





# Illinois Emergency Management Agency

## Our MISSION

The mission of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is to protect the State of Illinois through integrated approaches in Emergency Management and Homeland Security to prepare for, respond to, mitigate against, and recover from emergencies and disasters, or acts of terrorism.

## Response

As the lead state agency during disasters, IEMA is responsible for coordinating state resources and expertise in the response effort. During a disaster, liaisons from more than a dozen state agencies report to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at IEMA's Springfield headquarters.

## Planning and Exercising

IEMA coordinates the development of a wide variety of emergency management plans. The "all-hazard" plans guide the state's actions in responding to and recovering from major emergencies and catastrophic disasters. "Hazard specific" plans are developed to prepare the state and local governments for potential incidents at nuclear power stations and chemical facilities. The planning process includes conducting disaster exercises designed to test the ability of emergency workers to perform their duties in a simulated emergency response.

## Disaster Assistance

IEMA works closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide disaster assistance to individuals, families, businesses and government entities following Presidential disaster declarations. Disaster assistance may come in the form of loans or grants to restore the disaster area to pre-disaster condition.

## Training

IEMA provides training for municipal and county emergency managers and first responders on a wide range of topics such as emergency planning, unified command, exercise design and evaluation, mitigation and terrorism planning.

## Mitigation

While natural disasters, such as floods, can't be prevented, the devastating effects of nature's force sometimes can be averted. IEMA's mitigation program strives to build disaster-resistant communities through such actions as floodplain property acquisition programs and wind-resistant construction. IEMA administers two hazard mitigation programs: the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which is a post-disaster program for any natural hazard; and the pre-disaster Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.

## Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention

As the designated State Emergency Response Commission under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know, IEMA oversees emergency preparedness related to the nearly 10,000 Illinois businesses that have hazardous chemicals. In this role, IEMA provides training and guidance to 105 Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) that are responsible for local planning for hazardous chemical emergencies.

## Illinois Terrorism Task Force

The Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) works to ensure that Illinois's first responders and citizens are prepared for potential terrorism through a comprehensive coordinated statewide plan. Task force representatives from over 70 state agencies, law enforcement, fire protection and emergency management groups from around the state collaborate on a statewide plan to develop specialized response teams and provide first responders with equipment and training needed for potential terrorist events.

## Telecom Center

IEMA's 24-hour Telecommunications Center (217-782-7860 / Emergency 24/7) is the state notification point for all non-law enforcement emergencies and disasters. It also serves as the state notification hotline for hazardous materials releases, the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP), the Nuclear Accident Reporting System and the State Fire Marshal's Arson Hotline.

## Division of Nuclear Safety

Radiation is used in many ways in Illinois: to produce electricity, for medical diagnostic and therapeutic treatments, in laboratories and for industrial purposes, just to name a few. IEMA's Division of Nuclear Safety works to protect citizens and the environment from the potentially harmful effects of ionizing radiation through its many programs.

## Nuclear Power Plant Safety

Illinois' six operating nuclear power stations are continuously monitored through one of the most advanced remote monitoring systems in the world. The comprehensive data received provides detailed information about conditions in and around each facility. This information helps response officials assess emergency situations and make protective action recommendations.

In addition, state Resident Inspectors at each of the nuclear power plants inspect critical safety systems and would provide first-hand information during an emergency.

## Regulation of Radioactive Materials and X-Ray Equipment

To ensure the safe possession and use of radioactive materials in colleges, laboratories, hospitals, clinics, manufacturers and other industrial settings, IEMA licenses and inspects more than 740 licensees. In addition, the agency regulates and inspects more than 31,500 radiation-producing devices, such as x-ray machines and cancer treatment devices, and accredits more than 13,000 technologists who take x-rays or administer radioactive materials for medical purposes.