



# **COMMITMENT**

**Annual Report**  
July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015  
Indiana Department of Homeland Security

# **Committed to Excellence**

It is my honor to share with you via this report a handful of highlights from the recently completed fiscal year. I say “handful” and “highlights” because there is no way in just a few compelling pages to capture the breadth and depth of the vital work done for Hoosiers by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. This work involves not just a state agency, but also thousands of first responders and emergency management professionals in all 92 counties, in our large cities and in our small towns.

I invite you to spend a few minutes reading these pages to get a better idea of the vital work we do.

I continue to be impressed by the amazing spirit of collegiality and cooperativeness I notice every day, not only within IDHS, but also among IDHS and local, state and federal agencies. I believe that this team spirit stems from the serious nature of our work, but that, in large part, it comes from the quality of people involved with IDHS. It all comes down to commitment. The commitment to doing excellent work on behalf of all Hoosiers.

What’s more, this commitment to excellence is conducted in a fiscally responsible manner. IDHS closed the fiscal year solidly in the black. All employees, in their own large and small ways, are budget managers at IDHS, and take the individual responsibility to ensure that Hoosiers receive the best return possible for the dollars invested in our state’s security.

I commend the employees of IDHS for their steadfast commitment to making IDHS a high-performing organization dedicated to the security of the Hoosier homeland.

Sincerely,

David W. Kane, Executive Director

# **Committed to** **Hoosiers**

## **Executive Summary**

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security not only worked to protect all Hoosiers in the recent fiscal year — July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015 — but did so with strong fiscal management and an intense focus on cost efficiency. Within the span of one fiscal year, IDHS-specific spending was reduced by \$1.3 million. That reduction brought agency expenditures for the recent fiscal year in under budget, allowing the agency to revert \$232,504.67 back to state coffers.

The scope of IDHS operations continues to be vast. Ongoing efforts include, but are not limited to

- inspections of amusement rides, boiler and pressure vessels, buildings, elevators;
- fire investigations and public education about fire safety;
- obtaining and managing federal grants and loans to mitigate disasters;
- overseeing training and certification for firefighters and emergency medical professionals;
- coordinating emergency personnel and resources when disaster strikes;
- planning and practicing for emergencies and disasters, and assessing plans and performance;
- managing hazmat planning and response capabilities statewide;
- developing volunteer capabilities through Community Emergency Response Teams.

Below are some examples that illustrate recent IDHS work.

Through a statewide system of 10 districts, IDHS can quickly and efficiently bring state expertise and resources wherever they may be needed in Indiana. IDHS district coordinators have extensive local knowledge of the needs, resources and potential crises related to the communities in each district.

In the spring of 2015, IDHS was among the state agencies contributing a great deal of time and expertise as the number of HIV cases in Scott County spiked to high levels. In response to the high volume of news media and citizen inquiries about the situation, IDHS activated and managed a joint information center for 62 days and also assisted journalists overnight and on weekends.

A key area of state-county cooperation involves helping to ensure that mostly lower income Hoosiers have access to National Weather Service alerts. In 2014, IDHS provided 9,000 all-hazards weather radios for EMA distribution in Hoosier counties.

IDHS works to keep Indiana citizens prepared for emergencies and informed about injury prevention. Preparedness message topics distributed through news media and social media include cyber security, extreme heat, fire prevention, fireworks safety, flood dangers, severe storms, and terrorism awareness.

# Committed to Emergency Response & Recovery

In 2014, much of Indiana was hit by extremely cold temperatures and record snowfalls, forcing Hoosiers to endure a long, hard, damaging winter. In response to damage caused by that harsh winter, IDHS so far has obtained approximately \$9.3 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance for 30 Indiana county governments.

Not only did IDHS help obtain millions of federal dollars to mitigate the effects of the harsh 2014 winter, but at the same time its Public Assistance Program staff worked to create more streamlined and efficient processes to save the state money. For the first time, the staff managed the disaster relief process by mostly digital rather than print means. This paperless approach to document management saved thousands of taxpayer dollars.

IDHS assists local law enforcement and county emergency management professionals in many ways, some of which are less well-known than others, though still critically important. For example, in 2015 IDHS assisted with searches for a missing person in Rush County and a missing plane in Boone County.

The State Emergency Operations Center watch desk runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and can be in immediate contact with emergency managers and first responders statewide should the need arise. Staffing of the center increases as emergency levels increase. The center monitors emergency situations caused by nature or people, and directs state resources to affected areas as called upon. The professionals of the Emergency Operations Center exemplify the constant vigilance and quick response of IDHS.

Recovery and mitigation work in relation to disasters is an ongoing process, often taking years. In fiscal year 2014/2015 alone, IDHS helped disaster-stricken Hoosier communities in many ways, such as

- managing more than \$14.7 million from various federal grant programs;
- awarding more than \$4.4 million to community mitigation projects around the state to help lessen the impact of future disasters;
- providing \$479,998 from the State Disaster Relief Fund to Hoosier communities in six counties.

