



# Hoosier Responder

MARCH 2009

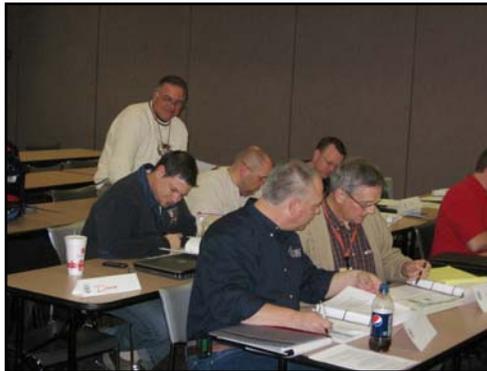
Volume 5, Issue 3

## IDHS Hosts Communications Training

During all-hazards emergency and disaster response operations, radio communications among multiple jurisdictions and disciplines is essential.

“We have funded many jurisdictions in Indiana to purchase the equipment necessary to solve interoperable communications issues,” said Joe Wainscott, executive director for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). “What we are working on now is the training and understanding of the full potential of these systems.”

In early February, the first in a series of trainings for communications was provided to 32 Indiana first responders. The Office of Emergency Communications offered an All-Hazards Type III Communications Unit Leader (COML) course. The information presented in this class provided guidance to students on how to be COMLs during all-hazards emergency operations, which will significantly improve communications across the multiple disciplines and jurisdictions responding to an incident. This training qualifies emergency responders as lead radio communications coordinators including knowledge of local communications; communications systems; and local, regional, and state communications plans. This is done once responders have completed their task book, which documents various activities that provides experience as a COML on the job and through formal training.



IDHS plans to expand the communications training to establish one COML Trainer in each of the ten IDHS Districts and one COML in each county

“What we’re trying to solve is the disconnect counties face when working various incidents,” said Don West, communications director for the IDHS Emergency Response & Recovery Division. “We realize that each county knows how their communication works, but what we’re trying to do is help them integrate individual agency plans into multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional incidents and events.”

Interoperable communications continues to be an

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## From the Director's Chair

In the past few months, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) has received many inquiries regarding training levels required for National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance. Many of these questions are focused on who should attend which level of training to be compliant. Keep in mind, IDHS does not require NIMS compliance from any Indiana public safety agency, the requirements come from the federal government and are enforced through grant funding qualifying standards and through adoption of performance standards such as those established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

In February of 2003, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 set the direction for the nationwide implementation of NIMS for the federal government. Federal OSHA requirements under 29CFR 1910.120 and compliance directive CPL:02-02-073, have established the requirement that the Incident Command System (ICS) be used during incidents. This requirement also applies to EMS personnel and first receivers in hospital departments.

Governor Daniels has directed state agency compliance to NIMS in Executive Order 05-09. It is important to note that while local agencies

are not legally bound to comply with NIMS metrics, it is required in order to receive federal or state public safety funding. Additionally, with the adoption of NIMS compliant Incident Command procedures by OSHA, we recommend that departments consult their legal advisor about any potential liability that may be incurred by failing to become NIMS compliant and properly implementing the approved ICS.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 grant requirements called for states and local



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## South Korean EMT studies at Ivy Tech and St. Joseph Hospital in Kokomo

Ivy Tech Community College in Kokomo is helping to improve the paramedic training program in South Korea. For nearly two years, Dr. Dong-min Shin, president of the South Korean National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Commission has been sitting in on classes at Ivy Tech and observing procedures at St. Joseph Hospital in Kokomo to learn as much about the emergency medical field in Indiana as he can.

Laurie Peters, dean of the Health Sciences Division at Ivy Tech Kokomo, heard of Shin's desire to learn EMS and contacted the college's Paramedic Science Program Director John Chalfin to see if he would be interested in hosting Shin. Chalfin agreed this would be an excellent opportunity for both of them. Shin's visit to Indiana is sponsored by both Ivy Tech Kokomo and Indiana University Kokomo.

"The South Korean government asked him to develop an EMS system," said Chalfin. "He is trying to model what we do and take it back to South Korea."

Chalfin explained that while the technology in South Korea is excellent, their delivery of emergency services is about 20 years behind.

"We don't have emergency medical dispatch, so we're hoping to learn and develop that program in South Korea," said Shin.

He also has several other goals to obtain while visiting Ivy Tech, including, developing paramedic training, having firefighters learn EMT basic, and developing the helicopter EMS program.

"Because they do not have a dispatch protocol program, the dispatchers are not able to



Shin, Durr and Chalfin discuss the difference between the EMS program at Ivy Tech and South Korea.

extend medical assistance when a call comes in," said Chalfin.

During the summer of 2008, Chalfin and Mike Durr, ambulance service coordinator at St. Joseph Hospital, visited South Korea to provide training to students at Chungju National University. They plan to return this summer to provide advanced training.

"The students knew a little bit, but didn't understand what it was like completely," said Shin. "They have no practical knowledge. They all read books, but don't know how to practice."

The purpose of the practical examination is to assess basic entry level skill competency. Chalfin and Durr were impressed with the level of commitment from the students.

"I went to South Korea to have fun, and it wasn't all that," said Durr. "We worked. We worked really hard while we were there."

"This has been a tremendous experience," said Chalfin. "I really look forward to going back."

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## Employee Spotlight - Ray Harris

Ray Harris is the exercise training manager for districts 7, 8, 9 and 10. He has been in his current position for 4 months and enjoys working in a well-developed team that supports one another. Harris is responsible for coordinating and assisting districts in training development and all aspects associated with training, including presentations, budgets, and general assistance. He also attends District Planning Council and District Task Force meetings.

Harris enjoys weight training, scuba diving, horseback riding and music. He says his favorite food varies from pizza to pasta, but



always likes ice cream. He says his personal philosophy is "why can't we all just get along!"

## Certifications Revamped

By John Buckman and Jim Abraham

The mission of the certification section is to validate, qualify and issue certifications to individuals who have earned the certification. The certification section will issue certifications after the applicant has demonstrated the ability to perform the practical skills required for the specific certification and achieve a minimum of 70% on a written examination.

Turnaround time and delivery of service are issues that are continuously evaluated and improved.

