

The Hoosier Responder

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ATF researchers burned four abandoned apartment units in southwest Indianapolis to study the effects of ventilation on fires. Afterwards, IDHS used the burned out buildings to conduct training exercises for local arson investigators.



Burning for Knowledge ATF Leads Research Burn

On August 13, researchers from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), along with personnel from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, the Marion County Arson Taskforce, and several local fire departments participated in a series of large-scale research burns west of Indianapolis.

Four incomplete, uninhabited apartment units on South Bridgeport

“The more we understand about the effects of ventilation, fire growth, and fire air travel, the safer it's going to make firefighters.”

Tim Murray, IDHS

Road were burned to explore the effects of flow path ventilation on fires, and the causes of hoseline failures in intense heat – research which can actively contribute to arson investigations and firefighter safety.

“Firefighters used to break out the windows to cool the environment and what we now know is that that allows more air in and the fire grows,” explained Adam St. John, ATF Fire

(Continued on page 2)



Local fire departments from surrounding counties were present to train and to help control the burns.

Protection Engineer and lead researcher. “The air coming in is going to drive fire progression and fire patterns. It’s injuring and killing a lot of firefighters in the line of duty.”

Experts from ATF’s Fire Research Lab in Beltsville, Maryland, led the research effort, which consisted of several concurrent projects related to ongoing investigations regarding firefighter safety, arson, and line-of-duty deaths, according to ATF’s Patrick Hand.

The event was originally intended to be a small local exercise, but it grew rapidly in the four weeks leading up to August 13.

“The intent was to have practical

training exercises for local investigators,” said Tim Murray, IDHS arson investigator. “Then ATF got involved and it just blossomed.”

The data from the burns was collected by several ATF instruments, including two interior cameras, which were incinerated as part of the burn but recorded fire and smoke spread. ATF also monitored interior temperatures and tracked heat flux. The researchers varied the ventilation for each of the four burns in order to study how it affected fire growth and movement within the units.

“The more we understand about the effects of ventilation, fire growth, and fire air travel, the safer it’s going to make firefighters,” said Murray.



The aftermath of one of the apartment units burned for research. ATF installed cameras inside to each unit to monitor fire progression as it relates to ventilation. Afterwards, arson investigators used the scene for training purposes.

“It has huge ramifications for the entire fire service in the United States.” ♦

► What's Going On

September is National Campus Fire Safety Month

Promoting Awareness Among Indiana Students & Teachers

As classes resume and the fall semester kicks into high gear, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security encourages all students, faculty, staff, families, and friends to promote fire safety on college campuses across Indiana as part of National Campus Fire Safety Month.

“College is such an important time for so many of our young people, which is why both university staff and students need to ensure that all aspects of collegiate life are fire safe,” said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. “Proper safety measures save lives and enhance the overall experience for all campus communities.”

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), U.S. fire departments respond to an

average of 3,800 fires in dormitories, fraternities, and sororities every year. These fires, on average, cause two deaths, 30 injuries, and cost millions of dollars in property damage every year. More than 80% of these fires involved cooking equipment, and fires were much more common between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Compared to on-campus fires, off-campus fires are much more prevalent. Campus Firewatch, a safety organization focused on higher education, reported that from January 2000 to April 2014 there were more than 166 campus-related fire fatalities – 87% of which occurred in off-campus housing. Common factors in off-campus fires included a lack of automatic fire



80% of dorm fires involve cooking equipment

sprinklers, missing or disabled smoke alarms, careless disposal of smoking materials, impaired judgment from alcohol consumption, or fires originating on upholstered furniture on decks or porches.

To find out more about campus fire safety, please visit getprepared.in.gov or www.campus-firewatch.com. ♦

IAHMR Conference

Register for Oct. 24 & 25

The Indiana Alliance of Hazardous Material Responders (IAHMR) is hosting a 2-day hazardous materials training conference on October 24th and 25th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day at the National Guard Amory and the City of Lafayette Fire Department training grounds, Lafayette, Indiana. There is no registration fee and lunch will be provided.

Michael Callan—author, firefighter, and hazmat instructor—will be presenting the keynote address.

