



# Hoosier Responder

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## Promoting Preparedness Across Indiana

Fires, H1N1 flu, severe weather and floods pose continuing threats to Hoosier lives and property. IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott encourages all Hoosier citizens to join in the effort of being prepared. "During a disaster, being able to take care of your own needs, even for a short time, will help public safety professionals devote resources to assist those who need them most," says Wainscott.



### What we are doing:

- IDHS is in the process of giving nearly two dozen interviews with television and radio broadcasters throughout the state. Interviews focus on the need for Hoosiers to take individual responsibility for their level of personal preparedness and give listeners tips on how and where they can go to get prepared.
- Pre-Recorded Public Safety Alerts are also being distributed state-wide to radio broadcasters. Listen here. Watch [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs) for a link.
- IDHS will soon begin an internal campaign to promote employee preparedness. As part of this campaign, employees will be asked use a preparedness tagline and a link to our website on agency emails.
- IDHS is also coordinating health specific messaging with the Indiana State Department of Health and communicating these messages through the state public safety twitter account. [www.twitter.com/INpublicSafety](http://www.twitter.com/INpublicSafety).

### What you can do:

- We encourage every emergency management agency, fire department, emergency medical service and other public safety entity to make themselves available to local media, schools, businesses and other organizations for presentations or interviews.
- Follow [www.twitter.com/INpublicSafety](http://www.twitter.com/INpublicSafety) to receive critical communications about significant scale disasters, emergencies or public safety events, and encourage your constituents to do the same.
- Make sure your loved ones are just as informed and prepared as we strive to encourage the general public to be.
- Let us know how you are preparing and how you are encouraging others to prepare. Email [enorcross@dhs.in.gov](mailto:enorcross@dhs.in.gov).

Visit [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs) and click on "Get prepared" for more information. ■

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## From the Director's Chair -Executive Director Joseph Wainscott

Over the past few weeks, IDHS has received confirmation that \$8,748,388 in federal hazard mitigation grants has been allocated for the acquisition of damaged homes, property and other structures susceptible to repeated flooding. These grants are the culmination of much collaborative effort, partnership and teamwork among IDHS, FEMA and the various impacted cities and counties. The awarding of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds represents a key advancement in continuing disaster recovery and mitigation efforts.

efforts, and illustrate the importance of local, state and federal governments working together for the benefit of citizens. The acquisition will help prevent future structural losses, emergency repair costs and the financial obligations of federal, state and local governments.

Removing flood-prone structures from private ownership eliminates the threat of future damage, and also eliminates health and safety risks for homeowners and public safety personnel. It also does away with the need for

HMGP projects like this are the cornerstone of disaster prevention

emergency response services, subsidized flood insurance and federal disaster assistance by reducing or eliminating losses from future disasters.



HMGP funds may be used for projects that will reduce or eliminate the losses from future disasters. Projects must provide a long-term solution to a problem, for example, elevation of a home to reduce the risk of flood damage as opposed to buying sandbags and pumps to fight an immediate threat. Funds may be used to protect either public or private property or to purchase property that has been subjected to, or is in danger of, repetitive damage.

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## Fire Prevention and Safety Grants: Application Period Now Open



Applications for 2009 Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant must be received by October 23, 2009.

Fire Prevention and Safety Grants support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and fire-related hazards. The grants are competitive, and their primary goal is to target high-risk populations. Grant awards are made in order to mitigate high incidences of death and injury, and to carry out research for improving firefighter safety.

Fire prevention projects supported by these grants include smoke alarm installation, fire prevention and public safety education campaigns, juvenile fire-setter interventions, media campaigns, and arson prevention and

awareness programs. Organizations that are eligible to apply under the research activity should consult the program guidance for detailed information on priorities and areas of emphasis.

An applicant tutorial for the fire prevention activity is available at

[www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com). The applicant tutorial will provide an overview of the fire prevention funding priorities and evaluation criteria, and walk you through the preparation and submittal of competitive applications.

