

# Hoosier Responder



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## IDHS, DOC Team Offer 'First of Its Kind' Fire Training at Prison

Last summer, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and Indiana Department of Correction (DOC) teamed up to offer a unique fire training opportunity to inmates of the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, Indiana.

William K. Wilson, Superintendent of the Indiana State Prison stated, "This certification will benefit the offender firefighters when they return to their communities and will allow them to give back to the community."

The training provided entry level knowledge for participants to meet performance requirements and perform basic skills. The prison had 11 firefighters participate. They received 48 hours of training, 16 hours in the classroom and 32 hours were given in live scenarios.

"This training was the first level of certification for firefighters, but a huge step in terms of fire training in this setting," said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson, who over-

*(Continued on page 7)*

## EMAI Launches New Website

Over the last two months, the Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana (EMAI) has worked to develop a new website. This website is currently a work in progress with the goal of being a resource to EMA personnel throughout the state. The website gives access to weather information and documents related to EMAI, including



the 2014 membership application.

The future goals of this website are to have an online directory that includes contact information for all EMA offices and EMA related vendors.

The site can be accessed at: <http://www.indianaema.com>.

## LaGrange County EMS Mourns the Loss of Garry Hammer

LaGrange County Emergency Medical Services, LaGrange, Indiana, is mourning the line-of-duty death of Paramedic Gerald "Garry" Hammer. Paramedic Hammer suffered a fatal heart attack just minutes after arriving home from a 12-hour overnight shift.

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Loss Of Garry Hammer (continued from page 1)**



“Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Garry Hammer,” said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. “Garry dedicated his life to helping others, and his service to his community and state did not go unnoticed. Please keep his fam-

ily in your thoughts and prayers.” Hammer, who lived in Wolcottville, also served as LaGrange County Sheriff’s Department SWAT Medic, cadaver dog handler with IDHS District 3 Search and Rescue Task Force, Deputy Coroner in LaGrange and Noble counties and was a member of the

Primary Instructors Education Committee of the Indiana Board of EMS. He was also critical care certified and Certified Information Security Manager certified.

Hammer, 62, leaves behind his wife, Pamela; daughters Jenny, Janae Dull and Joni Humbarger; and sons Jeremy and Joshua.

**FIRE SPOTLIGHT – Steffan Schrock**

Captain Steffan Schrock, Training Coordinator for the Goshen Fire Department, has truly set a high bar for public safety educators. He works hard to bring educational opportunities to his department while also working hard to increase the frequency at which they train with surrounding agencies.



Left to right: Steffan Schrock, Goshen FD, Chief Jim Roberts, Greenfield FD, and Chief Dale Henson, Decatur Township FD.

Schrock says personnel are currently going through Driver Operator for Pumper and Aerial. Other goals for 2014 include educating personnel on the new developments regarding fire behavior, fire dynamics and ventilation. The objective, he says, is to improve the ability to read and understand fire conditions on the fire ground which, in turn, will improve strategic and tactical level decision-making. Schrock received Fire Instructor

of the Year Award at the 2013 Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) in September. This award recognizes an individual who has made Indiana’s fire service training safer, more effective and more professional.

Schrock received the award for his continued dedication to fire instruction and his commitment to teaching firefighters, not only throughout his entire department, but across his district.

“My personal philosophy centers around being prepared and having a growth mindset,” he said. “I treat the fire profession as a career. Every day my objective is to respond to calls for service and help people. When not responding to calls for service, I am preparing mentally and physically to do so. It is important to maintain a positive attitude, be physically fit and master the technical skill set of our profession.”

Schrock thanked the rest of the Goshen Fire Department for its willingness to adapt to change and to continue to learn new things, along with Chief Dan Sink and Chief Jim Ramer for their insight and support.



Visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov)

## South Bend Firefighters Attend Career Day

On Saturday, December 7, members from the South Bend Fire Department's Medic 2 and Medic 3 teams operated a booth at the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Prep Rally at Riley High School. The CTE rally was a career day sponsored by the South Bend Community School Corporation that allowed high school students to learn about careers and extended learning opportunities.

At the rally, the firefighters set up their equipment and provided demonstrations to the many students and parents who attended. Several students inquired about and expressed a great interest in a



Left to right: Lieutenant Steve Gervais, Lieutenant Jamie Borders, Medic Noel Hamilton, Medic David Tague and Paramedic Student from Ivy Tech Brandon Scharf.

career with the South Bend Fire Department upon their graduation.

