

Kane County

Office of Emergency Management



FY 2024 Annual Report

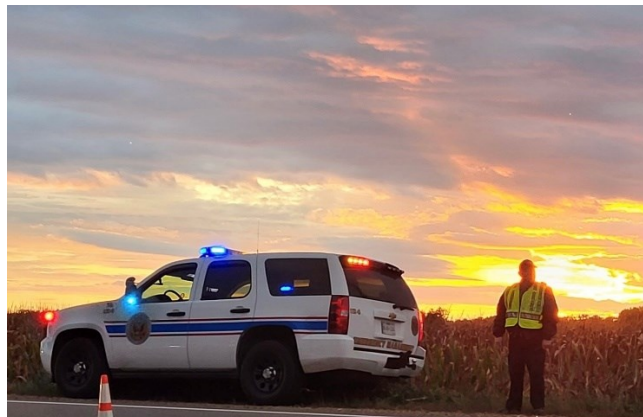


Table of Contents

About Our Office	2
Staff.....	3
Organization Structure & Functions.....	5
Volunteer Program Summary.....	6
Local Emergency Planning Committee.....	7
Volunteer Fund.....	7
Budget.....	8
Grants.....	10
Severe Weather in 2024.....	11
Field Activity.....	14
2020-2024 Call Volume.....	14
Services Provided.....	15
2024 Monthly Call Volume.....	17
Call Locations.....	18
Volunteer Program.....	19
Volunteer Hours & Value Provided.....	19
New Member Academy.....	20
Fellowship/Social Events.....	21
Public Education & Outreach.....	22
Training, Exercises & Milestones.....	25
Staff Training.....	26
Training Achievements.....	27
Milestones.....	27
Emergency Operations Center Updates.....	29
Fleet.....	30
New Vehicles.....	32
2024 Accomplishments & 2025 Goals.....	33

About Our Office

The Kane County Office of Emergency Management collaborates with government agencies, businesses, and communities across Kane County to support disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Our work includes community outreach and public education initiatives, developing and updating emergency response plans, conducting training programs and exercises, and coordinating disaster response and recovery efforts.

Office Functions Mandated by:

- 20 ILCS 3305, Sections 5(e) and 10—Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act
- 29 IL Admin. Code 301—Emergency Services And Disaster Agencies
- 29 IL Admin. Code 620—Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know (Hazardous Materials planning & record keeping)
- County Code Chapter 8, Article II – Emergency Management Agency

Phases of Emergency Management: The life cycle of emergency response consists of four phases, as defined by Illinois statute and the Illinois Administrative Code: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.

- Mitigation: actions taken to eliminate or reduce the degree of risk to life and property from hazards, either prior to or following a disaster. According to FEMA and the National Institute of Building Sciences, for every dollar spent on mitigation, an average of six dollars is saved in future disaster costs, meaning mitigation can significantly reduce the financial impact of natural disasters by preventing damage and facilitating faster recovery. *This function is performed on a very limited basis by full-time staff as available.*
- Preparedness: a continuous process of planning, organizing, equipping, training, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in preparation for a disaster. *This function is divided into two full-time Specialist positions: Planning & Preparedness.*
- Response: actions taken to save lives, protect property and the environment, or meet basic human needs after a disaster has occurred. *In Kane County, this function is performed primarily by police/Sheriff, fire, and public works departments, supported by our staff & volunteers, and coordinated by our Emergency Operations Center (EOC).*
- Recovery: the timely restoration, strengthening, and revitalization of infrastructure, housing, and a sustainable economy, as well as the health, social, cultural, historic, and environmental fabric of communities affected by a disaster. *This function is performed on a very limited basis by full-time staff as available.*



Staff

Scott Buziecki, Director



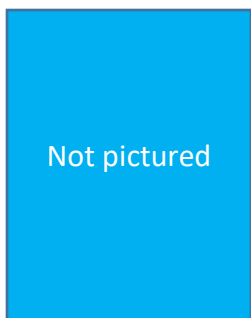
Since October 2023, Scott Buziecki has served as the Director of Kane County's Office of Emergency Management. Prior to that, he served for 27 years in the North Aurora Police Department and spent the last 12 years as emergency management coordinator. He has a Master's Degree in Management & Organizational Behavior and is accredited under the Illinois Professional Emergency Manager program. Under his leadership, the Office of Emergency Management champions a comprehensive regional approach to disaster management, which prioritizes community planning, public awareness, and the development of robust capabilities for preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery, fostering a resilient and ready community.

Jon Mensching, Chief Deputy Director

Jon Mensching re-joined the Office of Emergency Management as Chief Deputy Director in May 2022. Prior to this, he dedicated 29 years to the fire service, where he held positions ranging from firefighter/paramedic to lieutenant, captain, and fire marshal. Jon also served as the Village of Carpentersville's representative to the Kane County Natural Hazards Mitigation Committee and actively contributed to the village's emergency management program. Jon's involvement in emergency management began in 1990 when he joined Kane County ESDA (now OEM) as a volunteer cadet during high school. Over time, Jon advanced to Assistant Deputy Director within the volunteer program and later served full-time as the Hazardous Materials Safety Officer for two years before leaving to join the fire service.



Deborah Dortmund, Deputy Director of Administration



Deborah Dortmund has served as an employee in our office since 1997, currently serves as our Deputy Director of Administration. She started in 1991 as a volunteer and in 1996 was hired as a contract employee. In her current role, Deborah is responsible for managing the administrative functions of the office, including payroll & human resources coordinator, accounts payable, budget entry, FOIA officer, and procurement of equipment and supplies. She also handles our Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), including all aspects of grant management and compliance with grant requirements including preparation of progress

reports and quarterly financials. She also coordinates the following Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) functions: Open Meeting Acts compliance, meeting minutes & financials, Haz-Mat spill information, and coordinate Tier II reporting database

Ryan Alford, Assistant Director

Ryan Alford started with our agency as a volunteer in 2008 and rose to the rank of Captain. In 2021, he became our part-time Assistant Director and is responsible for coordinating volunteer response operations, including providing supervision to the volunteer supervisors, coordinating, planning, and scheduling details, responding to incidents and emergencies as available, and serving in the EOC or command post as available. In the FY2025 budget, Ryan was hired as our full-time Operations Manager and the part-time Assistant Director position was eliminated.