Applicants who have questions regarding the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants opportunity should contact the help desk as soon as possible at 1-866-274-0960 or at [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov). During the application period, the help desk will operate Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EST), but is prepared to revise hours of operation based on volume, demand, holidays and urgency to complete the FP&S Grants application period and processing for FY2009. ■

### From the Director's Chair

(continued from page 1)

Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition of real property for willing sellers and demolition or relocation of buildings to convert the property to open space.
- Retrofitting structures and facilities to minimize damages from high winds, earthquake, flood, wildfire or other natural hazards.
- Development and initial implementation of vegetative management programs
- Post-disaster building code compliance activities.

As of October 1, 2009, HMGP applications from the following counties have been **approved** and funds have been allocated in the following amounts for the listed number of home acquisitions or other projects:

- Franklin in Johnson Co., 72 homes, \$4,920,291
- Martinsville in Morgan Co., 32 homes, \$2,983,200.
- DeKalb County, 6 homes, \$494,235.
- Dyer in Lake Co., 2 homes, \$274,875.
- River Haven in Allen Co., 2 homes, \$30,900.
- Washington Co., Plan Development, \$44,887.

As of October 1, 2009, HMGP applications from the following counties are **under review**. Funds in the below amounts for the listed number home acquisitions or other projects have been requested:

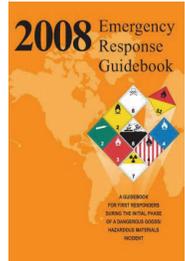
- St. Mary Junk Ditch in Allen Co., 12 homes, \$560,325.
- Junk Ditch (a) in Allen Co., 17 homes, \$749,512.
- Junk Ditch (b) in Allen Co., 23 homes, \$745,880.
- Bartholomew Co., 4 homes, \$270,142.
- Brown Co., 78 homes, \$1,871,266.
- Columbus in Bartholomew Co., 72 homes, \$4,364,173.
- Johnson County, additional 44 homes, \$3,448,026.
- Morgan County, 23 homes, \$3,029,006.
- Morgan Co./Waverly, 6 homes, \$182,623.
- Benton Co., for plan development, \$44,887.
- Delaware County, 2 homes, \$155,459.
- Auburn in DeKalb Co., 1 home, \$52,732.
- Daviess Co., plan development, \$44,887.
- State of Indiana, flood outreach campaign, \$94,952.

For more information contact the IDHS Mitigation Branch at (317) 232-3833. ■



## Did You Know?

First responders can view an informational video from the Department of Transportation about the 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG). The video will give responders the knowledge to use the guidebook and determine safety procedures that need to be taken. The twenty-two minute video is a great training resource for any hazmat awareness level training. The video can be viewed by clicking on the link that can be found on <http://www.in.gov/dhs/2423.htm>. A quiz is also available at this link to evaluate what the responder learned from the video about using the ERG. The quiz is an internal department training tool only. It is not intended to be used for state certification and is not submitted to the state.



## Auburn FD Finishes New Training Tower



The Auburn Fire Department, District 3 and IDHS dedicated a new 50' training tower on September 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. The dedication ended a journey that began in 1999. With the help

of a \$100,000 Infrastructure Grant from the Indiana Firefighter Training System (IFTS) and donations from numerous local businesses, the training tower became a reality. Numerous companies donated items from the structural steel down to the nuts and bolts to build the tower. The Auburn Firefighters spent the winter months bringing each piece of the tower into the station and painting it, using over 45 gallons of paint.

The purpose of the tower is to provide realistic and relevant fire training for firefighters and other emergency responders. The tower is designed to allow all emergency responders, including police and EMS, to utilize the building according to their training needs.

Some of the skills will include hose advancement up the stairs, advancing a hose line from a standpipe connection, advancing a hose line up a ladder to an elevated floor, ladder skills including aerial operations, salvage and overhaul techniques, rescuing firefighters and civilians from upper floors, and hoisting equipment and hoses to upper floors using rope. The tower will also be utilized for other specialized trainings. ■

## H1N1 Response Calls for Communication and Coordination

As we continue to battle the H1N1 flu pandemic into the fall flu season, many challenging days may still lay ahead. Some of our jobs may be different, but our overall goal is the same. We are all partners seeking the same result, to protect the citizens of Indiana.

