

Lee County Emergency Management Agency

Office of Emergency Management Activity for October 2024

Lee County EMA Director Kevin Lalley presented the FEMA IS100 Course to KSB Staff. This is the second of a series of classes to be NIMS ICS certified in preparation for Hospital Certification process.

Motorola was on site and aligned the first group of radios (portable, mobile and fixed radios in the Command Trailer) in compliance with the Starcom user agreement. One Starcom Motorola XTS5000 portable radio failed the alignment and is not repairable due to its age and parts not being available as this radio which is over 20 years old. Due to the high cost of a new replacement, research will be done on the availability and cost of a used compatible radio.

EMA obtained an excess CradlePoint and excess MegaFi for use in providing cellular communication during critical events.

After long negotiations with SARTOPO, Lee County EMA was able to obtain the CalTopo app for the cost of \$700 per year vs the list price of \$2000 per year. This app will assist in Ground Search and Rescue and Damage Assessment.

The 4th quarter EMPG reimbursement was submitted using Amplifund.

Lee County maintenance staff assisted in the installation of a storage box on the side-by-side trailer. The toolbox will store items in a secure location.

Lee County EMA hosted an ILETSB Interoperability Summit. The training was held in the EOC, and equipment was displayed in the parking lot across the old Lee County Jail. Approximately 30 Law Enforcement officials from Northern Illinois attended the Summit. The Summit provides information on the new communication SWIT and other comms updates.

Lee County EMA hosted an Illinois Fire Service Institute Wildland Search and Rescue Training in the EOC on Saturday Oct 19. Over 22 students from the area department and Search and Rescue Teams attended. The training was a 12-hour basic awareness training. 9 hours in the classroom and 3 hours in the field. 8 members from the Lee County Ground Search unit graduated from the class.

Helm Group converted an overhead light in the EOC to a night light and installed a cord protector on cables that ran across the floor in the front of the EOC to prevent tripping.

All motorized equipment, generators, environmental control unit, light tower were checked and run for a minimum of 30 minutes to ensure they are in a ready state. Battery operated equipment such as the message board, portable radios, power packs and other devices are charged. The Drones are checked to ensure they have the latest software, batteries are charged, and they are air worthy.

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The Director assisted at the Galena IL Halloween Parade on Saturday Oct 26. The parade draws over 35,000 attendees to a small 6-7 block area of downtown Galena. This year's parade was advertised on HG TV as one of the Top 10 Halloween Parades in the US. Other surrounding agencies provide support in protecting the visitors and participants.

The Dixon Growmark facility is mandated to conduct at a minimum of at least one annual tabletop exercise with outside partners to evaluate the facilities emergency response plan. One of the required participants is emergency management. The exercise is designed to reveal areas of improvement. The exercise solidifies partnerships in advance of an incident.

Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA) is an organization of emergency managers throughout the State of Illinois who provide mutual assistance to their neighbors and peers. The organization is the liaison with the State legislature and provides input in rule changes and funding regarding emergency management. IESMA is updating the Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System (IEMMAS) Agreement. The language has been modernized regarding insurance, indemnification, and reimbursement. The agreement is similar to the MABAS, ILEAS and IPWMAN programs. The agreement is in the packet for your review and approval.

On Oct 30, Lee County EMA hosted the quarterly IEMA Region 2 meeting in the EOC. EMA Directors from most of the 17 Counties in IEMA Region 2 attended. Members from IEMA Region 2, NWS Chicago, Lincoln and Quad Cities Office, IEMA Hazard Mitigation Staff, and Representatives from IPWAMAN, IESMA, and Safe2Help also attended. Each provided a presentation. Each county EMA in attendance provided an update on the activities in their area of responsibility.

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