

2009 State Conference

More than 1,000 Attend IEMA Conference

More than 1,000 emergency management, fire, law enforcement, EMS, public health and other professionals from around the state attended the 13th annual IEMA emergency management conference in Springfield Sept. 9-10.



The conference featured nationally recognized speakers discussing such topics as 9/11 response efforts, recovery from the devastating tornado in Greensburg, Kansas and lessons learned from the Minneapolis bridge collapse response. The conference also offered several breakout sessions, as well as pre-conference workshops on Sept. 8.

IEMA Enforces National Source Tracking System

IEMA's Division of Nuclear Safety began enforcement of the National Source Tracking System (NSTS) in January 2009 as part of its efforts to enhance controls for certain radioactive materials used in industry, academia and medicine.

The tracking system requires licensees to report the manufacture, transfer, receipt, disassembly and disposal of nationally tracked

sources. NSTS will enhance the accountability of radioactive sources as IEMA conducts inspections and investigations, communicates nationally tracked source information to other government agencies and verifies legitimate ownership and use of nationally tracked sources.

Throughout 2009, IEMA staff inspected facilities to determine compliance with the NSTS requirements.

Homeland Security Program Rated in Top 4 Percent

A nationwide evaluation of state homeland security program effectiveness by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) ranked Illinois' program in the top four percent of state programs. Illinois received an overall effectiveness score of 91 out of 100. The national average effectiveness score was 71.

FEMA used peer reviewers from around the country to review each state's homeland security preparedness efforts, focusing on accomplishments, homeland security strategy, development of investment justifications and utilization of homeland security funding to build response capabilities to confront threats.

Illinois' homeland security strategy is developed and implemented by the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF). The task force also determines how the state's share of federal homeland security funds should be used to enhance emergency preparedness and response throughout Illinois.

Activity Book Encourages Kids to be Prepared

A new activity book unveiled at the Illinois State Fair in August 2009 teaches children about the importance of disaster preparedness. The activity book, "Get Ready! A Disaster Preparedness Activity Book," follows two young brothers as they learn about preparedness and includes mazes, word searches, crossword puzzles and other fun activities to reinforce the message.

ITTF Develops Suspicious Mail Handling Guidance

Local governments, businesses and others in the private sector now have a one-stop resource for helping their employees properly handle suspicious mail, packages and explosives. In January, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) unveiled training materials that are available for free through the state's Ready Illinois website.

A team of subject matter experts from fire, law enforcement, emergency management, transportation, bioterrorism preparedness, training and the U.S. Postal Inspectors developed the training course and materials for the ITTF.

The 30-minute, Web-based course, Suspicious and Unknown

Mail/Package/Explosive Awareness, will help participants become more aware of potential threats and hazards. It covers characteristics of suspicious mail and packages, basic safety procedures, associated response agencies and procedures, and available resources for awareness, mitigation and preparedness.

Materials for the course include an information guide, the training program audio, a checklist and a sample template of an action plan that businesses or other entities can customize for each work location's needs, policies and procedures. The materials can be downloaded from the state's Ready Illinois website at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.



IEMA Observes Earthquake Awareness Week



A year after a 5.4 magnitude earthquake shook southern Illinois, the state observed Earthquake Awareness Week April 13 – 19 to encourage people to better prepare for earthquakes.

As part of Earthquake Awareness Week, IEMA developed public information materials that were distributed to libraries, local emergency management agencies and IEMA's regional offices in Marion, Collinsville and Flora. The information was also made available through the Ready Illinois website at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.

Southern Illinois is susceptible to earthquake effects from two seismic zones: the New Madrid Seismic Zone, which extends from southeastern Arkansas and southwestern Tennessee to southern Illinois, and the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone, located in southeastern Illinois and southwestern Indiana.

While shaking from a southern Illinois earthquake can be felt as far away as the far northern tip of Illinois, 29 counties in southern Illinois are considered to be most at risk for the effects of a destructive earthquake.

Display Showcases Response Capabilities

In late May, IEMA and the ITTF displayed more than 30 emergency response vehicles and other response equipment outside the State Capitol. The equipment display showcased major equipment purchased by Illinois with a portion of the state's share of federal homeland security dollars received over the past decade.

Command trailers, special teams response trucks, equipment trailers, and even two tactical boats illustrated a portion of the state's emergency response and preparedness capabilities. The ITTF has spent \$68.8 million acquiring and outfitting the 443 vehicles and pieces of emergency response equipment represented in the display.

IEMA Coordinates Response to H1N1

IEMA played a key role in the state's quick response to the H1N1 flu outbreak in April 2009. The agency activated the Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) in Springfield, bringing together representatives from several state agencies to support the state's efforts to protect public health.

Through the SEOC, IEMA coordinated quick distribution of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) supplies to local health departments throughout the state. The sup-

plies included anti-viral medications, masks, gloves and surgical gowns.

also established and mandated a citizen center with English and Spanish-speaking operators to provide Illinois residents with easy access to information about the H1N1 flu.

The call center was staffed by state employee volunteers from several agencies.

In addition, IEMA staff continually posted updated information about the flu on the state's Ready Illinois website.

Agreement State Program Receives High Marks

The state's Agreement State Program received high marks in 2009 following a comprehensive review by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). A five-person team spent five days reviewing Illinois' program for regulating radioactive materials against criteria outlined in the NRC Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP).

The review team found Illinois' performance to be satisfactory

for all of the various performance indicators. This is the highest finding allowed by IMPEP. The review team made one recommendation in regard to program performance by the State and also identified one good practice that will be shared with all other Agreement States and NRC regions.

Based on the results of the IMPEP review, the next full IMPEP review will take place in approximately four years.