The services provided by public safety professionals are the foundation of a thriving community. We depend on you, especially in times of crisis. Health departments, EMA directors and personnel, businesses and community partners, health care personnel, educators and childcare providers, local utilities, local elected officials, EMS, fire and law enforcement personnel all play critical roles in combating and limiting the spread of the H1N1 virus.

Local Emergency Management Agencies are on the front lines as support for local health departments, hospitals and health care providers. Throughout the general response and vaccination processes, county EMA directors and their staff should be the go-to people for operational, resource and logistical support. These individuals are closely connected with other public safety professionals and community partners. EMA directors are encouraged to be proactive in reaching out to local health professionals and other community representatives to discuss and plan for support related issues.



Coordination is essential in communicating with the public. Be consistent and unified in messaging to the media and the public. Misinformation or conflicting messages can be dangerous. Bad information often lasts longer than the truth and can spark panic. We know that emergency situations can change quickly, so it is important to have a public information system in place so all can be on the same page.



Law enforcement personnel should be prepared to offer security for vaccine storage sites and distribution centers, and to provide pedestrian and traffic management during mass vaccinations. Also, be alert for increases in related criminal activity. Local law enforcement is the point of contact for any reports of fraud or unauthorized individuals attempting to sell or otherwise distribute vaccinations.

Fire Department leadership should re-emphasize the importance of firefighters and paramedics initiating good universal precautions when responding to patients who might be contagious. Chief officers should prepare to address potential staffing issues. Plan for how your department will continue to operate with a limited staff should the virus impact your agency. Volunteer fire departments with smaller personnel resources are especially vulnerable and have cause for increased mutual aid planning.

EMS providers also need to establish a plan for addressing potential staffing shortages and increased demand for services. EMS personnel should be prepared to assist hospitals during periods when increased medical personnel may be needed. Be flexible in your daily operations. Work with your local health department and emergency management personnel to provide assistance to hospitals, especially if more staffing is needed quickly.

Flexibility must be the key planning component. As with any incident, it is impossible to anticipate every situation which might arise. The change in vaccination priority groups is a good illustration of the importance of flexibility

in planning. Because the virus is attacking different populations than seasonal flu, a significant number of absences may be non-illness related. That is, work absences are now anticipated to be related to caring for sick children or others rather than due to personal illness. We need to interdict the spread of disease with school age children first to avoid significant impact on the work force.

Paramedics, EMTs and other healthcare professionals with direct patient contact remain a vaccine priority group, and the ultimate goal is to have everyone vaccinated who wants to be as supplies increase. Until increased vaccine supplies become available, universal precautions will be of the utmost importance.



Everyone also needs to be flexible in their anticipated scope of operations and able to adapt to a variety of situational needs. Depending on the circumstances, you may be asked to operate outside of your traditional roles.

The service you provide helps ensure that our communities are safeguarded. If the Indiana Department of Homeland Security can help in any way, please contact us. Visit [www.in.gov/flu](http://www.in.gov/flu) for additional information and resources and follow [www.twitter.com/INPublicSafety](http://www.twitter.com/INPublicSafety) for timely updates on this evolving situation.

Visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs> and click on "A message from Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security" to view the video. ■

## Higher Education/ EMAI Conference and IERC/LEPC Conference Scheduled for October

The 2009 Joint Conference of Indiana's Partners in Emergency Management and Homeland Security will take place October 14-16 at the Sheraton Hotel at Keystone Crossing in Indianapolis.

The Joint Higher Education and Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana (EMAI) Conference will be conducted on Wednesday and Thursday, while the Indiana Emergency Response Commission/Local

Emergency Planning Committee (IERC/LEPC) Conference will begin Thursday evening and conclude Friday afternoon. The cost to attend the Higher Education/EMAI Conference is \$255.00, and the cost to attend the IERC/LEPC Conference is \$150.00. The cost to attend both is \$310.00. Conference materials and meals are included. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/pzvxt8> for more information.

