



# *NEWS RELEASE*

## **CLAY FIRE**

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### Clay Firefighters Helping to Reduce Infant Sleep Related Deaths

Indiana ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation for sleep related infant deaths. In St. Joseph County, 5 such deaths occurred in 2016. Last fall, Clay Firefighters took part in training, provided through the Indiana State Department of Health, for a program titled Direct On-Scene Education (DOSE). An innovative attempt at eliminating sleep related infant death resulting from suffocation, strangulation, and positional asphyxia.

Created by a Florida Paramedic and a Nurse Practitioner, DOSE, now in place within 8 states, focuses on first responders' proactively reducing sleep related infant deaths by educating parents and caregivers.

Clay Firefighters were instructed on how to identify and correct unsafe sleep environments, as well as current information regarding Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID) / Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and ways to directly educate parents and care-givers on the ABC's of safe sleep.

While at scenes of non-life threatening 911 responses, if firefighters see signs of an infant living in a residence or an expectant mother they will offer an informational packet and a "sleep environment check". If additional resources are needed to provide an infant with a safe sleeping environment, contacts are made with supporting agencies to assist.

The Safe Babies—Healthy Babies information packets are also being provided by Clay Fire within their child car seat program, which has been in place since 2002, when assisting expectant parents or those with newborns, with the selection or installation of their child's automotive safety seat.

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