



“Coordinating the efforts of its members in a common cause to protect the lives and property of the citizens we serve”

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2013

For Additional Information:

David Searby, Jr.

(618) 571-0020

perrycountyema@gmail.com

IESMA-EMAT Responds to “Operation Tremor” in Southern Illinois

Operation Tremor Exercise will practice Illinois’ ability to move resources in an emergency.

(Marion, Illinois) Sixteen emergency managers from throughout the State of Illinois are participating in Operation Tremor, an earthquake exercise being conducted in Marion, Illinois April 8 through April 10. The sixteen emergency managers are members of the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association’s (IESMA) Emergency Management Assistance Team (EMAT).

The EMAT team personnel are currently working with law enforcement and fire service personnel in response to a simulated earthquake occurring in and around the southern Illinois area. Working out of EMAT-1, a mobile emergency operations center, the personnel are responsible for managing and coordinating the response efforts, developing, gathering and distributing disaster intelligence, establishing resource tracking/management and providing relevant public information. EMAT teams can be deployed to local jurisdictions to assist them with emergency management during and after a disaster, including recovery.

EMAT was first formed in July, 2013 and teams have been deployed to multiple disasters throughout the State of Illinois including Mississippi River flooding, the 2009 southern Illinois derecho, and 2012 Harrisburg tornado. Additionally, EMAT teams have provided assistance to other states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact such as Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Sandy.

IESMA membership is comprised of professional emergency managers, emergency management staff and private sector partners across the State of Illinois. As the voice of Emergency Management, IESMA serves as the conduit from local to state and federal agencies. IESMA utilizes a collaborative platform to enhance the emergency management profession through mutual aid services, public relations and professional standards.

IESMA has represented local emergency management in many areas, through the Illinois Terrorism Task Force Emergency Management Committee that has procured over nine million dollars to enhance and support emergency management programs such as the Interoperable Tactical Emergency Communications Systems (ITECS), Emergency Operations Center Technology grants, weather radios and the purchase and deployment of emergency power generator caches located throughout the State of Illinois. Additionally, IESMA’s 24-hour dispatch center, EM-COM, is able to provide tracking of all emergency management assets, including EMAT personnel.

###