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McHenry County Emergency Management Agency Monthly Report for January 2025 By David A. Christensen, Director

EMA's invested time and effort into Mitigating issues and challenges with grant applications for all McHenry County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan participants. McEMA met virtually several times with IEMA-OHS to sort through these challenges and find a way forward. This ultimately resulted in a unique meeting in our Emergency Operations Center with county and municipal officials, IEMA-OHS, and FEMA. For 3.5 hours FEMA reps explained intent, requirements, best practices, and possible pitfalls in applications. Each of us, including the state employees, learned important aspects of the process. FEMA also explained the nation-wide competitive nature of the process. It is unusual to have this type of direct contact with the FEMA grants personnel. In some cases, it is best to start with Direct Technical Assistance which would enhance the likelihood of a grant award in the long run.

Planned Events:

- None.

Exercises:

- Several Starcom and RACES/ARES radio nets (drills) were held.
- Continued exercise planning for the MCDH / IT Cyber Exercise.
- Re-scheduled the exercise dates for the Circuit Clerk Cyber Exercise. The complexity of the exercise requires much more groundwork to properly exercise the cyber defenses and recovery.

Response:

- None.

Planning:

- Work continued on the revision of the Emergency Operations Center Standard Operating Guide.
- Director Christensen participated in the Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) with FEMA to discuss response and recovery efforts from a catastrophic disaster.
- EMA attended the CISA Emergency Services Sector briefing focused on Chinese Cyber threats to the Emergency Services Sector.

Mitigation:

- Chief Deputy Loyd and Director Christensen met with Bull Valley officials to work through Hazard Mitigation challenges.

Training:

- Director Christensen is assisting the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association in preparing for their spring training conference.

Special Events:

- None.

Looking ahead in 2025:

- EMA has forward progress on several planning projects, some of which contribute to its **accreditation**. These include:
 - National Weather Service Storm Ready County designation.
 - Administrative rule negotiations with the state.
 - Standard operating guides for EOC processes.
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Primary Concerns:

1. Cyber Security and Countermeasures
 2. Terrorist Threat assessment and planning
 3. Emergency Management Performance Grants (enhanced requirements) – Administrative Rule changes coming
 4. Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Continuity of Government (COG) planning
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Significant Events:

1. None.

Response:

1. None.

Planning (on-going):

1. McHenry County Emergency Operations Center Procedures and National Qualifications
 2. Local Emergency Operations Plans (local municipalities)
 3. National Qualifications System Planning
 4. School Emergency Response Plans
 5. Tier II Facilities filings (currently at 150+)
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EMA event support requests:

Dates	Event	Equipment	Logistics

Among other duties:

- Illinois Emergency Services and Management Association (IESMA) Committee meetings
- Illinois Emergency Services and Management Association (IESMA) Committee to create an Executive Director position
- National Qualification System research and implementation
- Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Committee (EM Committee)
- Metro County Coordinators
- IESMA Legislative Committee

All Lifelines remained stable throughout the month.



A Lifeline enables the continuous operation of **government functions** and **critical business** and is essential to **human health** and **safety** or **economic security**.

PRIORITY: Life Saving

EFFORT: Stabilization of Lifelines

Summary of Volunteer Hours

Operations

- Communications
- Search & Rescue
- Weather
- General

Logistics

- Support
- EOC Staff Support
- Training

Total Monthly Hours

Total YTD Hours Donated for 2025

Total Hours Worked



30.50
6.50
0.00
55.00

0.00
0.00
0.00

92.00

92.00

<u>Performance Indicators:</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2025 Projected</u>
Number of Volunteers	49	49	60
EMA Staff Training Sessions	5	5	40
Volunteer Training Sessions	8	8	80
Community Presentations/Outreach (NHMP Action Item 23)	0	0	15
Disaster Exercises (Intergovernmental & County)	3	3	10
Mutual Aid Response (SAR, Rehab, EMA, MABAS, Weather)	1	1	20
Emergency Management Development (Coordinating Council)	0	0	6
Technical Advisory Assistance for Municipal & Township Gov (EOP, ETSB, Fire Chief's)	4	4	20
Event Coordination (Incident Action Plan, Communications)	0	0	15
Develop/Revise COOP, EOP, Hazard Mitigation & School Plans	1	1	15