



2011 IESMA Conference
Photo Gallery
Page 2



Illinois RACES Program
Page 5



IESMA-EMAT
Answers the Call
Page 8

IESMA Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Message from the President

Charles N. Genesis II

On behalf of the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association I want to personally congratulate everyone for the great success of the 2011 IESMA Conference. Without your dedication and participation in this year's conference it would not have been the great success it was. Some of the highlights of the conference were keynote speaker Region V Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Andrew Velasquez III. Administrator Velasquez spoke of the importance of communication, collaboration and cooperation as the foundation of any successful agency to foster cohesive partnerships and teamwork.

Notable speakers such as Congressman Aaron Shock, Illinois Emergency Management Agency Director Jonathon Monken, Illinois State Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis and Rick Rosenthal also delivered very informative talks. I would like to also extend a special thank you to all the vendors who participated in the conference educating participants about new products useful to emergency response and preparedness.

During the 2011 conference IESMA unveiled several new initiatives and projects that are slated for completion this year. IESMA's new 24 hour dispatch center (EM-COM) went operational April 19th. EM-COM serves as a control point for the movement and tracking of all IESMA resources including Emergency Management Assistance Teams and Generators. The IESMA-EMAT Mobile Operations Center Trailer is completed and was on display at the conference, this unit provides all the necessary technology and working space to assist the EMAT teams while on deployments throughout the State.

The new IESMA web site is still under construction and will be online in July; this will provide a state of the art tool to facilitate information to the association membership. The 2011 IESMA strategic plan was submitted to the membership which outlines the long term strategies, objectives, goals and milestones. This strategic plan outlines the upcoming projects and training deliverables for the coming year. Special congratulations to Jennifer Hamerlinck recipient of the O.D. Troutman Award, Mr. Ron McDermott recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, Mr. Curtis Hawk recipient of the Louise Tilford Pierce award, Lifetime Membership to longtime member and Past President Mr. Barry Valentine and Award of Appreciation to retiring Chairman of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force Mr. Mike Chamness. Congratulations to all of you and thank you for your dedication and service to our association.

Shortly after the IESMA conference Southern Illinois was affected by severe weather and flooding, this prompted the request and deployment of the IESMA EMAT teams throughout Southern Illinois from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The IESMA EMAT teams were deployed for the duration of the event providing critical support for Emergency Management Agencies throughout Southern Illinois. Dan Fulscher and staff in Logan County, Lee Shannon III and Curtis Hawk provided liaison duties at the State Incident Response Center during the flood events and provided all coordination and tracking of the teams during deployment.



The team's dedication and commitment during the flood response truly exemplifies the professionalism and character that was displayed representing our association.

Looking ahead there are many new challenges that face our profession with budget shortfalls, funding cuts and more requirements that demanded more for less. With your assistance I am confident we can work together to overcome these obstacles and the challenges that await us. Your continued support, dedication and participation in the association will not only steer a path to success but continue to enhance our Emergency Management Profession throughout the State leading by example.

Very Respectfully,

Charles N. Genesis II

Illinois Emergency Services Management Association

2011 Annual Conference and Training Event



Embassy Suites Conference Center
East Peoria, Illinois
April 13-16, 2011



IESMA

"Coordinating the efforts of its members in a common cause to protect the lives and property of the citizens we serve"



ITTF Chairman Mike Chamness – IESMA Award of Appreciation



Ron McDermott – IESMA Distinguished Service Award

2011 IESMA Conference & Training Event Thank You for Attending!

The conference organizers would like to thank all of you who attended our annual Illinois Emergency Services Management Association Conference at the Embassy Suites, E. Peoria, IL.

I was tasked this year from our Past President, John Simon as the Chairman of the Conference Committee for IESMA by helping to coordinate the attendees, hotel rooms, conference center and vendors for the annual IESMA conference. Attendance continues to grow with this year's conference attended by over 155 participants and 18 Vendors. Our participants came from virtually every county in Illinois with representation from different disciplines such as emergency management, police, fire, EMS, public health and others. In addition, the conference was attended by state, federal, not-for-profit, volunteer and non-governmental representatives from across Illinois and surrounding states.

