

# Inside IEMA

Monthly Newsletter



Illinois Emergency Management Agency

April 2017

## From IEMA Director James K. Joseph

Every emergency starts and ends locally. In most instances, the very first call about an emergency is to the local 9-1-1 center, where public safety telecommunicators glean details critical for quick and often life-saving response. While telecommunicators are primarily heard and not seen, the importance of their role in emergency response can't be overstated.

The week of April 9-15 was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, and I want to give a special shout-out to all public safety telecommunicators in Illinois, from those working in local 9-1-1 centers to the professionals who staff IEMA's telecommunications center 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Each year, IEMA's telecommunicators handle nearly 30,000 communications, including calls to the arson hotline, hazardous materials and other incident reports, meth lab reports, railroad incidents and TIPs hotline reports, along with numerous other calls and radio traffic.



Dir. Joseph visited fourth graders at Jefferson Elementary School in Marion recently.

On behalf of the citizens you serve, I want to express sincere appreciation to all telecommunicators in Illinois for your dedication to making your community and our state a safer place to live.

April was another busy month. During a trip to southern Illinois for one of our flood preparedness meetings (page 3), I made a quick stop at Jefferson Elementary School in Marion to make good on a promise I made last October, during a visit with a fourth grade class as part of the Great U.S. ShakeOut earthquake drill.

At the time, the Chicago Cubs were in the playoffs. I mentioned that I was rooting for the Cubs, a comment that brought cheers from some students and jeers from the Cardinals fans. I promised if the Cubs won the World Series, I would return with a special treat. I recently fulfilled that pledge by dropping off Cubs-themed cupcakes for the students who dressed in their favorite team's colors that day.

I've always believed it's important to be true to your word, whether it's to fourth graders or those you interact with through work.

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## IEMA Coordinating Plans for Solar Eclipse Crowds

The first total solar eclipse visible from the continental U.S. since 1979 will occur on Aug. 21. The eclipse will be visible in a narrow corridor across the country, with the longest period of darkness (two minutes, 41.6 seconds) occurring in the Shawnee National Forest just south of Carbondale in southern Illinois.



The eclipse is considered a significant event and is projected to have the potential of bringing as many as 120,000 viewers to southern Illinois. Several communities and institutions in the region will be hosting eclipse-related events, including concerts and viewing parties on Aug. 21 and over the preceding weekend. Coincidentally, the fall semester at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale begins on Aug. 21, and the Illinois State Fair in Springfield concludes the day before the eclipse.

Given the number, variety and wide geographical area of the expected activities, IEMA began working internally and with our state and local partners in November 2016 to develop plans addressing the potential risks, vulnerabilities and consequences associated with the event. This comprehensive planning effort is addressing such topics as command

and control, law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, public information and crisis communications, and mass care and sheltering.

To assist in this effort, IEMA regional staff members have been attending meetings with local units of government to discuss their planning efforts and identify potential gaps. Other IEMA

personnel have been conducting planning sessions to discuss potential needs and response considerations with State Emergency Operations Center liaisons from various state agencies and mutual aid partners.

An initial joint operational analysis of events has been drafted to coordinate and manage planning efforts. Development of a base playbook for all agencies, an overall communications plan and a mapping of response and evacuation time estimates is ongoing.

In addition to ensuring public safety during the multiple events associated with the August eclipse, the plans produced this year will be the basis for preparations when another total eclipse impacts the same portion of Illinois in April 2024.

## Earthquake Mitigation Training for Hospitals Available

Hospital facilities managers, engineers, administrators and other personnel are encouraged to attend a one-day training on May 31 to learn how to analyze and reduce risks of damage from earthquakes in hospitals and other medical buildings. The course, FEMA P-767, is being offered by IEMA and the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) at Southwest Illinois College in Belleville.

Hospital and medical facilities have unique non-structural components, including equipment and infrastructure systems, that can become sources of injury or damage, even during smaller earthquakes. By implementing sound, cost-effective mitigation measures, health care facilities can reduce seismic

risks and, in the event of an earthquake, remain operational to serve their communities.

There is no cost to attend the training; however, seating is limited. Registration is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Lunch will be provided.

The training will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m. Registration for the training is available at <http://register.cusec.org>. Certificates of completion will be provided to participants who complete the training.

For additional information about the training, contact Jason Williams of IEMA at 217-785-9925 or Brian Blake of CUSEC at 901-544-3570.

# Tabletop Exercise Focuses on Post-Release Phase

State, federal, local and utility representatives recently participated in the biennial exercise of the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents (IPRA) plan for the Dresden Nuclear Power Plant. The exercise tested participating organizations' ability to effectively implement plans to ensure public health would be protected in the event of a radiological release from the nuclear power plant.

Most IPRA exercises conclude once participating organizations have demonstrated activities for dealing with the simulated radiological release. However, on April 19 many state of Illinois participants in the Dresden exercise transitioned to a tabletop exercise that focused on potential ingestion issues that would be posed by the deposition of radiological material on agricultural land and livestock, as well as the potential impact to drinking water supplies.