Beth Drendel, Preparedness Specialist



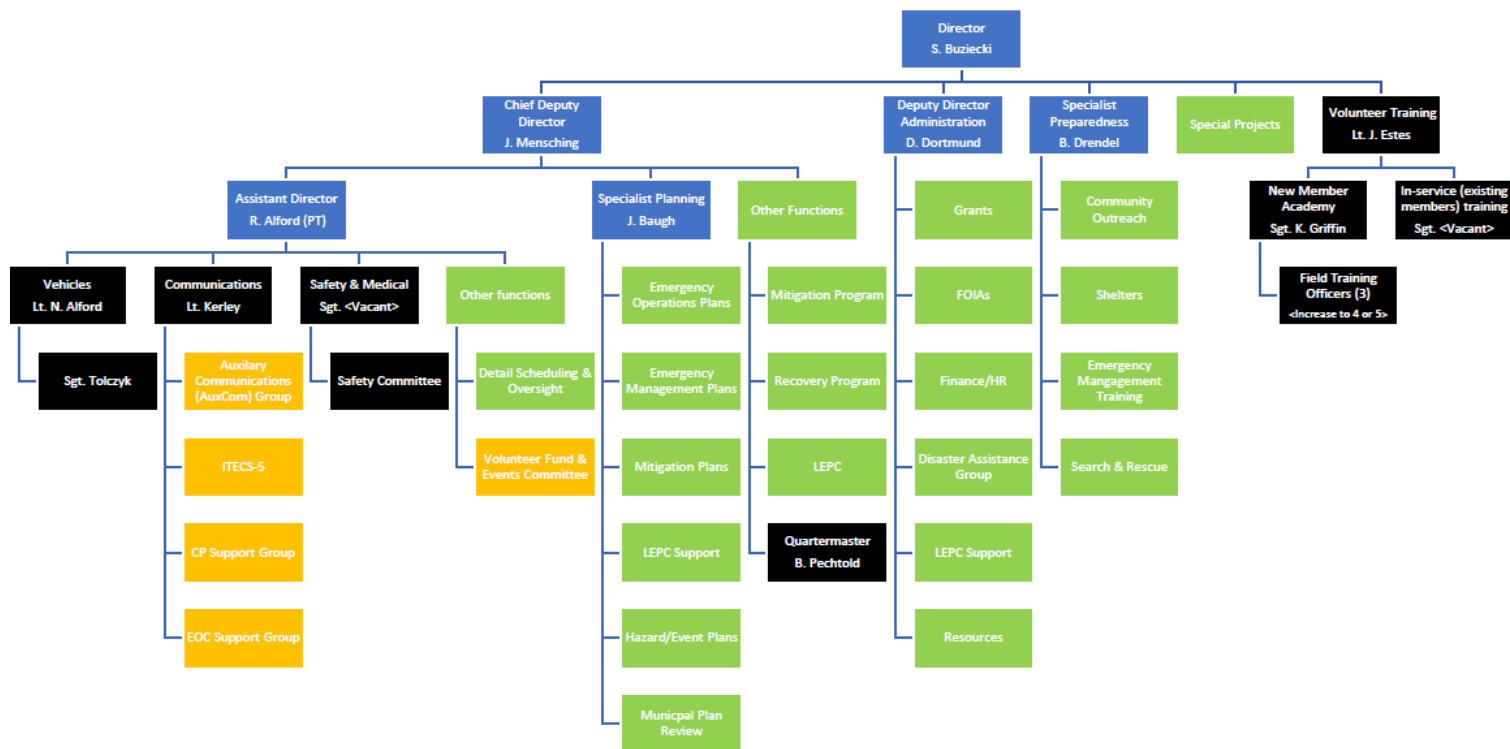
Beth Drendel joined the Kane County Office of Emergency Management (KCOEM) in 2019 as a volunteer, became a part-time employee in 2020 during COVID, and transitioned to a full-time role in January 2021 as a Preparedness Specialist. In this role, she coordinates our public education program, which teaches children and adults how to prepare for emergencies and disasters, conducts exercises for County personnel and local jurisdictions, coordinates our emergency sheltering program, maintains critical infrastructure data, and serves as Search and Rescue Team coordinator and instructor.

Nicole Sprague, Planning Specialist

Nicole Sprague joined the Kane County Office of Emergency Management (KCOEM) team in September 2024 as our Planning Specialist. Nicole holds a Master’s Degree in Public Safety Administration and a post-baccalaureate certificate in Emergency Management. As the planning specialist, she is responsible for developing & maintaining emergency management plans, collaborating with internal and external partners, providing technical assistance to municipal emergency managers, and reviewing municipal emergency operations plans.



Organization Structure & Functions



Preparedness

Our Preparedness Specialist coordinates many aspects of preparedness. This position serves as our emergency shelter coordinator, search & rescue team coordinator, and training & exercise coordinator, which plans, schedules, coordinates, and in some cases teaches emergency management training classes for County staff, volunteers, and municipal partners and plans and delivers exercises internally and externally to municipal partner. Finally, our Preparedness Specialist has a very public role in our community outreach efforts by coordinating all of our public education activities.

Planning

Our Planning Specialist maintains our plans & deliverables mandated by the State of Illinois, including the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, Threat & Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), Continuity of Government/Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP/COG), and Long Term Recovery Plan. The Planning Specialist is also responsible for collaborating with County departments to update departmental annexes in the EOP, providing technical assistance to municipalities in developing, updating, and reviewing their emergency plans, and develops, reviews, and updates a multitude of other essential planning documents:

- Kane County buildings Emergency Response Guide

- Kane County Debris Management Plan
- Kane County Mass Casualty Plan
- Kane County Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan

Volunteer Program

Our volunteer program is divided into the following divisions:

Field Response – Respond to emergency calls for assistance by law enforcement, fire departments, or other government agencies to assist with traffic control, scene lighting, or other duties as requested as well as planned events such as festivals and parades.

Vehicles – During weekly work night, perform weekly preventative maintenance (i.e. check fluids, air, lighting, etc. & test drive) to agency owned vehicles and equipment to ensure proper operation when needed and coordinate with mechanics when repairs are needed. Assist with vehicle-related projects such as installing equipment and decommissioning as needed.

Communications – Ensure proper operation of communications gear during weekly work nights, operate communications equipment during activations of the Emergency Operation Center during both real events and trainings, and conduct weekly direct-net broadcasts for our Amateur (HAM) Radio network.

Search And Rescue (SAR) – Respond to calls for service to assist Kane County Sheriff's Office or municipal police departments with locating missing and/or endangered members of the public within Kane County. Respond to mutual aid requests to assist partner SAR organizations in our region.



Safety/Medical – Oversee safety issues during all agency activities and correct unsafe conditions. Review reports of agency-involved vehicle accidents, damage, and/or injuries as well as near misses and recommend training and/or policy changes as needed. Ensure agency first-aid/safety supplies & equipment are in good working order and recommend replacement as needed.

Volunteer Training – Develop, manage, schedule, conduct, and evaluate training for the Pre-Service new volunteer training as well as In-Service volunteer training. Track and maintain training records.

Disaster Assistance – Work with and assist the public during disaster events such as tornadoes, floods, etc. on tasks such as Damage Assessment and Emergency Sheltering. Assist staff with certain record keeping tasks and projects.

Local Emergency Planning Committee

The Kane County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was established in compliance with the 1986 *Title III of Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA)* and *Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act*, which mandated local hazardous materials (HazMat) planning and reporting. We partner with Kane County facilities who house certain hazardous materials to provide training and limited funding to the three local HazMat response teams operating within Kane County, develop & maintain a County-wide Hazardous Materials Response Plan, and keep required records on materials stored and hazardous material spills. All funding described above comes through private donations into a special revenue fund and none from County funds.

Volunteer Fund

The County maintains a special revenue fund for donations received to support our volunteers. Donations typically come from municipal organizers of planned events such as parades and festivals where our volunteers provide assistance. We use the fund to pay for some equipment, uniforms, and appreciation dinners, following County purchasing rules. We also are implementing a committee of volunteers to help decide how to spend the money and to plan volunteer events.

Emergency Management 2023-2024 Budget Detail

AUTHORIZED STAFFING LEVELS		
Category	FY 2023	FY 2024
Full Time	6*	5
Part Time Regular	0	.25
Total Budgeted Positions	6.0	5.25
All positions shown in Full Time Equivalent (FTE)		
* The FY2023 budget included funds to make the part time Assistant Director position full time, but due to the transition from former to current director, the position was not filled and it was dropped in the FY2024 budget prior to the current director starting. The FY 2025 budget funded the full time Operations Manager position and dropped the part time Assistant Director position.		

