



Hoosier Responder

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Northeast EMS New EKG Leads Save Lives



After recognizing a need in the northeastern Indiana communities it serves, Northeast Emergency Medical Services investigated upgrading from a Basic-Advance service to a service

with fully staffed paramedic care. In Spring of 2012, with the support of the local towns and trustees, it was able to upgrade, no longer relying on outside assistance for medical care.

Upgrading to paramedic care was not the only change made. Northeast also began using a portable heart monitor along with a mobile modem to greatly improve its ability to respond to heart attack patients.

With this equipment, responders are now

able to attach EKG leads to a patient and, using the modem, transmit the data directly to nearby Parkview Medical Center. This data can be transmitted from the scene of the call or while en route to the emergency department.

In several incidents, the system detected potential heart attacks before the patients showed typical symptoms. The EKG read-out was sent to a physician in the emergency department who reviewed the data. The physician then consulted with a cardiologist to determine the best course of action, all before the patient even arrived at the hospital. Within 15 minutes of arrival, these patients were sent straight to the catheter lab, skipping the stop at the emergency department all-together, saving both time and heart muscle.

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From the Director's Chair — Executive Director John Hill

The effort to keep Hoosier families safe begins in every Indiana community. An alert public plays a critical role in keeping Indiana safe, and is vital to the nation's security.

The "See Something, Say Something" campaign is a simple and effective way to identify and report indicators of terrorism and terrorism-related crime to the proper authorities. The concept is simple. If someone sees something suspicious taking place, then he or she should report that behavior or activity.

Community vigilance programs enhance the reach of public safety agencies.

Suspicious activity reporting is one of our best defenses against terrorist and criminal threats and is one of our greatest resources. The ability to share information is critical to law enforcement, but it begins with front line reporting.

This program is a great way to create and enhance partnerships with your public safety agencies. It can laud the hard work already being done, but also encourage all citizens to recognize their role to keep communities safe.

Start with community leadership: Business leaders, mayors, county council

members and other leaders can provide a behind-the-scenes boost to awareness efforts. Provide a message that any organization – corporate, non profit or public – should support a culture of safety awareness.

Provide opportunities for awareness training: Resources are available from U.S. Department of Homeland Security



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New IDHS Executive Director John Hill

In December of 2012, Governor Mike Pence appointed John H. Hill as the new executive director for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Hill assumed his duties on January 14, 2013.

As IDHS' Executive Director, Hill is responsible for the state's emergency management and homeland security efforts, which include planning and assessment, preparedness and training, emergency response and recovery, fire and building safety, and field services. Hill oversees the strategic planning and response to emergencies, ensuring the training of responders throughout the state, application and disbursement of federal homeland security funds, acting as the emergency operations coordinator during state emergencies and serving as the director of the Counter Terrorism and Security Council, which is chaired by Indiana's

Lieutenant Governor.

In 2006, Hill was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) with the U.S. Department of Transportation after previously serving the FMCSA as Chief Safety Officer and Assistant Administrator. In this role, Hill was involved in terrorism and hurricane response and emergency preparedness planning for natural disasters. Hill led the agency's planning and coordination for pandemic influenza, and at the request of the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary, served as his personal representative for transportation matters in Mississippi and Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina. During this time he worked closely with Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour and his staff to facilitate aid to the state's

crippled transportation infrastructure. Prior to his work on a national level, Hill served as a member of the Indiana State Police from 1974-2003, providing expertise as Commander of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Field Enforcement and Logistics Divisions. Hill is a graduate of Taylor University.



FEMA Classes Can Help Hoosiers Prepare

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has a series of self-guided online classes designed for citizens to increase preparedness knowledge. The classes are online, self-paced and have final exams to ensure that knowledge has been gained.

One such class, which fits in with Severe Weather Preparedness Week March 24-30, is an in-depth citizen's guide to preparedness. This course can be printed out as a manual and includes guides on how to plan for a variety of hazards and situations. It also contains an in-depth guide to building a preparedness kit and how to put together an emergency plan.

Another course, titled "Active Shooter:

What can you do?" covers what to do in a violent situation. It's written for everyday citizens and geared towards managers and employees who work with the public.