We owe a special thanks to YOU, Our Members and to all our sponsors whose generosity made the conference possible. It is the support of business leaders and community members that make such conferences possible and we are grateful for your commitment in attending. Lastly, we are deeply indebted to the numerous committee members and other volunteers who gave freely of their time and energy to make this possible. They worked so that others could showcase their work and their good humor, high spirits and drive made this conference not only possible but a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Thank you all very much and we look forward to seeing you at our IESMA Conference again next year.

Again let me thank the Conference Committee, the Volunteers, the Executive Board, and most of all every one of the Attendees and Vendors.

Sincerely,

Curtis Hawk
IESMA Conference Committee Chairman



Curtis Hawk – Louise Tilford Pierce Award



Illinois Emergency Services Management Association
2011 Conference & Training Event



Jennifer Hamerlinck - O.D. Troutman Award



ILLINOIS RACES?

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Brad Pioveson, Illinois State RACES Officer

Despite the acronym, the Illinois RACES program has nothing to do with either NASCAR or fast horses. The acronym stands for Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service and it's a federally supported emergency communications program.

The RACES program has been around since Dwight Eisenhower was U.S. President. RACES was created in the early days of the Cold War when federal planners realized that a nuclear attack on the U.S. would result in communications chaos. The President would, at the first sign of an attack, silence all of the tens of thousands of amateur radio operators in the U.S., along with the commercial broadcasters, save for the few that were authorized CONELRAD stations (CONELRAD for you youngsters was a program which utilized AM radio broadcast stations in a manner that served as the early forerunner of the EAS alerting system of today).

The local Civil Defense agencies which relied upon citizen hams for their communications needs all across the country would have effectively been silenced. RACES was developed to allow these local and state agencies to participate in a government-sponsored emergency communications program using the services of local amateur radio operators who were members of the Civil Defense organization and, thus, under the control of that agency.

Hardly a Civil Defense group in the country, back in the late 50's and early 60's was without at least one amateur radio transmitter, housed in a distinctive bright yellow cabinet and emblazoned with the distinctive 'CD' logo.

Operators of these radios were enrolled in the RACES program and grant funds were available to help localities obtain the needed equipment and to train volunteers to operate in the RACES environment. Regular RACES on-air drills were commonplace throughout the decades that followed.

Time and technology marched forward. Recognizing its continued usefulness, FEMA assumed control of RACES after the FCC discontinued the issuance of special RACES licenses to government agencies. Most U.S. states, notably those subject to quasi-regular major disasters such as hurricanes, continued to embrace the RACES program. The State of Illinois' EMA, then called 'IESDA,' dropped the RACES program in 1993.

Since 1993, it's been learned from bitter experiences that communications interoperability is vitally important. Certainly, the tragedy of 9/11/01 amply demonstrated that fact. Katrina further drove that point home, and, then added another dimension, illuminating with perfect clarity the fragility and danger of relying wholly upon infrastructure-dependent communications.

The brief history lesson is to point out that RACES is a program that's been around for a very long time and has its roots firmly planted in emergency management communications. In Illinois, where RACES has been absent for a generation, it's a program that is still largely misunderstood. Illinois local emergency managers have, in many cases, been hesitant to accept the aid of volunteer, federally licensed amateur radio operators in their EM programs because, and, I'm generalizing, here, 'They are volunteers and we can't control them.' That much is true.



The typical ham (amateur radio operator) may or may not have taken the initiative to be exposed to ICS and NIMS, and, truth be told, may or may not have had any training of any kind. Sometimes, guys with handie-talkies festooning their belts show up at disaster sites, waving around a ball cap emblazoned with a strange looking concoction of letters and numbers, and, announce that they are HAMS and are there to help. More often than not, these spontaneous volunteers are unwanted, unwelcome, and are offered the opportunity to leave the area, lest they be the recipients of a free ride in a new car with pretty lights on its roof. Not all hams, however, are created equal. There are those that are dedicated and committed to providing emergency communications when and where needed. There are two emergency communications programs that can be of value to the local emergency manager. These programs are ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) and RACES. ARES is a program of the American Radio Relay League – amateur radio's national organization. ARES is an all-volunteer conflagration of affiliated amateur radio operators who have volunteered their time, equipment, and talents for emergency communications. ARES groups, typically, are organized at the county level. The ARES program is not, specifically, under anyone's direct control, although formal agreements, i.e., memoranda of understanding, with ARES groups exist at national, state, and, local levels.

