

Hamilton County Emergency Management



2019

ANNUAL REPORT



Have a Plan – Build a Kit – Stay Informed – Get Involved

Table of Contents

3	HCEM Team
4	Letter from the Director
5	2019 Significant Incidents
6	Operations
7-8	Drone Operations
9	Asset Management
10	Planning and Prevention
11	Funding
12	Community Outreach
13	Training and Exercise
14	Social Media
15	How to get Involved
16	Local Emergency Planning Committee
17	One County – One Community

Hamilton County Emergency Management

Hamilton County Emergency Management (HCEM) provides residents, businesses, non-profit organizations, and local governments the education and support necessary to reduce the loss of life and property and to protect the environment from all-hazards through a comprehensive, risk-based emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Hamilton County Ordinance and Indiana Code requires the establishment of a local emergency management agency.

Our small team provides proactive leadership in facilitating and coordinating a comprehensive approach to emergency management through some of the following activities:

- Facilitation of emergency partnerships
- Enhancement of emergency response coordination
- Provide emergency planning
- Conduct emergency training and exercises
- Facilitate public education and community outreach programs
- Manage Homeland Security grants
- Recovery coordination
- Manage emergency alerts and notification systems



Front row (left to right): Pam Eldridge, Administrative Assistant, Matt Fearon, Chief Planner. Middle row (left to right): Ryan Tennesen, Deputy Director, Shane Booker, Executive Director, Paula Ricketts, Training and Exercise Coordinator. Back row (left to right) Steve Haston, Coordinator, Jon Baldwin, CERT Coordinator and Joe March, RACES Coordinator.

Dear Residents, Employees, and Visitors of Hamilton County,

Over the past year, your emergency management team has seen the addition of new staff, enhanced team cohesion, and provided countless examples of incredible teamwork.

- We welcomed Ryan Tennessen as our new deputy director. Ryan previously served Hamilton County as the part-time health preparedness officer and a reserve town marshal for Arcadia. Ryan moved to Tippecanoe County to pursue a full-time health preparedness officer position while volunteering with the Tippecanoe Emergency Management Agency. Ryan has the distinguished honor of being a Certified Emergency Manager from the International Association of Emergency Managers. He holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana State University in Criminal Justice. Ryan is proud to return to his hometown of Noblesville and serve his home county.
- We welcomed Paula Ricketts as our new part-time training and exercise coordinator and Emergency Operations Center logistician. Paula served Hamilton County as the team leader of the Westfield Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). She proudly served her country in the United States Navy where she sailed around the world, protecting our freedom. Paula and her family are residents of Westfield.
- We welcomed Thomas Huser as our new volunteer program coordinator for the Emergency Operations Center volunteers. Tom has served multiple communities as a fireman, police officer, emergency medical technician, and currently works for Indiana University Health providing risk management and preparedness to over 150 practices. Tom has degrees in: Applied Fire Science (Ivy Tech), Business Administration (Indiana Wesleyan University), and Health and Safety Management (Indiana State University). He and his wife reside in Noblesville.

Your team is dedicated to the mission, and each member continually gives of his or herself through personal sacrifice to ensure we are ready at a personal and professional level to protect and support the people of Hamilton County. Personnel have worked holidays, weekends, and responded during the day and the middle of the night to numerous severe weather threats, emergencies, and special events. We are proud to support our public safety partners across the county with our time, talents, volunteers, and equipment.

In 2019, we focused on equipment repair, maintenance, and operational proficiency. We created an in-service training program to ensure staff and key volunteers can effectively operate over 14 different and unique computer applications, five social media platforms, and operate 18 different pieces of equipment. Each team member is assigned an Emergency Support Function they interface with regularly, along with a school system where they attend school safety meetings and provide emergency management support.

As one of the best places to live in the Nation, Hamilton County continues to see explosive growth and development in all areas of our county. We have coined the phrase, "As good as we are today, we will need to be even better tomorrow to ensure we can meet the needs of our community." The community plays an important role "to be even better tomorrow" by taking the time to be prepared. The more residents of Hamilton County can be prepared by embracing the principles of emergency preparedness, the more resilient our community will be.

