

Inside IEMA

Monthly Newsletter



Illinois Emergency Management Agency

January 2018

From Interim Director Jennifer Ricker

I am honored to be serving as IEMA's interim director following the Dec. 31 retirement of Joe Klinger. On behalf of everyone at IEMA, I want to thank Joe for his nearly 30 years of dedicated public service to the residents of Illinois and wish him much enjoyment in his well-deserved retirement!

Personally, I will miss my daily interactions with Joe as we addressed the agency's many issues. I will especially miss the valuable insight, developed throughout his nearly 50 year career, Joe brought to every discussion. Joe and his wife Pam have many plans for travel and spending time with family and friends, and we hope he finds time to stop by and see us every now and then!

For those I have not had the opportunity to work with, I previously served as IEMA's chief of staff for nearly nine years, and also served as acting deputy director during Joe's recent time as acting director. In my role as chief of staff, I oversaw all financial, legal, human resources, information technology and legislative activities for the agency. I also served as the agency's voting representative on the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) and as vice chair of the ITTF Emergency Management Committee.

In March, I will complete my master's degree in security studies with a focus on homeland defense and security from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. This program is challenging but has given me greater insight into many issues facing public safety professionals today.

Over the years, I've had the opportunity to meet and work with many of our public safety partners throughout Illinois and I hope to meet many more of you in the coming months. I plan to visit areas across the state and attend quarterly meetings and other events to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges those of you at the county and municipal levels face and to work with you as we address them.

I hope you find this issue of *Inside IEMA* informative. As always, please contact me with any issues or concerns you'd like to discuss.



Interim Director
Jennifer Ricker

In this issue

Several Accredited EMAs Get New Coordinators in 2017	2
NWS Tool Can Support Local Response to HazMat Incidents	2
Serve Illinois Seeks Nominations for Volunteer Awards	3
Senior Staff Spotlight – Rob Dixon	3
Training and Exercise Update	4
Vaccine, Other Measures Can Slow Spread of Flu	4
February is Earthquake Preparedness Month in Illinois	5

Several Accredited EMAs Get New Coordinators in 2017

Ten emergency managers joined the ranks of county and municipal emergency management as coordinators during 2017. Please join me in welcoming the following:

William Barnes

Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Bob Clark

McLean County Emergency Management Agency

Justin Daws

Scott County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency

Todd Fulton

Madison County Emergency Management Agency

Jessica Hershey

Hardin County Emergency Management Agency

William P. Mazzeno

Lake County Emergency Management Agency

Scott Meyers

Winnebago County Emergency Management Agency

Tom Mitzelfelt

Peoria County Emergency Management Agency

Robert Moulder

City of Centralia Emergency Management Agency

Murray Snow

DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

NWS Tool Can Support Local Response to HazMat Incidents

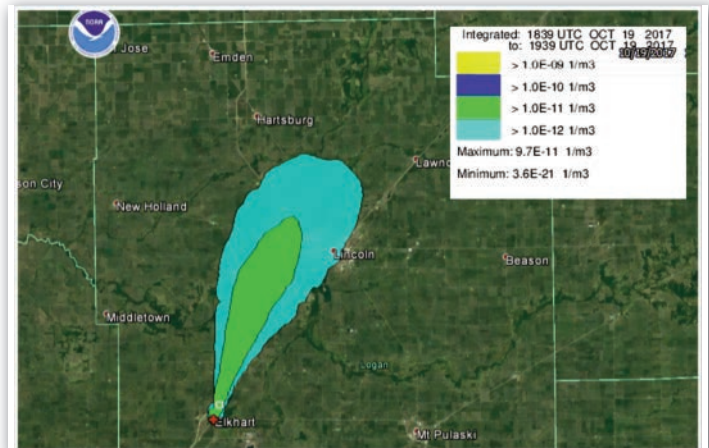
The National Weather Service (NWS) offices in Illinois offer weather support to local response agencies during incidents involving hazardous materials. In addition to providing the latest weather observations nearest to the release site, such as wind speed and direction, temperature and relative humidity, cloud cover, current weather and forecasts for the next three to six hours, the NWS offices can conduct a model plume run using the Hybrid Single Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPPLIT) model.

While many local emergency management agencies and fire departments have programs such as CAMEO, ALOHA or MARPlot for chemical incidents, HYSPLIT provides guidance for longer timeframes and accounts for expected weather changes.