G/L Account	Account Description	2023 Actual Amount	2024 Final Budget
Fund 001 - General Fund			
REVENUE			
001.510.000.37130	Emergency Mgmt Reimbursement	.00	90,000.00
001.510.000.33613	Natural Hazard Mitigation Grant	.00	61,472.14
REVENUE TOTALS		\$0.00	\$151,472.14
EXPENSE			
001.510.510.40000	Salaries and Wages	325,786.23	381,175.00
001.510.510.45000	Healthcare Contribution	22,397.38	.00
001.510.510.45010	Dental Contribution	373.45	.00
Contractual Services			
001.510.510.50150	Contractual/Consulting Services	.00	\$61,472.14
001.510.510.52150	Repairs and Maint- Comm Equip	.00	8,325.00
001.510.510.52160	Repairs and Maint- Equipment	4,316.10	3,100.00
001.510.510.52230	Repairs and Maint- Vehicles	8,479.83	29,775.00
001.510.510.53100	Conferences and Meetings	496.90	600.00
001.510.510.53110	Employee Training	1,569.40	5,800.00
001.510.510.53130	General Association Dues	270.00	430.00
001.510.510.55000	Miscellaneous Contractual Exp	9,350.48	15,410.00
Commodities			
001.510.510.60000	Office Supplies	2,875.32	10,250.00
001.510.510.60010	Operating Supplies	12,433.34	35,695.00
001.510.510.60020	Computer Related Supplies	6,157.15	10,425.00
001.510.510.60210	Uniform Supplies	14,974.43	9,650.00
001.510.510.63040	Fuel- Vehicles	.00	15,200.00
001.510.510.60590	Communication Equip - Non-Capital	8,253.83	3,000.00
EXPENSE TOTALS		\$417,733.84	\$590,307.14
Fund 001 - General Fund Totals		(\$417,733.84)	(\$438,835.00)

G/L Account	Account Description	2023 Actual Amount	2024 Final Budget
Fund 247 - EMA Volunteer Fund			
REVENUE			
247.510.000.38000	Investment Income	(100.77)	1,277.00
247.510.000.38520	General Donations	2,600.00	3,000.00
REVENUE TOTALS		\$2,499.23	\$4,277.00
EXPENSE			
<i>Contractual Services</i>			
247.510.511.55000	Miscellaneous Contractual Exp	1,017.71	2,800.00
<i>Commodities</i>			
247.510.511.60010	Operating Supplies	722.97	200.00
247.510.511.89000	Addition to Fund Balance	.00	1,277.00
EXPENSE TOTALS		\$1,740.68	\$4,277.00
Fund 247 - EMA Volunteer Fund Totals		\$758.55	\$0.00

G/L Account	Account Description	2023 Actual Amount	2024 Final Budget
Fund 248 - KC Emergency Planning (Local Emergency Planning Committee/HazMat)			
REVENUE			
248.510.000.37900	Miscellaneous Reimbursement	350.00	.00
248.510.000.38000	Investment Income	(83.43)	933.00
248.510.000.38520	General Donations	5,350.00	4,000.00
REVENUE TOTALS		\$5,616.57	\$4,933.00
EXPENSE			
<i>Contractual Services</i>			
248.510.512.55000	Miscellaneous Contractual Exp	870.51	2,001.00
<i>Commodities</i>			
248.510.512.60000	Office Supplies	.00	50.00
248.510.512.60010	Operating Supplies	209.00	475.00
248.510.512.65000	Miscellaneous Supplies	.00	325.00
248.510.512.89000	Addition to Fund Balance	.00	2,082.00
EXPENSE TOTALS		\$1,079.51	\$4,933.00
Fund 248 - KC Emergency Planning Totals		\$4,537.06	\$0.00

G/L Account	Account Description	2023 Actual Amount	2024 Final Budget
Department Totals across all three funds	Net Grand Totals		
	REVENUE GRAND TOTALS	\$8,115.80	\$160,682.14
	EXPENSE GRAND TOTALS	\$420,554.03	\$599,517.14
	Net Grand Totals	<u>(\$412,438.23)</u>	<u>(\$438,835.00)</u>

Grants

Grant	Description	Amount
Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)	Available only to IL accredited agencies, these are federal funds passed through Illinois and cover some of the administrative costs of performing emergency management, such as salaries, equipment, office expenses, and fuel.	\$85,578.00*
Hazard Mitigation Program Grant (HMPG)	These are federal funds passed through Illinois and covered the expenses of developing our 2024 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.	\$65,705.14**
Total		\$151,283.14

* Awarded in FY2024.

** \$4,233.33 went to Environmental & Water Resources as a reimbursement for their staff time working on the grant. Emergency Management staff time was not eligible for reimbursement.

Severe Weather in 2024

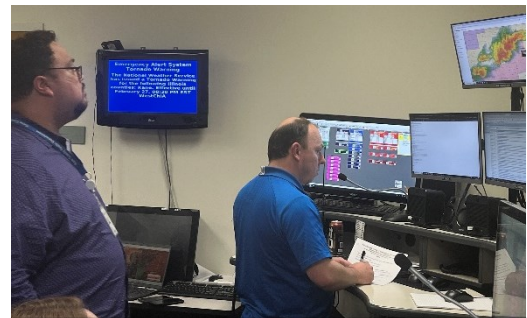
2024 was a very active year for severe weather in Kane County, with two significant winter storms and ten (10) tornados!

Significant Winter Storms			
Date	Snow total	EOC activated?	# sub-incidents handled by OEM
1/9/2024	7.5 inches (Lily Lake)	No	27
1/12/2024	11 inches (Hampshire)	Yes	42



Kane County experienced zero tornados from 2015 to 2019 and 5 total tornados from 2020 to 2023. In 2024, we experienced a jump to ten (10) tornados. An After Action Report from the July 2024 tornado identified several areas for improvement, all of which are ongoing.

Kane County Tornados		
Year	# tornados	Details
2015	0	
2016	0	
2017	0	
2018	0	
2019	0	
2020	2	Elburn EF-1 Lily Lake EF-0
2021	0	
2022	1	Big Rock EF-0
2023	2	Plato Center to Elgin EF-1 Campton Hills to Elgin EF-0
2024	10	See below
5 year avg.		3.0
10 year avg.		1.5



Volunteers in the EOC Communications room during the February tornados.

