



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 2026

For more information, please contact:

Tania Daffron, Assistant Chief, Bloomington Fire Department

daffrota@bloomington.in.gov or 812-272-2113

Desiree DeMolina, Communications Director, Office of the Mayor

desiree.demolina@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3406

Statement From the Bloomington Fire Department On Oct. 16 Deck Collapse

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – On Friday, October 16, 2026 at 10:29 p.m., the Bloomington Fire Department was dispatched with IU Lifeline, Indiana University Police Department, and the Bloomington Police Department to the report of a deck collapse in a residential neighborhood near the east side of Indiana University's campus. Responding agencies arrived on scene roughly four minutes after dispatch.

Upon arrival, responders found a single-family home rental with a deck over what appeared to be a walk-out basement that had collapsed, injuring several individuals. Emergency responders observed that the main body of the deck had been moved off the trapped individuals prior to their arrival. While IU Lifeline personnel performed triage, patient care, and called for additional resources, BFD personnel assisted with patient care, packaging, and carrying injured patients to the ambulances for rapid transport to IU Health Bloomington. At least five individuals were transported from the scene by ambulance. Law enforcement performed both traffic and crowd control at the scene.

The residence is known to be a rental home and the City of Bloomington's Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) has been in contact with the property manager. A HAND Compliance Officer responded today to assess tenant safety, rather than to investigate the cause of the collapse, and the property manager is taking immediate steps to implement the officer's recommendations.

While the City presently has no code enforcement specific to decks and their potential limitations, including occupancy or weight limits, this incident presents an opportunity to evaluate whether additional safety standards are warranted.

###