

# Inside IEMA

Monthly Newsletter



Illinois Emergency Management Agency

April 2018

## Message From Acting Director William P. Robertson

April was a very busy month at IEMA. Earlier this month we presented IEMA's proposed Fiscal Year 2019 budget to the Senate and House appropriations committee. The proposed budget is \$523.8 million to support the agency's continuing efforts to prepare for, respond to, mitigate against and recover from emergencies, disasters and acts of terrorism. It includes a new appropriation of \$2.5 million for homeland security and emergency management-related needs. In addition, the proposed budget includes \$2 million for the disaster fund to ensure the state's ability to respond to large-scale disasters.

We're also closely following legislative proposals related to our public safety mission. An IEMA proposal to exempt local governments from paying the low-level radioactive waste fee recently was passed unanimously by the Senate. It now goes to the House for review. More information about this measure is available in this issue.

IEMA and several other organizations have expressed concerns about Senate Bill 2232, which seeks to circumvent federal rules requiring long-term facilities to plan for all types of emergencies. Those rules require such facilities to have the resources necessary to safely evacuate or shelter-in-place their residents, including proper staff, food and other critical necessities.

SB 2232 would effectively shift responsibility for providing those resources to government and prioritize resource allocation during a disaster to long-term care facilities over other sections of the impacted population.

State and local response organizations are dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents during a disaster. However, this measure would remove their ability to make key decisions about resource deployment during a disaster.

In addition to IEMA, opponents to this measure include the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System, Illinois Rural Health Association, Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts, Illinois Firefighters Association, Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts, Bourbonnais Fire Protection District, and several county emergency management agencies.

If you are concerned about this bill, please contact your state representative and encourage a "NO" vote.

We will keep you posted on these issues as the current session progresses.



**Dir. Robertson welcomed Hector Colon, manager of Puerto Rico's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, during his visit to the SEOC.**

## In this issue

<b>SBA Assistance Sought for Floods</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Hazard Mitigation Grants Awarded</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Functional, Access Preparedness Highlighted</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Ricker Earns Security Master's</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Regional Staff Appointments</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Inside IEMA Info Corner</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Senate Approves IEMA Proposal</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Training and Exercise Update</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Pool and Beach Safety</b> .....	<b>6</b>

## SBA Assistance Requested for February Floods

Gov. Bruce Rauner recently submitted a request for U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) assistance to help people in Iroquois, Kankakee and Vermilion counties recover from severe storms and flooding in February.

If approved, the SBA declaration would enable people and businesses in the three counties as well as those in contiguous counties to apply for low-interest, long-term loans.

To be eligible for an SBA declaration, at least 25 homes and/or businesses in a county must sustain

major, uninsured losses of 40 percent or more. A damage assessment conducted in March by the SBA determined 74 homes and nine businesses in Iroquois County, 28 homes and three businesses in Kankakee County, and 21 homes and seven businesses in Vermilion County met that criteria.

The state of Illinois earlier requested federal assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help people recover from the floods, but that request was denied.

## FEMA Awards Hazard Mitigation Grants to Marseilles and Ottawa

Ottawa and Marseilles recently received funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for flood mitigation projects that will protect critical facilities from flood damage.

Marseilles received \$1.2 million in Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds for construction of a floodwall and a pumping station to protect the city's north wastewater treatment plant. The city of Marseilles will provide an additional \$400,000 for the project.

Ottawa received \$1,184,250 in PDM funds for construction of new sections and upgrades to existing sections of a floodwall/levee system protecting the

Ottawa Township High School and adjacent neighbors from floodwater damage. Ottawa High School will provide \$394,750 in remaining funds for the project.

The PDM program makes funding available to local and state governments to implement cost-effective hazard mitigation measures that complement a comprehensive mitigation program. PDM funds may be awarded for development of an all-hazards mitigation plan or a hazard mitigation project.

More information about the PDM program is available at <https://www.illinois.gov/iema/Mitigation/Pages/MitigationPrograms.aspx>.

## May Preparedness Topic is Functional, Access Needs

During May, IEMA and local emergency management agencies will highlight the importance of disaster preparedness for people with disabilities, functional needs or who may need assistance during an emergency.

The Ready Illinois website ([www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov)) offers a guidebook with preparedness tips for people with visual, cognitive or mobility impairments, people who are deaf or hard of hearing, those who utilize service animals or life support systems, and senior citizens.

For each functional need, the guidebook provides a list of supplemental items for a disaster kit, tips on developing an emergency plan, suggestions on how to be better informed about community emergency planning and a checklist of preparedness activities.

The Ready Illinois website also offers more than two dozen preparedness videos in American Sign Language on such topics as what to do before, during and after tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flooding, how to build an emergency supply kit, and what to do if you're instructed to evacuate.



