



Hoosier Responder

DECEMBER 2011

Volume 7, Issue XII

REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR THE 2012 GREAT CENTRAL US SHAKEOUT

With more than 40 million people living and working in the central United States, a major earthquake could cause unprecedented devastation. What we do now, before a big earthquake, will determine what our lives will be like afterwards. With earthquakes an inevitable part of this region's future, we must act quickly to ensure that disasters do not become catastrophes.

The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut in April 2011 involved more than 500,000 Hoosiers and three million total participants throughout the

region. This year, the ShakeOut will be held on February 7, 2012, the 200th anniversary of the 1812 New Madrid earthquake. The event, organized by the Central United States Earthquake Consortium and involving the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, will be held at **10:15 AM EST on February 7, 2012.**

The 2011 ShakeOut focused on preparing schools for a potential earthquake; this year, we will focus on readying the business community [\(continued on page 2\)](#)

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From the Director's Chair-Executive Director Joe Wainscott Statewide travel advisory system gets all Hoosiers on same page

Over the years, Indiana has seen some severe weather, including nasty snowstorms and freezing cold.

This winter, the oceanic/atmospheric phenomenon, La Niña, is driving climatologists to predict a wetter than average winter. While the fruit of those predictions is yet to be witnessed, there is already a first for this winter; 2011 will be Indiana's first winter with a standard system for travel advisories.

The levels of notice coincide with

the alerts issued by the National Weather Service. Control is still entirely up to local county councils and mayors regarding levels of warning enacted, however, the standardization is the common language that all Indiana counties can now easily determine.

Previously, each county had the authority to create and issue different categories of travel advisories. This led to some confusion as one county may have a different category for the same road conditions. No longer will someone who lives in one county

and works in another have to figure out which system a county is using. It's now all consistent.



The importance of the travel advisory system is to assist Hoosiers with changing weather conditions. The different advisory levels are designed to allow the public, media and even public safety

[\(Continued on page 5\)](#)

SHAKEOUT (continued)

in the Hoosier state.

A key aspect of the ShakeOut is the integration of comprehensive science-based earthquake research and the lessons learned from decades of social science research about why people get prepared. The result is a "teachable moment" on par with having an actual earthquake (often followed by increased interest in getting ready for earthquakes). ShakeOut creates the sense of urgency that is needed for people, organizations, and communities to get prepared, to practice what to do to be safe, and to learn what plans need to be improved.

The 2012 ShakeOut drill will be the largest preparedness event in central U.S. history.

To participate, visit <http://www.ShakeOut.org/centralus> and pledge your family, school, business, or organization's participation in the drill. Registered participants will receive information on how to plan their drill and how to create a dialogue with others about earthquake preparedness. All organizers ask is that participants register (so they can be counted and receive communications), and at the minimum practice "drop, cover,



and hold on" at the specified time. It is only a five minute commitment for something that can save your life. It all begins with registering, which is free and open to everyone.

Additional information about the Great Central United States ShakeOut in Indiana can be found at <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3729.htm>. "

FEMA RELEASES UPDATED NIMS TRAINING PROGRAM

In September of 2011, FEMA released an updated guidance document for NIMS training across the nation. The updated NIMS Training Program will continue to define training in relation to preparedness, communications and information management, resource management, and command; and continue to be one component of a comprehensive emergency management program. Integrating FEMA training offered through the Emergency Management Institute

(EMI) and United States Fire Administration (USFA) will also continue to be part of the program.

Changes to the program include simplifying the categories for each level of the NIMS training curriculum. Training recommendations are now based upon the level of an incident's complexity, and emergency management officials should tailor NIMS training for their personnel as part of a qualification system. Also, changes include the

recommendation for personnel to refresh their NIMS training every three years.

The updated NIMS Training Program supersedes the NIMS Five-Year Training originally released in February, 2008 and can be found [here](#) or by visiting http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/nims_training_program.pdf. "

IDHS NAMES NEW BUILDING LAW COMPLIANCE OFFICER

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security recently named Dean Illingworth as Building Law Compliance Officer. Illingworth recently served as Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Indianapolis, where he had been on the Board of Directors for twelve years.