The conference is free, but participants must register ahead of time by following this link: <https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=gEoy5FXhTt2TiWKBwZDohw>

For more information, please visit www.iahmr.org. ♦

September is National Preparedness Month

Focus on Emergency Planning

Governor Pence has declared September Preparedness Month. This month, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is focused on educating and empowering Hoosiers to prepare for and respond to all different types of emergencies.

Disasters and emergencies (e.g. winter storms, floods, tornados, terrorist attacks, etc.) can leave households without electricity, heat, and clean running water. Standard lines of communication may not be available; there is also a possibility that emergency personnel may be unable to immediately respond. This is why it is critical to have an adequate three-day supply immediately available in a household.

Hoosiers remain largely unprepared for disasters and other life-threatening emergencies. According

to a 2013 IDHS survey of more than 2,500 Hoosiers, less than half of Indiana households that responded were properly supplied for an emergency.

IDHS officials urge Hoosiers to turn awareness into action and adopt the goal of being self-reliant for at least three days in the event of a disaster or other type of emergency.

Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to raise public awareness for disaster preparation. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security urges all Hoosiers to act on this information and be prepared for all types of emergencies. To learn more about how to get prepared, please visit Getprepared.in.gov, www.ready.gov, or www.cdc.gov/features/beready. ♦

What's Going On

Great Central U.S. ShakeOut Set for October 16, Register Now

It's not too late to sign up for this year's Great Central U.S. ShakeOut, which will be held at 10:16 a.m. on October 16.

The ShakeOut is the largest earthquake drill in the Central United States. The drill is led by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, local emergency management agencies, Indiana Geological Survey, and the Indiana Department of Education.

A total of more than 1.4 million participants have registered so far, and currently Indiana is in the lead with nearly 380,000 registrants. Indiana has nearly 100,000 more registrants than the next closest state. Last year, Indiana led the way with almost 550,000 registered participants.

The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is an opportunity to practice safety measures in the event of a large

earthquake. On October 16 at 10:16 a.m., participants should drop to the ground, take cover under a table or desk, and hold on to it

as if a major earthquake were happening. Practicing early is the key to protecting yourself and others during an actual earthquake. While under the desk or table, imagine what would actually be happening in that moment during an earthquake. After the drill, practice and discuss what to do after the shaking stops.

The days leading up to the ShakeOut are also a great time to do a "hazard hunt" at home, school, or the workplace. Look for items that are vulnerable to falling, like bookshelves and equipment, and secure them or move them to a secure location. Use



this time to create a family or business disaster-preparedness plan, that takes into account needs for all individuals and pets in a given location. Update emergency supply and preparedness kits with items like water, flashlights and batteries, blankets, first aid supplies, and more.

To learn more about the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut or to find out more about earthquake safety, visit www.shakeout.org/centralus or GetPrepared.in.gov. ♦

October Is Cyber Security Month Protect Digital Information

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, which encourages those who are active online to implement safer and more secure practices in order to protect themselves and their private information. From online shopping to social media use, cyber threats can pop up around any corner, and it's best to be prepared. There are several simple steps that can be taken in order to keep information safe:

Maintain strong passwords. Passwords should be as strong as possible. Use at least eight characters with a combination of upper and lowercase letters, along with numbers and punctuation. Do not keep a digital document of passwords on the computer.

Keep security software up-to-date.

There are various providers of software that can help prevent viruses and malware from infecting computers. Update the software and scan the computer on a regular basis.

Install a firewall. Firewalls regulate the flow of information between the Internet and individual computers, and they are effective at keeping unwanted or unsafe material from being downloaded. For tips on how to properly install a firewall on your computer, contact an Internet service provider.

Use trusted and familiar websites when shopping online. Only shop online with familiar, trusted vendors, and be wary of buying items that are drastically undervalued. Do not use unfamiliar payment methods to complete transactions.

Keep your web browser updated. Outdated browsers can compromise the computer's security. Many software companies release updates on a regular basis. If possible, set your browser to auto-update.

