

Inside IEMA

Monthly Newsletter



Illinois Emergency Management Agency

January 2019

New Leadership at IEMA

On January 10, Governor JB Pritzker announced Alicia Tate-Nadeau will serve as the next Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Pending confirmation by the Illinois Senate, Tate-Nadeau will make history as the first female to lead the state agency.

Alicia Tate-Nadeau has more than three decades of experience in national security, emergency management and public-safety. She was the first woman to earn the rank of brigadier general in the Illinois National Guard. Her military career includes serving as the Assistant Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, Deputy Commanding General of the Army National Guard, as well as military tours in Iraq and Israel. Tate-Nadeau's domestic accomplishments include working with FEMA to lead the federal response to the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, and leading Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications.



Governor Pritzker also announced that in addition to her duties at IEMA, Alicia Tate-Nadeau will serve as the state's Director of Homeland Security, a position for which she is uniquely qualified. In addition to leading security efforts in the nation's third largest city, Tate-Nadeau co-authored the Defense Reform Initiative 25. This document provides a framework for states to coordinate and integrate the Department of Defense's capabilities and expertise to support and prepare for threats involving weapons of mass destruction.

Tate-Nadeau's service has been recognized by countless military awards, including a Bronze Star for her work in Iraq, Defense Meritorious Service Medals, Illinois Abraham Lincoln Medal of Freedom, Illinois Medal of Merit and Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Tate-Nadeau earned a B.S. from the University of Central Oklahoma, a M.S. in Health Administration from Governors State University and M.S. in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

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NEW GOVERNOR, GENERAL ASSEMBLY SWORN IN

January 2019 ushered in a new General Assembly and a new administration for the state of Illinois. To find your elected state and federal representatives, visit <https://www.elections.il.gov/districtlocator/addressfinder.aspx>



JB Pritzker is sworn in as the 43rd Governor of the State of Illinois on January 14, 2019. (Photo courtesy: State Journal-Register)



Members of the Illinois House of Representatives take the oath of office on January 8, 2019 at Sangamon Auditorium on the campus of University of Illinois Springfield. (Photo courtesy: State Journal-Register)



Members of the Illinois Senate were sworn at the Statehouse on January 8, 2019. (Photo courtesy: State Journal-Register)

Changes Coming to the SEOC

On January 9, 2019, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) implemented a new activation structure for the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). Previously a five tier activation structure, the SEOC has moved to a three tier structure in order to be consistent with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) national system.

The three tiers include Level III: Normal Operations/Steady State, Level II: Enhanced Steady State/Partial Activation and Level I: Full Activation. With each of these levels comes new criteria to determine the appropriate level of activation during emergency operations.

Level III is defined as routine activities that are normal for the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) when no incident or specific risk or hazard has been identified. Level II consists of activating certain EOC liaisons to monitor a credible threat, risk, or hazard and to support the state's response to a new and potentially evolving threat.



**STATE EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS CENTER
ACTIVATION LEVELS**



3 **NORMAL OPERATIONS - ROUTINE BUSINESS**
Activities that are normal for the center, when no incident or specific risk or hazard has been identified, are underway. This includes routine watch and warning activities if the center normally houses this function.

2 **PARTIAL ACTIVATION - SIGNIFICANT EVENT**
Certain EOC Team members/organizations are activated to monitor a credible threat, risk or hazard and/or to support the response to a new and potentially evolving incident.

1 **FULL ACTIVATION - MAJOR EVENT**
EOC Team is activated, including personnel from all assisting agencies, to support the response to a major incident or credible threat.

Full Activation, Level I, entails activating the EOC team, including personnel from all assisting agencies, to support the state's response to a major incident or credible threat.

Activation of the SEOC falls under the determination of the SEOC Manager, or as ordered by the IEMA Director. The Governor, or Director of Public Safety, also has authority to order the activation of the SEOC in the event of a disaster. The level of activation during an event is determined using the following considerations: potential for, or presence of, a threat or hazard, level or scope of damage or destruction, level or scope of casualties, facility management requirements, resources needed, and other exigent circumstances. In the event the SEOC is activated, the IEMA Communications Center notifies designated SEOC Liaisons and staff via the State of Illinois Rapid Electronic Notification (SIREN) system.

