

EMERGENCY READINESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2026

The Emergency Readiness Committee met in the County Board Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Bob Allen.

Members Present:

Bob Allen, Chairman
C. Richard Vernier, Asst. Chairman
Susan Gruberman
Ken Easterley
Robert Trentman
Jana A. Moll
G.W. Scott, Jr.

Members Absent

Others Present:

Mark Kern, County Board Chairman
Herb Simmons, Director 911/EMA

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken.

There were no Public Comments or Questions asked at this Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Easterley and seconded by Mr. G.W. Scott, Jr., to approve the Minutes from the March 23, 2026 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Vernier, and seconded by Mrs. Moll, to approve a Funding Agreement with St. Clair Special Emergency Services Association in the amount of \$48,000. Motion passed with Mr. Allen abstaining.

The monthly EMA report was distributed to members to review.

A motion was made by Mr. G.W. Scott, Jr., and seconded by Mrs. Moll, to approve the EMA report. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Vernier and seconded by Mrs. Moll, to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Allen, Chairman
Emergency Readiness Committee

EMERGENCY READINESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, cont'd
April 20, 2026



Herbert Simmons
EMA Director

St. Clair County
Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

110 West Washington St. – Belleville, IL 62220 – (618) 825-2682
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Report of Activities
Emergency Readiness / Public Safety Committee
March 2026 / April 2026

1. All monthly radio tests were conducted, and no problems were noted.
2. Monthly tests of the outdoor warning sirens were completed. The previously problematic sirens were repaired and tested properly. During a tornado warning in late March there was a failure to activate a portion of sirens in the southern part of the county. Extensive discussions have been had with the vendor and a team of engineers was brought into review the event and how to move forward. Their recommendations are being implemented. During the April monthly test, there were again four sirens that failed to activate with the countywide activation, however, they did activate on their own. The company is also reviewing that incident to determine what occurred. Based on concerns with the company and to ensure no future issues, EMA has located a 3rd party vendor that is a subject matter expert in warning sirens and they will be sending staff to our county to review the siren system and its components and assist in providing information on what should be done to ensure the integrity of the system. Finally, all sirens in the system were due for the annual preventative maintenance and that is ongoing with an estimated completion the week of April 20, 2026.
3. Attended the Monthly Starcom 21 Committee Meeting.
4. Attended the STARRS Board Meeting.
5. Attended the Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee Meeting.
6. Attended meeting of the Statewide 9-1-1 Advisory Board.
7. Attended the monthly meeting of the St. Clair Special Emergency Services.
8. Staff attended the quarterly regional meeting for Illinois Emergency Management.
9. Attend monthly meeting of the Long Term Recovery Division of our County COAD (Community Organization Active in Disaster).
10. Conducted the bi-monthly meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).
11. Continue to work with IEMA/FEMA on the Belleville and East Carondelet Flood Studies along with the Flood Buyout Program which is currently awaiting the appraisal process.
12. Continue to conduct the Monday Morning Spotlight St Clair Episodes. These weekly shows have achieved greater than 619,000 total views in the various segments.
13. Due to issues with the Code RED notification system since their company suffered a hack in October 2025, the county along with surrounding counties and the State of Illinois have opted to change vendors for this critical service. As of April 13 2026, we were live on the new Everbridge Notification and Weather Warning platform. All information from the previous system was transferred, however, anyone wanting to ensure their most up-to-date information is included can visit www.alertstclair.com.
14. St. Clair County EMA hosted the Motorola Drone as a First Responder demonstration for local first responders and conversations with Motorola are on-going regarding the future of that program in St. Clair County.
15. EMA staff had the kickoff meeting with Motorola to discuss the 10-year renewal of our expiring contract.