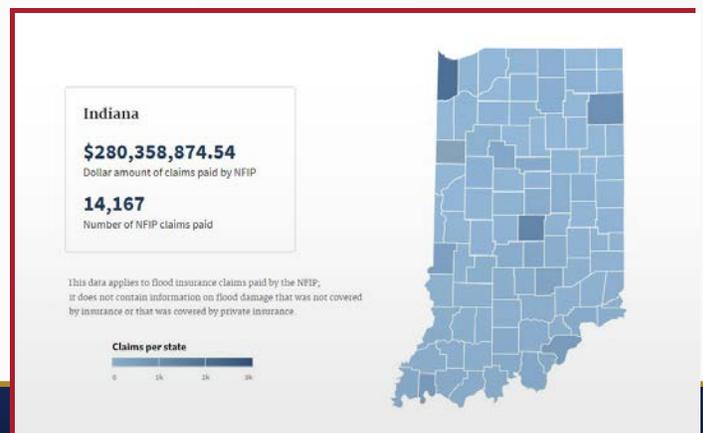
# NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM RELEASED NEW MAPS SHOWING HISTORICAL FLOODS

Despite parts of Indiana experiencing a lack of rain, flooding remains a common natural disaster. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is designed to help homeowners understand the dangers of flooding.

The NFIP recently released updated maps detailing historic flood insurance claims. The maps on [Floodsmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov) calculated flood claims made to the NFIP across the U.S. dating back to 1980.

Viewers can sort historical flood insurance claims in every state, county and territory and use the data to understand flooding trends around the country.

From 2021 to 2022, the NFIP paid out more than \$4.9 million for flood insurance claims. Whether property owners live inside or outside of a high-risk flood area, they should consider purchasing flood insurance for the protection and peace of mind it brings.



# INDIANA BUILDING COMMISSIONER CRAIG BURGESS TO RETIRE IN AUGUST

Indiana Building Commissioner Craig Burgess is retiring. His final day at IDHS will be Aug. 18.

Appointed to the role in 2017, Burgess has worked for a decade at IDHS, first as a Plan Review employee, then section chief before his appointment.

“I can’t overstate all of the work that we (IDHS staff) do as a group to protect the safety and welfare of the public,” Burgess said. “I’m proud to be a part of this group. I wish I could have gotten to know everyone a little better. They’re tremendous.”

Burgess said he is proud of the quality and volume of work conducted each day by the Plan Review and Code Services sections.

“I don’t know if people understand that virtually every building that is going to be occupied by the public must come through here and get a Construction Design Release before starting construction. That is a lot of work,” he said, adding that a 2014 law change required construction plan reviews to be completed in 10 business days.



The Building Commissioner role is appointed by the governor. Gov. Eric J. Holcomb has been notified of Burgess’ plans, but no timetable has been given for selecting the next Indiana State Building Commissioner.

“Craig has been an exceptional leader as Building Commissioner,” said IDHS Executive Director Joel Thacker. “I always appreciated Craig’s professionalism and his approach to leading the very productive teams that make up his operation. It’s a tremendous service to Hoosiers and a core function for IDHS.”



More than two thirds of fatal fires occur in homes with no working smoke alarms. Let’s change that and **GET ALARMED.**

**GetAlarmed.in.gov**



Watch this video to learn more!



## RIDE SAFETY A TOP PRIORITY FOR SUMMER FUN

Amusement rides offer Hoosiers seemingly endless fun, but a tragedy could happen in an instant if the rides have not been properly maintained.

That is why IDHS inspectors step in to ensure every ride in the state, whether temporarily set up or permanently installed, is inspected annually.

“We make sure that the ride companies are doing all the proper maintenance and training, that all the safety devices are working and that everybody would be safely secured,” said IDHS Elevators and Amusement Rides Deputy Section Chief Von Scott. “We don’t want people to worry when they ride, so we make sure they can enjoy safely.”

Every year, IDHS inspectors complete nearly 2,000 amusement ride inspections at locations far and wide, including

zoos, skiing facilities, amusement parks, county fairgrounds and even places that set up mechanical riding bulls.

