

# Inside IEMA

Monthly Newsletter



Illinois Emergency Management Agency

February 2019

## Message from the Director

Emergency management has evolved over time. Gone are the days only of worrying about tornadoes, floods and earthquakes. Today, our work includes new threats and challenges such as cyberterrorism, school safety and new emerging health viruses.

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency has been monitoring international and national events as it relates to the Coronavirus. We have also been coordinating with our local, state and federal partners – DHS, FEMA, HHS to name a few. We are also talking with other states to develop best practices. This open line of communication is key to quickly identify regional or national trends.

We have been enhancing the state's influenza plan for more than a year. In fact, last August we exercised that plan --- with all the players at the table – a scenario that looks a lot like what we are dealing with today.

The Governor's Homeland Security Executive Committee proposed that we establish an Inter-Agency Strategic Planning Cell to ensure our emergency plans are up to date to address new and emerging threats. Since the inception of Coronavirus, this team has been meeting on a regular basis, and is fully engaged in this health emergency.

It's important to note that health emergencies are not new to Illinois, or our Nation. We saw Ebola, H1N1 and Zika, and with each emergency we developed best practices and lessons learned. As a matter of fact, IDPH has a Preparedness Branch that works regularly with our agency to ensure the safety of our residents. We do this through regular tabletop exercises, revising our emergency plans, monitoring emerging threats and coordinating with our local, state and federal partners.

Based on the information available at this time, we do not see a need to alter our daily routine. However, the public has an important role in supporting our efforts to contain the spread of the virus. It's cold and flu season, there are simple things you can do to stop the spread of germs. Cover your cough, wash your hands and don't go to school or work if you are feeling ill. This is guidance we have been following for years and we should not stop now.

For additional information about the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, please visit [www.ready.illinois.gov](http://www.ready.illinois.gov).



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# ANNOUNCEMENT: Grant Opportunities

## Non-Profit Security Grants for Organizations Outside Cook County

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)/Illinois Terrorism Task Force has been notified of a grant opportunity for nonprofit organizations located outside of Cook County. The Fiscal Year 2020 Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)-States (S) will provide a total of \$1,100,000 in Illinois to eligible 501(c)(3) organizations who are deemed at high-risk of a potential terrorist attack.

**Deadline:** Complete applications from eligible non-profit organizations must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. CDT, Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

**More Info:**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/iema/ITTF/Pages/UASI-Grant-OutsideCook.aspx>

## Cook County Only: Non-Profit Security Grant (Urban Area Security Initiative)

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)/Illinois Terrorism Task Force received notification of a grant opportunity for non-profit organizations in one of the FFY 2020 UASI-eligible urban areas, including the Chicago Urban Area of Cook County and the city of Chicago. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 UASI Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) will provide a total of \$50,000,000 nationally to eligible 501(c)(3) organizations who are deemed at high-risk of a potential terrorist attack.

**Deadline:** Complete applications from eligible non-profit organizations must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. CDT, Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

**More info:**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/iema/ITTF/Pages/UASI-Grant.aspx>

## The Armor of God Recycled Ballistic Vests Program

Thousands of law enforcement professionals in the United States and around the world are working in dangerous environments, and they do not have a ballistic vest to protect them. In addition, thousands of officers are graciously provided new ballistic vests every five years. While the manufacturer warranty may be expired, often the vest will still effectively protect those that do not have one. The Armor of God Project recycles used ballistic vests and provides them to officers that need them.

**More info:** <https://vestforlife.com/>

## Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Assistance Program

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has a program to help emergency service entities obtain life-saving equipment as well as fire prevention, safety, and disaster preparedness educational tools. If your fire department or Fire Corps program is located in a community served by a Firehouse Subs restaurant, consider applying for needed equipment and/or fire prevention resources.

**More info:**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/iema/Pages/default.aspx>

Don't miss  
a funding  
opportunity!