In 2020, we will begin the process to become the first county in the State of Indiana to become an accredited emergency management program under the National Emergency Management Association. The process will push us to become better for tomorrow, and ensuring we maintain the foundation, we continue to build for Hamilton County.

Best Regards,

Shane Booker
Executive Director



2019

January

Fuel Spill



February

Duke Oil Spill



May

Severe Thunderstorms



Drone support to law enforcement



Raw Sewage Spill



Flash flooding

August

Serious Crash Support



July

Get n Go Fuel spill



June

Severe Weather



Hazmat incident



Fuel spill

September

Fatal crash support



October

Beck's two-alarm fire



November

Drone support to Madison County arson and death investigation



Major Natural Gas distribution line rupture



Marina fire



Significant Incidents

Operational Response and Recovery

HCEM is responsible for the County's all-hazard Comprehensive Emergency Plan (CEMP) and coordinates the activities for the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The plan is updated every two years and approved by the Board of Commissioners, mayors, town presidents, and others. A well rehearsed emergency plan developed as part of the preparedness phase enables efficient coordination of resources before, during, and after an emergency.

HCEM routinely responds to emergencies throughout Hamilton County in support of public safety partners. Response operations include providing coordination of local, county, and state resources, deployment of specialized equipment, and technical expertise. HCEM provides key resource support and coordination for large hazardous materials incidents, major pipeline ruptures, large fires and other critical incidents.

Response actions may include activating the EOC, evacuating threatened populations, opening shelters, and coordinating mass care. The EOC, as a central location, serves as a multi-agency coordination center, and supports logistical requests where representatives of local government and private sector agencies come together during a disaster to coordinate and support field operations.



EOC Storm Operations During Tornado Watch



Support to City of Carmel after damaging winds



On-scene coordination during major distribution pipeline rupture



Week of May 26th

Shane, Ryan, Steve, Matt, and Paula serve as the on-call duty officer on a weekly rotational basis. For some incidents, such as large chemical spills, hazardous materials releases, and explosions, Emergency Management is automatically dispatched through the computer aided dispatch. The on-call duty officer responds to provide support and coordination to the incident commander.

Drone Operations

Hamilton County Emergency Management is a regional leader in coordinated Unmanned Ariel Systems (UAS) operations and management. In 2018 HCEM partnered with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, City of Carmel, City of Fishers, City of Noblesville, City of Westfield, and others to form the Hamilton County Drone Working Group. The public safety group meets monthly to share operational considerations, best practices, review of UAV deployments, and training.

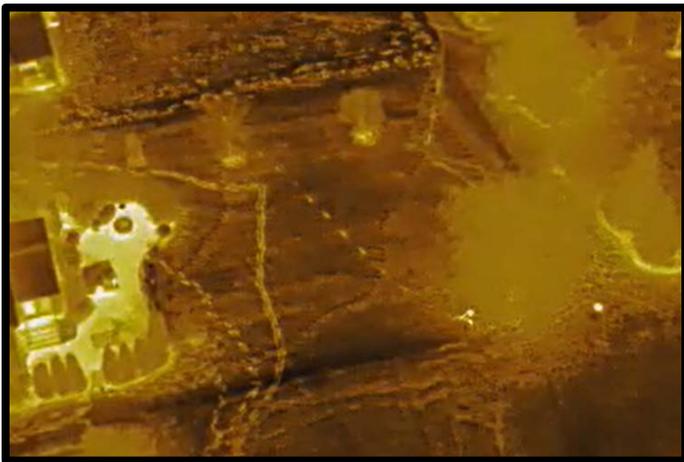


Hamilton County Drone Working Group

HCEM operates under the expert program management of Steve Haston. Steve is a licensed fixed wing and part 107 UAV pilot. His passion and experience in aviation has been a driving force for Hamilton County. The Certificate of Authorization for Hamilton County Emergency Management was awarded because of Steve's hard work. He was selected by a leading company to serve on a panel at an international conference in 2019 to share Hamilton County's multitude of UAV successes.

