



## IDHS Celebrates Black History Month by Remembering Indianapolis Fire Station 1

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Photo courtesy of the Indiana State Library

## IDHS Adopts ImageTrend for Fire and EMS Data Reporting

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) has adopted ImageTrend as its official program for collecting data from fire and EMS providers in the State of Indiana. Effective February 1, 2018, all fire and EMS providers are now required to use ImageTrend to submit all run data to IDHS. Previous data reporting methods will no longer be accepted.

*(Continued on page 2)*

Black History Month is a time to remember and understand notable moments and accomplishments in African American history. Countless Hoosier firefighters and EMS professionals have paved the way for advances in racial equality. To appreciate the relationships that exist among all firefighters regardless of race, religion or creed today, it is important to understand past firefighters' struggles in Indiana. This month, we reflect on the significance of Indianapolis Fire Station 1, the only station in which segregated black firefighters were assigned.

Before January 1, 1960, black firefighters were segregated from other fire departments in the Indianapolis area. Fire Station 1, originally known as Hose Company 9 and located at 411 Indiana Avenue, Indianapolis, quickly became an all-black firehouse with 24 firefighters on two 24-hour shifts. The only time a person was replaced is if a firefighter died or retired. Often, black firefighters weren't allowed eat with their white counterparts, given the "silent treatment" or were the recipients of negative attitudes or jokes. Despite this, black firefighters still undertook the task of improving their respective communities.

Since then, Indianapolis has had its first black Fire Chief, Joseph Kimbrew who was sworn in on January 19, 1987. In 1968, he was the first recipient of the "Firefighter of the Year Award." The first female firefighter in Indianapolis was sworn in on March 3, 1978, and was a black woman named Bryona Slaughter. *(Continued on page 2)*

## IDHS Celebrates Black History Month by Remembering Indianapolis Fire Station 1 (Continued)

The first black district chief was Pellman Johnson. These trailblazers are just a few influential African Americans who have contributed to protecting and serving all Hoosiers.

Acknowledging this, we commend the strides that all firefighters have contributed to fighting injustices and saving lives. In the words of Indianapolis Fire Department, "All We Are... We Owe!"



(Above: Joseph Kimbrew)  
(Bottom left: Bryona Slaughter)  
Photos copyright the Indianapolis Firefighters Museum

## IDHS Adopts ImageTrend for Fire and EMS Data Reporting (Continued)

ImageTrend is a centrally located database which will collect and analyze the data reported to help improve emergency care, preparedness and response at both the state and local levels. The implementation of ImageTrend will help to better determine future training and equipment needs of providers, and will assist in decision making during emergencies.

The program is available free of charge to all local providers. Visit <https://www.indianaems.isdh.in.gov/Elite/> and use Indiana as the organization ID.

## Opioid Epidemic Still Rising

With the opioid epidemic still on the rise throughout the country, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's (IDHS) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Section is currently working to enhance our ability to collect data regarding opioid incidents and the use of naloxone through the implementation of ImageTrend. (See above article)

ImageTrend allows IDHS to track all instances of EMS response calls to overdose situations as well as each administration of naloxone. The law requires that administration of naloxone by first

responders must be reported by the transporting ambulance service.

As a reminder, IDHS is encouraging EMS providers to practice safety when responding to potential overdose situations. First responders should protect themselves from accidental exposures by wearing gloves and respiratory protection. Always exercise caution when responding to a potential overdose situation and follow proper protection guidelines provided by the federal government.

More information is available online at [dhs.in.gov/3525.htm](https://dhs.in.gov/3525.htm)

"Our goal is to make sure that all EMS responders are protected and have access to naloxone when responding to potential overdose situations," says Mike Garvey, IDHS EMS Director. "We want first responders have the equipment they need to help people survive an overdose incident and get them to the hospital to receive additional care."

## In Brief

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### Upcoming Changes

The Hoosier Responder has some small upcoming changes to distribution. The publication will be moving to every other month, and will continue to send out Hoosier Responder Bulletins in between with any short updates that just can't wait.

