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May 24, 2021

Honorable Dianne Leifheit
Chairman, Law & Justice Committee
DeKalb County Legislative Center
Sycamore, IL 60178

Dear Ms. Leifheit & Committee Members:

The 2020 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.

In 2021, the DeKalb County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) will be reviewed and updated. It will then be submitted to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency for approval. This plan, with its annexes, defines how DeKalb County analysis, prepares for, and responds to an emergency event, whether natural or man-made. The ongoing mandates that are required by the National Incident Management System, (NIMS), will continue to be addressed and implemented.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee, (L.E.P.C.), continues to meet, quarterly, with limited capacity due to restrictions put in place by the governor. The purpose of the committee is to register and record all the facilities within the county that manufacture, use and or stores hazardous materials.

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

This was an unprecedented year with the magnitude of the global pandemic; COVID-19. Despite the challenges faced, this office was able to supply the county with the necessary PPE the coordinator was provided. These supplies consisted of approximately 370,000 surgical masks, 140,000 N95 masks, 27,000 gowns, 142,000 gloves, 1800 goggles, 23,000 packs of hand sanitizer, 100 no touch thermometers, 50 body bags, 1,000 face shields and 300 Tyvek suits.

The coordinator distributed the majority of the PPE items to multiple agencies, within the county. Including, but not limited to, first responders, school districts, long-term housing facilities, nursing homes, fire departments, county agencies; including, health department, Sheriff's Office, maintenance, judicial, communications, legislative, and administrative entities. Maintaining, storing and dissemination of all supplies was conducted/overseen by the coordinator.

Along with the global pandemic, 2020 was a year of civil unrest. This office continuously monitored the events, within our county, that could have led to civil unrest.

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 53 severe weather watches and warnings, which affected this county.

With the aid of support staff, this office was able to arrange and conduct a weather spotter training program, within the county. Over 85 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 planned, and participated in several other exercises that took place throughout the county in 2020. Those consisted of table top exercises, functional exercises, full scale exercises, and pipeline safety training programs.

This agency was notified and responded to 25 separate incidents this past year. Most were fuel leaks, while the others involved trains verse pedestrian mishaps, power outages, and high winds.

The Coordinator attended and participated in several training and miscellaneous meetings throughout the area that are mandated for accreditation. He assisted several long-term health care facilities with the development of their Emergency Operation plans.

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.

2020 Summary
DeKalb County ESDA Activity

EVENT	QUANTITY
Public Presentations	1
Actual Occurrences/Misc. Hazard Incidents	25
Emergency Management/Planning Meetings	325
Training Events Attended/Sponsored	3
Severe Storm watches/Warnings	53
Drills/Exercise	5
Coordinator Hours	1,492