

Inside IEMA

Monthly Newsletter



Illinois Emergency Management Agency

June 2016

From IEMA Director James K. Joseph

Once again, a senseless attack on innocent people reminds us of the volatile world in which we live. Our hearts ache for the families and friends of the 49 victims of the Orlando mass shooting, as well as more than 50 people who were seriously injured. Even those who survived the terrifying ordeal uninjured will carry psychological scars forever.

As public safety officials, we continually “prepare for the worst, hope for the best.” The attack in Orlando, as well as recent attacks in Belgium, San Bernardino and Paris, are painful reminders that the worst can happen anywhere.

When news of the attack unfolded, did you stop to think how your agency or organization would have responded? Did you pause to reflect on what can be done within your jurisdiction or discipline to improve preparedness and response? It is our duty to take lessons learned from this tragedy and incorporate them into our efforts to protect the people we serve.

I’m grateful for the strong public safety community in Illinois that works tirelessly to enhance emergency preparedness and response through extensive planning, training and exercising. We also enjoy the benefits of exceptional mutual aid for law enforcement, fire services, emergency management, public works and telecommunications that has strengthened response capabilities for disasters anywhere in the state.

I was honored recently to participate in the Chicago Fire Department’s annual EMS Day award ceremony. It reignited my commitment to ensuring our brave first responders continue to receive the critical training they need to face the unimaginable.

The recent tragic events are a sober reminder that we can never rest on our past accomplishments. Instead, we must diligently seek ways to continually address current threats to enhance our readiness.

I pray we never face a horrific tragedy like the attacks in Orlando and other communities. But I recognize we cannot ignore the possibility something similar, or even worse, could happen one day in Illinois. It remains incumbent upon us to continue to plan for the worst and hope for the best.



CPD Deputy Chief Al Nagode, OEMC Dir. Gary Schenkel, CFD Commissioner Jose Santiago, Dir. Joseph, FEMA V Administrator Andrew Velasquez III.

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IEMA Staff Recognized at CRCPD Conference

Two IEMA staff members recently received national recognition for their work in radiation safety. Gary Forsee and MaryAnn Spohrer received awards at the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) annual conference in May.



Gary Forsee

Gary Forsee, manager of the Bureau of Radiation Safety's Environmental Compliance Unit, received the Board of Directors Award for Meritorious Service for his role on the E-42 Task Force to Review the Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (TENORM) Aspects of the Oil and Gas Industry. The task force developed a report that

examined and reviewed the TENORM radiological, environmental, regulatory, and health and safety

issues observed since the publication of the CRCPD E-4 report in 1994 and the E-36 Implementation Guidance in 2003.

Forsee also moderated a workshop on bridging the regulatory gaps in the oil and gas industry sponsored by the E-42 task force in conjunction with the CRCPD conference.

Mary Ann Spohrer, manager of Electronic Products, received a Board of Directors Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Radiation Protection. Spohrer was recognized for her assistance with the Committee on Mammography in the development of a mammography training course that was held in conjunction with the annual CRCPD conference.



Mary Ann Spohrer

Report on Amtrak Crash Yields Lessons for Responders

A review of the deadly 2015 Amtrak crash and the resulting response yielded a recommendation for emergency management and first response organizations regarding patient transport plans in mass-casualty situations.

On May 17, 2016, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) approved its report, findings and recommendations stemming from the May 12, 2015, Amtrak passenger train derailment in Philadelphia. The crash killed eight passengers, and 185 others were transported to area hospitals.

The report included a recommendation for emergency response personnel related to integrating police transport of victims into mass casualty response plans. This was done effectively in Philadelphia and NTSB cited it as a good practice for consideration.

The recommendation, directed to the National Association of State EMS Officials, National Volunteer Fire Council, National Emergency Management Association, National Association of Emergency Medical Service Physicians, International Association of Chiefs of Police and International Association of Fire Chiefs, read, "Educate your members regarding the

details of this accident including the lessons learned from the emergency medical response and the potential utility of integrating police transport of victims into mass casualty incident response plans."

Other recommendations in the report were directed to the Federal Railroad Administration, the American Public Transportation Association, the Association of American Railroads, the Philadelphia police, fire and emergency management offices and the mayor of Philadelphia.

A synopsis of the NTSB report is available at http://www.nts.gov/news/events/Documents/DCA15MR010_Abstract.pdf.

