

Hoosier Responder



Vibrant Response 2014 Exercise Concludes

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Chris Royce (left) of the EPA and Stan Capobianco (right) of the IDHS demonstrate for media how a radioactive soil sample is taken.

In July, federal, state and local agencies and military personnel from more than 28 states participated in a full scale exercise based in Indiana. In-state personnel participated at the Indiana Government Center, Muscatatuck Urban Training Center and Camp Atterbury. The exercise, Vibrant Response 2014 (VR14), is the larg-

est exercise ever conducted in North America.

Local, state and federal agencies including the U.S. Army North, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Indiana National Guard (INNG) and Indiana Department of Homeland Se-

curity (IDHS) are just a few that simulated their response to a 10 kiloton nuclear device being detonated in Speedway, Indiana.

The whole exercise took place from July 13 to August 14, with Indiana participating from July 21-25.

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30 Counties Receive FEMA Assistance for 2014 Winter Storms

With the addition of Lake County in July, there are now 30 Indiana counties receiving Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants for the January 5-9 winter storm.

“This has been an arduous process, but the outcome is good news for Hoosiers,” said Governor Mike Pence. “These grants will provide millions to local governments and select non-profits that are hurting financially, and I congratulate the counties, cities, and towns for their perseverance.”

FEMA public assistance grants will pay 75 percent of eligible expenses for damage to roads, bridges, utilities, debris removal, buildings, contents and equipment, water control facilities, parks and recreational facilities, and others, as well as emergency



Gov. Pence in the Emergency Operations Center during the Jan. 5-9 winter storms

protective measures like traffic control and rescue operations in the aforementioned counties. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) will work with FEMA and local agencies to document allowable expenses.

“This was a severe, prolonged winter storm that started the 2014 calendar year with a budget-stressing situation,” said Governor Pence. “Federal grants mean millions of dollars replenishing local budgets.”

Counties that have been granted public assistance include: Allen,

Blackford, Boone, Clay, Clinton, Fulton, Hamilton, Hendricks, Huntington, Jasper, Johnson, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Lake, Marion, Madison, Montgomery, Morgan, Newton, Noble, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Tipton, Vanderburgh, Vigo, Wabash, White, and Whitley.

All counties in the previous list except Owen and Vanderburgh are receiving 48 hours of snow assistance. Noble and Whitley counties are being provided with 72 hours of snow assistance, because they exceeded 150 percent of their record snowfall. Snow Assistance grants cover all costs associated with snow removal for the 48-hour or 72-hour period with the highest costs.

Communication When Disaster Strikes

Disasters and emergencies can interrupt phone communications. There's a good chance family members may not be together when disaster strikes.

When creating a communications plan, make sure everyone understands who to contact, how to make contact and where to meet up.

Who to Contact

Write down emergency contact numbers for everyone in the family and make sure everyone has a copy handy in a wallet, purse, backpack, etc.

Sometimes local cell towers and phone lines are overwhelmed during an emergency. Designate

an out-of-state contact that everyone can contact to relay messages through.

How to Make Contact

Different emergencies can affect the way family and friends can be contacted. In a disaster, cell towers and land lines may not be affected equally. If contact can't be

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Vibrant Response *(continued from page 1)*

Director of Planning and Assessment Division and Training and Preparedness Division, Joe Romero said, "The opportunity for local, state, federal, and military personnel to participate together in an exercise of this size and complexity is an invaluable learning experience for everyone involved. From the Governor's Policy Group, state agencies, and federal agency partners in the State Emergency Operations Center to the District 5 Incident Management Team and Indiana Task Force One personnel on the ground at Muscatatuck. Even the experience of our exercise controllers and evaluators in managing the exercise translates into lessons learned for managing real-world emergencies."

The Indiana Government Center South held two imperative functions of VR14, the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and the Joint Information Center (JIC). Both areas were packed to full capacity.

"The State Emergency Operations Center plays a critical role in coordinating a response to a catastrophic event," said Laura Dresen, IDHS Hazmat Radiation Specialist. "This exercise allowed us to practice this coordinated effort with the support of local, state



The staff of the Joint Information Center respond to social media and phone call simulations.

and federal partners.