In 2008, the Fire and EMS Certification Section of the Preparedness and Training Division issued more than 24,000 certificates to public safety personnel. In addition, the staff distributed over 80,000 public safety identification numbers. Since 2002, there has been a 94% increase in the number of annual certifications issued from the State.

The State, like most local governmental units, is experiencing significant financial constraints. These financial constraints require creativity and innovation in trying to satisfy the customer. In order to best serve first responders across the state, processes were examined.

The IDHS certification section will begin an electronic course approval process on March 15, 2009. With the web-based course approval process, the primary instructor or training institution can complete the application and submit it immediately. This web-based process will reduce staff review time. The template is designed so that the primary instructor can indicate the curriculum covered during the course.

Staff will automatically be notified when a course is submitted electronically. When the course is approved an electronic notification will be sent to the applicant and the course date, sponsor, etc., will be posted to the IDHS training calendar.

A Fire Instructor I, II and III electronic application for recertification is currently available on the IDHS website at: [www.in.gov/dhs/3081.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/3081.htm). An application for recertification should be attached to an email and submitted to [firecertifications@dhs.in.gov](mailto:firecertifications@dhs.in.gov).

The first responder level certification is currently available electronically. In order to recertify your EMS first responder electronically, visit [www.in.gov/dhs/3067.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/3067.htm). **At this time, electronic recertification is**

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## Legislation to Watch

IDHS is currently watching several bills that have been presented to the Indiana General Assembly. The two bills that IDHS is primarily looking at are SB0512 which calls for the elimination of townships and SB0550 that will establish one chief executive officer that has executive powers and duties of the county. A brief summary of those two bills is included below.

### SB0512 Elimination of townships.

Abolishes, effective January 1, 2013, the offices of township trustee and township board, and transfers all township duties and responsibilities, including township assistance, fire protection, cemetery maintenance, weed control, and parks and recreation, to the county executive.

### SB0550 County government.

Provides that in counties other than Marion County, the county commissioners shall, after January 1, 2011, and before July 1, 2011, adopt

a resolution specifying whether: (1) the voters of the county shall elect a single county chief executive officer who has the executive powers and duties of the county and a county council that has the legislative and fiscal powers and duties of the county; or (2) the voters of the county shall elect a county council that is a combined county executive, legislative, and fiscal body that has the executive, legislative, and fiscal powers and duties of the county.



A complete list of bills that IDHS is involved in can be found at: [www.in.gov/dhs/files/2-26-09-09-Bills.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dhs/files/2-26-09-09-Bills.pdf).

## The Survey Says...

Results from the Hoosier Responder survey sent earlier this month created several new items in the newsletter. The survey was sent to all IDHS employees, county EMA directors, EMS service providers, and fire departments across Indiana. More than 95 percent of those completing the survey stated they read the Hoosier Responder at least one time each month. The article "From the Director's Chair" is the most liked item in the newsletter and several new ideas came out of the survey. Incorporated in this month's issue are several of those ideas, and others will be incorporated throughout the rest of the issues of the Hoosier Responder.



Your feedback on the survey is greatly appreciated and will be taken into consideration when compiling future issues of the publication. If you have not had a chance to complete the online survey, please visit: [www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=FGKDIKpaYlrNeDkHQh6KA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=FGKDIKpaYlrNeDkHQh6KA_3d_3d)

## Emergency Medical Service Spotlight - Delaware County EMS

Delaware County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) cares for 117,000 people in a 400 square mile area. This is done with 45 employees, running 5 to 6 ambulances a day out of 4 locations in Delaware County. The service averages 12,000 runs a year. This is its 30th year serving the Delaware County area.

Delaware County EMS is also the de-con team for any haz-mat incident. Personnel have trained in this area for many years and have been working with the district haz-mat team preparing for any district incident. In more recent times they have also taken on the major task of housing, caring, and organizing the district mass casualty trailer. Delaware

County EMS has been very active in recruiting team members from all over the district. This enables them to send a trailer with supplies, and also a medical team, that will be self-sufficient for over 72 hours. This team includes doctors, nurses, paramedics, and EMTs.

"The employees at Delaware County EMS continually work hard and care about those served," said Don Watson, IDHS District Manager for EMS. "Their pride and willingness to help others in need are an exemplary model of what EMS is all about."



**Delaware County EMS**  
401 East Jackson  
Muncie, IN 47305  
(765) 747-7778 - office



## Employee Spotlight - Tom Shoaff

Tom Shoaff is a senior fire and building code inspector for the Fire and Building Safety Division. He has been inspecting new construction for compliance with Indiana's construction codes and existing structures for compliance with the Indiana Fire Code for more than 16 years.

Shoaff says there is a lot of job satisfaction as an inspector. He says it is important to him to know that the grandmas' and grandpas' are safe in nursing homes, the children are protected in schools and daycares and that buildings are being constructed in a safe manner. He believes

he really does make a difference in the quality of people's lives.

When he's not inspecting, Shoaff likes to play tennis, fish and read his Bible. His favorite food is Spanish rice and shrimp, stating, "I have a good friend who is from Spain that has made authentic Spanish rice for me since I was a teen. I make it now and include large shrimp, so I get both of my favorites in one meal!"

Shoaff lives in Clinton, Indiana with his wife Paula. He has 10 grandchildren, and one more

on the way. He loves it when they call him grandpa or opa (German for grandpa).



## South Korean EMT studies at Ivy Tech and St. Joseph Hospital in Kokomo



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Shin attended Ball State University in the 1990s and was familiar with the area, which is why he welcomed the opportunity to study at Ivy Tech in Kokomo.

“Kokomo is very safe, excellent price, people very kind,” said Shin. “The Ivy Tech program is very unique in Indiana. They have one program, one training. Also, if you go to 4-year (college), it’s too long to teach. Where here, 2 years, it’s very nice. I don’t have time for 4 years. I think Ivy Tech has a great program.”

While visiting and learning at Ivy Tech, Shin has translated five textbooks and sent them to

Korea for publishing. He has also taken several lectures and translated those for use in South Korea.

As far as advancement of the exchange, Shin sees it as a long-term program.