The new three tier activation structure for the SEOC is currently being utilized by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.



Call for Presentations 2019 IEMA Training Summit

IEMA currently is seeking proposals for presentations at the 2019 IEMA Summit, which will be held Sept. 3-5 at the Bank of Springfield Center (formerly known as the Prairie Capital Convention Center) in Springfield.

- All proposals must be submitted by May 3 to be considered.
- Each breakout session will last 60 minutes and should include time for questions and answers.
- All proposals will be submitted via Survey Monkey using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019SummitCFP>

Taylorville After-Action Meeting

On January 16, state and local emergency management officials, volunteer organization personnel and other agency officials gathered to discuss the response of the Dec 1 storms in Christian County. An

after-action meeting is critical to openly discuss the successes and failures of an event in order to continuously improve the services we provide the public during critical life-safety events.

(Right) Assistant Fire Chief Andy Goodall explains the actions taken by the Taylorville Fire Department prior to the storm on December 1, 2018.



A promotional banner for the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards. It features a red top section with the text "APPLY TODAY" in white serif font. To the right is the "SERVE ILLINOIS" logo, which includes a blue outline of the state of Illinois and the text "SERVE ILLINOIS" in blue and red. Below this is a dark blue section with the text "Governor's Volunteer Service Awards" in white serif font. The bottom section shows a row of several silver, wavy-edged trophies on a blue surface. Each trophy is engraved with the "SERVE ILLINOIS" logo and the text "Governor's Volunteer Service Award". Some trophies also have names and dates engraved on them, such as "Juanita Maribel" and "2018".



Nominations due February 15th, 2019

www.Serve.Illinois.gov

Disaster Loan Applications Due Feb 19

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is reminding homeowners, renters, business owners and nonprofit organizations that disaster loans are available for those impacted by the Dec. 1, 2018 severe storms and tornadoes. Anyone in the declared counties in Illinois (Christian, Macon, Montgomery and Sangamon) with damages are eligible to apply for the SBA disaster loan assistance.

- Businesses and nonprofits can apply up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster damaged real estate, machinery, equipment, inventory, and other business assets.
- Loans for working capital, known as Economic Injury Disaster Loans, are available even if the business did not suffer any physical damage.
- Homeowners can apply up to \$200,000 to repair or replace disaster damaged real estate.
- Homeowners and renters can apply up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged personal property including automobiles.

Interest rates are as low as 3.74 percent for businesses, 2.75 percent for private nonprofit organizations, and 2.00 percent for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. In addition, applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a safe room or storm shelter to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

How to Apply:

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan

Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at Disasterloan.sba.gov. Questions can be answered by calling the SBA Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Loan applications can also be downloaded at www.sba.gov. Completed applications should be returned to a recovery center or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Deadlines:

The filing deadline to submit applications for physical property damage is Feb. 19, 2019. The deadline for economic injury applications is Sept. 23, 2019.



IEMA Partners with American Lung Association to Test Schools for Radon

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the American Lung Association in Illinois (ALAIL) are joining forces help Illinois school districts screen school buildings for radon. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is recognized as the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

“State law encourages school districts to test buildings for radon every five years,” said IEMA Chief of Staff Jennifer Ricker. “This program will provide the equipment and guidance schools need so they can conduct the tests themselves and save the cost of professional testing.”

To participate in the initiative, designated school district employees must complete an online training course on procedures for performing screening measurements in their district school building. IEMA and the ALAIL will work with participating school districts on development of a quality assurance project plan and will provide guidance for placement of measurement devices in one school building in each district.

“Americans spend almost 90 percent of their time indoors,” said Angela Tin, Director of Clean Air Initiatives at the American Lung Association. “It’s important that we are safe at home, at school and where we work. This program provides a low-cost opportunity to keep both teachers and students safe from the dangers of radon gas.”

