



Fleet & Equipment Showcase  
Page 2

○ VOLUME 14 | ○ ISSUE 1 | ○ AUGUST 2014



ON THE RADAR:  
McHenry County Volunteers  
Page 3



IESMA News  
SPECIAL REPORT  
Page 7

# IESMA News

A PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

## Message from the IESMA President

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this as your association's president. I am excited to serve all of you. There are many things going on right now and what a busy time of year it is. In May we held a fantastic conference and had many great speakers. I hope those of you that attended were pleased and was able to learn and network with each other. For those of you that were not able to attend, we missed you and hope to see you at the IEMA Conference in September. We held a very successful conference and we couldn't have done it without the help from the conference committee and other members who stepped up and pitched in to make it a successful conference. Please know you all are appreciated. Special thanks to Hanover Township for providing a great networking event during the conference as well.

We introduced new bylaw changes during our annual meeting this year at the conference. This is to help sustain the organization by opening up the memberships that are eligible to run for elected officers of your association. I encourage you all to go to the IESMA website and take a look at the proposed legislation and submit your comments for review.

*Kevin Sargent*

This is an important process to allow you the members to weigh in on any changes in the constitution and bylaws that affect you.

We have just completed our involvement in the Statewide Capstone 14 exercise with EMAT and IMT working alongside each other to continue to support each other during deployments. Thank you to the EMAT and IMT members involved and we look forward to continued successes together. We are constantly forging relationships and creating partnerships to work together during real world events.

Our last Executive Board and committee meetings were held July 10 and 11, 2014 in Du Page County. Thank you to those who were able to attend to see what your elected and appointed representatives are working on for your association.

Special thanks to Director Joseph and his staff of Du Page Co. Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management hosting IESMA and your elected officers and committee members.



**Kevin Sargent**  
**IESMA President – 2014-2015**

The IEMA Conference registration is open and if you haven't already done so, please sign up to attend. There are many great topics and speakers lined up for our learning experiences. I hope to see all of you there and attend our membership meeting. The date will be announced soon.

As always we are planning and preparing for our next disaster and or deployment. Remember always stay safe, stay connected and serve graciously. Thank you for being a member of IESMA.

**facebook**

Like us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/IESMA.org](http://www.facebook.com/IESMA.org)



# Fleet & Equipment Showcase

Featured Photos from Around the Land of Lincoln  
Photo Credit to the Originating Agency



McHenry County Emergency Management Agency – Unit 52



Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency – IESMA-EMAT-5



Clinton County Emergency Management Agency - Marine Unit



# ON THE RADAR: McHenry County Volunteers

By: IESMA News Desk

Eighteen McHenry County Emergency Management volunteers received the 2013 U.S. Presidential Volunteer Service Award for their volunteer contributions in service to McHenry County. County Board Chairwoman Tina Hill and Law and Justice Chair Sue Draftkorn made the presentations. Each volunteer invested at least 100 hours in Search and Rescue, Emergency Communications, Weather Alerts, Support Division, and countless other missions of the Agency.

"Caring volunteers are the backbone of emergency management agencies across the nation. Recognizing and honoring our volunteers sets a standard for service, inspires others to make volunteering a central part of their lives, and encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation on behalf of the McHenry County citizens." – Tina Hill, Chairwoman

Two members have received the Presidents Lifetime Award which is only given to those with more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service.

Established in 2003, the President's Volunteer Service Award is available on an annual basis to individuals, groups and families who have met or exceeded requirements for volunteer service and have demonstrated exemplary citizenship through volunteering.

### President's Volunteer Service Bronze Award

Jeffery Schulman  
Edward Stipulin

### President's Volunteer Service Silver Award

Erik Jacobsen  
Patrick Ryan

### President's Volunteer Service Gold Award

Scott DeSantis  
Thomas Esser  
Lawrence Homa  
James Horton  
Robert Leracz  
Alan Lubow  
Timothy McNamara  
James Neumann  
James Rospopo  
Wendell Smith  
John Zelz  
Susan Zwierzycki

### President's Volunteer Service Lifetime Award

Robert Locke  
William Early



The President's Volunteer Service Award program is granted by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, which recognizes volunteer contributions to communities and promotes more service. The award applauds and honors Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

"I could not be more proud of our volunteers and their cheerful willingness to aid our residents." Stated David Christensen, Director of McHenry County Emergency Management.

# Hanover Township Emergency Services Weather Spotters Featured in Chicago Tribune



With spring moving out and summer moving in, Hanover Township weather spotters will begin to deploy around the community as severe weather approaches. These specially trained volunteers are members of the Hanover Township Emergency Services Unit.