The South Bend Community School Corporation offers several courses through the CTE program, which allows students to

get a different, more hands-on learning experience. The two-year program for high school juniors and seniors offers several health care classes, in addition to an emergency medical technician-basic class. Students have the opportunity to be exposed to different aspects of the health care field.

The firefighters at the rally promoted the health-care aspects of the CTE program, and piqued the interest of several students. It is the hope of all involved that more students will enroll in CTE health care classes, and move on to careers serving the public, especially in the South Bend area.

## EMS SPOTLIGHT – Diana Lantz, Jeromy Yadon and Eric Zeiger

Paramedic Diana Lantz and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Jeromy Yadon, both of the Three Rivers Ambulance Authority, found themselves responding to a stabbing last September, along with the Fort Wayne Fire Department. Upon arriving, they discovered the victim, who was in serious condition. As they left the scene to transport the patient to the hospital, their ambulance was followed by a car containing the patient's family members. A third vehicle came up on the two vehicles and opened fire, pepper-

ing both the ambulance and vehicle with the family members with a hail of bullets.

Nineteen bullets penetrated the ambulance. During the course of the events, Yadon was also struck by bullet fragments and shrapnel, but continued to care for his patient. While Lantz and Yadon tended to their patient during the melee, firefighter Eric Zeiger, of the Fort Wayne Fire Department, drove the ambulance.

The ambulance arrived at the

trauma center where the patient, Yadon, and the injured family members all received treatment. The suspects were apprehended and convicted of various charges related to the incident.

Lantz and Yadon received the Heroic Rescue of the Year award at the 2013 Indiana Emergency Response Conference for their heroic actions during this intense run. Zeiger also received the Heroic Rescue of the Year Award for his role.



## EMS Workers Brighten Christmas for Indiana Child

Two Delaware County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workers lead the effort to help an 8-year-old boy who recently lost his grandfather. Advanced EMT Wayne Loudy and Paramedic Kurt Mathews responded to a 911 call in October. Brenda Rhye called 911 because her husband, Eddie, was having a stroke.

Brenda and Eddie Rhye are the grandparents and guardians of the 8-year-old named Dakota.

Loudy and Mathews stayed with Brenda Rhye and Dakota at the hospital. Eddie Rhye passed away a few days later and it greatly affected Dakota and Brenda Rhye, along with Loudy and Mathews.

Loudy and Mathews felt compelled to make sure Dakota would be okay. At the time, Brenda Rhye could not afford to enroll Dakota in the Boy Scouts, which is why Loudy and Mathews, with the help of many people in Delaware County, made

sure to take care of those Boy Scout commitments for the next two years.

Aside from that help, people in the community also donated money so that Loudy and Mathews could buy Dakota several Christmas presents. Loudy and Mathews said they have a special bond with the young boy and they wanted to make sure they did their part to help.

## EMA SPOTLIGHT – Tom Clements

Project Manager for the Porter County Emergency Management Agency, Tom Clements, has been a volunteer with Porter County since 1999 and regularly puts in more than 40 hours a week while receiving no compensation for all of his help.

Clements has several projects he oversees. One of his more notable accomplishments was organizing H. Dwight Douglas's speaking engagement in Porter County at minimum cost to the community. Douglas is an attorney who handled many legal issues related to the 2011 Joplin, Missouri tornadoes.



Left to right: IDHS Executive Director John Hill, Tom Clements and his wife Bunny Clements, Porter County EMA Director Russ Shirley and Elkhart County EMA Director Jennifer Tobey. Shirley and Tobey are part of EMAI's leadership team.

In order to organize the engagement, Clements helped form the Porter County Coalition for Disaster Preparedness. Clements himself secured \$4,000 in donations from community businesses and fraternal organizations for flyers, signs and certificates.

Clements also visited 47 different

agencies and organizations. In addition, he pitched the event to TV and radio stations, doing interviews to help educate the public on the need for preparing for natural disasters. His efforts paid off as registration topped out at 450 participants, with attendees from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri. It also represented many professions including police, fire, Emergency Medical Services, nurses, doctors, lawyers and volunteer groups.

Clements received the EMAI President's Award for his hard work and dedication to emergency management in Porter County, Indiana.