IEMA Trivia

IEMA's roots date back to 1951 with the enactment of the Illinois Civil Defense Act, which created the Illinois Civil Defense Agency (CDA). Major Lenox Lohr was the first director of ICDA. His office was in the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

National Guard, State IT Experts Team Up for Cyber Shield

State of Illinois agencies depend on electronic data to provide a plethora of critical services to residents every day. With cyber threats continually growing and evolving, protecting the state's information technology (IT) systems that support those services is serious business.

Cyber security personnel from the Illinois Army and Air National Guard and the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) recently tested their skills during the national Cyber Shield exercise at Camp Atterbury in Indiana. The exercise was an opportunity for National Guard teams to train and practice cybersecurity in a controlled and observed environment so they will be better prepared if they are called upon to help in the event of a cyber disruption.

National Guard staff from more than two dozen states took part in the exercise, but Illinois was the only state whose team included non-military state employees.

During the exercise, each state acted as a defense team for the week-long series of cyber-attacks. While the exercise lasted a week, the Illinois team was able

to completely thwart the attack scenarios during the first day. Even though they had already conquered the threat, the Illinois team stepped back in order to continue with the exercise and reap as much benefit as possible.



Illinois Air and Army National Guard members teamed with IT specialists from DoIT to tackle the challenging scenario in the national Cyber Shield exercise.

During the last day of the exercise, the "attack" team spent time with the Illinois contingent to learn its techniques and commented that no team had ever defended the attack scenarios with the speed and precision of the Illinois team.

Just as important as the success in beating back the threats was the relationship-building that took place as the military and civilian members of Illinois' team worked together. The experience helped members better understand each others' skills and how they operate, as well as learn how to communicate with each other.

While the Cyber Shield exercise is complete, the partnership between the National Guard and the state of Illinois cyber team will continue with joint training, planning and enhanced cyber-attack readiness.

FEMA Seeks Youth Preparedness Council Members

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region V is seeking students in grades 8-11 for the FEMA Region V Youth Preparedness Council. The council is an opportunity for youth leaders to make a difference in their communities while sharing their opinions, experiences, ideas, solutions and questions on youth disaster preparedness with the FEMA V staff.

One student from each state within FEMA Region V will be selected for a one-year term on the council. During the year, members will complete local projects, promote youth preparedness and share insight on efforts by FEMA and others to advance disaster

preparedness among young people in the region and across the nation.

The chairperson of the Region V youth council will be Region V's representative on the national Youth Preparedness Council.

Applications must be submitted by June 30, 2016, at 11:59 p.m. The application and more information about the program are available at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/117288>.

Exercise Tests Response Plan for Honeywell Facility

More than 30 participants from several public safety organizations recently took part in a functional exercise for the Honeywell Metropolis Works facility in Metropolis.

In addition to Honeywell staff, participants in the May 18 exercise at the Metropolis Emergency Operations Center represented IEMA, Massac Memorial Hospital, Massac County Ambulance Service, Massac County Fire, Massac County Sheriff, Massac County EMA, Metropolis Police, Metropolis Fire and Metropolis EMA.

The Honeywell facility is the only plant in the U.S. that converts uranium ore (yellowcake) into uranium hexafluoride. The uranium hexafluoride produced by Honeywell is transported to facilities in other states and countries, where the uranium is enriched for use as fuel in nuclear power plants. The primary hazards associated with this conversion process are chemical and radiological.

In this scenario, a chemical release at the Honeywell facility threatened residents and a hospital near the plant. The exercise tested the ability of participants to establish and maintain communication, model and project a chemical plume, issue and implement timely warnings and protective action recommendations, and protect the public, first responders and Honeywell employees.



Exercise participants discuss impacts of a chemical plume, based on computer modeling projections.

Did you know?

IEMA maintains an independent environmental monitoring program around nuclear power plants and other radioactive material facilities (including Honeywell) within the state to determine if a public health and/or environmental radiation impact is detected as a result of routine and non-routine operations. Samples are collected and analyzed in the agency's radiochemistry laboratory. Annual reports are made available on IEMA's website: http://www.illinois.gov/iema/NRS/Pages/Environmental_MonitoringReports.aspx

Online Preparedness Videos Feature Alan Kalter



Alan Kalter, formerly of the Late Show with David Letterman, taped four preparedness videos for the Ready Illinois website.