Conference topics include: Responding to a Tornado on Campus, Power Company's Response to Natural Disasters, Higher Ed/Campus CERT, Higher Ed/Active Shooter Exercise, Critical Infrastructure Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS) training, Pulse of LEPC and others.

Register online at <http://bit.ly/uaT96>. ■

## October 4-10 is Fire Prevention Week



The statistics are staggering. Each year roughly 3,000 people die as a result of home fires and burns, and more than 200,000 individuals are seen in the nation's emergency rooms for burn injuries. Indiana alone had 78 people killed in home fires in 2008 and fire departments responded to over 6,300 home fires. There were 106 reports of children burned from fireworks in Indiana last year.

That's why Indiana's State Fire Marshal is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for Fire Prevention Week 2009 - October 4-10 - to urge residents to "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned." This year's campaign focuses on ways to keep homes fire safe and prevent painful burns. Additionally, fire safety educators will be teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record. For events in your area please contact your local fire department.

"The most common types of burn injuries result from fire or flame burns, scalds and contact burns," said Jim Greeson, Indiana State Fire Marshal and Indiana Department of Homeland Security Division of Fire and Building Safety Director. "Burns are painful and can result in serious scarring and even death. When we take extra caution in our homes to ensure that the curling iron is out of children's reach or pot handles are turned away from the edge of the stove, such injuries are entirely preventable. Keeping our homes safe from fire and preventing devastating burn injuries is a healthy change we can make happen."

Reaching out to children is especially important because simple but lifesaving messages like, "STOP, DROP AND ROLL" will last a lifetime. One creative group of firefighters formed the band "Firehouse Five" in order to share their fire safety messages through music.



IDHS code enforcement official Jerry Gordon along with retired and active firefighters from the Lafayette Fire Department in Tippecanoe County dress in firefighter gear and other costumes to entertain and inform young audiences with numbers like, "Stop, Drop and Roll," "Learn Not Burn" and "Get Out Alive."

During fire prevention week, most parents will receive a hand out from their child's school explaining how to prevent fires, what to do if there is a fire, how to preplan your escape and other important fire safety information. Where available, school programs will also focus on fire prevention and what to do if a fire occurs.

By following simple safety rules, you can "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned."

- Keep hot foods and liquids away from tables and counter edges so they cannot be pulled or knocked over.
- Be careful when using things that get hot such as curling irons, oven, irons, lamps, heaters.
- Install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent a child from sticking an object in the outlet.
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking.

For more information visit [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs)

Contributions by Lonnie Lagle, IDHS code enforcement. ■

## EMA Spotlight: Dearborn County, William K. Black Jr.



Having worked for more than twenty years as a volunteer deputy director, William Black Jr. is now 8 years into his service as the full time EMA Director for Dearborn

County. He previously served 25 years in fire and EMS services, and also has experience on various responder and safety teams in the U.S. Navy, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Cincinnati Hazards Materials Unit.

As Dearborn County EMA, Black has continued many of the programs initiated by his father who was the previous Dearborn County EMA director for 25 years. One such program, the Water Rescue Team established in 1984, is celebrating 25 years of existence this year.

Black oversaw the updating of Dearborn County Emergency Management Plans and with the help of the Southeastern Regional Planning Commission, the agency developed a hazard mitigation plan. Additionally, Black and EMA personnel were heavily involved in the relocation of the 911 Communications Center and migration to the state 800mhz radio system.

The Dearborn County EMA has a strong focus on relationship building and cooperation. Black works with county and city responders and officials on preparing for and responding to emergencies and the agency has been involved with the SOSINK (Southern Ohio Southeastern Indiana Northern Kentucky) area



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in all aspects of Emergency Management. They are also involved in Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training and have expanded the number of Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) members in the county.