Back up important files. Even with the most secure measures being taken, things can still go wrong. It's important to keep valuable documents and records backed up elsewhere. Make use of flash drives, external hard drives, and cloud storage services to ensure that important information is securely backed-up in case of a computer malfunction. ♦

Indiana Emergency Response Conference Award Winners

August 20-23, 2014

Ambulance Provider Public Relations Award



Prompt Ambulance Service (Highland) Representing: Shar Miller (left), Ron Donahue

EMS Advance Life Support Provider of the Year (non-fire department based)



American Medical Response (Evansville) Representing: Sherry Fetters (left), Lee Turpin

Fire Chief of the Year (career)



James Robert, Greenfield Fire Department

Dispatcher of the Year



William Helfrich, American Medical Response (Evansville)

EMS Advance Life Support Provider of the Year (FD-based)



Scott Township (Evansville) Representing: Keith Kahre (left), Adam Farrar

EMS Basic Life support provider of the Year (non-fire department based)



Prompt Ambulance Central (Lafayette) Representing: Nate Metz (left), Colby Reel

EMS Basic Life Support Provider of the Year (FD-based)



Evansville Fire Department Representing: Mike Connelly

Fire Chief of the Year (volunteer)



Phil Pirtle, Waynetown Fire Department

IERC 2014 Award Winners (Continued)

Heroic Rescue of the Year Award



Jason Tibbetts and Katie Warrick (not pictured), Decatur Township

Fire Officer of the Year Award



James Beaman, Vincennes City Fire

EMS for Children Award



Kerri James, Trans-Care (Brazil)

Medical Director of the Year



Dr. Michael Smith, Reid Hospital (Richmond)

EMS Primary Instructor of the Year



Chris Thomas, Sugar Creek Fire Department (Terre Haute)

Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year Award



Jeff Owens, Wayne Township (Indianapolis) Fire Department

Not Pictured:

Louis Scarpellini, Fire Instructor of the Year (Vincennes University)

Mark Snodgrass, Paramedic of the Year (Lilly Fire Rescue, Indianapolis, IN)

The July 26 exercise at Lake County Jail simulated a truck bomb explosion attempting to spring a high profile inmate. The jail was secured and everyone was triaged in 30 minutes.



Lake County MCI Exercise Simulated Jail Explosion

On July 26, Lake County Jail held a mass casualty incident drill at its facility in Crown Point in order to test its personnel's preparation, training, and reaction times as well as to ensure the jail's compliance for certification purposes.

"I kind of surprised the staff," said Ron Svetic, Lake County Jail Fire Training Officer. "They knew something was going to happen but they didn't know what."

In the drill, a truck pulled up next to the jail facility and detonated a load of explosives, and what was supposed to be a controlled blast to free a high profile inmate turned into a mass casualty incident. The exercise team set off a flash bang in order to simulate the blast. With security compromised, the jail personnel had to secure the

perimeter of the facility to prevent any escapes and also perform a head count of all the inmates, who were being played by cadets of the Civilian Air Patrol of Porter County.

“Besides the routine training...how are we going to get our officers thinking outside the box?”

The jail's medical team, along with the IDHS District 1 MCI team, set up a triage in the outdoor recreation area near the facility.

"We got everyone triaged and out of the building in less than a half hour, which was pretty good," said Svetic.

The exercise involved cooperation from several groups outside of the

Lake County Sheriff's Department, including Lake County Emergency Management Agency, Porter County EMA, Newton County EMA, and the Illiana Search and Rescue Team.

Although he has only been on the job for just over a year, Svetic has been known to come around unannounced and spring drills on the jail's officers, just to test their reactions under various pressing circumstances. Assistant Warden Tim Hogan also emphasizes the need to be ready for anything.

"Mainly, it comes down to preparation," said Hogan. "Besides the routine training, how are we going to think outside the box to get our officers thinking outside the box?" ♦

Jamie Middlebrook

August 2, 1973 - August 5, 2014



At the conclusion of the burial service, firefighters place white carnations on the casket. The carnations have a red center, which signifies the sacrifice of life in the line of duty.

“ We are here today to honor Assistant Chief Jamie C. Middlebrook.

Firefighters and EMS personnel are unique individuals. Just like police officers, firefighters and EMS answer the public’s call. Firefighters, whether they are career or, as in Jamie’s case, volunteer, give of themselves in some of the most difficult of situations. He truly lived up to the fire service motto, "to save lives and property". Day or night we in public safety answer the call. But there are times such as this when the call of service and sacrifice carry a heavier burden.