Tabletop participants included representatives to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), the Radiological Emergency Assessment Center (REAC) and Radiological Assessment Field Team (RAFT). The ingestion pathway tabletop exercise was designed to demonstrate several capabilities, including the following:

- the REAC staff's ability to use the standard operating procedure for protective action

recommendations to develop initial food control zones and relocation zone;

- RAFT members' ability to understand and collect samples in accordance with a pre-designed sample plan;
- the ability of REAC health physicist personnel and RAFT members to clearly communicate radiological data;
- the ability of SEOC members to understand what actions are necessary to implement food control zones and relocation zones;
- the state's ability to contact the Federal Radiological and Monitoring Assessment Center and request needed support; and
- the ability of IEMA personnel to perform timely and accurate ingestion pathway protective actions.

While the state of Illinois is required to conduct full-scale ingestion pathway exercises every eight years, IEMA staff believes it is important to examine these issues on a more frequent basis. Tabletop exercises such as this provide an opportunity to do so.

IEMA recently completed a series of six flood preparedness meetings in communities along the Mississippi and Fox rivers. The meetings included an overview of the flood potential for this spring and summer by the National Weather Service, an explanation of flood prevention and flood fighting resources available through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a review of the state's preparedness and response capabilities. All of the sessions stressed the importance of communication and coordination between local, state and federal partners. More than 100 local officials participated in the flood preparedness meetings. The meetings proved to be beneficial just weeks later as widespread heavy rains pushed several rivers above flood stage, leading many communities to activate their flood preparedness and response plans.



## Senior Staff Spotlight: Jane Hewitt

IEMA's Chief Internal Auditor Jane Hewitt believes building relationships and trust with the agency's staff and management are critical to her efforts to ensure IEMA's programs and processes comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. She says it is important for the people she works with to understand her primary focus is to ensure the agency is a good steward of public funds, not to issue findings.



Jane Hewitt

Hewitt recently rejoined IEMA's staff after serving as the Chief Internal Auditor at the Illinois Department of Human Services for more than three years. Before that, she was IEMA's Chief Internal Auditor for eight months in 2013. Hewitt has 18 years of internal audit experience at several state agencies, including the departments of Corrections and Public Health, Illinois State Police and Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Hewitt said she works with management to establish controls and procedures to enable the agency to efficiently achieve its objectives while complying with state and federal requirements. During federal and state external audits, she ensures auditors receive needed information. Hewitt also investigates, upon request, any allegations of fraud or misconduct received by the agency, the Office of the Inspector

General, the Ethics Commission or law enforcement.

From 2003 to 2010, the state's internal auditors were consolidated within the Department of Central Management Services. During that time, Hewitt supervised auditors for public safety agencies, including IEMA. She said locating the internal auditors away from their assigned agencies made it much more difficult to build the relationships and trust necessary for effective auditing. She was pleased when the

internal auditors were placed back into their agencies once again.

Hewitt received her bachelor's degree from Sangamon State University, which is now the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS). She also earned a master's degree in Business Administration from UIS. Hewitt is a certified internal auditor and certified government auditing professional.

Before joining the state of Illinois, Hewitt was an information technology consultant and worked for IBM. She also taught computer classes at Lincoln Land Community College.

Hewitt is a native of Hillsboro, where she still resides. She has two grown sons.

## Application Period for EOC Grants to Begin in May

County emergency management agencies (EMAs) soon can participate in a competitive grant funding opportunity that can help them enhance the functionality of their emergency operations centers (EOCs). IEMA will make a total of \$500,000 in grants available, with individual grants ranging from a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$25,000.

To be eligible, an EMA must be compliant with National Incident Management System requirements, have a current, approved emergency operations plan and have a functional EOC.

Items eligible for purchase with the grant funds include the following:

- Electronics (PCs, laptops, projectors, printers)

- Phones, radio base stations
- Portable projectors, screens, white boards
- EOC furniture

Grant proposals will be competitively evaluated, with priority given to counties with the greatest need. IEMA expects to open the 30-day application period in mid-May.

Criteria for the grant opportunity were developed with input on how best to benefit local EMAs by Illinois Emergency Services Management Agency President Ron Graziano, Logan County EMA Director Dan Fulscher and Bureau County EMA Director Keenan Campbell.

# Tips for Staying Safe During Lawn, Garden Work

Spring has sprung, and you have likely already been outside to tend to your lawn and garden. Yardwork often involves tools, machinery, harmful chemicals and outdoor hazards such as insects and the harmful rays of too much sun.

It's important to use caution and common sense when working outside. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 230,000 people are treated in emergency rooms each year for injuries related to power lawn and garden tools. Many of these injuries are preventable if the proper precautions are taken.