“I’m hoping to get a house so four students at a time can come and study at Ivy Tech,” said Shin. “I think they need translation. They can read English very well, but cannot speak.”

According to Shin, Chalfin and Durr, the ultimate goal of the program is to have one national protocol in South Korea.

## IDHS Hosts Communications Training



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extremely high priority for Indiana’s participation in federal grant programs. In addition to more than \$20 million in Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grants, more than \$5.3 million in Fiscal Year 2008 State Homeland Security Program funds have been awarded to eight of Indiana’s 10 Homeland Security districts for interoperable communications enhancements.

“The statewide goal is to give all public safety professionals the ability to have

communication systems that work with each other,” said Jason Hutchens, planning division director at IDHS. “IDHS has numerous grant programs that will help provide an infusion of much-needed funding for various interoperable communications enhancement purposes.”

For a list of dates on upcoming COML trainings, please check the IDHS Training calendar at <https://oas.in.gov/hs/training/public/calendar.do>.

## Governor Requests Federal Public Assistance

Governor Mitch Daniels requested that President Barack Obama provide federal public assistance for 15 counties that sustained damage



by a severe winter storm that began January 26 earlier this month. A decision on whether aid will be provided has not yet been determined.

The counties are Clark, Crawford, Dubois, Floyd, Gibson, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Orange, Perry, Spencer, Switzerland, Vanderburgh, Warrick and Washington.

If approved, public assistance means state government and local governments and certain non-profit organizations in these counties would be eligible to apply for federal assistance to pay 75 percent of the approved cost of debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster and repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, buildings and electrical cooperatives.

The damage is a result of a severe winter storm which deposited heavy amounts of snow and ice coupled with high winds and a resultant warm up that caused flooding.

## NENA Conference

The 2009 National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Indianapolis Conference will be March 30 – April



3, 2009. Topics covered will include: Handling Search and Rescue/Active Shooter Incidents, School Violence, Handling High Profile Media Events, Domestic Violence, the Vendor Show, Dealing w/ Alzheimer’s Patients, and special seminars provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for law enforcement officers and dispatchers.

Additional sessions will include: Indiana Natural Disasters—Lessons Learned, Indiana Wireless Board Update, Dispatchers and Dangerous Drugs, ENP Is It For Me, EMD Quality Assurance, IDACS Update, Weapons of Mass Destruction, LifeLine Helicopter, Video Relay Service/IP Relay, and Pro Phone. For more information about the conference, visit the [NENA website](#).

## From the Director's Chair

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jurisdictions to adopt NIMS by executive order, proclamation, resolution, or legislation. During that time, the State of Indiana and every Indiana county agreed that they have complied with this requirement. The FFY2007 NIMS compliance included the completion of IS-700, ICS-100 and ICS-200 as a Tier I requirement (mandatory) for the appropriate level of personnel specified in the guidance.

The NIMS five-year training plan shows that the completion of ICS-300 is scheduled to be a Tier I requirement for FFY2008. ICS 400 is now a FFY2009 requirement. This changes the previously published information that required both to have been completed by the end of this fiscal year. Remember that the guidance indicates that ICS-300 is required for middle and upper management and ICS-400 for those serving in Command and General Staff positions, not for everyone in your agency.

The following suggestions are for local departments as NIMS compliance training issues arise:

- Each department has the responsibility to "self-select, self-certify, and self-regulate" which of their personnel attends which level of training. Much like OSHA compliance, NIMS compliance and justification is the responsibility of the department. So, the department head has the responsibility (and potential liability) for identifying which staff member needs to complete which level of ICS training. The department head is also responsible for justifying those decisions if challenged by USDHS or OSHA.
- Agency heads must be aware of the types of incidents their personnel are trained to handle and be prepared to require the hand off of command at incidents they are not trained to handle. Just as EMS protocol requires that a responder hand off patient care to someone with a higher level of training and capability, (e.g., an EMT-B turns over patient care to a paramedic), an incident commander should turn over command authority to someone more qualified when they arrive on scene if, and when, the circumstances of the incident dictate the need for a more highly trained and qualified incident commander. The incident commander also has the responsibility to call in properly trained personnel if the incident exceeds their level of training and capability.

Those who serve in positions of leadership in public safety have an obligation to give due diligence to the reduction of risk to their

subordinates' safety and the potential exposure to liability for their department and governmental entity.

Application of risk management principles to our navigation of the ICS and the requisite training associated seem to lead us to these conclusions:

- If an incident commander does not hand off command when not qualified to handle an incident, the incident commander could impair response efforts and could expose the agency, and governmental entity, to liability (such as being fined by OSHA or even being subject to a civil lawsuit).
- If a department does not have anyone trained to ICS-300 and ICS-400, then the staff are not qualified to manage a type 4 incident if any command and general staff positions are activated.
  - This view appears to be supported in OSHA Compliance Directive CPL:02-02-073 (August 27, 2007).
  - A recent Indiana OSHA action against an Indiana fire department imposed a fine for a violation citing "...firefighter training was not conducted often enough to ensure that firefighters perform interior fire suppression with adequate manpower, personal protective equipment and adequate incident command procedures."

IDHS has been supporting NIMS compliant ICS training for nearly three years and continues to support ICS-related training in a variety of ways. By the end of 2008, the Training Division at IDHS completed at least one ICS-300 and one ICS-400 class in each homeland security district.

The Center for Domestic Preparedness, Emergency Management Institute, and National Fire Academy all offer training in ICS-300 and ICS-400 at their training sites. They provide the travel, training, lodging, and meals to state and local organizations free of charge. There are also other trainers around the state who meet the instructor qualifications of the NIMS Integration Center but have not completed the IDHS train-the-trainer course and do not receive support or recognition from IDHS. These instructors may conduct the training, but must retain their own training records and other required documentation to support a federal audit or legal challenge.

The IDHS Consolidated Training Calendar lists many available ICS training opportunities. Go to the IDHS web site at [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs) and click on the Training Opportunities link in the upper right hand portion of the page to check



# FEMA

out course availability in your area. Remember, ICS-100, ICS-200, IS-700 and IS-800 are still available online through the [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) web-site.