The course describes how to prevent and prepare for potential active shooters, how to recognize violence indicators and actions to take when confronted with an active shooter. It also includes how to coordinate with responding personnel and manage the aftermath of the situation.

FEMA has a catalogue of additional independent study programs, both for everyday people as well as emergency personnel. The catalogue can be found at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>.

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(<http://www.dhs.gov/if-you-see-something-say-something-campaign>) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (getprepared.in.gov). These resources can also help with some basics about what to look for, guidelines for details to gather, etc.

Just as security affects every dimension of our lives, this important initiative needs to be incorporated into all of our daily lives at work, home and at play.

You and your public safety partners make significant contributions to Hoosier safety every day. Help us spread the word that all Indiana citizens play an important role in the safety of our nation, state, communities and neighborhoods.

Severe Weather Awareness Week

March 24 - 30

Severe weather can strike any time of the year, but the most volatile weather begins with spring. To prepare Hoosiers for potential tornadoes, thunderstorms and floods, March 24 through 30 is Severe Weather Awareness Week in Indiana.

Severe Weather Awareness Week is the result of collaboration among state agencies, including the Integrated Public Safety Commission, Indiana Department of Education, Indiana State Police, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Broadcasters Association, and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, in cooperation with the National Weather Service, the American Red Cross, local emergency management agencies and the amateur radio community.

During the week, Hoosiers are encouraged to take steps to increase their preparedness for severe weather. It's important to remember that preparing for one type of event helps preparedness for any other potential disaster as well.

As part of Severe Weather Preparedness Week, a statewide tornado drill will be conducted on March 27 between 10 and 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 and 8 p.m. The drill will be

broadcast on commercial radio, television networks and all hazard (weather) radios. This should be taken as an opportunity to practice severe weather plans.

One part of the recommended action for the week is for residents to develop an emergency plan. Severe weather can strike when members of a family may not be home. It's important for the plan to include a place away from the home for family members to meet, an out of state contact to ensure everyone is ok, and possible places to shelter. Planning for pets and family members with special needs is also important. Be prepared if a local shelter won't allow household pets.

As always, Hoosiers are encouraged to develop a preparedness kit as well. These kits have the resources necessary for families to endure the aftermath of a disaster should emergency help not be immediately available. A comprehensive guide to building a preparedness kit, as well as additional information regarding severe weather and other types of preparedness can be found at getprepared.in.gov.

Historic Flood Commemorated 100 years later

100 years ago, in the spring of 1913, a record flood devastated much of the Midwest and changed flood management across the country. The floods are being commemorated with several events and exhibits.

The yearlong campaign kicks off March 28 and contains monthly themes designed to increase preparedness and awareness of flooding potential across the state. Cities will be encouraged to participate in FEMA's "Know your Line" campaign. The campaign establishes a landmark in the cities indicating the

record flood level, and works with local officials to educate them on how they can develop a flood plain.

The Indiana Historical Society is hosting an exhibit as part of the "You are there" series. Visitors can visit a recreation of Wulf's Hall Relief Station the day after the rivers began flooding. The recreation will be complete with actors who only have awareness up to the day after the flood and visitors will be asked to help set up relief boxes for flood victims.

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Carbon Monoxide Safety

State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson recommends having a carbon monoxide detector at home if any types of fuel are used for heating or cooking.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and nonirritating gas created when these fuels burn incompletely. It is the number one cause of accidental poisoning in the United States and can cause similar symptoms to the common cold or flu. Hoosiers should follow these recommendations for carbon monoxide detectors:

- Install in a central location at eye level close to, but not in, the same room as the furnace, water heater or any appliance that uses these fuels.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month, replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrive.
- An indication of abnormal levels of carbon monoxide in the home may be nausea or a headache in the forehead area that gets better or goes away when you or a family member are at work or school, but then returns after hours of being back in the home.
- Never leave a running vehicle in the garage, even if the doors are open.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO – only use outside.

Governor Re-appoints Greeson as State Fire Marshal

Indiana Governor Mike Pence has re-appointed Jim Greeson as the Indiana State Fire Marshal. Greeson was originally appointed May 12, 2008.