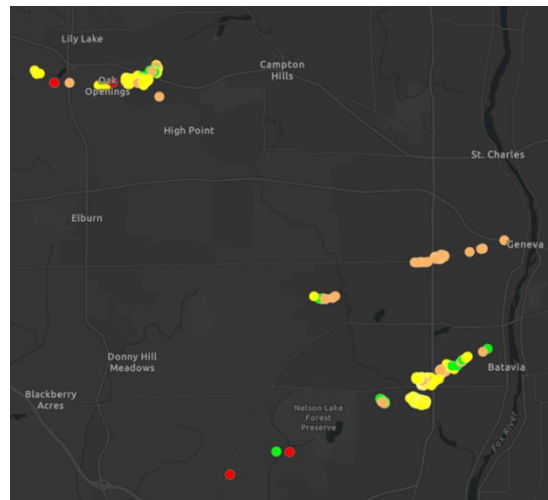


2024 Tornadoes						
Date	Location(s)	Severity (Peak Wind Speed)	EOC activated?	Storm Spotters?	# sub-incidents handled by OEM	Damage Assessment
2/27/2024	Hinkley to Big Rock	EF-0 (85 mph)	Yes	No*	6	Yes
	Maple Park to Campton Hills	EF-0 (85 mph)				
	Sugar Grove to Batavia	EF-1 (95 mph)				
	Geneva	EF-1 (95 mph)				
6/22/2024	Elburn	EF-0 (75 mph)	Yes	No*	1	Local only
7/14/2024	Elburn	EF-1 (100 mph)	Yes	No*	15	Yes
	St. Charles	EF-0 (80 mph)				
7/15/2024	Maple Park	EF-U (unknown)	Yes	No*	19	
	Sugar Grove to Aurora	EF-1 (95 mph)				
	Sugar Grove to North Aurora	EF-0 (85 mph)				

* Storm spotters are only deployed during daylight hours and all 2024 tornadoes happened near or after dark.



Volunteer & partner briefing prior to conducting Preliminary Damage Assessment, Feb. 29, 2024.



Map of Preliminary Damage Assessment Feb. 29, 2024. Red = Destroyed, Orange = Major, Yellow = Minor. This solution was built internally by the Kane County GIS Department, in consultation with the Office of Emergency Management, and completed just in time for this event.



Inside of a pole building on McGough Rd. in Burlington in July.



A historic barn dating back to the 1860's in Blackberry Township was destroyed in the February tornados.



Outside of a pole building on McGough Rd. in Burlington in July.



A nursery on Norris Rd. in Blackberry Township had significant damage as a result of the Feb. 29th tornados.



Tree down in St. Charles in July. There were A LOT of trees down and cosmetic damage during the February and July tornados.

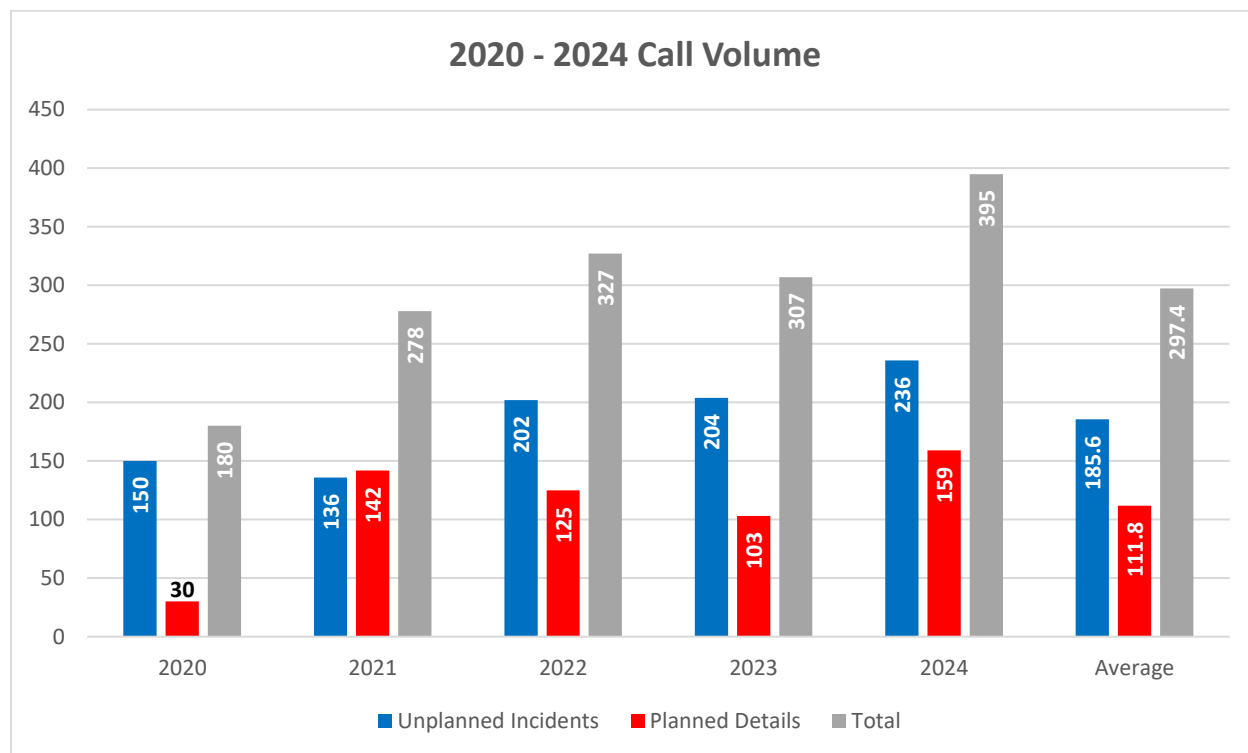


A collapsed horse arena on Brundige Rd., Elburn.

Field Activity

Our Field Services division responds to requests for assistance, which are tracked as *Unplanned Incidents* and *Planned Details* and all together are referred to as *Calls*, which have been steadily increasing since 2020. In 2024, we had 395 calls, which represents an increase of 119% since 2020, an average yearly increase of 29.8%!

Unplanned Incidents are requests for assistance at an emergency scene typically from law enforcement or a fire department. Details are scheduled assistance at pre-planned events, typically requested by law enforcement or fire departments.



The totals in the chart above may not match the totals on page 15 because more than one service was provided at many Incidents and Details.

We respond to calls and provide one or more services to the requesting agency. The most common service provided was Traffic Control, followed by Scene Lighting. Tree removal is a recently expanded service, which involves using chain saws to cut up trees that have fallen over the roadway, and allows the road to be opened sooner rather than having to wait for road maintenance crews.



Our policies and Illinois law allow emergency management volunteers & employees to install blue and white (but not red) emergency lighting in their personal vehicles, which may be used by volunteers at the scene, as directed by law enforcement. Our policies DO NOT allow the use of the emergency lights for response to the scene, nor do we allow sirens in volunteer vehicles.

Services Provided

Total services provided is shown on the table below and shows that services provided have increased 120% from 2020 to 2024 or an average yearly increase of 30%!

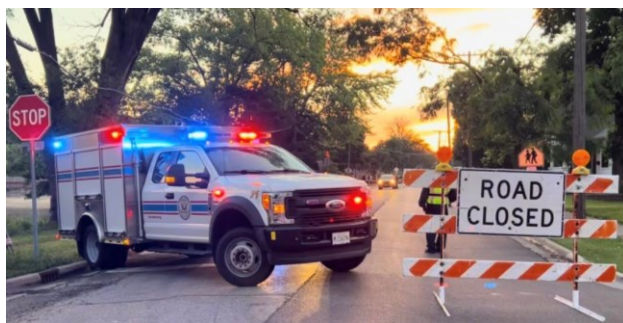
All Incidents & Events (Planned & Unplanned)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Avg.
EOC Operations	10	8	18	14	25	15.0
Hazardous Materials	2	1	13	3	1	4.0
ITECS*				6	12	9.0
Mobile Operations Center	11	17	15	24	15	16.4
Public Education [#]		3	23	25	31	20.5
Scene Lighting	10	13	13	31	39	21.2
Search & Rescue	16	12	7	8	13	11.2
Support Services**	6	102	38	0	2	29.6
Traffic Control	144	145	217	237	279	204.4
Tree Removal	2	2	0	0	26	6.0
Grand Total	201	303	344	348	443	327.8

* ITECS stands for Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications System and is a State of Illinois asset, housed and maintained by Kane County. It is made up of Ford F550 tow vehicle and a 32-foot trailer with a 50-foot tower and a large array of equipment for satellite, radio, cellular, telephone, and IT. ITECS systems are used to provide emergency communications in areas where normal communications are unavailable, inadequate, or damaged. ITECS was placed into service in 2023. (Picture at right.)