The ALAIL will deliver radon detectors to participating schools and assist designated school personnel with testing protocol and detector placement. Cost for the detectors and ALAIL’s work will be supported by an IEMA grant funded through the federal State Indoor Grant Program.

In many cases, radon levels in schools can be lowered through modifications to the heating and air conditioning systems, while a professional radon mitigation contractor may be needed to address elevated radon levels in other schools.

School districts interested in participating in the program should contact Katie Sinkus at the American Lung Association, (217) 718-6667. School testing will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.



Radon Video Contest

<https://bit.ly/2CV0oQ9>

Deadline March 1, 2019

Radon Poster Contest

<https://bit.ly/2RccS9M>

Deadline March 8, 2019

February 2018 Training Schedule

Disaster Assistance Process

Location: State Regional Office, Marion

Date: February 6, 2019

Course Description: Updated version of course formerly known as Damage Assessment. This one-day course is designed to provide participants with an understanding of the damage assessment process and how damage information is used by local and state officials. Participants will learn how to collect, organize, report and analyze damage information. Students are asked to bring a copy of the EOP/local ordinance that would identify any emergency powers available following a local disaster declaration

Registration:

<https://public.iema.state.il.us/iema/Training/OnlineReg/classes.asp>

Effective Communications

Location: Effingham County EOC, Effingham

Date: February 7, 2019

Course Description: This one-day course is designed to enhance your ability to communicate more effectively during all aspects of an incident. Students will conduct a self-assessment of their listening skills and compare different communication styles. Students will discuss the importance of communication, and learn some of the best techniques for utilizing the different forms of communication. The students will also have the opportunity to learn and practice writing media messages utilizing Dr. Vincent T. Covelo's Message Mapping

Registration:

<https://public.iema.state.il.us/iema/Training/OnlineReg/classes.asp>

AWR 362 Flooding Hazards: Science & Preparedness

Location: Lake County Storm Water Management Commission, Libertyville

Date: February 15, 2019

Course Description: Learn about the current science behind the causes of floods, flood forecasting, flood risk assessment, and best practices for preparation and mitigation for both short-and long-fuse flooding events. Gain a better understanding regarding the factors that contribute to flooding and how they determine flood risk. Enhance your abilities to read and interpret forecasts, watches, and warnings from the National Weather Service and hydrographs from the U.S. Geological Survey. Increase your knowledge of how to plan for property preparation for sudden flooding, such as flash flooding and dam breaks, and long-use flood events such as river flooding

Registration: (808) 725-5236
batesa@hawaii.edu

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

Location: Athens Fire Department, Athens

Date: February 26-27, 2019

Course Description: This two-day course provides a basic overview of the HSEEP exercise process. The goal of the course is to provide professionals with a set of guiding principles for exercise programs, as well as a common approach to exercise program management, design and development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning. Through the use of HSEEP guidance and processes, exercise program managers can develop, execute, and evaluate exercises that address the priorities established by their organization's leaders

Registration:

<https://public.iema.state.il.us/iema/Training/OnlineReg/classes.asp>



IEMA Encourages People to Prepare for Earthquakes

On November 30, residents of Anchorage, Alaska experienced a 7.0 magnitude earthquake. To this day, residents continue to experience significantly powerful aftershocks. The event served as a stark reminder that earthquakes can happen anywhere in the world and at any time of day. In fact, Illinois and several other states in the central United States were rocked by some of the largest earthquakes ever recorded in North America.

Illinois is flanked on its western and eastern borders by two active seismic zones: the New Madrid Seismic Zone and the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone. An earthquake similar to what was recently experienced in Alaska could have devastating effects on our state. While we can't predict when the next major quake will occur, we can help people learn how to protect themselves and reduce damage to their homes.

Learning how to "Drop, Cover and Hold On" 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. Most casualties result from falling objects and debris caused by the earth shaking.