Black says it is a great encouragement that his wife, 3 children and 4 grandchildren are also involved in emergency management. He says they are eager volunteers during emergencies and several are members of the Water Rescue Team. ■

## Fire Department Spotlight – Dale Henson, Decatur Township Fire Department

Dale Henson, Decatur Township Fire Department, Marion County, a career fire chief since January 1, 1994 served as the volunteer chief two years prior to his hire date. He served several terms and is the current president of the Marion County Fire Chiefs Association.

His support of Public Fire Education includes in classroom and field trips for preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and career day events in the high school. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association and has contributed countless hours to educating and maintaining the strong leadership of the organization over the past several years.

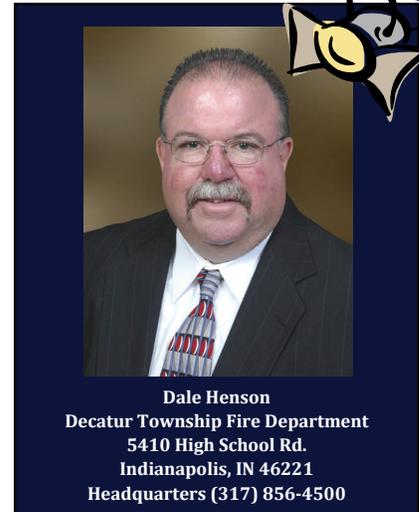
He has been the chairman of the Indiana Fire Institute for the last five years and is a past president of the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association. Outside of the department, he has been involved in sports and education. He was the coach for the World Police and Fire Games Men's Softball team that placed second in the competition.



He coached girls' softball at Decatur Central High School and currently does one-on-one coaching. He is the president of the Decatur Township School Board and has been a member since 2007.

The Decatur Township Fire Department provides public safety services to approximately 40,000 township residents, in a 33 square mile area. In providing these services, Decatur Township firefighters and paramedics respond to over 6,000 emergency runs each year. In addition to emergency response, the department is very active in numerous public education and community

service events throughout the township, and takes great pride in being able to reach all school age children in the township with fire safety messages at least once a year. ■



**Dale Henson**  
 Decatur Township Fire Department  
 5410 High School Rd.  
 Indianapolis, IN 46221  
 Headquarters (317) 856-4500

## Foundation Scholarship Applications Due November 26, 2009

The Indiana Homeland Security Foundation is looking for students interested in pursuing careers in public safety to apply for scholarship funding. The foundation is funded through Secure Indiana license plate sales.

"We are pleased to support this important scholarship program and be able to contribute to the education of students pursuing degrees that will lead to careers in public safety," said Joe Wainscott, executive director for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. "We hope these funds will inspire students to work hard in their academics, and give back to their communities after graduation."

The Hoosier Safety Scholarship Program is for Indiana residents who are interested in a higher education degree and who currently volunteer with a local public safety organization. Incoming and continuing students are both eligible to apply. Students enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college in Indiana are eligible. Scholarships of \$2,000 are awarded for full-time students and \$1,000 for part-time students.

More information about the Hoosier Safety Scholarship Program and a link to the application can be found on the IDHS website [www.in.gov/dhs/foundationsscholarship.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/foundationsscholarship.htm). ■

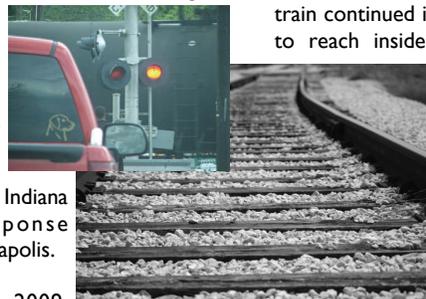
## Deployable Equipment on Display

On Friday, October 23, The IDHS Response Branch will showcase its deployable equipment on Robert Orr Plaza (between the Indiana Government Center's north and south buildings). This will be an opportunity to see the new Incident Response Vehicle (IRV), the

Mobile Command Center (MCC), the Satellite Office Solutions (SOS), the Response Tent System, the Broadband Global Area Network Satellite Transponder (BGAN) units, the Mobile Video Solution and the Globug lighting system. This equipment will be on display from 10:00am – noon. ■

## Heroic Rescue Honored

The Otis R. Bowen Heroic Rescue Award is given in recognition of an event that demonstrates a degree of courage and bravery while at the same time showing an understanding of the seriousness of the situation and the risks involved. Members of Knox County EMS were presented with the award at the recent Indiana Emergency Response Conference in Indianapolis.



