

**Champaign County
Emergency Management**

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To: Justice Committee
From: Bill Keller Director
Subject: March Activity Report
Date: 3/26/07

March 1st started the sever weather season off right with a severe thunderstorm waning and tornado watch for Champaign County. Other than some high winds and some tree damage no structure damage. With the first week of March being preparedness week for severe weather we continue to present programs on how to be prepared. We also hosted a storm spotter training provided by the National Weather Service to approximately 100 county spotters.

We participated in a tabletop exercise at Willard Airport and are in the planning stages for a full-scale exercise in May or June. We are participating as a speaker at the Chamber of Commerce brown bag on Influenza Planning to explain what plans the County has in place should a large scale influenza out break affect Champaign County residents.

We are working with METCAD, City of Champaign, City of Urbana, Savoy, and the University Of Illinois on a new radio system to activate the outdoor warning sirens. The current system will no longer be available after late 2007 or early 2008. Each jurisdiction will have to purchase new radios for each siren site and collectively purchase activation repeaters.

As you may remember our County Emergency Operation Plan was sent to the State last November for review and approval and I am happy to report the plan was approved with no corrective actions needed. This approval process is one of the requirements to maintain our Emergency Management Certification for Federal Funding. This funding amounts to around \$42,000.00 annually.