Indiana's Emergency Operations Center, right, is staffed 24/7. The IDHS watch desk, part of the center, monitors potential, developing and immediate emergency situations in all corners of the state.



# Committed to Fire & Building Safety

Work by lawmakers, the governor's office and IDHS led to the creation of the new Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy Training System. The new approach will provide more standardized and uniform training for firefighters, emergency medical personnel, emergency management experts, dispatchers and other public safety professionals throughout the state.

Over the last fiscal year, IDHS conducted 504 investigations of suspicious fires, of which, 160 were determined to have been incendiary fires (started on purpose). Damage estimates from the fires investigated totaled nearly \$54 million.

Ensuring that public buildings are safe for Hoosiers is a key responsibility of IDHS, which conducted 54,950 building inspections in 2014/2015. IDHS issued 10,271 construction design releases following reviews of plans for public structures such as businesses and schools. Also, IDHS issued 2,373 variances for public structures approved by the Fire Prevention Building Safety Commission.

IDHS participated in a series of controlled fires to assist a federal agency in conducting research that could lead to improved safety for firefighters and improved arson investigations. The research focused on flow path ventilation and hose failures in intense heat. Four abandoned apartment units near Indianapolis were used in August of 2014 for the research burns with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

In fiscal year 2014/2015, IDHS

- inspected 790 amusement rides;
- inspected 10,525 elevators and escalators;
- performed 28,975 inspections on boiler and pressure vessels;
- performed 1,165 inspections in schools;
- performed 1,074 inspections in hospitals and healthcare facilities;
- performed 2,058 inspections in childcare provider locations.



IDHS assisted the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in a research burn, left. IDHS oversees firefighter training and certification, and promotes fire prevention and safety.

# **Committed to Planning & Assessment**

Emergency management professionals know that the old saying, “it’s not *if*, it’s *when*,” will always be true. IDHS works diligently to help Hoosier communities plan for crises long before they happen, and to assess emergency response needs throughout the state. IDHS currently maintains roughly 70 plans for emergency response, and reviews and updates up to 20 of those a year. A few examples of recent IDHS planning, safety/security grant management and technology use are below.

## **Travel Advisory App**

Indiana citizens can download the free Indiana County Travel Advisory App for iPhone and Android mobile devices. Available since January of 2015, the app provides county-specific travel alerts and updates. Since its launch in December of 2014, the app has received more than 1.3 million “taps” for information on smart phone screens.

## **National Best Practice: Many Fronts; One Process**

IDHS has established a single, coordinated process for statewide hazard assessment, core capabilities gap analysis, grants management and program evaluation. The program involves a standardized methodology for identifying and analyzing hazards and threats, assessing response capabilities, and creates a mechanism for building grant funding investment justifications, as well as a process for quantitatively measuring preparedness at the state and local level. This program is the first of its kind in the nation and has been identified as a national best practice by FEMA and the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium.

## **Coordinated Training Plan**

Other state and local partners now benefit from coordinated and integrated emergency planning, training and exercise activity statewide. The goal of establishing a three-year planning cycle became a reality, giving partner agencies a structured, predictable schedule of preparedness activity, including activities that can now be planned years in advance, creating significant savings in cost, time and effort.

## **Housing Survivors After a Disaster**

The statewide plan and ten regional plans for transitioning survivors from short-term emergency shelters to long-term and permanent housing following a disaster came to fruition. IDHS and partners established procedures for coordinating the activities of state and local agencies, community and faith-based volunteer organizations, property management companies, real estate companies, and home builders to address the housing and social service needs of survivors.

# Committed to Preparedness & Training

IDHS places a strong emphasis on having emergency responders statewide trained and ready to help Hoosiers when disasters strike. A few examples of the IDHS commitment to preparedness follow.

In 2015, IDHS began offering training in front-line medical tactics for non-medically trained professionals, such as law enforcement officers, who may have to assist victims of emergencies during the critical seconds before emergency medical help arrives.

Also in 2015, IDHS participated in a mass fatality exercise with federal authorities. During the exercise, IDHS deployed its Disaster Portable Mortuary Unit at the Gary-Chicago International Airport. The unit would be used to identify victims' remains — for example, after a passenger jet crash — for prompt and dignified return to their loved ones.

More than 50 IDHS employees participated in a 2015 earthquake simulation drill at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center. Participants in the National Guard-led exercise, which simulated an 8.4-magnitude earthquake and was dubbed United Front, included representatives of the Israeli armed forces.

IDHS worked with Louisiana State University and Texas A&M University to develop a standardized statewide process for identifying and prioritizing training and exercise needs for public safety agencies. The program is dubbed RTIPP, for Readiness Training Identification and Preparedness Planning initiative.