## Ricker Earns Security Master's Degree from NPS

IEMA Acting Deputy Director and Chief of Staff Jennifer Ricker recently completed a Master of Arts Degree in Security Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) in Monterey, California.

During the 18-month online and in-residence program, Ricker collaborated with homeland security officials from across the nation on current policy, strategy and organizational design challenges. Her thesis titled, "Efficiency vs. Security: Information Technology Consolidations – Resilience, Complexity, and Monoculture" was recognized as one of the top four in the class.

Twenty-nine CHDS students participated in the March 30 graduation ceremony. Class members included professionals from emergency management, education, law enforcement, fire service, public health and local government.

The CHDS master's program focuses on development of critical thinking, leadership and policy skills. Theses by the program's students often translate into policy and practice.

The CHDS is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), National Preparedness Directorate, within the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



**IEMA Acting Deputy Director and Chief of Staff Jennifer Ricker receives her diploma during the graduation ceremony.**

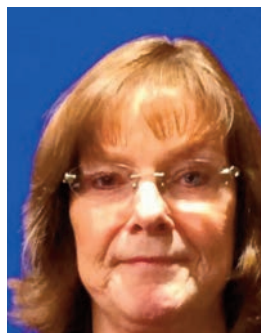
Ricker has been chief of staff for IEMA since 2009 and was recently named the agency's acting deputy director. She also has served as acting director. Ricker oversees all financial, legal, human resources, information technology and governmental affairs activities for the agency. She also represents IEMA on the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) and is vice chair of the ITTF Emergency Management Committee.

## IEMA Regional Office Personnel Assume New Positions

Two experienced, long-time regional office staff members recently were promoted to the regional coordinator position in their respective regions.

Iris Ducey became IEMA Region 7 coordinator on Jan.1. Ducey joined the agency in 2007 as a staff development specialist in the Champaign office and rapidly became recognized as an accomplished trainer. Her reputation in the classroom has spread statewide during her 10 years with the agency, and she has also distinguished herself in the areas of planning, exercise and response.

Ducey has served as IEMA's primary liaison in Region 7 since the 2016 retirement of Dan Smith, balancing effective support of her local jurisdictions with an



**Iris Ducey**



**Kathy Spellman**

active training schedule.

Kathy Spellman was named IEMA Region 2 coordinator on April 16. Spellman is well known throughout the region, having spent her 16-year career in IEMA's Dixon office.

She joined IEMA as an office coordinator in 2002, providing support to her local jurisdictions in planning, grant management and other administrative areas. Following her promotion to staff development specialist in 2011, Spellman's training skills put her in high demand statewide.

Spellman is well prepared for her new role, having served as the acting regional coordinator on two previous occasions following retirements.



### ***What is the difference between radiological contamination and radiation exposure?***

Contamination and exposure are important concepts, particularly in the aftermath of a potential radiological incident and in some occupations. While the concepts are similar, they are different and often misunderstood.

A person can experience radiological contamination when they come into contact with radioactive material. If radioactive material is in the air after a radiological incident, it can deposit on people, pets, plants, surfaces and other undesired locations.

External contamination occurs when radioactive material is deposited on a person or when a person comes in contact with certain radioactive solids or liquids. Examples of external contamination include radioactive material in a person's hair, on the skin or clothing, or on the bottom of shoes.

Once a person is externally contaminated, contamination can be spread by touching other people, pets and objects, or simply by walking through an area (e.g., radioactive dust can fall from the person onto surfaces). In situations where a person may have come into contact with radioactive material, external contamination can be identified and quantified by specialized instrumentation. Self-decontamination recommendations will be featured in an upcoming edition of Inside IEMA.

Internal contamination occurs when radioactive material is inhaled, ingested, enters the body through an open wound, or is injected during a medical exam or procedure. When radioactive material enters the human body, it typically accumulates in certain body organs, depending upon its chemical composition.

For example, the majority of iodine that enters a human body is taken up by the thyroid gland. Consequently, large quantities of radioactive iodine will accumulate in the thyroid and can damage or destroy it. Radioactive material is eliminated from the body through both radioactive decay and biological elimination.

Radiation exposure, or irradiation, occurs when a person has certain medical exams or procedures, or when they are close enough to certain types of radioactive material to be penetrated by its energy. A person can be exposed to radiation without being contaminated. Health effects of radiation exposure are dependent on the type, amount and duration of radiation exposure. Health effects range from a slight increase in cancer risk to acute radiation syndrome, or even death.

A person can incur both radiological contamination and radiation exposure. In fact, whether internally or externally contaminated, a person contaminated with radioactive material will likely receive radiation exposure until the radioactive material is removed.

## **IEMA Proposal Approved by Senate, Now in House**

The Illinois Senate recently approved an IEMA proposal that would exempt local governments from paying the low-level radioactive waste fee. Senate Bill 3017 is sponsored by Sen. Sue Rezin,

A byproduct of water and sewage treatment is sludge, which in some areas of the state may contain regulated levels of naturally occurring radium from groundwater. This is the most common reason units of

local government currently are considered generators of low-level radioactive waste and subject to fees under the Illinois Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Act.

