

# Inside IEMA

Monthly Newsletter



Illinois Emergency Management Agency

July 2016

## From IEMA Director James K. Joseph

A group of aspiring school superintendents recently stopped by the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) for a tour and discussion of IEMA's mission and how our paths may cross before, during or after an emergency. The visit was late in the afternoon on a very hectic day that, in addition to the normal crunch of meetings and other issues, included a line of severe weather passing through nearly every county in Illinois. Throughout the visit, my phone and those of several of my senior staff members dinged continuously as new weather warnings were issued.



**Dir. Joseph with members of the Aspiring Superintendents Academy during their recent visit to the SEOC.**

Despite the late hour and the downpour several of the visitors dashed through to reach our building, the group was animated, engaged and truly seemed excited to have the opportunity to see the SEOC and learn more about IEMA. They asked great questions, expressed amazement about the high-tech nerve center for the state's response to disasters in Illinois, and lingered past their planned departure time, despite being reminded of dinner plans awaiting them.

Even before the visit concluded, I felt a renewed energy welling up inside me. Talking with these educators who shoulder the enormous responsibility of preparing students to one day become productive members of society while also ensuring their safety, the mission of IEMA and the public safety field came into sharp focus.

These educators and the more than 12 million other people in Illinois are the reason why we do what we do. I realize that, and without a doubt, each of you knows that. But sometimes it helps to be reminded that all the planning, training and exercising we do really is critical.

Bad things happen, as we sadly were reminded of by the deadly attack in Nice, France. It's up to those of us in public safety to do everything within our power to ensure the safety of the people we serve.

## In this issue

<b>Cybersecurity, MARCs Focus of Summit Breakouts....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Senior Staff Profile: Brett Cox.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Governor Tours IEMA Facilities.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>IEMA Awards \$4 Million in Grants to EMAs .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NWS Offers Weather Support for Events .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Dwyer Recognized by IDPH .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Drill Tests Skills for Handling Contaminated Patients .</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>RAFT Training, Exercise Enhance Response.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>IEMA Supports 'Valid Risk' Drill .....</b>	<b>7</b>

## Cybersecurity, MARCs Focus of Two Breakout Sessions

Does your organization really understand cybersecurity and the effects a hacking incident or security breach would have on your agency and the people you serve? Even more important, do you know how to protect your agency from threats that could jeopardize your operations? For valuable insight on cybersecurity, you won't want to miss the *Cybersecurity – Protection Decisions Based on Threats and Trends* breakout session at the 2016 IEMA Training Summit.

Joe Anderson, assistant chief information security officer for the state of Illinois, will lead this session in which he will share the current cybersecurity environment and help participants understand how to protect themselves.

Recovering from a disaster can be difficult for most

communities. Multi-Agency Resource Centers (MARC)s have been successfully used to jumpstart that recovery process following several recent disasters in Illinois. Learn how to leverage the MARC process in your community at the breakout session entitled *Multi-Agency Resource Center Implementation*. The session will feature a panel discussion with agencies commonly found in a MARC. Join them as they share planning considerations for the establishment and operation of a MARC.

If you're interested in this session, register early as attendance is limited to 60 participants.

To learn more about the training summit and register, visit <https://iemasummit2016.pathable.com/>.

## Meet IEMA's Senior Staff: Brett Cox

Thanks to his extensive experience with state finance and procurement, IEMA's new Chief Fiscal Officer Brett Cox hit the ground running when he joined the agency April 16 in the midst of the FY 16 budget impasse and planning for the FY 17 budget year.

Before joining IEMA, Cox worked for the Chief Procurement Office for General Services with the Illinois Executive Ethics Commission. As the procurement lead for the statewide Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project, he played a key role in the initiative to streamline the state's business processes and fully integrate the state's financial systems that encompass budgeting, payments, receipts, financial reporting and other accounting practices.

Cox said he believes when implemented, the ERP will greatly benefit IEMA by eliminating redundancies and allowing for better informed decisions.

He also oversaw the contract process for several state agencies. As such, he was involved in several group health insurance contracts, the Affordable Care Act implementation, several major new Medicaid-related



IEMA CFO Brett Cox

information technology systems, and quality assurance for hospitalizations.

Prior to working for General Services, Cox was an accountant with Titan Accounting, supervisor of the obligations unit with the Illinois Comptroller's office, and budget analyst for the Secretary of State's office. As a student, he interned with the Comptroller's office.

