

# Inside IEMA

Monthly Newsletter



Illinois Emergency Management Agency

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## Message From Acting Director William P. Robertson

One of the lessons we have learned from other states is to never say "it can't happen here." We are all vulnerable to acts of violence in our home, at work, at school and in our community. Our nation's schools should be a safe haven for teaching and learning, free of crime and violence. It's important to balance sufficient building security with a healthy, nurturing school environment. Safety will always be a top priority for schools, but parents can also play an important role in keeping kids safe.

As students head back to the classroom this fall, be sure to include emergency preparedness in your back-to-school plans. Here are some planning tips for parents to consider:

- Find out where children will be taken in the event of an evacuation during school hours;
- Ensure your current emergency contact information is on file at your child's school;
- Pre-authorize a friend or relative to pick up your children in an emergency and make sure the school knows who that designated person is; and,
- Teach children with cell phones about 'Text First, Talk Later.' Short, simple text messages, such as "R U OK?" and "I'm OK," are more likely to get through than a phone call if phone service is disrupted following an emergency. As phone congestion eases, you can follow up with a phone call to relay more information.

For parents of college-aged students, a little research can provide peace of mind. Many college campuses offer email and text messages to alert students of potential dangers, such as severe weather and other threats. Encourage your college student to sign-up for such alerts. Some colleges also provide alert messages for parents so they also are aware of potential dangers on campus. In addition, make sure your student knows the emergency plans for their dorm or apartment building.

As families prepare to send students back to the classroom, take a moment to review the information available on the [ready.illinois.gov](http://ready.illinois.gov) website. Whether you are a parent, school administrator or school resource officer, there is helpful information and training available – many times at little to no cost – to help you keep our youngest citizens and future leaders safe.

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## IEMA Inspector Serves as U.S. Delegate at CRCPD Conference

During the week of June 18-22, Gary Forsee, who works in IEMA's Division of Nuclear Safety, attended a technical meeting at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria representing the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. (CRCPD) as the U.S. delegate.

The specific focus of this forum was the safe management of uranium process wastes and naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM). Attendance consisted of representatives from 24 nations, each required to present on the regulations in their nation relevant to NORM and uranium residue management. Specific focus was paid to challenges encountered in NORM management and associated regulatory development. Gary chaired working group discussions and consolidated member state issues into a main forum presentation.

The week concluded by making a set of actionable recommendations to the IAEA Scientific Secretary, which could then be implemented over the next three years. The goals of these action items are to build



**The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors was held in Vienna, Austria. IEMA's Gary Forsee served as the U.S. Delegate.**

capacity in member states, promote good regulations, increase information sharing, support the use of IAEA tools and to provide input for further work. This was a tremendous honor for Gary, and he represented the CRCPD and the United States exceptionally well.

## Earthquake Preparedness Presentation

Earlier this year IEMA was asked to send a representative to attend the 70th Anniversary Illinois Municipal Utilities Association (IMUA) annual conference. The meeting presented a unique opportunity to speak to local level cooperatives about this critical topic.

IEMA's team put together a panel presentation for the conference that included a brief overview of Illinois' earthquake history. This included areas of the state at risk for earthquakes, residual effects to areas that are not in the earthquake hazard zone, and shared planning and preparedness efforts and experiences from the state and local level.

"Overall, I think the audience learned a lot from the discussion," said Jason Williams, Earthquake Program Manager. "There were some great questions from a very receptive audience, mostly about the local response and recovery planning efforts and how to be more involved within their community and field of expertise. At the end of the session, the attendees learned more about how state, county and local

emergency teams are working together to plan and prepare for the next big earthquake and things that they can do on the personal and professional side to be more prepared."



**Pictured: Stanley Krushas, IEMA Region 8 Regional Coordinator, Jason Williams, IEMA Earthquake Program Manager, and Kevin Scheibe, Monroe County Emergency Management Agency.**

## Save the Date: Great American Shakeout – October 18, 2018

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is encouraging families, schools, businesses, organizations, and healthcare providers to register today to participate in the Great American Shakeout earthquake drill Oct. 18, 2018.

On this date, at 10:18 a.m., people from all around the nation will practice how to Drop, Cover, and Hold On – the key steps to surviving an earthquake. An earthquake can strike anywhere at any time. Whether you are at home, at work, or on vacation, being prepared is the best way to survive and recover quickly from a quake.

**Register Now:** <https://www.shakeout.org/centralus/register/>

The main goal of Shakeout is to get everyone prepared for a major earthquake, so use this earthquake drill as an opportunity to learn what to do before, during and after an earthquake. Also, take this time to review your personal and professional emergency plans. For more tips on how to prepare, protect and recover, visit [ready.illinois.gov](http://ready.illinois.gov).

Registration and participation in the Great American Shakeout earthquake drill is completely free. Sign up today to be counted in this year's earthquake drill.

## Did you Know:

- Illinois is at risk from two major seismic zones: Wabash Valley Seismic Zone and New Madrid Seismic Zone.
- Most powerful quake to occur in continental U.S. took place along the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the winter of 1811-1812.
- Experts estimate a similar earthquake today would devastate the region with projected damages of nearly \$80 billion.
- The largest Central U.S. quake in recent years: April 2008 – Mt. Carmel, IL (5.4 magnitude).

# Join Us

for the World's Largest Earthquake Drill.

Register Now at [www.ShakeOut.org](http://www.ShakeOut.org)



# Shake Out

## Back to School: Make Safety a Top Priority

Safety in our schools and on our college campuses is a right every student and family should expect. As students from pre-kindergarten to college prepare to head back to school, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and local emergency management agencies across the state are reminding educators about the recent recommendations of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force School Safety Working Group.

The group's 13 recommendations are designed to help make Illinois schools safer. These recommendations were presented to Governor Bruce Rauner in May 2018, and are available online for the public to review.

"There is no single answer to achieving school safety," said Mike Chamness, Chairman of the Illinois Terrorism Taskforce. "No individual has all of the answers, but the experience and expertise found within the members of the School Safety Working Group illustrate the state's commitment to offer practical recommendations for our schools to implement into their policies and procedures."

The state of Illinois has taken measures to increase the level of preparedness of our schools and campuses. The **Illinois School and Campus Safety Resource Center** provides a variety of training programs to help public and private K-12 schools and higher education



## Back to School: Make Safety a Top Priority *(cont. from page 3)*

institutions plan for, respond to, and recover from an emergency or disaster. Training opportunities, which are provided free of charge, include traditional classroom courses, workshops, webinars and online training.

The Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center's (STIC) **School Safety Information Sharing Program** is designed to identify the information needs of school and campus safety officials and ensure timely and wide dissemination of actionable intelligence that is tailored to the protection of these communities. The goal of the program is to aid in school safety efforts through sharing information from local, state and federal agencies with at least one person in every school and campus in the state of Illinois.

To learn more about school and campus safety, visit our website [ready.illinois.gov](http://ready.illinois.gov).



## SBA: Business Loan Deadline Approaching

The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding businesses in Illinois that working capital loans are still available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and private non-profit organizations affected by severe storms and flooding that occurred on July 11-27, 2017. Low-interest disaster loans are available in Lake County and the contiguous counties of Cook and McHenry in Illinois.

"Businesses that suffered economic losses as a result of the disaster and want to apply for low-interest loans from the SBA are urged to do so before the Aug. 13 deadline," said Kem Fleming, director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

Working capital disaster loans up to \$2 million are available at 3.215 percent for small businesses, and 2.5 percent for private nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years. The loans are intended to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other expenses that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. To be considered for this assistance, eligible entities need to apply by the deadline.

Survivors may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at [Disasterloan.sba.gov](http://Disasterloan.sba.gov).



### U.S. Small Business Administration

Businesses may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Loan applications can also be downloaded at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster). Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to return economic injury applications is Aug. 13, 2018.

## IEMA Team Attends National Homeland Security Conference

The National Homeland Security Conference was held this year July 9-13 in New York, New York. This conference is the annual meeting of homeland security and emergency management professionals from the nation's largest metropolitan areas. Staff from both IEMA and the city of Chicago were in attendance for outstanding sessions and information sharing on homeland security and emergency management, with a specific focus on urban areas.

This year was extra special, as one of Illinois' own was recognized for a special award. Tom Sivak, Deputy Director of Emergency Management for the City of Chicago Office of



**Tom Sivak, Deputy Director of Chicago Emergency Management and Communications**

Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC), was awarded the Colonel Robert E. Williams Leadership Award. This award is given to a person who has shown exemplary leadership skills in the day-to-day management of homeland security operations and who consistently goes above and beyond in their duties and dedication.

During his tenure with OEMC, Tom has led EOC activations for such large-scale events as the Chicago Marathon, Pride Parade, as well as the 2016 World Series and victory parade. Most recently, Tom served as a lead coordinator for hurricane evacuees to Chicago.

## Guest Speaker Visits State Emergency Operation Center

In July, state agency directors joined agency liaisons at the July SEOC briefing to hear from a very special guest. Major General Richard Hayes stopped by to present an overview regarding "Complex Catastrophes and Critical Infrastructure Failure." General Hayes spoke about the role critical infrastructure plays in our economy, and what the state should be doing to prepare for potentially catastrophic failure of our critical infrastructure systems.

You can hear more from Major General Richard Hayes by attending the 2018 IEMA Training Summit. Register today at <https://iemasummit2018.pathable.com/>.



**Major General Richard Hayes provides insight on the threats to our nation's critical infrastructure during the July briefing to SEOC liaisons.**

### Radiological Dispersal Devices and Dirty Bombs

The terms radiological dispersal device (RDD) and dirty bomb are used frequently and often interchangeably, but there is a difference. An RDD is a combination of radioactive material and the means to disperse the material with malicious intent. A dirty bomb is a radiological dispersal device (RDD) that uses a conventional explosive, such as dynamite, to disperse radioactive material into the surrounding area.

Dirty bombs are not nuclear bombs, do not involve nuclear detonations, and cannot create atomic blasts. The explosion created from a conventional explosive would be thousands to millions of times less powerful than an explosion created from a nuclear weapon.

The conventional explosion, not the radiation, is the main danger of a dirty bomb. There aren't plausible scenarios where radioactive material dispersed by a conventional explosion would lead to immediate health effects or fatalities in a large number of people. Only victims in close proximity to the blast site of a dirty bomb could possibly be exposed to sufficient radiation to cause immediate severe illness. However, the dispersed radioactive material could cause health issues if radioactive dust is inhaled or if contaminated food and water are consumed.

An RDD would cause major challenges for a community – contaminating the area and potentially preventing reentry for months, creating fear and panic, necessitating decontamination of people, pets, and the affected area. An RDD would also likely lead to the disruption of basic services, transportation, and communication systems.

#### *What can you do to prepare for an RDD?*

Preparing for an RDD is similar to preparing for natural hazards. It is important to build an emergency supply kit with the addition of duct tape and scissors. It is also important to develop and practice a family emergency plan.

#### *What can you do to protect yourself in the immediate aftermath of a dirty bomb?*

**Get inside** – seek shelter immediately. If shelter isn't immediately available, walk away from the detonation scene and cover mouth and nose with a tissue or damp cloth.

**Stay inside** – consider temporarily turning off HVAC systems if the outside temperatures aren't prohibitive, and seal windows or doors that don't fit snugly with duct tape.

**Stay tuned** – listen for official instructions and follow directions.

The May 2018 edition of Inside IEMA includes tips for removing external radioactive contamination that will be helpful if you think you were contaminated by radioactive material from a dirty bomb.

#### *What is IEMA's role?*

IEMA's programs aim to prevent an RDD from happening. Through licensing, inspection, enforcement, and community outreach, IEMA focuses on preventing the unauthorized acquisition, importation, movement, and use of radioactive material.

IEMA maintains a robust Radiological Task Force that is trained and equipped to respond to a possible radiological incident. IEMA is prepared to collect and analyze samples, screen and monitor individuals, provide guidance and resources for self-decontamination, characterize and assess the radiological impacts on an affected area, develop dose projections, and provide protective action recommendations and guidance to municipalities and counties.

IEMA also oversees the State Emergency Operations Center that acts as lead in crisis/consequence management response and operations to notify, activate, deploy and employ state resources in response to natural hazards, threats, or acts of terrorism, such as an RDD.



# Training Summit Registration Deadline is Aug. 17

Just a few more weeks remain until the Aug. 17 registration deadline for the 2018 IEMA Training Summit. This year, the annual conference will be held Sept. 4-6 at the BOS Center in historic downtown Springfield. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to expand your knowledge, hear from public safety leaders and network with your colleagues from throughout Illinois and across the U.S.

This year's summit features dynamic, thought-provoking keynote speakers, including the following:



## #VegasStrong: Lessons Learned from the Largest Mass Shooting in U.S. History

Caleb Cage is the chief of Nevada's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Advisor. He will explain how emergency officials responded to the October 2017 deadly mass shooting at an outdoor music festival in Las Vegas. Attendees will get an inside look at the lessons learned from this event and the steps taken to improve their strategic response.

## Tackling School Violence

Safety in our schools and on our college campuses is a priority for parents, first responders and school administrators. But as we have seen first-hand, acts of violence can occur anywhere, from an urban school in Chicago to a rural school in Perry County. At this year's Training Summit, we are bringing together school administrators, teachers and resource officers from throughout our state who have faced this challenge head-on. Plus, we'll discuss the recent recommendations from the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, which are designed to help keep Illinois schools safe in the event of an active shooter threat.



## Cyber Warfare and Critical Infrastructure

Critical infrastructure is vital to our national public health, safety and security, as well as our national economy. At this year's Summit, attendees will hear from Major General Richard Hayes as he outlines the federal strategic goals to coordinate with critical infrastructure owners and operators to improve cybersecurity information sharing and collaboratively develop and implement risk-based approaches to cybersecurity.

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### Labrador Lessons from a Canine Hero

Michael Hingson is a #1 New York Times best-selling author and international lecturer. Hingson, who has been blind since birth, survived the 9/11 attacks with the help of his guide dog, Roselle. Hingson will share his inspiring story and attendees will walk away with a new outlook on leadership, teamwork, trust, survival and the impact of change.



## Sponsorship and Vendor Opportunities Still Available

This year's summit schedule provides maximum exposure for sponsors and exhibitors. The Vendor Networking Reception on Sept. 4 will immediately follow a general session in the Main Hall, so attendees exiting the session will walk directly through the exhibit booth area, where they can enjoy hors d'oeuvres and browse the exhibits. **If you would like to take part in this maximum exposure opportunity, please contact Sarah Plinski ([sarah.plinski@illinois.gov](mailto:sarah.plinski@illinois.gov)) by August 17.**



Mark your calendars now for the annual IEMA Training Summit – September 4-6 -- in downtown Springfield. Visit our website, <https://iemasummit2018.pathable.com/>, to review this year's Summit schedule and sign up for these invaluable sessions. We look forward to seeing you this fall in Springfield!

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



State of Illinois  
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

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