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Jan. 26, 2022

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IDHS Accepting Applications for Indiana Local Body Camera Grant Program

IDHS is now accepting applications for the new Indiana Local Body Camera (ILBC) Grant Program.

The ILBC program provides matching grants to city, town and county law enforcement agencies to support the purchase of body-worn cameras. Only one ILBC grant application

A Note from the IDHS Public Affairs Team

The *Hoosier Responder* has been on hiatus for a few months while IDHS, like most organizations today, has adjusted to staffing challenges. Because it's still important for the agency to communicate to first responders, this brief newsletter will share some news and initiatives from Indiana's public safety community. The full magazine format will return very soon. Please keep sending story ideas to pio@dhs.in.gov. In the meantime, the [IDHS website](#) features many resources, training dates and positive news stories about the impact of first responders across the state. Stay in touch.

-- IDHS Public Affairs



Rising Opioid Problem Overlooked in COVID-19 Pandemic

EMS personnel and first responders have a lot on their hands as the country battles its way through the COVID-19 pandemic. But CDC data shows another rising problem. For the first time, the number of drug overdose deaths related to opioid use topped 100,000 in a 12-month period.

What does this mean for Indiana? According to the [CDC dashboard](#), predicted deaths in Indiana rose from 1,878 in April of 2020 to 2,487 in April of 2021. That's more than a 32-percent increase in deaths over the course of a year. In light of the deaths from COVID-19, this number may not seem significant, but it is. The rising number of opioid-related deaths takes its toll on first

will be allowed from each law enforcement agency.

Visit the [IDHS Grants Management page](#) for complete information and instructions about the ILBC Grant program.

Recognize Deserving EMAs during EMA Appreciation Week!

This is your chance to recognize EMAs in your county that have done an amazing job. EMA Appreciation Week is Feb. 20-26, 2022.

EMAs are there when citizens need them most. But even when there is no emergency, EMAs are working behind the scenes to prevent potential problems or make sure the county is prepared to handle a crisis.

Let's highlight/recognize the critical work performed by EMA personnel. Submit your/your EMA's work in the survey below.

[EMA Recognition Survey](#)

2022 North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) National Workshop

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and the Crawfordsville Police Department are hosting the 2022 NAPWDA National Workshop. The workshop will cover all phases associated with patrol, including tactical techniques and scenario-based training.

Learn more about this workshop and register on the [NAPWDA event webpage](#).

'Give the River Room' Education Effort

responders who answer these calls for help despite already being stretched dangerously thin.

Read the [full story here](#).



Up and Atom

IDHS Employee visits Chernobyl for training hosted by U.S. Department of Energy

The Chernobyl Nuclear Plant is historically known for a massive nuclear disaster. Flawed designs and serious mistakes led to an uncontrolled chain reaction that resulted in explosions and the core meltdown of a reactor. In the decades since this event, Chernobyl has become a learning moment for anyone in the radiological/nuclear fields.

IDHS Radiation Programs Director Sarah Chaney visited Chernobyl in what she calls one of the "ultimate experiences one can have" in the radiological/nuclear field.

[Read more here](#) about the rarely visited sites Chaney got to see and how she's applying the lessons she learned to help Hoosiers.

The Indiana Silver Jackets will launch an interactive public education tool about river movement this spring. The online story map is called "Give the River Room." It guides users through a scrolling presentation of informative materials and photos of Indiana rivers and streams, showing how waterways are constantly changing.

The project's goal is to make communities flood resilient by helping emergency managers, community leaders and the general public understand how river systems work and how communities can construct the built environment (human-made surroundings) in ways that better protect property, save lives and preserve the natural beauty of waterways.

Low-Head Dam Awareness on the Horizon

April is Low-Head Dam Awareness Month. Public safety and emergency management agencies looking to increase public awareness of the dangers of these dams can find information on the Low-Head Dams page on [GetPrepared.in.gov](https://www.getprepared.in.gov). The webpage includes links to a map of known dams, Indiana documentaries and other resources.

To learn more about both education efforts visit the [January Hoosier Responder webpage](#).

National Flood Insurance Program

Flooding is one of the most common natural disasters in the United States. Indiana experienced 230 flooding or heavy rain events in 2019 alone.

In an effort to reduce the number of homes financially devastated by flooding, the Indiana



PFAS Foam Collection

Indiana fire departments will have a free option this year to collect and dispose of any PFAS foam products still in inventory. Disposing of these foam products reduces exposure to environmental hazards and protects firefighter health.

A partnership between IDHS and IDEM allows Indiana to survey the more than 840 fire departments in the state to determine who has PFAS foam to discard. PFAS foam was prohibited in 2020 from being used in firefighter training because it has been connected to four of the top eight causes of death in the firefighting community.

The [survey to report your existing PFAS foam](#) and begin the collection process is **open now**.

"Firefighters face risks everyday due to the nature of their job, but it's important for the state government and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to eliminate as much risk as possible when the opportunity arises," said State Fire Marshal Joel Thacker. "We have a chance with this program to be a national leader by protecting our brave first responders from the hazards that exist when using this PFAS foam."

Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb recently added the PFAS program to his list of 2022 priorities.

Current funding will not replace the PFAS foam with a safer alternative to use when battling Class B fires. However, departments will save thousands in potential disposal fees by utilizing this free service, thereby putting firefighter and citizen safety as a top priority.

IDEM is working to determine a third-party vendor to collect and properly dispose of PFAS foam once all departments have had an opportunity to [report their PFAS foam inventory](#). The physical collection of foam is expected to begin in April/May 2022.

[Report your PFAS foam](#)

Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and FEMA encourage all Hoosier homeowners and renters to purchase flood insurance protection. While purchasing flood insurance might seem costly, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is available to help provide citizens affordable flood insurance coverage based on the area they live in.

You can learn more on the [IDHS NFIP webpage](#).

Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) Program Schedule

L101: Foundations of Emergency Management

- April 4-8 in Evansville

L102: Science of Disaster

- May 9-11 in Plainfield

L103: Planning: Emergency Operations

- May 17-18 in Evansville

L105: Public Information Basics

- April 19-21 in Plainfield

L146: HSEEP

- March 8-9 in Plainfield
- Sept. 7-8 in Evansville

Upcoming Trainings

Trainings in February and March include ICS 300 and 400 in multiple locations, as well as topics like Animal Issues in Disasters, Lost Person Behavior and K9 Technique Courses.

You can find a comprehensive list of upcoming trainings [here](#). Register for all classes on the [Acadis Portal](#).

Recovery Reckonings

FEMA is continuing Public Assistance (PA) funding for COVID-19 response

Operation Force Multiplier Event

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Indiana National Guard will revive the statewide Force Multiplier symposium, designed to give local emergency response and governmental leaders a better idea of their capabilities and how the two work together to respond when disasters strike.

The 2022 Force Multiplier event will be held virtually on March 2, and will focus on how state partners can respond to local communities when necessary during a large-scale event. Knowing the capabilities and resources — as well as the decision-makers you can expect to see on site — is critical when a quick, efficient response is required. This concept led to the first Force Multiplier tour of Indiana in 2018.

[Click here](#) to see the topics that will be covered at the 2022 Force Multiplier. Register for the event below.

[Register for Seminar](#)

COVID-19 Funeral Expense Assistance Still Available Through FEMA

Families who've lost a loved one to COVID-19 still have time to get financial assistance from FEMA.

Financial assistance is available for COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020. IDHS encourages people to use this benefit to ease the monetary burden created by losing a family member to COVID-19.

According to January 2022 reports, more than 19,000 Hoosiers have died from COVID-19, but only 4,200 families have applied for and received funeral assistance.

A list of the conditions that must be met to receive assistance is [available here](#).

2022 Legislative Session

Bills affecting IDHS and Stakeholders

The IDHS Legal Section is busy working with state legislators to promote positive changes for IDHS and stakeholders. IDHS teammates are keeping watch over a variety of bills that could affect the agency, but below

activities. The declared event, known as DR4515, still has no end date, and the 100% cost share has been extended through April 1, 2022.

Government entities and private nonprofits that have not applied for possible assistance through the PA program may still do so. These organizations can visit the [FEMA Grants Portal](#) to register and begin their applications.

Organizations with questions regarding this disaster event, or the PA program in general, can visit the [IDHS PA webpage](#) for more information.

Public Safety Jobs Dashboard



Check out all the current openings on the [IDHS Public Safety Jobs dashboard](#). If your agency is hiring and would like to promote the job, submit your information below the dashboard. It's free.

New Way to Connect



The Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy has a new [Facebook](#) page where you can get the latest information from the Academy including up-to-date information on current classes.

are two major bills to keep an eye on as they move through the legislative process.

HB 1314, Indiana Department of Homeland Security

- Increases benefits for IDHS fire investigators that die in the line of duty
- Amends how the Public Safety Fee is distributed to increase the amount of funds in the Regional Public Safety Training Fund
- Requires IDHS, the Indiana Department of Health and the Statewide 911 Board to make recommendations regarding 911 interoperability and regionalized trauma care
- Allows IDHS to share EMS data in certain situations to improve patient health outcomes

SB 381, Regulation of Radioactive Material

- Allows IDHS to become an Agreement State with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Agency (NRC)
- Allows IDHS to assume and conduct the regulatory function from the NRC of certain sources of radiation in Indiana

Bills will be debated and potentially changed as legislators review the contents and suggest edits. Once the House and Senate pass the bills, the Hoosier Responder will lay out the details on when the law goes into effect and how it will affect you.

Upcoming Events



National Burn Awareness Week

- February 6 - 12
- Theme: Burning Issues in the Kitchen
- ameriburn.org

Radiation Awareness Week

- February 12 - 19
- <https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/fire-investigations/hazmat-and-radiation/radiation-awareness/>



EMA Appreciation Week

- February 20 - 26
- <https://www.in.gov/dhs/emergency-management-and-preparedness/ema-appreciation-week/>

Severe Weather Preparedness Week

- March 13 - 19
- <https://www.in.gov/dhs/get-prepared/nature-safety/severe-weather-preparedness/>



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