Whenever a severe thunderstorm warning, tornado watch or warning, is issued for the Hanover Township area by the National Weather Service (NWS), the unit members are dispersed in marked vehicles to predetermined spotting locations around the Township to keep watch on the sky for funnel clouds, high winds and hail. Through radio communications the volunteers stay in touch with their base station and should a tornado be observed, the local emergency dispatch centers would be alerted and advised to activate their warning sirens to sound the alarm. The local NWS office and surrounding Emergency Management Agencies would also be notified of the sighting.

"Weather spotters are trained on a reoccurring basis to make sure the most up-to-date techniques and technologies are being used to better service their reporting," said Craig Essick, Director of Hanover Township Emergency Services. "When bad weather approaches, most people move inside while these volunteers deploy and provide a valuable service to our community."

In 2013, severe weather caused more than 440 fatalities, nearly 2,800 injuries and almost 9 billion dollars in property damage. Severe weather knows no boundaries and affects every individual.

Every family should be prepared in the event of severe weather. An emergency supply kit should include: battery operated radio, flashlight, extra batteries, 3 gallons of water per person, in a food-grade, plastic container, minimum three-day supply of non-perishable food that requires no preparation or refrigeration and little or no water. To view all the items for a basic disaster supply kit, please visit <http://www.ready.gov/kit>.

The Hanover Township Emergency Services Unit is trained to respond to a wide range of emergencies and non-emergency events to either assist primary emergency responders or operate independently in times of natural and man-made disasters. This dedicated group of professional volunteers exists to provide a properly equipped, trained and ready unit to assist Hanover Township residents and the public safety agencies that serve them.

For questions about weather spotting or if you are interested in joining the Hanover Township Emergency Services Unit, please call 630-837-0301 or email [hates@hanover-township.org](mailto:hates@hanover-township.org).

Full article available here: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/schaumburg-hoffman-estates/community/chi-ugc-article-hanover-township-weather-spotters-ready-for-s-2014-06-19,0,7469262.story>



# EM-COM Report



**Bucky Washum**  
EM-Com Supervisor

Bucky Washum, Supervisor of the EM-COM Communications Center at Logan County has reported to the IESMA News Desk that operations at EM-COM are growing stronger each day. IESMA/Logan County has assumed the responsibility for overseeing the IESMA Generator and Command Trailer Cache from ILEAS. New agreements have been sent to all 12 Generator Sites and 4 Command Trailer Sites. The new agreements should be finished by the end of August 2014.

IESMA-EMAT is once again in the planning stages for a training exercise. This will be held on September 2, 2014, at the IEMA Conference. There will be two (2) EMAT Command Trailers, 1 Generator, and approximately 30 personnel attending. Plans are to invite several IMT Liaisons to view the exercise in hopes of planning a combined EMAT/IMT exercise at the next IESMA Conference.

The Annual Generator Maintenance program for the 12 Sites has been in progress for the past 2 months. This should be completed by the August SIRC Briefing if all goes well.



## GET IN THE KNOW

*With Alana Sorrentino*

**Name: Alana Sorrentino**  
**Position: Emergency Management Intelligence Officer at STIC**



Alana started her career in 2008 when she decided to complete a bachelor's degree in emergency management and minor in law enforcement at Western Illinois University. Western provided her with the first glimpse of a career in emergency management. After school, she started a internship with Hoffman Estates Emergency Management Agency trying to learn as much as she could about the position. Shortly, after the internship she was offered a full time position at Logan County Emergency Management Agency as Hazardous Material Specialist. At Logan County she spent almost four years in the position learning about hazardous material planning as well as coordinating a full scale exercise and numerous other activities.

In November of 2013, Alana accepted an emergency management intelligence officer position at the Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC). This position also entailed being a liaison to the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association. As the Emergency Management Intelligence Officer at STIC, she is providing emergency management professionals with intelligence bulletins at an Unclassified / For Official Use Only (U//FOUO) level. After the development of the Emergency Management Information Sharing Program, she started collecting information on special events to provide STIC with a situational awareness of events occurring throughout the state of Illinois. If anyone has any questions or interest in joining the Emergency Management Information Sharing Program please contact feel free to contact her:

**Alana Sorrentino**  
**Emergency Management Intelligence Officer | Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center**  
**Liaison | Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA)**  
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## Illinois Terrorism Task Force Emergency Management Committee Update



David Christensen  
Committee Co-Chairman

A note from your ITTF EM Committee Chairs, Dan Fulscher and David Christensen. The EM Committee is never as busy as we were in the heyday grant years, when money flowed from the Federal coffers to meet the terrorist threat. However, facing the challenges of a retracted economy, difficult times for most of our colleagues and the agencies they represent, and increasingly challenging weather – we did adjust our focus and priorities.

