

# THE HOOSIER RESPONDER

SEPTEMBER 2023



INDIANA'S NEXTLEVEL

## HUB-AND-SPOKE

KICKING OFF THE NEW FIREFIGHTER TRAINING MODEL

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- National Preparedness Month Promotes Older Adults' Needs in an Emergency
- IDHS Elevates EMS to a Stand-Alone Division in Agency
- Newborn Safety Device Grant Provides an Opportunity to Save Lives
- Earthquakes in Indiana Take Center Stage in *Get Shakin'* Contest
- Harvest Season Reminders About Sharing the Road with Farm Equipment
- Historic Funding for School Safety



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# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Disaster scenes can be a chaotic challenge for a first responder, and the ability to prioritize and help the most people in the quickest way possible is key to a successful response.

Eliminating immediate threats requires cooperation from all first responders on the scene and a clear chain of command. The Incident Command System (ICS) establishes those roles and responsibilities, but a successful incident response is as much about personalities and focus as it is training and equipment.

Good working relationships are critical to disaster response. The relationship between the local emergency manager (EM) and other local public safety officials is paramount. While all first responders want to protect and save people, a county EM may have a vastly different approach than a police officer or EMT. Knowing how to approach and work with local counterparts is extremely important, and those relationships should be formed well before an incident occurs.

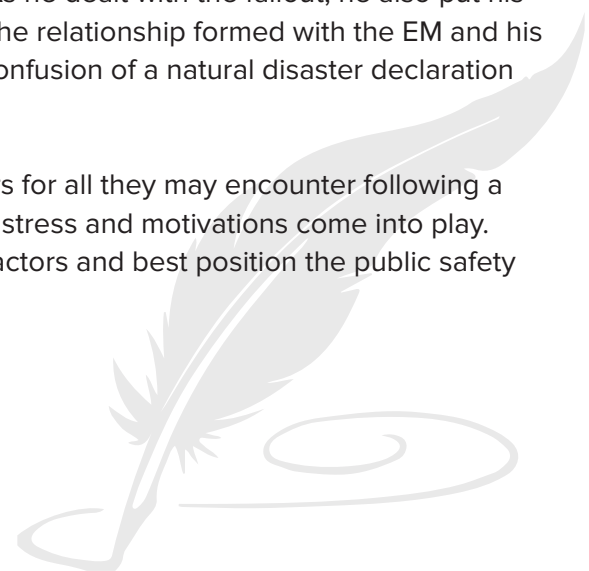
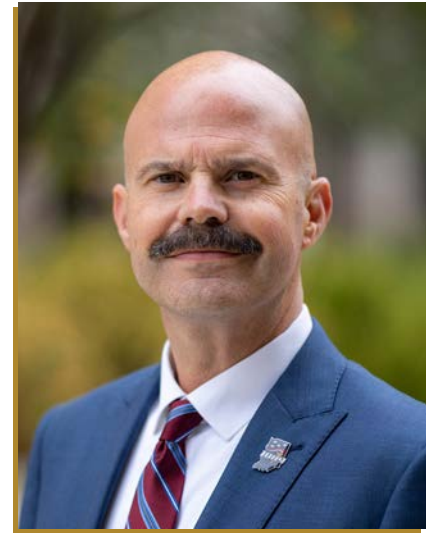
As a state agency, IDHS experiences this often with other state partners as well as local jurisdictions. When IDHS staff respond to disasters and begin to help residents recover, the first step is always to connect with the county EM. It is his/her job to be prepared for such a scenario, and the EM can serve as an important liaison between the state and local government. Any other approach risks the local community responding negatively to the arrival of state officials. The key messaging for the community is: “Disasters start and end locally.” IDHS, and FEMA when necessary, support recovery at the local level. This level of trust and understanding is built around a solid working relationship.

This year provided an important example of how relationships are vital before an event occurs. When tornadoes tore through several Indiana counties on March 31-April 1, county emergency management agencies were called into action to lead the response. One of those emergency managers was also a victim, having lost his family home to a tornado, just as many of his neighbors did. As he dealt with the fallout, he also put his community first and for months worked to represent their interests. The relationship formed with the EM and his county leadership continues to be fruitful as residents navigate the confusion of a natural disaster declaration while rebuilding their lives.

Training and exercise go a long way toward preparing first responders for all they may encounter following a disaster. But much of this may go out the window once personalities, stress and motivations come into play. Productive working relationships help to overcome these unknown factors and best position the public safety community and residents after an event.



Joel Thacker  
Executive Director







## PUTTING FEMA TO THE TEST

When FEMA Region 5 exercise personnel asked IDHS to participate in an exercise for its employees, IDHS Exercise Program Manager Jess Kindig and Response Director Brad Thatcher saw an opportunity to piggyback on the idea.

FEMA Region 5 recently updated its Long-Term Power Outage Plan and wanted to have its personnel put the plan into practice. Like local emergency management agencies and IDHS, FEMA exercises its plans to make sure employees and stakeholders are comfortable with the plan before an emergency happens.

To test the plan, FEMA asked Region 5 states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin) to act in a functional exercise and make requests as if

the scenario were real. Indiana and Minnesota readily signed up.

“We saw it as an opportunity to do something for ourselves that might help us and benefit us while at the same time being a training aid for FEMA Region 5,” Thatcher said. “It gave us a great opportunity in a no-fault environment to do some training and practice in our state EOC.”

“We were pummeling them with requests. ‘We need generators. We need fuel for the generators. We need food. We need water. We need all these things.’ Minnesota was doing the same thing,” said Kindig. “The exercise was really giving FEMA the feel of how it coordinates more than one state where everyone is requesting the same things. What does that coordination look like on their end?”





While the functional exercise was set up for FEMA's benefit, IDHS turned it into a learning opportunity as well.

"It was good practice for our team to play out what they would need in a scenario," Kindig explained. "Getting the muscle memory of how to write resource request forms and what information should be on there."

A similar scenario played out during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All FEMA Region 5 states were asking for the same resources from the federal agency. A major time delay was caused because the states and FEMA were not on the same page when filling out resource request forms. States would submit the forms, but FEMA needed more information and would have the states fill out the forms again.

"Post-incident critiques often confirm that experience gained during exercises was the best way to prepare teams to respond effectively to an emergency. They enhance knowledge of plans, allow members to improve their own performance and identify opportunities to improve capabilities to respond to real events," said Thomas Sivak, regional administrator for FEMA Region 5.

Since the height of the COVID-19 response, FEMA personnel have trained with Indiana on filling out the forms and detailing exactly

what FEMA needs to be able to divvy up assets responsibly.

"That's what we wanted to test internally. How do we communicate better with FEMA to get them to understand what it is that we're asking for and for us to know what questions we should ask," said Kindig. Thatcher added that it was a great opportunity for new IDHS staff to practice interacting with FEMA, which is something most employees do not get to do often.

FEMA Training and Exercise Specialist Fabian Bahena said this exercise gave FEMA the opportunity to learn how it needs to operate with states.

"In order to help people before, during and after disasters, FEMA needs to understand not only our own capabilities, but also the capabilities of the states and tribes we support.

