



Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team

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Greetings IMERT Members,

It has been a busy fall, and in addition to meeting weekly, the IMERT staff has been busy continuing to present the Stop the Bleed training program across the state. In addition to incorporating this instructor training into our Deployment Operations Courses we have presented it at several conferences and to community groups. If you are part of an organization who would like to attend this training, please let us know.



Just this week staff and some team members returned from Southern Illinois in support of the Fort Massac Encampment. Many of you received an earthquake scenario communications drill in support of the exercise we had set up over the weekend.

Thank you to all who participated in the weekend's activities and call-out drill. It is the time you give to IMERT that makes our organization viable.

Dr. Moses Lee, MD, FACEP
IMERT Medical Director

COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE WRAP-UP

We would like to thank all of you that participated in our communications drill last week. We sent this alert was in concert with the Earthquake drill from CUSEC Central United States Earthquake Consortium.

We had another great response rate of 80%. Once again this drill was conducted using the State of Illinois SIREN system, which allows you to respond directly to the text message with a number response. Messages often come through titled "SIREN Notification." We would like to remind you that if you submit any response other than the number corresponding to your deployment availability, your response cannot be recorded.

We would like to improve our response rate to 90% for the next drill, which will take place in April. We will use the same notification procedure. It only takes a few seconds to respond, and the information you give us is crucial for improving the accuracy of our deployment capability reporting. When you get the notification, don't wait, respond right away.

If you did not receive the notification, you need to update your training with IMERT - it has been too long since we have seen you! We will have new training sessions available in 2019. A message will be sent to you at that time to let you know you can sign up. We do need to see each member about once a year.

SURVEY MONKEY PARTICIPATION

In an effort to better target our trainings, we have begun using the survey monkey tool to collect information from our members on what kinds of trainings they have participated in and what kind of trainings they would like to see. We are also considering using this tool as a non-urgent availability response tool as we did in September when we sent an availability request for the hurricane response.

Please keep an eye out when you see these in your inbox. They are from IMERT and are not spam. These surveys often come from Chris Jansen's email, chrisj@imert.org. You should add this email to your contacts.

FORT MASSAC ENCAMPMENT

Some members and staff participated in the Fort Massac Encampment in Southern Illinois this past weekend. This event often attracts over 100,000 attendees. We joined up with RMERT, the Medical Team from Region 2 and SPARC, the Shawnee Preparedness and Response Coalition, Region 5. The purpose was to assist in planning and conduct real time team member deployment training while providing back up to local EMS, Fire and other agencies. We used telemedicine for this training too. Many of our partners across the state signed on to observe the exercise and Dr. Lee was able to provide medical orders to the healthcare providers on the ground while using his cell phone from a remote location. While we did have some connectivity issues we learned valuable lessons for future use of this capability. Other capabilities put to the test were:

- Medical Surge: working with local EMS and Fire to triage and transport to the hospital.
- Responder health and safety: accountability utilizing real time GPS trackers for the rapid response gator teams dispatched into the crowds.
- Volunteer Management: Provided real-time experience for the deployment process.

This event is always a great opportunity for us to work our equipment and do some training.

You can view the news article on the event here: <http://www.wsiltv.com/story/39322531/disaster-drill-held-ahead-of-fort-massac-encampment>.



UPDATE YOUR RESPONSE BAG

Now that winter has fully set in, please remember to update your response bag from warm weather operations to include cold weather gear.

This should include removing all of your warm-weather gear from your bag and adding the following items. Remember, being able to layer is always best:



- Hat/gloves
- Coat
- Extra long-sleeves and pull-overs
- Long underwear
- Heavy duty socks
- Hand-warmers

It would also be a good time to check any perishables you have in your bag and refresh any that may have expired.

For a guide on what should be in your bag, visit the IMERT website's Team Member section.

AMAZON SMILE

If you do your shopping on Amazon, you can support your favorite charity when you do so. Simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com>. The first time you go on you pick your charity, and that's it. After that you do your shopping like normal. There are a lot of great charities out there in addition to IMERT that you can support just by buying the things you would anyway. Every time you go to Amazon to make a purchase, just remember to start at smile.amazon.com.

IMERT is registered as the Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team, <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-0944660>.



FEMA COURSES TO COLLEGE CREDIT

Below is information some of you may find useful about how to turn your FEMA courses into college credits. Every little bit helps.

Emergency Management Study

FEMA


Independent Study

Convert your FEMA courses into valuable college credits today

Credit Connection:

What can your credit do for you?