Injuries often result from the misuse of equipment, inadequate safety apparel, poor maintenance of tools and failure to follow safety instructions and warnings. Using power lawn and garden tools near children creates the greatest risk for injury. Anyone using the equipment is at risk for injury when they are unaware of the safe use practices and maintenance requirements.

Children are often unaware of the dangers of playing nearby when power lawn and garden tools are being used. Most deaths occur when children stray into the path of a moving lawnmower.

To prevent injury, follow these simple tips:

- Keep children away from power equipment and

keep them out of the yard while you are working.

- Wear safety glasses, sturdy shoes and long pants when using power lawn and garden tools.
- Wear gloves to lower the risk of skin irritation, cuts and certain contaminants.
- Protect your hearing when using machinery.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET to protect yourself from mosquitoes, and wear long-sleeved shirts and pants tucked into socks when working in areas where ticks may be present.
- Follow instructions and warning labels on chemicals, tools and equipment.
- Make sure equipment is working properly, and sharpen tools carefully.
- Keep harmful chemicals, tools, and equipment out of children's reach.

(Information for this article was obtained from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention websites.)



Deputy Director Joe Klinger and Bureau of Operations Chief Paul Rasch attended the annual U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and State of Illinois Partnering Meeting on April 4 at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) headquarters in Springfield. The meeting included a review of key USACE programs and projects in Illinois and a facilitated discussion aimed at identifying the challenges and opportunities for moving programs and projects forward. In addition to IEMA and IDNR, other state agencies participating in the meeting included the Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois Department of Agriculture.

# Grants Accountability and Transparency Act Updates

Grant recipients must validate annual Grants Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) registration and submit the financial and administrative internal control questionnaire (ICQ) for state fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018) by June 3, 2017. The pre-award process can be completed by visiting <https://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Pages/default.aspx> and clicking on the “Grantee Links” tab.

The following lessons learned from the initial registration can assist with this process:

- It’s important to engage your organization’s financial staff when completing the ICQ.
- Upon notification from the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget/Crowe & Horwath, please enter the Central Accounting Reporting System (CARS) to select an indirect cost rate. This also should be done by your jurisdictional financial staff.

- It’s also important to engage your financial staff to ensure FEIN – DUNS – SAM accounts are all current and up to date to reflect how your jurisdiction will be conducting business.

An additional step must be completed when you go into the registration portal. You will have to create an Illinois.gov authentication user name and password to get into the system. Please visit the following link for information to help your organization in creating the account:

<https://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/GranteePortalFAQ/HowToCreateAnIllinoisPublicAccount.pdf>.

IEMA remains committed to assisting grantees through these new processes. If you have any questions or require any assistance, please email [iema.grants@illinois.gov](mailto:iema.grants@illinois.gov) or call Phil Anello at 217-785-9890.

## IEMA Telecommunicators Dedicated to Public Service



Lisa Shelbourne



Paul Kattner



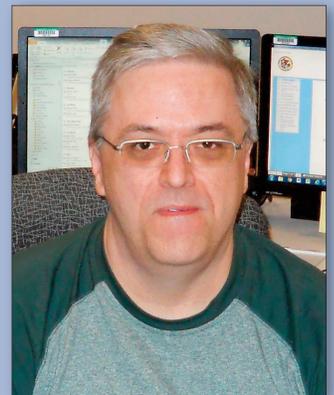
Colin Vasconcelles



John Neal



Toni Watkins



Ken Kirgan

# Joliet Junior College Achieves Ready Campus Designation

Joliet Junior College (JJC) in Joliet recently was recognized by IEMA for achieving the Ready to Respond Campus designation after completing the program's rigorous campus safety criteria.

The Ready to Respond Campus program aims to enhance campus safety through a comprehensive, community-based preparedness and response effort, including public safety, campus administration, faculty and students. The initiative began as a pilot program in 2013 and was expanded statewide in 2014. Participation in the program is voluntary and open to all institutions of higher education in Illinois.

To achieve Ready to Respond Campus status, a college or university must meet criteria that address hazard identification, risk assessment and/or consequence analysis, operational planning, incident management, training and exercise. In addition, the campus must develop and maintain a violence prevention plan and implement a campus outreach and education campaign.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Richland Community College, Parkland College, Augustana College and Elgin Community College also



**IEMA Regional Coordinator Michael Borcky (second from left) recently presented the Ready to Respond Campus certificate to Joliet Junior College (JJC) during a JJC board meeting. Also pictured from left are Will County EMA Director Harold Damron; Edward Vasil, JJC Environmental, Safety, and Health Director; and Chief Pete Comanda, JJC Director of Police/Campus Safety.**

have received the Ready to Respond Campus designation. Additional information about the IEMA Ready to Respond program is available at [www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov).

## Save the Date!

**21st Annual IEMA Training Summit  
September 5-7, 2017  
Prairie Capital Convention Center  
Springfield, IL**



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<http://www.illinois.gov/iema/Info/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>.**



**State of Illinois**  
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*For more information on this newsletter, contact:*

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