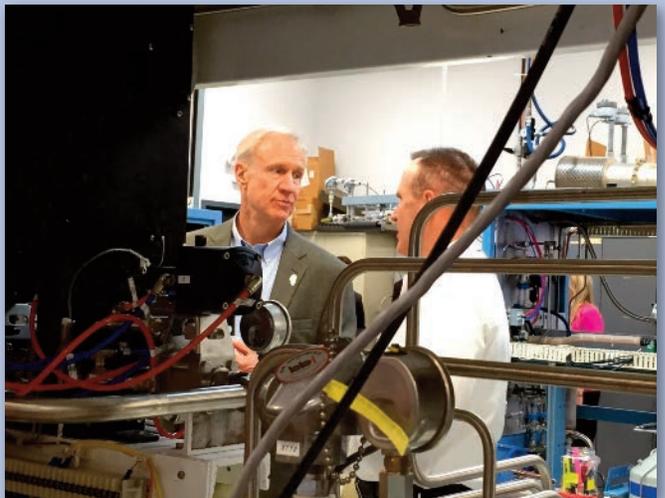
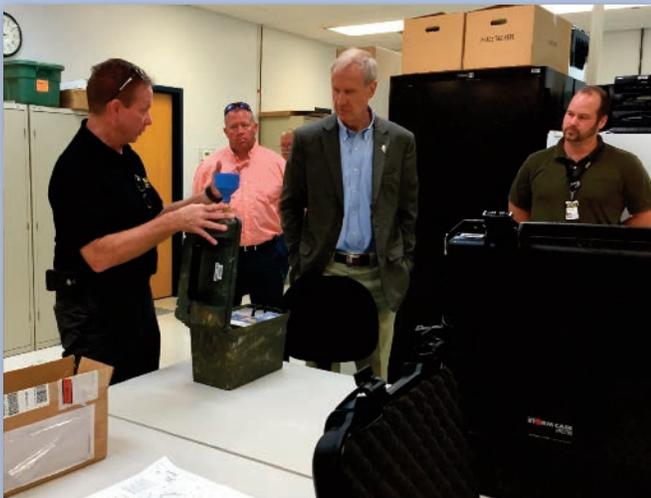
Cox is a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Professional Public Buyer. He has a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's in accounting, both from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

A native of the Springfield area, Cox still resides in the area with his wife, two daughters and one son.

While he's only been with IEMA for three months, Cox says he's already very impressed with the agency's unique mission, as well as employees' commitment to public safety. He believes the agency functions well because it is less compartmentalized than many other agencies he's observed.

## Governor Rauner Visits IEMA Programs

Governor Bruce Rauner toured IEMA's Knotts Street and Rodger Street facilities on June 27 to learn more about the agency's nuclear safety and emergency response capabilities. The governor spoke with several staff members as he visited the agency's radiochemistry and nuclear calibration laboratories, the Gaseous Effluent Monitoring System (GEMS) bay, the mobile radiochemistry lab, Unified Area Command, a Radiological Assessment Field Team (RAFT) vehicle, the RAFT ready room and a portal monitor.



## IEMA Awards \$4 Million in Grants to 120 Accredited EMAs

Grants totaling \$4 million recently awarded by IEMA will help 120 accredited city and county emergency management agencies throughout Illinois support disaster preparedness and response efforts in their communities. The grants are allocations for Federal Fiscal Year 2016.

The Emergency Management Performance Grants are funded through a grant IEMA receives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grants, which are awarded annually, can be used for day-to-day operations of local emergency preparedness and response

programs. Award amounts were determined by a base amount plus population-based formula prescribed by administrative rule.

Applications for the Federal Fiscal Year 2017 EMPG grants are due by Aug. 31, 2016. The application process will differ from previous years in order to meet the new Illinois Grants Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) standards. IEMA is distributing information about the process to accredited emergency management agencies.

# NWS Weather Support Services for Special Events

Outdoor events, such as fairs, concerts and local festivals, are immensely popular during spring, summer and fall in Illinois. This open-air fun is a welcome respite from the cold, dark winter months, but severe weather can not only spoil the fun but also pose serious dangers for the hundreds or thousands of people enjoying the events.

For several years, the National Weather Service (NWS) offices that serve Illinois have provided weather support services for outdoor events to help emergency management officials, security and event organizers provide a safe environment for the public.

During the summer of 2015, four NWS offices in Kansas and Missouri tested a more streamlined approach to providing this weather support. Known as the Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS) Prototype Project, the program expanded across the central region of the NWS, including Illinois, in early June 2016.

Only emergency management officials at the local level, or other government officials performing emergency management or security functions at outdoor events, can request weather support. The support primarily is intended for larger outdoor events that may be vulnerable to the weather due to location, sheltering options or crowd size. This could include, but is not limited to, fairs and festivals, parades, sporting events, concerts, large ceremonies or marathons/races.

The level of support provided will vary based on the specifics of each event. At the very least, the event point of contact will be provided with a link to a web page with specific forecast information for the event site and NWS contact information that can be used to get additional support or to ask questions at any time.