The bill now is in the Illinois House for consideration. Rep. Mike Fortner is the House sponsor.

# Training and Exercise Update

## All Hazards Safety Officer Course

Fairview Heights Police Department  
May 14-17, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

This 32-hour course provides local and state-level emergency responders with a robust understanding of the duties, responsibilities and capabilities of an effective safety officer on an All-Hazards Incident Management Team (IMT). These responsibilities fall into two categories: 1) responding to the incident and the safety needs of the incident, and 2) effectively fulfilling the position responsibilities of a safety officer on an All-Hazards IMT.

Exercises, simulations, discussions and a final exam enable students to process and apply their new knowledge. National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) position-specific training should be completed by personnel who are regularly assigned to functional, support or unit leader positions on U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) or other Type III All-Hazards Incident Management Teams (AHIMT), or by those persons who desire to seek credentials/certification in those positions.

## All Hazards Planning Section Chief

Fairview Heights Police Department  
May 29-June 1, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

This 32-hour course provides local and state-level emergency responders with a robust understanding of the duties, responsibilities and capabilities of an effective Operations Section Chief (OSC) on an All-Hazards Incident Management Team. These responsibilities fall into two categories: 1) responding to the incident and the command needs of the incident, and 2) effectively fulfilling the position responsibilities of an OSC on an All-Hazards Incident Command System (ICS) Incident Management Team.

Exercises, simulations, discussions and a final exam enable students to process and apply their new knowledge. National Incident Management System (NIMS) ICS position-specific training should be completed by personnel who are regularly assigned to functional, support or unit leader positions on USFA or other Type III All-Hazards Incident Management Teams (AHIMT), or by those persons who desire to seek credentials/certification in those positions.

## MGT 341 Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals and Healthcare Agencies- 16 hours

Macon County Emergency Operations Center  
Decatur  
May 16-17, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The 16-hour Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations within the Community Infrastructure course provides information specific to hospital and healthcare organization vulnerability to a disaster. Participants will be introduced to the various natural, technological and civil hazards to which hospitals and healthcare organizations may be vulnerable and the potential impacts of those hazards. Federal guidelines and legislation that aid in the preparedness for and response to incidents involving these hazards are discussed, as are current emergency management standards for the hospital community.

Participants review response and recovery issues that should be addressed by medical facilities and organizations in preparation for a large-scale incident, including identification of critical resources necessary for response and recovery. Course participants will conduct a threat and hazard assessment of their community, discuss the development of a response and recovery plan, develop agency training, and develop an exercise plan to test their response to an event.



## Save the Date!

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual IEMA Training Summit  
September 4-6, 2018  
Bank of Springfield Center  
Springfield, IL

Sponsor and exhibitor opportunities now available at:  
[www.illinois.gov/iema](http://www.illinois.gov/iema)

# Stay Safe at the Pool and Beach this Summer

As temperatures finally begin to rise, plans for summer fun are taking shape. For many people that means fun at the pool or beach. While those are great ways to beat the heat, it's important to think about water safety.

According to data compiled by the National Safety Council, drowning deaths are most common for children age 5 and younger, and drowning remains a leading cause of unintentional death for individuals 5 to 24 years old.

Research has shown that building swimming skills reduces drowning risk in childhood, so sign your children up for swimming lessons. Make sure children and family members know their limits. Weaker swimmers and beginners should take extra precautions, and stronger swimmers should help keep watch on others. A responsible adult should be designated to watch children playing in and around water at all times.

CPR performed by bystanders has been shown to save the lives of drowning victims, so take the time to learn it. Seconds count, and better outcomes are more likely when CPR is started quickly.



When boating, make sure that everyone is wearing a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket. If enjoying the water outdoors, be aware of the weather forecast, and be especially alert for strong winds or approaching thunderstorms. At beaches, take the time to learn the warnings represented by colored beach flags as these may vary from one beach to another.

Don't forget to also take precautions to prevent sun burn and dehydration. Avoid drinking alcohol before or during swimming, boating or skiing. According to the Nemours Foundation, alcohol is a contributing factor in half of adolescent male drownings. While trying to beat the heat, be aware that swimming in cool water can lead to shivering, cramping and hypothermia, which can affect your ability to safely swim.

Don't let water safety prevent you from having fun in the water. Being informed and prepared makes you feel more at ease and in charge. Every pool, lake and warm summer day hold the possibility of new experiences, so go out and enjoy them safely.

*(Information for this article was obtained from the National Safety Council, Centers Disease Control and Prevention, and the Nemours Foundation websites)*



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



State of Illinois  
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

*For more information on this newsletter, contact:*

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