Prior to his experience with the



projects in Indiana, including: Fayette, Fulton, Decatur, Owen County courthouses, the Soldiers &

Habitat for Humanity, Illingworth worked with Schmidt Associates, contributing to numerous

Sailors Monument restoration, and numerous other schools and government buildings.

Illingworth's position with IDHS became effective on November 14th. For information on the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Plan Review and Inspection Department, visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/2372.htm>. "

RED CROSS RELEASES RESULTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY

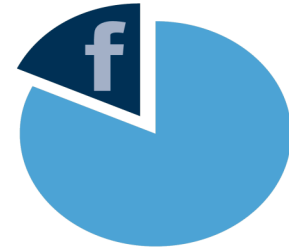
Social media has become an increasingly common way to communicate between friends and family. With such heavy reliance on social media, the American Red Cross wanted to know how people use these types of communication and technology during emergencies by administering two nationwide surveys of over 2,000 people this year. The survey grouped respondents based on the frequency of their use of the internet, grouping them into a general population and an online population.



80% expect emergency responders to monitor social sites.

Source: 2011 Red Cross Social Media Survey

The results showed that many people use social media as a regular communication method to get help, distribute information, and find ways to help their neighbors or others in need of help. The survey showed that a fifth of all respondents would turn to social media if unable to contact local EMS via telephone. Much of the population expected their calls for help to be received by authorities; 80 percent of the general population and 69 percent of the online population believed that national emergency response organizations should regularly monitor social media sites in order



18% use FB to get information about emergencies.

Source: 2011 Red Cross Social Media Survey

to respond to citizens quickly. Of those who reported they would request help via social media, 38 percent of the online population and 35 percent of the general population said they expected to receive help within one hour of their posting.

Additionally, nearly a quarter (24 [\(Continued on page 4\)](#))

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES LISTED ON IDHS ONLINE CALENDAR

Providing training opportunities to emergency responders throughout Indiana is a priority for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). These courses are listed on the IDHS Consolidated Training Calendar which is continuously updated as new courses become available.

Introduction to Emergency Management

Indiana Government Center
302 W. Washington St.,
Room 18
Indianapolis, IN46204
February 13-14, 2012
8:00am-5:00pm
TARGET AUDIENCE:

The target audience for this course is new emergency management directors, deputy directors, and staff who will be responsible for the primary operations of the emergency management agency. Although not intended for EMA volunteers, this course provides an overview of the emergency management processes and may be suitable for those volunteers who serve in an administrative capacity to the EMA.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to provide individuals who are new to emergency management with the information and tools necessary to establish and function within a

comprehensive emergency management system. The course introduces topics such as Indiana's disaster history, state and local emergency management laws and authorities, emergency planning, training & exercise development, disaster response including relationships between local, state, and federal partners, and grant management. Students will receive a tour of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security offices and Emergency Operations Center. Students will have the opportunity to interact with new colleagues and meet various IDHS staff.

Damage Assessment

Tippecanoe County Extension

RED CROSS SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY (Continued)

percent) of the general population and a third (31 percent) of the online population said they would attempt to use social media to let loved ones know they are safe. Eighteen percent of both populations responded that they would use Facebook or other



24% would use social tools to tell others they're safe.

Source: 2011 Red Cross Social Media Survey

social media in order to gain information about the emergency. This survey confirms what many already believed: the public believes social media to be a mainstream communication vehicle in order to get help, distribute information, and find ways to help others. The public

also expects emergency responders to monitor social media in order to send help to those in need. These findings show an increased reliance on social media, and offers information that may be useful to response organizations across the country as they develop plans to communicate with the public during a disaster. ▪

REMEMBER THESE SAFETY TIPS TO ENSURE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY SEASON

Holiday season is approaching, which means lights, trees and decorations to many Hoosier families. The holiday season is a time of joy and cheer, so it is important to remember safety tips to avoid injury when decorating your home. December and January are the most common months for fires related to decorating and home structures. Holiday lights, Christmas trees, unattended candles and heating units are the most prevalent for fire related



disasters in the U.S. "It's important not to let holiday safety get lost in the midst of your plans," said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott, "Taking a few moments to remember these tips can help ensure you have a great holiday season, and most importantly a safe one." Christmas tree fires are the leading cause of deaths among

Americans during the holiday season, due to unattended lights, candles, outlets and other sources of danger. Each year, these fires cause an average of 14 civilian deaths, 26 civilian injuries and \$13.8 million in direct property damages, with one out of every 21 reported fires resulted in death. Many artificial trees are fire resistant, so always be sure to look for this when purchasing. Also, fresh trees are less of a fire hazard than dry trees. A live tree should be fresh and green, with sticky resin on the trunk and needles that are hard to pull away from the tree. Always remember to place all trees away from heating sources.