The VR14 JIC responsibilities were to answer simulated media phone calls, social media requests, and to produce clear and accurate content for social media posts, press releases, press conferences.

"This was the first time a Joint Information Center was activated for Vibrant Response, and we're proud that Indiana could showcase its capabilities in public information," said John Erickson, IDHS Senior Public Information Officer.

"We received many compliments about the State of Indiana JIC operations, which is a credit to the

great partnership among state agencies and the private sector. It couldn't have been accomplished without everyone's contributions."

There were two simulation cells for this exercise, one located at the Indiana State Library and one at Camp Atterbury. The Indianapolis location was mostly made up of IDHS, FEMA and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) simulators. Camp Atterbury held Team Watson, Army North's contractors, who were simulating the local counties.

Also on Thursday in Indianapolis,

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Vibrant Response *(continued from page 3)*

The Vibrant Response exercise at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center (right).

located by the Law Enforcement and Firefighter Memorial, media had the opportunity to view a radiation field sampling team in full personal protective equipment collecting soil samples in response to a terrorist attack. Personnel from IDHS and the EPA were on hand for interviews.

The IDHS District Response Task Force 5 Incident Management Team (IMT) was located at Muscatatuck, along with federal and military partners, for the duration of the exercise. District 5 IMT responsibility was to assist with managing the response to the disaster. The team was tasked with ordering resources, ensuring safety of first responders and setting objectives for the overall incident.

"I've been in the emergency services business for nearly 30 years. And in that time, I have never experienced the level of training that prepares our responders for large scale emergencies than exercises like VR14. It gets us as close to the real thing as possible. We are extremely fortunate to have such a great facility like Muscatatuck and the training opportunities it provides," said Wayne Township Fire Department Public Information Officer Captain Michael Pruitt.



Exercise participants from the state included IDHS District Response Task Force 5, IDHS, Indiana Board of Animal Health, American Red Cross-Indianapolis, Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, Indiana State Personnel Department, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana State Police, Indiana University, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana National Guard, and Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Federal participants for VR14 were Indiana Task Force One,

FEMA Region V Regional and National Response Coordination Centers, FEMA Region V Incident Management Assistance Team, FEMA Denver Mobile Emergency Response Support, Defense Coordinating Element Region V, U.S. Department of Energy, National Technical Nuclear Forensic Team (FBI, DOE), Health and Human Services, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Joint Requirements Office and Ohio Task Force One.

Fayetteville Firefighting Duo Wins IVFA Award

In a rare turn of events, the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter Association (IVFA) presented a Global Award to two firefighters from the same IVFA district. What's more impressive is that the two men – Micah and Levi Keith – are father and son.

The IVFA annually presents one member in each of its 23 districts with a Global Award, which recognizes outstanding and dedicated service to volunteer firefighting.

"The Global Award is only given to individuals who have done a lot to promote the fire service and the IVFA," said IVFA President David Israel. "It goes to someone who has stood out as a community servant, a mentor, and for going above and beyond normal capacity."

Micah and Levi hail from the Indian Creek Volunteer Fire Department (Fayetteville/Bedford) in District 17B, which encompasses all of Brown, Monroe, and Lawrence counties; as well as parts of Jackson, Owen, and Morgan counties.

"Micah knew that Levi was getting a Global Award, and Levi knew that Micah was getting one, but they didn't have any idea about themselves," said Steve Nolan, IVFA District 17B Chairman, referring to the district's awards night. "When both their



Levi (left) and Micah Keith (right). Photo courtesy of the Times-Mail.

names were announced they were so surprised they just looked at me and then at each other and smiled."

Micah Keith has been volunteering for 27 years, and he currently serves as the Assistant Chief of the Indian Creek Volunteer Fire Department in Fayetteville.

Levi Keith began volunteering at the age of 16 and is already fast approaching a decade of firefighting service. He is currently Training Officer at Indian Creek, serves as the President of the Lawrence County Firefighters Association, and is a certified emergency medical technician.

"Dad was my biggest influence," said Levi. "He started before I was born, so I've always been around [firefighting]."

While Levi encourages others to get involved in serving their com-

munities any way they can, he says that this line of work can be particularly challenging. "Be prepared to devote a great deal of time and energy to [firefighting]," said Levi. "It's not something you can do half-hearted."

