

# Lee County Emergency Management Agency

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## Office of Emergency Management Activity Report for February 2025

At the monthly equipment check and motorized equipment exercise the battery on the UTV was found to be dead. The battery maintainer malfunctioned causing the battery to fail. The replacement battery list cost was \$337.72. The battery was obtained for \$190.99. The battery maintainer was listed at \$84.56 and purchased at a cost of \$39.99. Both have been installed and the UTV is back in service.

Eighteen members of the LCVS GSAR team including members of the Lee County Sheriff's Office completed an 8-hour course on lost person behavior (LPB). Lost behavior is the cornerstone of search and rescue efforts. LPB is the guide to solving the puzzle of where a lost person might be found. It covers subject categories, behavioral profiles, current statistics, suggested initial tasks, and specialized investigative questions. Whether the subject is underground, underwater, under collapsed rubble, on land, this class taught what search managers and team members need. This training is for those responsible for the initial response and subsequent searches.

On February 4 from approximately 3:21 AM 226 ComEd customers lost power. Each customer can be a single-family residence, a business or industrial facility. The initial probable cause was an equipment problem. The power was restored quickly.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office inquired about borrowing two laptops for deputies who will be attending a report writing class. Two laptops from the EOC were provided to the Sheriff's Office to assist in providing equipment for the class.

Lee County EMA Director Lalley attended the quarterly NIPARC meeting held at Freeport Memorial Hospital. The topics covered during the meeting were regional updates, Collation Bylaws, and the updated Regional Incident Response Plan.

Director Lalley attended a Zoom online seminar on the development of a Friends and Relatives Center (FC) and Family Assistance Center (FAC) for Reunification of Students and Family during events as active shooter events. This program can be used during any mass casualty incident. This theory addresses the needs of friends and relatives involved in a critical event.

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On the evening of February 5<sup>th</sup> freezing drizzle/rain affected the area. Many roads became slick and there were several reports of accidents. Social media was used to make followers aware to use extreme caution as it may not be apparent that a roadway were icy. Untreated sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots where ice covered and very slippery. A large accident occurred on the I-88 at mile marker 81, with multiple wrecks and injuries. I-88 eastbound was closed between Dixon and Rochelle. I-88 westbound was closed between I-39 in Rochelle and DeKalb, with traffic being diverted off of I-88 at Annie Glidden Road. A major accident just east of I-39 halted traffic on both westbound lanes. A ten-car pile-up on I 88 west of Dixon was reported on I 88 closing the roadway for a time. The NWS posted to their social media for motorists to strongly consider postponing non-essential travel plans overnight due to the icy roads in many areas at midnight. Ice accumulation was measured at 0.07” at Chicago/Rockford Airport. For comparison, a dime is ~0.053” thickness and a nickel is 0.077” thick.

The Office of Emergency Management hosted an ICS 400 class for local first responders. This course is for those emergency response personnel who would function as part of an Area Command, Emergency Operations Center, or Multiagency Coordination System during a large, complex incident or event, or those personnel who are or would likely be part of a local or regional Incident Management Team during a major incident, whether single agency, multiagency or Unified Command.

The 2019 GMC truck was due for oil change. After being taken to the shop and further investigation it was determined that the tires needed replacement. While replacing the tires it was found the front brakes required replacement. The cost of four tires, lube oil filter and front brake replacement totaled \$1505.26.

The NWS is predicting 4 to 7 inches of snow for Northern Illinois. The EOC was opened at 0930hrs 10 Feb. to level 3, to monitor changing weather conditions, providing updates to local officials and the public, and standing by to provide resources.

The EMA Director attended the Paradigm First Responders Pipeline Safety training in LaSalle County. First Responders were briefed on responses to local pipeline events and new laws pertaining to underground pipelines.

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Due to extremely cold weather the heat in the Critical Incident Response Unit continues to run. The LP tanks need to be refilled. Running the LP heater prevents equipment in the Command Post from freezing.

After driving the EMA truck for a brief time, a shimmy developed in the front end. The truck was returned to the shop, and it was determined a rubber bushing failed. The steering bushing was replaced with the truck returned to service.

Director Lalley responded to a verbal FOI request from Energy Renewal Partners for any spill on a property in Lee County. The requestor was directed to the IEMA website site for Haz Mat spills.

Lee County EMA has control over assets which are Federal Property. The equipment transferred to Lee County requires an annual audit to meet the use agreement. A review of the equipment was conducted on Wednesday February 18. Updated Federal property stickers were placed on the equipment and photos taken of each item. No issues were reported. Once the equipment is no longer required by Lee County it must be returned to DoD.

The Office of Emergency Management assisted the Lee County Sheriff's Office in deploying EMA technology to assist in their mission.

The National Weather Service will again be conducting Outdoor Event Weather Planning and Monitoring Seminars for public safety and other government officials. The seminar provides information to event planners on an overview of the key elements of an outdoor event hazardous weather plan as well as tools and support services available from the National Weather Service (NWS). The information has been shared with the agencies and groups in Lee County that conduct outdoor events.

I will be on vacation beginning March 6<sup>th</sup> returning on March 20<sup>th</sup>. I will have access to my cell phone and emails. I will be taking the county laptop with me on vacation so that I have the capability to submit claims in a timely manner to avoid late fees.

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