The Training Division's plan for conducting NIMS/ICS training is to offer the latest courses as soon as they are released to us by FEMA in order to get a base of local responders qualified to attend a Train-the-Trainer course on the subject. Once the Train-the-Trainer courses become available, the training division then focuses half of our resources on offering courses and the other half on getting local instructors through the Train-the-Trainer courses.

In conclusion, every public safety agency or department in the State of Indiana is responsible for first responder training based on their risk analysis, capabilities, and the duties responders will be assigned during an emergency. Response personnel should not perform any emergency response operation unless they have been trained to the level required by their job function or responsibility and have been determined by their department as having completed the necessary training. Failure to train is a legal challenge often used against public safety agencies when incidents are not handled properly and fines from OSHA or other regulatory agencies are levied for inadequate training or improper actions.

Each department head should be aware of the different types of incidents and identify which types of incidents they and their agency are prepared to respond to. If the expectations are only to respond to Type 5 incidents, there is less need to have a person(s) trained in ICS-300 and ICS-400. However, the chief should be aware that if a Type 4, Type 3, Type 2, or Type 1 incident does occur in the jurisdiction, the chief will be expected to hand over the command of the incident to another incident commander who is qualified to handle it. Otherwise, the chief and department could face consequences from the judicial system, OSHA and another regulatory agency for non-compliance.

For more information, go to [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or to [www.in.gov/dhs/2559.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/2559.htm). You may also contact the IDHS NIMS point of contact, David Barrabee at [dbarrabee@dhs.in.gov](mailto:dbarrabee@dhs.in.gov) or the IDHS Training Division.

## Certifications Revamped

*(Continued from page 2)*

available **ONLY** for first responder certifications. By recertifying first responders via email, the time frame in which certifications are received has decreased drastically.

The production of electronic certificates is also a priority of the certifications section. A project work plan is in progress and will be implemented by early summer. The electronic certificate will look similar to the current certificates and will be emailed to both the responder and their employer.

The certifications section receives numerous inquiries on a daily basis. Some of those questions include:

### What is the PSID number? Why is it needed?

The Public Safety Identification number is for all public safety personnel who hold a fire, EMA, code, blaster, law enforcement or EMS certification with the State of Indiana. It replaces the old certificate numbers that firefighters and EMS personnel used. The PSID is used to identify your record in the new ACADIS database. It is not a certification nor does it indicate a level of certification. There are many people in the system who have a PSID number that have no current or valid certifications. If you do

not have a PSID or have a question about your PSID, email [PSIDQuestions@dhs.in.gov](mailto:PSIDQuestions@dhs.in.gov). If you received a certification after August 2008, your PSID is listed directly below your name on the certificate.

### When is the recertification paperwork due?

You have until midnight the day before your certification expires to send it in. As long as the envelope is postmarked prior to when the certification expires, it will be accepted and processed. We recommend that you send it as early as possible. If received at least 30 days prior to expiration, it will leave plenty of time for IDHS certification to process and return your new certification. This will prevent any lapse in your ability to provide proof of your level of certification.

### Is Firefighter testing at Ivy Tech mandatory?

Testing for Fire certifications is now available at Ivy Tech, but is not mandatory. There are currently nine tests available with plans to add new tests as they are validated. The paper testing process requires a four to six week processing time from when all required paperwork is received. If using Ivy Tech, your results will be available the minute you finish the test and your certification will be processed within three weeks.

## IDHS Participates in Food Drive

IDHS employees participated in a food drive to benefit hungry Indiana citizens during the month of February. The Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers food drive, sponsored by First Lady Cheri Daniels, benefits regional food banks and food pantries.



A structure building contest with canned food, was held on Monday, February 23 and four IDHS employees put together their sculpture of "There's More Than Corn in Indiana." The teams had 20 minutes for construction. The IDHS team of Gail Fennell, Cindy Cleveland, Angie Biggs, and Kelli Davidson placed third in the overall competition.

IDHS employees collected more than 1600 cans of food and over \$120 to help benefit Gleaners Food Bank in Indianapolis.

## National Trends in EMS

By Julia Fox

A current topic of much discussion within the emergency medical services (EMS) community is the national effort to move the EMS system, including the educational components, toward national cohesiveness. These discussions should not be new; in fact, the issues have been gaining more exposure since 1996 when the initial documents were released into publication. Currently, this has brought about much debate within the Indiana EMS community, as many of the projections and recommendations from a national level would involve a great deal of change in our state's existing EMS system from an educational, certification, and regulatory standpoint. **In the State of Indiana, no decisions have been made and no formal action has been taken on the future levels of EMS certification.**

The Indiana EMS Commission has a technical advisory committee which currently consists of an appointed group of EMS educators who comprise the EMS Education Committee. The tasking of the committee is to review topics/issues delegated to them by the commission and formulate recommendations based upon knowledge and expertise. Further, the EMS Education Committee has formed a

subcommittee specifically tasked with the future of Indiana's EMS Education. This group is currently reviewing the national documents, just one of which is the National Scope of Practice Model.

The Indiana certified first responders' ability to utilize cervical collars and long backboards has been a big topic of discussion recently. This is a skill set that currently is NOT in the National Standard Curriculum, which is taught in Indiana first responder courses. However, it was brought to the attention of the Indiana EMS Commission that this skill set is being practiced by Indiana certified first responders. In an effort to minimize the liability to the first responders and to continue to provide this vital skill set to customers, the patients who access the EMS system, the Indiana EMS Commission tasked the EMS Education Committee to formulate a process to validate the knowledge and skills of Indiana certified first responders and also future Indiana first responders who may enter into and complete an approved training course.

The EMS Education Committee is bringing its recommendations to the Indiana EMS Commission at the next meeting on March 27, 2009 at Brownsburg Fire Territory, 1000 EST. Additionally, there has been discussion

surrounding the perceived deletion of skill sets at the emergency medical technician (EMT) level with regard to non-visualized airways.