Records for Public Education were not kept prior to 2021.

** Support services are services that don't fit another category and typically involve providing general manpower. A common example in 2021 & 2022 were supporting the COVID Vaccine Clinics.



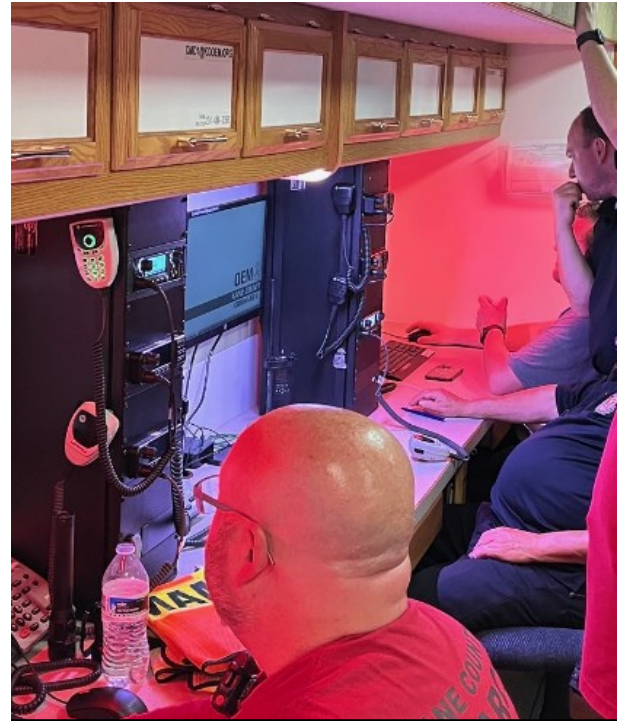
Traffic control at a fireworks event.



Communications support for a bicycle race



We provided traffic control, parking assistance, and coordinated security for the Longmeadow Parkway Bridge dedication in August, where many dignitaries were in attendance, including Governor Pritzker.



Inside Command-1 during a real-life Search And Rescue incident during June in Elgin Township. The 62-year old female was found safe.



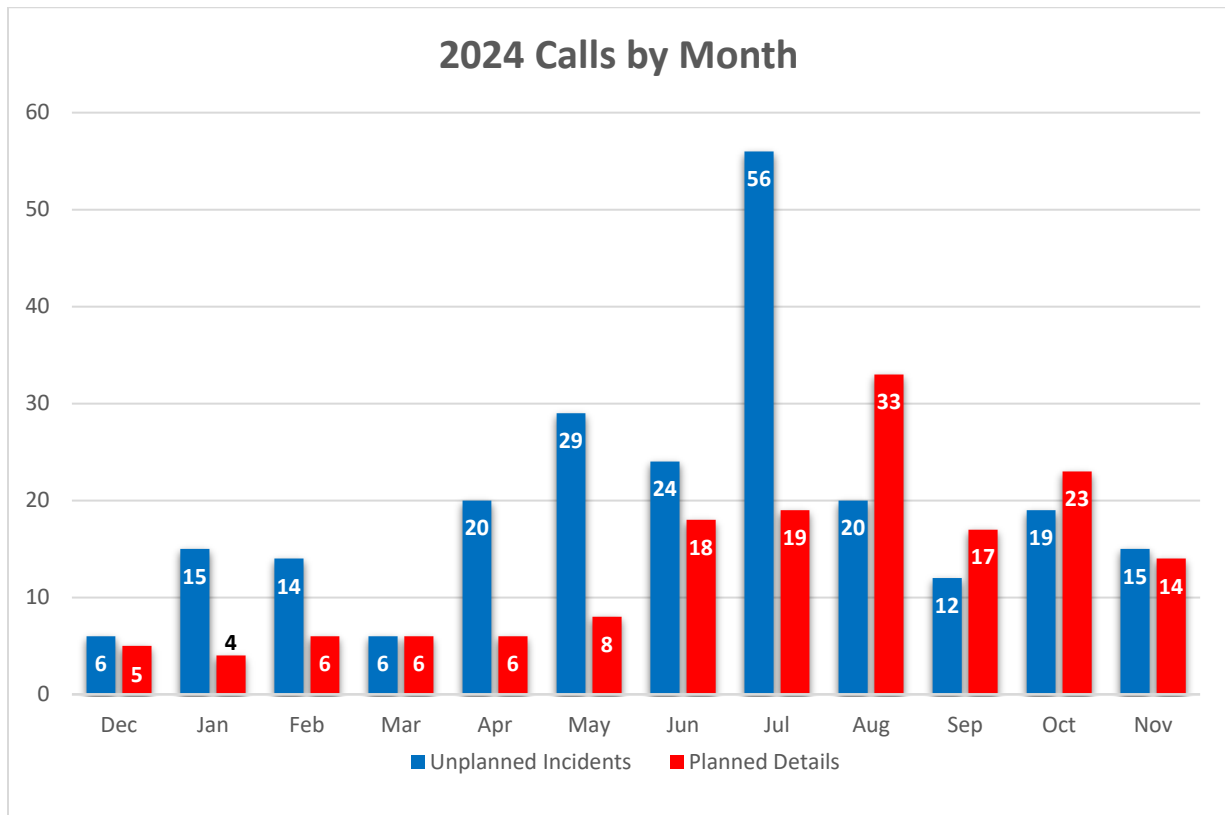
Our Mobile Command Center, known as Command-1, at our annual full-scale Search And Rescue exercise in October in Rutland Township.



Daytime traffic control.

2024 Monthly Call Volume

The summer months are the busiest of the year for calls, when there are typically planned events such as festivals & parades every weekend.



Call Locations

In FY2024, we handled Calls in 46 different “places,” which are typically a municipality or township. The location “Kane County” indicates that the calls were provided to a Kane County agency (i.e. Sheriff, KDOT, etc.), were in multiple locations (i.e. an event with a route such as a parade), or a countywide event (i.e. Severe Weather).

