



AUGUST 2019

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To mitigate the loss of life, the Division of Emergency Preparedness assists Public Health entities, Healthcare Providers, and Hoosiers to respond to and recover from all hazard incidents by identifying, developing, refining, and executing plans in a timely manner.

Message from the Division Director

Welcome to our second quarterly newsletter. I am excited to be working with each of you in my new role as division director of the Department of Emergency Preparedness (DEP) at the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). I have been fortunate to work with many of you over the past six years, and I look forward to getting to know those of you whom I have not yet had the pleasure to meet.



As I transition into this new role, I would like to start by sharing my thoughts on public health preparedness and our future goals. Fifteen years ago, I was introduced to emergency management and preparedness while working as a firefighter/EMT. While much of that time was spent in response, several elements of preparedness still came into play: pre-planning, training, public education and prevention, mock scene size ups, and mitigation. It's these elements that often make the biggest, yet least noticed, impact in a community.

Roughly six years ago, I joined DEP team first as a planner, then planning and response, and most recently in operations. In these roles, I gained an appreciation for the dedicated work we have collectively accomplished to prepare our state for the unknown and unpredictable. Preparedness is what reduces the magnitude of response and recovery. As we continue to build our capacity, our resilience has grown.

On July 1 we began a new five-year project period for our cooperative agreements that brings with it new preparedness goals and objectives. That includes moving the Strategic National Stockpile from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and a continuing effort by both

agencies to separate the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) programs.

For the HPP, some of the highlights for this project period include: dedicated staffing for HCCs, i.e. the HCC Readiness and Response Coordinator and the Clinical Advisor; developing specialized annexes for each HCC Response Plan covering pediatric, burn, infectious disease, radiation and chemical incidents; and increasing situational awareness among HCC members and partners during events.

For PHEP, highlights include: demonstrating operational readiness of the state and cities' readiness initiative jurisdictions; increasing pandemic influenza and vaccine administration preparedness; and refining public health emergency operations plans. Both programs continue to support the development of strong partnerships with stakeholders representing at-risk population, real-time information sharing during incidents, and coordinated emergency operations across jurisdictions.

Thank you for your patience during this time of transition and for your continued support of public health and healthcare preparedness initiatives around the state. Please feel free to reach out any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Make sure you're registered to receive ISDH alerts. Registering is as simple as logging on to



the [website](#) and entering the information requested. Select "Register Now" button on the home page to begin the process. You should have information about your employer and contact information available to complete the registration. ISDH will verify individuals registering for different organizations within the system. New users may only join organizations that are applicable to their professions.

Emergency Preparedness & Response Highlights

ST ELIZABETH HEALTH EXERCISE

On May 4, St. Elizabeth Health Campus held a Disaster Drill at the main campus. The drill scenario included severe weather that further developed into a tornado warning ultimately resulting in a tornado hitting one of the main hospital wings. Local city and county law enforcement, the fire and health departments, four sister campuses, 40 volunteers, and other local businesses participated in the exercise.

“This was such a great exercise and we were able to learn what our strong areas were as well as our areas of opportunities. I am thankful that we had so many people willing to be a part of this learning experience.”

- Shelly Dyrek, RN, MSN, WCC, HFA



PUBLIC HEALTH DRASH SET-UP

The Johnson County Health Department partnered with the Marion and Hamilton county health departments to set up the three agencies’ DRASH mobile command structures. These military-grade tents are available to be deployed primarily within District 5 during a disaster or public health emergency. The tents are equipped with lighting, flooring, and heating and cooling systems. This is the first time the agencies have come together to set up each of their units at the same time to train staff and volunteers. Not only does this provide the necessary training at each facility, but allows volunteers to see that the process and set up is the same in all three jurisdictions. This also strengthens the mutual aid agreement between all the District 5 local health departments.



DISTRICT 1 COALITION SHOWCASES ASSETS

Emergency management is about managing risks to communities and the environment. It is the core business of emergency services, but every individual and organization has a part to play. Emergency management is about prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