"Specifically, exercises are an important component of this, by providing FEMA and our community partners the opportunity to assess capabilities and identify areas for improvement. This goes a long way toward providing a platform for people to build relationships, gather and share information, and think holistically about disasters," Bahena said.

After digging into the components of the exercise, Thatcher wanted to take it a



step further. He realized IDHS and stakeholders needed to sit down and examine Indiana's long-term power outage plans. He and Kindig developed a workshop to happen on the same day as the FEMA Region 5 exercise.

"I think it was eye-opening for all the participants. We're very much dependent on power. When you don't have power, the cascading effects of that touch every part of our life, both personally and professionally," Thatcher explained.



“We have power outages, and it goes out for a couple of hours or a day and it comes back on and everyone gets by. But if you think about the power going out for four to six months, then it becomes a question of ‘How do you take care of 6.5 million people in the state of Indiana for six months?’” said Thatcher.

Kindig said this group learned a lot. There were good discussions on what a realistic response would be, how a cyberattack could affect long-term power outages and if the cyber response team is a deployable resource.

While four to six months without power may seem like an exaggerated event, Thatcher believes it could happen.

“I think it is very realistic. In the world we live in today, we are all critically dependent on power.



We live in a world where we are constantly under cyberattacks,” said Thatcher. “That’s why it is important that we have these conversations. Not that we came up with all the answers, but we identified a lot of the problems that we’re going to have to solve if that happens for real.”

The next steps are for FEMA to take its lessons learned from the functional exercise and for IDHS to take feedback from the workshop and discuss what needs to be

adjusted or changed. Bahena called the exercise a success.

“Just the fact that we had two states, 11 federal agencies, two tribal nations and the American Red Cross playing across a geographic footprint stretching from Denver to Washington, D.C., was a win. But more than that, the exercise gave everyone involved the opportunity to test this specific plan and establish relationships for when we need to respond to real-world events.”

# CELEBRATING NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS DAY

## MARK OCT. 28 ON YOUR CALENDARS

# HONORING EVERYDAY HEROES

National First Responders Day serves as a heartfelt tribute to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day to ensure the safety and well-being of their communities. October 28 recognizes all first responders, from firefighters and paramedics to police officers and emergency medical technicians. These individuals are the heroes who stand firm in the face of danger, providing aid, comfort and protection during times of crisis. Their selfless dedication, unwavering courage and quick thinking profoundly impact the lives of those they serve.

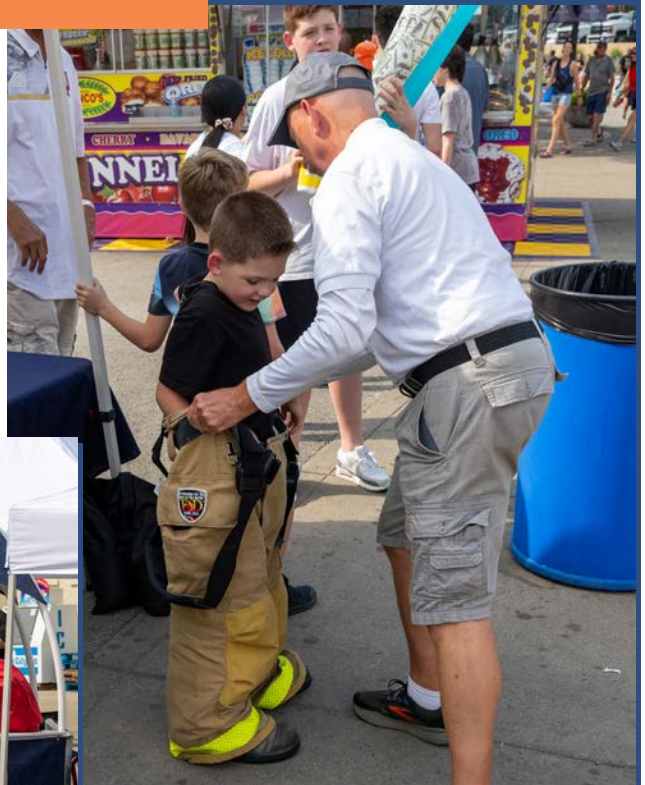
If you would like to express your appreciation for a first responder in your life, consider downloading these [thank-you cards](#). These cards offer a small yet meaningful way to convey gratitude and admiration for their remarkable service.



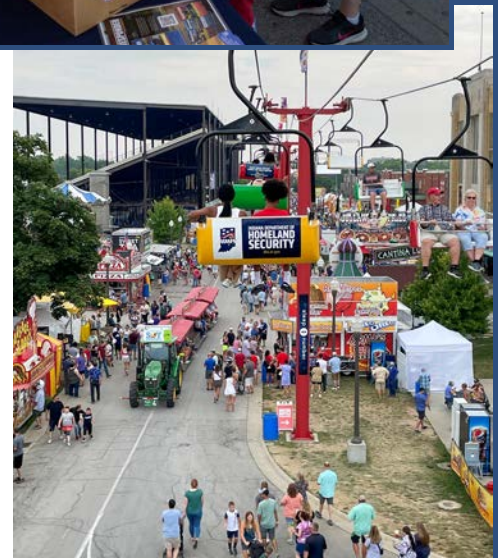


# IDHS AND THE INDIANA STATE FAIR

Thank you to everyone who joined IDHS during the last five days of the Indiana State Fair. IDHS teammates enjoyed your participation, enthusiasm and curiosity. IDHS hopes you had a fantastic time, won prizes and gained valuable safety insights. IDHS will see you again next year!



INDIANA  
**STATE FAIR**





# PLAN AHEAD FOR MITIGATION GRANT APPLICATIONS

FEMA announced in late August its project selections in the FY2022 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) National Competition, and for the first time, one of Indiana's projects was chosen to receive funding.

The Mars Hill Flood Control Improvement District (FCID) Project will receive more than \$6.2 million to mitigate flooding risks to 2,241 parcels in Marion County, where more than 200 National Flood Insurance Program claims have been filed over four decades. This will result in hundreds of homes no longer being part of the 100-year flood plain, and hundreds more will no longer be susceptible to higher-frequency flood events. The project includes upgrading a ditch to a two-stage ditch, restoring a waterway to a natural (vegetated) state, stabilizing banks and modifying bridges to prevent debris jams.

“Our team is overjoyed to have been selected as the first BRIC grant recipient in the state of Indiana. Our DPW and consulting team worked very hard in 2022 to apply for the BRIC grant and to demonstrate the need and cost-benefit analysis for this critical flooding improvement project to help residents in the Indianapolis area,” said Shannon Killion, engineering stormwater administrator for the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW). “The BRIC grant will help expedite the completion of all FCID projects, accelerating the timeline for the maximum number of properties to be removed from the flood plain or have their flood risk reduced.”

BRIC is a federal grant program administered by FEMA that supports hazard mitigation projects to reduce risks from disasters and natural hazards. It replaced the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program a few years ago, but many of the guidelines and eligibility requirements remain the same.

