



10 East Poplar Street • Suite B1 • Harrisburg, IL 62946
(618) 252-3732 • FAX (618) 252-1686

P R E S S R E L E A S E

News Media Contact:

Allan C. Ninness
Director
(618) 252-3732

EMA 12-001

September 11, 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ema@salinecounty.illinois.gov

Saline Emergency Management Praised at IEMA Conference

The Saline County Emergency Management Agency recently went to Springfield, IL, and experienced the annual Illinois Emergency Management Agency Conference alongside an attendance of over 1,300. Starting on Tuesday September 4th and ending on Thursday September 6th, the conference was a gathering place of emergency management directors, fire chiefs, police representation, and corporations offering the latest in communication, mitigation, and response technology and wares.

Saline County was well represented this year. SCEMA and the local Community Emergency Response Team sent representatives who benefitted from the entire conference. With this presence, the two groups were able to attend more functions, lectures, and classes than previously possible and learned much more in the process.

The conference had several enlightening sessions such as earthquake mitigation, the Fukushima meltdown, the Illinois terrorism taskforce, and Local Emergency Planning Committee funding updates. Moreover, this year was special considering the attention given to the events in Saline County long before the conference. The Leap Day Tornado was a focal point of three sessions at the conference. Operation Blessing's Director of U.S. Relief, Jody Herrington-Gettys, gave a presentation on her group's efforts in the immediate response to the tornado. The National Weather Service presented two sessions on the tornado and the future of weather warnings.

Jody Herrington-Gettys's presentation was given to a packed house at the Crowne Plaza ballroom. She complimented the efforts of Saline County Emergency Management Director Allan Ninness numerous times throughout the speech. It was a shining example of public and private efforts to aid in the recovery of a disaster.

The National Weather Service is working towards making the most accurate warning forecasts for the future. They are doing so by abandoning the blanket county approach and projecting warnings based on the precise travel of the storms so that when you look at the Doppler forecast on the news you will see a shape tailored to the strength and path of the storm.

The 2012 IEMA Conference was a resounding success. The knowledge gained during this conference will be used in the future to help Saline County be better equipped and better trained to deal with the disasters of the future.