Please note that the reflection of knowledge, skills and abilities noted in the National Scope of Practice and EMS education standards are a basement and not a ceiling. This means that the Indiana EMS Commission, with the input of EMS providers, can decide to add additional skill sets to the recommendations set forth in the document. If you have concerns regarding the levels of certification, skill sets, and educational models, please construct a letter and submit it to the Indiana EMS Commission, the correspondence may be sent to the IDHS offices at 302 W. Washington Street Room E208, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

For an overview of the history of the National movement on these topics, visit: [www.in.gov/dhs/files/2-26-09\\_EMS\\_Ed\\_Excerpts.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dhs/files/2-26-09_EMS_Ed_Excerpts.pdf).

To view a listing of the most current links to access the documents of discussion, visit: [www.in.gov/dhs/files/2-26-09\\_EMS\\_Links.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dhs/files/2-26-09_EMS_Links.pdf).



## Traffic Control During Disaster Declarations



Often times during a disaster, local governments may declare a local disaster emergency declaration. The local entity encourages motorists to stay off the roadways so

that emergency crews can more safely and effectively respond. Many times, local law enforcement is unsure of how to enforce these declarations, because the actual declarations themselves have no penalty information within them; this myth and several other interesting Facts about Emergency Orders were recently addressed by George Thompson, general counsel for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

a. Under IC 10-14-3-29, a local disaster emergency may be declared by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision. When the principal executive officer of a political subdivision declares a local disaster emergency, a State of Emergency exists within that political subdivision.

b. IC 10-14-3-6 states that, for the purposes of Chapter 3 (Indiana Emergency Management and Disaster law), the term

“political subdivision” has the meaning set forth in IC 36-1-2-13. Under that statute, the term “political subdivision” means city, town, township, county, school corporation, library district, local housing authority, public transportation corporation, local building authority, local hospital or corporation, local airport authority or other separate local governmental entity that may sue and be sued. (See IC 10-14-3-6, IC 36-1-2-13, IC 36-1-2-10, IC 36-1-2-11, IC 36-1-2-18).

c. When the county commissioners or a mayor issues such a declaration of local disaster emergency, it activates the response and recovery aspects of all applicable local disaster emergency plans; and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the plans. A local disaster emergency may not be continued or renewed for more than seven (7) days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision.

d. At times, travel restrictions may be included within a disaster emergency declaration. During a snow-related disaster emergency, this is typically done to keep the public off of certain or all roads if travel conditions are unsafe on those roads, help ensure that all or certain roads are kept

clear for use by emergency vehicles, and/or allow snowplows to clear roads.

e. Each disaster emergency is different and different factors will impact the decisions made by local and state officials in responding to the incident. Once a disaster emergency declaration is filed in the office of the clerk of the political subdivision (required by IC 10-14-3-22), the disaster declaration would have the full force and effect of law and, under IC 10-14-3-24, shall be enforced by the law enforcement authorities of the state and political subdivisions.

f. A local law enforcement officer seeking to enforce the local disaster emergency declaration may charge the person with a violation of IC 10-14-3-34, a class B misdemeanor, if the person's violation of the declaration was committed knowingly, intentionally or recklessly. The city or county issuing the local disaster emergency declaration may have also enacted a local ordinance establishing a penalty for its violation.



## Emergency Management Agency Spotlight - Crawford County



Kent Barrow has been the Crawford County emergency management director since March 2006. He also serves as chairman on the Local Emergency Planning Committee and is a volunteer firefighter. Barrow is also a member of District 10 task force incident management team and is the vice chairman of the district planning council.

Barrow is currently working with several different organizations and presenting preparedness classes helping the citizens of Crawford County to be better prepared during a disaster. Barrow has been involved in one presidential disaster and several local disaster declarations, the first after 11 days on the job.

Barrow has received his Professional Emergency Management Certification and has one more class to complete for his senior level.

The Crawford County Emergency Management Agency, under Barrow's

direction, has accomplished the following:

- Administered over \$433,161.74 in IDHS and fire act grant monies for interoperable communications.
- All first responder agencies in the county are now fully 800mhz radio equipped on a daily basis.
- In 2007 convinced the county to purchase five additional outdoor warning sirens.
- Helped the county upgrade the 911 central dispatch equipment.
- Has distributed weather radios to all licensed daycares in the county.
- Has helped all agencies become NIMS Compliant.
- Purchased a backup generator for the county repeater site.
- Has improved the working relationship among the county agencies.



**Kent Barrow, Director**

306 Oak Hill Circle

PO Box 316

English, IN 47118

(812) 338-4340 - office

ccema@crawfordcountyin.com

Barrow credits much of his success to his wife, Jan, of 10 years and their four children. He also acknowledges the strong working relationship he has built with the county commissioners and county council as an integral part of his accomplishments.

## Resources Aid Kentucky



By Mark Livingston

On Sunday, February 1, 2009, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security received an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request for a five-person Emergency Operations Center (EOC) support team, for the Kentucky State EOC, from the Kentucky Department of Emergency Management.

The team consisted of three IDHS employees, an Indiana National Guardsman, and a member of Indiana Task Force One. The request for assistance was received before 12:00 hrs, and the team was assembled and en route to Frankfurt, KY by 16:00 hrs.

The Team's primary mission was to relieve key Kentucky Emergency Management (KyEM) personnel and to facilitate the much-needed rehab of staff. On Monday, February 2, team members shadowed the individuals that they would replace beginning the following day. The organizational structure of the Kentucky State EOC was significantly different than the Indiana State EOC, which proved to be challenging for the Indiana contingent. However, the team adapted to the circumstances, and was able to quickly integrate and relieve KyEM staff for rehab.

While engaged in the mission, KyEM personnel requested that the Indiana team make suggestions to improve their process, information flow, and response effectiveness. Minor changes were implemented in logistics, operations, and EOC management generally, as well as in the use of WebEOC. Some of the challenges that the State EOC personnel were facing, included: fragmented information flow, lack of visibility on the various missions being filled by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Kentucky National Guard, and the State, difficulty obtaining accurate information about all shelter locations, handling questions from citizens about federal aid, and public fear regarding the dissemination of Meals Ready to Eat (MRE), which were thought to contain "tainted" peanut butter.