Most funds are awarded on a competitive basis, meaning that local projects submitted as part of the state's application must compete nationwide. This has been challenging for states like Indiana, as many projects that win grant funding have gone to larger states and coastal areas.

The FY2022 project award selections, including the Marion County project, marked the first time Indiana and four other states in FEMA Region 5 will receive BRIC funding.

“We are so excited to have one of our project applications selected because the process is so very competitive,” said IDHS State Mitigation Officer Ashley Steeb.

The pre-application period for the next round of BRIC funding ended on Sept. 15, but Steeb encourages





interested Hoosier governmental units to start planning now for next summer's application period.

"BRIC is there to help communities become more resilient for when disasters happen, so create your projects now," she said. "You may not see a return now, but say there is a flood five years from now, then your community can be more resilient and better able to recover and become independent more quickly. Your community would not be as impacted as it would have been."

To have a more competitive project in FEMA's eyes, Steeb recommends Indiana communities develop projects that have the most impact and help the most people, that mitigate climate change (or offer "green solutions") or that benefit or focus on disproportionately affected populations.

FEMA also favors projects that are supported by research-based studies, which may have helped this year's Mars Hill project's selection, Steeb said.

"Look at how your project can affect everyone in the county, for example," she said, "and look for ways to have partnerships, such as a county applying in conjunction with a nonprofit on a local project."

Nonprofit organizations are not eligible on their own to apply, but governmental entities can sponsor nonprofit projects. Governments can also develop joint applications, whether they are working

with other counties, municipalities, emergency management agencies, school systems or police, fire or EMS departments.

Some potential local projects were not chosen for the state application in the past due to ineligible project types. Equipment costs are typically ineligible because they do not necessarily mitigate a natural hazard. This means purchasing items like generators, trailers, vehicles and even warning sirens are not allowable.

The "I" in BRIC stands for "Infrastructure," but not all types of infrastructure are eligible. FEMA allows for smaller infrastructure projects like building community safe rooms, flood walls and pump stations, as opposed to the construction of typical infrastructure like roads, bridges and sidewalks.

To learn more about how to create a competitive project, contact the IDHS Mitigation Section or attend upcoming FEMA webinars.

"Attend the FEMA webinars because they will have important application tips and could help you brainstorm as other projects are being discussed," Steeb said. "Also don't be afraid to ask questions or reach out to us with your project ideas. We're here to help. Your project might not be eligible for BRIC, but Mitigation can guide you elsewhere. There are resources out there, so don't be afraid to ask for them."



## LISTEN TO THE IDHS PODCAST

Indiana Director of Emergency Management and Preparedness Mary Moran joins the podcast to discuss National Preparedness Month and how IDHS is working to get older adults ready for emergencies.

Listen online at [on.in.gov/hoosier-homeland](https://on.in.gov/hoosier-homeland) or subscribe to the podcast using one of the podcast services below:





## SAVING LIVES BY OFFERING SAFE OPTIONS TO HARD DECISIONS

## NEWBORN SAFETY DEVICE GRANT AVAILABLE NOW

Four lives are forever changed in Indiana thanks to newborn safety boxes, also known as baby boxes, placed at two fire stations.

In July, a mother surrendered an infant to the Kokomo Fire Department by placing the baby in the Safe Haven Baby Box. In August, another person surrendered an infant to a Safe Haven Baby Box at a Carmel Fire Department station.

Kokomo Fire Chief Chris Frazier says it was just another morning for his crew when they heard the baby box alarm sound off.

“Our alarms have gone off several times, but it has always been a false alarm from curious people who open a door and set the alarm off,” said Frazier. His team quickly realized this time was different as they checked the alarm.

“The first guy through the door and turned the corner said he could see the baby’s arm up in the air. We knew immediately we had a baby in the box.”

Within two minutes of the baby being placed

in the box, Frazier’s crew was there giving the baby initial care.

“Make sure the baby is breathing and looks healthy and that there are no obvious issues that they need to address,” Frazier described. In this case, the baby looked healthy. His team then looked after the child until the closest medic arrived to take over.

Baby boxes are a safe, legal and anonymous way for a mother to surrender a child. These boxes are being placed across Indiana to help mothers in crisis.

“A mother can feel safe and secure knowing that if she surrenders in our baby box, the child will be kept safe and be cared for throughout the next phase of the surrender process. A baby that is surrendered will either be adopted through the state’s Department of Child Services or, in some states, adopted through a private adoption agency,” said Monica Kelsey, founder and CEO of Safe Haven Baby Boxes Inc.

Frazier says the box at his fire station has a bag in the box intended for the mothers to take

with them after surrendering the child. The bag includes information like a crisis hotline that can get the mother medical attention and additional help.

“As an organization, our goal is to not only protect and to ensure that a newborn is safe and healthy but also to walk alongside the birth parent letting them know they are not alone,” Kelsey said.

“The mothers really seek these out. They do their research to find out where they are leaving their baby. There is nothing negligent about this. They actually take the time and effort to consider where they are going, what they are doing, which one they are going to,” Frazier explained. “I think she put a lot of effort into making sure she was leaving her baby in a safe place.”

“Our organization not only lives by the Safe Haven motto: ‘No Shame, No Blame, No Names’ but we are also about changing the narrative,” said Kelsey. “The traditional Safe Haven Law has been around almost 25 years, but there is not a lot known about it, because there is not nearly



enough education and safe haven awareness.”

Right now, IDHS has a [Newborn Safety Device Grant](#) that is open and accepting applications. This grant provides reimbursement grants to emergency services providers to purchase a newborn safety device that will notify either the Department of Child Services or a licensed child-placing agency to take custody of a surrendered infant.

Frazier said it is an easy decision to install a box: “Especially with a

grant available, I would say this is a no-brainer to do this.

“It is an absolute positive. You can see from the reaction and ongoing reaction from our firefighters involved in this. They have a life-long concern for where this child is going to end up in its life.”

Additional information about the Newborn Safety Device Grant is on the [IDHS Grants Management webpage](#). If you have questions, you can submit a [Grants Management Support Ticket](#).



## ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCATIONS

### Eligible organizations include:

- Fire departments (including volunteer departments)
- Hospitals
- Units of local government (county, cities, towns, townships)
- Nonprofit organizations (501(c)(3))
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers

### Eligible locations include:

- Hospitals
  - The device must be located in an area of the hospital that is conspicuous and visible to staff.
  - The hospital must be staffed on a 24/7 basis to provide care in an emergency.
- Facilities, fire departments and EMS stations
  - The device must be located in an area that is conspicuous and visible to staff.
  - The location must be staffed on a 24/7 basis by an EMS provider.
  - The device must have a dual alarm system.
- Volunteer fire departments
  - Response time to the location may not exceed four minutes and must be within the minimum time established by the county.
  - The department must be within one mile of a hospital, police station or EMS station that is staffed on a 24/7 basis by full-time personnel who hold a valid cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification and that meets the minimum response time established by the county not to exceed four minutes.
  - The device must be equipped with an alert system meeting the requirements of IC 31-34-2.5-1(a)(5)(B) and (C).