IDHS is also in the process of migrating to a new subscription distribution platform, which will allow individuals to have more control over their subscription preferences, as well as allow individuals to sign up and unsubscribe from agency publications with ease. Look for more information about customizing your account in the next month!

As always, feel free to send story ideas to [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

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### IDHS IT – News You Can Use

#### Web EOC Updates

Multiple County Emergency Management Agencies have taken over the responsibility of running the Indiana Web EOC User Group on Google Groups (accessible [here](#)), and they are looking for representatives from each IDHS district to help determine what changes can be made to benefit all users. Input is encouraged, both from large and small counties across the state.

Users should also be on the lookout for Web EOC User documentation being sent out via email in the coming weeks.

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## 2018 Indiana Homeland Security Foundation Grant Program

The Indiana Homeland Security Foundation Grant Program is now open for applications. The Foundation Grant supports public safety projects that promote the safety of citizens of Indiana and align with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's local and district needs.

All eligible applicants should submit an Intent to Apply Form which can be found online at [dhs.in.gov/grants.htm](http://dhs.in.gov/grants.htm) and email the completed form to the IDHS Grants Section inbox at: [grants@dhs.in.gov](mailto:grants@dhs.in.gov).

This form must be submitted by Friday, February 16, 2018, and final proposals are due by Friday, March 9, 2018.

#### **Save the Date**

District grant trainings are returning this year, and anyone interesting should consider marking their calendar. The trainings will provide information on all the state and federal funding streams available this year.

Tuesday, February 27: District 10

Wednesday, February 28:  
District 7

Tuesday, March 6: District 9

Wednesday, March 7: District 8

Tuesday, March 13 District 3

Wednesday, March 14: District 6

Monday, March 19: District 1

Tuesday, March 20: District 2

Tuesday, March 27: District 4

Wednesday, March 28: District 5

Registration and location details will be available in the near future.



# Madison County's EMA Utilizes UAV Technology

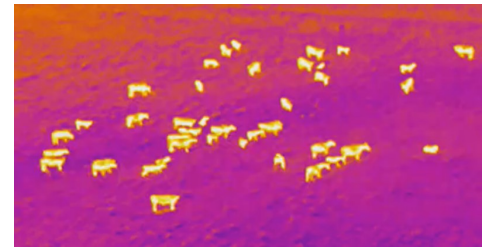
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or UAVs are becoming increasingly beneficial to emergency management agencies. In an emergency response, UAVs have the ability to assist with search and rescue operations, situational awareness and delivering supplies. The benefits of UAV also include the low cost compared to the price of helicopters, ease of use and speed.

Last spring, Madison County Emergency Management Agency had become one of the first local EMAs to acquire UAVs at a unit cost of about \$4,000. "It is our goal to utilize the latest technology that reduces the response time to render first aid to injured people or protection of citizens in the area from being in harm's way," said Tom Ecker, Executive Director of Madison County Emergency Management Agency.



The most significant challenge of utilizing UAVs is training personnel. Training involves learning the FAA rules and regulations, as well as becoming educated on software used to develop picture and video storage. It also involves utilizing special camera or Forward Looking Infra-Red (FLIR) camera to recognize heat signatures when searching for someone.

Even taking into account the time to take to become proficient at flying, the benefits of this advancing technology are growing, especially in emergency management.



# Valparaiso Fire Department Receives Highest ISO Rating in State

The Valparaiso Fire Department recently received a Class 2 designation from the Insurance Services Office (ISO), moving it up from a Class 3, and making it one of twelve departments in the state to receive the designation.

The ISO's rating is used in risk assessment by various insurance companies, and the improved rating could mean that local homeowners and businesses see a decrease in insurance premiums in upcoming years. The rating is based on three separate criteria: the fire department itself, 911 dispatch and the water department in the community.



In their pursuit of the elevated rating, the department has increased training hours, added new equipment, increased the number of responding personnel to structure fires, and opened a third fire station in the community.