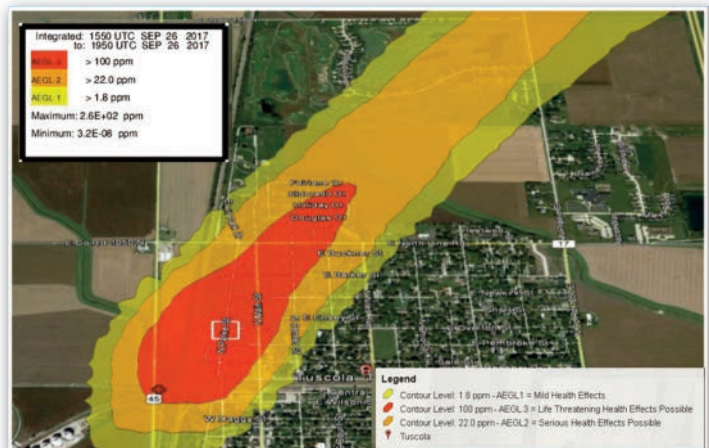
HYSPLIT uses weather models to change the plume to account for terrain and varying weather conditions. In addition, new guidance is available every one to three hours throughout the event, a complete run can be available in minutes, and results are available in GIF, PDF, KMZ (Google Earth) and GIS shapefiles.

Once a HYSPLIT run is complete, the NWS office will send the file to the point of contact via email, which is preferred, or fax within 10-15 minutes. NWS staff will then call the point of contact to discuss interpretation of the output, including possible pitfalls, potential for changing conditions and confidence level.

(continued on page 3)



Example of HYSPLIT run without known chemicals.



Example of HYSPLIT run with a known chemical.

NWS Tool Can Support Local Response to HazMat Incidents ***(continued from page 3)***

If the chemical involved and emission rate are not known, plume concentrations in the HYSPLIT run will be artificially created. While less detailed, the plume direction and size can be used as a guide by first responders.

A HYSPLIT run with a known chemical can incorporate the benefits of ALOHA (estimates threats of chemical releases) to create a time-varying release rate. The run also creates newer exposure guidelines to plan for evacuations, sheltering or potential casualties. It also allows for numerous release sources.

Contact your local NWS office for more information about HYSPLIT.

Serve Illinois Seeks Nominations for Volunteer Awards

The Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service is seeking nominations for the 2018 Governor's Volunteer Service Awards. The awards recognize individual volunteers, AmeriCorps or Senior Corps members, and business volunteer engagement to highlight the importance of volunteerism and community service in Illinois.

The commission is seeking nominations in several priority areas, including disaster services/public safety. Nominations are sought for people with volunteer service involving the planning for or response to a natural or man-made disaster or activities assisting first responders. Other priority areas for the awards include economic opportunities, education, environmental stewardship, health futures, and veterans and military families.

Nominations are due by Feb. 16. More information about the award program and nomination forms are available at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/serve/Pages/Volunteer-Awards.aspx>.

In 2017, Stephen Born was recognized for his service to the Lutheran Early Response Team, which provides volunteers to assist communities after disasters. In addition, Hy-Vee in Canton was recognized for its willingness to support first responders during major disaster responses with food and supply donations.

Senior Staff Spotlight – Rob Dixon

IEMA has a new face representing the agency to members of the Illinois General Assembly and other elected officials. Rob Dixon started Dec. 1 as IEMA's legislative liaison and already is busy preparing for the 2018 legislative session.



Legislative Liaison Rob Dixon

While well acquainted with the legislative process after previously serving as a legislative liaison for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR), Dixon has been meeting with IEMA's bureau chiefs to learn more about the agency's mission, programs and issues that may arise in the legislature. Dixon said he's awed by both the expertise of IEMA staff and the passion for their programs demonstrated during his interactions thus far.

Dixon currently is working on the agency's legislative proposals for the spring session as well as monitoring bills being introduced that may impact IEMA or our partners. He said his goal is to foster deeper relationships with legislators so that they will better understand the agency's responsibilities and issues.

Before joining IDFPR, Dixon was part of the governor's year-long Dunn Fellow program. Prior to that, he worked for the Governor's Office of Constituent Affairs.

A Chicago native, Dixon is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) with a degree in political science and received his master's degree in public administration from UIS last year.

Dixon lives in Springfield with his son Robert "Robbie" Dixon III. In addition to spending time with his son, Dixon describes himself as a "foodie" who also loves all types of sports.

Training and Exercise Update

Illinois Professional Emergency Manager Application

The Illinois Professional Emergency Manager (IPEM) Program establishes a professional development standard for those seeking to advance their careers in emergency management. The training and real-life experiences that are part of the IPEM program provide sound disaster management skills and practical experience to enhance the readiness of the organizations IPEM recipients serve.

IPEM certificates are awarded during the annual IEMA Training Summit in September. Anyone wishing to be considered for IPEM certification to be awarded at the 2018 summit is asked to submit applications as soon as possible to ensure the IPEM committee has adequate time for review.

Applicants who are missing a few of the requirements but intend to complete them prior to the Aug. 1 deadline may submit the application package with completed documentation and submit the outstanding items later. If incomplete, please note on the cover

letter which items are missing and that you intend to submit them before the deadline.

Check IEMA's Training Calendar for Upcoming Training Opportunities

The IEMA training calendar includes a variety of training opportunities currently scheduled at various locations throughout Illinois. The courses, covering a variety of subject matter areas, are being provided by IEMA, the Illinois Fire Service Institute and the Illinois Department of Transportation along with the National and Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortiums.

These courses are all offered at no cost to first responders, volunteer organizations, private industry and others. The calendar also includes a listing of the planned exercises currently scheduled in Illinois.

Please visit the IEMA website (www.illinois.gov/iema) or the Ready Illinois website (www.Ready.Illinois.gov) for additional information on these courses and planned exercises.

Vaccine, Other Measures Can Slow Spread of Flu

While the influenza activity level in Illinois remains widespread, it's not too late to take precautions to protect yourself and others this year. The Illinois Department of Public Health recently reported more than 1,000 influenza-related admissions to intensive care units in Illinois, two influenza-related pediatric deaths and 285 influenza outbreaks so far this flu season. And it's likely the flu will continue to circulate for another two to three months.

It is important to take precautions to prevent the spread of flu viruses, especially if you will be in routine contact with young children, the elderly, pregnant women or people with chronic health conditions. The first and most important step in protecting yourself and your family against flu viruses is the flu vaccine. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in your body to protect against the flu.

You also can take preventative action every day to minimize your chances of getting the flu. Avoid close contact with sick people. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, and try to avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with your hands. If soap and



water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

The flu virus can live on some surfaces for up to 24 hours, so clean and disinfect items and surfaces that could become contaminated. If you have to take care of a sick person, make sure to wash your hands after touching the person and used tissues or laundry.

(continued on page 5)

Vaccine, Other Measures Can Slow Spread of Flu
(continued from page 4)

If you become sick, limit contact with other people as much as possible. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and dispose of tissues in the trash after use. If you develop a fever, stay home for at least 24 hours after your temperature returns to normal without the use of fever-reducing medicines before resuming normal activities such as work or school.

You can find more information about the flu virus and flu prevention at <http://dph.illinois.gov> or www.cdc.gov/flu.

To find a location to get a flu shot in your community, check with your health care provider or local health department. You can also use the online Vaccine Finder.

(Information for this article was obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Illinois Department of Public Health websites.)

Monthly Preparedness Topic

February is Earthquake Preparedness Month in Illinois



During the winter of 1811-12, some of the most powerful earthquakes to ever take place in the central U.S. occurred along the New Madrid Seismic Zone. The region, which includes the southern third of Illinois and several other states, was sparsely populated at the time, but an earthquake of that magnitude today would severely impact millions of people.

In recognition of the earthquake risk in southern Illinois, which also includes the Wabash Valley seismic zones, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and local emergency management agencies will promote earthquake preparedness throughout February.

The movement of the ground in an earthquake is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most casualties result from falling objects and debris

caused by the earth shaking. The “Drop, Cover and Hold On” actions can help people prevent injury during an earthquake. The phrase reminds people to:

- Drop down to the floor
- Take cover under a sturdy desk, table or other furniture, and
- Hold on to that object and be prepared to move with it until the shaking ends.

There are also several steps you can take to reduce the damage to your home and prevent injury during an earthquake. Several short, do-it-yourself videos demonstrating how to prepare your home’s utilities, properly store and secure items, develop a home emergency supply kit and more are available on the Ready Illinois website at <https://www.illinois.gov/iema/Mitigation/Pages/EarthquakeMitigationVideos.aspx>.

Additional earthquake preparedness information is available at www.Ready.Illinois.gov or by following IEMA on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ReadyIllinois) and Twitter (twitter.com/ReadyIllinois).

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