HCEM currently uses four UAVs purchased with grant funding to provide a host of services.

- Two DJI Matrice Enterprise UAVs with multiple sensors
- Two DJI Mavic Enterprise UAVs



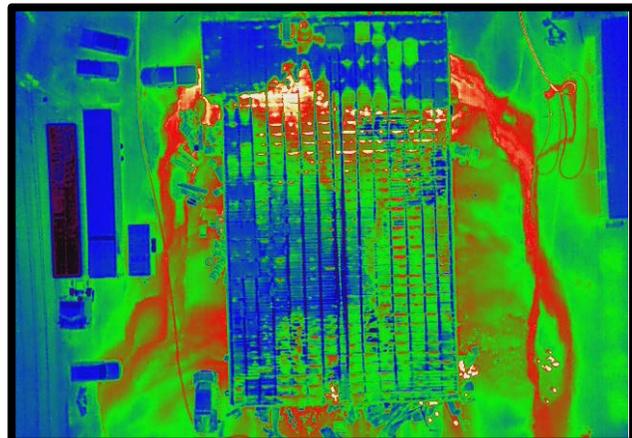
Tracking of a Felony Suspect



Marina Fire



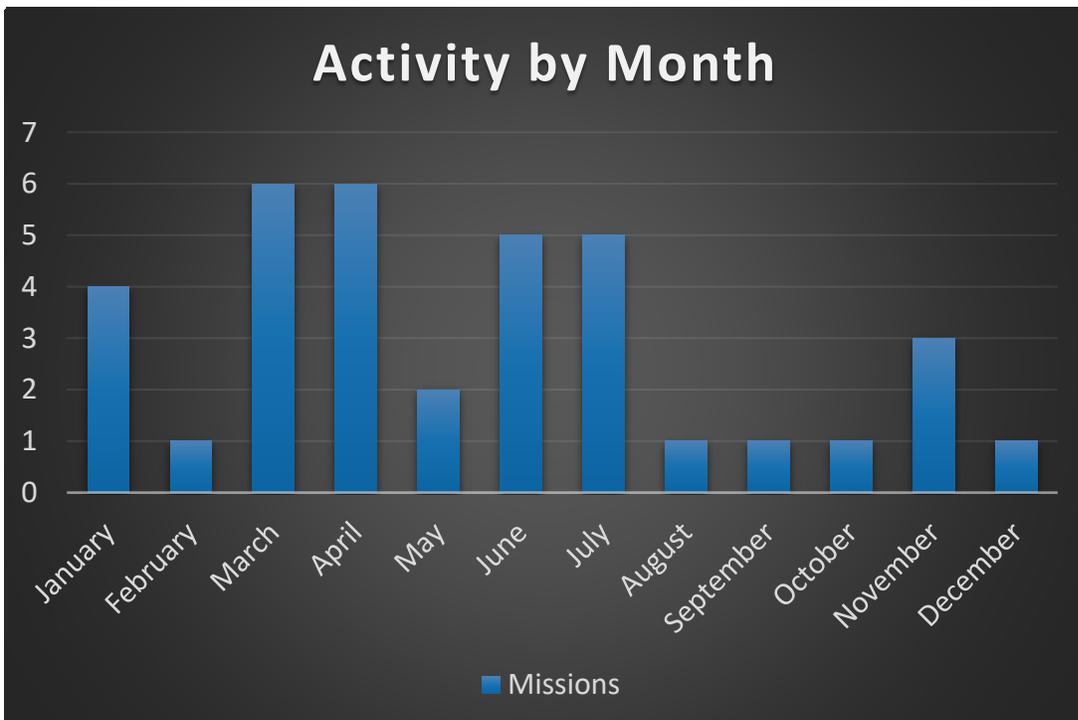
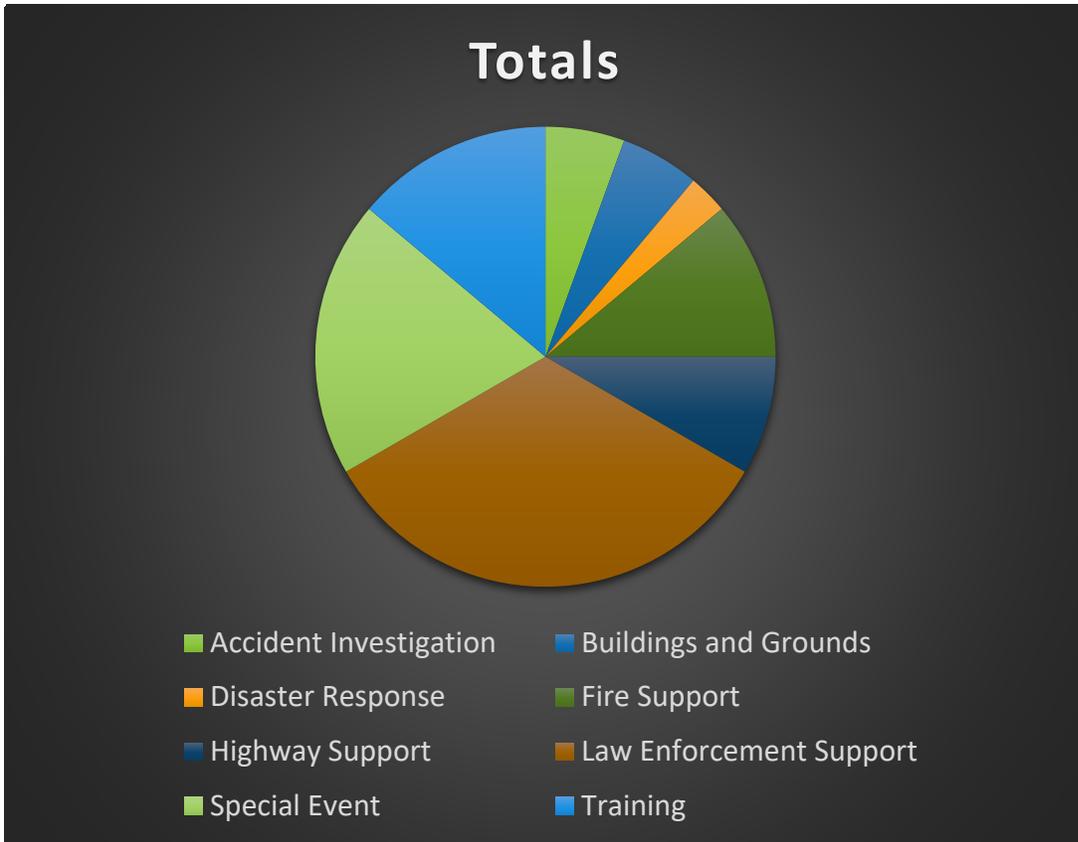
Overwatch Flight for HCSO Tactical K9 Team



Run Off from a Fire

Drone Operations

HCEM is required to submit monthly reporting to the Federal Aviation Administration in order to maintain the certificate of authorization. Additionally, HCEM tracks all operations for monthly and annual reporting. Below is a summary chart of the types of missions flown during 2019.



Logistics and Asset Management

HCEM operates and maintains over \$3,000,000 in assets purchased primarily through federal grant funds. For several years, equipment was stored outdoors. Fortunately, a new climate-controlled building was completed in 2019. The building will extend the life of the equipment for many years to come.

Emergency Management serves the community by working with the municipalities to use equipment for emergencies, disasters, and special events. Equipment is being used more and more to ensure proper set up and operation, equipment familiarization, and equipment maintenance.

HCEM supported the Noblesville Street Dance, Carmel Marathon, Hamilton County Fair, Indy Exec Fly-in, several Independence Day Celebrations, numerous Fishers Parks AMP concerts, Community Public Safety Days, Atlanta Earth Fest, and many other events. In 2019 HCEM responded to several incidents including the Pendleton Tornado, confined space rescues, multiple fire scenes, and several other incidents.