Emergency preparedness is a serious topic, but that doesn't mean the message can't be delivered with a touch of fun. IEMA's partnership with the Illinois Broadcasters Association recently expanded to include four online videos featuring Alan Kalter, aka "The Voice of Reason" from a series of radio spots already airing across the state.

Two of the videos currently are available on the Ready Illinois website (www.Ready.Illinois.gov). One addresses severe weather preparedness, while the other offers extreme heat safety tips. Videos on winter weather preparedness and general preparedness will be released online later this year.

Meet IEMA's Senior Staff: Joe Klinger

IEMA Assistant Director Joe Klinger has worn many hats over the past nearly 50 years: Marine, health physicist, radiation program chief, assistant director, naval officer, interim director, national organization chair, national and international radiation expert and more. IEMA and the state of Illinois are indeed fortunate to have his breadth of knowledge and expertise to help ensure the safety of our residents and protection of our environment.



Joe Klinger

Klinger enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1967 following high school graduation and was sent to Vietnam, where he served as a squad leader. After nearly a year in combat, he was twice wounded and spent six weeks in a military hospital in Japan before being transported to a military hospital in Texas, where he recovered over a five-month period.

Still a full-time Marine sergeant, Klinger headed to UCLA to attend college in 1969. A major earthquake and powerful aftershocks inspired the now family man to return to Texas, and earned his bachelor's degree in microbiology with chemistry minor from the University of Texas at Austin in 1974. He later earned a master's from Southwest Texas State University in healthcare management with a minor in public administration.

He joined the Texas Department of Health in 1974, working in various capacities. He became a health physicist with the agency and was involved in radioactive materials licensing. While with the Texas program, he completed extensive health physics training provided by the University of Texas College of Engineering, Oak Ridge Associated Universities in Tennessee and several other institutions.

Klinger was recruited and joined the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) in 1988 as head of the radioactive materials licensing program. Over the years, his knowledge and leadership earned him a reputation across the country and internationally as an expert in radiation safety issues.

In 2007, the governor appointed Klinger assistant director of IEMA (IDNS and IEMA merged in 2003). While he initially oversaw the Division of Nuclear Safety, his role evolved to include the entire agency. One of his top priorities was to ensure the full integration of the nuclear safety and emergency management sides of the agency.

In 1985, Klinger received a direct commission from President Reagan as a lieutenant (jg) U.S. naval officer,

medical service corps reserve component. He immediately assumed command of an environmental and preventive medicine unit in Austin, Texas. He participated in several operations in Korea and Thailand and was mobilized for a one-year stint in 2004-2005, including a six-month tour in the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom. He retired as a Navy captain in December 2008.

Klinger was appointed by the governor to serve as IEMA's interim director and the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor from May 2010 to February 2011. During that time he led the agency's response to two federally declared disasters and one state-declared disaster. He also was appointed by the governor to serve as acting director briefly in early 2015.

His military and professional careers, including serving as a technical adviser to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, have taken him to many countries to share his expertise, including a return to Vietnam in 1999 to help officials there establish a radiation control program.

A long-time member of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), Joe served as chairman of the national organization in 2013-2014 and on the CRCPD board from 2012-2015. He also spearheaded the development of the National Orphan Source Recovery Program that helps states collect and properly dispose of unwanted or abandoned radioactive material.

Since 2008 Klinger has been a member and currently serves as chairman of the Central Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission, which oversees a compact with Kentucky to ensure safe disposal of low-level radioactive waste.

Klinger never stops evolving as a professional. In 2015, he completed the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security Executive Leaders Program, a rigorous program to prepare senior-level homeland security professionals to better understand and address emerging national security issues, public policy debates, terrorist threats and best practices in homeland security.

Klinger says he enjoys supporting all aspects of IEMA's mission and is proud to be part of an agency that is respected across the nation and around the world.

Preparedness for Pets, Livestock is June Focus



An estimated 65 percent of U.S. households include at least one pet. Add to that the many family farms across Illinois and it's clear that including pets and livestock in your home preparedness planning is important.

Pet preparedness is the focus of the statewide preparedness campaign in June. As part of the effort, IEMA is featuring pictures of pets and large animals along with preparedness tips on its Facebook (www.facebook.com/ReadyIllinois) and Twitter (twitter.com/ReadyIllinois) pages.

