

Lee County Emergency Management Agency

Office of Emergency Management Activity for January 2025

The Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) is considering a new rule to restrict or ban Chinese drones in the United States due to national security concerns. Chinese companies, and particularly the giant DJI, which dominates the industry, account for over 75% of the U.S drone market, including more than 90% of hobby drones. Banning them would upend the industry and create a huge vacuum. Specifically, Commerce is seeking to discover if using Chinese-made drones "poses an undue risk of sabotage to or subversion of the design, integrity, manufacturing, production, distribution, installation, operation, or maintenance of information and communications technology or services in the United States" or "poses an undue risk of catastrophic effects on the security or resiliency of United States critical infrastructure or the digital economy of the United States." Back in the early 2010s, there were several major U.S. companies competing in the domestic drone market, including 3D Robotics, Skydio and Teal. But Shenzhen-based Dai-Jing Innovations (DJI) was able to outcompete all of them. The company's Phantom drone, released in January 2013, was easy to fly out of the box and made aerial photography accessible to everyone. DJI succeeded in scaling up its operation, vertically integrating so that cameras and other electronics exactly fit its requirements, and the company did not need to engineer drones around existing components. The company plowed its profits back into R&D and employed a small army of developers to produce highly capable, user-friendly software.

Lee County Office of Emergency Management hosted a three-day ICS 300 training course for local first responders. This 3-day course is designed for those emergency response personnel who would function in a Command or General Staff position during a large, complex incident or event, or 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 ribbon for the ID card printer was replenished at the cost of \$605.14 from the supplies line. ID cards are issued to vendors and contractors working on County property, Sheriff's Department staff, and to Lee County Volunteer Corps members.

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Lee County EMA is hosting a Community Weather Preparedness Praining on March 4th at Sauk Valley Community College beginning at 6 PM in room 1K04. The session will cover a wide array of topics relevant to the types of hazardous weather that occur during the spring and summer months. These include thunderstorms, heat waves, and beach safety. This training is designed for anyone and everyone interested in weather, how to stay safe and get forecast information, and how to contribute to your community. Content is suitable for anyone age 10 and older and will be taught in-person by an NWS Chicago meteorologist at several communities. The training will last approximately 2 hours and is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Seating is on a first come basis.

A deposit of \$4972.34 was made with the Lee County Treasurer on January 14th for FY 23 fourth quarter Emergency Management Performance Grant reimbursement. Funds are deposited in the General Fund.

Director Lalley attended an online web meeting on a discussion of the EMA Administration Rule changes. Locals and county EMA/ESDA discussed with the IEMA Deputy Director and IEMA staff chances they see that they may need to be made to the Administrative Rule.

The Office of Emergency Management is assisting the Lee County Highway Department in the renewal of their FCC LMR Radio license WQDN872.

Due to the extreme cold, the LP gas heater in the Critical Incident Response Unit (CIRU) is operating to prevent the vulnerable equipment from freezing. The heater will need to be monitored, and fuel replenished until the temperatures rise about a consistent 40 degrees Fahrenheit

Director Lalley attended the Northwest Illinois Incident Management Team (NWIL IMAT) bi-monthly Leadership meeting in Rochelle on Wednesday January 22 as the Vice President of the leadership team. The team training was held immediately after the leadership meeting. Twenty-two team members attended the meeting. Topics covered during the training; upcoming ICS position specific available training, Command Staff Deliverables, Incident Within incident (IWI) Planning and High Reliability Organization were topics. Future exercises were discussed including the capabilities of responding to local wildland fires at forested areas in Illinois and developing a plan and conducting training to coordinate an evacuation of a hospital. This is the team that assisted at many events including the Davenport partial building collapse, the Chem Tool Fire in Rockton and the LaSalle IL Carus Fire.

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Lee County Office of Emergency Management received notice from IEMA that the Lee County Building Codes Update has been awarded in the amount of \$396,690.00. The NOSA has been sent through the Governor's Office of Management and Budget's (GOMB) Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) portal.

Lee County EM hosted the third in a series of ASIM (active shooter) training in the EOC. Each session builds on the previous session. After each training session an AAR (after action review) is held to make changes and improvements to the next session.

The FY 2024 Illinois Emergency Preparedness Grant Agreement was received and signed by the CEO and returned to Springfield. The EMP grant provides reimbursement for daily operations of the Office of Emergency Management. The total grant reimbursement is \$20,295.73 and is applied quarterly.

The Mac Mini's in the EOC would not display the dashboards on the monitors on Monday. A ticket was submitted to IT. It has determined the Netgear switch connecting the displays and the Mac Mini's has failed, broken, or is not connecting properly.

The Lee County GIS Office developed an in-house a damage assessment program to allow for a faster method to complete the primary damage assessment survey. The County has 36 hours to complete a primary damage assessment survey and to report damage to the State to be eligible for funding assistance for local citizens. The program will allow Lee County citizens and businesses to self-report damages. A second program for first responders will allow law enforcement and fire agencies to upload damage information, including photos, during or immediately after an incident. The collected information will allow for a faster, more accurate primary damage assessment versus driving road by road to locate damaged structures. Thanks to Sami for all the work and dedication to this project.

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