As State Fire Marshal, Greeson oversees the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Division of Fire and Building Safety, which investigates suspicious fires, promotes fire prevention, administers building plan review, enforces fire and building safety codes in all public buildings, and conducts inspections of child care facilities, boilers and pressure vessels, elevators, escalators and amusement rides.

Greeson is a lifetime resident of Indianapolis, and received a degree from Indiana Vocational Technical College and also attended Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and the National Fire Academy. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army.

Prior to his work with the State, Greeson was a 38-year member of the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD). His career there culminated as fire chief from 2004 until his retirement in 2008. He joined the IFD in 1970, where he served in various capacities, including the Suppression Division, Deputy Chief of Administration and Deputy Chief of Operations.



Working Smoke Alarms in your Home:

The Indiana State Fire Marshal is reminding Hoosiers that it is not only crucial to have a working smoke alarm in your home, but it is also the law (IC 22-11-18-3.5). Working smoke alarms can double the chances of surviving a residence fire.

Indiana had 47 fatalities in 2011 and 2012 reported to the State Fire Marshal, due to either non-working smoke alarms or having no smoke alarms at all. Most home-fire casualties occur at night when people are sleeping. The smoke and toxic gases generated by a fire can cause residents to sleep more deeply, making the chances of survival slimmer.

"Smoke alarms save lives, and a working smoke alarm is the best insurance against becoming a casualty in a house fire," said Indiana State Fire Marshal James Greeson. "Firefighters too often find that in fatal fires, a home had smoke alarms but the batteries had been removed."

By Indiana law, all dwellings must have at least one functioning smoke alarm installed outside each sleeping area, and on each level of the building. The smoke alarms must be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Marshal Greeson also reminds Hoosiers the following fire safety tips:

- Test the alarms monthly and replace batteries at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps," it means the battery is low and should be replaced immediately.
- The smoke alarms themselves should be replaced every 10 years.
- For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home – when one sounds, they all sound.
- Have a fire escape plan and practice it with your children.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, exit the home at once and meet at a set location.
- Call 9-1-1
- Once outside, stay outside.

Childcare Preparedness Guide Coming Soon

A comprehensive guide for disaster preparedness for childcare providers will soon be available.

The guide was developed in partnership among the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana State Fire Marshal, Indiana School of Medicine – Emergency Medical Services for Children, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Education, Indiana State Department of Health – Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response, and the Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral.

After a need was expressed for such a guide, Nancy Morris, Emergency Preparedness Planner with IDHS, participated in a steering committee of subject matter experts to develop

recommendations for various emergency situations. The guide has been developed and is scheduled to be released in early April. It will be published on childcarefinder.in.gov and dhs.in.gov.

"The guide and the training program have been well received by the childcare community," said Morris. "I think we have done a great job at providing a valuable resource to the people who take care of one of Indiana's most precious assets."

In addition to the guide, a train-the-trainer program is being developed that will help childcare providers develop plans that are tailored to their specific situations and ways to practice the plans that are developed.

New Program Teaches Students about Preparedness

A new safety program, geared toward fourth and fifth graders, is being introduced to Indiana. Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) was developed by Federal Emergency Management Agency and was designed by teachers for teachers to use in the classroom.

At the end of the STEP program, students should be able to: describe emergencies in their area and how to prepare for them; assemble emergency kits with essential items; and create a communications plan in case of an emergency.

STEP is designed to be taught as part of

the curriculum during school days to fourth or fifth graders. This age group was determined to be able to understand the need for disaster preparedness without being afraid of the material. Throughout the program, there are assignments that integrate curriculum standards with preparedness education.

Class discussions help students determine items that they would need to pack in an emergency kit, how to go about discussing preparedness with adults, and how to develop a plan should a disaster strike. At the end of program students are given a certificate of completion and participate in

presentations to demonstrate lessons learned.

STEP is part of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. In addition to STEP, there is also a Teen CERT which is designed for teenagers to gain hands-on practice and realistic exercises to help them safely respond to an emergency without endangering themselves. For more information on CERT, visit <http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>.