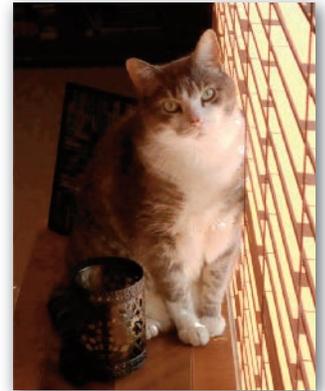
Pictures of your beloved furry, feathered or scaly friends are welcomed and encouraged. You may either share a picture of your animal on our Facebook page or forward a picture to Patti Thompson at patti.thompson@illinois.gov and she will post as many as possible along with pet preparedness tips.

Pet owners should have a pet preparedness kit stocked with items such as:

- At least a three-day supply of food and water
- Extra supplies of pet medicines
- Copies of pet registration, vaccinations and other important documents

- Photo of your pet in case you are separated during an emergency
- Collar with ID tag, harness or leash
- Crate or other pet carrier in case of evacuation
- Pet litter and box, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach for sanitation
- Toys, treats or other familiar items to reduce your pet's stress during the emergency

It's also important to plan for a possible evacuation, which could last several days, even weeks. Plan to take pets with you, as they likely cannot survive without care. Plan now for places you and your pets can stay following an evacuation, as many public shelters do not allow animals inside.



It's also important to have a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for or evacuate your animals yourself. Talk to neighbors, friends and family to make sure someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

Additional pet preparedness and general emergency preparedness information is available on the Ready Illinois website at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.

2016 IEMA Training Summit Spotlight:

Workshop to Focus on Functional and Access Needs

Emergency preparedness and response requires a whole community approach that includes everyone, including those with unique challenges and needs. The Functional and Access Needs (F.A.N.) Workshop on Sept. 6 will provide first responders and emergency planners with both knowledge and practical skills for better understanding and addressing the services required by a person with functional and access needs.

This three-hour session will include presenters from professionals who work with the visually impaired, senior services, autism spectrum, mental illness, deaf

and hard of hearing, and limited English proficiency. In addition to presentations, participants will have the opportunity to speak one-on-one with the experts. Participants will emerge from the session better prepared to work with their local organizations serving people with functional and access needs in order to identify and address gaps that may exist in current emergency response plans.

Registration for the 2016 IEMA Training Summit is now open on the IEMA website at <https://iemasummit2016.pathable.com/>.

'Spring Cleaning' Improves IT Reliability, Security

In today's information age, the reliability and security of any organization's information technology (IT) is important. It's especially critical for public safety and first responder agencies that rely on their IT systems daily, but particularly during a crisis.

IEMA's IT staff recently led an agency-wide 'spring cleaning' to help employees better manage their electronic information, increase available storage on the agency's servers and enhance security of information. The steps taken at IEMA can benefit both large and small organizations, as well as at home with personal computers. Most importantly, it costs nothing to do.

The month-long effort focused on three areas: eliminating unnecessary emails; clearing work spaces of clutter and documents containing personal information; and fostering an on-going awareness of the need to maintain clean, efficient email and other network folders.

IEMA employees received weekly electronic cleaning tips from Chief Information Officer Sreekumar Govindan. An emphasis was placed on examining document folders for duplicates and obsolete items, such as folders, images, videos and mp3s in multiple

versions. Employees were encouraged to clean up their email boxes for duplicates, redundant conversation chains and large file attachments that may already be stored elsewhere.

One remedy for removing all but the most recent conversation in an email chain is to perform a 'Clean Up Folder.' It's recommended that you review the deleted folder before final deletion to ensure copies you want are not deleted. This procedure should be performed periodically to maintain optimum email efficiency.

Emails may also be sorted by size to help you identify documents that are either older versions or may be stored in a shared folder. If not, the document can be stored in a folder appropriately labeled for future reference before deletion.

IEMA's IT 'spring cleaning' freed up considerable storage space by eliminated most of the redundant files and folders, which will help the agency prevent information storage issues in the future. The agency-wide campaign also acquainted employees with IT storage issues and showed how they could contribute on an on-going basis to the solution.



Registration now open for the 2016 IEMA Training Summit

<https://iemasummit2016.pathable.com/>

Early pricing deals for
vendor booths end July 1.

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



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For more information on this newsletter, contact:

Patti Thompson • Public Information Officer: (217) 557-4756