INDIANA'S NEXTLEVEL

# HUB-AND-SPOKE

## FIREFIGHTER TRAINING MODEL IS ROLLING ALONG

*Corydon, Linton, Rensselaer and Wabash set to receive new training grounds*

The Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy system recently announced the first four communities set to receive a new firefighter training facility as part of the new \$7.7 million Hub-and-Spoke model approved earlier this year by the Indiana General Assembly.

“This is a great day for the Indiana fire service,” said Joel Thacker, executive director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), at a recent kickoff event. “We’ve been working on this project for a couple of years now, but it’s probably three decades in the making.”

the first phase of construction for the project. These sites are expected to be operational by spring 2024. Additional sites will be selected next year.

The \$7.7 million in funding — the first-ever state budget allocation for fire training — is designated to construct physical training structures in areas where a high-quality training facility does not exist or is not conveniently located. Outside of this funding, all firefighter training and disaster relief are funded solely by the sale of fireworks.

The majority of Indiana is served by volunteer firefighters who are unable to travel long distances for extended periods to attend a centralized training site. As a result, many departments mock training in

The communities of Corydon, Linton, Rensselaer and Wabash were selected as



open parking lots or conference rooms, and many firefighters never have had any live-fire exposure before responding to calls.

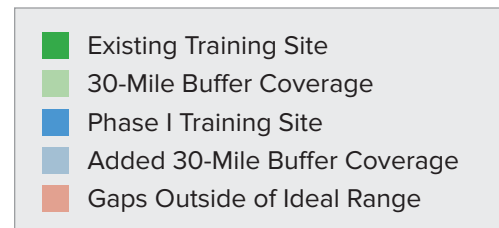
“We have these ‘training deserts’ all across the state of Indiana, areas where when they are called to pull up to a front yard at somebody’s house and somebody’s trapped, but they’ve never been able to do training for a search under fire conditions,” Indiana State Fire Marshal Steve Jones said.

Jon Saulman, chief of the Harrison Township Fire Department in Corydon, said access to live-fire training is a “critical element to safety and training for our firefighters.”

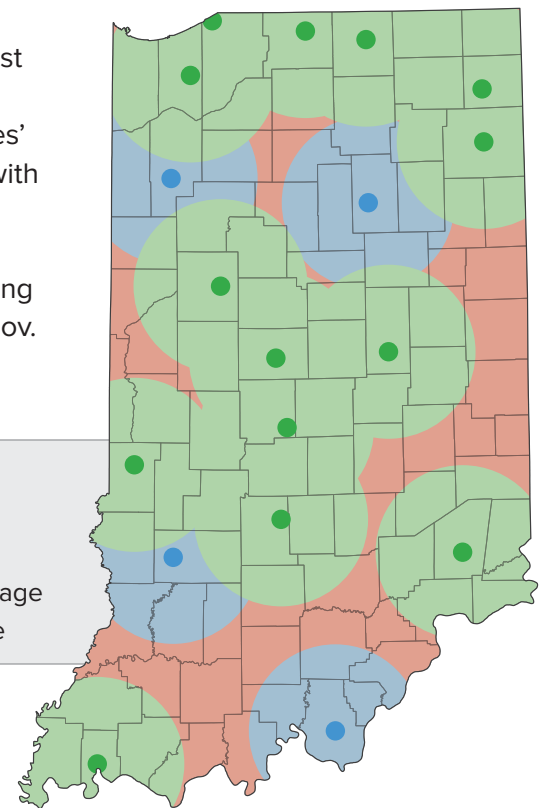
“Being selected for the first phase of this program is a total game-changer for our training program,” Saulman said. “We are looking

forward to providing focused, quality live-fire training to not just our firefighters, but also to our county and surrounding counties’ firefighters that we mutual aid with on a regular basis.”

The project to expand fire training in Indiana was part of Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb’s 2023 agenda.



At the kickoff event, Holcomb celebrated the Hub-and-Spoke concept as part of “unprecedented investment in capital works projects, and we started with those folks who are on the front lines.” The budget also allocated



significant funding to the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.

The program provides \$10 million strictly to volunteer firefighters who need to replace personal protective equipment (PPE). Some volunteer departments are forced to use equipment handed down or discarded from other departments because they have minimal budgets for volunteer fire service. This creates an additional risk for firefighters through worn-out turnout gear or expired breathing apparatus.

Holcomb said he was especially proud of the support to replace PPE for volunteers who are the “absolute statewide firefighter fabric.” An IDHS committee is evaluating departments for



eligibility while awaiting bids for the state to purchase the new equipment. Thacker said as many as 900 firefighters may benefit from this program.

## What's next for the Hub-and-Spoke plan?

More than 100 Indiana communities have requested a new training site under this proposal. Geography is the primary factor for selection, with the goal to eliminate the need for firefighters to travel more than 30 miles for training. Also important among the selection criteria are the availability of locally owned property suitable for live-fire training and the level of commitment from each community to maintain the property after construction.

All communities that receive a new training location will be required to sign a contract indicating they will open the site to regional

departments for training. All sites will be locally owned and maintained.

The number of sites constructed will depend on how far the \$7.7 million can be stretched. Bids are currently being accepted for steel shipping container training facilities. Each facility will have a similar modular setup, with several stories, a tower and live-burn capabilities. Some sites may require more infrastructure and preparation than others, which will impact the cost.

The original plan called for more than \$13 million to construct new sites and enhance existing ones, although the final legislation reduced that funding to \$7.7 million. IDHS intends to pursue additional funding in the 2025 budget session.

The Academy functions from a central location in Indianapolis (the Hub) and utilizes more than



a dozen physical training sites across Indiana (the Spokes). However, several parts of the state are left with “training deserts,” and the new sites will address that issue.

## Is it too late to be considered?

Departments interested in a new training facility or new PPE for their volunteers are still asked to [complete the questionnaire available on the IDHS website](#). Providing all the necessary information in the form will increase the likelihood of consideration. An IDHS committee continually evaluates form submissions for eligibility.

IDHS soon will finalize vendors and begin distributing PPE to volunteer departments, with the goal of helping the volunteer departments with the most need.

More information is available on the [IDHS website](#).





TORNADOES  
FLOODING  
EARTHQUAKES  
HOUSE FIRES  
**DISASTERS**  
FOLLOW  
NO SCHEDULE



# HAUNTED HOUSE PERMIT REMINDER



Haunted house operators must get an **Amusement and Entertainment permit** from IDHS and allow IDHS Code Enforcement to inspect the premises. IDHS field inspectors are looking for:

- Exit signs installed at all required exit/exit-access doorways.
- Obvious/marked exits located every 50 feet.
- No dead-end corridors.
- Fire extinguishers every 75 feet or less.
- Fire sprinkler systems are required unless the floor area of the haunted house is less than 1,000 square feet and travel distance from any point of exit is less than 50 feet.
- No open flames, temporary heaters or smoking are allowed.
- Automatic smoke detectors are required and must be interconnected.
- Maze areas must be at least 3 feet wide and 5 feet high, and one 4x2x2 section is allowed every 50 feet.
- All materials used must be flame-resistant, or flame-retardant, and proof must be shown to code officials.
- Groups no larger than 20 people are allowed at a time and must be supervised by a staff member 18 or older with a flashlight.



