



## WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA Local Disaster Emergency Declaration

**WHEREAS**, Warrick County, Indiana, has been impacted by a significant chemical fire, which constitutes an emergency condition; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Indiana Code §10-14-3-29(a), a local disaster emergency may be declared by the President of the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana, as principal executive officer of Warrick County; and

**NOW**, therefore, Sarah Seaton, as President of the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana, declares that a local disaster emergency exists in Warrick County and hereby invokes and declares those portions of the Indiana Code that apply to the conditions and have caused the issuance of this proclamation, to be in full force and effect in Warrick County for the exercise of all necessary emergency authority for protection of the lives and property of the people of Warrick County and the restoration of local government with a minimum of interruption.

The effect of this declaration is to:

1. Activate the response and recovery aspects of all applicable county disaster emergency plans;
2. Authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under the plans; and
3. Pursuant to I.C. §10-14-3-29.5, declare, if necessary, a Warning, the highest level of local travel advisory, during which travel may be restricted to emergency management workers only, as that term is defined in I.C. § 10-14-3-3. The term includes a volunteer health practitioner registered under I.C. § 10-14-3.5.

During a Warning, all persons are called upon and directed to refrain from all travel, to comply with necessary emergency measures, to cooperate with public officials and disaster service forces in executing emergency operations plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful directions of properly identified officers.

All public officers and employees of Warrick County are hereby designated as emergency management workers for the duration of this emergency but are hereby directed to limit their travel to that which is essential to the discharge their public safety and essential service duties. Such employees are also hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of duties required of them for the duration of the emergency and in execution of emergency laws, regulations, and directives, state and local.

In accordance with I.C. § 10-14-3-29.5(a)(3) and I.C. § 10-14-3-29(d), this Declaration does not prohibit emergency management workers, as defined in I.C. § 10-14-3-3, individuals engaged in employment necessary to maintain a safe rail system, restore a public utility or provide any other emergency public service from traveling within the County during this local disaster emergency.

All operating forces will direct their communications and requests for assistance and operations directly to the Warrick County Emergency Operating Center.

Reference is hereby made to all appropriate laws, statutes, ordinances, and resolutions, and particularly to sections 10-14-3-5.5, 10-14-3-29 and 10-14-3-29.5 of the Indiana Code.



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Under I.C. § 10-14-3-29.5, there are three travel advisory levels. If the emergency management agency director or the principal executive officer of a political subdivision determines that conditions within the political subdivision have created the need for travel advisory restrictions without a local disaster emergency declaration, the emergency management agency director or the principal executive officer may issue an “advisory” or a “watch” level travel advisory. A “warning” level travel advisory may be issued only after a local disaster emergency is declared under I.C. § 10-14-3-29.

1. “Advisory” is the lowest level of local travel advisory. It means that routine travel or activities may be restricted in areas because of a hazardous situation. Citizens should use caution or avoid these areas. Schools and businesses may begin to implement their emergency action plans.
2. “Watch” means that conditions are threatening to the safety of the public. Only essential travel is recommended (*i.e.*, to and from work, emergency situation, etc.). Emergency action plans have been or should now be implemented by businesses, schools, government agencies and other organizations. The emergency management agency director or the principal executive officer of a political subdivision may determine that conditions within the political subdivision have created the need for travel advisory restrictions without a local disaster emergency being declared under I.C. § 10-14-3-29. The emergency management agency director or the principal executive officer may issue travel advisory restrictions, but such restrictions shall be limited to the travel advisory levels “advisory” and “watch”.
3. “Warning” means that travel may be restricted to emergency personnel only. During a “Warning” Emergency, all citizens are called upon and directed to refrain from all travel, to comply with necessary emergency measures, to cooperative with public officials and disaster services forces in executing emergency operations plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful directions of properly identified officers. Under I.C. § 10-14-3-29.5 (d), further and more specific restrictions may be included in a “warning” local travel advisory.

I.C. § 10-14-3-29 states that a local disaster emergency declaration may not be continued or renewed for more than seven (7) days except by or with the consent of the governing body of the political subdivision.

This Declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly in the office of the County Clerk.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025.

Sarah A Seaton

Sarah A Seaton (Sep 7, 2025 15:50:45 CDT)

Sarah Seaton, President of the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County

**Attest:**

Michael Dietsch

Michael Dietsch (Sep 7, 2025 16:08:57 CDT)

Michael Dietsch, Warrick County Auditor

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## (09.07.2025)

Final Audit Report

2025-09-07

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