

Preparedness Resources

National

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

www.fema.gov; (800) 621- FEMA

Department of Homeland Security

www.ready.gov; (800) BE - READY

www.dhs.gov/dhspublic; (202) 282-8000

US Department of Health & Human Services

www.os.dhhs.gov; (877) 696-6775

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov; (800) CDC - INFO

Pandemic Flu

www.pandemicflu.gov; (800) CDC - INFO

State of Illinois

Illinois Emergency Management Agency

www.state.il.us/iema/; (217) 557-5099

Illinois Homeland Security

www.illinois.gov/security; (217) 782-0244

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.state.il.us; (309) 693-5463

Illinois Department of Public Health

www.idph.state.il.us; (217) 558-0560

Mission Statement

To protect the welfare and safety of Peoria County residents from natural and manmade disasters



Protecting Our Community



Emergency Management Agency

Vicky Turner, Director

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Peoria County is Prepared to Protect

Emergency Preparedness

In 1965, Peoria County built a civil defense facility and developed its first emergency plan in preparation for a nuclear attack. A decade later, the threat of such an attack diminished and the facility expanded to become the County's Emergency Management Agency (EMA). Currently, EMA coordinates all phases of comprehensive emergency management, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for the County, outside the City of Peoria.

Mitigation - Activities designed to reduce risk by either preventing the occurrence of an emergency or minimizing the potentially adverse effects of an emergency.

Preparedness - Activities, programs and systems that exist before an emergency and are designed to support and enhance response to an emergency or disaster.

Response - Activities and programs designed to address the immediate and short-term effects at the onset of an emergency or disaster, help reduce casualties and damage, and speed recovery.

Recovery - Activities designed to recover from disasters and emergencies in a timely fashion and return the County to its normal state.

Emergency Planning

Peoria County currently has emergency plans for both natural and manmade disasters. Peoria County's emergency plan addresses communications among response agencies; direction and control of the disaster; disaster intelligence; evacuation procedures; community health; mass care; medical concerns; mortuary needs; resource management; public warning systems and public information. The County's plans for natural or manmade disasters include:

- Tornado
- Flooding
- Earthquake
- Hazardous materials
- Oil spill
- Nuclear incident
- Terrorist attack
- Mass casualty
- Mass fatality

Preparedness Practice

Peoria County officials participate in numerous disaster preparedness exercises with other governments and various agencies, departments and organizations considered "first responders." By participating in cooperative exercises together, we will overcome any natural or manmade disaster that may strike.

There are two types of emergency preparedness exercises: "table top" and "full-scale." A table top exercise brings all agencies with a role in disaster recovery efforts to the table to verbally resolve a specific scenario. During a "table top," participants also discuss equipment, policy and personnel changes; review the notification call list; and update contact information. Recent scenarios Peoria County EMA has helped resolve at the table include:

- Tornado
- Terrorist attack with hazardous material
- Bioterrorism: Strategic National Stockpile

Table top exercises are preliminary to full-scale exercises, which involve physical enactments of a scenario. Response agencies bring personnel and equipment to the trial disaster site(s); a lead agency is identified; a chain of command is established; and volunteers play the role of victim. Full-scale exercises begin the moment disaster strikes and typically conclude when all "injured" parties have been transported to the hospital. A debriefing follows to identify areas in the recovery effort that may need improvement. Recent full-scale exercises Peoria County EMA has participated in include:

- Airplane crash with 72 passengers
- Bioterrorism: Strategic National Stockpile
- Chemical spill