Larger events also will be provided with one-on-one daily briefings of potential high-impact weather concerns during the entirety of the event. If hazardous weather threatens the venue, the NWS will call the point of contact. For the very largest events, the NWS can provide onsite support at the event venue command post.

On the NWS end, the streamlined approach allows for events to be posted on an internal NWS event calendar and overlaid on radar imagery, resulting in increased situational awareness for meteorologists.

Providing IDSS for outdoor events the past couple of years has resulted in a number of success stories across Illinois, including keeping people safe during thunderstorms that have threatened the Illinois State Fair, postponing concerts at Lollapalooza in Chicago due to lightning and wind threats, lightning delays at University of Illinois football games, and most recently 4th of July weekend activities that were postponed or canceled in parts of the state.

For more information about this initiative, contact the warning coordination meteorologist at the NWS office that serves your area.

## Lifetime Achievement Award

The Illinois Department of Public Health posthumously awarded the Director's Recognition Award of Lifetime Achievement to Marty Dwyer at its recent Integrated Public Health and Healthcare System Preparedness Summit. Dwyer served as IEMA's exercise coordinator for nearly a decade until his passing in March.



# Drill Tests Skills for Handling Contaminated Patients

With six operating nuclear power plants in Illinois, emergency planning for potential accidents involving those facilities is a critical part of IEMA's mission. In June, agency personnel supported an exercise that brought together staffs from the Bloomington Fire Department HazMat and OSF St. Joseph's Medical Facility in Bloomington to practice techniques for dealing with injured people contaminated with radioactive materials.

The scenario involved a simulated release of radiation from the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant, which necessitated the emergency transport of a mother and two young children who were evacuated from the 10-mile emergency planning zone around the Clinton plant. The three mock patients, including one injured child, simulated reporting to a reception center at Horton Field House on the Illinois State University Campus, where they were identified as being contaminated with low levels of radioactive materials.

Bloomington Fire Department personnel then provided emergency transport to OSF St. Joseph's Medical Facility for decontamination and treatment. OSF St. Joseph is one of the 12 agreement hospitals that support the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents (IPRA), the state's plan for ensuring the safety of people living and working near the nuclear power plants.

IEMA personnel supported the exercise by monitoring hospital staff, patients, fire personnel and response equipment and ambulance, as well as advising on contamination control measures and assisting nuclear medicine and hospital staff with questions regarding radioactive materials and contamination control. Agency staff also observed as controllers for exercise evaluation.

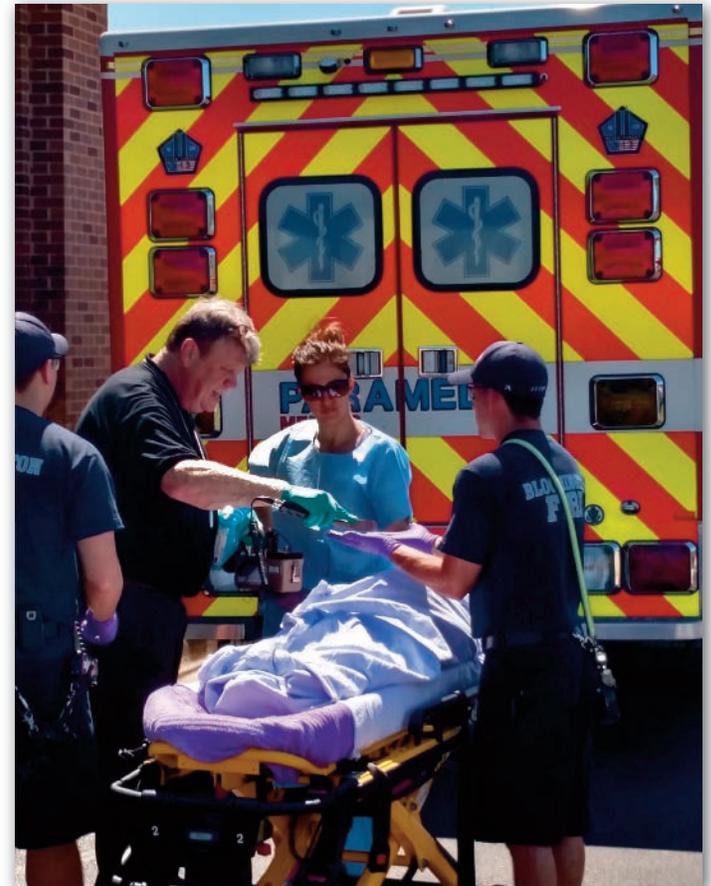
OSF St. Joseph's and the Bloomington Fire Department's objectives included treatment, transport and stabilization of patients while maintaining contamination control measures to minimize the spread and transfer of radiological contamination.

