

Inside IEMA

Monthly Newsletter



Illinois Emergency Management Agency

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From IEMA Director James K. Joseph

You might find it surprising, but as IEMA director I actually love the unexpected challenges that arise. Take for instance Friday, Aug. 12, which was the first day of the Illinois State Fair. While storms were in the forecast with the possibility of heavy rainfall, no one expected the record rainfall that caused widespread flooding throughout the fairgrounds.

With thousands of people at the fair that evening, life safety was an immediate concern. I rushed to join officials from the Illinois State Police (ISP), Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and the State Fair, to coordinate response and recovery activities from the on-site Incident Command.

Thanks to the efforts of staff from the State Fair, IDOA and other state agencies working throughout the night, the fair reopened Saturday morning. While floodwaters in Happy Hollow damaged dozens of vehicles and trailers and a few activities were cancelled or postponed, there fortunately were no injuries or fatalities, which is most important. You can read more about this incident on page 7.

I also love the many opportunities I have to engage with my fellow emergency management and public safety colleagues. For example, I recently dropped in during an IEMA training class in Des Plaines and had a spirited conversation with participants from several public safety disciplines.

On Aug. 18, I was honored to participate in the 7th Annual American Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Summit. In addition to moderating a session on privacy and security, I enjoyed the chance to interact with our non-governmental partners and other emergency responders.

I'm especially looking forward to seeing and talking with many of you at the IEMA Training Summit Sept. 6-8 in Springfield. While online registration has closed, if you still want to participate you can register on-site at the Prairie Capital Convention Center. Hope to see you there!



Dir. Joseph spoke with Celena Roldan, CEO of the American Red Cross of Chicago and Northern Illinois, and Harley Jones, ARC Regional Disaster Officer, at the recent summit in Chicago.

In this issue

Beasley Help Scouts with Nuclear Badge.....	2
Summit Spotlight: Blood Drive.....	2
Hospitals Receive Grants for Exposure Exercises.....	3
September is National Preparedness Month	3
Meet IEMA's Senior Staff: Jenifer Johnson	4
Preparedness Encouraged at State Fair.....	4
Klinger Discusses Bakken Shipments at NARUC	5
State Receives FirstNet Grant.....	6
GATA Reminder.....	6
Flash Flooding at State Fair Prompts Response	7

Beasley Helps Scouts Earn Nuclear Science Merit Badge

On August 6, Sean Beasley, Bureau of Radiation Safety, facilitated a workshop for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to learn about radiation and nuclear science. By attending the workshop, scouts could complete the requirements to earn the Nuclear Science Merit Badge.

Topics covered included basic principles of atomic structure and radiation, applications of radiation and radioactive materials, nuclear power and careers in nuclear science. Scouts also were able to participate in hands-on demonstrations with equipment IEMA employees use for radiation protection and radiological emergency response.

The workshop was offered as part of Space Jamboree, an annual science and technology merit badge workshop for the Boy Scouts of America in Rantoul.



A scout uses a handheld radiation detector to study the effects of shielding on radioactive materials.

2016 IEMA Training Summit Spotlight:

Help Save a Life, Donate Blood at the Training Summit



Plan now to participate in a blood drive by the American Red Cross at the IEMA Training Summit. The drive will be conducted in Meeting Room B6 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center from noon to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6 and Wednesday, Sept. 7.

Appointments for donations are encouraged and can be made by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or online at redcrossblood.org. Please use the sponsor code IEMASummit. In addition, you can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using

RapidPass. Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass for more information.

People donating blood will receive a \$5 Amazon gift card and a coupon for a free haircut at Sport Clips.

Did you know...

- Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.
- Approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S.
- The blood used in an emergency is already on the shelves before the event occurs.
- A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood.

Register Now for The Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill Oct. 20 at 10:20 a.m.

**Register your work, school or other organization at
<http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/>.**

Three Hospitals Receive Grants for Radiation Injury Treatment

Three Illinois hospitals that participate in Illinois' Medical Services 1 (MS1) recently were awarded grants to enable them to host radiological exposure/contaminated patient scenario exercises in their respective areas.

In June, IEMA notified MS1 hospitals in Illinois of a grant opportunity being offered by the Radiation Injury Treatment Network (RITN).

Hospitals selected to receive \$10,000 grants from RITN include Riverside Hospital in Kankakee, Morrison Community Hospital in Morrison and OSF St. Anthony's in Rockford.

Under the grant agreement, each hospital must plan and conduct a medical drill similar to those IEMA supports under the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents. Grant funds may be used for staffing, equipment and additional preparedness training.

IEMA will provide training and radiological monitoring assistance in support of the drills, which must be conducted by Sept. 20, 2016.

The drills must involve at least three simulated injured patients who are contaminated by or have been



Grant funds will enable recipients to conduct exercises that hone responder techniques for dealing with injured people contaminated with radioactive materials.

exposed to radioactive materials. The hospitals also are required to conduct a planning meeting and training to support the exercise, include an ambulance for transporting the contaminated or exposed patients, and allow observers from the RITN to attend the exercise.

A copy of the completed exercise plan and after action report also must be submitted for posting on the RITN website.