The KyEM staff was friendly, professional, and eager to learn from the Indiana contingent. Overall, the mission was a success. In addition to the valuable experience gained working in another state's EOC, the opportunity to visit the National Logistical Staging Area was also made available. Prior to leaving Kentucky, the Indiana contingent visited this National Logistics Staging Area at Fort Campbell. During the visit, a tour was provided, and the team was given a comprehensive brief by both USACE and FEMA personnel.

## Training—It's How We Practice

By Ken "Woody" Woodall

An officer approached a suspicious subject who was standing in the shadows. As the officer spoke, the subject moved ever so slightly revealing a reflective object in his right hand. As the officer focused on the objective, he realized it was a gun and the barrel was moving towards him. The officer drew his firearm and in the same breath ordered the subject to drop the gun. Tap tap..... Tap tap..... Tap tap! The officer fired six rounds, center mass, in two shot intervals, just as he had been trained. The ability to assess the situation quickly and react saved the officer's life.

A medical responder talks to a patient in the back of an ambulance; the patient loses consciousness and begins to display signs of cyanosis. This ashen blue color is a visualization a seasoned medical responder has observed many times and a new responder will never forget. A quick glance at the heart monitor and the medical responder observes that the patient has gone into a life threatening heart rhythm. Within a few seconds, which seems like a lifetime, the medical responder delivers a series of shocks to the patient which brings back a weak pulse and a viable heart rhythm. Again, the knowledge and skills instilled in the EMS professional through training saves another life.

In both of the events mentioned above, the fact that instincts and repetitive training were employed in reaction to the situations should



serve us well as an example of the need for continual training. Not only does the need exist, but the ritual of constant and repetitive training to ensure that our reactions become instinctive should be the goal of every public safety or emergency response entity. The old adage, "If you don't use it, you lose it" is a true statement, especially when one attempts to employ those skills that are not called upon on a daily basis during the performance of our jobs.

It is probably safe to say that most humans are creatures of habit. People live within routines and very seldom are there deviations from those routines. Daily lives can be measured by these routines in a lot of instances. The key to routine is the evaluation of how productive we are throughout the day. Some are very rigid and some are very lax.

How do you approach training? Do you live and breathe it, or find it bothersome at best? At each end of this spectrum are two very

[\(Continued on page 11\)](#)

## Employee Spotlight - John Steel



John Steel is the Indiana Emergency Response Commission (IERC) and Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) coordinator for IDHS. Steel has been with the agency for 13 years, and in his current position for two. Steel works with the LEPCs to assist them in meeting their reporting requirements and supporting the IERC. Prior to becoming the IERC/LEPC Coordinator, Steel was the earthquake program manager in the mitigation

section of the Emergency Response and Recovery Division. Steel enjoys being able to work one on one with the LEPCs and helping inactive LEPCs become compliant.

In his spare time, Steel likes to attend hockey games, photography and travel including trips to the Canadian Arctic. He resides in Noblesville with his wife Darcey and their two sons, Jacob and William. They play hockey for Fishers Youth Hockey and Hamilton Southeastern, so they spend most weekends at hockey rinks in and around Indiana. Also, over the past several years, the Steel family has hosted Jr. hockey players for the Indiana Ice. All are now playing college hockey and one has been drafted to the National Hockey League.

## CERT Train the Trainer Courses Scheduled for 2009



A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) can be a valuable resource to you in responding to local emergencies in your jurisdiction. CERT volunteers receive training in fire suppression, emergency medical care, light search and rescue, and principles of emergency management.

In 2009, IDHS will hold four CERT Train-the-Trainer (TtT) courses. The dates are: April 3-5, June 26-28, August 18-20 and October 2-4. The three day, 24 hour courses will be held at the IDHS Training Facility at the Grissom Aeroplex in Miami County. Registration is available now and each course is limited to 25 students. Course information and applications are posted on the IDHS Consolidated Training Calendar.

CERT is a local program. Please consider sending one or more of your firefighters, law enforcement officials, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and/or EMA staff to a CERT TtT course this year. IDHS will certify those who successfully complete the TtT course to teach CERT volunteers.

If you have questions about the CERT program, the Train-the-Trainer courses, or the Citizen Corps program, please contact Alan Scott at [ascott@dhs.in.gov](mailto:ascott@dhs.in.gov) or (317) 234-5340.

## Severe Weather Preparedness Week



Governor Mitch Daniels has proclaimed March 15 through 21, 2009 as Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Indiana. This week is also National Flood Safety Week. A statewide test of communication systems on Wednesday, March 18 between 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. EDT.

The goal of Severe Weather Preparedness Week is to better educate people about the hazards of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, and to help everyone be prepared when severe weather occurs.

For more information on Severe Weather Preparedness Week, please visit the IDHS website at: [www.in.gov/dhs/3163.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/3163.htm).

## Haz-Mat Trailer Training in Northern Indiana

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security's new hazardous materials training trailer has been used several times in 2009. Most recently, the Huntington Fire Department used it to simulate a railroad car with a hazardous materials leak. The trailer has assorted hazmat kits to perform three key scenarios to patch and clean up hazardous chemicals.

"We're lacking on training stations," explained Huntington County Emergency Management Agency Director Brandon Taylor. "It helps because it provides all the skills that we have to do. It provides the actual props that we need to use so we don't have to use our own tools out of our own equipment. It's a great training opportunity."

The trailer will be in Huntington through the end of the month.



Huntington firefighters work together in a simulated live burn for training on how to handle gas fires and other hazardous materials. Photo by: The Herald-Press

## ISP Sergeant Receives IDHS Director's Award

Indiana State Police (ISP) Sergeant Jack Bedan was presented the IDHS Director's Award by Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center Executive Director Monte McKee and staff in the fusion center February 24, 2009. Sergeant Bedan served as a watch officer in the fusion center from December 1, 2006 until November 2, 2008.

Watch officer staffing is provided by various police and criminal justice agencies who partner with the IIFC to improve information and intelligence sharing practices. Agencies participating in the Watch Officer Program at this time are: ISP, Indiana State Excise Police, Indiana Department of Correction, Marion County Sheriff's Department, Purdue University Police Department, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis Police Department, and Fishers Police Department. Being a watch officer is a full-time assignment to the fusion center. Watch officer duties include:

- Managing the flow of intelligence information through the IIFC.
- Ensuring the proper communication of data to appropriate law enforcement personnel will be immediate.
- Monitoring information to safeguard state and federal laws concerning its disclosure are followed.
- Ensuring compliance with 28 CFR part 23 and I.C. 5-2-4.



