

Inside IEMA

Monthly Newsletter



Illinois Emergency Management Agency

November 2017

From IEMA Acting Director Joseph G. Klinger

On Nov. 13, I was honored to be appointed by Gov. Rauner as IEMA's acting director after the Trump administration named former director James K. Joseph as regional administrator for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's FEMA Region V office in Chicago.

The appointment of James to head the Region V office is a tremendous honor and well-deserved recognition of his strong leadership and the professional respect he has earned while at IEMA and throughout his career. As FEMA V administrator, James oversees a six-state region that includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Please join me in congratulating James on this impressive appointment!

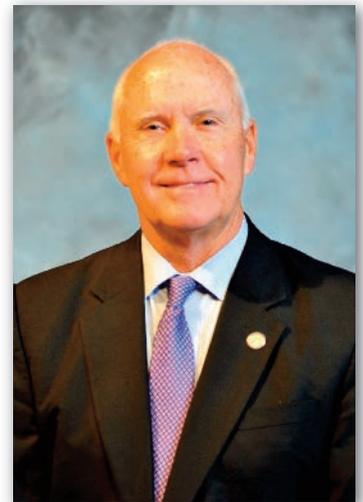
Working with James for nearly three years was a true pleasure and inspiration. He brought incredible energy and passion to IEMA, which he channeled into efforts to enhance the agency and emergency management to ensure the safety of Illinois' more than 12.8 million residents. While we're sad to see James leave IEMA, his legacy will live on through the programs and people he's touched along the way. And we haven't seen the last of him, as we look forward to working with James in his new position at FEMA Region V!

James often says, "If we're not moving forward, we're failing." In today's world, with the ever-evolving challenges facing us, those words really ring true. I plan to employ these sage words as IEMA's acting director.

As you may know, I previously served as IEMA's deputy director, and was the agency's interim director from May 2010 to February 2011. I have been with the state of Illinois since 1988, starting as a health physicist with the Department of Nuclear Safety and then with IEMA after the two agencies merged. I am honored to serve as IEMA's acting director and look forward to opportunities to work with you.

I'm pleased to announce that IEMA Chief of Staff Jennifer Ricker now is also serving as the acting deputy director, and I look forward to continuing to work closely with her.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Inside IEMA. Please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions or concerns.



Acting Director
Joseph G. Klinger

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Message from FEMA Regional Administrator Joseph

Friends,

As you may be aware, Nov. 11 was my last day with Governor Rauner's administration. Serving as your colleague with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency was the greatest honor for me, and a time in my life that I will never forget.

Together, we did so much for the people of Illinois. We responded to numerous natural disasters, planned and prepared for man-made events and acts of terrorism, promoted increased public awareness and education, and engaged elected officials in many areas of our programs.

We increased the amounts of grant dollars accredited counties and municipalities receive by millions, brought in tens of millions in new program grants from our federal partners, and implemented new policies and accountability to grant application and recipients for IEMAs advisory body, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force. Most importantly, working with you, we set a path toward advancing our emergency management program as a state.

As I look back on the past two and a half years, there is much that we accomplished - but I'm most proud of the men and women of IEMA. Every single day, your colleagues at IEMA work hard - with budgets and



James K. Joseph was sworn in as the FEMA Region V Regional Administrator by FEMA Administrator Brock Long on Nov. 13 as Joseph's wife Shana holds his grandfather's cherished Bible.

staffing at an all time low. To my team at IEMA - thank you for the sacrifice you make on a daily basis, regardless of the circumstances that surround you. I will always be proud to have worked alongside you.

I look forward to our paths crossing in my new role as we continue to advance emergency management and homeland security throughout Illinois, and the country. God Bless.

James K. Joseph

Pennell Receives National Award from InfraGard

Kevin Pennell, protective security advisor (PSA) for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Southern/Central Illinois, recently received the InfraGard National DHS PSA of the Year Award. The award was presented at the 2017 InfraGard National Member Alliance Congress in Dallas in late September.

Pennell, who has been with DHS for nine years, is based in Springfield at the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center. Pennell currently is an appointed advisor on the InfraGard Springfield Members Alliance Board of Directors Advisory Committee.