High among these was the support and outfitting of the IESMA-EMAT Teams. EMAT-1 received a companion in the guise of EMAT-2. EMAT-2 took some lessons learned from the first and is a little leaner and meaner. It finally made its debut at the 2014 IESMA Conference. A parallel effort was to repurpose and outfit the former VMST trailers. Formally, just equipment haulers, these twin axle, eighteen foot wonders have climate control and communications suites. All four are ideal compliments to our trained EMAT teams. They assist in whatever role local emergency management task them with. Having received aide from EMAT, it's nice to know they come ready to work, with their own tools, skills, and abilities. They do not burden your local communications or technology infrastructure. All possible through the ITTF funding stream. This is coordinated through EM-COM with its dedicated professionals and the EMAT Team Leads.

Another major effort of the EM Committee has been the collaboration with other committees/disciplines/functions. Our primary success has been with the Private Sector. We identified, almost immediately the need for open communications and mutual understanding at the local level. The mission has been modified slightly but our main goal is not so much the acquisition of goods during a disaster, but the reinstatement of normalcy of our private sector partners. Providing access to their businesses, establishing transportation corridors for goods and employees, and relaxation of ordinances and regulations that inhibit businesses from getting up and running have been the chief goals of this collaborative effort. Also, thanks to some great work by Sara Alexander, we have moved forward on a template plan for county and municipal EOC's to provide a "seat" in their EOC's to assist in coordination and acquisition of needed resources.

A moving target for the committee has been the incident management software conundrum. The EM Committee has relayed your concerns, successes, and implementation efforts. We have worked hard to insure there is some consistency in the efforts of the state and our partners. Some phenomenally resourceful emergency managers have found very clever ways of using existing and modified tools to do our jobs. Most notably, instant update to GIS systems of damage assessment, aerial damage assessment, and common operating picture enhancement. We have emphasized the need for interoperability across the many platforms already in use.

Chairman Kauerauf and Director Monken noticed that some of the strategic goals of the ITTF had received little, if any, attention from an investment of dollars perspective. They challenged the committees of the ITTF to determine if they were still valid, and how could we address them. Among these were cyber security, disaster housing (mass care), critical infrastructure assessment, catastrophic planning, and school disaster response. With your input, and that of the EM Committee members we provided a relatively comprehensive review of these strategic goals. Discussion ranged from the simple to complex possibilities. Concerns and worry outpaced solutions. Cyber security, for instance, is seemingly beyond our local ability to combat. Yet, the implications of a 911 shutdown due to a cyber attack are terrifying. We continue to work with our ITTF partners to find cost effective, threat and risk based solutions to these and other challenges.

Although this is not a complete list of the tasks and projects, it should give you an idea of contributions of the EM Committee to the ITTF, as well as the emergency management community. We look forward to another challenging and rewarding year serving you. Dan and David also welcome your input on any EM Committee topic or potential topic.

**IESMA News :**

**SPECIAL  
REPORT**

Illinois  
**2-1-1**  
*Get Connected. Get Answers.*

**Special Thanks To:**

**Jen Nettleton  
Illinois 2-1-1**

With the crazy weather events of the last few years, it's got a lot of people thinking, "what would I do if a disaster happened in my area?" In the past, the process of figuring out who to call for what could lead to hours of calls and run around. But now, with the expanding service of 2-1-1, you can call one place to help find answers to your questions.

2-1-1 is a telephone service available in an increasing number of counties throughout Illinois. By dialing 2-1-1, you can have 24/7 access to trained operators that provide information on health and human services. In the event of a disaster, they will have information on food, shelter, and other basic needs, as well as ongoing services for future recovery.

For anytime when you may need help and guidance in navigating the world of health and human services, pick up the phone and dial 2-1-1. 2-1-1 is there to help you find the quickest path to the services you may need.

According to their website: Every hour of every day, someone in Illinois needs help locating and connecting with essential community services. On February 11, 2009, 2-1-1 made its debut in 13 counties to help residents find fast, free and confidential help for health and human services in McLean, DeWitt and Livingston Counties.

2-1-1 is for times of non-emergency crisis as well as for everyday needs. The 2-1-1 call specialists are available to help individuals locate health and human service assistance, on everything from mortgage assistance, EITC tax help and food and shelter, to job counseling services and health resources. 2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects people with important community services, such as:

- **Basic Human Needs:** such as food, shelter, rent and utility assistance
- **Physical and Mental Health Resources:** such as health insurance programs, Medicaid and Medicare, medical information lines, crisis intervention services
- **Employment Supports:** such as job training, transportation assistance, education programs
- **Support for Older Americans and Persons with Disabilities:** such as adult day care, respite care, home health care, independent living programs
- **Support for Children, Youth and Families:** such as afterschool programs, family resource centers, mentoring, tutoring, protective services

Nettleton recently reported to IESMA News that 2-1-1 service was up and running in 4 additional counties (Marion, Washington, Wayne, and Jefferson), and is close on 15 counties covered by the United Way of Southern Illinois.

**For more information on Illinois 2-1-1 visit their website at [www.Illinois211.org](http://www.Illinois211.org)!**



# IESMA

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