



**August 2007**

**NEW FEATURE:**

**Member Focus**

*This issue, Chuck Morris, Piatt County ESDA Coordinator*

# Emergency Management Network

A Publication of the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association

## From the President

Phil Anello, IPEM

Good day to you all. It has been a busy time for the IESMA Board as well as for the membership. As we continue our quest to provide a professional emergency management program to our jurisdictions let us utilize each other and the available resources to accomplish mutual goals.

To that end, I am very pleased as part of the Illinois Professional Emergency Manager (IPEM) Review Committee to see how much interest and experience there is across the state in meeting the objectives of this certification. IESMA, in conjunction with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, has worked hard to offer the IPEM program and I encourage those with Emergency Management responsibilities to pursue IPEM certification.

I also encourage your volunteers, and part- and full-time staff to take courses offered through IEMA and obtain a Professional Development Series (PDS) certificate. I don't need to tell you the benefits of trained personnel and there are a variety of courses that may concentrate on an area of your EOC that you feel needs more enhancement. The free IEMA courses are offered throughout the state year-round and are, in my opinion, the most economical training around. The PDS itself is a solid foundation for any Emergency Management personnel and is a required stepping stone in pursuit of the IPEM. Our job as Emergency Managers doesn't stop at the EOC door. Constant and needed professional development while time consuming should always be high on our list of priorities.

Please get to know your IESMA Regional Vice President (RVP). The RVP's role is to be a conduit for information and resources, and to bring your concerns and ideas back to the IESMA Executive Board. RVP contact information is on the back page of every newsletter and an RVP map is on the IESMA website.

Last but certainly not least, I am constantly amazed at what IESMA has accomplished and is working to accomplish. My sincerest gratitude to the Executive Board and the membership for their on-going hard work and support of the mission of the Association. I encourage all IESMA members to get involved in the opportunity to serve. There are many levels of participation and I would welcome an opportunity to serve with you. Anyone interested in getting involved in IESMA should contact your RVP or myself. I look forward to seeing you at the IEMA conference September 4-6, 2007 in Springfield.

Best regards.

Phil Anello, IESMA President

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## MEMBER FOCUS: Chuck Morris, Piatt County EMA

I grew up in Dalton City, Illinois in a town of 250 people just south and east of Decatur about 13 miles.

I married right out of high school and had three children about two years apart so I was never in the service. I remarried in 1972 after being single for four years. My oldest son is a retired Army Staff Sergeant with two children; my daughter is the Lincoln Wal-Mart Assistant Manager and she has two children and one grand-grandchild; and my youngest son is retired from the Navy and is married with two children.

My career started as a tire builder at the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company Decatur Plant in 1963 and then accepted a job as the Plant Fire Marshal. I also joined the volunteer Argenta/Oreana Fire Protection District and became an EMT in the first class offered in Decatur in 1972.

My job and the people I worked with in the volunteer Fire Service was very different than the corporate, full-time setting of the Plant Fire Marshal. I enjoyed and had fun in what we did. I retired from Firestone in 1994 after 31 years, and retired as the Fire Chief in my home area of White Heath in 1995.

While the White Heath Fire Chief my fire house assets were slim. We had a

two-car garage and two trucks with 14 firefighters covering 92 square miles.

When I retired, we had two buildings with four bays, and the buildings within five miles of each other. Other equipment included nine pieces of apparatus, three radio staff, and 30 fire fighters of which three ladies were part of our service. Such a wonderful experience and a great group of people to work with.

I have been in Emergency Services since 1963 but as an Emergency Manager since 1997 and was proud to serve as the IESMA President in 2003.

I do feel Emergency Management has evolved away from a State reliant program to a more local (county per county) capability especially using mutual aid. Of course, money is always an issue. Federal and State budgets are hamstrung and as a result our government agencies can't be as supportive as I wish they could be.

Other than funding, two of the biggest challenges counties such as Piatt face is getting people involved and then trained before something happens. Big things can happen in small areas, too, and while I know people will come out of the woodwork to help in a disaster, they may not be trained to be an affective asset to me as the Emergency Manager.



### The STATs on Chuck

Born: Dalton City, IL

Wife: Martha

Children: Son, daughter, son

Grandchildren: 6, 1 great-grandchild

Yrs. in E.M.: 44

I continue to enjoy my involvement at the county level and with IESMA. I wouldn't trade my experiences in Emergency Management for anything.

## News from Effingham County

- Effingham County will be hosting Texas A&M University's RISK ASSESSMENT class October 23-25, 2007. The free class is especially for Emergency Managers and LEPC personnel but is open to the general public.

To register, send or email your name, organization, and an email or snail mail address to:  
Effingham County EMA  
311 Miracle Avenue  
Effingham, IL 62401  
esda@frontiernet.net

- CSX Railroad will be in Effingham County on October 11th to present a tabletop exercise. CSX has new HazMat personnel and are reaching out to any county with CSX running through it. Contact Effingham County EMA for more information.

Learn more about the pipelines operating in your area and how to respond to a pipeline incident.

Meet local pipeline representatives.