The InfraGard Program is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the private sector. Members represent businesses, academic institutions, state and local public safety agencies and other participants dedicated to sharing information and intelligence to prevent hostile acts against the



Pennell (second from right) was joined during the presentation by representatives from InfraGard National Members Alliance, DHS and the FBI.

U.S. The InfraGard National Members Alliance is comprised of more than 80 chapters representing more than 40,000 FBI-vetted subject matter experts on protecting the 16 critical sectors.

Officials Recognized for Initiating Safety Laws

Two emergency services officials were recently recognized for their contributions to two new public safety laws. Gov. Bruce Rauner and state Rep. Thomas Bennett recognized Pontiac Chief of Police James Woolford and Kent McCanless, director of the Woodford County Emergency Management Agency, on Oct. 23 for initiating the new laws to protect public safety officials and make it easier for local emergency services agencies to hire qualified individuals to join their teams.

Woolford was the driving force behind House Bill 305, which amended the Illinois Municipal Code for police and fire department employment college education requirements. Previously, police and fire applicants were required to have an associate's degree or to have served 24 months of active duty or 180 days combat duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. Candidates now may obtain a waiver of the associate's degree requirement if they have completed at least 60 college credit hours toward a bachelor's degree. The bill was signed Sept. 8 and was effective immediately.

McCanless pushed for the measure to allow top municipal emergency response officials to equip their



McCanless (center) and Woolford (second from right) were recognized by Gov. Rauner (right) and state Rep. Thomas Bennett (left). Also pictured is Chief Chip Wilmot, Germantown Hills Fire Department.

vehicles with loud audible devices. House Bill 3469 enables vehicles driven by fire chiefs, chiefs of police, sheriffs or chief emergency management officials to be equipped with a siren, whistle or bell audible from a distance of no less than 500 feet. This bill was signed Aug. 18 and goes into effect Jan. 1, 2018.

National Guard Troops Deploy to Puerto Rico

On Nov. 4, 151 Illinois Army National Guard military police soldiers deployed to assist the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico with recovery efforts after the island was devastated by Hurricane Maria.

Puerto Rico requested this assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), the nation's state-to-state mutual aid system. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands are part of the compact. The request was coordinated in Illinois by IEMA.

Soldiers from the 933rd Military Police Company, based at Fort Sheridan, are providing additional security, escorting relief convoys and conducting law enforcement patrols on the hurricane-ravaged island.

Under the EMAC agreement, Puerto Rico agreed to reimburse the state of Illinois for all deployment expenses, estimated at more than \$948,000.

In addition to this EMAC deployment, the Illinois Air National Guard previously sent 60 Airmen to Puerto Rico to assist with security, food service and communications through a federal orders. The Guard also sent troops to assist with hurricane relief efforts in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In early October, Gov. Rauner sent a letter to Ricardo Rosello, the governor of Puerto Rico, letting him know the people of Illinois were eager to assist and would mobilize troops immediately if and when more boots were needed on the ground.

Earlier this month, the governor contacted the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region V office in Chicago to let them know the state would like to be considered for FEMA's Transitional Sheltering Assistance program in order to help Puerto Ricans who have been displaced by the hurricane. Puerto Rican Governor Rosello will determine what states serve as host states.

Public, Private Sectors Participate in GridEX IV

Illinois was one of five states selected to participate in the nationwide GridEX IV exercise Nov. 15-16. More than 5,000 representatives from electric utilities, the private sector, and local, state and federal government organizations participated in the exercise.

GridEX is a biennial national exercise hosted by the National Electric Reliability Corporation. Participants demonstrated how they would respond to and recover from simulated coordinated cyber and physical security threats to critical infrastructure. This year, the National Governor's Association reached out to states to facilitate more active participation.

At the State Emergency Operations Center in Springfield, representatives from several state agencies and the city of Chicago joined officials from ComEd, Ameren Illinois, Midwest Energy, Amtrak, Nicor Gas, Walgreens, Walmart, the Illinois Petroleum Council, Motorola, the National Blood Donor Marrow Program and the American Red Cross in discussions of the five scenario-driven modules. In addition, numerous organizations participated with the SEOC virtually or from remote locations to make GridEx IV an overall success.

The initiating event for the scenario included a physical attack on regional distribution substations, followed by cyber-attacks on key substation systems operated by multiple utility providers in the nation's most populous areas. These actions left heavily populated areas in Illinois without power.