## TIPS FOR HIRING A CONTRACTOR

As an Indiana homeowner, you may have been affected by multiple major storms this year. During times like these, you can find yourself in the vulnerable state of needing to find a way to fix your home and steer your life back toward a sense of normalcy.

Contractors can be a good option, but make sure you follow this checklist before handing over any money. These tips can save you from a world of headaches in the end.

- Get 2-3 estimates
- Verify the contractor's license and insurance
- Check at least 3 local references
- Require a written contract
- Down payments should be minimal
- Do not make the final payment until the job is complete
- Keep all paperwork related to your job







# IT IS INDIANA'S FAULT!

## GET SHAKIN' CONTEST AIMS TO EDUCATE AND PREPARE INDIANA KIDS ABOUT EARTHQUAKES

In the middle of August, residents along the Indiana/Illinois border could feel a sense of shaking in their homes and businesses. Over three days, the Indiana Geological and Water Survey recorded two magnitude 2.3 earthquakes and one magnitude 2.1 earthquake.

The earthquakes did not cause damage, but did spark discussions about earthquakes in Indiana. Many people in Indiana may find it hard to believe that the Hoosier State will experience a major quake.

“We need to change that narrative and educate the public,” said IDHS Natural Hazards Planning Manager Allison Curry. “In reality, Indiana is near two seismic zones and each zone has the ability to unleash earthquakes with catastrophic consequences for Indiana.”

IDHS launched the *Get Shakin'* contest to teach kids about the very real risk of Indiana being impacted by an earthquake and what to do if buildings start to shake. The winner of the contest will receive an “Indiana Earthquake Day.”

“Our goal is to make sure kids are never caught off guard. If an earthquake happens, these children will already have the knowledge to drop, cover and hold on,” Curry explained.

To participate in the *Get Shakin'* contest, kids can submit a student-produced video focused on earthquake preparedness and/or safety.

“We’re not looking for videos with a theatrical production value. We want to see kids who understand the material, explain in it a way that others can comprehend and who are having fun,” said Curry.

Preparedness and safety do not stop at knowing what to do in the middle of an earthquake. It also means making sure Hoosiers are aware of the threat Indiana faces and are actively putting in safeguards to mitigate and prevent the damage from an earthquake. Such safeguards can include reinforcing walls, chimneys, windows and foundations. Stronger structures have a better chance of withstanding the shocks of an earthquake.

Another thing that Hoosiers can do today is purchase earthquake insurance. Insurance coverage and prices can vary, but they are an option to shorten the recovery process. Consider purchasing it for homes, rental properties and businesses.

Helping Hoosiers understand the value of proactive efforts to prevent damage from all hazards is the passion of IDHS Mitigation and Recovery Branch Director Carmen Goodman. “Earthquakes in particular have been a challenge for people to wrap their heads around, but they are not a natural hazard to take lightly. They are real. A major earthquake could be around the corner. That’s why programs like the *Get Shakin'* contest are so vital. Awareness is key.”

The 2023 video contest is [now open](#). A winning entry will be selected to win an “Indiana Earthquake Day.” IDHS will work with schools to organize an event at the school or the Indiana Government Center that will provide entertaining and educational opportunities like the [Quake Cottage](#) (if available).

Video entries will be accepted until Oct. 31, 2023. The [Get Shakin' webpage](#) has examples of videos from the previous contest and contains additional information on contest rules and how students can submit a video.

# INDIANA FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL CEREMONY



Twelve lives were honored in the 2023 Indiana Fallen Firefighters Remembrance Ceremony on Sept. 7, 2023. The Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana holds this ceremony each year to remember the lives of fallen fighters.

The names of the 12 lives honored this year represent fighters who died in the line of duty. Their names were added to a monument outside the Statehouse.





# NAMES OF THE FALLEN HEROES HONORED THIS YEAR

**LOUIS E. WIESLER**

Lafayette Fire Department  
1979

**JAN P. DAWES**

Van Buren Township Volunteer Fire Department  
1988

**BILL L. WALTERS**

Waterloo-Grant Township Volunteer Fire Department  
2021

**RONALD K. DERRICKSON**

Straughn Volunteer Fire Department  
2021

**JOE A. STUCKER JR.**

Fairland Fire Department  
2021

**DUANE E. ERWIN**

Elberfeld Fire Territory  
2021

**BRUCE W. DEARK**

Jeffersonville Fire Department  
2022

**MARK W. RAPP SR.**

Indianapolis Fire Department  
2022

**TERRY L. CASSIDY**

Sparta Township Fire Department  
2022

**RICHARD "HANK" POTTER**

Wayne Township Fire Department  
2022

**BRIAN F. GAINNEY**

Indianapolis Airport Fire Department  
2022

**JOSHUA P. RAMIREZ**

Pike Township Fire Department  
2022





## EMPOWERING OLDER ADULTS

# ENSURING PREPAREDNESS FOR DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES

In disaster preparedness efforts, September takes on a special significance as National Preparedness Month. This year's theme resonates deeply: "Take Control in 1, 2, 3," preparing older adults for disasters and emergencies. This focus highlights this demographic's unique challenges and underscores the need for tailored planning and resources.

There has been a considerable growth in the rate of the older adult population in Indiana, explained Kristen S. LaEace, CEO of the Indiana Association of Area

Agencies on Aging (IAAAA). "The number of Hoosiers over 80 will double in the coming decades. By 2030, one out of every five people living in Indiana will be an older adult aged 50-65 and older. So, we see more of our population grow older, and that older population is more at risk from disaster and emergencies."

LaEace said a lot of factors come into play when addressing the needs of this population.

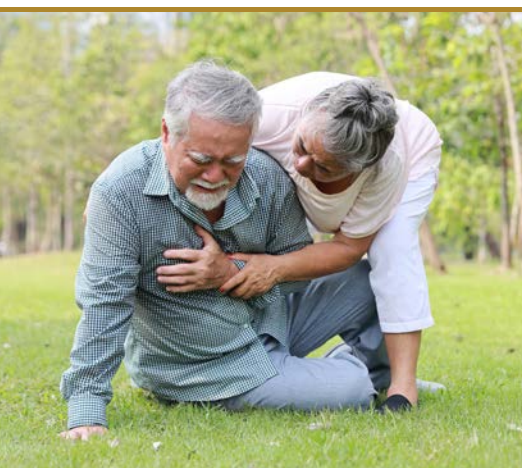
"When we think about older adults, they have a higher incidence of chronic disease and frailty and have increased propensity to cognitive disorders. They may be living alone and low-income without the resources to deal with a hazard. They can often lack transportation, because they can no longer drive. They may rely on electricity for powered medical devices and if the electricity goes out, they will often be the first group that needs to evacuate.

That's a real problem, so there are a lot of reasons why older adults may be more impacted than the general public."

Mary Moran, IDHS Emergency Management and Preparedness director, emphasized the collaborative efforts between state agencies.