On March 16, 2009, employees of Knox County EMS, Vincennes, found a pick-up truck stuck on the railroad tracks adjacent to the ambulance station. Smoke from the spinning rear wheels surrounded the truck. The 83-year-old driver had lost control of the vehicle after suffering a stroke and his foot was pushing the accelerator to the floor. Hearing the whistle of an approaching train, the employees rushed to the man's aid. Dispatcher Krystle Miller contacted

central dispatch in an attempt to stop the train. Paramedic Robin Overton went to the driver's door and after much knocking and yelling was able to get the attention of the man, convince him to lift his foot off of the accelerator and roll down the window. As the train continued its approach, Overton was able to reach inside the vehicle and unlock the doors. Driver Sue Ballard climbed in the passenger door, slung her leg over the console and pushed the driver out the driver's door toward Overton. Ballard had to pry the driver's fingers off the steering wheel finger by finger. Overton and drivers Connie Helderman and Sherry Cavender assisted the driver into the office of Knox County EMS. Knowing that the train was fast approaching and that a collision and possible derailment would mean certain damage to nearby homes not to mention the ambulance station, and the possibility of major injury to personnel, Ballard climbed into the driver's seat and slammed the truck into reverse while fellow drivers Greg Aker and Becky McLendon pushed from the front. ■

### District I Completes Full Scale Exercise



On September 24, District I conducted a full scale exercise dealing with a foreign animal disease (FAD) in Newton County. The FAD in the exercise was causing sickness and death to thousands of cattle.

Humans working in the area were also becoming sick. Although the disease was fabricated for exercise purposes, issues that arose from the disease are not unlike some that

we may see here in Indiana. Some issues that District I responders were faced with were large scale cleaning and disinfecting, wide areas that needed to be secured, possible riots and large gatherings of protestors.

Because of the magnitude of the event, the district deployed several strike team elements to assist Newton County responders. Some of the elements that deployed were Haz-Mat, Law Enforcement and Tech Rescue's Rope Rescue strike teams. EMA directors from the district also came to support Newton County in their EOC.

The Haz-Mat strike team was needed to clean and disinfect all equipment and manpower that entered the site. The Law Enforcement strike team set up a 6 mile perimeter to prevent people from entering or leaving the site. Part of the exercise scenario included issues with protestors upset over the cows being euthanized. One of the protestors fell into a grain silo and needed to be rescued. The District I Rope Rescue strike team conducted a



100 foot high angle rope rescue and successfully removed the protestor from the grain silo.

Participants in the exercise included agencies from the local, state and federal level, many of whom had never worked together before. Their participation demonstrated the value of team work, partnership and collaboration. ■

### Counties Using New Web-based Planning Application



In 2008, the Planning and Assessment Division of IDHS conducted research and testing on a web-based planning application called netPlanner, designed and implemented by the company netEOP.

The goal of netPlanner is to offer a tool for state and local programs to effectively share information and collaborate on emergency planning efforts and activities. This system provides a unified platform where multiple agencies and departments can design strategic, operational and tactical plans and provide those documents instantly to critical stakeholders for review and discussion.

In 2009, IDHS contracted with netEOP to provide the system to all 92 counties. Counties

receive the system at no cost or charge to them as the application is purchased through funding from the state's Homeland Security Grant Program. IDHS conducted two training workshops on June 29 and June 30 to introduce county emergency management personnel to the system.

Already, many counties have begun utilizing the system to determine how it can augment and support their overall emergency planning efforts. IDHS has begun sharing information and access to the system with key state-level partners to further strengthen both preparedness and response capabilities statewide. ■



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