# FEMA Holds Additional Nonprofit Security Grant Program Webinars

FEMA is hosting a series of webinars focused on the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. The grant program provides funding support for physical security enhancements to nonprofit organizations and promotes emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration between public and private community representatives as well as state and local government agencies.

Each webinar will present the same content, including an overview of the grant, information on program eligibility and allowable costs, and a moderated question and answer session. The

webinars will be held at 2:30 p.m. ET on the following days:

March 5  
March 12  
March 19  
March 26

If you have any questions regarding these webinars, please contact **FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate Information Desk** at 1-800-368-6498. Visit the **FEMA website** for more information on the NSGP.

# FEMA Accepts Youth Preparedness Council Applications

FEMA is now accepting applications through March 8 for its 2020 **Youth Preparedness Council (YPC)** from students in grades 8-11. The YPC gives youth the chance to meet peers from across the county to work together on exciting projects. Members will also travel to Washington, D.C., for the annual YPC Summit.

Since 2012, FEMA has brought youth together from across the U.S. who are passionate about preparedness and community service.

As part of the YPC, members can build leadership skills, represent their schools and communities, and share perspectives, feedback, and opinions with FEMA.



# FEMA



## NEW EMPLOYEES

- **Matthew Miller**, SPSA, OPS
- **Brandon Hendrix**, Staff Development Specialist, OPS

## TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

- **Jerry Miller**, Communications Equipment Tech I, OPS

## SEPARATION

- **Anita Patel**, Public Service Administrator, Fiscal
- **David Ellis**, NS Sr. Equipment Tech, DNS
- **Lisa Wieties**, PSA, Director's Office

## GPSI INTERNS

- **Faiza Luteify**, Fiscal
- **Sri Vaishnavi Kandukuri**, IT

# IEMA Announces Radon Awareness Campaign

Cold weather might put a damper on outdoor activities, but according to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) it is a great time to test your home for cancer-causing radon gas that has been found in nearly 40 percent of Illinois homes tested. IEMA is encouraging residents to be proactive and test for radon in their homes.

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is naturally produced from the soil. It can enter homes and buildings through small cracks in the foundation, sump pumps or soil in crawlspaces. Statistics show radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. An estimated 1,200 people in Illinois develop radon-related lung cancer each year. “Radon related health risks are preventable,” said IEMA Director, Alicia Tate-Nadeau. “Radon can be detected with a simple test and mitigated through well-established techniques. With greater awareness we can save lives.”

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is announcing several initiatives to increase public awareness of radon risks and ways to reduce radon exposure.

## Illinois Radon Poster Contest

IEMA and American Lung Association in Illinois (ALAIL) encourage Illinois school students to use their creative talents to promote radon awareness. The Illinois Radon Poster Contest is open to students ages 9-14. Entries are due by March 6. Prizes include \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place. For more information about the poster contest, visit the American Lung Association website:

<https://www.lung.org/local-content/illinois/our-initiatives/illinois-radon-poster-contest.html>.

## Illinois Radon Video Contest

High school students can also compete for prizes by participating in the Illinois Radon Video Contest. This contest requires students to produce a creative 30-second YouTube video about radon. An individual student, group of students or classroom, can create videos. Student prizes include \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place, \$500 for third place and \$250 for seven honorable mention videos. The winning video will be featured on the big screen in local movie theaters throughout the state.

Also new this year, participants can pre-register for the 2020 video contest before January 31 for a chance to



win a free short-term test kit. All videos, entry forms and release forms must be submitted by March 13. Details about the video contest are available on the .

## Most Views Contest

IEMA and ALAIL also created a contest that will reward a students' marketing and outreach skills. The top 10 submitted videos will be provided a link to share with their friends. At the end of contest, the student with the most video views will receive an additional \$300. Additionally, the schools of the top three winners will receive \$300, \$200 and \$100 for first, second and third places, respectively.

## Twitter Contest

New this year, all students are being encouraged to share their video submission on their Twitter account using the hashtag #2020ILRadonVideoContest. The tweet(s) with the most likes and most retweets will win a brand new GoPro. The twitter contest will run March 13-March 27.