Ride inspections range from as little as 30 minutes for small rides with few moving parts, to close to a full day for large or complex rides like roller coasters. Ride companies go through daily preopening checks, but IDHS inspectors go deeper. They check pins and welding, emergency stop switches, ride speed, seat belts, bolts and fasteners. Inspectors also look for worn and damaged parts, like broken fiberglass that could cut a rider, and they make sure the rides are level and sturdy, not shaking or imbalanced.

“We want the foundation to be solid, especially if it has been raining and the ride can sink into the dirt,” said IDHS inspector Robert McCutchan. “We check on their paperwork and maintenance records and make sure they are doing what the ride manufacturer has said to do.”

When issues are found, the ride company has 30 days to correct the violations and the public may not be allowed to board the ride until the problems have been addressed, depending on the severity of the issue. If a cracked weld is found, a certified welder must fix it first before the ride operates. But if an isolated problem exists, such as a torn



seatbelt on one seat, the ride may run so long as the public is prevented from using that seat.

As IDHS inspectors review ride maintenance records and device setups, a ride operator or manager usually tags along, taking notes. Some even point out issues themselves that they notice need to be fixed.

“We all have the same goal, to keep people safe to ride,” said McCutchan, who has been inspecting rides for 17 years and noted safety is much more of a focus by ride companies nowadays.

“This business has gotten a lot better over the years, and things are getting fixed earlier since a lot of eyes are on the industry,” McCutchan said. “A lot of the traveling shows do a fantastic job.”

One of the companies is North American Midway Entertainment,



which operates more than 100 rides in Indiana in a typical year, including Ferris wheels, merry-go-rounds and Tilt-A-Whirls. These rides travel to festivals, county fairs and even the Indiana State Fair.

According to company vice president Blake Huston, North American Midway has safety personnel companywide, including more than 25 certified inspectors, like the IDHS inspectors. His company has worked with IDHS for many years toward the same goal: keeping patrons safe.

“The IDHS team is committed to a very straightforward-thinking approach. They have worked

tirelessly over the last several years to help streamline the permitting process and scheduling inspections,” Huston said. “We are here to help each other in any way we can.”

The most intensive inspection time for IDHS comes at the State Fair, when all rides are reinspected before the fair opens. This means 50 rides or more are inspected over a three-day period, an effort involving more than half of the state’s ride inspectors. While the fair is open, IDHS has at least one inspector on site should any ride experience issues.

## AMUSEMENT RIDE HOTLINE: 1-888-203-5020

IDHS has a hotline for the public to report potential issues with amusement rides in Indiana. If you have concerns, do not board the ride, and make sure to report your observations to the ride operator first before calling the hotline.



When to call:

- If ride does not have a prominently displayed, current permit issued by IDHS.
- If the ride operator is allowing safety checks to slip, such as not checking seatbelts are secured or that there are gaps in the fencing where children could slip through.
- If there are exposed wires.
- If the ride appears uneven or seems like it could fall over.

Find safety tips at [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).



# KEEP YOUR HEAD ABOVE WATER WITH THESE SAFETY REMINDERS

This story is provided by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources

It is summertime, meaning people of all ages and swimming abilities are flocking to Indiana’s many water-based recreation spots.

That also means it is time to remind those you serve how to stay safe as they climb aboard a watercraft, jump or wade in the water to cool off or do anything else in, on or near a lake, river or pool.

“We urge all Hoosiers recreating around our waterways to recognize the danger water poses, even to strong swimmers or experienced boaters,” said Capt. Jet Quillen of DNR Law Enforcement.

Here are some basic safety tips:

- Discuss the dangers of water with your friends and loved ones before arriving at your destination. Give reminders once you get there. Sometimes the excitement can blur such a message, especially with children, in crowds or when it is especially warm.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. Let them know if your plans change.
- When you swim, swim with a buddy.
- Do not venture around flooded or fast-moving waterways.
- Wear a life jacket.
- Keep an extra watchful eye on children.
- Avoid alcohol.

Boaters should make sure they know the rules, reduce speed in unfamiliar areas and be aware of unusual water conditions respective to the size and type of boat. These guidelines are not only safety tips but also important environmental

considerations that will reduce the threat of erosion on land or threats to wildlife. Regardless of boat type, users should check the water levels before going out and monitor their speed while underway.

Boaters should also designate a sober boat operator and stick to that plan. Alcohol causes impaired balance, blurred vision, poor coordination, impaired judgment and slower reaction time. Natural factors such as wave action, sun exposure and wind can magnify these effects.

