

Indiana Department of Homeland Security  
**District Planning Council Program**

Brian O'Neill, Strategic Development Group, Inc. (SDG)  
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## **A Primary Responsibility**

Among the many responsibilities for elected officials, none is more important than ensuring the health and safety of their citizens. This includes the capacity to respond to emergencies and disasters.

## When you're overwhelmed, then what?

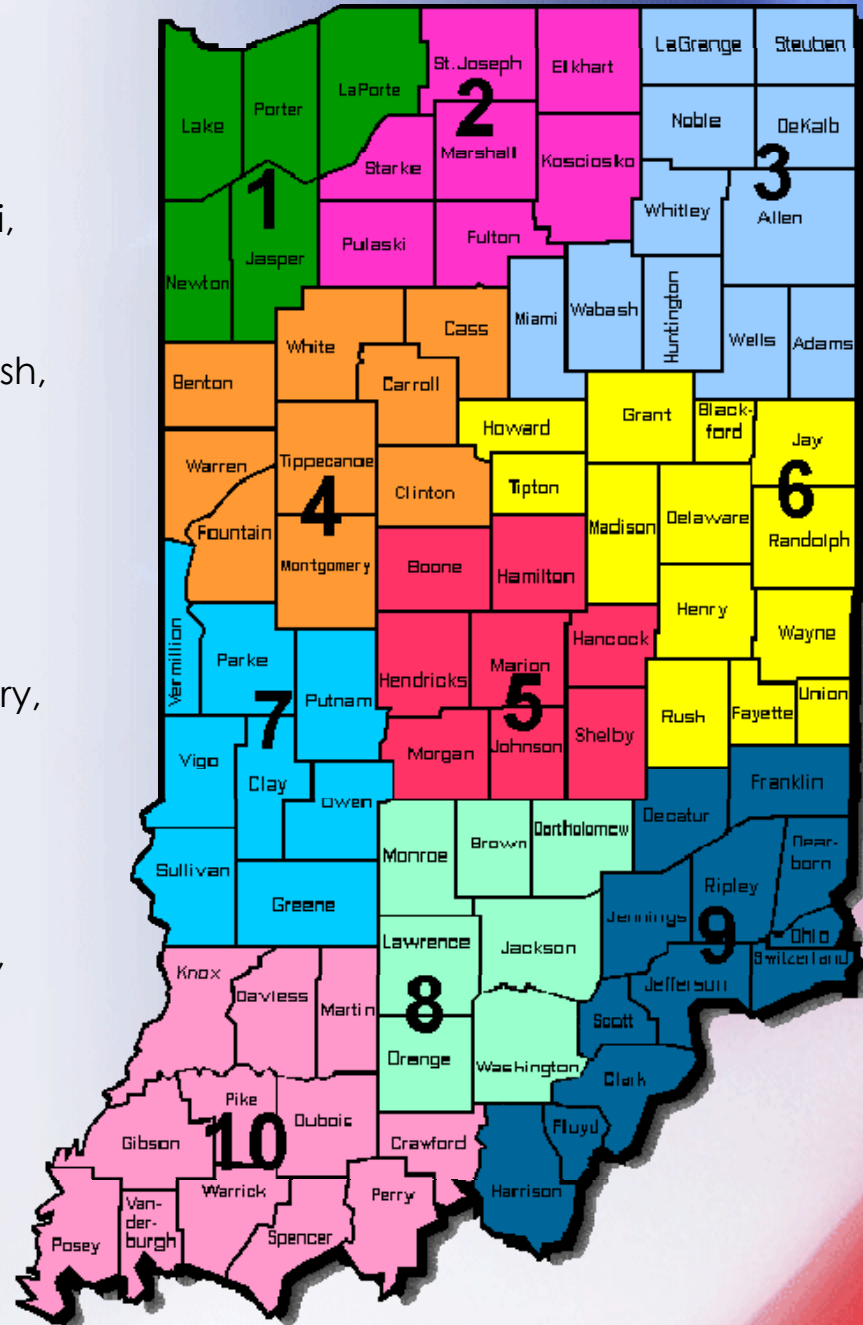
- When there are disasters that overwhelm local response efforts, we rely on help from our friends and neighbors. It's part of our American heritage. The willingness to help, however, is not enough. Planning together as regions will make collaborative responses more effective and efficient.
- The bottom line is saving more lives and property.

## **The Purpose of IDHS Districts:**

is to ensure effective, rapid mutual aid from multiple jurisdictions when disasters occur. By coming together in regional Districts, local government and the state as whole benefit from sharing resources and from planning and responding together.