“The goal of our Radon Action Month outreach activities is to get people to test their homes. Our youth do a great job of utilizing YouTube and social media platforms in their regular lives to share important and relevant information. We want them to do the same with radon,” said Kallie Sinkus with the American Lung Association of Illinois.

All contest prizes are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. IEMA, ALAIL and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 sponsor both contests.

For more information about radon, visit IEMA's radon website at [www.radon.illinois.gov](http://www.radon.illinois.gov). The website includes useful information about radon and lists of licensed measurement and mitigation professionals. Information is also available through IEMA's Radon Hotline at 800-325-1245.

## February is Earthquake Preparedness Month

While some hazards such as storms, tornadoes and floods can be forecasted in order to provide advance notice to residents in an area of danger, other hazards such as earthquakes cannot be predicted. Recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean are perfect examples that earthquakes can happen anywhere and at any time, including while you are at work, at home or on vacation. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that 500,000 detectable earthquakes occur in the world each year. The National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) locates about 20,000 earthquakes each year, or about 55 earthquakes each day.

Records indicate Illinois, and several other states in the central United States, experienced some of the largest earthquakes ever measured in North America. In recognition of the earthquake risk still posed today by the New Madrid and Wabash Valley seismic zones, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and local emergency management agencies will promote earthquake preparedness throughout February.

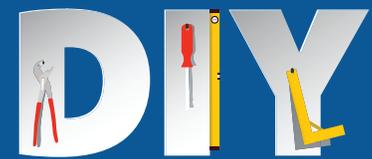
“Creating an environment of education, awareness and preparedness will save lives in Illinois,” said Alicia Tate-Nadeau, Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. “While we cannot predict when the next major quake will occur, we can help people learn how to protect themselves and reduce damage 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.

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 15 at 10:15 a.m. It’s never too early to register your participation in this potentially life-saving event. Register today at [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org).

Learn more about how you can prepare your home, business and family for an earthquake at [www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov).



## 5 Home DIY Projects for Earthquake Preparedness

- 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

# March is Severe Weather Preparedness Month



When most people think about dangerous spring weather, tornadoes and thunderstorms usually come to mind. But each year in the United States, an average of 104 people lose their lives in flood-related incidents, making flooding the number one severe weather killer. To help people better prepare for weather emergencies, IEMA and local emergency management agencies will be promoting Severe Weather Preparedness Month throughout the month of March.

The National Weather Service and state and local emergency management officials strongly encourage people to have a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) All Hazards Weather Radio with battery backup. These radios can be programmed to receive alerts for specified counties to keep you and your family apprised of impending weather and post-event information for all types of hazards including natural (earthquakes), environmental (chemical spills) and public safety hazards (AMBER alerts). When an alert is issued for the programmed area, the device will sound a warning alarm tone followed by the essential information.

“Building a culture of preparedness is how we increase disaster readiness in our everyday lives,” said Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. “Much like a

smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector, a NOAA weather radio is a life-saving device all families should own. This radio can alert you to impending weather or on-going hazards giving you advance notice you need to get your family to safety.”

In this day and age of families constantly on the go, it is also critical for people to have multiple ways to receive notifications and updated information about severe weather warnings. FEMA offers a FREE mobile app that provides fast and reliable weather alerts from the National Weather Service (NWS). The app can be tailored to offer alerts for up to five different locations nationwide. The mobile app can also help you locate open shelters and disaster resource centers near you in the event of an emergency.

For more information about what to do before, during and after a storm, please visit [www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov). There you will find a Severe Weather Preparedness Guide, developed by IEMA and NWS, which provides tips on how to prepare for all weather emergencies. Additional tips and information are available on the Ready Illinois Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ReadyIllinois](https://www.facebook.com/ReadyIllinois)) and Twitter page ([www.twitter.com/ReadyIllinois](https://www.twitter.com/ReadyIllinois)).