(Continued Next Page – See RACES)

(RACES - Continued)

ARES members are volunteers who may or may not have had any emergency communications or ICS/NIMS training or be affiliated with an EMA. ARES programs are stronger, better trained, and more fully capable in those states where large scale natural disasters are common simply because the volunteers and the emergency management community realize the need for a fail-safe back up communications system.

RACES is, today, in the 21st century, still a government program. Each local emergency manager is free to create his or her own RACES program. Accomplishing this feat can be as simple as downloading a template RACES plan from website and signing it. The members of a RACES organization are still mandated by federal regulation to be members of that emergency management agency. Only that emergency manager (or designee) may activate that RACES group. Once activated, the RACES station(s) may only communicate with other RACES stations – whether those other stations are in that same jurisdiction or elsewhere. In other words, in a widespread, major disaster during which time RACES units across a wide area are activated, these units may communicate only with any of the other RACES units.

Most states have RACES programs. Again, not surprisingly, in states prone to the occurrence of semi-regular natural disasters, such as states that lie in 'Hurricane Alley,' have very active RACES programs. Illinois only recently joined the list of RACES-states. On January 29, 2010, Andrew Velasquez III, then serving as Director of IEMA, created the Illinois RACES program.



An often heard question from emergency managers is why would they want (much less, need) to create a RACES program when they already have, a) all the communications capabilities they need thru StarCom21 and their existing land mobile radio (V/UHF FM) systems, and/or, b) they already have an arrangement with the local ARES group or amateur radio club. Here's why RACES is a good fit for local emergency management agencies:

Starcom21 (SC21) is a very capable trunked 700/800 MHz communications system. On any given day, SC21 can provide the services its users want and need. SC21 is not, however, immune from system failures. Like any complex system, the technology which makes SC21 perform can be problematic. Moreover, SC21 communications relies upon towers, antennas, landlines and telephone infrastructure to work its communications magic. Recently, in one southern Illinois county, a crew installing new fiber optic conductors for a telephone system inadvertently cut the existing line – the one upon which that county's SC21 and 911 systems relied – not once, but twice in two days. Amateur radio operators were asked to bridge the communications gap by assisting with vital hospital-to-hospital communications during that outage. Frequent software bugs have shown up in the SC21 system causing large areas of SC21's coverage areas to be left wanting for communications. And, then, we have Mother Nature, who always seems to be scheming to wreak havoc upon whatever we build and set up on hills and tall buildings.

Land mobile radio systems, just like SC21, rely upon repeater systems and high antennas. Down in the southern end of the state, those tower or building-mounted antennas may not survive major earthquakes from the New Madrid or Wabash Valley fault zones. .



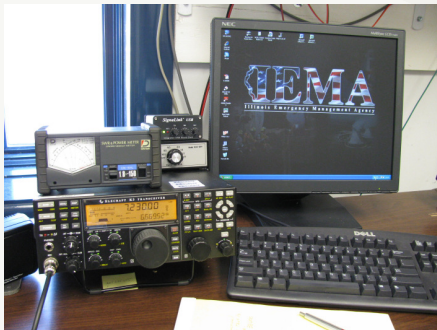
IESMA's Communications Committee Chairman Jim Pitchford serves as Deputy State RACES Officer for Illinois. Pictured here, Mr. Pitchford is seated at the State RACES Station located at IEMA in Springfield.

If you already have an arrangement with a local ARES group or amateur radio club, that's a great start toward building a fail-safe, contingent emergency communications system. The RACES system offers you the opportunity to use those same volunteers – once they've enrolled in your EMA, become members of your RACES unit, and, undergone whatever background checks and training your agency mandates. When these volunteers are not activated as a RACES unit, they are free to operate under the ARES banner and to support public service events, hold limitless drills and exercises, and, to assist in other communications needs your agency might have. Having the 'dual-hatted' RACES/ARES members benefits all concerned, as federal restrictions on activated RACES unit communications and on the number and duration of drills and exercises can be onerous.

The RACES program is administered through the office of IEMA's Communications Officer, Steve Jackson. All of the Illinois RACES personnel are unpaid volunteers. The State RACES Officer is appointed by IEMA's Director and has two deputies. Each IEMA Region has a RACES Officer and two deputies.

The Illinois RACES program maintains a fully equipped communications installation at 4800 Rodger Street in Springfield.

