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On Tuesday, January 3, 2017, McCordsville Fire Department Volunteer Firefighter Richard Rehm was laid to rest in McCordsville, Ind.

Approximately 300 family, friends and public safety personnel attended the memorial services. They began at the Mount Vernon High School in Fortville with burial in Saint Paul, IN.

“My heart goes out to the McCordsville Volunteer Fire Department and the McCordsville community. This was a tragic loss to the fire service and community,” said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. Rehm’s vehicle was struck by a train while responding to a call early Christmas Eve.

"My heart goes out to the McCordsville Volunteer Fire Department and the McCordsville community. This was a tragic loss."



- INDIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL JIM GREESON



Changes in Grant Projects? Communication is Key!

Indiana communities have been able to complete many mitigation and public safety projects with the assistance of federal grants. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), is providing reminders to local officials on the importance of updating projects and obtaining necessary permissions if changes occur.

When administering a federal grant at the community level, local grant administrators must seek permission from both IDHS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) if any scope of work changes occur. Scope of work changes can include, but are not limited to:

- Placement of item or project
- Change of item being purchased for the project
- Change in project budget
- Project site change
- Property use change

- Change in administration staff
- Matching funds source change
- Change in work timeline

Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants

Unified hazard mitigation assistance grants have their own specific needs as well. Once an acquisition project is completed, local entities must submit paperwork if there is any planned change in the land use. The local entity must submit a reuse request to IDHS, which must then be sent on to FEMA for approval before any, even minor, reuse changes may happen. For more information on HMA grants, visit <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance-program-guidance>.

IDHS Assistance

IDHS mitigation staff and district administrators are available to

assist with federal grants. Local officials and grant administrators are welcome, and even encouraged, to reach out to IDHS staff with any questions or concerns during the grant administration process.

The importance of following the permission process is clear. In the event permissions are not properly obtained, communities may face the requirement to return federal grant funding, ineligibility for future federal grants, delay of other federal grants currently in process, legal ramifications, and other consequences.

For grant administration assistance, or to discuss questions or concerns, contact Kim Synder at 317-234-8929. For assistance with Recovery Grants, contact Mary Moran at 317-232-3831 .

Former State Fire Marshal Goddard Passes Away

Former Mishawaka fire chief and state fire marshal Gene Albert Goddard, 87, passed away peacefully of natural causes on November 26, 2016 in Mishawaka, Ind.

Goddard served as a Mishawaka firefighter for 27 years and as chief from 1980 through 1984. Under his leadership, Mishawaka firefighters began training as emergency medical technicians, allowing the department to offer medical services for the first time. He additionally led local efforts to compile data on commercial and industrial facilities, such as explosive materials and gas shutoff locations, so that fire crews would have the information when they arrived on scene.

After retiring from the fire department in 1987, Goddard went on to become Indiana state fire marshal, serving under former Gov. Evan Bayh from 1990 through early 1993.

He additionally served as the chairman of the Board of Indiana Fire Fighters Association Inc. and was instrumental in the founding of the Survive Alive House, a Mishawaka initiative which educates elementary school children on how to evacuate a burning home.



Tips for Calling EMS

Calling 911 can be difficult and nerve-racking, especially during a dangerous situation. Getting information out to citizens about how to call is important, especially with new advantages Hoosiers have such as text-to-911.

Sending texts to 911 is now offered in all Indiana counties. This program can be used for non-emergencies or scenarios where it is dangerous to speak on the phone. If a call is made to 911 with a quick hang-up, the dispatcher will text the phone to make sure everything is okay. If possible, citizens should continue dialog with the dispatcher, and follow instructions.

It is likely 911-callers are nervous during a call. It is important to remind Hoosiers to stay calm and speak clearly when reporting an incident.

For more information on Text-to-911, visit <http://textty.com/>. For more information on safety and preparedness, visit GetPrepared.IN.gov.



Tips for calling 911

- Give the address to the dispatcher. If unaware of the location, give an intersection, direction and/or noticeable landmarks near the area.
- Briefly state the issue with the bottom line up front. The faster and more clearly a dispatcher hears an issue, the more rapidly the dispatcher can assist.
- Give the name of who is calling. If the incident is in a congested area, give descriptions of appearance to make it easier for responders to locate the situation.
- Lastly, listen to the 911 dispatcher. Answer the dispatcher's questions and follow all instructions. Do not end the call until told to do so.