September is National Preparedness Month

"Don't Wait, Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today" is once again the theme for National Preparedness Month in September. The national focus on encouraging individual preparedness for disasters provides a great opportunity for emergency management agencies and other organizations to promote preparedness with a variety of activities and events.

The national Ready Campaign developed weekly themes throughout the month, including:

Aug. 28–Sept.3: Kickoff to National Preparedness Month

Sept. 4–10: Preparing Family and Friends

Sept. 11-17: Preparing Through Service

Sept. 18-24: Individual Preparedness

Sept. 25-30: Lead up to National PrepareAthon Day (Sept. 30)

The Ready Campaign also encourages the use of #NatlPrep for social media messages about preparedness during September, as well as #PrepareAthon for social media posts related to an activity for the national day of action on Sept. 30.

Several resources are available through the national Ready Campaign to help you promote preparedness throughout the month, including graphics, videos, social media toolkits, preparedness materials in 12 non-English languages, instructional videos and preparedness public service announcements, downloadable preparedness materials and more. Visit www.ready.gov/september for more information.

Meet IEMA's Senior Staff: Jenifer Johnson

When Jenifer Johnson assumed the title of IEMA's General Counsel on July 18, she hit the ground running. Not surprising, as she previously served in the same capacity for nearly 4½ years before leaving the agency in November 2015 to become General Counsel for the Illinois Municipal League.

Johnson's experience and in-depth knowledge of IEMA's programs and issues are important since she interacts with every bureau in the agency. Johnson said she likes to work with bureau chiefs and their staffs to proactively identify and address issues, which can involve enforcement and fee collections, license and registration, administrative rule changes, grants, Freedom of Information Act requests, disaster proclamations, coordinating with FEMA on legal issues related to federal disaster assistance programs and much more.

During activations of the State Emergency Operations



IEMA General Counsel Jenifer Johnson

Center (SEOC), Johnson can be found at her desk in the SEOC, carefully reviewing details about the disaster to spot potential legal issues and to gather information for gubernatorial proclamations. Her attention to detail and thorough understanding of the Stafford Act are particularly valuable when she drafts the state's requests for federal assistance.

Johnson oversees the five members of the legal staff, which includes two attorneys, as well as the agency's records management staff. She also serves as IEMA's ethics officer.

Prior to joining IEMA in May 2011, Johnson was the corporation counsel for the city of Springfield for eight years. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and a juris doctorate from Northern Illinois University. Johnson, a Springfield native, lives in Springfield with her three children.

IEMA promoted disaster preparedness with this display at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield Aug. 12-21. The display, which emphasized the importance of developing a family communications plan, maintaining an emergency supply kit and having multiple ways to receive emergency warnings, was in Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti's tent. It also is on display in the Lt. Governor's tent at the DuQuoin State Fair Aug. 26-Sept. 5. Shown with the display are IEMA staff members Paul Rasch and Patti Thompson.



Klinger Discusses Bakken Crude Oil Shipments at NARUC

IEMA Assistant Director Joe Klinger outlined concerns the state of Illinois has regarding rail shipments of Bakken crude oil along with actions being taken to address these issues during a recent meeting of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) in Nashville.

Klinger was a panelist for a Task Force on Transportation session titled, The States of Rail Safety: State Involvement in Railroad Safety Issues. Other panelists represented the Federal Railroad Administration, BNSF Railway and the California Public Utilities Commission.

Panelists discussed their views on the role of states in railroad safety issues, as well as several current federal rulemakings and studies involving notification to states, railroad liability for hazardous materials and emergency response planning.

Klinger's remarks focused on the shipment of flammable liquids by rail in Illinois. He noted Illinois has the second largest rail system in the U.S. with 7,400 miles of track, along with the largest rail hub in the U.S. in Chicago. As such, Illinois serves as the crossroads for Bakken crude oil shipments from oil fields in North Dakota, Montana and Canada to refineries in the Gulf of Mexico and on the East Coast.

He also highlighted creation by the State Emergency Response Commission of a Strategic Planning Advisory Committee to examine issues with these shipments passing through Illinois. The committee was established shortly after the U.S. Department of Transportation issued an emergency order in May 2014 directing rail companies to provide information to states regarding shipments of one million gallons or more of Bakken crude oil.

The group, which has met several times, includes representatives from several state agencies, mutual aid organizations, the federal government, non-governmental organizations, local emergency management agencies and railroad companies.

Klinger outlined key points the advisory committee has focused on, including the risk/threat profile for the shipments, Illinois' prevention strategy, outreach training, resource identification, public outreach and information sharing, and response communications.



Assistant Director Joe Klinger

He also shared the state's experience and lessons learned from the March 2015 derailment and subsequent fire from a Bakken crude oil shipment traveling near Galena in northwest Illinois.

Klinger said the state's primary concerns with Bakken crude oil shipments are:

- 1) Current shipment notifications from the railroads are too general. State and local emergency responders need more detailed advance notice of these shipments.
- 2) While the railroad's response to the Galena incident was quick and effective, a railroad liaison should be assigned to the Incident Command to improve critical communications.
- 3) The timeline to upgrade tanker cars should be expedited to provide greater protection for millions of people in Illinois and across the country who live and work near these shipment routes.