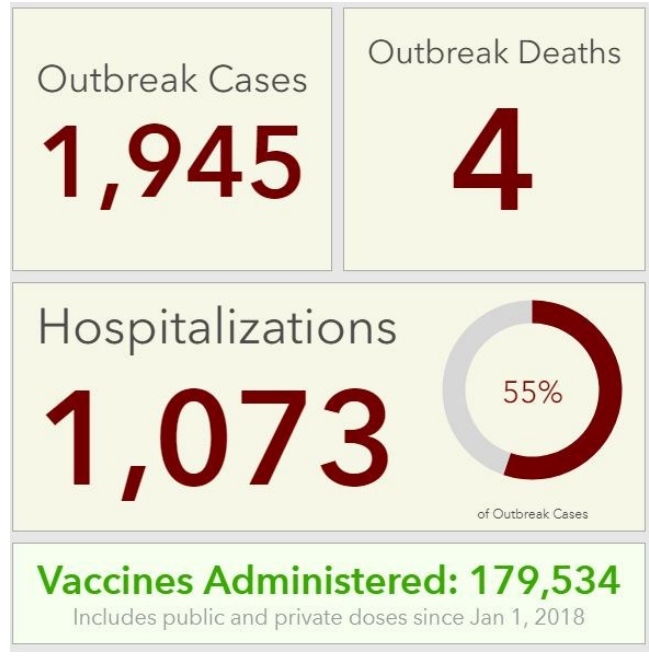
There was equipment used acquired for each response to such risks in the community. District 1 showcases the equipment twice per year so community members and organizations can understand what is available to assist them in times of need that are related to manmade or natural disasters.



Indiana Hepatitis A Outbreak

Indiana is one of several states experiencing a hepatitis A outbreak. Hepatitis A usually spread person-to-person when someone accidentally consumes stool (poop) of someone with hepatitis A or by consuming food or water contaminated with the virus. During this outbreak, the hepatitis A virus has been spread person-to-person; no contaminated food or water has been identified.

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). It can range from mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting a few months. Symptoms of hepatitis A usually appear two to six weeks after someone is infected.



What are the symptoms?
Not everyone has signs of hepatitis A. If symptoms do develop, they usually appear two to six weeks after infection and can include:

- ABDOMINAL PAIN
- FEVER
- DARK URINE
- NAUSEA
- VOMITING
- JAUNDICE (YELLOWING OF THE EYES)
- PALE STOOLS (POOP)
- LOSS OF APPETITE
- JOINT PAIN
- DIARRHEA
- FATIGUE (EXTREME TIREDNESS)

Symptoms are more likely to occur in adults than in children. They usually last fewer than two months, but some people can be ill as long as six months.

Boy Scouts earn Merit Badge

The ISDH conducted its second Boys Scouts of America Public Health Merit Badge workshop led by Pam Pontones, deputy state health commissioner and state epidemiologist, and Scoutmaster.



This unique and rare badge is one of the original 57 badges issued in 1911. Multiple divisions of ISDH participated in this workshop, covering a variety of topics. The ISDH DEP presented on the types of public assistance ISDH provides during disasters, which is one of the eight requirements for this badge.



“Ask DEP” section coming soon...

We all know the daily importance and challenges of emergency preparedness planning and realize sometimes we don't know who or where to go for answers to questions that may come up on a day to day basis. That is why we have dedicated an “Ask Me” section for you to submit comments, questions and/or concerns that we will answer and possibly share in upcoming DEP Newsletter editions. Feel free to send us as many as you'd like. We might just feature your question along with our answer in our next edition.

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DIVISION OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

DISTRICT AND LOCAL READINESS

A new budget period started July 1 for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program with the local health departments. This year, we identified and obligated additional funding to our PHEP recipients allowing for \$25,000 to each participating health department to focus on dedicated emergency preparedness personnel.

It is our hope that with this funding, all 93 of our local health departments have at least a part time employee dedicated to public health preparedness. This will immediately bolster Indiana's readiness to respond to a public health emergency across the state.

The Hospital Preparedness Program also had a new budget period that started July 1. In addition to continuing to build our Healthcare Coalitions Response Capabilities, there is great focus on information sharing and communications for situational awareness and response capabilities.

We continue to work with our HCCs, local health departments and all of our partners to implement the new EMResources and eICS platforms across the state. For more information, please contact one of the District and Local Readiness staff members or your HCC operations manager. A complete listing of those folks can be found on our [website](#).

PLANNING AND EXERCISE

CCTA Training

One of our staff members learned about the challenges and benefits of using complex coordinated terrorist attacks (CCTA) in a training weeks ago. CCTAs are an

evolving and dynamic terrorist incident with the potential for mass casualties and infrastructure damage. Additional complexities involved with CCTAs, including multiple teams of attackers, numerous target locations, and a variety of weapon types, represent challenges that may be faced by jurisdictions.

To prepare for these complexities, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and multiple state and local emergency preparedness and response partners from across Indiana and Kentucky are collaborating to develop and implement regional response plans and exercises for use in metropolitan areas most at-risk from CCTA events.