During the week prior to the exercise, all of Bloomington Fire Department's personnel participated in the transportation portion of Medical Services 1 (MS1). Training for hospital staff was provided on June 16, and the FEMA-evaluated exercise took place on

June 17. A FEMA evaluator noted this exercise will serve as a benchmark for the rest of the MS1 drills conducted in FEMA Region V.



**Don Eastep surveys a mother and her injured child to determine contamination levels and location.**



**As the Bloomington Fire Department prepares to transport a contaminated patient, Eastep checks to ensure radioactive contamination did not transfer while responders cocooned the patient. Cocooning is done to contain contamination.**

# Training, Exercise Enhance RAFT Response Capabilities

A daylong training and mini-exercise in mid-June brought together 22 members of IEMA's Radiological Assessment Field Team (RAFT) to refresh technical knowledge and gain practical, hands-on experience with critical response tools and procedures.

During the training, team members were divided into two groups. One group focused on field team tasks, including review and data input on the RadResponder network and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), as well as hands-on training for environmental sample collection and Personal Protective Equipment donning and doffing.

The other group, consisting of RAFT supervisors and assistants, reviewed SOPs, tools and job aids for managing and controlling RAFT field team operations.

Team members then employed that training during an exercise. RAFT field teams were deployed to Sangcris Lake State Park south of Springfield, where they collected a variety of environmental samples, monitored the environment and placed information into RadResponder. Meanwhile, the RAFT supervisor used RadResponder to track teams and view real-time data.

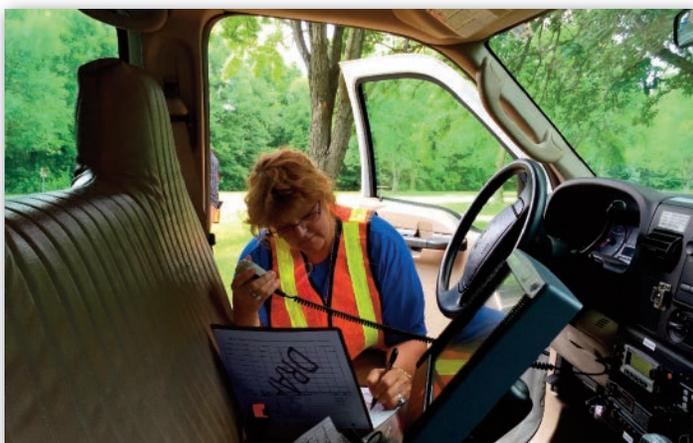
The practical, hands-on experience training and exercise will ensure that RAFT members are well-prepared to deploy following a nuclear power plant accident or other radiological incident and collect valuable environmental data that can help IEMA protect people and the environment.



**Rodney Pitchford uses a 6" ion chamber to test for radiation at a sampling location.**



**Gary Forsee, RAFT supervisor, identifies where teams are sampling and where to relocate them for their next sample.**



**Ginnie Reynolds records and relays monitoring data to RAFT Command.**



**Talon Holmes is zeroing his Direct Read Dosimeter (DRD).**

# Agency Supports National Guard 'Valid Risk IV' Drill

Personnel from IEMA recently assisted the Illinois National Guard for a portion of the "Valid Risk IV" exercise conducted at the 183rd Fighter Wing in Springfield. Agency staff worked with Illinois National Guard personnel on developing a Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) scenario for the exercise as well as a mock RDD that was a key component of the exercise.

The scenario involved a vehicle that breached an entry control point at the 183rd Fighter Wing. Response personnel noted wires leading from the truck to a switch in the front seat near the driver. Suspecting an explosive device, responders called for additional assistance from the Secretary of State (SOS) Bomb Squad, Illinois State Police State Weapons of Mass Destruction (SWMD) Team, the 5th Civil Support Team (CST) and the Illinois Army National Guard's (ILARNG) Detachment 1 of B Company, 1-376th Aviation Battalion.

The exercise included use of the state's Aerial Automated Location and Environmental Radiation Telemetry (ALERT) System, which was developed by IEMA personnel. The ALERT system was mounted in



**(L) A member of the 5th CST works to locate and identify any radioactive material or toxic industrial compounds in the suspect's vehicle. (R) As an exercise controller, Mark Hannant of IEMA observes a 5th CST soldier taking photos of the RDD in the vehicle's truck.**

an ILARNG helicopter and was used to conduct aerial radiation monitoring and relay that information to personnel on the ground.

Members of the SWMD and CST approached the vehicle to determine what type of radioactive material was involved, and the SOS Bomb Squad rendered the device safe. All personnel involved went through the decontamination process before the exercise concluded.



## Registration now open for the 2016 IEMA Training Summit

<https://iemasummit2016.pathable.com/>

Vendor booths still available. Register at <https://public.iema.state.il.us/iemaconference/vendors/vendorregistration.aspx>.

Previous issues of Inside IEMA are available at: <http://www.illinois.gov/iema/Info/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>.



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