Jamie always protected, always defended, always watched out for his community. He made us all stronger by his service. We leaned on him.

Jamie not only volunteered to be a firefighter but also had a full time career with the town of New Carlisle Emergency Medical Services where he also served as the assistant chief. He was a certified EMT and EMS driver.

Like other public safety callings, fire and EMS is a brotherhood. And that bond is a matter of trust, honor and heart. Brotherhood requires a deep commitment that no performance appraisal could ever truly measure. It's a personal commitment that goes beyond the job. It is a promise and

an expression of what you believe.

Jaime exhibited who he was and how he lived for all to see. Not for recognition or reward, but for duty and service.

Jamie’s colleagues express that he was willing to take the extra steps, help carry others’ burdens, and hurt with his friends. If you ever felt this way, you know that you were meant for something more than a job.

In fact, it was as though Jesus called Jamie by name. He had a purpose,

and he lived that purpose fully.

In the Book of John, Chapter 15, verse 13, Jesus says: “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

Jamie sacrificed and now we honor his sacrifice.

Jamie answered the call for 22 years of public service. He has received recognitions over the years but I understand he was most proud this one accomplishment: His love and dedication to his wife.

May god bless the family and the public safety community and look over us as we continue our service.

To all those who care about and knew this brave man, and on behalf of a grateful state, I offer our sincerest, deepest condolences and impassioned prayer that you might find comfort in your faith, in your families and in the absolute assurance that Indiana will never forget and will never fail to be inspired by the courage, the service and the sacrifice of Jamie C. Middlebrook.

May he rest in peace. ♦ ”



Jamie Middlebrook, 41, died in the line of duty on August 5, 2014, battling a blaze at the K-Fex septic pumping business in New Carlisle, Indiana. His funeral service was held on August 11, 2014 at Bethel College in Mishawaka, Indiana.

—John Hill, Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, remarks as prepared for Jamie Middlebrook’s funeral service in Mishawaka August 11, 2014.

Ambulance Donated to Logansport Fire Dept.

Cass County Ford Gives 1987 Van

In July, Cass County Ford donated a 1987 van-style ambulance to the Logansport Fire Department. The new vehicle is intended to provide basic life support transportation within the city.

“We got it as a trade-in, and really haven’t used it for anything other than promotional banners,” said Jim Hayden, Cass County Ford owner. “We became aware that [LFD] was looking for a new ambulance, and it was an issue of funds. We were glad

to help and give back to the community.”

Prior to the donation, LFD had been searching for ways to supplement its ambulance services. Back in December, Rural/Metro Co. offered to lease one of its units to the fire department for \$1 a year, but the deal fell through due to federal regulations for Rural/Metro’s acceptance of Medicare and Medicaid payments.

LFD plans on using the ambulance as a backup option for when the county’s primary ambulance service, Rural/Metro, is already out on a call.

Strong has already filed an application for license plates and hopes to have the new acquisition fully functional soon.

“We plan to have our guys look it over and make sure that it’s in working condition before we get the plates on it,” Strong said. ♦

EMA Salary Disbursal IDHS Grants \$2.48M

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security has begun its process of disbursing more than \$2.48 million in grant money for emergency management agency (EMA) salaries in 90 Indiana counties.

The grants cover 50% of county EMA personnel salaries, up to three positions: EMA director, deputy director, and an administrative assistant.

The funds currently being distributed are for the 2013 calendar year. In order to qualify for the grant, county EMAs must meet Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) compliance standards. This includes taking 11 classes from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and participating in three Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) compliant exercises.