Moving forward, the department is working toward a Class 1 rating, along with accreditation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

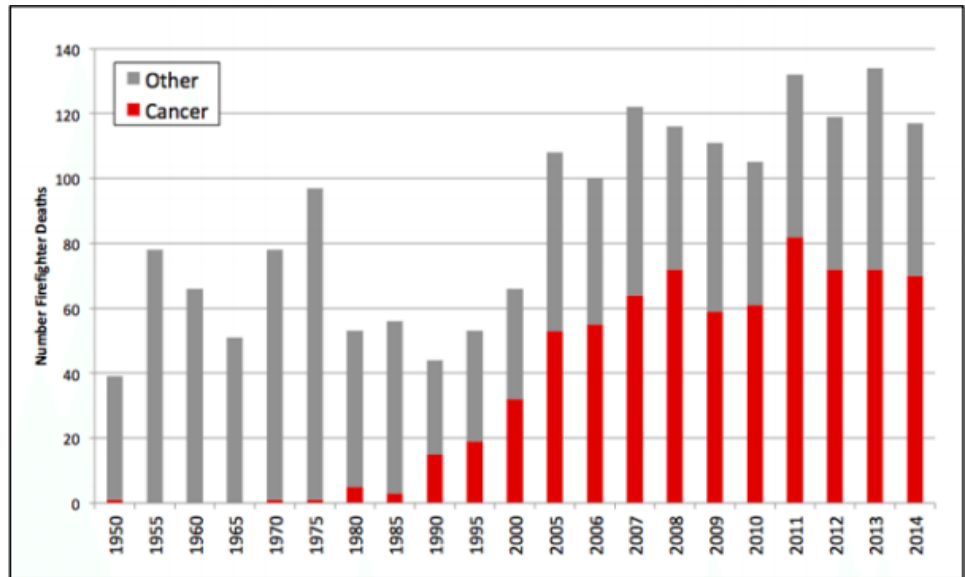
# Cancer Risk in Firefighters - World Cancer Day

A study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) released in 2013 showed firefighters on average are at a higher risk for certain types of cancer – mainly oral, digestive, respiratory, genital and urinary cancers – than the general population. There was also a rate of mesothelioma two times greater than the rate in the U.S. population as a whole.

The firefighting landscape has changed over the past 50 years. In the early 1900s, simple building components had their hazards, such as asbestos, but many of the materials of that time have been replaced by the synthetic materials of today. These complex plastics, industrial polymers and chemical coatings used in structures and building materials burn faster and hotter than ever before, generating thick, toxic smoke.

Modern firefighter protective equipment has come a long way to offer greater protection than previous gear but this equipment only significantly decreases exposure to toxic particles. Firefighters are still at risk of absorbing toxic agents through the skin. This advanced gear cannot prevent toxic smoke and gases from leaving soot build up on the skin. With every five degrees in increased body temperature, skin absorption rates can increase by as much as 400 percent.

The risk doesn't end once the firefighters have successfully extinguished the fire. The dangers linger as firefighters overhaul a location exposing more toxins through the disassembly of walls, hooking of ceiling, removal of furniture and by the off-gassing of hot spots. While firefighters remain in their gear, they prolong



their exposure to carcinogens. These carcinogens are heightened if protective gear is stored or transported before being properly washed, a common occurrence for volunteer firefighters storing their gear in a personal vehicle.

Approximately 60 percent of career firefighters will die because of cancer.

For a comprehensive guide regarding the risk and prevention of cancers in the fire service occupation, visit the “firefighters and cancer” section of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) website.

Although World Cancer Day, observed February 4, has passed, this month is still a good time to raise public awareness of the fire service hazards many aren't aware of. Take the time to share this important information with colleagues and people of the community.

## Line of Duty Deaths

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends and colleagues of the emergency service members lost over the past few months. I, and all of IDHS, send out deepest condolences during these difficult times,” James L. Greeson, Indiana State Fire Marshal.

Mousa Chaban – Tri County Ambulance Service, Elkhart County. End of watch 1-22-18.

Jeffrey Blackmer – Hamilton Township Volunteer Fire Department, Delaware County. End of watch 12-20-17.

Scott Compton – Greenfield Fire Department, Hancock County. End of watch 11-11-17.