There are several steps people can take to help prevent injuries and property damage at home, including:

- Strapping water heaters and large appliances to wall studs
- Anchoring overhead light fixtures
- Fastening shelves to wall studs and securing cabinet doors with latches
- Strapping TVs, computers and other heavy equipment to prevent tipping
- Learning how to shut off gas, water and electricity in case the lines are damaged

Each year the Illinois Emergency Management Agency leads an initiative to register homes, businesses, schools and organizations in the world's largest earthquake drill. This year's earthquake drill will take place on Thursday, October 17 at 10:17 a.m. It's never too early to register your participation in this potentially life-saving event. Register today at www.shakeout.org. Learn more about how you can prepared your home, business and family for an earthquake at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.

Williams Joins Team in Region 7

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency has added an Illinois native with military experience to its team in Region 7. Please welcome Richard Williams, the newest Staff Development Specialist, to the IEMA team.

Richard Williams was born in Springfield and graduated from South Fork High School in 1995. He enlisted in the military and graduated Combat Medic AIT in 1999. After various deployments including Operation Iraqi Freedom, Richard took on the role of Senior Clinical Operations NCO for the 7456 Medical Backfill Battalion in Des Moines, IA. Richard performed in various leadership positions



**Richard Williams, IEMA
Region 7**

throughout his military career including: Operations Sergeant Major, Battalion Operations Sergeant, First Sergeant and an Advanced Leaders Course Manager.

Williams holds an MBA from Benedictine University, a B.S. in Psychology and a Project Management Certificate from the University of Phoenix. His military education includes the Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Course, the Army Basic Instructor Course, the Small Group Instructor Course, Senior

Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education I & II.

Williams currently resides in Champaign and has a son named Levi.

Radio Communications in Illinois: A Paradigm Shift

The past 12 months, Illinois has experienced a fundamental change in its approach to public safety communication interoperability. Our mission continues to focus on sustainment of deployables radio resources such as cache radios, Illinois Transportable Emergency Communication Systems (ITECS), and Unified Command Posts (UCP). However, the cadre of communication capability is growing and now includes radio, broadband data, satellite, amateur radio (known as AUXCOMM), field information technology (IT) needs, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) support, and public alert & warning under a singular structure for planning, strategy development and eventual deployment.

Working with a team of communications staff from ILEAS, IEMA was able to accomplish new milestones in 2018, including: facilitating 11 Communications-Focused training and exercise activities including a state level communications exercise; continuing to build on the amateur radio programs throughout the state by refining the public safety amateur radio component called AUXCOMM; developed a AUXCOMM operators program that will be rolled out in 2019; staff successfully exercised for the first-time HF radio connection capability with Illinois National Guard (Air and Army) AUXCOMM personnel and local county EMA's amateur radio teams.

Today, Illinois' public safety agencies are served by multiple interoperability systems which provide effective, efficient data and voice communications platforms among service-aligned agencies as well as in cross-disciplinary applications. The continuing expansion of Illinois' STARCOM21 (State Radio Communications for the 21st Century) radio platform continues to raise the state of interoperability in Illinois to an unprecedented level. This state-of-the-art 700/800-megahertz (MHz) Project 25 radio platform is bringing interoperability into the mainstream of police, fire, and emergency medical response agencies (and many others) throughout Illinois. This does not mean legacy interoperable channels are less important. Channels like ISPERN, IVERN, IREACH, etc. will continue to serve a great purpose.

The Illinois vision, although written around traditional

radio technologies, is based on principles and values that are "future-proof" and will continue. Staff will continue to lean forward and represent the whole communities need regarding public safety communications, so we are better prepared for tomorrow challenges.

2 Helpful Takeaways:

- **Interoperable Channels.** The FCC has set aside a list of channels called the National Interoperable Pool (NIP) channels. These are channels you can program in your radio today without a license that will provide users with instant interoperability if all users have them programmed. Channels are available in all bands, for example: VCALL & VTAC, UCALL & UTAC, 7CALL and 7TAC, 8CALL and 8TAC. Refer to the Illinois Interoperability Field Operations Guide (I2FOG) for more details on these channels.
- **Exercise Communications.** On after-action reports communications is always present as an area to improve. Including Communications in Exercise planning sessions, including injects that deal with communications issues will improve this capability tremendously. This will bolster forming solid relationships with all the stakeholders/users in the system. Everyone involved realizes how much success relies on cooperation and works hard to make that happen.