It is illegal to operate a motorboat or personal watercraft in Indiana while intoxicated. Indiana law defines intoxication as being under the influence of alcohol or drugs so that there is an impaired condition of thought and action and the loss of normal control of an individual’s faculties. Indiana law considers motorboat or personal watercraft operators to be intoxicated if their blood alcohol levels are equal to 0.08% or greater.

Life jackets must be approved by the United States Coast Guard and should be in good working condition and in a size appropriate for the wearer. Today’s life jackets are designed to be lighter, less obtrusive and more comfortable than examples from years ago. Inflatable life jackets allow mobility and flexibility for activities like boating, fishing or paddling, and can be much cooler in warmer weather than older models.

Learn more about boating education and safety at [on.in.gov/boatered](https://on.in.gov/boatered). The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) publishes **Outdoor Indiana**, a magazine that features the state parks, lakes, wildlife, forests, trails and inside information from the DNR experts.



United States  
Consumer Product Safety Commission

# Fireworks Injuries & Deaths

2022 REPORT

#CelebrateSafely

## Safety Tips

- ★ Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers.
- ★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- ★ Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- ★ Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- ★ Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- ★ Never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- ★ More Fireworks Safety Tips: [cpsc.gov/fireworks](https://www.cpsc.gov/fireworks)

## Injuries & Deaths



**10,200**

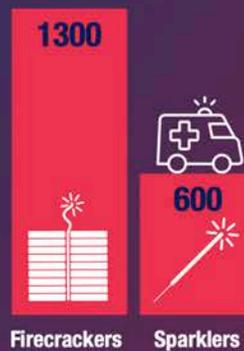
people were  
**treated in ERs**  
for fireworks injuries in 2022

**11 Deaths**  
from Fireworks in 2022



## How & When Injuries Occurred

2022 Injuries  
by Firework Type



**73%**

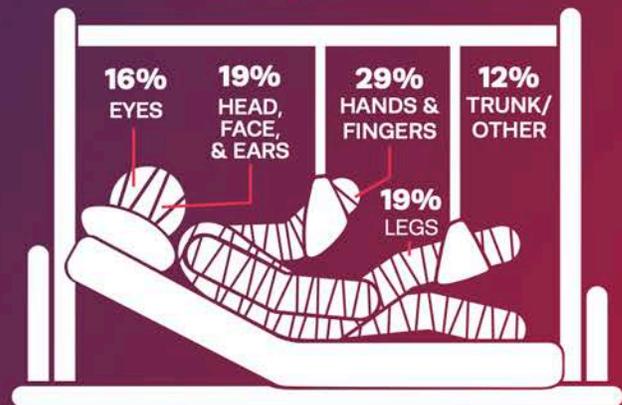
of injuries occurred  
in the weeks before &  
after the July 4th holiday



## Most Injured Body Parts



**38%** of the injuries were  
**burns**



Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety  
Commission 2022 Fireworks Annual Report



CPSC.gov  
USCPS

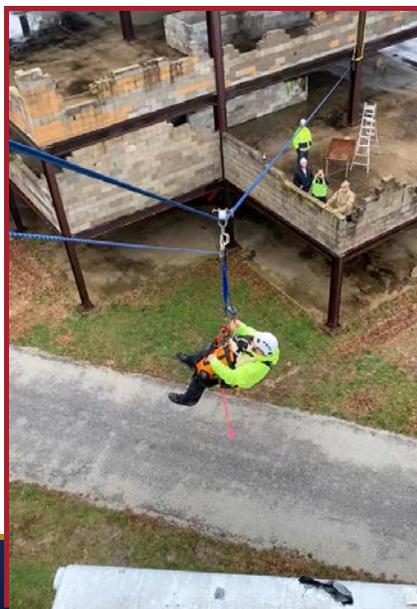


## HUB-AND-SPOKE TRAINING PLAN ROLLING FORWARD

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) continues to plot an expansion of the state-supported firefighting training program, leveraging the unprecedented funding approved by the Indiana General Assembly.

Indiana lawmakers recently approved \$17.7 million to support firefighter training, with \$10 million of that dedicated to providing volunteer firefighters with new personal protective equipment (PPE). The remaining \$7.7 million will be used for training purposes. Primarily, that will fund the construction of several training locations that would allow more regional firefighters the ability to test the basic, physical requirements for the Indiana firefighter certification.