When they're not volunteering with the fire department, Micah and Levi both work at NSA Crane, a United States Navy installation located south of Bloomington.

"Most volunteer firefighters don't want trophies or plaques, just a nice 'thank you' every once in a while," said Israel. "But it's nice to nominate our volunteers and recognize good work."

NFPA Study Analyzes Volunteer Firefighter Injuries

The National Fire Protection Association recently released its analysis of volunteer firefighter injuries from the years 2010-2012. The report shows the leading types of injuries for all types of duty were strain, sprains and muscular pain, followed by wounds, cuts, bleeding and bruising.

“Unless a department is on a regular physical training program, strains and sprains can be extremely common,” said IVFA President David Israel. “When you’re fighting a house fire, it has a different strain on your body than your day job. The biggest thing on the volunteer side is to make sure we’re taking care of ourselves.”

Frostbite and heat stroke were more likely to occur with volunteer firefighters, because smaller



communities were less likely to have up-to-date personal protective equipment.

“Some of the volunteer departments may not have the latest and greatest in terms of gear, but they do the best job they can with what they have,” said Israel.

“Volunteers need to know their limitations for what’s safe and what’s not.”

In addition, smoke or gas inhalation was also more prevalent, percentage-wise, for volunteer firefighters. Less access to up-to-date self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment for smaller departments versus larger departments was a factor.

While all fire departments represented in the study, volunteer or not, reported falls, trips, strains and other injuries, a higher percentage of volunteer firefighters experienced extreme weather-related injuries. This was again due to differences in personal protective equipment.

Three years of data were used because the estimates for some of the breakdown categories are small and can vary considerably from year to year. For more information, visit www.nfpa.org/osds.

New Indianapolis Smoke Alarm Ordinance in Effect

Effective August 1, all Indianapolis homeowners and landlords are required to install new smoke alarms with 10-year batteries once their current alarms expire. The proposal was approved by the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee by a 9-1 vote this past spring.

“Smoke alarms help save lives,” said State Fire Marshall Jim Greeson. “I strongly encourage all Hoosiers to regularly test their smoke alarms to ensure they’re in working order.”

The ordinance applies to houses and townhomes, but not to apartments unless approved by the

Indiana Fire and Building Commission. The changes to battery requirements do not apply to hard-wired alarms.

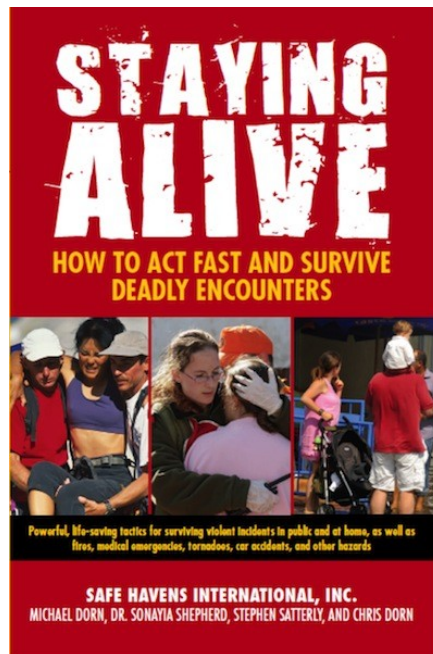
The new smoke alarms do cost more than conventional models, due to longer battery life and tamper-proof casing.

Local School Administrator Co-Authors Book on Surviving Deadly Situations

A local school administrator has co-authored a book, *Staying Alive: How to Act Fast and Survive Deadly Encounters*. It offers life-saving tactics for surviving violent incidents in both public and school settings, and it also provides tips for surviving natural disasters, fires, car accidents and other emergencies.

Stephen C. Satterly, Jr. is Director of Transportation and School Safety for the Community School Corporation of Southern Hancock County. His three co-authors – Michael Dorn, Dr. Sonayia Shepherd, and Chris Dorn – are with Safe Havens International, a non-profit school safety center.

According to his book biography, Satterly is a certified Indiana school safety specialist and has presented at Active Shooter workshops for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He has also served as a research consultant for the 2013 White House School



Safety Initiative, and has numerous law enforcement training certifications, including Active Shooter Doctrine and Gang Specialist.

