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## McHenry County Emergency Management Agency Monthly Report for March 2026 By David Christensen, Director

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### Executive Summary

March 2026 marked the transition into the spring operational period, with a strong focus on severe weather preparedness, interagency coordination, and continued advancement of operational capabilities. EMA maintained a proactive readiness posture through training, exercises, and partner engagement, while continuing to strengthen internal systems, volunteer capacity, and regional coordination efforts. A key highlight included the successful execution of a Severe Weather Activation Exercise, reinforcing readiness ahead of peak storm season.

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### Operational Readiness & Coordination

- Conducted Severe Weather Activation Exercise (March 21) to validate coordination, communication, and operational readiness.
- Participated in statewide severe weather coordination calls and National Weather Service briefings.
- Maintained readiness posture through ongoing situational awareness and weather monitoring assignments.
- Continued coordination with IEMA and regional partners through monthly EM coordination calls.

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### Training, Exercises & Volunteer Engagement

- Held Emergency Services Volunteers (ESV) General Meeting to reinforce readiness and operational priorities. Guest speaker spoke on the mental health of responders and lost person behaviors.
- Completed extensive ESV credentialing and ID badge renewal process, ensuring accountability and deployment readiness.
- Continued engagement across volunteer disciplines including:
  - Search and Rescue (SAR)
  - Communications (ARES/RACES)

- Weather operations
- EOC Operations Support

These efforts sustain a trained, credentialed, and ready volunteer force supporting both daily operations and emergency activations.

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## **Planning, Technology & Program Development**

- Conducted VEOCI system demonstration, evaluating enhanced incident management and coordination capabilities.
  - Continued Alertus system coordination and evaluation of emergency notification tools.
  - Advanced Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) discussions and alignment efforts.
  - Progressed ADA accessibility improvements, including training and document remediation.
  - Engaged in discussions on emerging technology and security enhancements.
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## **Interagency & Community Coordination**

- Participated in key coordination meetings, including:
    - Fire Chiefs Association
    - McHenry County Council of Governments
    - School Safety Coordination
  - Engaged with public-private partners through the ChicagoFIRST Resiliency Summit.
  - Continued collaboration with municipal, public safety, and regional partners to strengthen whole-community preparedness.
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## **Professional Development & Leadership**

- Participated in:
    - ChicagoFIRST Resiliency Summit
    - IESMA Summit and Legislative Planning Meetings
    - Statewide Threat Intelligence Briefings (STIC)
  - Continued leadership involvement in statewide coordination, policy discussions, and preparedness initiatives.
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## **Looking Ahead**

EMA will continue to prioritize:

- Severe weather readiness and response
- Expansion of ICS-based EOC operations
- Incident Action Planning support for community events
- Continued planning integration (IPP, THIRA)
- Strengthening volunteer capacity and operational readiness

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## Bottom Line

EMA remains operationally ready and strategically focused, ensuring McHenry County is prepared to effectively manage both day-to-day coordination and complex emergency incidents through strong partnerships, trained personnel, and continuous improvement.

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### March 2026 Emergency Services Volunteer (ESV) Hours

<u>Hours by Section / Work Area</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>
<b>Operations</b>	
-Communications	39.25
-Search & Rescue	38.
-Weather	0
-General	63.0
<b>Logistics</b>	
-Support	9.5
-EOC Staff Support	6.0
-Training	46.75
<b>Total Monthly Hours</b>	<b>202.50</b>
<b>Total YTD Hours Donated for 2026</b>	<b>527.10</b>

**Cost Savings Generated Through Volunteer Service in March:**

General	\$2,128.77
SAR	\$1,284.
EOC Ops Support	\$202.74
Wx	\$0.
Comms	\$1,326.25
Support	\$321.00
Training	\$1,580
Volunteer Staff	0
Drivers	0
	<b>\$6,842.76</b>

**Monthly Activities for EMA Staff**

<u>Performance Indicators:</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2026 Projected</u>
<b>Number of Volunteers</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>EMA Staff Training Sessions</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Volunteer Training Sessions</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Community Presentations/Outreach (NHMP Action Item 23)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Disaster Exercises (Intergovernmental &amp; County)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Mutual Aid Response (SAR, Rehab, EMA, MABAS, Weather)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Emergency Management Development (Coordinating Council)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Technical Advisory Assistance for Municipal &amp; Township Gov (EOP, ETSB, Fire Chief's)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Event Coordination (Incident Action Plan, Communications)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Develop/Revise COOP, EOP, Hazard Mitigation &amp; School Plans</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>



## March Resiliency Report

03/26/26

This month I completed nine contacts. I met with the IEMA Planning and Training Specialist to discuss the resiliency work being done in McHenry County. I had a meeting with the lead Pastor of Springbrook Church regarding multi use facilities. I participated in the MCCG dinner at Port Edward/ Algonquin. I participated in and presented a short program for the Regional Office of Education 44. I had a meeting with the Safety and Security Lead at Willowcreek Crystal Lake regarding multi-use facilities. I had a meeting with the Safety and Security Director of School District 300 regarding multi-use facilities.