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## Surface Ice Rescue Training



The Indiana Department of Homeland Security hosted a surface ice awareness and rescue training on Saturday, January 11 at Camp Atterbury. The 8-hour day consisted of training in ice awareness, how to prepare, general laws and safety, escape plans, signs of hyperthermia, demonstrations and hands-on practice.

The class also was supported by the Indiana State Police Dive Team, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Greenfield Fire Department.

Twenty-six people attended the awareness training that included 15 different fire departments, made up with both firefighters and Emergency Medical Services workers. Also, three citizens attended the training, two received a certificate and one was an observer.

## Wide Array of Training Opportunities in Online Calendar

Many training opportunities are available and easy to access on the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Training Division's Course Calendar. Here is just a sampling of courses coming up in early March:

### March 4-5 Debris Management

This training for EMA directors and staff, damage assessment teams and elected and appointed officials takes place in Crawfordsville. This two-day course will enable participants to plan for, respond to and recover from major debris-generated events. It will also address debris planning response and recovery concepts.

### March 11-13 HSEEP

This course for individuals involved in emergency management exercise programs and/or design, development, conduct, control, evaluation and improvement planning will be

held in Warsaw. It is a capabilities-based exercise program that includes a cycle, mix and range of exercise activities of varying degrees of complexity and interaction.

### March 12 Debris Estimation

This training for staff who could be working in the debris estimation process will take place in New Castle. This one-day course addresses the requirements of conducting an accurate assessment of debris after a disaster event. The Public Assistance Program, Individual Assistance Program and other funding sources will be addressed.

For questions or more information, please contact Ashlee Floyd at [afloyd@dhs.in.gov](mailto:afloyd@dhs.in.gov).

To read more and to register, visit IDHS Training Calendar: [Training Division Course Calendar](#).

## Story Ideas?

Know of a story that belongs in the Hoosier Responder? Let us know! Email us at [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov).

The Hoosier Responder is always looking for stories about the goings-on in local depart-

ments. Whether it's celebrating a milestone, overcoming a unique obstacle or trying something new, the Hoosier Responder wants to share those stories for the benefit of responders statewide.

## January 5 Winter Weather Roundup

On January 5, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) increased its 24-hour staffing beginning at 7 a.m. Day shift consisted of about 20 personnel and the overnight shift was about 15.

Organizations staffing positions included Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), Red Cross, Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), Indiana State Police (ISP), Indiana National Guard, and Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). IDHS also staffed leadership, logistics, planning, fiscal, and administration positions.

In operations:

- There was a peak of 71,162 power outages.
- At the highest point, 48 shelters were open with 361 occupants. Those shelters had a total capacity of 3,343 individuals.
- At the peak of the storm, INDOT had 825 plow trucks deployed across the state. For each truck, two drivers alternated 12-hour

shifts for around-the-clock coverage. INDOT also activated its Hoosier Helpers, to assist stranded motorists in Northwest, Central, and Southeast Indiana. Under normal circumstances, these patrols are limited to the rush hours and weekdays.

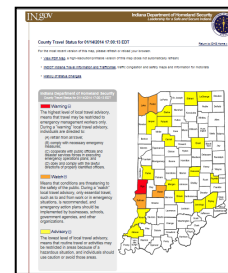
- 48 Highway Assistance Teams were deployed at the peak of the storm, with approximately 250 soldiers. More soldiers staffed selected armories.
- Indiana State Police had 3,032 personnel on duty over four days. The agency fielded 5,659 calls for service (1,356 on Sunday, 1,651 on Monday, 1,694 on Tuesday, 958 on Wednesday). Over the four days, there were 1,701 calls to 911.

**Indiana Department of Homeland Security Travel Advisory Map**

<http://www.in.gov/dhs/traveladvisory/>

From January 5-8, 2014, the IDHS Travel Advisory Map had more than 2.9 million page views.

A snapshot of reports during the response, the travel advisory map registered:



Red – 42  
Orange – 30  
Yellow – 13  
White – 7

Red indicates a travel warning.

This is the highest level of local travel advisory, which means travel may be restricted to emergency management workers only.

Orange indicates a travel watch.

This means conditions are threatening to the safety of the public.

Yellow indicates a travel advisory. This means routine travel or activities may be restricted in certain areas because of a hazardous situation.



Governor Mike Pence (standing) participates in a conference call with local and state partners during the January 5-8 severe snowstorms. He continually encouraged and thanked public safety professionals for their hard work.



