



FISCAL YEAR 2021

Annual Report

IEMA
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

GOVERNOR
JB Pritzker



DIRECTOR
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About the Illinois Emergency Management Agency

The primary responsibility of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is to better prepare the State of Illinois for natural, manmade or technological disasters, hazards, or acts of terrorism. Our goal is a "better prepared state." IEMA coordinates the State's disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery programs and activities, functions as the State Emergency Response Commission, and maintains a 24-hour Communication Center and State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The SEOC acts as lead in crisis/consequence management response and operations to notify, activate, deploy and employ state resources in response to any threat or act of terrorism. IEMA assists local governments with multi-hazard emergency operations plans and maintains the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan.

IEMA is also responsible for protecting Illinois residents from the potentially harmful effects of ionizing radiation, administering more than two dozen programs to protect citizens and the environment. Programs include extensive emergency planning and response efforts and training for local responders for accidents involving radiation; inspecting and regulating radioactive materials licensees; registering and inspecting radiation producing equipment and facilities statewide; accrediting medical radiation technologists; and certifying mammography facilities. IEMA also monitors 11 nuclear power reactors at six nuclear stations licensed to generate electricity in Illinois and inspects and escorts spent nuclear fuel shipments.

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency while headquartered in Springfield, maintains an office in Chicago and holds regional offices throughout the State of Illinois, including: Dixon, Ottawa, Des Plaines, Champaign, Fairview Heights, Flora and Marion.



Illinois Emergency Management Agency Agency Accomplishments: July 1, 2020 –June 30, 2021

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is the lead coordinating agency for all emergencies and disasters in the State of Illinois and its primary responsibility is to better prepare the State of Illinois for natural, manmade or technological disasters, hazards, or acts of terrorism. Our goal is a "better prepared state."

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For the last 23 months, IEMA has been entrenched with our state partners at the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) responding to an unprecedented public health emergency that has claimed nearly 27,000 Illinois lives and counting. IEMA has been instrumental in every facet of this disaster: from procuring critical personal protective equipment at a time when the nation's supply chain was in disarray, to leading the charge to establish community-based testing sites, vaccine distribution and mass vaccination administration.

It's important to point out the agency's herculean tasks associated with COVID-19 because this is not the only work we had to do, we just had to do more with less. IEMA is currently managing three (3) federally declared disaster response and recovery operations while also responding to requests to support potential civil unrest operations, two large chemical fires, flood operations, tornado recovery, and more. This agency's workforce has been drastically slashed by years of budget cuts and attrition. At the agency's lowest point in FY21, IEMA employed a full-time staff of only 164 people, with single digit employee counts in some of the most critical offices. Through it all, IEMA has excelled and is often cited as an example for best practices throughout the nation.

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The agency is proud to highlight some of its major accomplishments in FY 21:

COVID: Fiscal

- During FY21 the agency oversaw nearly \$1.1 billion in spending, of which approximately \$715 million was for grants to various entities and \$348 million was for the agency's COVID response. The agency's COVID response expenditures for this FY were primarily tied to vaccination.

- IEMA continues to work with GOMB and other State agencies to oversee and report on the \$3.5 billion in CARES funding for the State.
- During FY21 IEMA's Fiscal Division processed 12,915 payments, which is nearly double the number handled in the last full year prior to COVID, with only two full-time accounts payable employees and one temporary employee.
- In FY21 the agency had 567 procurements for its regular operations, in addition to the nearly 1,800 COVID related procurements completed since March of 2020. This includes contracting with more than 700 civilian nurses to support state testing, state vaccination, and hospital surge staffing capabilities. It is important to note that for most of FY21, IEMA only employed 4 full time procurement employees and one part time contractual employee.

COVID: Logistics

- IEMA Logistics has been instrumental in the state's personal protective equipment (PPE) distribution and vaccination administration efforts. During FY 21, the IEMA logistics team filled 4,000 requests from local jurisdictions seeking PPE and medical supplies. These requests required distributing more than 66-million pieces of PPE on behalf of the state's COVID-19 response operation. These efforts were vital due to a broken supply chain that left local jurisdictions hamstrung to meet the needs of the residents of Illinois. This massive undertaking equates to an average of 1.2 million outbound pieces each week.

COVID: Legal

- The IEMA Legal Team, a staff of six full time employees, supported the State's COVID response efforts by drafting and negotiating over 450 COVID-related contracts and similar documents, including over 50 COVID-related contracts, over 300 COVID-related Basic Ordering Agreements (BOA), and over 100 COVID-related contract amendments. Additionally, Legal completed over 75 COVID-related Agreements – (IGA's, Licenses, Leases, MOU's).
- Acted as lead legal counsel in support of the State's Alternate Care Facility (ACF) at the former MetroSouth Medical Center in Blue Island, which was stood up to replace the ACF at McCormick Place if needed.

COVID-19: Operations

- **Testing:** Under IEMA's coordination and staffing structure, the State of Illinois testing infrastructure network administered approximately 15-million COVID-19 tests during FY21.
- **Alternate Housing:** Coordinated with local jurisdiction to ensure proper planning documents were finalized in order for local jurisdictions to offer appropriate alternate housing for COVID-19 individuals should a need arise.
- **PPE Stockpiles:** Coordinated with local jurisdictions to promote proper planning to maintain PPE stockpiles in anticipation of future COVID surges. This planning assumption required the establishment of a 60-day PPE supply at state warehouses to support a 30-day supply requirement for each local jurisdiction.