"Our partnership with the IAAA allows us to tailor our preparedness strategies to the unique requirements of older adults. By working together, we can confidently provide the information and resources they need to face emergencies."

One of IAAA's core values is empowerment. LaEace said that the organization is "really helping older adults that we serve to remain independent, and that includes bringing services into the home that the older adult needs, as well as supporting the older adult come up with their





goals. For example, they may want to create an emergency plan. The Area Agency on Aging can assist with that. We are working to help older adults think about what they need to stay independent regarding daily resources and emergency planning.”

A vital component of this month’s effort is the creation of personalized emergency plans. These plans consider factors like medications, medical equipment and transportation needs. LaEace encourages older adults to engage in open conversations with family members, caregivers and health care providers to build comprehensive emergency plans.

“It’s important to know who will be responsible for what parts of that plan. There needs to be some active engagement on behalf of the caregiver or family member as part of that planning process. This includes ensuring a caregiver or family member can get into your house and where you keep your things and ensure they know how to use any equipment you may not be able to manage at that time.”

In a world dominated by technology, a host of electronic tools and resources are invaluable aids in ensuring the safety and readiness of older adults during emergencies. Moran added, “Utilizing technology can bridge communication gaps and ensure older adults receive timely alerts and guidance from authorities.”

Mobile apps designed to send emergency alerts and updates directly to smartphones play a pivotal role. These apps offer real-time information about weather conditions, evacuation routes and nearby shelters. Additionally, medical alert systems equipped with GPS technology provide security by enabling caregivers and emergency responders to locate and assist older adults.

However, it is essential to recognize that not all older adults are comfortable with or have access to advanced technology. Traditional tools, like battery-operated weather radios, remain indispensable. These radios provide real-time weather updates and emergency notifications

without relying on an internet connection. Additionally, having a designated family emergency communication plan ensures older adults can stay connected and informed even without high-tech devices.

Furthermore, community involvement serves as a foundation for resilience. Building strong networks and encouraging older adults to support one another creates a safety net that enhances preparedness.

“There is an Area Agency on Aging assigned to every county in Indiana. There are 15 of them around the state, and they have service regions. So when people are looking for services, we say, ‘Well, what county do you live in?’ And then, we connect them with their local Area Agency on Aging. They are the ones that are on the front lines and helping the older adults that they’re connected with address these types of emergencies,” LaEace explained.

As National Preparedness Month unfolds, it is an opportune time for older adults and their families to explore available resources, craft tailored emergency plans and actively engage with their communities. By working with organizations like Indiana’s Association of Area Agency on Aging, older adults can embrace their role as empowered contributors to disaster preparedness efforts, ensuring their safety and well-being in any situation.

Watch this video to learn more about the importance of having an emergency kit in your home!





# MAKING IT EASY TO STAY SAFE ONLINE

## INDIANA'S CYBER HUB WEBSITE HOUSES FREE TOOLKITS

Article submitted by the Indiana Office of Technology

October marks the 20th year of [Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#) and this year's theme — "It's Easy to Stay Safe Online" — is a reminder of the progress that is being achieved with digital security. The goal encourages people to focus on four key steps for protecting their personal and financial information.

From enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA) and updating software to using strong passwords and a password manager, as well as recognizing and reporting incidents of phishing, the goal is to follow these steps on a daily basis. At the same time, Cybersecurity Awareness Month illustrates, more and more, how cyber fits into virtually every aspect of our everyday life.

In Indiana, cybersecurity is a top priority, with a focus on helping all Hoosiers, businesses and local government — including the more than 300 public school districts located across the state — to help improve cybersecurity awareness.

The [Indiana Cybersecurity Hub](#) is a free, easy-to-use website featuring a wealth of resources, best practices and tips for people of all ages. There are links to do everything from [assessing your current understanding of cybersecurity](#) to downloading toolkits for [emergency managers](#) and [health care providers](#). There is also a [practical guide for protecting the critical cyber and IT systems for Indiana businesses](#) and information about [cyber insurance](#).

The newly released [Cybersecurity for Education Toolkit 2.0](#) is a free-to-download guide to share

as a turnkey resource. It includes information about cybersecurity for use by teachers, staff and administrators, as well as students, families, school board members and community stakeholders. It is a PDF that can easily be saved as a Word document to enable anyone to share any of the articles, images and social media posts featured in the updated toolkit.

Adding to the celebration, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb issued a proclamation declaring October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month throughout the Hoosier State. In addition to highlighting the importance of cybersecurity, it recognizes the role state government provides in protecting its citizens, as well as the state's critical infrastructure sectors.

Following on the work of the Indiana Executive Council on Cybersecurity (IECC), together with the progress being achieved through the Indiana Office of Technology and Indiana Department of Homeland Security, progress is continuing with the state's second, three-year [statewide strategic plan](#). The cybersecurity policies and initiatives that have been implemented within the past several years illustrate the work that is being done to support local governments when it comes to protecting the critical systems that communities rely on to serve the people in Indiana's cities and towns.

For additional information regarding the latest cybersecurity news and trends, visit the [Indiana Cybersecurity Hub website](#) and follow the hub on [LinkedIn](#), [X, formerly known as Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).



# SHARING THE ROAD WITH LARGE FARM EQUIPMENT THIS FALL

Article submitted by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture

With the changing of the season comes increased farm equipment traveling on Indiana's rural roads and highways as farmers work to harvest their crops. Each fall, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) launches a harvest roadway safety campaign to help ensure motorists know how to safely navigate around farm equipment should they encounter it on their drive. Unfortunately, accidents and fatalities still occur each year.

First responders are some of the unsung harvest season heroes. When accidents do happen, first responders are first on the scene. This season, the ISDA asks that local departments help share the message of alert and cautious driving when traveling on rural roads this fall.

Farm equipment traveling between fields during harvest season includes tractors, combines, grain carts, grain wagons and large trucks hauling agricultural products. These vehicles are wide, sometimes taking up most of the road, and often travel at speeds no greater than 25 mph.

Below are a few of the roadway safety tips promoted through the ISDA Harvest Safety Campaign:

- Do not pass in a designated "No Passing Zone" or within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad grade crossing, bridge, elevation structure or tunnel.
- Avoid tailgating, as some farm equipment might have to make sudden stops along the road.
- Do not try to pass slow-moving farm equipment on the left without ensuring that the farmer is not planning a left turn. It may appear that the driver is pulling over to allow a vehicle to pass when the driver is preparing to turn.
- Be aware of farmers working near the road and semi-trucks and trailers parked alongside rural roads.
- Allow plenty of time to get to a destination. Be aware of alternate routes and avoid distractions.



**INDIANA**  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

Beyond moving farm equipment between fields, harvest season presents several additional dangerous tasks for farmers. There are increased risks of field or equipment fires due to dry conditions, farm equipment accidents, falls and potential grain entrapment tragedies and other risks. If your fire department is not equipped with grain entrapment rescue equipment or training, Nationwide Insurance hosts a contest each year to award local fire stations proper gear and training. In 2022, six Indiana fire departments were awarded gear and training. Find more information online at [Nationwide Grain Bin Safety](#).