Following the presentations, the task force chairman indicated panelists likely will be contacted for additional input as the group moves forward on these issues.

IEMA Receives FirstNet Band 14 Grant Award

The state of Illinois' efforts to relocate existing emergency response communications systems from Band 14 in preparation for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) recently received a grant totaling more than \$14 million from the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). Illinois' award was more than half of the \$26.8 million FirstNet awarded to eight recipients nationwide.

The Band 14 Incumbent Spectrum Relocation Grant Program offered an opportunity for public safety organizations across the U.S. to compete for funding for relocating existing radios and systems from Band 14 in advance of the deployment and operation of the NPSBN. The state of Illinois public safety radio network, known as STARCOM21, operates on a portion of the spectrum that will be used in the FirstNet NPSBN. This is the first critical step in paving the way for FirstNet's nationwide buildout.

FirstNet is an independent authority established by Congress in 2012 to oversee the building, deployment and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network for local, state, regional, tribal and federal first responders and other public safety personnel.

IEMA has 12 months to complete the project proposed in its grant application, which includes replacing more than 1,000 vehicular repeater systems, replacing more than 1,000 STARCOM21



Statewide Interoperability Coordinator Joe Galvin recently briefed Gov. Bruce Rauner and Randy Pollard, downstate director, on FirstNet.

portable radios, training on the new equipment, retuning STARCOM21 infrastructure, and reprogramming more than 4,500 radios. The affected entities include both state and local emergency response agencies working together under one grant to save time and taxpayer dollars.

Other recipients of the Band 14 grants were the Virginia State Police, Arkansas State Police, Massachusetts State Police, Honolulu County (Hawaii) Department of Defense, Marshall (Michigan) Fire Department, Stamford (Connecticut) Fire Department and Post Falls (Idaho) Police Department.

Grant Accountability and Transparency Act Reminder

As a condition of receiving a grant award from the state of Illinois, subrecipients of any state agency now are required to complete the pre-qualification process under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act. Subrecipients are encouraged to include their chief elected official and chief financial officer when pre-qualifying.

It is important that the jurisdiction determine if it is going to register and pre-qualify as a jurisdiction or separate organizations within a jurisdiction. Please note that separate registration and pre-qualification will require a separate DUNS number, as the pre-qualification portal will not accept FEIN – DUNS duplicate entries.

The pre-qualification portal can be accessed at <http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx>. Once you have registered and pre-qualified, you will receive a separate email with the link to the required internal control questionnaire (ICQ). Please note that the questionnaire is to determine the entity's financial and administrative risks. It is strongly encouraged that your chief financial officer participate in the ICQ process.

If you have questions or require assistance, please email iema.grants@illinois.gov.

Record Rainfall Prompts Response to State Fair Flooding

Conditions rapidly deteriorated on the first day of the Illinois State Fair when more than 5.5 inches of rain fell in Springfield in two hours. The heavy rains caused dangerous flash flooding conditions in several areas of the fairgrounds and inundated more than 50 trailers and 30 vehicles. Fair events, including the Grandstand act, were cancelled and the fairgrounds closed at 8 p.m. that evening.

IEMA quickly established a base of operations in the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) building on the fairgrounds and staff from other state agencies quickly responded to the site to coordinate life safety and other flood assistance efforts. Fortunately, no injuries or fatalities to people or livestock were reported.

State fair personnel and others worked throughout the night to clean up areas affected by the flash flooding. While some events had to be postponed or moved to drier locations and some parking areas were restricted due to wet ground, the fairgrounds reopened Saturday morning to welcome visitors from across Illinois and the U.S.

Support from state agencies included:

- IDOA and the Illinois Department of Central Management Services assessed the grounds and buildings overnight for damage and safety issues.
- Illinois Department of Labor inspected all rides and attractions and found all to be safe for the public.
- Illinois Department of Transportation delivered 100 tons of rock, four tons of cold patch, 74 tons of turkey grit (for the track), 30 tons of heavy-duty gravel and six personnel to assist with repair work.
- Illinois Department of Corrections brought 16



Flash flooding at the fairgrounds Aug. 12 damaged dozens of trailers and vehicles.

inmates and four officers to expedite road repairs, landscaping restoration and cleanup throughout the fairgrounds.

- Illinois Department of Public Health worked with the Sangamon County Health Department to inspect all food vendors for food safety issues related to power outages and water issues.
- Office of the State Fire Marshal staff inspected propane tanks and fuel storage and conducted fire safety inspections in affected buildings.
- Illinois State Police increased their usual fairgrounds security to support flood-recovery operations.

In addition, the American Red Cross provided shelter for five people whose trailers were flooded. Light towers from the Sangamon County Office of Emergency Management were brought in to assist with the overnight operations.

While no additional issues arose during the run of the fair, which ended Aug. 21, briefings were held each morning throughout the fair to maintain situational awareness.

Previous issues of Inside IEMA are available at:
<http://www.illinois.gov/iema/Info/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>.



State of Illinois
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

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