Artificial snow is used by many to simulate a winter wonderland in their homes. However, this can

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2012 IERC NOW ACCEPTING SPEAKING PROPOSALS

The Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC)

is now accepting speaking proposals for the 2012 IERC, which will take place in September of 2012 in Indianapolis. Interested candidates are asked to submit outlines of your proposed topics by January 1, 2012 for consideration.

Submissions must include the names, contact information, and

2012 Indiana Emergency Response Conference



FIRE • EMS • LAW ENFORCEMENT • HAZMAT • SPECIAL OPS • LEPC

short biography of all presenters. The submission must also include a title, abstract, audience, objectives, and audio/visual needs. Presentations are typically one hour long, but special cases can be considered with committee approval.

Further details on how to submit a proposal can be found at www.indianaerc.com, or by emailing Terry Rake, rake@indianaerc.com, or Cheryl Kussow, kussow@indianaerc.com.

DIRECTORS COLUMN (CONTINUED)

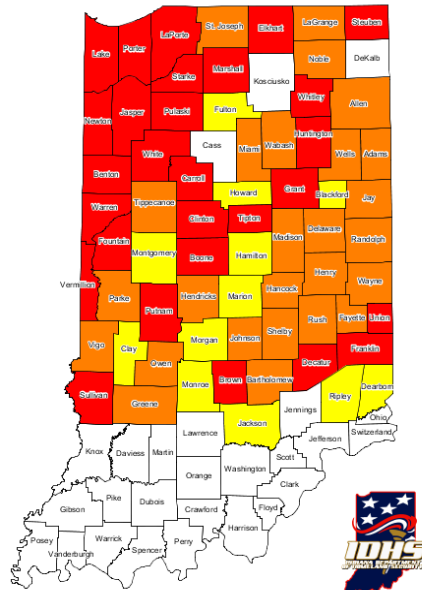
professionals to more easily understand when travel is restricted and better serve our communities. While these travel advisories will be used most frequently during winter storms, they can be used throughout the year when conditions inhibit safe driving.

Travel advisory categories are:

Advisory

(Yellow): Routine travel or activities may be restricted in some places if there is a hazardous situation, and caution should be exercised in those areas. Schools and businesses may begin to implement their emergency action plans.

Watch (Orange): Conditions threaten public safety, so only essential travel, such as for work or emergencies, is recommended.



NOTICE: Travel status information is provided by each county's emergency management agency.

Travel advisory map during February 2011 winter storms

Emergency action plans should be activated by schools, government agencies, businesses and other organizations.

Warning (Red): Travel may be restricted to emergency workers only. Citizens are directed to refrain from all travel, comply with necessary

emergency measures, cooperate with public officials and disaster services forces in executing emergency plans, and comply with the directions of properly identified officers.

The current travel advisory map can be found at www.in.gov/dhs by clicking the County Travel Advisory Map link under Topics of the Day.

It is important to remember that these categories only affect counties in Indiana. If travel takes Hoosiers into a neighboring state, they may not have the luxury of consistent travel advisories.

The main benefit and necessity for an easy to decipher warning system are evident. The system serves the needs of Indiana's citizens. Now, no matter how many counties citizens need information for, they will all know, quickly and easily, how to read the advisories. Knowing what to expect can alert drivers on what to expect, or to avoid travel altogether, and help Hoosiers have a safe and enjoyable winter.