## Governor Pence's Request for Low Interest Disaster Loans Successful

### *Hoosiers and Businesses in 19 Counties to Benefit*

As the result of a request from Governor Mike Pence, low interest federal disaster loans will be available to citizens, businesses and certain non-profit organizations in 19 counties as a result of damage from severe weather on November 17.

"Hoosiers are still struggling to recover from the aftermath of the November tornadoes in Indiana," said Governor Pence. "We're pleased that the U.S. Small Business Administration has agreed to provide low interest federal disaster loans to assist Hoosiers, businesses, and non-profit organizations as they work to repair damage in the days and weeks ahead."

The loan program is administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Disaster Loan Out-

reach Centers will be established in Daviess, Fountain, and Howard counties, which were the primary counties requested. Other counties that are eligible because they are contiguous are Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Dubois, Grant, Greene, Knox, Martin, Miami, Montgomery, Parke, Pike, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Vermillion, and Warren.

Applications can be accepted at the centers or online. Loan center locations and hours will be announced when determined.

#### SBA Disaster Loans

Hoosiers in eligible counties can apply by visiting one of the SBA Disaster Centers or online at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA website at <http://www.sba.gov/>. Completed applications should be

returned to a Disaster Loan Outreach Center or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Individuals and businesses can call the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET or by sending an e-mail to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

Those suffering damage to personal or business property must return applications by April 7, 2014. The deadline to return economic injury applications - which includes, for example, payroll, working capital and other business financial commitments - is November 5, 2014.

## In Remembrance

- **Pat Carrico**, recently retired engineer and 28-year veteran of the Greencastle Fire Department.
- **Donald "Don" Hochstetler**, firefighter/engineer with the Wayne Township Fire Department.

## IDHS, DOC Team Offer 'First of Its Kind' Fire Training at Prison (continued from page 1)

sees the IDHS Fire Training System. "This was the first of its kind in Indiana, which we are very proud of. A collaboration of this kind takes significant coordination and teamwork. By locating a team on the inside, this reduces response time, provides skills for the offenders and improves facility safety." "It was fortunate to bring this type of training to the Indiana

Department of Correction," said Executive Director of Construction Services for the Indiana Department of Correction, Kevin Orme. "This was the first time this type of training was conducted inside a walled compound inside a maximum security prison. The students were very dedicated to the training."

## Potentially Free Benefits Now Available for 911 First Responders

Free health screenings and services may now be available to members of Indiana departments of emergency management, mental health and substance abuse, as well as faith-based and other volunteer agencies, who sent people to help work 911 response.

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### The World Trade Center

**Health Program** has now been expanded to include other categories of responders from all over the country who came to help in the aftermath of the 9-11-01 terrorist attacks. Until now, these categories of responders had not been previously identified as being potentially eligible for benefits and have not been contacted.

Indiana responders who worked in the following locations are encouraged to apply for inclusion in the program:

- Lower Manhattan (south of Canal Street);
- Ground Zero;
- Staten Island Landfill;
- Chief Medical Examiner's Office;

- The NYC barge loading piers;
- The Pentagon in Arlington, VA; or
- The crash site in Shanksville, PA.

If eligible, Indiana responders may receive annual medical examinations as well as treatment services for approved health conditions that cause problems such as trouble breathing, shortness of breath, frequent sinus problems or a constant cough, frequent nose and throat irritation and stress-related illness, anxiety or depression.

For more information or to get a copy of the program application, visit [www.cdc.gov/wtc](http://www.cdc.gov/wtc) or email [wtchealthprogram@icfi.com](mailto:wtchealthprogram@icfi.com). Interested persons may also call 1-888-982-4748.

*The Indiana Department of Homeland Security will provide statewide leadership, exemplary customer service, and subject matter expertise for the enhancement of public and private partnerships and the assurance of local, state and federal collaboration to continually develop Indiana's public safety capabilities for the wellbeing and protection of our citizens, property and economy.*

## Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Leadership for a safe and secure Indiana

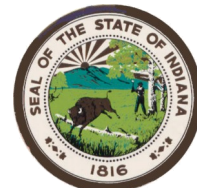
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The Hoosier Responder is a publication of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

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IDHS Public Information Office at (317) 234-4214 or [J.Erickson@dhs.in.gov](mailto:J.Erickson@dhs.in.gov).

# IDHS: Leadership for a safe and secure Indiana