- ▶ **Associates Degree Online**
- ▶ **Letter of Recognition from FCC**
- ▶ **Transfer Credits to Another College**
- ▶ **Earn a EM Certificate from FCC**
- ▶ **Earn Points for Salary Increase**








Get Started Now in 3 Easy Steps:

- Complete your online FEMA Independent Study courses at <http://training.fema.gov/IS>
- Submit application information and payment online at www.em-study.com
- Receive a transcript from Frederick Community College and apply your credits toward career advancement, your degree program or a college certificate

For more information visit:
www.em-study.com OR www.frederick.edu

Contact Information:
emstudy@jacobs.com

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FIRST NET

IMPORTANT NOTICE: IMERT DOES NOT ENDORSE THIS PRODUCT, THIS INFORMATION IS BEING PROVIDED TO YOU AS A POTENTIAL BENEFIT ONLY WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENTS/SERVICE/CONTRACTS



FirstNet (<https://www.firstnet.gov/network>) is a next generation cellular broadband network that was created specifically for public safety entities located within the United States, it has been in the works since 2012. One of the primary reasons was to make sure that First Responders have working service on their device, at all times, with all cellular traffic routed before & above civilian traffic 24/7.

For any IMERT Team Member interested - FirstNet connections have now been authorized for personal/individual use (recognizing that most people in public safety carry a personal phone). While no one is required to get one of these connections, you are now authorized by FirstNet to do so if you wish.

Plan Choices are:

- Unlimited Tablet Plan & tethering - \$34.99 a month (tablets, iPads, etc.)
- Unlimited smartphone voice/message/data - \$38.49 a month (unthrottled data)
- Unlimited smartphone voice/message/data & tethering - \$43.49 a month
- Limited time offer: Additional equipment credit and accessory promotions available only in retail stores

Below are some additional quick/common questions and answers:

Q. How does this work if I already have personal mobility service with AT&T?

A. Your existing line can likely be migrated into being a FirstNet mobile connection, you keep your same phone number. Any of the AT&T stores can verify you have compatible equipment and take care of this step for you AFTER you have been verified using the 3 steps which you will receive if you are interested in the program.

Q. How does this work if I have mobility service with Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile, or another carrier?

A. Your phone number can be ported into FirstNet. Please visit one of the AT&T stores who can walk through this process with you and provide you all the options, as well as determine your phone compatibility. You will need to verify your information with FirstNet using the 3 steps which you will receive if you indicate interest in the program.

Q. What if I do not want to port or move my existing cellular number to FirstNet, can I still participate?

A. Yes, each participant is still allowed 1 line of service. This can be a data only connection if you prefer (example: iPad), or even a second smartphone with a new phone number if wanted.

Q. How much does FirstNet cost? Is this priority public safety network in addition to what I'm already paying AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, or another carrier?

A. Plan choices are:

- Unlimited Tablet Plan & tethering - \$34.99 a month (tablets, iPads, etc)
- Unlimited smartphone voice/message/data - \$38.49 a month (unthrottled data)
- Unlimited smartphone voice/message/data & tethering - \$43.49 a month

A. These are your total monthly service plan rates, they would take the place of AT&T/Verizon and are not in addition to your former cellular rate plan. The plans look \$2 higher when initially setup, but you will see a \$2 credit per month, every month, from the State of Illinois FirstNet program.

Q. How does the unlimited data work? Even though all this has priority above civilian traffic, am I throttled or limited after a certain amount?

A. No, the FirstNet network does not throttle or limit the data. All of it is routed with full priority 24/7/365 – it does not matter if you are on duty and working or off duty.

Q. How do I know if I will have coverage?

A. FirstNet has been measured to already cover 99% of the United States population and is continuously being built out to cover more very remote/rural areas. Even 1 bar of FirstNet service carries more priority and network pre-emption than 4 bars of commercial grade cellular service.

- <https://www.firstnet.com/coverage>
- <https://www.firstnet.gov/network>

Part of the Federal requirements of FirstNet is that you must remain an active and in good standing member within the agency you are affiliated with. In the event you are no longer an active member or remove yourself from that agency, your access to FirstNet will be removed.

If you are interested, please send an email to Chris Jansen chrisj@imert.org as he will need to provide your information to FirstNet to verify your affiliation with IMERT. Once this is completed, you will have a 3 step verification process with FirstNet and AT&T.

IMERT is in no way affiliated or receiving any compensation from FirstNet or AT&T Wireless, we are extending information about a service that is provided by FirstNet.