



FEMA

Lessons Learned Information Sharing LLIS.gov

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PRACTICE NOTE

Information and Intelligence Sharing: The Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center's District One Law Enforcement Seminar

PRACTICE

The Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center's (IIFC) District One coordinator hosted a seminar to inform state and local law enforcement personnel of burglaries targeting areas of Northwest Indiana and Chicago, Illinois. The seminar outlined the nature of the threat and provided information to officers on how to recognize and combat the threat in their own jurisdictions.

DESCRIPTION

On March 20, 2006, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security established the IIFC to serve as the state's centralized, multiagency information and intelligence sharing network. The IIFC collects, analyzes, and disseminates information and intelligence to help federal, state, and local agencies detect, prevent, and respond to criminal and terrorist activity. The IIFC Executive Committee developed and launched the IIFC Liaison Program to involve Indiana law enforcement, public safety, and private sector critical infrastructure personnel in the collection and submission of threat information. To help achieve this, the IIFC appointed a statewide liaison commander to coordinate the IIFC Liaison Program.

The IIFC Executive Committee consists of 14 representatives from federal, state, and local law enforcement, corrections, and gaming agencies and divisions. The Executive Committee develops policy, provides administrative guidance, and oversees the daily operations of the IIFC.

The IIFC liaison commander assigned one law enforcement agency from each of Indiana's ten homeland security districts to serve as the district coordinating agency for that area. Each agency appointed an individual to serve as the district coordinator, who is responsible for facilitating and coordinating the participation of his or her district's law enforcement and public safety agencies in the IIFC Liaison Program. The district coordinator hosts regular meetings with these agencies to share threat and case information and to improve intelligence and information sharing efforts across the state.

In early 2009, the District One coordinator worked with the IIFC liaison commander to host a training seminar for state and local law

Indiana Homeland Security District One encompasses 5 counties located in the Northwestern portion of the state and has a total population of approximately 800,000.



enforcement agencies during the district's information sharing quarterly meeting. The seminar outlined the threat posed by a group of individuals who had been burglarizing the homes of elderly residents in Northwest Indiana and the Chicago suburbs. The district coordinator arranged for members of a joint Chicago Police Department – Illinois State Police task force that had been investigating the threat to teach the 3-hour seminar. The seminar outlined the nature of the threat, the specific populations and areas targeted, the methods used by the perpetrators, and the measures that law enforcement agencies could take to mitigate the threat. Over 70 law enforcement personnel from the 5 Indiana counties in District One attended the seminar. The IIFC and district coordinator received positive feedback from individuals who had been in attendance.

Within a week, personnel from one of the police departments that had attended the seminar successfully solved a case tied to the burglary ring. The department was then able to link this particular case with other cases in the area and to identify a number of key suspects in the ring. While this investigation is ongoing, the police department credits much of its success to the training it received from the District One information sharing meeting.

CITATION

Johnson, Doug. Deputy Director for Liaison Affairs, Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center. Interview with *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, 01 Jul 2009.

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