Together, ISDA and first responders can promote alert driving and proper procedures for safely navigating around farm equipment in the fall. If your department or station wants to help promote ISDA's harvest campaign, visit [isda.in.gov](https://isda.in.gov) to download a social media toolkit.



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAKES FIRE AND BUILDING SAFETY CHANGES

The Indiana General Assembly modified fire and building safety law this spring, bringing significant changes to the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission, the expert legal body tasked with creating and enforcing the state's fire and building safety laws.

Chief among the changes by [House Enrolled Act 1575](#) was the commission no longer will review and approve local ordinances. Instead, a new process has been created for local jurisdictions to request the commission modify its rules, which apply statewide.

“If a local (entity) wants to change the code, it can submit amendments to the commission, which is required to address these requests at least once during the year,” said IDHS Director of Boards and Commissions Daz Dyer, who serves as the commission's primary administrative support.

The new law did not eliminate the authority of local jurisdictions to

adopt and enforce administrative provisions in building and fire safety ordinances. This means that locals should still proceed with much of what they were doing before.

“Continue to establish building departments, conduct plan reviews and issue building permits, inspect buildings and enforce the commission's rules,” said IDHS General Counsel Justin Guedel.

More details about this change are on the [IDHS Boards and Commissions](#) webpage.

Additionally, the new law expanded the size of the commission and changed its representation requirements. Now, the commission has increased from 11 to 12 members, and appointees to the commission must represent a specific constituency, such as being a member of the Indiana Association of Building Officials or a licensed professional engineer. With the new specifications also





came five new appointees selected by Gov. Eric Holcomb, who also chose longtime commissioner James Murua, a fire official with the Fort Wayne Fire Department, to be the new chairman.

The changes in the makeup of the commission reset some of the recent rulemaking decisions that the commission had been working toward. While the commission was working to update many areas of code over a shorter time span, now the commission may only review a maximum of three codes per year, and it cannot revisit those codes again within five years. The commission currently plans to review the electrical, building and fire codes in the coming months.

“If locals want to be involved, they should find the [Code Comments and Proposals form](#) on the IDHS website and follow the instructions there. Then they can submit comments for any part of the code, even if it is not currently being reviewed, though their topic may not be on the agenda for a while,” Dyer said.

Regardless of changes made by the legislature, the mission of the commission will remain the same.

“Its purpose is to save lives and protect health. Sometimes that can get complex and expensive, as it can be for sprinkler systems, for example, but at the end of the day, the codes are not there to be intrusive or invasive; they help keep people alive and healthy,” Dyer said.

## NOMINATE A HERO FOR THE INDIANA HOMELAND MEDAL OF MERIT

The Indiana Homeland Medal of Merit honors exceptional conduct and the performance of outstanding services to Hoosiers to support the safety, security and resilience of Indiana.



This award will be given to any hero who goes above and beyond the job to ensure Hoosiers are protected. Nominations are being collected now. Visit the [Special Recognition webpage](#) to submit a nomination. An IDHS team will review all submissions.



More than two thirds of fatal fires occur in homes with no working smoke alarms. Let's change that and **GET ALARMED.**

[GetAlarmed.in.gov](http://GetAlarmed.in.gov)



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
**HOMELAND  
SECURITY**



## EMS NOW A STAND-ALONE DIVISION OF IDHS

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) on Sept. 13 notified the Indiana EMS Commission that EMS has been designated as one of the five core divisions of the agency. For the past decade, EMS has existed as a section under Fire and Building Services, administered by the Indiana State Fire Marshal.

“Indiana EMS is a critical function of public health and public safety,” IDHS Executive Director Joel Thacker said. “As such, it deserves to function independently to better recognize its contributions and be allowed to evolve to best serve the growing needs of Hoosiers in the future.”

The change was prompted not only by the increasing stature of EMS around the state, but also reflects the larger vision that the EMS staff have taken on as the service has evolved in Indiana, including advocacy and long-term planning initiatives. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, EMS played a critical role in helping to administer vaccines and support services that helped Indiana maneuver through the event.

“This designation is a validation of the vital role that EMS plays within our Indiana communities,” says State EMS Director Kraig Kinney.

“For many communities, fire and EMS will be infinitely connected. But, some communities function very differently in Indiana,” said Steve Jones, Indiana State Fire Marshal. “This change is needed to enhance services, oversight and leadership that Indiana EMS provides for Hoosiers outside of fire protection.”

In addition to EMS, IDHS is home to Fire and Building Services, Emergency Management and Preparedness, IDHS Administrative Services and the Indiana State Building Commissioner.

The change also removes any potential conflicts of interest with the administration of the Fire and Public Safety Academy facilitating some EMS education offerings. Previously, staff from both the Fire and Public Safety Academy and EMS fell under the direct supervision of the Indiana State Fire Marshal.

Kinney noted that while the division is changing its structure within IDHS, the division will continue to work closely with the State Fire Marshal and the Indiana fire service.

In Indiana, 599 of the 841 (71%) of EMS provider organizations, including non-transport providers, are volunteer or paid fire service. For ambulance transporting organizations, the fire service is 41% of the total providers.

Kinney noted his appreciation of the recognition of EMS through the restructure, but he also recognized the higher duties of the EMS division.

“While the EMS staff has increased its work and expanded functions to include better advocacy outside simple regulation, there are extremely tasking challenges for EMS currently, such as workforce shortages, working conditions and pay for EMS,” Kinney said.



This year, the Indiana General Assembly allocated about \$15 million to address gaps in the EMS workforce and evaluate how to best sustain the critical public service for the long term. Kinney complimented partners like the Indiana Department of Health and the Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research, who are contributing to the EMS workforce study. Results of the study are expected later this year. The EMS division is tasked with distributing and prioritizing the funds allocated for the budget for the next two years.

The readiness funding is a \$5.7 million investment in EMS in both fiscal years, which will result in workforce assistance and education grants for programs and employers to certify new staff. The funds also will

support training equipment as well as education for new and existing primary instructors.

At the Sept. 13 EMS Commission meeting, Kinney also announced an Indiana EMS 2025 Vision project that will define what EMS needs to survive and grow into the future. The project will engage state agencies, stakeholder groups from EMS and fire, the EMS Commission and others.

“There were many great ideas from the workforce survey we established in May, and it made sense to gather a group to come up with a written vision plan that has the goals that address the needs of EMS around the state,” Kinney said.

## IERC HONORS OUTSTANDING FIRST RESPONDERS DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARDS

### IDHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THACKER WINS IFCA PRESIDENT’S AWARD

*Photo provided by John M. Buckman III*

The 2023 Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) finished its conference by giving out its annual awards, honoring Hoosier first responders and public safety officials who represent the best of the profession.

Among the winners was IDHS Executive Director Joel Thacker. He received the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) President’s Award. IFCA President Chief Mike Connelly selected Thacker for the award for being a voice in the Statehouse for public safety, including securing \$17.7 million for the Hub-and-Spoke training model and \$14.6 million

for EMS training and workforce development.