(Continued Next Page – See RACES)



RACES (Continued)

Locating the station away from the State EOC allowed the installation of more (and, more effective) antenna systems. The facility in which the RACES station is housed is provided with automatic, diesel-powered AC generation facilities. A 24/7/365 email-over-HF server system operates from that location, and, the station is configured to provide complete coverage of Illinois via HF, VHF and UHF radio systems. Additionally, the station is equipped with StarCom21 and IEMA VHF low- and high-band LMR transceivers, Internet and state intranet, telephone and FAX services.

All of the foregoing is intended to encourage you, if you haven't already done so, to consider creating a local RACES unit. It's easy to accomplish. A sample, fill-in-the-blank template can be downloaded from the IESMA website. No hams in your county, you say? Not so. There are approximately 22,000 licensed amateur radio operators in Illinois, and, even the most rural of counties have active hams. Having a fail-safe, contingent emergency communications system built into your emergency plan, as the TV commercials might say, is 'priceless.'

If you have questions about how to start your RACES program, more information, including that sample, boilerplate county RACES plan, can be found at www.iesma.org or you may contact the State RACES Officer at ema.races@illinois.gov

THE LOCAL SCOOP

Champaign County Emergency Management Agency has a new Deputy Director. Deputy Director John Dwyer comes to CCEMA from the Champaign Urbana Public Health District. He was the Emergency Planner for them for the last 8 years.

Effingham County is now StormReady thanks to the efforts of EMA Director and IESMA 1st Vice President Russ Thomas and Staff. Congratulations Effingham County!

Back To Basics: Disaster Declarations

Every emergency manager should understand the basics as it relates to a local disaster declaration. In Illinois, local disaster declarations are governed by Section 11 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act (20 ILCS 3305/11) which clearly states that a local disaster declaration is intended to activate and implement a local jurisdictions emergency operations plan (EOP) and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under the EOP.

Section 11 provides that a local disaster may only be declared by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision, which would include a mayor, village president or county board chairman. Additionally, it is important to note that any duly designated interim emergency successor, acting under the authority of the Emergency Interim Executive Succession Act (5 ILCS 275 et seq), may declare a disaster. Once a local disaster has been declared it may not be continued or extended in excess of seven days unless said continuance or extension is consented to by the governing board of the jurisdiction (i.e., village, city or county board).



David H. Searby Jr., IPEM, CEM
Emergency Management Coordinator
Perry County Emergency Management Agency

When a declaration has been issued, whether initially or extended, the declaration itself must be given both prompt publicity and be filed with the clerk of the respective jurisdiction, which would be the county clerk for counties or a municipal/village/township clerk for a local jurisdiction.

As part of local planning efforts, emergency managers should make it a priority to educate their principal executive officer and governing board on the basic process involved in declaring a disaster.

Emergency managers should also consult their appropriate legal counsel in regards to disaster declarations, which could also include the development of pre-drafted declarations, etc.

WE WERE READY

IESMA's Emergency Management Assistance Teams (EMAT) assist local emergency managers and the State of Illinois in response to historic flooding.

At the IESMA Conference, the IESMA-EMAT – Illinois Emergency Services Management Association-Emergency Management Assistance Team (formerly known as the IESMA-MST) rolled out the new team, coinciding with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency's new initiatives. During the conference, the IESMA-EMAT was asked to assist with a search for a lost child. Before the selected team was able to get on the road, the requesting Sheriff had called back with the child found safe and sound.

Another first was the unveiling of the new IESMA-EMAT Trailer. Many conference attendees were able to take a tour through the trailer and see the how the trailer can be a valuable asset during any emergency or event. The IESMA-EMAT Trailer will be housed at the McLean County EMA and is ready to deploy at a moments notice.

Weather forecasts during the early spring indicated that the IESMA-EMAT would be called upon to assist IEMA and local jurisdictions on widely forecasted flood filled spring.

Mid April as the rain fell, Southern Illinois' rivers and floodplain rose to record levels and forced IEMA to activate 34 of the current 45 members to assist in several counties in Southern Illinois. The region was also hit with several rounds of severe weather. Over a 13 day period, the IESMA-EMAT worked over 2300 hours.

During this deployment, some of the IESMA-EMAT members worked alongside the IL-IMT (Illinois Incident Management Team). The two teams functioned as if they had worked together all the time. I am sure that this process will happen again and again.