Location	Count
Kane County	67
Pingree Grove, Village of	22
St. Charles Township	22
Plato Township	18
Sugar Grove Township	16
Elgin, City of	15
Rutland Township	15
Hampshire, Village of	14
Blackberry Township	11
Elgin Township	11
Geneva, City of	11
Campton Township	10
Burlington Township	10
Hampshire Township	9
Dundee Township	8
Carpentersville, Village of	8
Aurora Township	8
Big Rock Township	8
Maple Park, Village of	8
Virgil Township	8
South Elgin, Village of	8
Montgomery, Village of	7
Batavia, City of	7

Location	Count
West Dundee, Village of	7
Sugar Grove, Village of	7
Gilberts, Village of	6
Campton Hills, Village of	6
Elburn, Village of	5
St. Charles, City of	5
East Dundee, Village of	4
DuPage County	3
Burlington, Village of	3
Aurora, City of	3
North Aurora, Village of	3
Kaneville Township	3
Geneva Township	3
DeKalb County	2
Bartlett, Village of	2
Wayne, Village of	2
Batavia Township	2
Will County	2
LaSalle County	2
Big Rock, Village of	1
Sleepy Hollow, Village of	1
Huntley, Village of	1
Winnebago County	1
Total	395

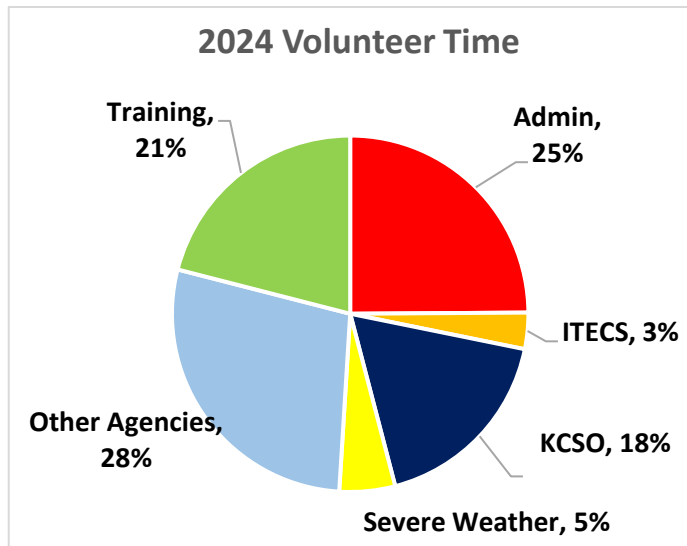
Volunteer Program

Volunteer Hours & Value Provided

Our Volunteer program remains a strength of our agency, racking up over 13,400 hours in FY2024, equivalent to almost 6.5 full time employees and a value of \$453,127!* As of Nov. 30, we had 50 volunteers.

Activity	Hours	%
Administrative & Maintenance	3,341	25%
ITECS (see description p. 19)	443	3%
Assist to Sheriff's Office	2,381	18%
Severe Weather	679	5%
Assist to Other Agencies	3,760	28%
Agency Training	2,818	21%
Grand Total	13,422	100%

The pie chart at right shows that assists to the Kane County Sheriff's Office (18%) and other public safety agencies (28%) represent 46% of all volunteer hours. Training (21%) and Administrative (25%) duties represent another 49% of volunteer hours and reflect the challenges of running such a large, mostly volunteer agency.



Our volunteer hours have been steadily increasing since 2022, when the total hours were 10,716. Since then volunteer hours have increased 17.8% in 2023 and 6.3% in 2024.

Year	Hours	Value per Hour*	Value in Dollars
2020	12,072	\$ 29.37	\$ 354,554.64
2021	11,610	\$ 30.97	\$ 359,561.70
2022	10,716	\$ 32.68	\$ 350,198.88
2023	12,626	\$ 33.76	\$ 426,253.76
2024	13,422	\$ 33.76**	\$ 453,126.72
Average	12,089	\$ 32.11	\$ 388,160.03

* \$33.76 per hour per IndependentSector.org

** The 2024 data is not out yet, so the 2023 number was used.

New Member Academy

We accept volunteer application year round via our website www.KCOEM.org and a successful background check, new volunteers enter our New Member Academy training program, which meets on three Wednesday evenings per month from April to October.

Academy	Students at start	Students graduated	% Graduated
2023	11	5	45%
2024	17	11	65%



New Member Academy graduation in October.

The 2024 New Member Academy began in April and concluded in October with a graduation ceremony & dinner. The classes taught were:

- Agency Introduction
- Orientation & Paperwork
- IaR, VIMS, Training Forms
- Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Training
- Traffic Control & Situational Awareness
- Powerline Safety Training
- Hazardous Materials Awareness
- Field Communications & APX Overview
- Light Truck & Towers, Generator
- Introduction to Search & Rescue (SAR-IO)
- EOC Operations
- Vehicles Overview
- Basic Life Support (BLS): CPR
- Basic Life Support (BLS): First Aid
- Stop the Bleed / Narcan
- Disaster Psychology
- Command One Overview
- Responding to Critical Incidents
- KaneComm Operations



Trainer Jason Kazimier (right) teaches new volunteers how to use a light tower.



Trainer Matt Luhman (right) teaches new volunteers how to do weekly preventative maintenance on a fleet vehicle.



Sergeant Kyle Griffin (center) teaches Command One Orientation.



Michelle Guthrie, Director of KaneComm, teaches new volunteers about dispatch operations. This was followed by a tour of the dispatch center.

Fellowship/Social Events

During each year, we plan fellowship/social activities both for team-building and to thank volunteers for their service. In 2024, we held a movie outing, a volunteer appreciation dinner, a chili cook-off, and a cook out.



A fellowship event for volunteers, staff, and their families—we saw the movie “Twisters” at a theater in Elgin.



Volunteer appreciation dinner in April. Volunteer Jason Kazimier (right) was honored for the most volunteer hours (835, or 16 hours per week) in 2023!

Public Education & Outreach

Public Education & Outreach is a high priority for our team. During 2024, we held eight (8) adult Preparedness classes (2 hrs each) with 171 participants, who received information on the types of emergencies and disasters that could affect Kane County, how to receive timely alerts, and how to protect their families.

We focused heavily on maintaining an active presence and building public engagement on social media during 2024. On Facebook, we currently have 3,214 Followers (up 687 during 2024, an increase of 114% over the prior year) and reached 100,600 people (an increase of 117% over the prior year). Our largest reach days were in February & July, in the aftermath of tornado outbreaks when we reached 14,566 and 10,742 people, respectively. In July 2024, we launched our first ever Instagram page, which has 31 followers.



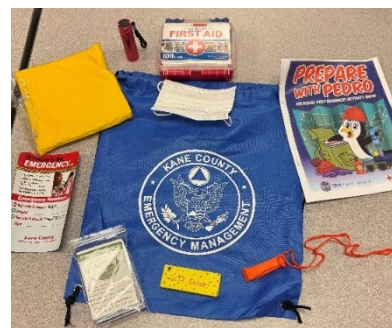
We made appearances on radio stations to talk about various emergency management topics, including preparedness and recruiting volunteers. Director Scott Buziecki and Preparedness Specialist Beth Drendel have both been guests on WRMW AM-1410 in Elgin and Beth has also appeared on WBBM AM-780 in Chicago!

We also held 54 children's Preparedness classes (2 hours each) with 902 participants, who received age-appropriate information on the types of emergencies and disasters that could affect Kane County, how to receive timely alerts, and how to protect themselves, especially since many kids are alone at certain times of the day. We partnered with Girl Scouts to provide the classes during



their summer camps held in Kane County and several school districts, who requested the classes as a part of their after school programming. We believe that by teaching kids, we are not only preparing them, but also helping to grow future prepared adults.

Many classes were held at the Kane County Multi-Purpose Building and kids got a tour of our trucks and equipment afterwards. Additionally, each child received a drawstring "Go Bag" containing a first aid kit, flashlight, emergency phone numbers magnet, whistle, and coloring book, which is funded in our operating budget. Each bag costs approximately \$18 and feedback from parents reported that kids were less scared during 2024 tornados, brought their bags to the basement, and even helped their siblings!