“Director Thacker has been a great friend to the IFCA in many aspects. As a passionate first responder, a member of the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association, a voice in the Statehouse for public safety and being on the scene of large-scale incidents around Indiana, Director Thacker raises the tide of the fire service in Indiana so all boats will rise,” said Connelly.

“I greatly appreciate the support and recognition of the public safety community,” Thacker said.



“My goal is to show firefighters across the state that Indiana has their backs and will continue to push for improvements to help them complete their job safely and effectively and go home to their families each night.”

You can find a full list of [2023 IERC award winners](#) online.



# HISTORIC FUNDING FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

## NEARLY \$30 MILLION IN GRANTS DEDICATED TO 474 HOOSIER SCHOOLS

In late August, Governor Eric Holcomb announced the approval of more than \$29.8 million in matching state grants, marking the fifth straight year of record-breaking investments in the safety of Indiana schools.

Earlier this year, the Indiana General Assembly approved Holcomb’s 2023 Next Level Agenda budget proposal to increase the Secured School Safety Grant (SSSG) by \$25 million each year. Due to additional funding from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) budget, the Secured School Safety Board voted to approve all eligible Priority 1 and 2 application requests, totaling 605 projects for 474 schools.

“These school safety grants represent another example of historic investments in public safety,” Holcomb said. “I am pleased we are able to financially support every school that identified safety as a top priority.”

Since 2013, Indiana has invested in school safety, when the SSSG program was initiated.

For this fiscal year, the board approved \$29,824,803.67 in school safety funding. The performance period for the grants began Sept. 1. Holcomb’s 2023 agenda also included significant modernizing reforms to the SSSG through [House Enrolled Act 1492](#), including broader access, greater flexibility and new uses.

“Since the inception of the Secured Schools Safety Grant program, we have listened to schools across the state about what they see as their greatest needs in the way of safety,” said IDHS Executive Director Joel Thacker. “As a result, this

year we can offer more eligible funding categories than ever before, leading to safer schools and an overall better learning environment.”

A complete breakdown of recipient schools and the total amount of their awards can be found [on the IDHS website](#).

The [Indiana School Safety Hub](#) also provides schools with a wealth of resources, training opportunities and other information designed to give schools the tools they need to keep students and staff safe.

Category	Applications	Dollars Allocated
SRO/LEO	302	\$19,425,611.83
Equipment/Tech/Hardware	218	\$8,325,667.02
Student/Parent Support Services	31	\$1,150,253.41
Training	21	\$160,820.29
Firearms Training for Staff	7	\$101,979.00
Active Event Warning System	6	\$100,737.50
Site Vulnerability Assessment	7	\$20,962.82
Bullying Prevention	2	\$17,000.00
Design and Construction	11	\$521,771.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>\$29,824,803.67</b>



# MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL

Firefighter safety is an issue that is at the heart of our profession, especially on emergency runs. Indiana firefighters know the risks they face every day, but it is paramount that we prioritize safety for ourselves and our colleagues.

As firefighters, we deal with high-stress situations and fast-paced environments where the possibility of injury is always lurking. Staying alert and being cautious on common emergency runs will keep us from becoming complacent. Complacency might help us get through our routines faster, but it endangers not just our own lives but also those of the people we have sworn to protect.

To improve safety on emergency runs, we must focus on effective communication within our teams. It is vital that every member understands their role and responsibilities in any given situation. By maintaining a clear understanding during these high-pressure moments, we can respond quickly and effectively while minimizing risks to ourselves and the public.

Training plays a significant role in elevating safety during emergency runs, as well. Regularly reviewing best practices, participating in drills and learning from the experiences of fellow firefighters help strengthen our skill sets. Through continuous education and training, we can make better decisions in dire circumstances.

Let us not forget the importance of proper equipment maintenance to maintain peak performance during emergencies. Regularly checking and servicing vehicles, tools and gear not only guarantees they will work as intended but also helps prevent potential accidents.

I want to remind each of you that by staying alert and being cautious on common emergency runs, we can reduce accidents significantly. Together, let us embrace a mindset that values safety above all else, so that we are prepared for any challenges or hazards life throws at us.

Remember: Complacency is the silent danger among us all; only vigilance will protect us from it.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to safeguarding our lives as well as those of our communities.



Stephen Jones  
Indiana State Fire Marshal



# UPCOMING TRAININGS

## SEPTEMBER

**SEPT 23-24** K9650 K9 Credentialing

**BRAZIL**

## OCTOBER

**OCT 2-3** MGT-319 Medical Countermeasures: Points of Dispensing

**PLYMOUTH**

**OCT 5-6** MGT-319 Medical Countermeasures: Points of Dispensing

**INDIANAPOLIS**

**OCT 10-11** MGT-319 Medical Countermeasures: Points of Dispensing

**SCOTTSBURG**

**OCT 10-13** PER-275 Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response

**ELLETTSVILLE**

**OCT 16-18** ICS 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents

**INDIANAPOLIS**

**OCT 23-24** ICS 400 Advanced ICS Command & General Staff

**BLOOMINGTON**

## NOVEMBER

**NOV 1-2** MGT-348 Medical Preparedness and Response Bombing Incidents

**FORT WAYNE**

**NOV 6-7** ICS 400 Advanced ICS Command & General Staff

**INDIANAPOLIS**





## SEESAY DAY (SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING) SEPTEMBER 25

SeeSay Day reminds people of the collective responsibility for their communities' safety. The day champions the "See Something, Say Something" principle, urging citizens to be vigilant and proactive by reporting suspicious activities to the appropriate authorities. By actively engaging in this practice, communities contribute to the overall security of their neighborhoods, workplaces and public spaces.

## CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER

Cybersecurity Awareness Month in October sheds light on the critical need for digital security in today's interconnected world. With increasing reliance on technology, this month-long observance encourages individuals, businesses and organizations to be vigilant against cyber threats. By promoting cybersecurity best practices, this initiative empowers everyone to navigate the digital landscape safely and protect sensitive information.



## FIRST ANNUAL 10-4 DAY OCTOBER 4

Join the Indiana Public Safety Commission (IPSC) on Oct. 4, 2023, for the first annual [10-4 Day](#). This initiative provides a unique opportunity to conduct essential checks and test public safety communication equipment and vehicles. One noteworthy aspect of the event is the integration of amateur radio and auxiliary communication into statewide response and recovery efforts, enhancing the state's overall disaster readiness.

# 10-4 DAY

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 8-14

Fire Prevention Week serves as an annual call to action to prevent fire-related emergencies. This week is dedicated to raising awareness about fire safety, emphasizing the importance of having functional smoke alarms and practicing fire escape plans. Educating individuals and families about fire prevention strategies enables agencies to respond effectively and safeguard lives and property.

## INTERNATIONAL SHAKEOUT DAY OCTOBER 19

International ShakeOut Day emphasizes earthquake preparedness and response. Through coordinated drills and exercises, individuals and organizations practice the proper actions when the ground starts shaking.



## NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS DAY OCTOBER 28

National First Responders Day on Oct. 28 is a tribute to the brave individuals who selflessly serve as the first line of defense during emergencies. This day honors the dedication, courage and sacrifice of firefighters, police officers, paramedics and other first responders.







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



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