



PSAP Name Nappanee Police/911 Center_____

PSAP Address 301 W Lincoln St_____

Nappanee, IN 46550_____

PSAP TX 574-773-4111_____ Fax 574-773-4155_____

Contact Person__Tod Schmucker_____

Brief explanation of why your PSAP should be considered for PSAP of the Month:

On Oct 18, 2007 around 10pm the Dispatch Center advised per paging system that what looked to be Severe thunderstorms were headed towards us. The City lost power while receiving a Doppler Indicated tornado warning that was to the south west of Nappanee. The battery backup tornado sirens were activated. 50 seconds later an officer was yelling that his car was in the tornado and getting hit with trees and debris and he was trapped in the vehicle. He was 1 mile straight south of the Nappanee 911 center. A 2nd patrol unit that was 6 blocks straight south of the Communications Center was reporting debris hitting vehicle, and not being able to keep control of vehicle while trying to get out of its path.

That Comm Center could have folded around them, and you would not have been able to pry the Dispatchers away. Their instincts and training took over, and you knew not to get in the way. Between trying to get help to their officers (which because of debris they could not get it to them and the dispatchers and officers knew it) and getting help on the way to dig out the injured people. We all knew we would be picking up bodies and body parts all over the area. All personnel's immediate families were accounted for. There was no doubt that we all had lost friends and relatives. We were taking reports of nothing but foundations left, and whole houses setting in middle of roadways, fast food restaurants GONE that should have had people in them.

Their regular work shifts were out the window for about a week and a half. There was no disagreements in the Communications Center and everything ran smoother than could ever be expected. There were no ME, THEM or I, it was 100 percent TEAM. Team also explains how the help from neighboring Com Centers was offered and accepted, and ex-dispatchers that had retired or left the department years ago and were standing at the door to be let in.

NONE of them would trade the experience for the world, but never want to go through it again.

Initial injuries to public - 3 walking wounded. - 1 back boarded due to broken ribs. The back of the fund raiser T-Shirt the PD came up with says it all “top F3- and we **all** survived”

It just happens that there was to be disaster training earlier that same evening but was canceled due to storms in the area with heavy lighting. The top secret topic of the mock disaster? Storm damage!

(Feel free to attach additional information)

Would you like to receive more information about Indiana NENA? If so, please advise e-mail address(es).

Thanks for your interest!