



Lake County
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service ®
Amateur Radio Emergency Services ®
1303 North Milwaukee Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048



Background: What Is The Lake County Emergency Management Agency?

The Lake County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) operates under the day-to-day control of the Lake County Administrator, and is responsible for developing a county-wide emergency preparedness plan. The Lake County plan addresses major hazards and coordinates disaster response of all county resources including communications, police, fire / rescue units, hospitals, religious and charitable organizations.



The emergency plan is exercised regularly by conducting drills that deal with simulated nuclear accidents, flooding, hazardous material spills, and severe weather. During periods of disaster and major emergencies, the Emergency Management Agency acts as the primary liaison to the Illinois and federal emergency management agencies. Management Agency acts as the primary liaison to the Illinois and federal emergency management agencies. As a part of emergency preparedness, the emergency management agency maintains an updated emergency resources database of items and facilities that could be of use during disaster response. Examples include generators, pumps, sand bags, and buildings capable of providing shelter.

The agency provides emergency planning assistance to local governments and has an active program of safety literature distribution to the general public.

Annually severe weather awareness courses are presented to more than 900 school-age children. More than 260 severe weather spotters are trained by the Emergency Management Agency in conjunction with the National Weather Service.

Assisting the EMA are two groups of volunteers, the Reserve Deputy Unit, and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services, (RACES). There are more than 100 volunteers who devote their expertise to community service. EMA is also starting up a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), whose initial responsibilities will be to support the Mobile Command Suite and the Emergency Operations Center during emergencies or disasters.



The Reserve Deputy unit is a uniformed organization that provides supplemental services to the Sheriff's Office during special situations requiring man power such as traffic and crowd control, search and rescue, and special traffic details.



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The RACES group is a trained pool of amateur radio operators who operate and maintain their own radio equipment to provide emergency communications wherever and whenever needed. The RACES group also participates in the Lake County SKYWARN system, where trained radio operators take up strategic observation posts throughout the county during National Weather Service watches and warnings. If severe weather is cited, a warning is provided throughout the county and is also conveyed back to the National Weather Service. See our web site at <http://www.races.org> for more information.

The Emergency Management Agency is staffed by a coordinator, assistant coordinator, administrative assistant and senior secretary.

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