

## Emergency Management Committee

### Purpose Statement

The mission of the Emergency Management Committee is to coordinate ITTF programs that relate to emergency management preparedness and to facilitate purchases for units of local government through the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA). Through IESMA's statewide mutual aid system—Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System (IEMMAS)—the committee helps ensure that the state of Illinois can respond to any incident within its boundaries to provide for mitigation of the incident, protection of citizens, and coordination of the response efforts from the other disciplines with response teams.



### 2008 Key Activities

- Deployed the Groove communication software to local units of government. Since the inception of the project, more than 789 local government accounts have been issued. More than 150 accounts were added in 2008. Installation completion of the initial 850 accounts is anticipated in the first half of 2009, with requests for the software increasing. More than 850 Groove licenses will be needed to fulfill the needs of the emergency response networks to completely implement the software.
- Continued to assist local units of government with the development of spontaneous volunteer management programs, damage assessment teams, and mass care teams through the offering of various training and education opportunities.
- Increased the number of Volunteer Management Support Teams (state VMST team) by 11 percent. The VMST teams now represent the northern, central, and southern parts of the state. The committee oversaw various preparedness activities of the VMST to ensure continuity and training standards were maintained.
- Conducted the annual IESMA membership conference in East Peoria. The conference was attended by 200 emergency management personnel. Key topics discussed at the conference included damage assessment, public information, continuity of operations, and disaster intelligence.
- Deployed IEMMAS to support state and local incident management functions during multiple emergencies in 2008, including the catastrophic flooding in June 2008.
- Distributed \$688,000 in emergency operations center grants to certified and accredited local emergency management agencies. Through a partnership with IESMA, the committee oversaw the issuance of 51 grants to county and municipal local emergency management agencies to enhance communications and technology capabilities in their emergency operations center (EOC). To be eligible for the EOC equipment grants, a local emergency



management agency had to be accredited and have a fixed EOC or a multi-use facility EOC with pre-staged equipment that is identified in the jurisdiction's emergency operations plan. This was the third year the committee has approved funding to support EOC enhancements.

## **2009 Initiatives**

- Provide increased funding for EOC grants, focusing on technology upgrades to communication and data transmission capabilities within local EOCs.
- Provide funding for additional Groove licenses and continue to support existing licenses to facilitate disaster and emergency information sharing at the local level.
- Maintain a self-sustaining response capability for the IEMMAS/Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) teams that deploy within and outside the state.
- Coordinate the assembly of a multi-state sheltering capability with contiguous states to provide for the rapid deployment of equipment necessary to supply a surge capability in sheltering situations.
- Continue to provide educational opportunities for emergency managers through the annual IESMA Conference and assisting with the IEMA Conference.
- Support existing state programs for volunteer management and spontaneous volunteer management and continue to provide assistance and training to local EMAs for local program development.
- Assist in the distribution of Starcom interoperable radios to local emergency management agencies.
- Assist with the deployment of weather radios in key government facilities, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and extended care facilities.

