



Dennis J. Miller
Coordinator

DEKALB COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES & DISASTER AGENCY

150 North Main Street
Sycamore, Illinois 60178
815/895-7206

April 25, 2016

Honorable John Frieders
Chairman, Law & Justice Committee
DeKalb County Legislative Center
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dear Mr. Frieders & Committee Members:

The DeKalb County Emergency Services & Disaster Agency (ESDA), Annual Report is intended to inform the Law & Justice Committee, the County Board, and the General Public of the ESDA office activities during the past year. In a continuing effort to address the varied topics that are the responsibility of the office of Emergency Management, this report summarizes the activities of the DeKalb County ESDA office.

On Thursday, April 9th a Tornado struck the Village of Fairdale at approximately 7 P.M. The storm damaged the majority of the homes in the Village. The storm crossed IL Rt.72 and destroyed an additional 12-15 other homes and farms. Search & Rescue efforts started at once and continued through mid-day on April 10th. Two people lost their lives during the storm and were found by Fire/Rescue in the rubble of their homes. The DeKalb County Sheriff's Office responded and took Command of Law Enforcement and Security Operations.

DeKalb County ESDA, DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, along with (8) Local Police Departments, DeKalb County Coroner's Office, ISP, IDNR, IDOT, IDOC, The Kirkland Fire Department, Mabas, IEMA, Franklin Township, The Governor's Office, The American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, Team Rubicon, Samaritan's Purse, AmeriCorps St. Louis, The Village of Kirkland, The Kirkland Lions Club, Billy Graham Ministries, Disaster assistance Church of Christ, DeKalb County Action Center, Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association, DeKalb County Health Department, DeKalb County Community Foundation, DeKalb County Highway Department, DeKalb County Board, Local area Business and Churches, LaSalle County E.M.A., Street Departments from several Jurisdictions all participated in the response and recovery efforts.



Due to the devastation to the Village, a group of community leaders formed a Long Term Recovery Team (LTRT), to assist those that were affected by the storm. Every property owner and resident of the affected area met with their assigned member of the LTRT to discuss their needs. As a result, several of the property owners have begun the rebuilding process. The County Board relaxed some of the zoning ordinances that were required in the past to expedite the process.



The County Board also requested that a Long Term Disaster Recovery Plan be developed. The purpose of the Plan will be to guide the recovery efforts by DeKalb County officials, emergency personnel, disaster response organizations, and volunteers

following a disaster declaration by the County, State, or Federal government for any declared disaster in any portion of unincorporated DeKalb County. After extensive research and coordination with the Emergency Preparedness Task Force, DeKalb County is one of the few Counties in the Nation that has a Long Term Disaster Recovery Plan. The DeKalb County Emergency Operations plan was also updated, finalized and approved in 2015.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (L.E.P.C.) continues to meet quarterly. The purpose of the committee is to register and record all the facilities within the county that manufacture, use and or stores hazardous materials. The committee has also sponsored training exercises for local police and fire departments within the county.

When a hazardous material, (HAZMAT) incidence does occur, the responsible party must report the spill. With the assistance and cooperation of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), and the local fire departments, every hazardous material incident is reported to this office. That information is then reviewed and entered into a database, which is then reviewed by the DeKalb County L.E.P.C.

As in previous years, much of the severe storm spotting responsibility was aided by a dedicated group of volunteers, (Sheriff's Auxiliary and the Amateur Radio Operators) in the DeKalb County area. In all severe weather watches, the communication assets of the ham radio operators enable the ESDA coordinator and the central warning point dispatchers to keep current of the weather conditions in our area. This capability was demonstrated this year in many of the 56 severe weather watches and warnings, which affected this county.

With the aid of support staff, this office was able to arrange and conduct two different weather spotter training programs throughout the county. Over 75 people were trained in storm spotting. In the event of severe weather, these trained weather spotters are able to report to the Communications Division of the Sheriff's Office of the approaching weather. With the information that is received from these spotters, that information can then be disseminated to the affected areas of the county.

This office planed, and participated in several other exercises that took place throughout the county in 2015. Those consisted of table top exercises, functional exercises, a full scale exercise, and pipeline safety training programs. DeKalb County was also the host for (2) IEMA training courses that were held during the past year.

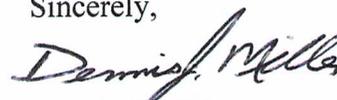
This agency was notified and responded to 13 separate incidents this past year. Which involved (2) trains verse pedestrian mishaps, heavy snow fall, downed power lines, fuel leaks, school bomb threats, and the Fairdale Tornado.

The Coordinator attended and participated in several misalliance quartile meetings throughout the area. The Evergreen Village Mobile Home Park mitigation project has been completed. The open space will be an asset to the area.

The Federal mandates that are required by the National Incident Management System (NIMS) will continue to be addressed and implemented. My staff and the volunteers look forward to continued progress in the years ahead.

EVENT	QUANTITY
Public Presentations	4
Building Surveys	0
Actual Occurrences/Misc. Hazard Incidents	13
Emergency Management/Planning Meetings	14
Training Events Attended/sponsored	7
Severe Storm Watches/Warnings	56
Drills/Exercises	4
Coordinator Hours	1,289

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Miller
Coordinator