- **Mass Vaccination:** IEMA Operations was instrumental in the success of the state's mass vaccination efforts. Mass vaccination clinics, supported by the Illinois National Guard and local jurisdictions, were established throughout the state and administered more than 12 million vaccines. These efforts are largely attributable to 74 percent of the state's most vulnerable residents becoming vaccinated.
- **Federal Partnerships:** IEMA Operations partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a mass vaccination clinic at the United Center which resulted in 400,000 vaccines administered within three months.
- **Youth Vaccinations:** IEMA operations partnered with IDPH to establish the state's first COVID-19 vaccination program for youth ages 12-17. The agency hosted nearly a dozen training courses for contracted staff to ensure proper safety measures and training was in place before administering a new vaccine to our state's youngest patients.
- **COVID Reimbursement:** In FY21, IEMA assisted more than 1,500 governmental and not-for-profit organizations seeking reimbursement of expenses related to the COVID-19. Through the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) program, IEMA has administered more than \$700 million dollars to these entities.

State Assistance in Times of Disaster

- During FY21 IEMA Operations responded and supported multiple state level responses of significance which required thousands of man hours, including but not limited to:
 - The largest lithium ion battery fire in United States history (Superior Battery Fire-Morris, IL)
 - Coordinated response efforts of 9 state agencies and 2 Non-Gov't Organizations
 - Industrial Fire at ChemTool manufacturing (Formerly the largest industrial lubricant manufacturing facility in the United States)
 - Coordinated response efforts of 9 state agencies and 2 Non-Gov't Organizations
 - Conducted multiple state level interagency responses (in cooperation with ISP, ILNG, ILEAS) for civil unrest which included the mobilization of over 1,200 personnel.
 - An above average tornado season which required multiple responses throughout the state.
 - Facilitated state level support as a result of the Father's Day Tornadoes, including a multiple agency response in support of DuPage county.
 - Facilitated IL-Task Force 1 support to Louisiana for deployment to Louisiana for Hurricane Ida response
 - IEMA requested and received federal financial support for residents and businesses impacted by disasters in Rockton, DuPage and McLean counties. IEMA was able to assist local jurisdictions with damage assessments that helped the communities

qualify for over \$3.8 million in Disaster Loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Building a Better Prepared State:

- IEMA and the Illinois Terrorism Task Force developed the Illinois Homeland Security Strategy, Vision 2025. This plan, which was assembled using a whole-community approach, provides a clear, unified path for preparedness that maximizes the allocation of resources and establishes a framework to address threats and risks.
- IEMA administered more than \$1 million to fund 27 Hazard Mitigation Plans for local jurisdictions in Illinois. These plans, once implemented, will add greater protection to 1.2 million Illinois residents from hazards such as floods, fires, earthquakes and more.
- IEMA administered six Infrastructure and Mitigation projects funded through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program totaling more than \$17 million dollars.
- Flood Preparedness: IEMA Operations staff conducted and participated in 16 multi-agency Flood Preparedness Workshops throughout the state.
- Published the first ever Integrated Preparedness Plan document, which lays out the multi-year training and exercise plan for IEMA.
- IEMA led a statewide initiative to register and participate in a world-wide earthquake drill, Great Central United States Shakeout. More than 250,000 Illinois residents practiced the “drop, cover, hold on” technique that is advised for personal protection during an earthquake.

Combating School Violence

- IEMA launched a pilot program of Safe2Help Illinois, a free information sharing platform that is available 24/7 to encourage students to share information in a confidential environment that could prevent bullying, suicides, or other threats to school violence. The pilot program resulted in more than 130 public interactions. The program launched statewide in October 2021.

Improving Customer/Stakeholder Access

- **Improving Language Access:** IEMA spearheaded a committee to develop and implement the agency’s first-ever Language Access Plan describing how IEMA will provide language access services to its Limited English Proficiency constituents.

Elimination of Inspection Backlog that Resulted from Understaffing Over a Multi-Year Period

- IEMA’s Division of Nuclear Safety has eliminated an inspection backlog (40%) of its radioactive materials licensees that was a persistent concern for five years. This backlog was a result of retirements and hiring freezes from 2017. IEMA routinely inspects almost 1,100 radioactive materials sites across the State of Illinois for compliance with Agency regulations.

Tier II Reporting Ensures Local Communities are Aware of Chemical Hazards in Their Communities

- Under the Federal and Illinois Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Acts, owners or operators of facilities with hazardous chemicals on hand in quantities equal to or greater than set threshold levels must submit Tier II forms between January 1 and March 1 for the previous calendar year. For this time period in 2021, IEMA's Division of Nuclear Safety successfully worked with approximately 8,500 facilities to ensure timely reporting of their chemical inventories. Tier II Report information is used by Local Emergency Planning Committees, local emergency managers, and first responders to develop plans and to respond to incidents.

Reduction of X-Ray Backlog Created by Pandemic

- As a result of not performing onsite x-ray inspections from March 2020 through June 2020, IEMA's Division of Nuclear Safety ended up with more than 1,000 overdue x-ray inspections. IEMA's x-ray inspection team developed a plan to improve efficiencies and has decreased the number of overdue inspections to less than 200 by early 2021.