Another advantage during the deployment came in the way of getting jurisdictions to become part of the Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System – IEMMAS. Because of new appointments, or just not being aware of the mutual aid, several counties were not part of the system. IESMA-EMAT members provided agreements to each of the jurisdictions who were not part of the system. Since then a majority of the affected jurisdictions have or are in the process of completing the documents.

As I stated earlier, the biggest advantage of this deployment came in the form of an increase in team members. Several emergency managers were asked to assist IESMA-EMAT as the deployment carried on and member availability became limited. Shortly after the conclusion, these extra personnel have chosen to complete the process and become members of the IESMA-EMAT team.

Recent weather events have brought on additional requests of IESMA. Recently generators purchased with ITTF Grant monies were deployed to western Illinois and now more recently to Northeast Illinois after sever storms damaged the electrical systems in both areas. The IESMA-EMAT Trailer has also been deployed to two planned events.

As chairman of the IESMA-EMAT Committee, I would like to thank everyone who assisted in the deployments to date, the distribution of resources, and the hard work by the Committee to provide the sound foundation that is being built to support and further the IESMA-EMAT.



Lee Shannon III, IPEM
IESMA-EMAT Chairman

I would like to further encourage anyone interested in becoming part of the teams to contact any of the Team Leaders.



EMAT Assisting Massac County EOC



EMAT-1
EMAT's New Mobile Operations Trailer



Contact Info

Name	Email Address	Telephone Number	Position
------	---------------	------------------	----------

State-Wide Elected Officers			
Chuck Genesisio	cgenesisio@comnetus.net	618-542-3285	President
Russell Thomas	esda@Frontiernet.net	217-536-6169	1st Vice-President
Ryan M. Buckingham	ryan.buckingham@franklincountyema.com	618-439-4362	2nd Vice-President
Sue Vancil	svancil@co.lake.il.us	312-729-6246	Association Secretary
Nancy Schilling	nancejay@hotmail.com	618-826-5000	Association Treasurer

Contractual Staff			
Danielle Moore Emergency Management Grant Coordinator/ Project Manager 1701 E. Main Urbana, Illinois, 61802 Office: (217) 531-0484 Fax: (217) 328-3845 dleades@ileas.org			

Past Presidents (ACTIVE)			
John Simon	jsimon@co.adams.il.us	217-277-2005	Immediate Past President
Joseph Victor	Joe.Victor@douglascountyil.com	217-253-9538	Past President
David Christensen	n9wil@sbcglobal.net	847-843-4839	Past President
Phil Anello	phil.anello@illinois.gov	217-424-1327	Past-President
Dan Fulscher	loganetsb@lincolnil.us	217-732-9491	Past-President
Tom Smith	TSmith@palatine.il.us	847-359-9056	Past-President
Chuck Morris	esda99@monticello.net	217-762-8174	Past-President
Bill Keller	bkeller101@gmail.com	217-384-3826	Past-President
Lee Shannon	aclasiil@aol.com	847-395-9462	Past-President
Leon Duncan	leonduncan@ctitech.com	217-287-7627	Past-President
Barry Valentine	blvalent@co.mchenry.il.us	815-338-6400	Past-President
James Pitchford	ema@macoupincountyil.gov	217-854-3352	Past-President

Regional Vice-Presidents			
Kent McKenzie	kmckenzie@co.lake.il.us	847-377-7100	Region 1 Vice-President
OPEN			Region 2 Vice-President
Michael Loesch	mloesch@elkgrove.org	847-734-8025	Region 3 Vice-President
Jim Goldasich	jmgold@nabbnet.com	815-882-2460	Region 4 Vice-President
Norm Sturm	norm.sturm@dupageco.org	630-682-7925	Region 5 Vice-President
Bob Fitzsimmons	esda@jacksonvilleil.com	217-479-4616	Region 6 Vice-President
Curtis Hawk	curtis.hawk@mcleancountyil.gov	309-888-5020	Region 7 Vice President
Larry Ringering	llringering@co.madison.il.us	618-939-8681	Region 8 Vice-President
Jess Angle	LCEMA@frontier.net	618-936-3302	Region 9 Vice-President
Alan Ninness	ema@salinecounty.illinois.gov	618-252-8661	Region11 Vice-President

If you have questions, comments, suggestions, or would like to submit an article for the IESMA Newsletter, please contact the editor Ryan Buckingham.

Ryan M. Buckingham
618-439-4362
ryan.buckingham@franklincountyema.com