Achieving effective mission critical communications requires more than technology, it requires a complete shift from traditional thinking to a more comprehensive, coordinated strategy. Effective mission critical communications planning is about change - including technological, strategic, tactical, and cultural elements. There is no "finish line" –

as communications continue to evolve, we must continue to select and implement those technologies that will improve our ability to effectively communicate with each other. To better understand the future, we need to start by looking at our past; STARCOM21 offers that link to learning for Illinois. If you have questions or need additional information regarding interoperable communications please contact Joe Galvin, Illinois Statewide Interoperability Coordinator at SWIC@illinois.gov.

The Illinois Communications Vision Statement:

"Illinois will have a continuing and sustainable interoperable and emergency voice/data communications environment in which all public service providers will be able to seamlessly communicate across disciplines and jurisdictions when necessary and appropriate."

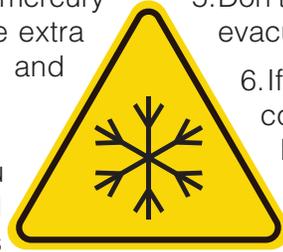
Winter Safety: Smell Gas? Leave Fast!

As we enter the peak winter months, and the mercury begins to drop, it is important that we use extra precautions when heating our homes and businesses.

Always err on the side of caution. If you think you smell gas, evacuate immediately and call your utility provider. While natural gas is odorless and colorless in its purest form, utility companies add an odorant, mercaptan, to create a distinctive scent similar to that of rotten eggs. If left unattended, a gas leak can have deadly consequences.

Follow these natural gas safety tips:

1. Make it a point to have the natural gas furnace and appliances inspected annually by a qualified contractor. If purchasing new natural gas appliances, ensure they are high quality and ENERGY STAR certified.
2. Never use an oven or stove range for heating purposes.
3. Avoid storing flammable products such as paint stripper, fabric softener or salt bags in close proximity to natural gas appliances.
4. Always call 8-1-1 (J.U.L.I.E) before conducting any projects that require digging. This will help prevent underground facility damage and potentially dangerous situations.



5. Don't ignore the rotten egg smell. If you smell gas, evacuate immediately and call for help.

6. If you smell gas, never take any action that could generate a spark on the way out of the building. This includes flipping light switches, plugging and unplugging or using electronics. In fact, don't even call for help until you are clear of your home or workplace. Sparks may cause natural gas to ignite. Also, avoid opening windows in an effort to vent the area.

7. Never try to fix a potential gas leak on your own. Always call the professionals.

Important Emergency Contact Information

Mid-American Energy: 800-595-5325

Mt Carmel Public Utility: (618)262-5151
(toll free at 1-877-262-7036)

Nicor Gas: 888.Nicor4U (642.6748)

North Shore Gas/Peoples Gas: 866-556-6005

Ameren Illinois: 800.755.5000

Liberty Gas: 1-855-872-3242

Consumers Gas Company: 618-382-4158
(toll free 800-322-4158)

Information for this article gathered from Illinois utilities companies and the Illinois Energy Association.

Don't Miss Important IEMA Information

Did you know - IEMA's website enables you to receive the latest news from IEMA as soon as it is posted. You can subscribe to the RSS feed for IEMA press releases at <http://www.illinois.gov/iema/Info/Pages/PressReleases.aspx>.

You will need a third-party RSS reader/aggregator software. There are many options to choose from ranging from web-based to mobile apps. If you are

using Microsoft Exchange, you can simply right click on the "RSS Feeds" folder and select "Add a new RSS Feed," then insert the address of the RSS feed.

Some browsers will have a "subscribe" link at the top of the page automatically. Clicking this link will add the subscription to a "Feeds" section of your browser's favorites or bookmarks.

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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