# 10 IDHS Districts

- 1: Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter
- 2: Elkhart, Fulton, Kosciusko, Marshall, Pulaski, St. Joseph, Starke
- 3: Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Miami, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, Whitley
- 4: Benton, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Warren, White
- 5: Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, Shelby
- 6: Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Grant, Henry, Howard, Jay, Madison, Randolph, Rush, Tipton, Union, Wayne
- 7: Clay, Greene, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo
- 8: Bartholomew, Brown, Jackson, Lawrence, Monroe, Orange, Washington
- 9: Clark, Dearborn, Decatur, Floyd, Franklin, Harrison, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, Switzerland
- 10: Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Martin, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh



# District Planning, Response, and Preparedness Partnership

- District Planning Oversight Committee
- District Planning Council
- District Task Force



# Key Benefits of District Organization

- ✓ Gain access to additional funding for regional response planning and equipment
- ✓ Provide more effective interventions for saving lives and property
- ✓ Reduce the levels of risk to critical infrastructure
- ✓ Initiate recovery efforts more quickly and effectively

# District Planning Oversight Committee

## DPOC

- A District Planning Oversight Committee will be established in each District to provide executive level oversight and support for the activities of the District Planning Council
- The DPOC will serve as the Primary oversight entity for the formal appointment of the District Planning Council members
- The allocation of public funding requires executive oversight from elected officials

# DPOC Membership

- The membership of DPOC will be comprised of the following local officials:
  - The President of the County Commissioners for each county in the District
  - The Mayor or Town Board President of the most populated city or town for each county in the District
  - Or other elected officials as deemed necessary by the DPOC, provided that no one county has a majority of members on the Oversight Committee

# District Planning Council

## DPC

- Comprised of local emergency managers, emergency responders and representatives from other key agencies and organizations
- Coordinates the emergency planning and preparedness activities of multiple governmental entities within each of the 10 IDHS Districts

## DPC Purpose

- Promote communication and coordination by providing a forum for all local agencies and organizations to discuss District-wide emergency preparedness and response issues
- Assess District preparedness and conduct strategic and operational planning
- Develop an effective District training and exercise program
- Coordinate District grant funding, resource allocation and resource management activities

# DPC Membership

- Each county in the District would be represented by three voting council members.
  - EMA Director
  - Member appointed by the mayor of the largest city or town
  - Member appointed by the president of the county commissioners
- The number of personnel on the DPC could be expanded.
- No one county shall have a majority.
- If possible, no one discipline should hold a majority on the DPC.
- Additional non-voting members could participate in DPC activities by serving on subcommittees and working groups.

# District Task Force

## DTF

- The District Task Force (DTF) will support local emergency response agencies with technical assistance, specialized equipment and personnel.
- The DTF will consist of specialized groups representing multiple emergency response disciplines.

### District Task Force

Incident Management & Support

Fire / Search & Rescue

Hazardous Materials

Law Enforcement

Emergency Medical

Public Safety

# Guidance & Support Contact Information

- Local Resources
  - County EMA Director
  - District Administrative Coordinator
- Indiana Department of Homeland Security
  - District Coordinator
  - DPC/DTF Program Manager
- Strategic Development Group, Inc.
  - Brian O'Neill, Senior Project Manager
  - Catie Kosinski, Project Manager

# Guidance & Support

## District Administrative Coordinator

- The District Administrative Coordinator will report to the District Fiscal and Legal Agent and work for the DPC and DPOC.
- Duties and tasks will vary depending on the needs on the District.
- Funding for this position are provided by State grant funds.

# DPC Program History

- Fall 2004. Program development begins.
- January 2005. Concept paper “Recommendations for District Planning Councils” complete.
- October 2005. “Indiana District Planning Council Guidance” complete.
- March 2007. Strategic Development Group (SDG) contracted to assist in the development of District Planning Councils.
- June 2007. District 3 begins “formal” organization with assistance from IDHS and SDG.

# DPC Program

## Lessons Learned in District 3

Lesson	Action
Provide opportunities for input from emergency response personnel	Readiness Assessment to determine gaps in organization and planning
Communicate flexibility of District approach	Develop fact sheets, templates, and customized work plans
Keep local elected officials informed	Present information at Mayor Roundtables, conferences, and conduct conference calls

# DPC Program

## Future

- November 2008. District Planning Council Guidance revised.
- December 2008. Regional Input Meetings to review “Readiness Assessment” survey.
- January 2009. “Readiness Assessment” analysis completed.
- February 2009. Presentations in each District to review “Readiness Assessment” results and customized work plans.
- March-April 2009. DPOCs formally organized.
- May-June 2009. DPCs formally organized.

# Reasons for Formal Organization

- District organizations must have a formal status to receive public dollars.
- Districts receive formal status through the creation of a District Planning Oversight Committee (DPOC) comprised of the elected officials who represent member counties.
- The members of the District Planning Council (DPC) are empowered to act on a regional basis through receiving a formal appointment by the elected officials on the DPOC.

# Reasons for Formal Organization

- The DPOC and DPC adopt bylaws and rules of procedure. These ensure that the allocation of funds and the settlement of disputes are determined in an orderly manner.
- The selection of a Fiscal and Legal Agent – usually a county auditor from within the District – provides an audit trail.

# DPC Program

## Ultimate Goals

- ✓ Promote Teamwork and Cooperation
- ✓ Effectively Prepare for and Respond to Disasters
- ✓ Support and Protect Our Neighbors