Ice Rescue for Public Education Now Offered

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is holding a one-day Ice Rescue course for Emergency Responders at Camp Atterbury. The course is available on February 18, 2017.

The intent of the course is to provide emergency responders with enough information to take ice safety messaging back to their local communities and deliver a similar public service program to local residents living on or near bodies of water, or those that recreate on or near water.

Training on community education is important for emergency responders. IDHS Division of Training and Preparedness Director Brandon Wood encourages first responders to become more involved in community outreach. "We rely on emergency responders to help us

warn others of the dangers of ice," says Wood. "This training offers the education needed to get resources to the public in a timely manner."

With the information presented in this course, it is IDHS's intent that this training may prevent and/or prepare Hoosiers for ice-related situations.

Personnel attending should bring appropriate cold weather gear. The afternoon session will be outdoors, including hands-on practice with reaching and throwing devices. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) includes: Personal flotation device (PFD), hat, coat, long pants, gloves, boots and rain gear. Students without appropriate PPE will not be allowed to participate in training

exercises. PFDs will be provided for those who do not have access to one.



Above: an example of a previous ice rescue class held at Camp Atterbury.

Emergency Management Agencies Encouraged to Help with Utility Cybersecurity Education Efforts

Emergency Management Agencies are encouraged to build relationships and work with utility companies toward more robust cybersecurity.

Utility companies are potential targets for cyberattacks due to the amount of data they possess and the critical role they play in providing vital resources to their communities. As a result, it is important for emergency management agencies to think about critical water, gas or electric companies within the county's jurisdiction and to establish relationships and key points of contact with utility company leaders.

Cliff Campbell, the Vice President of Frakes Engineering, located in Indianapolis, agrees that educating utility companies about cybersecurity will help to ensure a safer Indiana.

"When you're talking about a system that could be incredibly overdosed with chlorine or chlorine totally removed from the system, you can really endanger a lot of lives," said Campbell.

IDHS is also working in conjunction with the Executive Council on Cybersecurity to educate utility companies in Indiana about the importance of cybersecurity.

IDHS has created a Critical Infrastructure-Cybersecurity Series. The series will consist of cybersecurity exercise sessions for utility companies. Utility industry leaders are advised to attend the sessions and share the information with their employees.

Some key items that attendees will discuss include: secured methods for sharing data with vendors and contractors, how to report and respond to cyberattacks, and information about anti-virus software, firewalls and networks infrastructures.

For more information on cybersecurity, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](https://www.getprepared.in.gov).

Keep Pets in Mind During Cold Weather

The weather this winter has already turned occasionally harsh, and will potentially get worse. Emergency managers and responders should consider educating their community on keeping pets in mind during the winter weather conditions.

Bring pets indoors in the winter and prepare for pets as you would the rest of the family. Most animals are not acclimated to the colder temperatures, and are not able to remain healthy while being outdoors for long stretches of time.

Chapped paws and itchy skin are some of the symptoms of a pet's exposure to dry, cold air, as well as snow or sleet. A dog or cat's paws can become dry and cracked if not maintained properly. To protect their paws against salt on the ground, booties are a coverage

option that keeps salt completely off pets' paws. Another protection option is to massage petroleum jelly on their paw pads.

It is important to towel dry their feet after being outside, removing any snow balls and dampness between toes. If the pet has short fur, it is helpful to use a coat for an extra layer of warmth. On long walks, bring a towel to wipe off their underbelly and paws to prevent stinging and clinging ice balls.

Cold weather can worsen some pet medical conditions, such as arthritis, so stay up-to-date on check-ups. Pets should visit the veterinarian once a year.

Don't bathe pets too often during winter. Washing can remove their natural oils that protect

them from dry skin. When it comes to grooming, don't shave pets down to the skin. It is ok to give some long-haired pets a trim to prevent ice from forming on fur. If the home is dry, consider using a humidifier to prevent skin irritation.

Before leaving the home in a vehicle, check underneath the vehicle. Outdoor and feral animals often use vehicles for protection and warmth during the winter.

Help citizens be aware of local pet safety laws. Some Indiana communities have laws or ordinances limiting when animals can be outside. If citizens see any laws or ordinances being broken, they should call local law enforcement.

Burn Awareness Week Falls in February

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security encourages Indiana firefighters and other emergency responders to observe Burn Awareness Week next month.