# Flood Preparedness

The National Weather Service suggests that abnormally moist ground conditions and unseasonably higher river levels in the upper Midwest could lead to a considerable risk for repeat flooding this spring. With this in mind, state officials are encouraging Illinois residents to consider flood insurance before the next flood occurs.

“Anywhere it rains, it can flood. You do not have to live in a river community to experience the devastating effects of flooding,” said IEMA Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. “What is important to remember about flood insurance is that this policy takes 30 days to take effect. That is why it is important to purchase and review your plan today in order to protect your family for the future.”

Looking back at 2019, the biggest disaster to impact our state was the devastating river flooding that occurred in more than 33 counties, impacting 2.1 million residents. While the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denied the State’s request for Individual Assistance to help residents get back on their feet following this historic disaster, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has provided more than \$19.7 million to Illinois homeowners who submitted flood insurance claims.

“The Illinois Department of Natural Resources administers the NFIP in Illinois, working with river communities to keep new development out of flood risk areas, protect existing development from flooding and encourage residents and business to insure property,” said IDNR Director Colleen Callahan. “The program not only protect homes and businesses in the event of a flood, but also helps mitigate perennially flooded areas, reducing the risk of flooding in the future. It really is a win-win for both the community and policy holders.”

Managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the NFIP enables homeowners, business owners and renters in communities that participate in the program and adopt local floodplain regulations to purchase federally backed flood insurance. Although nearly 90 percent of communities in Illinois participate in the NFIP, a few communities in Illinois have not adopted local floodplain regulations and have not enrolled in NFIP. In these communities, private flood insurance is available through licensed insurance agents. The agent who writes your homeowners or property insurance should be able to assist you in determining your eligibility and coverage options.

“Flooding is the most frequent and costly disaster in the U.S. with average flood insurance claim payments that can surpass \$100,000 depending on the disaster. So, private flood insurance can help fill the gap for those without NFIP coverage and offer higher amounts of coverage,” said IDOI Director Robert Muriel. “However, we recommend that consumers first check their eligibility for NFIP coverage because even if you do not live in a floodplain, you may still be able to purchase a preferred risk policy through NFIP. IDOI insurance analysts are available to answer consumers’ questions and give tips on purchasing private flood insurance.”

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) can help you determine whether your property is located in a high-risk or a moderate- to low-risk area. These maps can be found online at <http://msc.fema.gov>. Additional questions can be directed to a FEMA mapping specialist toll free at 1-877-336-2627. To find out if your community is enrolled in NFIP, visit <https://www.fema.gov/cis/IL.html>. For additional information about flood insurance, visit [https://www.insureonline.org/insureu\\_special\\_flood.htm](https://www.insureonline.org/insureu_special_flood.htm).



# March 2020 Training Schedule

## **MGT 318: Public Info in an All-Hazards Situation**

March 10 -11

ILEAS Training Center – Urbana

## **FEMA Basic Academy, L0104/L0146: HSEEP**

March 10-13

DuPage County EOC – Wheaton

## **AWR 326: Tornado Awareness**

March 17

DuPage County EOC - Wheaton

## **G775: EOC Management and Ops**

March 17 - 18

IEMA Dirksen Facility – Springfield

## **Radio Operator Training**

March 18 - 19

DuPage County EOC – Wheaton

## **HSEEP**

March 19 – 20

Cook County EOC – Oak Forest

## **Principles of Emergency Management**

March 24

DuPage County EOC – Wheaton

## **Principals of Emergency Management**

March 24 - 26

Will County EMA – Cherry Hill Rd Training Facility, Joliet

## **AWR 347: Climate Adaptation Planning for Emergency Management**

March 26

Cook County EOC – Oak Forest



**E0449 ICS CURRICULA TTT**  
**2/10/2020 - 2/14/2020**



**Congratulations to Wendell Brewer (Region 2) on his recent completion of E0449 Incident Command System Train-the-Trainer Course offered in Emmitsburg, Maryland.**

**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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