(L-R) Bryant Lucas, Monte McKee, Jack Bedan, Doug Johnson and Max Reynolds.

- Managing requests for information (RFI) and requests for service (RFS) along with tips and threats.
- Receiving, validating, classifying, and assigning inquiries to analysts.
- Monitoring all available media sources, intelligence sources, and homeland security resources for timely identification of incidents and patterns.
- Monitoring daily activity of the analysts and special project assignments.
- Creating reports for law enforcement, public and private sector, and senior government leadership.

Agencies interested in participating as a watch officer may contact IIFC Executive Director Monte McKee at 317-233-9461.

IDHS extends its best wishes to Sergeant Bedan.

## Web-based Software System Being Used in Indiana

Indiana will be the only state in the U.S. using one software system for both emergency medical services and fire run statistics with fh.net, a web-based, server software system.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Division of Fire and Building Safety (DFBS) received a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) grant to upgrade the Indiana Emergency Medical Services (EMS) data element system for emergency medical runs. This new system, the National Emergency Medical Service Information System (NEMSIS), is a standard data collection practice for EMS. It is similar to the National Fire Information Reporting System (NFIRS), in that one data system for all fire responses, the NEMSIS is one data system for all EMS runs.

Using the \$145,000 NHTSA FY2007 grant funds, both the Indiana EMS Data Registry Program and the Indiana Fire Risk Safety Program will be upgrading their emergency response data programs. Indiana will be the first state using one software system for both EMS and fire runs in the newly purchased web-based, server software system called fh.net.

The fh.net software system, developed by ACS/FireHouse Software, Inc., gives IDHS three options to receive emergency response runs from Indiana providers. The data can be downloaded in the current format, as attachments to e-mails, on diskettes, on CDs, or by the new method where EMS and fire department clients can sign on-line to the fh.net web-server. The server allows up to three hundred clients to sign-on simultaneously, and

each Indiana provider will have access only to their data runs. This web-based server protects the run information by meeting the stringent patient confidentiality both in the Indiana statutes and in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations.

The new on-line system features three modules for all clients: the fire incident report, the EMS report, and the staff management section. This is similar to the present state-supplied software that upgraded 900 EMS and fire departments. The NHTSA FY2006 funds, \$140,000, brought the Indiana emergency response departments to one software version. Previously, there were over five different versions of the state-supplied software being used in Indiana. This made some departments, with the oldest versions, left without the newest software features, and state medicine, procedure and hospital updates. Now, these users are on the same page of music!

The NHTSA grant also allows Indiana certified emergency providers to report their data to IDHS by using a private vendor's software that is nationally certified by the NEMSIS Tactical Assistance Center (TAC). The NEMSIS TAC, a department within the University of Utah, is contracted with NHTSA to establish the NEMSIS data element set, test and certify software vendor NEMSIS programs, and operates a NEMSIS website. The website, [www.nemsis.org](http://www.nemsis.org), has the NEMSIS data dictionary, the testing procedures, and the certified vendor software. There are two certifications a company may apply for; the Gold Standard, all the 400 data elements are

available, or the Silver Standard, only the 86 national required EMS run data elements. The Silver Standard's 86 elements are cleansed run data, that is, no patient identifiable information is disclosed.



The NEMSIS data elements are formatted in XML, extended markup language, which is already being used by the U.S. Department of Justice. The Silver Standard 86 required data elements, in the XML format, can be easily transferred to the state, to the NEMSIS TAC, and to NHTSA without any data reformatting or transfer bridging required by either the user client or the receiving organization. This data file process is similar to an MS Word document being pasted into an MS Excel spreadsheet or into an MS Publisher document.

Included in the NHTSA FY 2007 grant, IDHS has contracted with ACS/FireHouse Software to conduct 20 training classes throughout Indiana. There will be two four-hour training sessions in each of the 10 IDHS districts. Both the IDHS fire and EMS reporting program managers will be at the sessions to assist the attendees in the fh.net web-server based training. For more information on the training sites, dates, and times, please visit the IDHS web page, [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs), and click on the web server training button.

## Sprinkler Systems Save Lives

Properly installed and maintained automatic fire sprinkler systems help save lives. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), fire sprinkler systems react quickly and can dramatically reduce the heat, flames and smoke produced in a fire. Fire sprinklers have been around for more than a century, protecting commercial and industrial properties and public buildings, such as hotels and hospitals and high-rises. The same life-saving technology that protects these buildings is also available for homes, where 80 percent of all fire deaths occur.

"There's no question that a residential fire sprinkler system can be a life-saving investment," said Jim Greeson, Indiana State Fire Marshal. "According to NFPA, more than 8 in 10 fire deaths occur in homes, yet the likelihood of someone dying in a home fire is cut in half when sprinklers are present."

Some facts and figures when it comes to purchasing a home fire sprinkler system are included below:

- When sprinklers are present, the chances of dying in a fire are reduced by one-half to three-fourths and the average property loss per fire is cut by one-half to two-thirds, compared to fires where sprinklers are not present.
- Sprinklers typically reduce the chances of dying in a home fire by one half to two thirds in any kind of property where they are used. Together with smoke alarms, sprinklers cut the risk of dying in a home fire 82 percent, relative to having neither.
- NFPA has no record of a fire killing more than two people in a completely sprinklered public assembly, educational, institutional or

residential building where the system was working properly.

- Sprinklers are highly reliable. When present in the fire area, they operate in all but 7% of fires large enough to activate the system. Human error was a factor in almost all of the failures. The system was shut-off in almost two-thirds of the failures.
- Only one or two sprinkler heads were activated in 81% of the fires with wet pipe sprinkler systems operating and in 56% of the fires with dry pipe systems operating.

For more information on sprinkler systems, please visit the NFPA website at: [www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/](http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/).