Burn Awareness Week occurs February 5-11, 2017. The intent of the week is to encourage burn, fire and life safety educators to share a common burn awareness and prevention message throughout their communities.

Approximately 450,000 burn injuries require medical treatment each year, as reported by the American Burn Association and National Burn Repository 2011 Report.

The awareness campaign offers prevention messages focusing children's burn and scald safety. This is including but not limited to:

- Hot water scalds;
- Matches and lighter safety;
- Cooking safety;
- 'Stop, Drop and Roll'; and
- Treating burns.

Resources such as public service announcements, fact sheets and curriculum materials (grades K-12) can be found on https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/burn_prevention.html.

For more information on fire safety, visit GetPrepared.IN.gov.



Bring Cold Weather Safety Home to Hoosiers

Cold weather safety starts at home. During the winter months, local emergency professionals can help remind citizens about important household preparations. Local departments conducting smoke alarm outreach during daylight saving time or hosting other cold weather safety events can share some of these talking points with citizens:

- **Each year, 720,000 people in the U.S. suffer heart attacks. Cold weather increases the risk of a heart attack because it puts a strain on the heart. Cold temperatures make blood vessels and arteries narrow, restricting blood flow to the heart and reducing the amount of oxygen available to it. Blood pressure increases which causes a higher risk for a heart attack or stroke.**
- **Families, homeowners associations and landlords should remove dead tree branches from trees. The weight of ice and snow, combined with winter winds, can cause limbs to snap and break which could do damage a home or building.**
- **Homeowners and renters should check their insurance policies to make sure coverage is adequate for the type of winter weather in the area.**
- **Limit time outside in freezing temperatures. If it is not possible to avoid time outside, wear the appropriate amount of layers to keep warm and take breaks inside of a heated building.**
- **Every home should have a winter preparedness kit. The kit should be substantial enough to support a family for a minimum of three days. Consider including:**
 - ◇ a battery-operated radio
 - ◇ hand crank or battery powered flashlight
 - ◇ extra batteries
 - ◇ bottled water/juices (one gallon per person, per day)
 - ◇ extra prescription medication
 - ◇ items for babies
 - ◇ items for family members with disabilities

Leadership Seminars Offered by State Fire Marshal

The Indiana State Fire Marshal will hold three leadership seminars in the coming months.

These seminars will allow fire chiefs to learn about the services available through the State Fire Marshal and Indiana Department of Homeland Security, including investigation support, training, disaster response and emergency medical services certifications.

Dates for the leadership seminars are:

- January 28 in Newcastle, Indiana
- February 18 in Warsaw, Indiana
- March 11 in Huntington, Indiana

For more information, contact John Buckman at jbuckman@dhs.IN.gov.



Spark Valentine's Day Candle Safety

Candles are a staple during the Valentine's Day season. On February 14, many people will light candles in their home, eat candlelight dinners and give candles as gifts. Even those who do not celebrate Valentine's Day can take the opportunity to review candle safety during this time of year. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is encouraging local firefighters and other responders to remind Hoosiers about candle safety practices.

Here are some outreach recommendations:

Send out Valentine's Day themed social media, e-mails or greeting cards that provide candle safety tips. Tips can include friendly yet knowledgeable messages such as:

- A friendly reminder, don't forget to put out candles before bedtime.
- It's romantic, but don't use candles to light a path or as a way of lighting the home.
- Hashtags can also be implemented on tweets if a department wants to send out multiple messages as theme. A hashtag could be added to the end of any of the above messages. An example of this would be: #CandleSafety

Speak to community groups about candle safety.

- Consider visiting local elementary schools during their card exchange to hand out Valentine's Day greeting cards with candle safety messages.
- If there is a small local business that sells candles in the area, consider visiting the store and providing safety tip sheets that can be shared with customers.

Distribute a public service announcement about candle safety.

- Public service announcements are often free of charge for airtime or print. Consider contacting local media sources with a public message about candle safety. This message can be a warning or statement of a fact, and should be written in 30 second increments.
- For example a message might say. "According to the National Fire Protection Association, about 3 out of every 5 candle fires start because the candle is too close to a flammable object like a piece of furniture, bedding or a curtain. This message is brought to you by [insert department name here]."

For more information about candle safety outreach visit GetPrepared.in.gov.

Mission

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.

Contact

The Hoosier Responder is a publication of The Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Office of Public Affairs at (317) 234-6713 or pio@dhs.in.gov.

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