Although the funds are a big boost to the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy system, the original plan included in Gov. Eric J. Holcomb's 2023 agenda called for \$24.2 million. The reduced funding requires a scaled-down plan for training expansion until additional funding can be acquired.



“We are now looking for locations that will have the biggest impact geographically,” said Indiana State Fire Marshal Steve Jones. “Even with this reduced funding, this will have a dramatic impact on helping to provide the state with accessible, high-quality training.”

IDHS Executive Director Joel Thacker agreed, adding that the long-term goal still will include plans to enhance existing fire training sites or partner with new sites to provide consistent, quality fire training within a 30-minute drive for all fire territories.

“We’ve never had access to dollars for this purpose before,” Thacker said. “Even though the \$7.7 million isn’t the sum of what we’ve asked for, it’s still more

than we've ever had before. This will make a difference in many locations around the state."

IDHS continues to collect information from area fire chiefs via [an online form](#) dedicated to finding strategic locations for new training grounds. The plan is to identify three to five key locations as an initial phase for construction once vendors are finalized. Those sites are not yet determined, although progress continues to be made working with local departments to evaluate the need.

"The primary focus will be areas that are essentially training deserts," Thacker said.

"[The Indiana fire community] is excited to see what is going to happen and wondering when this plan will be rolled out. Of course, everyone is asking, 'What about me?'" Jones said. "We're planning to have one or two sites under construction this year, with the focus being those departments that really have nothing."

Academy Director John Shafer continues to travel the state and evaluate the training needs of specific regions. The cost to construct the sites, which will be locally owned and maintained, will vary depending on the needs of the site. Over time, IDHS will better evaluate how to best use the remaining funds, with priority given to those regions with the greatest need for training sites.



Select your area(s) of interest.\*  
 Volunteer PPE  
 Training Grounds

Your Information

Department Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Department County: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

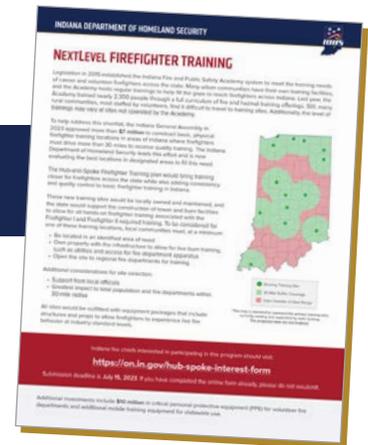
Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Send me a copy of my responses

Submit

Learn more about the hub-and-spoke training model using this PDF.

Find the hub-and-spoke interest form at [on.in.gov/hub-spoke-interest-form](https://on.in.gov/hub-spoke-interest-form).



# INTRODUCING THE INDIANA HOMELAND MEDAL OF MERIT

The Indiana Homeland Medal of Merit honors exceptional conduct and the performance of outstanding services to Hoosiers to support the safety, security and resilience of Indiana.

This award will be given to any hero who goes above and beyond the job to ensure Hoosiers are protected. Nominations are being collected now. Visit the [Special Recognition webpage](#) to submit a nomination. An IDHS team will review all submissions.



# IDHS MOBILE SIMULATION LAB



The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) can assist EMS personnel with state-of-the-art, hands-on training. The Mobile Simulation Lab is a free educational resource available to EMS and fire personnel across Indiana.

The mobile sim lab comes with several manikins that can be programmed for a number of scenarios to give personnel a unique training experience. An IDHS coordinator will walk personnel through best practices and challenge trainees in a safe learning environment.



## High-Fidelity Adult Manikin (Hal)

### Features

- Heart tones
- Breath sounds
- Dilating/constricting pupil
- Carotid, radial and pedal pulse capabilities
- Medical and trauma programmable scenarios

### Training capabilities

- Basic lifesaving skills
- Advanced airways capabilities
- Endotracheal intubation
- Cricothyrotomy
- 12 lead capabilities
- IV/IO insertion

## High-Fidelity Pediatric Manikin

### Features

- Breath sounds
- Dilating/constricting pupil
- Carotid, radial and pedal pulse capabilities
- Medical and trauma programmable scenarios

### Training capabilities

- Basic lifesaving skills
- Advanced airways capabilities
- Cricothyrotomy
- 4 lead capabilities
- IV/IO insertion

## Other Manikins

- OB manikins for birthing scenarios
- Trauma manikin for “Stop the Bleed” and trauma training

Additional training aids include an IV training arm, a needle decompression chest simulator and both pediatric and adult airway heads.