# Fire Department Spotlight (Wabash County) Pleasant Twp. Fire Rescue



Pleasant Township Fire Rescue came under control of the Township Trustee in 1950. In 1989, planning was initiated to build a new fire station. More than five years later, in February 1995, Pleasant Township Fire Department moved into its new six bay station in Laketon.

Kent Trickle has served as the fire chief of Pleasant Township Fire Rescue since 1974. Currently the department has 18 firefighters/first responders and two emergency medical technicians (EMTs) for a total staff of 20. The department has two engines, one tanker and one grass unit. In March of 2009, a new rescue truck and hydraulic rescue tools will be added.

The department averages 200 runs per year,

which includes both medical and other emergencies. The firefighters receive ongoing training and the department averages 1,000 hours in training per year. They have mutual aid agreements with the area departments and provide them with assistance when needed.

In 1993, the advisory board and township trustee hired a full time driver for the day shift due to a lack of people working in the community who could take a fire truck to the scene of an emergency. Response times during the day have improved greatly due to this move.

For more information on Pleasant Township Fire Rescue, visit [pleasanttpwfirerescue.org](http://pleasanttpwfirerescue.org).



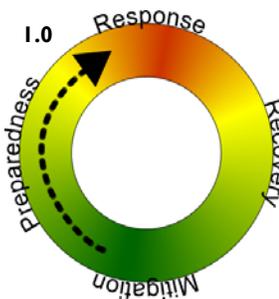
**Kent Trickle, Chief**  
10459 N. Ogden Road  
PO Box 195  
Laketon, IN 46943  
(260) 982-8745 - office  
[pleasantfire@northcc.net](mailto:pleasantfire@northcc.net)

## Training—It’s How We Practice

*(Continued from page 8)*

different people. The lack of enthusiasm to train and build ones capabilities as a professional can be a dangerous proposition and a disservice to citizens.

To understand the importance of training, one must understand where it fits within the emergency response cycle. Illustration 1.0 is a simple depiction of the emergency response cycle. Training fits within the preparedness component of this cycle.



Response is the part of the cycle that is well known. As a public safety professional, you have probably experienced this more than once. Recovery may not be as familiar to the typical emergency or public safety responder, yet, it is still a critical component of the emergency response cycle. Mitigation lowers or lessens the risks faced. This component of the emergency response cycle is employed every day. An example of this would be the police officer putting on his bullet resistant vest before the beginning of his shift. It may not prevent the officer from being shot, but it will potentially mitigate the chance of death by the shooting. Lastly is the preparedness component of the emergency response cycle, which leads to training.

To train well is to have a well thought out training and exercise program, and yes there is a cycle for this as well. The training and exercise cycle is a systematic approach to an effective training and exercise program as shown in illustration 2.0.



The complete training and exercise cycle shows that the conduct or the actual act of training is just a small part of a larger program. Does your agency have a program in place? Does your agency prioritize and identify the capabilities that are integral to your occupation? Does your agency exercise your procedures, policies and training capabilities? Does your agency develop improvement plans and ensure those plans are carried out? How well and how often do you train and exercise?

Remember, “it is how we practice” which impacts how we respond.

Vince Lombardi said it best, “Practice does not

make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect.” Will any public safety responder be perfect? Maybe not, but, “If we strive for perfection, we may just reach excellence.”

How well one improves with practice depends on several factors, such as the frequency it is engaged in. Generally, the more one practices, the faster one improves. If an individual does not practice often enough, reinforcement fades and he or she is likely to forget what was learned. Therefore, practice should be planned and scheduled to ensure enough of it is performed to reach training objectives. How much practice is required depends upon the nature of the activity, and upon each individual. Some people improve on a particular activity faster than others. Skills fade with non-use. The phenomenon is often referred to as being “out of practice.” Practice is therefore performed (on a regular basis) to keep skills and abilities honed.

Today is a great day to start a training and exercise program if your agency does not have one. It is a good day to sit down and evaluate the program you may already have in place. Regardless of where you or your agency stands as it relates to training, there is always room for improvement. Strive to become better at what you do. Seek the knowledge, skills and abilities that will make you a better responder. Seek excellence. Ralph Marston stated, “Excellence is not a skill, it is an attitude.” What is your attitude?

# Calendar of Events



## 3 MAR

Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission  
Indiana Government Center South—  
Conference Room B  
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

## 4 MAR

Indiana Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules Board Meeting  
Indiana Government Center South—  
Teleconference Media Center  
10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

## 4 MAR

Counter Terrorism & Security Council General Session  
Indiana Government Center South—  
Conference Room C  
11:15 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

## 4 MAR

Counter Terrorism & Security Council Executive Session  
Indiana Government Center South—  
Conference Room C  
10:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

## 6 MAR

Indiana Elevator Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Meeting  
Indiana Government Center South—  
Conference Room I  
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

## 9 MAR

Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education Meeting  
Vincennes Township Fire Department—1265  
South Hart Street—Vincennes, IN 47591  
6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

## 9 MAR

Indiana Emergency Response Commission Meeting  
Indiana Government Center South—  
Conference Room I  
1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

## 11 MAR

Indiana Swimming Pool Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission  
Indiana Government Center South—  
Conference Room 4  
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

## 19 MAR

Indiana Homeland Security Foundation Committee  
Indiana Government Center South—  
Conference Room D  
10:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



## Happy March Birthday!

- |                     |                       |                     |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Fred Daffer     | 12 - Jerry Gordan     | 23 - Doug Cooke     |
| 2 - Joe Hardy       | 13 - William Doan     | 24 - Pam Chadsey    |
| 4 - Andy Zirkle     | 14 - Don Watson       | 26 - Jennifer Payne |
| Margie Prysock      | 18 - Carl Deel        | John Reid           |
| 10 - Scott Lyon     | Tom Nowaki            | 28 - Dave Francour  |
| Robin Phillips      | 19 - Lewis Heideman   |                     |
| 11 - Arvin Copeland | 22 - Shelly Wakefield |                     |
| Jeff Gabbard        | Joe Romero            |                     |



## Indiana Department of Homeland Security

302 West Washington Street  
Indiana Government Center South  
Room E208  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 232-3980 or (800) 669-7362



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Please direct any questions or comments to the  
IDHS Public Information Office at (317) 234-6713 or [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov).