

Inside IEMA

Monthly Newsletter



Illinois Emergency Management Agency

October 2018

Message From Acting Director William P. Robertson

As Hurricane relief efforts continue in the southeastern part of the United States, many Illinoisans have expressed interest in helping those impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael. When looking to provide help to those in need, it is important that you connect with reputable organizations to lend a helping hand with disaster response and recovery efforts.

Volunteer organizations ensure the long-term recovery of a community or region affected by a disaster. It is best to volunteer time or money through a reputable disaster relief organization. The National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (www.nvoad.org) maintains a national database of voluntary and charitable organizations involved in a variety of activities, including emergency preparedness and response throughout the nation.

More than 50 Illinois communities have established Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs). These volunteer groups work to make their communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to and recover from emergencies. Illinois CERT members have assisted with damage assessments, donations management, spontaneous volunteer management and in Multi-Agency Resource Centers. More about CERT is available at <https://www.ready.gov/community-emergency-response-team>.

During disasters, representatives from the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and Serve Illinois Commission have liaisons in IEMA's State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to coordinate with state agencies, mutual aid organizations and others on response and recovery efforts. In addition, other voluntary organizations are represented in the SEOC by Illinois' Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

Disaster volunteer opportunities vary by community. People interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities can contact local voluntary organizations or their local emergency management agency.



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FEMA Update: Disaster Recovery Reform Act

On Oct. 5, 2018, President Donald J. Trump signed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA) into law as part of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018.

Impacts from a disaster can be devastating. With the economic disruption and the cost of disasters on the rise nationwide, FEMA worked closely with Congress over the past year as they considered, and ultimately passed, important reforms to federal disaster programs.

These reforms acknowledge the shared responsibility of disaster response and recovery, aim to reduce the complexity of FEMA and build the nation's capacity for the next catastrophic event.

Highlights from the DRRA include:

Greater investment in mitigation, before a disaster: Authorizing the National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, funded through the Disaster Relief Fund as a six percent set aside from disaster expenses.

Reducing risk from future disasters after fire: Providing hazard mitigation grant funding in areas that received Fire Management Assistance Grants as a result of wildfire. Adding 14 new mitigation project types associated with wildfires and windstorms.

Increasing state capacity to manage disaster recovery: Allowing for higher rates of reimbursement

to state, local, tribal and territorial partners for their administrative costs when implementing public assistance and hazard mitigation projects. Additionally, the legislation provides flexibility for states and tribes to administer their own post-disaster housing missions, while encouraging the development of disaster housing strategies.

Providing greater flexibility to survivors with disabilities: Increasing the amount of assistance available to individuals and households affected by disasters, including allowing accessibility repairs for people with disabilities, without counting those repairs against their maximum disaster assistance grant award.

Retaining skilled response and recovery personnel: Authorizing FEMA to appoint certain types of temporary employees who have been with the agency for three continuous years to full time positions in the same manner as federal employees with competitive status. This allows the agency to retain and promote talented, experienced emergency managers.

The full text of the bill can be found at www.congress.gov.

Information for this article provided by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Helping Non-Profits in Illinois

IEMA Bureau of Preparedness and Grants Administration presented a grant workshop at Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications for metro-area non-profits to learn more about available FEMA grants to help fund physical security enhancements. Approximately 20 organizations were represented at the October informational meeting.



IEMA Staff Attends RASCAL Training

Eleven members of IEMA's Division of Nuclear Safety recently participated in RASCAL (Radiological Assessment System for Consequence Analysis) training during the week of October 9 – 12. This training was presented by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at its Region III office in Lisle, Illinois. In addition, members of U.S. NRC staff, as well as participants from Iowa and Wisconsin, also attended the course.

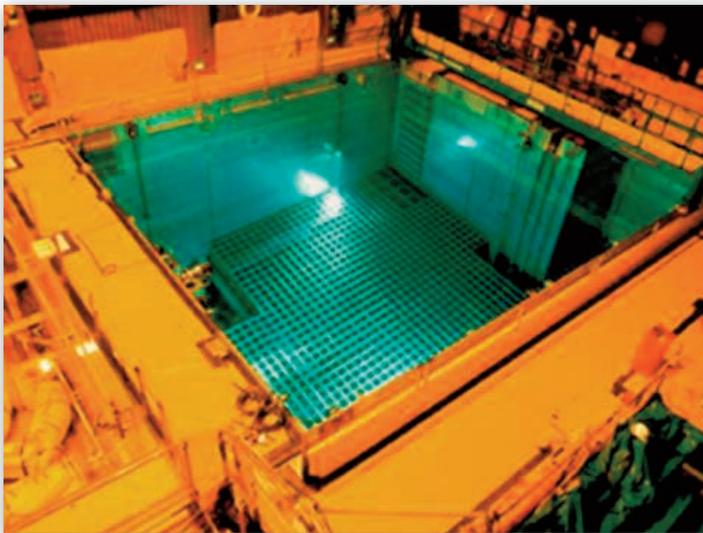
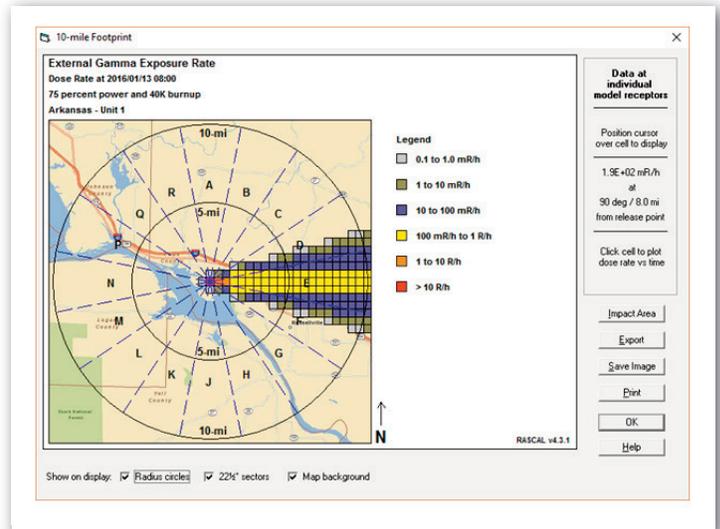
RASCAL is a software tool used by NRC, state and local governments, and some utilities for making radiation dose and consequence projections during radiological incidents and emergencies similar to what occurred at Fukushima, Japan in March 2011.

The course discussed how RASCAL is used for accident scenarios for a nuclear reactor, spent fuel pool, fuel cycle incidents including UF6 cylinders & criticality, Fire Explosions involving uranium Oxide, and other radioactive material incidents (transportation).

The training is designed for state emergency response staff responsible for assessing radiological conditions

during a nuclear accident and developing proposed protective action decisions for use by state and local decision makers to protect the public.

Preparedness for these types of events is an important aspect of IEMA's mission, especially since Illinois has the most operating nuclear reactors of any state in the U.S. at 11.



Grant Deadlines

Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FMA)

Opening Date for Applications: October 1, 2018
Applications Due: December 18, 2018

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM)

Opening Date for Applications: October 1, 2018
Applications Due: December 18, 2018

For additional information, contact Sam Al-Basha, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at sam.m.albasha@illinois.gov

Industrial Radiography

Radiation has many beneficial uses including, but not limited to industrial, medical, agricultural, and academic. Industrial radiography is a technique used to test objects for defects by using a radiation-producing machine (i.e., an x-ray machine) or a source of radioactive material.

It is often used in manufacturing and construction settings, because the technique can verify the internal structure and integrity of an object without damaging it and it leaves no radioactivity behind following the test. Manufacturers use industrial radiography to check for cracks or flaws in metal parts used to build vehicles and aircraft. In construction, this technique is used to check for cracks or flaws in metal welding, boilers, and piping.

How does it work?

Radiography devices use x-rays or sealed gamma radiation sources, such as iridium-192 or cobalt-60. The radiography device is pointed at the object being evaluated and beams of x-rays or gamma rays strike the target. Radiographic film or a detector is positioned on the opposite side of the object and it detects x-rays or gamma rays that pass through the object during testing. Flaws and cracks are identified based on the abundance of x-rays or gamma rays that passed through the object being evaluated as the film or detector shows overexposure where defects exist.

X-ray radiography devices are typically bulky and must have electricity to produce x-rays. They are commonly used in factory settings.

Radiography devices that use gamma rays are portable and do not require electricity for operation. These devices are commonly used in construction settings and to inspect piping. The radioactive material in these devices will continually produce gamma rays and must be properly shielded when not in use to prevent unnecessary exposure to ionizing radiation.

Who can perform industrial radiography?

While industrial radiography has beneficial uses, it can result in unnecessary and harmful exposure to radiation for the radiographer and the general public if the radiation-producing machine or radioactive material is mishandled. A company must register x-ray radiography devices with IEMA. In order to possess and use gamma ray radiography equipment in the State of Illinois, a company must have an IEMA-issued radioactive material license or reciprocal recognition by IEMA of a radioactive material license in another state or the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Industrial radiographers are required to attend a radiation safety course, complete on-the-job training, and pass a written examination prior to being certified. The American Society for Nondestructive Testing, Inc. (ASNT) and 10 states, including the State of Illinois through IEMA, maintain nationally recognized certification programs.

Certification programs, along with the equipment's design and operating instructions, are intended to prevent accidents – protecting workers and the general public from the potentially harmful effects of ionizing radiation.



Illinois Residents Join Millions in Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency teamed up with the St. Louis Cardinals to educate southern Illinois students about the importance of earthquake preparedness. With two seismic zones in the southern part of the state, and Illinois residents who travel throughout the world, it's important that everyone know how to stay safe during an earthquake.

Governor Bruce Rauner declared Oct. 18 Great U.S. ShakeOut Earthquake Drill Day in Illinois to encourage people to participate in the annual earthquake drill. This year, more than 372,000 people in Illinois registered for the event, including more than 317,000 students from educational facilities across the state.

The St. Louis Cardinals mascot, Fredbird, joined IEMA Deputy Director Jennifer Ricker and IEMA staff to show second grade students at Jefferson Elementary School in Marion what to do during an earthquake. Deputy Director Ricker led a lively discussion about the risk of earthquakes in Illinois and the importance of being prepared with the students.

At 10:18 a.m., an announcement was broadcast into each classroom that the ShakeOut earthquake drill was beginning. At that time, students practiced the 'Drop, Cover and Hold On' actions that should be taken when the earth starts to shake.

"Whether you are at school, at work, at home or on vacation, an earthquake can happen at any time, anywhere," said Deputy Director Jennifer Ricker. "This is why the Shakeout earthquake drill is so important. This preparedness drill helps us teach millions of people the life-saving Drop-Cover-Hold On procedure."

The largest earthquake to ever rattle North America occurred in 1811 in New Madrid, Missouri, near southern Illinois. If a similar quake struck the same spot today, according to a 2008 University of Illinois study, the impact would be catastrophic: 3,500 fatalities, 2.6 million without power, \$300 billion in direct economic loss. Most of southern Illinois sits atop one of two major fault zones – the New Madrid Seismic Zone and the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone. We know these faults are active, with sizeable earthquakes reported as recently as 2008.

For more information about earthquake risks and additional preparedness tip, visit www.ready.illinois.gov.



November 2018 Training Schedule

MGT-414 Advanced Critical Infrastructure (CI) Protection

Location: Glenview, IL

Date: November 6

Course Description: Course Description: In this course participants will enhance their skills to formulate considerations for the resiliency of jurisdictional assets leveraging cross-sector partnerships. These considerations will enhance the community's ability to manage the risk associated with CI protection efforts. The course will implement the National Preparedness Goal by facilitating the development of Resiliency Action Plans, involving all jurisdictional CI partners. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to increase infrastructure owner-operator participation in jurisdictional planning, organizing, equipping, training, or exercising CI protection efforts.

Registration: law@teex.tamu.edu

ICS 300

Location: Winnebago County, Rockford, IL

Date: November 13-14

Course Description: In this course participants will enhance their skills to formulate considerations for the resiliency of jurisdictional assets leveraging cross-sector partnerships. These considerations will enhance the community's ability to manage the risk associated with CI protection efforts. The course will implement the National Preparedness Goal by facilitating the development of Resiliency Action Plans, involving all jurisdictional CI partners. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to increase infrastructure owner-operator participation in jurisdictional planning, organizing, equipping, training, or exercising CI protection efforts.

Registration: MeyersS@wcco-il.us

Debris Management

Location: Bloomington, IL

Date: November 28

Course Description: This one day course is designed to provide participants with the ability to manage enormous amounts of debris that a disaster can produce. The importance of having plans containing standard operating procedures for all aspects of debris management is emphasized. Various situations that debris cause are discussed and the consequent actions necessary to return a community to pre-disaster conditions are addressed. Participants will have the opportunity to apply what they have learned during group activities.

Registration: lisa.d.anderson@illinois.gov



Meet IEMA Senior Staff: Sree Nair

Sree Nair is the Chief Information Officer at the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

As a Senior Project Manager with over 25 years of Information Technology experience, Sree has served in the roles of project manager, technical lead, systems analyst and developer. He received his Project Management Professional (PMP) certification in 2005.



Get to know Sree Nair, IEMA's Chief Information Officer

Sree prides himself on managing and participating in projects that are delivered on time, within budget and that exceed client expectations. Sree adheres to the strict and proven discipline of project management processes throughout the software development life cycle.

Before coming to IEMA, Sree worked in the Department of Innovation & Technology's Division of Information Security. He managed the statewide Personally Identifiable Information project which encrypted 5.8 billion social security number records. As a lead for the Security Program section, Sree managed the procurement request, budget and projects for the division.

What are three interesting facts about you?

- Born in Malaysia with a Hindu background
- Went to college at Blackburn college in Carlinville IL
- Still active in playing soccer

What's the last adventure you went on?

- Touring Italy. Visiting the historical places in Rome and Pompeii, the modern and fashionable Milan, the romantic Venice and the Tuscan-style of living in Florence was a great adventure.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

- I like the advice that Secretary Lomboy of DoIT professes: Show up, Be Honest, Leave your personal agenda at the door and be accountable.

Thanksgiving Fire Safety

Thanksgiving is a day when Americans gather with family and friends to celebrate, cook and eat, but it is also the nation's leading day for cooking fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the number of cooking fires on Thanksgiving is three times as high as on any other day of the year. That's why it's important to keep fire safety top of mind, while in the kitchen during this joyous but hectic time of year. In addition to the hazards posed by jammed stovetops and crowded kitchens, turkey fryers also contribute to the elevated fire risk on Turkey Day. Preventing fires is simple when following some basic precautions.

(continued on page 8)



Thanksgiving Fire Safety *(continued from page 7)*

Stovetops and Ovens

Busy cooks can become distracted preparing several dishes at once while also trying to entertain guests. Cooking fires can easily be prevented by following a few simple precautions:

- Start the holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven. Remove food and grease buildup from burners, stovetop, and oven.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking and don't become distracted by guests.
- When cooking a turkey, set a timer and check on it frequently.
- Keep a flame-resistant oven mitt, potholder or lid nearby to smother any flames.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- Have working smoke alarms in the home.

Turkey Fryers

Remember: Never use a turkey fryer indoors, in the garage or on a covered patio because of the fire hazard.

- Completely thaw the turkey.
- Do not overfill the fryer with oil. Before dumping a few gallons of oil into the fryer, test it out with water. Place the turkey inside and then fill it with water until the bird is submerged. Remove the turkey and mark the water line on the fryer so you will

know how much oil to put in the fryer.

- Never leave the fryer unattended.
- Keep children and pets well away from the fryer. Remember the oil will remain dangerously hot for hours.
- Allow at least two feet of space between the liquid propane tank and the fryer burner.
- Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts; wear safety goggles to protect eyes from oil splatter.
- If oil begins to smoke, immediately turn OFF the gas supply.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Since most units do not have automatic thermostatic controls, oil may heat until it catches fire.
- Never use water to extinguish a grease fire.

(Information for this article was gathered from the National Fire Protection Association)

Thanksgiving by the numbers

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by the day before Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, and Christmas Eve.
- In 2015, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,760 home cooking fires on Thanksgiving, the peak day for such fires.
- Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths.
- Cooking equipment was involved in almost half of all reported home fires and home fire injuries, and it is the second leading cause of home fire deaths.

Source: NFPA's Fire Analysis & Research Division



Preparedness is Key to Surviving Illinois Winters

Although winter does not officially start until Dec. 21, much of the state has already experienced its first frost, and in some parts of the state its first snowfall. While being unprepared for a winter storm is inconvenient, it's also dangerous. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, there have been more than 600 cold weather deaths in Illinois within the past ten years. With a long winter ahead of us, IEMA recommends taking steps now to ensure you're prepared to stay safe and warm throughout the season.

Driving on snow or ice-covered roads can be extremely hazardous, so it's important to equip yourself with knowledge and items to help you stay safe. Before starting a trip during bad weather, check road conditions on the Illinois Department of Transportation's Winter Road Conditions Map at www.gettingaroundillinois.com.

During hazardous winter conditions, drivers often find themselves stranded along the roadside while they wait for assistance, which may take hours to arrive. That's why it's important to stock your vehicle with an emergency supply kit, including the following items:

- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Non-perishable snack food
- Water
- Sand or cat litter
- Shovel
- Booster cables
- Cell phone charger

Winter storms also can cause power outages that can last several hours or several days. It's important to have an emergency supply kit at home that includes a battery-powered National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio, water and non-perishable food, flashlights and extra batteries, a first aid kit and supplies for pets and family members with special medical needs.

More tips for staying safe at home and on the road are available in a guide developed by IEMA and the National Weather Service, which is available on the Ready Illinois website at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.





Car Winter Survival Kit Checklist



<input type="checkbox"/>  Flashlight & Extra Batteries <input type="checkbox"/>  First Aid Kit <input type="checkbox"/>  Snow Shovel <input type="checkbox"/>  Ice Scraper with Brush	<input type="checkbox"/>  Blankets/Sleeping Bag <input type="checkbox"/>  Non-Perishable Food Granola Bars, Dried nuts, etc. <input type="checkbox"/>  Bottled Water <input type="checkbox"/>  Booster Cables	<input type="checkbox"/>  Extra Clothing Hats, Mittens, Parkas, Boots <input type="checkbox"/>  Sand/Kitty Litter Used for Traction <input type="checkbox"/>  Cell Phone & Charger <input type="checkbox"/>  Flares/Triangles & other Bright Objects
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Driving in the Dark

Shorter days, fatigue, compromised night vision, rush hour and impaired drivers all contribute to making driving at night more dangerous than any other time of day. In fact, the risk of a fatal crash is three times greater at night, according to National Safety Council research.

When Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 4, many people will find themselves spending more time driving in the dark. Depth perception, color recognition and peripheral vision can be compromised in the dark, and the glare of headlights from an oncoming vehicle can temporarily blind a driver.

Even with high-beam headlights on, visibility is limited to about 500 feet (250 feet for normal headlights) creating less time to react to something in the road, especially when driving at higher speeds.

What should you do to combat darkness?

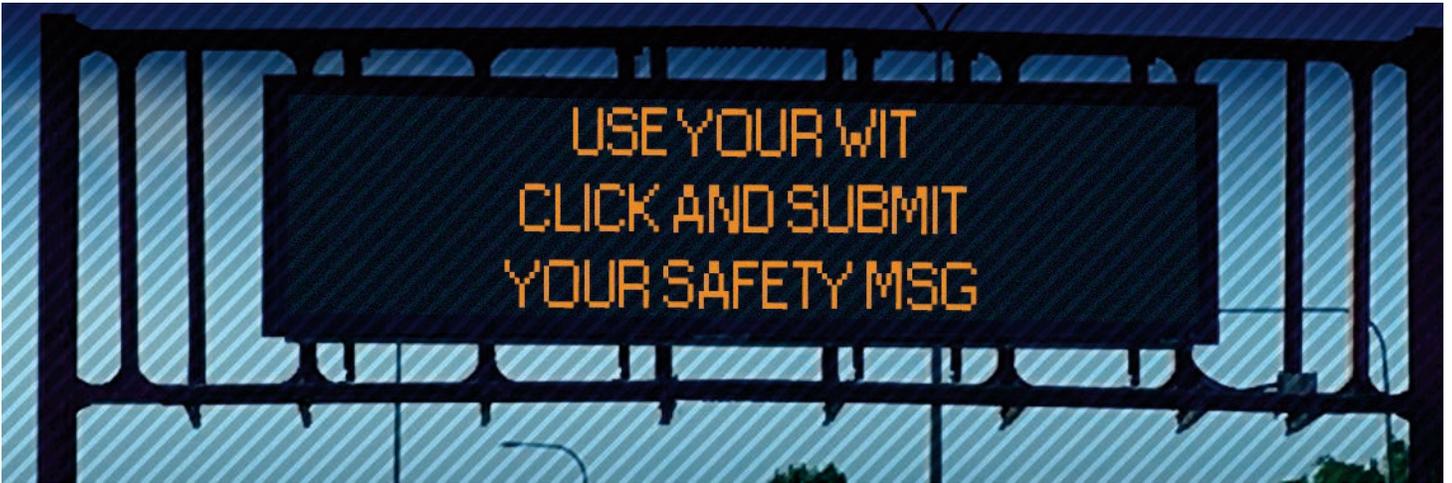
- Aim your headlights correctly, and make sure they're clean
- Dim your dashboard
- Look away from oncoming lights
- If you wear glasses, make sure they're anti-reflective
- Clean the windshield to eliminate streaks
- Slow down to compensate for limited visibility and reduced stopping time

(Information for this article was obtained from the National Safety Council)



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 4.

New Contest Seeks Public Ideas for Electronic Signs



Do you have a creative flair and an interest in helping to improve safety on Illinois roads? The Illinois Department of Transportation is inviting the public to submit ideas for safety messages to display on the electronic signs located over highways throughout the state. The sign contest and renewed focus on safety messaging are part of IDOT's Life or Death Illinois campaign in response to back-to-back years of more than 1,000 deaths on Illinois roads, the highest total in a decade. Other efforts include crashed cars at rest areas as a physical reminder of the importance of responsible driving and continued development of new ways to improve safety in work zones.

Some of the basic rules include:

- Keep it short and simple. Messages are restricted to three lines with 18 characters per line. Spaces and punctuation count as characters.

- Each message must align with one of the six categories: distracted driving, impaired driving, speeding, occupant restraint, work zone safety and vulnerable users, such as motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- One message from each category will be chosen for display by an internal IDOT committee.
- The deadline for submissions is Nov. 19. Winners will be announced in early 2019.

The winning messages will be displayed at times throughout the year to help promote traffic safety. Winning entrants also receive a personalized street sign. Visit idot.illinois.gov/dms-contest to learn more about contest rules and to submit ideas

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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