The EMS Mobile Simulation Laboratory is available to all levels of EMS certification, anywhere in the state of Indiana. It can be used for organizations, EMS classes, continuing education or other events.

If you are interested in learning more about this free service, you can request the lab on the [IDHS website](#) or email the IDHS Mobile Simulation Lab Coordinator Tim Layton at [tilayton@dhs.in.gov](mailto:tilayton@dhs.in.gov).



# MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL

Hoosiers across the state depend on the volunteer fire service for their protection and response. Volunteer firefighters represent more than 70 percent of the fire departments in Indiana and serve as the backbone of fire response and in delivering public safety.

A [2020 study of the economic impact](#) for volunteer firefighters in Indiana estimated that the volunteer service provides the state \$4.5 billion in economic impact. These nearly 15,000+ volunteers risk their lives to save taxpayers more than \$3.5 billion in salaries and benefits alone, not counting equipment, buildings and more, according to the study. Yet, volunteer departments still raise funds to cover these additional needs and make do with what they can because of their passion and commitment to their communities.



The study estimated it would take more than a 57% tax increase for all Hoosiers to move away from the volunteer model to a paid firefighter model. The hard truth is this is never going to happen in today's environment and the rural landscape of Indiana.

IDHS is proud to have secured \$17.7 million (\$10 million for PPE) for fire training and volunteer PPE equipment during this year's budget session, but many communities still struggle to adequately protect their residents via a volunteer fire department. It may not be a funding issue that could cripple the future of Indiana's volunteer fire service. The age of the current volunteers and a lack of new recruits stepping up to answer the call also are huge challenges.

I visit firehouses every week across the state, and the men and women I encounter are second to none. But, it is easy to see a lack of youth and diversity among the volunteers. Fewer volunteers are interested in firefighting, because the time, effort, lack of local support and health risks leads them in different directions. This is true in public safety across the board, but this is especially true in the fire and EMS world.

The time has come to rethink how we encourage young people to be volunteer firefighters. We must give them a reason to get excited about the notion and promote the camaraderie that can only be found at the firehouse. The community should better support the volunteer service rather than simply "expect" someone will show up when called. They need to spend more time training and responding than filling their valuable family time with fundraising events.

Firefighting is a noble calling. Risking your life for your neighbor — and asking for absolutely nothing in return — is an even more selfless act. But Indiana is reaching its capacity and must shore up these shortfalls.

IDHS wants to lead the way in rethinking volunteer recruitment. Share any good ideas or proven methods that could benefit other departments via [firemarshal@dhs.in.gov](mailto:firemarshal@dhs.in.gov). Together, we can revive the pride and honor associated with volunteer firefighting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Jones" clearly legible.