South Bend Fire Department Hosts Hazardous Materials Technician Course

10 firefighters participated in a Hazardous Materials Technician Course hosted by the South Bend Fire Department. The courses took place every Saturday for 10 weeks and will end on March 16 with a written examination.



Firefighters go through the decontamination process as part of their final skills exercise. After the students complete their written exam, they will be certified at the Hazardous Materials Technician Level.

The participants were from South Bend, Elkhart and Clay Fire Departments. Elkhart Fire Chief Mike Compton assisted Lead Instructor Jim Lopez and Training Instructor Darrell Eiler in presenting the class and the skills examinations.

To complete the course, firefighters must pass a practice skill examination and a written examination. The skills exam took place on March 9 and consisted of an unknown chemical compound released in a local trucking company's facilities.

In the exercise, the firefighters had to assess the scene and develop an Incident Action Plan. Once the plan was developed three of the firefighters in

Level A HAZMAT suits entered the company and found two mock victims. After completing patient assessments and determining them as deceased, the firefighters retrieved identification of the victims, requested the coroner, and completed the decontamination process.

The last step for the course is to complete the final written exam, on Saturday March 16. After passing, each participant will be certified at the Hazardous Materials Technician Level. The course was provided additional support from University of Notre Dame, the St. Joseph County Coroner, St. Joseph County EMA Director, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the Clay Fire Department.

Free Emergency Response Guidebook App Available

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) unveiled a free, mobile-app version of its Emergency Response Guidebook 2012 (ERG).

The Emergency Response Guidebook is a reference manual to help first responders deal with hazmat situations during the critical first 30 minutes after an accident. The new app will provide each of the nation's emergency responders with information to help them manage hazardous material incidents with immediate access to ERG information.

The ERG app will let firefighters, police and other emergency first responders quickly locate the information they need with a built-in electronic word search function. With the app, users can access data on almost any hazard, such as health risks to victims, equipment required for response and first-aid techniques used on those suffering from exposure.

The app can be downloaded from the Apple iTunes store or Google Play for Android. It also is available through PHMSA.

Bargersville Fire Trades with Franklin to Begin Ambulance Service

Bargersville Community Fire Department and the City of Franklin Fire Department exchanged out-of-service vehicles to improve service in both communities. Franklin received an SUV to be used as a battalion vehicle, while Bargersville received an ambulance that allowed it to begin an ambulance service for the community.

Medic 201 received updated Bargersville graphics and is currently staffed 24/7 by part-time EMT-basics and EMT paramedics. Before the ambulance was obtained, personnel responded in SUVs and patients were transported by an outside service.

“The County has also seen the benefits of this new Ambulance,” said City of Franklin Fire Chief, John Henderson. “It is a part of the emergent response and we have all benefited.”

The new service was not without growing pains. Managing multiple calls with one ambulance was a problem that was overcome through cooperative agreements with the White River Fire Department and the City of Franklin ambulances.

The easiest obstacle to overcome was convincing members that the ambulance was a good idea. Since it began, Medic 201 has responded to more than 550 calls and generated enough money to maintain the service on its own.

Bargersville Community Fire Department is in the early planning stages of expanding its service. Options being considered are purchasing a new ambulance, adding another ALS unit and staffing with full-time personnel.

The mutual trade between the City of



Medical Director Doctor Thomas Gansman with Medic 201. While Medic 201 is the only ambulance currently owned by Bargersville Community Fire Department, agreements are in place to assist with multiple calls.

Franklin Fire Department and Bargersville Community Fire Department was not the last of the partnership between the two departments. Both are currently working together to build a dual response team to continue serving the needs of the county.

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Outside of the re-creation is a content room with additional information. It contains an interactive map to see where the flood would impact if it were to hit today. There is also information about factors that cause flooding in the first place, and compounding factors that make them worse.

A television special is being planned for the Public Broadcasting System (PBS). The special will revisit some of the

communities impacted by the 1913 floods and what changes have been made since then to prepare for future events. It will also examine what has been done in general to change flood plain management and what steps still need to be taken for the safety of residents.

For more information on the exhibit visit: <http://www.indianahistory.org/>



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