IEMA Increases Public Awareness of Radon

IEMA's radon staff continued efforts to increase public awareness of the health risks associated with radon exposure throughout 2009, beginning with Radon Action Month in January. To highlight the importance of testing homes for radon, IEMA released an agency study showing that 42 percent of nearly 72,000 homes tested in Illinois between 2003 and 2007 had radon levels greater than 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/l), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recommended action level.

The 6th Annual Radon Networking Day brought together nearly 60 local officials from across the state to learn more about radon health hazards, measurement and mitigation and public outreach advice. Participants in the day-long workshop included local public health officials, radon contractors, real estate professionals, code officials, extension educators and radon grant partners.

In May, the radon program hosted a medical conference on radon and its related health risks in Oak Brook. The conference was attended by nearly 100 healthcare professionals, radon licensees and state radon program staff from Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Posters created by three Illinois students illustrating the hazards of radon gas in homes were selected to compete in the 2010 National

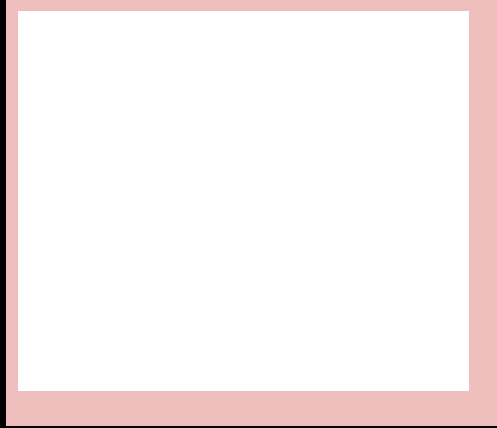
Radon Poster Contest sponsored by the National Safety Council in partnership with the USEPA. The posters were among more than 300 entries in the statewide poster contest sponsored by IEMA, the American Lung Association (ALA-IL), the University of Illinois Extension Office and the Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago. The three finalists in Illinois were selected from 15 top entries in five regions.

Three laws addressing radon were passed by the General Assembly and signed into law in 2009. The first (Public Act 96-0417) recommends that occupied school buildings be tested every five years for radon and that new schools be built using radon resistant new construction techniques.

Another (Public Act 96-0278) revises the Illinois Radon Awareness Act to require home sellers to disclose either that they have no knowledge of elevated radon concentrations or that prior elevated radon concentrations have been remediated. It also stipulates that provisions of the act do not apply to sales of residential dwellings located on the third story or higher above-ground level of any building.

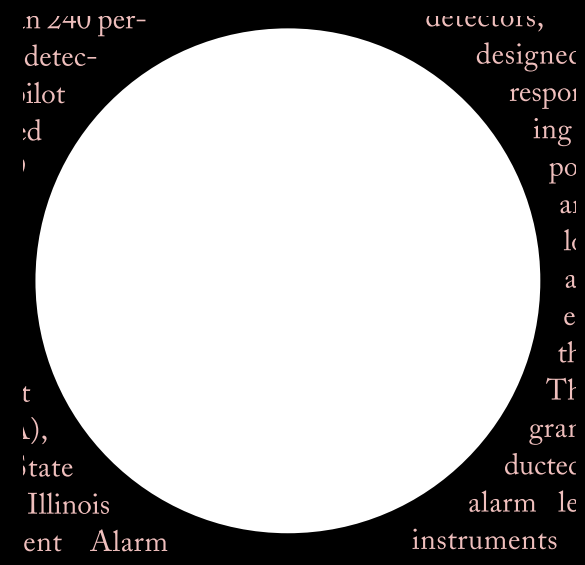
The third new law (Public Act 96-0195) requires that all radon detection devices sold in Illinois be approved by IEMA and be calibrated to ensure the accuracy and precision of their measurements. It also creates the Radon-Resistant Building Codes Task Force to make recommendations concerning the adoption of rules for radon resistant new construction building codes.

Residents in 10 southern Illinois counties were eligible to receive free radon home test kits as part of a radon awareness campaign launched in June under a partnership between IEMA, the ALA-IL and the Southern Illinois Radon Awareness Task Force. The 10 participating homes found to have the highest concentrations of the radioactive gas linked to lung cancer were selected to have radon mitigation systems installed at no cost. More than 500 homes were tested during the contest. The highest radon level found was 17.8 pCi/L.



Public Works Mutual Aid Activated for First Time

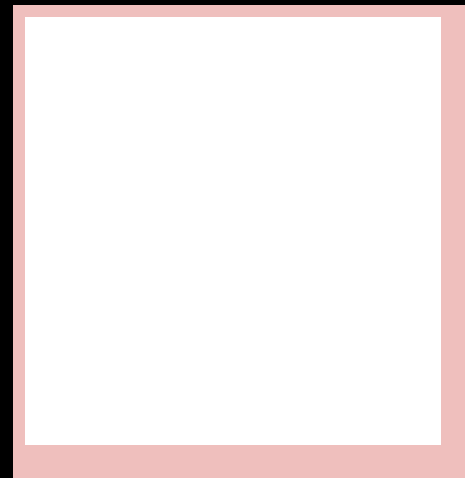
Pilot Program Tests Responder Radiation Detectors



FDA Commends Mammography Program

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) commended Illinois for its exemplary Mammography Certification Program following an on-site review in August 2009. The FDA reviewed facility inspection files, certification activities and compliance actions. FDA's report concluded that the program adequately and appropriately fulfills its responsibilities as an FDA approved certification body.

Illinois' program is one of just four in the nation approved by FDA to certify mammography facilities. This program helps ensure that Illinois patients receive quality mammograms for the early detection of breast cancer.



Ready Illinois Contest Produces New TV Spot