During the response and short-term recovery phase of the scenario, it became apparent that electrical outages were causing critical infrastructure failures across many segments of society, including manufacturing, transit systems, hospitals and medical facilities, banks, refineries, gas stations, grocery stores, government facilities and more.

The scenario presented many challenges as the power outages stretched for more than four weeks. In addition to public health and safety challenges, the public and private sectors were faced with many long-term recovery issues, such as business closures, unemployment, declining household incomes and other economic impacts.

During each stage of the exercise, participants offered insight into the challenges their organizations would face and the actions they would take in response to the scenario. Several areas of improvement were also identified by participants that will drive additional after action meetings schedule for December and January.

Throughout the exercise participants used IEMA's WebEOC incident management system to capture critical data including model practices that will be included in on-going planning efforts. Ultimately, participation in GridEx IV will be used to maintain a community effort in developing response and recovery plans to these types of catastrophic events.

Group Explores Lab Mutual Aid, Surge Capabilities

IEMA employees from several bureaus attended the annual FEMA Region V Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program Training and Exercise Planning Workshop at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region III facility in Lisle on November 15-17. Adnan G. Khayyat, chief of IEMA's Bureau of Radiation Safety, conducted a presentation highlighting a state-led working group in FEMA Region V focused on mutual aid and surge capabilities among state radiochemistry laboratories.

If a radiological incident occurred in the Midwest, decision makers would rely heavily on laboratory results in both the response and recovery phases. Mutual aid among state and federal laboratories would be instrumental to ensuring decision-makers have access to timely and quality laboratory results.

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Adnan Khayyat, chief of the Bureau of Radiation Safety, highlighted mutual aid and surge capabilities of state radiochemistry laboratories during a presentation at FEMA Region V.

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During Top Officials IV (a national-level counterterrorism exercise mandated by Congress) in 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) estimated 350,000 environmental samples would need to be analyzed in the first year following the detonation of one radiological dispersal device. The agency also estimated it would take approximately six years to analyze that many samples with the radiochemistry laboratory infrastructure in place at that time.

It is difficult to assess how much the nation's laboratory posture has improved over the last decade; however, it is clear that mutual aid among laboratories is essential.

With this in mind, the state-led working group is focused on assessing the current laboratory capabilities of each state in FEMA Region V, and exploring potential processes for mutual aid. In addition to enhancing laboratory surge capabilities, the working group hopes to explore sample triage strategies and ways to improve data sharing.

Khayyat discussed these efforts along with a newly formed Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors' task force charged with considering these laboratory challenges from a national perspective. Both groups hope to improve radiochemistry laboratory response readiness by enhancing mutual aid processes.

Carbon Monoxide Poisonings Peak in December, January

In July 2015, four people, aged 18 to 23, and a dog were found dead in a remote cabin in Maine. They had gathered to celebrate a birthday and a high school graduation. After arriving at the cabin, they started a generator in the basement to power a refrigerator and then went to sleep. Exhaust from the generator built up in the cabin, and carbon monoxide concentrations became lethal. Sadly, their deaths could have been prevented.

Carbon monoxide, also known as CO, is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. It is an invisible killer, and everyone is at risk. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CO poisonings peak in December and January when the use of gas-powered furnaces and alternative heating sources increases. The CDC reports that more than 400 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning every year and more than 20,000 visit emergency rooms due to exposure to CO.

Carbon monoxide is produced by burning fuel in automobiles, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, portable generators or furnaces. When fuel is burned in enclosed spaces, concentrations of CO can build to hazardous levels and poison people or animals who breathe it.

Because CO is undetectable by our senses, we must take precautions to prevent CO poisoning in our homes and workplaces. The first step is to install a battery-operated or battery back-up CO detector. The detector's batteries should be checked or replaced routinely, and the detector should be replaced every five years.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that you have heating systems, water heaters, and any other gas, oil or coal burning appliances along with vents and chimneys checked and serviced annually by qualified technicians.

Never ignore a carbon monoxide alarm. Do not try to find the source or wait for poisoning symptoms to appear. Move outside to fresh air immediately, and call 911. Once outside, do a headcount to check that all persons are accounted for. Do not re-enter the building until emergency responders have given you permission to do so.

(Information for this article was obtained from the New England Cable News, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States Consumer Product Safety Commission and United States Fire Administration websites.)

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



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