Public Education Operational Measures	Completed 2023	Completed 2024
Number of Adult Preparedness classes held	6	8
Number of Adult Preparedness attendees*	n/a	171
Number of Children’s Preparedness classes held	54	54
Number of Children’s Preparedness attendees	961	902
Approximate cost of Children’s Go-bags (\$18 each)	\$17,298	\$16,236
Number of instructors teaching public preparedness classes	1	1
Number of outreach activities*	n/a	14

* These statistics was not kept prior to 2024.

We participated in several public outreach events, typically where we show off our vehicles, share preparedness information, and advertise what our agency does and how interested volunteers can get involved. Some examples were Kane County Sheriff’s Office, Campton Hills, South Elgin, and Hampshire National Night Out events where we staffed preparedness tables, parades, Halloween Trunk or Treat, and festivals.



In September, we held our first ever “Emergency Management Touch A Truck” at the Kane County Judicial Center, along with our municipal emergency management partners throughout the County where kids and adults got to come see our trucks, meet our staff & volunteers, and learn about volunteer opportunities.

In November, we held our annual coat drive in conjunction with Maddie’s Mitten March, a local Kane County-based charity who provides coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and boots to people in need throughout Kane County and surrounding counties. We also held a staff contest between Buildings A & C at the Government Center Campus in the weeks leading up to the coat drive and we're happy to report that Building C won by a margin of 59 to 28! With the help of the public, the total was 270 coats that will help those less fortunate this winter season!





Volunteers & staff attending a Kids Safety Fair.



Participation in a holiday lights parade.



Girl Scouts at summer camp during a Kids' Emergency & Disaster Preparedness class. They learned how to put on rubber gloves and how to take them off safely without getting bodily fluids (in this case shaving cream) on them.



A group of Cub Scouts and their parents after a Kids' Preparedness Class and tour of Emergency Management vehicles.



Director Scott Buziecki accepts the Coat Drive trophy from Maddie Bozik, founder of Maddie's Mitten March.

Training, Exercises & Recognition

Training & exercises are the cornerstones for developing a competent, professional staff and volunteer group as well as municipal partners. In 2024, we increased our coordination with municipal emergency management coordinators, which increased attendance at quarterly in-person meetings. We began holding exercises with the Kane County Crisis Team, which is made up of 16 County departments & officials charged with managing potential crises that may arise. We also held & participated in more exercises and increased emergency management training for our staff as well as municipal partners.

Training & Exercise Operational measures	Completed 2023	Completed 2024
Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators Council Meetings Held	4	4
Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators Council Meetings Attendance (total for year)	48	93
Number of Crisis Team exercise attendees (none held in 2023)	0	40
Number of Exercises that Staff/Volunteers participated in	1	6
Exercises conducted for municipal or other local partners	0	1
Number of training classes held, taught, or facilitated by KCOEM	4	17

Classes Held, Taught, or Facilitated by KCOEM

- Basic Navigation Skills
- Ground Search & Rescue
- Lost Person Behavior
- Storm Spotter
- Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command System Interface – 2
- Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents – 3
- Advanced Incident Command System – 3
- Electrical Wires Down
- Search And Rescue Initial Operations (SARIO)
- Throw Bag training
- Damage Assessment
- Shelter Operations



The Search Management team from our Search And Rescue full-scale exercise in October.

Staff Training

Emergency Management staff completed the following training classes in 2024:

CISA Active Shooter Preparedness webinar
CJIS Security & Privacy Training
CO2 Pipeline Safety and Emergency Response Training
Community Resilience
Debris Management
Disaster Recovery in Rural Communities
Effective Communications
Foundations of Emergency Management
Freedom of Information Act
Hazardous Materials Awareness
IEMA Region 3 Meeting—Feb, May, Aug, & Nov
IEMA Training Summit
IESMA Annual Training Conference
Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Functions
IS-100* Introduction to Incident Command System
IS-120 – Introduction to Exercises
IS-130A How to be an Exercise Evaluator
IS-1400 Foundations of Climate Science
IS-200 Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response
IS-2200 Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions
IS-2200 Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions
IS-240C – Leadership and Influence

IS-368A Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Operations
IS-393 – Introduction to Hazard Mitigation
IS-558 Public Works and Disaster Recovery
IS-559 Local Damage Assessment
IS-700 An Introduction to the National Incident Management System
IS-800 National Response Framework
Leadership in Today’s World
Leveraging Tools for Coordinated Community Disaster Communications
Mass Care Shelter and Relocation Coordination
National Dam Safety program
Natural Disaster Awareness for Caregivers
New Coordinators Workshop
New Coordinators’ Workshop
NWS Winter Weather Preparedness
NWS Outdoor Weather Events Planning
Open Meetings Act
Pipeline Emergencies: Awareness Level
Pipeline Emergency Response & Damage Prevention
Search Management
Volunteer and Donations Management
Whole Community Training Summit

* IS indicates online FEMA Independent Study classes.



Storm Spotter training held in Elburn in February with over 70 attendees from our agency, partner agencies, and the public.

Training Achievements

During 2024, several staff & volunteers received recognition of training achievements, including several volunteers. We present certificates and issue uniform pins as they are earned.

FEMA PDS*
Alford, Ryan
Drendel, Beth
Flynn, Katherine
Hudec, Mike
Kerley, A.J.
Mensching, Jon
Roudebush, Kyle
Ryerson, Sarah
Sprague, Nicole
Wong, Jeff

IEMA PDS**
Mensching, Jon

IPEM***
Buziecki, Scott

Bold Indicates volunteer

* FEMA Professional Development Series
– 6 online independent study classes

** IEMA Professional Development Series
– 7 in-person classes

*** IPEM – Illinois Professional Emergency Management is awarded based on extensive training, education, experience, and exercise participation in the field of emergency management.

Our agency now has 18 FEMA PDS recipients, 8 IEMA PDS recipients, and 3 IPEM recipients.

Milestones

5 Year Pin
Drendel, Beth
Estes, Jennifer
Hudec, Mike
Kazimier, Jason
Kristufek, Jim
Pesola, Dave
Simon, Dan
Simon, Rod
Tolczyk, Andy
Wong, Jeff

10 Year Pin
Dziatkowicz, Steve
Griffin, Kyle
Kroman, Rich

15 Year Pin
Alford, Nick
Alford, Ryan [#]
Baltzer, Don
Guzzaldo, Jim
Kerley, AJ
McGraw, Ryan

20 Year Pin
Haacker, Scott
Ostrander, Terry
Renda, Linda

30 Year Pin
Dortmund, Deb

Bold Indicates Volunteer [#] Former volunteer





Search And Rescue (SAR) training



Search And Rescue (SAR) training



Powerline safety training held in conjunction with the Kane County Division of Transportation.



Search And Rescue training in Lost Person Behavior.

