

Training



Training is crucial to ensuring that staff provide the quality, professional services expected during a large-scale emergency or public safety event.

Staff members are required to complete over 120 hours of classroom and field-based courses within the Agency itself as part of the Probation and Field Training programs. Probationary Officers obtain a Command Staff sponsor who serves as a mentor and advisor through their time on probation.

Additionally, Field Operations Division members receive training from local agencies as well as from IEMA and IFSI. Many division members hold various levels of certifications including EMT-B or First Responder, the FEMA PDS, Firefighter II, and the Illinois Professional Emergency Manager (IPEM).

A majority of the Field Operations Division's members hold at least a Bachelor's Degree or are actively pursuing undergraduate education at a four-year institution of higher-learning.

Division Membership

If you have questions about the Field Operations Division, would like to observe a training session, or wish to join the Agency, you may contact one of the following staff:

Lieutenant Jon Orns

jonathan.orns@mcleancountyma.org

Lieutenant Brad Smith

brad.smith@mcleancountyma.org

To learn more about our professional staff of paid and volunteer members, view a detailed information packet on the Field Operations Division, or submit an application for membership, please visit the staff page on our website at:
<http://www.mcleancountyma.org/index.php/staff>.



Field Operations



Curtis Hawk, Director

McLean County
Emergency Management Agency

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The Agency

Mission Statement

"Our mission is preparation for and carrying out disaster response and recovery as may be necessary or proper to prevent, minimize, repair, and alleviate injury and damage resulting from disasters occurring by natural or man-made causes."

About the McLean County EMA

McLean County is the largest county in the State of Illinois – encompassing 1,184 square miles of land. The Agency's primary responsibility is to coordinate disaster relief within the county.



Working together with public sector agencies such as Police, Fire, Emergency Medical personnel, the Red Cross, as well as private industry members, the McLean County Emergency Management Agency provides a unified approach to helping communities mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies, disasters, and catastrophes.

The Agency's work and support of its mission is accomplished by three full-time staff members and the Operations Team.

About The Field Operations Division

The Field Operations Division is a volunteer team within the McLean County Emergency Management Agency. The division provides the following core functions:

- Managed Incident Communications
- Incident Management
- Severe Storm Operations
- Winter Weather Operations
- Supplemental Lighting and Power
- Mass Casualty Incident Support
- Damage Assessment

Emergency Management consists of four phases: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Field Operations Division focuses primarily on the response phase while also working with elements of preparedness and recovery.

Each week, the Field Operations Division holds staff meetings to review incidents, train, perform facility and fleet maintenance, and plan for upcoming events. Staff members are expected to obtain certifications, maintain / develop competencies, and participate in public events as well as activations.



Individuals serving in the Field Operations Division begin their service as a Probationary Officer. After completing a comprehensive Probation Program and being promoted

to the rank of Officer, members begin their Field Training Program which builds on skills learned during probation.

Field Operations Division deployments vary greatly in scope. Team deployments have included:



Photograph courtesy David Proeber, The Pantagraph

- Plane crashes / emergency landings
- Barricaded subjects with various law enforcement agencies
- Drug raids in neighboring communities
- State deployments for flooding along the Mississippi River
- Damage assessment following severe storms
- Crime scenes
- Public service events including the McLean County Fair and annual triathlons