WEBEOC DEVELOPMENT TEAM MONTHLY UPDATE

ESI's Web Emergency Operations Center (WebEOC) is the Indiana Department of Homeland Security Crisis Information Management Software that provides tools to manage crisis information and emergency response. WebEOC is a tool that can be customized based on local requirements while affording agencies the capabilities of connecting to different communication systems to access crisis information available to authorized users anywhere. While useful during the planning, mitigation, response and recovery phases of an emergency, WebEOC is only as good as local users utilize it.

When a user has requested a

WebEOC account through their County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), the EMA will send a request for a new WebEOC user account. The WebEOC Administrator will receive the request and respond to the County EMA within a 24 hour. The County EMA will receive an email stating that the WebEOC account has been created and a separate email will go to the user with their username and password login information.

The user will be requested to login and verify the accuracy of their information. That information is the username, password, email address, and the correct board. The temporary password is good for 30 days. After this period, the account

will be locked, and an email generated request will need to be sent to WebEOC@dhs.in.gov to unlock the account.

If you currently have a WebEOC account and don't login for 30 calendar days, the account will go to a lock status. At which time, you will need to contact the WebEOC Administrator by way of email, to request that your account be unlocked, WebEOC@dhs.in.gov.

Every 180 days users will be required to change their passwords. The minimum password length is 9 characters. ■

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS (CONTINUED)

cause injuries to the lungs if inhaled, so read the caution label carefully before spraying. All decorative lights need to be checked for safety, and can be found on the label before purchasing. Electrical fires resulted in 1/3 of all home Christmas tree fires. Check new and old lights for any damages to sockets, wires or loose connections and discard. Never use more than three strands of lights per single extension cord and turn off all lights when going to bed or leaving the house. "Bubbling" lights can be very dangerous to children since these can cause harm if crushed or swallowed.

When hanging Christmas lights outdoors, use an extension

ladder, and place it on flat, stable ground, leaning against the house at a comfortable angle. The distance from the wall to the ladder's base should be roughly one-quarter the length of the ladder. To avoid falling, lean out to one side and as you climb, your weight should be centered and your hips between the rails. Wear rubber gloves when replacing a bulb, and use plastic clips to hang the lights to outside walls and gutters. Always hang lights on a dry day; approximately 1,300 people are treated every year for Christmas lights related injuries.

Candles are another leading cause of holiday fires and have resulted in 11 percent of all Christmas tree fires. They resulted in 122

home structure fires and direct property loss of over \$2 million annually. Never leave a burning candle unattended, and be sure to put it out before leaving a room, your home or going to sleep. Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn on a sturdy structure.

For more holiday safety tips, visit getprepared.in.gov. ■

IDHS TRAINING CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

Office
3150 Sagamore Pkwy. S.
Lafayette, IN 47905
February 22, 2012
8:00am-5:00pm

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Local emergency management agencies and respective damage assessment staff (highway department, public works, EMA volunteers responsible for damage

assessment) as well as the local auditor and elected/ appointed officials should attend this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This 1 day (8 hour) workshop addresses the requirements of conducting an accurate assessment of disaster damages to your community. Both public assistance and individual assistance processes will be covered. The course uses

the Emergency Support Function (ESF) concept. Participants will be involved in practical exercises using FEMA damage assessment criteria.

To access this calendar visit the IDHS Training Division webpage and click the Consolidated Training Calendar link at www.in.gov/dhs/tngbranch.htm.

BOMB ARSON TRACKING SYSTEM AVAILABLE TO INDIANA FIRE INVESTIGATION UNITS

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office has been using the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) since the beginning of 2011. BATS is a secure, web-based case management and information sharing system that is the nation's sole repository for information pertaining to bombing, explosives, and arson incidents. The system is designed exclusively for fire investigation units and bomb squads as the direct link to the United States Bomb Data Center.

BATS include a functionality that allows investigators to use the program as a case management system, allowing them to document their investigation in BATS, while maintaining operational security.

Using Internet-connected computers, investigators can use BATS



to perform trend analysis and compare incidents for similarities in motives, device components, suspects, and crime methodologies for possible investigative leads nationwide.

If your agency is interested in using the BATS system, please contact the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office Chief of Investigations Robert W. Dean at bdean@dhs.in.gov.



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.

Please direct any questions or comments to the

IDHS Public Information Office at 317.234.4214 or pio@dhs.in.gov.