

Lee County Emergency Management Agency

Office of Emergency Management Activity for December 2024

The Lee County EMA Office responded to a verbal in person request for state reports on a hazardous material spill that occurred on Dec 24, 2020, west of Dixon near to the Union Pacific Railroad. A link to obtain the two state reports was provided to the requestor within 3 hours of the initial request.

Nicholson1 Communications investigated a warning light issue on the EMA 2019 GMC truck. The rear warning bar was defective and replaced. Another emergency module is malfunctioning, and the manufacturer has been contacted for a solution.

LCVC GSAR monthly training was held in the EOC. Photos were taken of each member to update ID cards; registration for the upcoming Lost Person Behavior Class was announced; swearing in of two new members was conducted. The December training topic was Winter Search Preparedness which covered being properly prepared and equipped to conduct a search for a missing person(s) in cold weather. IaR and CalTopo software were reviewed.

IT updated all computers in EOC in process found one computer malfunctioning. The IT office will be investigating but believes the computer will need to be replaced. After review by the IT Department the laptop was repaired and returned to the EOC.

On December 12, the Lee County Office of Emergency Management, Growmark Inc. and Illinois Department of Transportation District 2 Dixon Office, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office met to discuss an emergency traffic detour plan on US Rt. 30 in the event of a leak/spill at the Growmark facility. Having a predefined detour route will assist in the rerouting of vehicular traffic around the facility if the LEL (lower explosive limits) is at or above the prescribed level. With a designated detour route each agency, including Lee County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Transportation, Lee County Highway Department, and local townships will be aware of the official detour. The detour will be rated for highway vehicles. After discussion, Growmark will be running a dispersion model for flammable vapor to determine the restricted area. An additional meeting will be held after the Holidays.

The larger drone, M30T, controller was fitted with a Wi-Fi transmitter and in the command case a Wi-Fi receiver was attached to the monitor. The HDMI cable is no longer needed to stream live video from the controller to the command case monitor. The original vendor Air Worx provided the upgrade at no cost. The Mavic was equipped with the same transmitter/receiver combination, again at no cost.

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All equipment with an engine is started and runs for 30 minutes each month to ensure the assets are ready when needed. The Environmental Control Unit (ECU) did not start due to dead batteries. The ECU is a military unit on a trailer containing a diesel generator which runs an 18 KW heating system and an 8-ton air conditioning unit. The ECU is a 24-volt system. To access the batteries for replacement, the tent frame and tent cover must be removed. Maintenance staff assisted in the removal of the tent and finding a place where the tent can be stored. The ECU will be taken to a local mechanic to have the batteries replaced. While at the shop, the unit will have normal maintenance completed including oil changed, oil filter changed, fuel filter changed, coolant checked, and the unit checked over for obvious issues.

Attended a web meeting on EMA Rule Discussion with IEMA staff and had input on how the new rule changes would affect Lee County. The Deputy Director will be reviewing the comments and making changes. An additional web meeting will be held to discuss further changes.

On Sunday evening December 15, EMA Director Lalley received a call from the Dixon Rural Fire Department inquiring how to safely transport nitrous oxide (N₂O) cylinders. Discussed was how to manage the containers, and transportation should be in an open section of a vehicle. Once the containers arrive at the storage area, they should be secured with chains or straps to a fixed surface, stored upright, and always with the protective cap on the valve when not in use. The cylinders need to be protected from potential mechanical and physical damage.

Roland Machinery from Springfield was onsite to service the four 60 KW 3 phase two wheeled generators. Each unit had new tires installed, fuel filters replaced, and fuel treatment added to each.

Action Powersports of Sterling donated forty handwarmers to the Ground Search and Rescue Team. With the approaching cold weather, the handwarmers will assist team members during winter searches. A thank you card was sent the president of Action Powersports.

A young Boy Scout in search of merit badge to become an Eagle Scout met with the Director Lalley as prescribed by the Boy Scouts of America program. The Emergency Preparedness merit badge is a key part of the Scouts BSA program. It teaches Scouts how to be ready for all kinds of emergencies. By working on this badge, Louis learned important skills that can help him and others in tough situations. This merit badge also encourages Scouts to think ahead and be proactive. They learn about prevention and planning, which are important parts of dealing with

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emergencies. By understanding what causes emergencies and how to reduce risks, Scouts can help prevent some emergencies from happening. Either the Emergency Preparedness merit badge OR the Lifesaving merit badge is required for the rank of Eagle Scout.

Director Lalley accepted donation from Depot Days Committee for \$1000 for assisting at the 2024 Depot Days Car Show. The donation was deposited with the treasurer and will be used to purchase additional equipment for EMA.

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