*Coming this fall to a location near you -*

*FREE safety presentation and dinner*

*for Emergency Responders and Public Officials*

Visit us for more information, dates and times at

[www.ILNIPA.com](http://www.ILNIPA.com)



## School Emergency & Crisis Response Plan Template Available

Portions of a 9/6/06 Press Release From the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal Regarding the School Safety Drill Act:

"The new requirements significantly improve school emergency preparedness by, for the first time, setting clear, minimum requirements and standards for public and private school emergency planning. The law also requires schools to work closely with emergency first responder agencies in conducting annual reviews of the school emergency and crisis response plan.

Another part of the Governor's school security initiatives is also being implemented this school year. A new "School Emergency and Crisis Response Plan Template" was developed to provide schools with a single, comprehensive emergency planning guide. Staff from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) and the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) collaborated on the updated document, which replaced multiple, and often conflicting, guidance documents that previously were referenced by schools.

The "School Emergency and Crisis Response Plan Template" link is available on the ISBE website at: <http://www.isbe.net/safety/default.htm>."

**EOPs must be submitted by September 30, 2007.**

## Goal of New IESMA Survey: Making the Case for Local EM Resources

In recent times, our challenges to meet the requirements and needs as emergency managers have grown exponentially. We each understand the complexities and seemingly insurmountable requirements of our positions. Unfortunately, our village administrators, county board commissioners, and fellow public safety officials may not.

Based on a suggestion by our Region 9 Vice President, Russ Thomas, IESMA will soon be conducting a survey to collect data on a number of parameters we work within. Those include limited salaries, part- and full-time coordinators or other staff, and equipment and facilities; and often large jurisdictional

responsibilities with little resources to work with.

For maximum benefit, we are requesting all IESMA members to participate. Once the data is compiled it will be forwarded to the membership for its use in justifying your local emergency management role and needs including equitable payment for the vital services.

Currently, our intent is to circulate the survey at the IEMA Conference, and we may also post it on-line. We will notify you through the Regional Vice Presidents when the survey is out and how to participate. Thank you in advance for your time and participation.

## IESMA's Volunteer Management Initiative

### *Have You Had The VMST Training Yet?*

Did you know that IESMA is now the coordinating agency for the state asset Volunteer Management Support Team (VMST) and that the training is available to local EMA offices to help you prepare to manage spontaneous volunteers in a disaster?

The class is a 2.5 hour workshop which identifies all of the major positions and basic operations of a Volunteer Registration Center (VRC). History tells us that in a major disaster, people will come to your community to help. Hosting the class locally will help you and your team to be better prepared. Talk to your neighboring jurisdictions about

#### **Contact:**

Diane Logsdon  
Volunteer Program Coordinator  
(815) 728-1951 or 403-9389  
[logsdond@earthlink.net](mailto:logsdond@earthlink.net)

hosting a class soon.

We ask that you have at least 3 jurisdictions and 12 people in the class but we can accommodate up to 25 people. Also, we would be willing to schedule multiple classes on the same day to accommodate the schedule of your staff and/or volunteers. Call Diane Logsdon for more information or to schedule a class.

## IESMA Board Meeting Schedule

September 6, 2007  
IEMA Conference, Springfield

December 6-7, 2007  
Decatur Conference Center

February 14-15, 2008  
Decatur Conference Center

All IESMA members are invited to attend board meetings.

## From the IESMA Executive Director Lee Shannon III, aclasiii@aol.com

My compliments to the Newsletter Staff on an informative and professional publication. I have received numerous phone calls and emails from our membership expressing compliments on a job well done.

Those calls and emails triggered the idea of starting at "Letter to the Editor" column in our next newsletter. Mind you, we can all use constructive criticism but let's not put on our "boxing gloves." If you would like to submit a "Letter to the Editor," email Susan Vancil, IESMA Secretary at svancil@co.lake.il.us.

Since our last newsletter, more agencies have completed Mutual Aid Agreements with IESMA. Welcome Stephenson County EMA, Williamson

County EMA, Schaumburg EMA, Montgomery County EMA who have or are near completion of their agreements.

During the month of July some of the Illinois Incident Management Team members shadowed his/her position with National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) staff. Ten IMTs were deployed to the Zaca Wildland Fires to gain invaluable experience. Feedback has been very positive and will be passed on to the membership for discussion and possible implementation of a shadowing program. Good job, guys and gals!

The IEMA Conference is very near and compliments to IEMA on its on-line registration, which has greatly improved the registration process.

IESMA will be participating in the conference program with MABAS and ILEAS in breakout sessions. Also, three mutual aid partners will be part of a panel presentation and discussion in both afternoon breakouts on September 5. Let's hope we don't need our mutual aid systems before then!

IESMA will be a featured speaker at the IDOT Transportation Summit, September 17-19 at the Oakbrook Hills Resort. We will be talking about IESMA, its mission and its capabilities. These are always great opportunities to introduce ourselves to prospective new members both for IESMA and for understanding IEMMAS.

By the way, I encourage members to carry the IESMA torch onto new members. We are the premier Emergency Management professional association in the state if not in the region and we have a lot of resources and talent to share with new members. Pass it on!