Chapter titles include: Assessment and Situational Awareness; Knowing the Signs of Violence; The Importance of Preparing Properly; The First 30 Seconds –

The Critical Window of Life; and, Active Shooters – Should you Run, Hide or Fight?

The introduction states that “Violence is not a new phenomenon, and mass casualty attacks are far from uniquely American. Violent deaths at school make up less than 2 percent of youth homicides.... After each deadly incident large and small, we mourn our losses, ask why it happened, and then heal and get on with our lives. This cycle repeats itself, and the violence continues. We must find a way to break this cycle, to learn the skills we need to be able to prevent such violence, or at least to improve the chances of surviving it.”

Staying Alive: How to Act Fast and Survive Deadly Encounters, is published by Barron’s Educational Series, Inc. and is available now as a paperback. To contact Satterly, email him at ssatterly@newpal.k12.in.us.

Social Media and School Violence Online Training

For many, social media plays a small role in daily life; some, especially teens, rely on social media sites for the majority of their interaction, communication and sharing of information. Recent incidents of school violence have been linked to social media post-

ings, and many went unnoticed or unreported.



The National White Collar Crime Center (NWC3) now has a six-part training video series available, “Social Media and School Violence.” The training is targeted toward law enforcement, specifically school resource officers, as a

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Decatur Community Schools Creates Student CERT Program

The Decatur Community Schools Corporation (DCSC) trained 24 high school students to be a part of the district's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) on July 23-25 at the Decatur County Sheriff's Department.

"I think it's great that the kids are willing to give up three days of summer vacation to do this training and help out their community," said Johnny Budd, DCSC Superintendent.

The CERT program educates and trains people about disaster preparation and response in several areas including fire safety, search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. When professional responders are not immediately available, CERT members can quickly assist following an emergency or disaster.



"The more people you can have trained the better your team is going to be," said Budd. "Students can be first responders. They can react to the situation and attend to people while adults are arriving on scene."

After three days of training, the North Decatur and South Decatur high schools each have 12 students who are now qualified CERT members. The student teams are mostly made up of juniors, so they will be in the program for two years. DCSC intends to conduct another student CERT training session next summer.

"The CERT program provides continuity and baseline training," said Lt. Rob Duckworth, DCSC School Resource Officer. "Next year we'll have these same students back, and we'll train 24 more students; the older group will mentor the younger group." "We're hoping to continue to grow the program, and ideally we'll have 25-30 kids per building who are trained to respond," said Budd.

The CERT training was supported by grants administered by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. The Secured School Safety Grant program provides funds for school resource officers and equipment to improve school safety and security. CERT equipment is provided through the Citizen Corps program, which has a goal of educating citizens to assist in emergencies and disasters.

Social Media and School Violence *(continued from page 7)*

way to understand the connection between social media and school violence.

The six training segments are:

- Case Study: Jeff Weise (a 2005 case);
- Historical Perspective;
- Evolution of Online Social Networks;

- Interactions with Internet Service Providers;
- Emerging Trends; and
- Interacting in Social Communities.

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.nw3c.org/training/specialty-training/social-media-and-school-violence>. All NWC3 training is free to mem-

bers. Law enforcement agencies or other government agencies involved in the prevention, investigation, or prosecution of economic crime, cybercrime, and terrorism may apply for membership through the online application process at <http://www.nw3c.org/membership/apply>. Membership in NWC3 is free.

Communication When Disaster Strikes *(continued from page 2)*

made via cell phone, try using a land line, and vice versa.

Also try text messaging if cell phone calls are not working. Texting only requires a short signal burst to transmit. If a cell tower is damaged and only functioning intermittently, text messages may be able to get through when a call cannot.

Facebook and Twitter are also great communication tools in a disaster. A post about an individual's condition and location can be a great relief to family and friends in a stressful time.



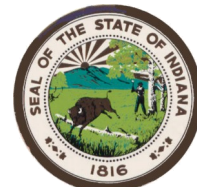
The final piece of the plan is setting up a meeting place for family members to reunite after an emergency. Make sure everyone is familiar with the location and could get there easily.

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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