The aim of this initiative is to facilitate discussion and planning across multiple jurisdictions and levels of government as well as to foster coordination, communication, and resource management skills that would play a crucial role at all levels during a CCTA situation.

Child-Focused Planning and Partnerships

During the emergency preparedness and response planning process, agencies should coordinate with designated educational agencies and childcare agencies in their jurisdiction. Partnerships with child-serving institutions such as schools and daycare centers should exist to ensure crisis preparedness plans are in place. During this process, also consider family reunification plans for schools and day care facilities. Guidance is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) on

how to engage at-risk populations, such as children. More information, including reunification, specific threats, and mental health involving children during an emergency can be located through the CDC's Children Preparedness Unit (CPU) [here](#).

Training and Logistics

The Training and Logistics section has been supporting health events around the State of Indiana. The Minority Health Fair was hosted downtown Indianapolis in July, where we set several tents for our partners. The State Fair this August has several booths being supported. More upcoming events will be supported in the next few months. The logistics section is traveling across the state with resources, both for events and on-going response needs.

The statewide Training and Exercise Planning Workshop (TEPW) was held April 30. It was wonderful to have the coalition representatives, and internal and external state partners represented on the training and exercise plans (TEPs). We appreciate all of the effort put in by so many partners. We have more than 500 trainings and countless exercises listed from the districts and state partners.

As we enter into the new budget period, we know that the upcoming five years will be full of trainings and exercises.

The training request form is available on the Acadis [portal](#), listed as Course Request (Health). This form allows for trainings to be advertised in acadis, registration, tracking, and assistance in securing courses from course providers.

ISDH Leadership at All Levels

Core Leadership Development Course: This ten-week series is the first of the three courses in the Leadership At All Levels program and provides a foundation for leadership skills and concepts. Each weekly session included presentations, individual and group activities, and assigned reading. The DEP had four staff members graduate this July. Pictured, from left, are Kiley Melvin, Emily Sargent, Pam Pontones, Derek Sebold and Danielle Renckly. Congratulations to you all on a job well done!





TRAININGS AND EVENTS

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER
<p>8/13 MGT 347- ICS Forms Review Course South Bend Central Fire Station, South Bend, IN 0800-1200</p>	<p>8/27 DC Cook Full Scale Exercise (Day 1)</p>	<p>9/10 Essentials of Community Cyber Security, Plymouth, IN</p>	<p>10/08-10/09 Community Cyber Security Exercise Planning Christos Banquet Center-Plymouth, IN</p>
<p>8/13 MGT 347- ICS Forms Review Course South Bend Central Fire Station 1300-1700</p>	<p>8/28 DC Cook Tabletop Exercise (Day 2)</p>	<p>9/10 -11/19 EOC's Role in Community Cyber Security, Plymouth, IN 1P-5P day 1 8 a.m.—5 p.m. day 2</p>	<p>10/09-10/10 MGT 317- Disaster Management for Public Services Porter County EMA, Valparaiso, IN</p>
<p>8/15 MGT 347- ICS Forms Review Course Christos Banquet Center, Plymouth, IN 0800-1200</p>	<p>8/29 2019 IDHS State Level Exercise RISE- FE Component (Day 1) Rochester Fire Dept., Rochester, IN</p>	<p>9/19 Local Volunteer and Donations Management, Clark County Emergency Management</p>	<p>10/15-10/17 Instructor Development Workshop Northern Monroe Fire Territory Training Academy, Bloomington, IN</p>
<p>8/15 MGT 347- ICS Forms Review Course Christos Banquet Center, Plymouth, IN 1300-1700</p>	<p>8/30 2019 IDHS State Level Exercise RISE- Seminar Component (Day 2) Rochester Fire Dept., Rochester, IN</p>	<p>9/24-9/27 All-Hazards Type III Communications Unit Leader (COML), Decatur Township Fire</p>	<p>10/23 Per 320- Personal Protective Measures for Biological Events Christos Banquet Center, Plymouth, IN</p>
<p>8/24-8/25 ICS 400 Advanced ICS Command Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN</p>			<p>10/28-10/29 MGT 324- Campus Emergencies Prevention, Response, and Recovery Noblesville, IN</p>

How do I sign up for training?

To take training courses offered by local, state and federal partners, you will need to obtain a Public Safety Identification (PSID) number from the State of Indiana and a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMS) Student Identification (SID) number. Obtaining your PSID will also provide you access to Acadis the State of Indiana's online course and training management system. Click [here](#) to find out more and register.