Grant agreements are made on a year-to-year basis between the counties and IDHS. Of the 90 counties set to receive funding, only 45 are in process due to paperwork requirements still to be met. IDHS Grants Management expects to have all 90 in process by the end of October 2014. ♦

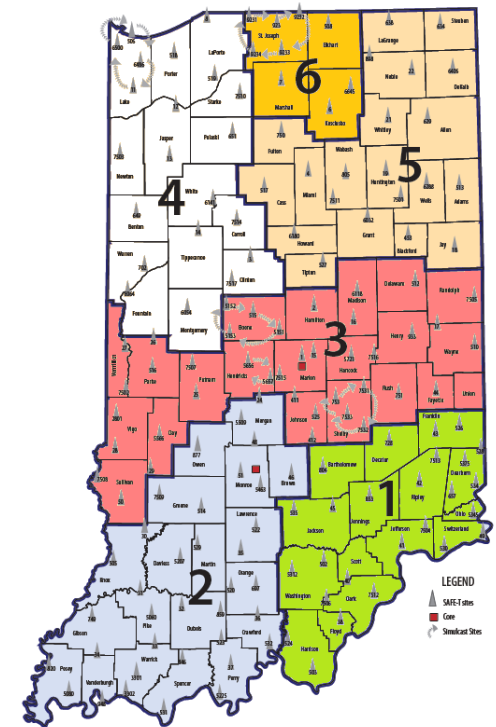
Indiana to Upgrade to P25 Radio System New System Will Double User Capacity

The Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC) is working with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and other state agencies to upgrade communications systems around Indiana. The upgrade will occur in phases around the state, with the first phase implemented by December.

The upgrade will transfer systems from 800 MHz to P25. The current system is limited to 64,000 users and is at maximum capacity. After the upgrade, capacity will double to 128,000 users. It will also allow first responders in Indiana to communicate with responders from Illinois, Michigan and Ohio.

The P25 system allows users to purchase radios from multiple manufacturers. Many of the users in the state have Motorola radios, and Motorola is providing flash kits to local agencies at no cost. The flash kits will contain the core set of common frequencies that must be programmed into the radios, ensuring interoperability.

The State of Indiana will provide the infrastructure and will maintain and operate the system at no cost to user



The above map displays the different phases of the plan. The first phase will start this December, with the remainder to be completed within two years.

agencies. However, agencies will be responsible for installation and reprogramming labor costs and should check with the manufacturer to see what these costs will be. ♦

#INDYMALLEX

The Greenwood Mall Terrorism Exercise Social Media Posts

On August 17, the FBI, Indianapolis Metro Police Department, Greenwood Police Department, Greenwood Fire Department, Indianapolis Emergency Medical Services, and Johnson County Sheriff's Department held a complex terrorist attack mall exercise at Greenwood Park Mall.



IMPD News

August 17 at 9:29am · Edited · 🌐

ALERT: Today, the FBI in cooperation with local and state public safety agencies and Simon Properties will hold a joint mock terrorism exercise at the Greenwood Park Mall. Set-up has begun and the exercise will begin at 6:00 pm and last until after midnight. During this time you will see large amount of emergency equipment and personnel. This exercise is not open to the public. Please do not be alarmed by what you see. #INDYMALLEX

Like · Comment



IMPD @IMPD_News · Aug 17

Part of the exercise deals with an explosive device inside a car parked outside #INDYMALLEX @PoliceGreenwood pic.twitter.com/8qpXRknP3v

↩ Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite

Flag media



Jennie Runevitch @JennieWTHR · Aug 17

RT @scoopjefferson: #INDYMALLEX SWAT Team as part of FBI terrorist attack exercise

↩ Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite



“ We can give that confidence to the public that we are there to do this in the right way in the rare occurrence that [an attack] should happen. ”

W. Jay Abbott, FBI Special Agent

#INDYMALLEX



IMPD @IMPD_News · Aug 17
#IMPD officers participating during #INDYMALLEX @IFD_NEWS @PoliceGreenwood @IndStatePolice @IndianapolisEMS pic.twitter.com/GmdKw17VnZ

Reply Retweet Favorite

Flag media



Steve Jefferson @scoopjefferson · Aug 17
#INDYMALLEX FBI terrorist attack exercise at Greenwood Mall pic.twitter.com/NMyn9lvzRh

Reply Retweet Favorite

Flag media



Indiana State Police @IndStatePolice · Aug 17
Indiana State Police SWAT team gives media demonstration before start of Greenwood Mall training #INDYMALLEX pic.twitter.com/0QO1toWwM9



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 Public Information Office at (317) 234-6713 or pio@dhs.in.gov.

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