Kendall Murphy – Volunteer Firefighter, Daviess County. End of watch 11-10-17.

# March 18-24 is Severe Weather Preparedness

March 18–24 is Severe Weather Preparedness, and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is encouraging public safety officials to help educate local residents on the danger of severe weather and the importance of preparedness.

Historically, Indiana has experienced some of the worst thunderstorms, tornadoes and flooding incidents during the spring months. In 2011, Indiana was devastated by a record 72 tornadoes, including 32 on April 19, and 26 on May 25.

Flooding is also a serious threat to Hoosiers in the spring and summer months. This year is the 10th anniversary of the June 2008 Midwest flooding, when \$56 million in federal grants were given to 10,279 Hoosier households and \$73 million in disaster loans were provided to Indiana homeowners, renters and businesses to assist flood recovery efforts.

To prepare for the serious threats of severe weather in Indiana, families are encouraged to have a preparedness kit ready at all times. So is knowing what to do in a severe weather emergency.



As part of Severe Weather Preparedness Week, on Tuesday, March 20, there will be a statewide tornado drill at [10:10 a.m. and 7:35 p.m.](#) . These drills provide an excellent opportunity for families, schools and businesses to practice their severe weather emergency plans. Some ways families can practice during the statewide tornado drill are:

- Take household members – quickly but calmly – to the location (ideally a basement; secondarily the center of an interior room with no windows, on the lowest level of the building) they would move to in severe weather.
- Practice moving under a sturdy table or desk, or pulling a mattress into a protective position.
- Walk through potential evacuation routes, both from the home and the neighborhood.
- Conduct a family drill in which children pretend to call 911 and calmly talk with an emergency dispatcher (a family member or friend can be on the other end of the line, requesting appropriate information).



Hoosiers can use the resources on [GetPrepared.in.gov](https://www.getprepared.in.gov) to start preparing for severe weather. GetPrepared has fact sheets and guidelines on how to make a preparedness kit, how to create a family emergency plan and how to prepare for and respond to flooding, thunderstorms, tornadoes and other severe weather incidents.

IDHS will also be posting severe weather and flood safety tips on its social media sites throughout Severe Weather Preparedness week. Be sure to visit <https://www.facebook.com/IndianaDHS> or @IDHS on Twitter.

# Plan Now for Spring Outreach

There are several events that emergency services and emergency management professionals can use as educational platforms rapidly approaching! Plan ahead now to help inform citizens as these dates approach.

## **Disability Awareness Month**



Observed: March 1-31, 2018

Promoted by the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, this event works to increase awareness and promote independence, integration and inclusion of all people with disabilities. Given that adults and children with disabilities represent slightly more than 19 percent of Indiana's population, this is an excellent time to raise awareness on the importance of emergency planning for people with access and functional needs.

IDHS is currently working on adding additional information on emergency planning for people with access and functional needs. More information will be available on [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov). For more information about Indiana Disability Awareness Month, visit [www.indianadisabilityawareness.org](http://www.indianadisabilityawareness.org).

## **Change the Time, Change the Batteries**

Observed: March 11, 2018, 2 a.m.

The time to "Spring forward" is almost upon us! Considering using this event to also recommend that local residents test their smoke alarms, and consider changing the batteries. Smoke alarms provide extra time for residents to escape home fires, improving their chance of surviving by 50 percent.

More information on smoke alarms, as well as fire and building safety can be found at [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).

## **Severe Weather Preparedness Week**

Observed: March 18-24, 2018

Look for the story on page 6 for more information!

For more preparedness tips, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).

## **National Donate Life Month**

Observed: April 1-30, 2018

In 2016, more than 33,600 transplants brought a second chance to patients across the country. Currently, only 56 percent of Americans are registered organ, eye and tissue donors. This year's theme, "Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud" (Maya Angelou) encourages residents to register, and someday donate life to a person waiting for lifesaving treatment.

More information on National Donate Life Month can be found at <https://www.donatelife.net/ndlm/>.





## Mission

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

# IDHS

## Contact

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