## Faith-Based Organizations: An Asset You Can't Do Without in an Emergency

Submitted by Dave Christensen

I often talk of Faith-Based Organizations (FBO) in presentations and planning opportunities. The Illinois Team that went to Florida learned first hand how truly vital they were. Who among the team could forget Pace Assembly Church of God? The lesson was re-learned in Mississippi. Who knew the various denominations could provide so much with so little? I'm sure each one of us has local experience which has shown us this tremendous asset.

The link below is to the Homeland Security Institute's (HSI) study on the elevated role of FBOs in disasters:

[www.homelandsecurity.org/hsireports/Herald\\_Unheard\\_Voices.pdf](http://www.homelandsecurity.org/hsireports/Herald_Unheard_Voices.pdf)

As a result of the exhaustive FBO- NGO study, HSI offers 5 recommendations to government:

- 1) Encourage and learn from FBO and NGO best practices as identified
- 2) Support overlooked FBO services such as routine transportation, children's programs, and pop-up shelters in response and recovery planning
- 3) Include FBOs and NGOs in planning, coordination, integration, training, and exercises
- 4) Resolve challenges that face FBOs such as Access and Credentialing,



FEMA Photo: Leif Skoogfors

Long-term Services, Waste-Management and Sanitation

- 5) Reconsider the appropriate balance between government and FBO responsibilities at the local and higher levels which provide a good, quick and flexible response to disasters.

## Resources & More

**Illinois Winter Awareness Week**  
Nov 11-17, 2007

The **Federal Alliance for Safe Homes - FLASH**, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting disaster safety and property loss mitigation. Its mission: To promote life safety, property protection and economic well-being by strengthening homes and safeguarding families from natural and manmade disasters. See: [www.flash.org/index.html](http://www.flash.org/index.html)

**Emergency Management & Continuity Planning Online Certificate Program:**  
[www.emergencymanagement.uic.edu](http://www.emergencymanagement.uic.edu)

The Lt. Governor's "**Dam Safety Report**" was recently released. The executive summary is available at: [www.cdb.state.il.us/forms/download/DamSafetyReport.pdf](http://www.cdb.state.il.us/forms/download/DamSafetyReport.pdf). Also visit [www.damsafe.org](http://www.damsafe.org)

Link to the **Bacon Report's Top Ten Items to Disappear First During a National Disaster**: <http://baconreport.blogspot.com/2007/07/top-100-items-to-disappear-first-during.html>. Got milk?

IESMA Merchandise will be available for purchase at the IEMA Conference! Look sharp.

## Critical Connectors

Portions from Ellen Perlman's *Tech Talk*, December 2006, [Governing.com](http://Governing.com)

During emergencies, citizens and even some disaster workers depend on libraries for Internet connections to the world.

The don't pilot boars down hurricane-flooded areas or pull people from second-story windows. Nor do they wear uniforms, carry firearms or direct emergency vehicles. But library employees have been first responders nonetheless. People in coastal states who lost their homes to the wind and water of hurricane Katrina and Rita flocked to public computers housed in libraries. They filed insurance claims, connected with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, contacted family members and found out via the Internet what was happening in the communities they'd had to flee.

"For most people in the community, a public library represents a safe place," says Sharmin Smith, executive

director for the Mississippi Library Commission. And that's literally true. Libraries are usually housed in solid, well-constructed buildings, less likely than some other structures to be affected by Mother Nature. And virtually everyone in the community knows where they are.

John Carlo Bertot, a professor at the University State University and co-author of the "Public Libraries and the Internet 2006," said that despite a discouraging fiscal trend of libraries, "public libraries are taking on additional roles at their own expense...It's like no other government agencies open up their door and say, 'On the first floor, we have a lab and someone there to answer questions.'

Nor do libraries get much recognition for providing technology aid and assistance to disaster workers. During a local emergency in Florida, a

## Our Past Presidents

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*"If I have seen farther than others, it is because I was standing on the shoulder of giants."*

Isaac Newton

bookmobile with wireless access was commandeered by local emergency workers: They didn't have their own wireless vehicle and needed to make contact with resources.

In Pasco County, Florida, library staff are literally emergency responders. They organize and run the resident information center that gets activated during storms. They share a room in the emergency management office, which has phone banks and computers, taking calls from residents if the volume of those calls overwhelms emergency services personnel.

It's a natural fit for library workers who are used to answering questions and giving information and customer service. The only unnatural part: The staff has no emergency training. If governments are relying on library staffs to be purveyors of e-government and to engage in disaster-relief efforts, they should include library personnel in emergency training and exercises - to say nothing of offering course in how to prepare for their role in a disaster.

"We're trained to be information professionals," Bertrot says. "We're not trained as first responders."

## IESMA Newsletter

Newsletters are published quarterly. Any IESMA member may submit material for the newsletter.

Next Deadline: **November 1, 2007** for mid-November distribution. Email text and pictures to Susan Vancil, [svancil@co.lake.il.us](mailto:svancil@co.lake.il.us).

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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