Stephen Jones  
Indiana State Fire Marshal



# UPCOMING TRAININGS

## JULY

**JULY 21-AUG 17** Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics

**KOKOMO**

## AUGUST

**AUG 1-DEC 2** EMS - Advanced Emergency Medical Technician

**GAS CITY**

**AUG 2-16** Confined Space Rescuer Operations

**VALPARAISO**

**AUG 14-18** All Hazards Comm. Unit Technician Training (COMT)

**GREENWOOD**

**AUG 21-22** Medical Preparedness & Response Bombing Incidents

**INDIANAPOLIS**

**AUG 29** Senior Officials Workshop for All Hazards Preparedness

**PLAINFIELD**

## SEPTEMBER

**SEPT 9-10** Auxiliary Communications Workshop

**GREENWOOD**

**SEPT 9-10** HSEEP/Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation

**LAPORTE**

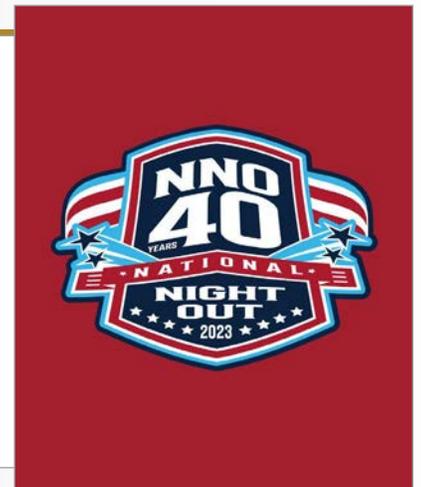


## INDIANA STATE FAIR JULY 28 - AUGUST 20

The [Indiana State Fair](#) is an annual event celebrating agriculture, entertainment and community in Indiana. It showcases livestock exhibitions, agricultural displays, live music performances, thrilling rides and a variety of food vendors. IDHS will be present Aug. 16-20 in front of the Agriculture & Horticulture building where visitors can learn about our services.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUGUST 1

[National Night Out](#) is a community-building campaign held on the first Tuesday in August each year. It aims to promote police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and crime prevention. The event encourages residents to get to know their neighbors and local law enforcement officers through block parties, cookouts, parades and other community gatherings.



## NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS DAY AUGUST 21

National Senior Citizens Day is observed on Aug. 21 each year to honor and show appreciation for the contributions and achievements of senior citizens. It is an opportunity to recognize their wisdom, experiences and ongoing contributions to society. The day serves as a reminder to support and engage with older adults in our communities.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION & DEMONSTRATION DAY

**AUGUST 26**

Join the Multi Agency Academic Cooperative (MAAC) for the First Responder Appreciation & Demonstration Day on Aug. 26, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the MAAC Foundation (4203 Montdale Park Drive, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383). This exciting event offers a fantastic day out for the whole family and is completely free!

Experience the thrill of first responder and K-9 demonstrations, explore the Touch-a-Truck exhibit, test your skills at the VR Shooting Gallery and enjoy various engaging activities.



## SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

**SEPTEMBER**

September is recognized as Suicide Prevention Month, raising awareness about suicide prevention, mental health and the importance of seeking help. It aims to educate the public, reduce stigma and promote resources for those struggling with suicidal thoughts. Various organizations and mental health advocates host events, campaigns and educational programs throughout the month.

## NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

**SEPTEMBER**

National Preparedness Month takes place in September and serves as a reminder for individuals, families and communities to be prepared for emergencies and disasters. The month encourages proactive steps such as creating emergency kits, developing family communication plans, staying informed about potential hazards and participating in preparedness drills and exercises.



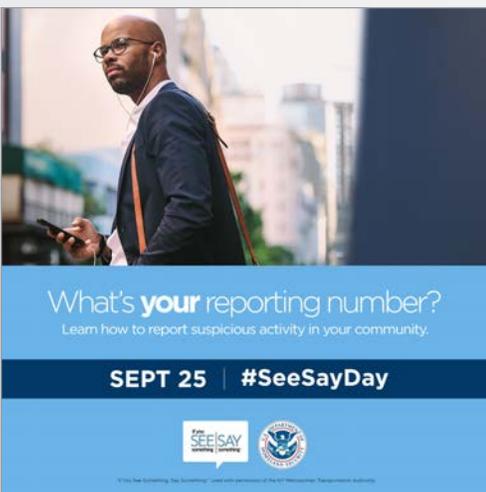
## NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH SEPTEMBER

National Campus Safety Awareness Month is observed in September and focuses on promoting safety and security on college and university campuses. It raises awareness about personal safety, sexual assault prevention, emergency preparedness, mental health resources and other campus safety issues. Educational institutions organize events, workshops and training sessions to enhance campus safety.



## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15

Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, recognizes the contributions, culture and heritage of Hispanic and Latino communities in the United States. It is a time to honor the rich history, traditions and accomplishments of Hispanic Americans through events, festivals, art exhibitions, music performances and educational activities.



## SEESAY DAY (SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING) SEPTEMBER 25

SeeSay Day, also known as “See Something, Say Something” Day, encourages individuals to be vigilant and report suspicious activities or potential threats to authorities. It serves as a reminder of the importance of community involvement in maintaining public safety and preventing crimes or acts of terrorism. The day emphasizes the collective responsibility to keep our communities safe and secure.

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



Indiana Department of Homeland Security  
302 West Washington Street • Indiana Government Center South • Room E208  
Indianapolis, IN 46204 • 317.232.2222 • 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 Office of Public Affairs at 317.234.6713 or [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)*