Emergency Operations Center Updates

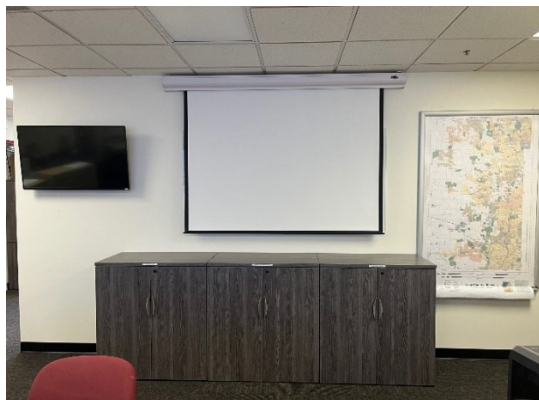
We made several improvements to our Emergency Operations Center, which had decades old furniture, two projectors with wall screens, and no room video conferencing and was mostly unchanged since our agency moved into this space over ten years ago. We replaced the main wall projector screens with four 50-inch and one 84-inch high definition televisions, added a video conferencing camera & sound bar, and replaced the staff workstation furniture.



Situation Room (front) before



Situation Room (front) after



EOC Situation Room (back) after – Added Countywide map frames & cabinets for storage of laptop computers, phones, & supplies.



New office area – This was formerly a file area and has been converted for a staff work area.

Administration Offices (before & after) – Decades old, mismatching furniture was replaced, offering more storage and professional appearance.



Fleet

Our Fleet currently consists of 10 vehicles and 11 trailers. In 2023, the average age was 15.2 years, in 2024, it was 13.4 years, and by the end of 2025, it is estimated to drop to about 8.8 years. In 2024, we replaced 23 tires on three vehicles and three trailers that were in excess of seven years old (some in excess of 10 years) and were no longer safe.



2006 Mobile Command Vehicle – replacement expected delivery Oct. 2025



2019 Ford F450 4x4 – Traffic control, scene lighting, heavy towing



2017 Ford F450 – Traffic control, scene lighting, heavy towing



2006 Ford F550 – State asset (ITECS), Heavy Towing



2012 Chevy Tahoe – Former Sheriff's vehicle 170,000 miles, 15,000 engine hours – Traffic control, Light towing.



1984 military surplus 4x4 Humvee – Scene Lighting, Off-road or severe weather access (i.e. flood or blizzard) – outfitted with donations & volunteer labor



2013 Ford Taurus – former Sheriff's vehicle – Traffic control – 93,000 miles



2013 Ford Taurus – Traffic Control – 92,000 miles



2020 Chevy Tahoe 4x4 – Traffic Control, light towing



2025 Polaris Ranger 4x4 UTV 6-seater – Search And Rescue – Outfitting & commissioning 2025



ITECS Trailer (IL Transportable Emergency Communications System) – State Asset



Light Towers – 2019 (2) & 1985 (1)



1999 Generator – 25kW



2020 Message Boards (2)



Utility Trailers (2) – (1) cones & barricades & (1) 2 Zumro inflatable tents



2024 Rettig 16' trailer – For hauling new UTV

Not Included in Fleet Total*



2001 Chevy 3500 – Utility, Search & Rescue, light towing / Decommissioned 2024



2005 Polaris Ranger 6x6 2-seater – Search And Rescue / Decommissioning 2025



UTV tilt trailer – Decommissioning 2025



Barricade trailer – Decommissioned 2024

*These vehicles & trailers are not counted in totals as they have already been decommissioned or will be soon when their replacements, which have already been purchased, are ready for commissioning.

New Vehicles

During 2024, we received County Board approval and ordered two (2) 2025 Ford Police Interceptor SUVs (Explorers), which are expected to be delivered early in 2025. We also received County Board approval to purchase a 2025 Ford F-150 pickup truck, which is in the process of being ordered, with delivery expected later in 2025. Finally, early in 2025, we received County Board approval to purchase, using ARPA funds, a new mobile command vehicle, with expected delivery around October 2025.

2024 Accomplishments

Preparedness

- Held two tabletop exercises for the Kane County Crisis Management Team—one severe weather and one active shooter.
- Presented public education training in Disaster Preparedness—Adults eight (8) classes with 171 participants and Kids 1st through 12th grade 54 classes with 902 participants
- Obtained a Red Cross shelter trailer with 50 cots & related supplies for use if an temporary emergency shelter is required.
- Submitted semi-annual updates to our Integrated Preparedness Plan, an Illinois mandated deliverable that describes training & exercises planned over the next two years

Planning

- Updated our Skywarn Plan and related procedures to earn our National Weather Service “StormReady” certification, with a presentation to be made at a County Board meeting early in 2025.
- Completed semi-annual Threat & Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Capability Assessment updates, an Illinois mandated deliverable that identifies hazards facing our region.
- Began updating our Emergency Response Guide, which is distributed to County staff for instructions on what to do during an emergency in or around County offices.
- Developed a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) template, to help County departments & offices develop their own COOP plans.
- Began updating our website content to be more professional and better share emergency management information, including public education.

Fleet

- Replaced 23 tires that were 7 or more years old on 3 vehicles & 3 trailers.
- Successfully received approval to order a new mobile command truck to replace 19-year-old vehicle using ARPA funds. The specifications were finalized and the truck is expected to enter production early in 2025, with delivery expected around Fall 2025.
- Replaced a 2006 two-seater utility vehicle (UTV) with a 2025 six-seater model.
- Received approval to purchase two 2025 sport utility vehicles and one 2025 pickup truck to replace aging vehicles in our fleet.

Other

- Began development of a functional Emergency Operations Center support team and completed our Personnel Credentialing Plan, an Illinois mandated deliverable that defines required qualifications and training required for various EOC positions.

- Held quarterly meetings of the Kane County Emergency Management Coordinators Council, a group of partners in emergency management, fire, law enforcement, education, and other partners.
- Adopted the newly updated Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System (IEMMAS) agreement.
- Successfully implemented a Graphical Information System application for tracking resources, shelters, critical infrastructure, and damage assessment.
- Provided (3) ICS-300 and (3) ICS-400 training classes to partners in Kane County. Each set of classes is five days and we taught one set each in the south, center, and north parts of the County.

2025 Goals

Preparedness

- Validate critical infrastructure data.
- Continue to present public preparedness education programs to children, adults, and seniors & introduce volunteers into teaching some adult classes.
- Provide training, exercise, and planning assistance to municipalities.
- Hold two tabletop exercises for the Crisis Management Team.

Planning

- Complete a countywide Continuity of Government/Continuity of Operations (COOP) and assist County departments & agencies to complete their own COOP annexes.
- Develop a countywide Debris Management Plan along with KDOT and township road districts.
- Develop a Long Term Recovery Plan.
- Complete our 2025 update to the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.
- Develop our next Emergency Operations Plan, due in March 2026.
- Submit IL-CATT/THIRA/IPP updates to IEMA-OHS as required.

Fleet

- Take delivery of new mobile command vehicle, complete required installations, and train staff & volunteers for driving and operating vehicle.
- Take delivery and commission three (3) new vehicles already ordered or approved for ordering.

Other

- Complete a records inventory, develop a retention policy and purge unneeded records, consistent with Illinois law.
- Continue working with GIS Technologies Department to map critical infrastructure, resources, and emergency shelter locations

- Improve electronic Damage Assessment forms to include data for all disaster assistance programs and submit into GIS Dashboard.
- Apply for Federal, State, and Private grants as available and complete required documentation.
- Begin tracking staff activity hours and identify future staffing, equipment, and funding needs and create a three-year budget forecast.
- Complete a multi-year strategic plan with mission, vision, and values
- Begin revamping agency policy manual based on national emergency management standards.
- Create or work with a non-government organization to develop a new emergency, short-term Mass Care/Sheltering operation.