IDHS conducted three training exercises – tabletop, drill and full-scale – in 2014 for a unit called IBEAM (Indiana Building Emergency Assessment and Monitoring). The unit consists of volunteer professional architects and engineers who give their time to assess damaged structures to determine if they are safe for people to enter. These volunteers work alongside IDHS to help expedite evaluations verifying usable facilities and returning these buildings to a functional state. The team is a self-sustaining deployable asset, including features such as a communications trailer that can run on solar and wind power in a devastated area.



An ice rescue training exercise, left, is one example of the many ways IDHS works with first responders statewide to prepare for emergencies. IDHS also communicates through the news media and directly to Hoosiers about emergency preparedness.

# Committed to Radioactive Materials Safety

IDHS responsibilities include preparation *for* and responses *to* radioactive materials incidents. In fiscal year 2014/2015, IDHS responded to 168 incidents involving actual or suspected radioactive materials.

A key element of IDHS responsibilities is the permitting of radiological materials that pass through Indiana. Four types of materials require IDHS permits: 1) low-level radioactive waste, 2) highway route controlled quantity (HRCQ) radioactive shipments, 3) high-level radioactive wastes, and 4) spent nuclear fuel. During the last fiscal year, IDHS issued permits for 188 shipments of low-level radioactive waste, up from 120 during the previous fiscal year; and 88 permits for HRCQ materials, up from last year's 36. No permits were sought or granted for high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel.

The low-level radioactive waste and HRCQ shipments traverse 50 of Indiana's 92 counties.

IDHS also works to train first responders and emergency management professionals to respond to potential radioactive materials transportation incidents. Over the last fiscal year, IDHS trained 293 responders, up from 280 the previous year.

IDHS is developing a nuclear materials detection plan in conjunction with the U.S. Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. Elements of the in-progress State of Indiana Radiological and Nuclear Detection Program have been tested in exercises during major events such as the NCAA Final Four and the Indianapolis 500.

In July of 2014, IDHS participated in Vibrant Response, one of the largest multi-agency training exercises ever to occur in North America. The exercise, hosted by U.S. Army North, simulated a nuclear detonation in Speedway, Indiana. Vibrant Response involved about 7,500 military and civilian personnel, including federal, state and local agencies in addition to IDHS, and focused on life-saving activities, infrastructure protection and environmental protection.

Participants suit up for the Vibrant Response training exercise, right, which prepared first responders for managing an emergency involving the release of radioactive materials. IDHS assists public safety agencies with incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological and explosive materials.





# Committed to Supporting First Responders

In East Chicago, first responders can buy extrication equipment. In Union City, they can buy an ice rescue kit. In Greenfield, they can buy decontamination gear. In Hobart, they can buy thermal imaging cameras. In Greenville, they can buy fire helmets. In Boonville, they can buy automatic defibrillators.

Those are some of the dozens of new public safety equipment purchases made possible by the generosity of Hoosier drivers who buy the Secure Indiana license plate. Funds raised through the license plate's sales are used by the Indiana Homeland Security Foundation to make grants of up to \$4,000 each to public safety agencies and local governments throughout the state.

In the spring of 2015, about \$370,000 in grants were awarded by the foundation. Grants in 2015 were awarded to 101 recipients in 61 Indiana counties.

The mission of the Indiana Homeland Security Foundation is to benefit the future of public safety in the state of Indiana through the promotion of response capabilities, responder safety, volunteerism, outreach, and teamwork, and to provide for enhancement of Indiana's public safety intellectual capital.

The foundation also awards scholarships to students interested in pursuing public safety careers. Full-time college students (those taking at least 12 credit hours of courses) are eligible for \$2,000 scholarships. Part-time students (at least six credit hours) can receive \$1,000 scholarships. In 2014/2015, a total of \$30,000 in scholarships were awarded to 15 students.

The Secure Indiana plate may be purchased through any Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch.



The Secure Indiana license plate, left, is available through any Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch. Sales of the plate help fund public safety equipment, training and scholarships.

# Committed to Secure Schools

The Secured School Safety Grant Program, which became active in July of 2013 after being signed into law by Governor Mike Pence, established \$20 million in funding to provide safety grants for schools across Indiana. IDHS administers the program.

The grants may be used for one or more of three purposes:

- Employing a school resource officer (who has completed Indiana Law Enforcement Academy-approved training, among other requirements).
- Purchasing equipment or technology to restrict access to school property or to more quickly notify first responders of emergencies.
- Conducting threat assessments.

For the 2015 fiscal year grant period, from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015:

- 220 schools or school systems received full funding of their grant proposals.
- 35 received partial funding.
- 3 applications were denied.
- 188 grants for safety and security equipment were awarded.
- 141 grants for school resource officers were awarded.
- 3 grants for threat assessments were awarded.
- 79 percent of the state's 1,046,026 public school students were affected by the grants.
- A total of \$9,286,201 was awarded.

The South Harrison Community School Corporation, in southwestern Indiana, was among schools previously awarded grant funds to employ a school resource officer.



## **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.*

## **Committed to Indiana**

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