Numerous repairs were made to address previous maintenance shortfalls. A large portion of the 2019 HCEM budget was used to address emergency repairs. A comprehensive preventative maintenance and exercise program was established in 2019 to ensure equipment readiness. The current program will significantly improve the longevity of the equipment.

Some of the equipment HCEM maintains includes

- Emergency Operations Center
- Command truck
- Command trailer
- Several generators
 - Three 200 kW generators
 - 65 kW generator
 - Five small generators
- Five light towers/generators
- Commercial enterprise drones
- Fuel trailer
- Power distribution system
- Tent systems
- Radio caches
- Amateur radio communications

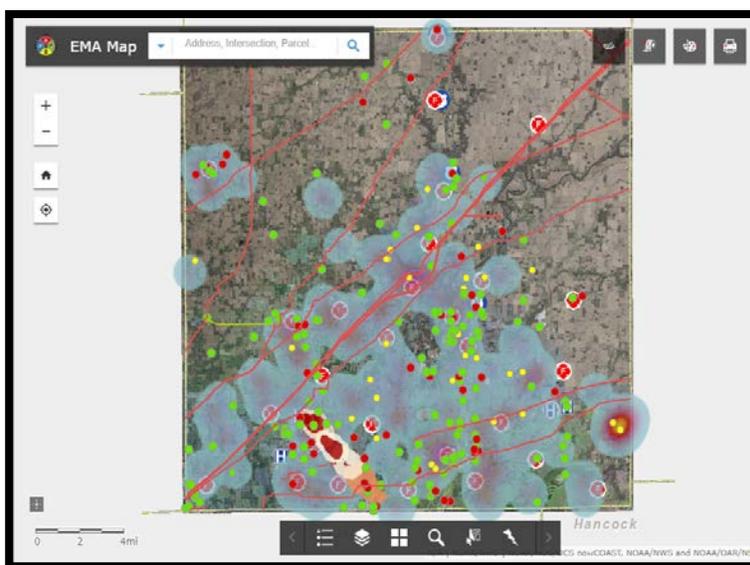


Planning and Prevention

HCEM follows regulatory requirements to develop and maintain county plans. HCEM provides emergency management planning coordination for the entire county. Many of the plans are linked to federal and state funding. If these plans are not maintained the county could lose hundreds of thousand of dollars in funding annually. HCEM will continue to address planning shortfalls annually. Plans are living documents and require regular updates based upon operational needs and after-action review.

In 2018, HCEM hired a part-time Chief Planner to ensure county plans are reviewed annually, uncover updates and changes, as well as create new plans. This position also serves as the Planning Section Chief during EOC activations. Maintaining plans is accomplished through working side by side with our stakeholders, hosting planning meetings, incorporating feedback, and working with partners for final approval.

In 2020, the HCEM Chief Planner position was approved to a full-time position by county council. This move will help the county retain federal and state funding, prepare for, train and exercise against, respond to, and protect our citizens from the hazards Hamilton County faces. This position also works with county GIS. Providing the county with an EMA Map GIS View. This project provides different map layers for flooding, real-time traffic conditions and reports, as well as National census data for geospatial analysis.



New GIS Viewer Displaying Hazards

Plan	Status	Due Date
Access and Functional Needs	Complete	2020
Comprehensive Emergency Mgmt. Plan (CEMP)	Complete	2022
COOP for Hamilton County	In-Progress	2019
Debris Management Plan	In-Progress	2016
Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)	Complete	2020
Flood Fight Plan	Complete	2020
HazMat Plan	Not Started	2016
Heat/Cold Plan	Complete	2020
LEPC Plan	Complete	2020
Logistics Plan	Not Started	2016
Mass Casualty (injuries) Plan	Not Started	2017
Mass Evacuation Plan	Not Started	2010
Mass Fatality Plan	Complete	2022
Multi-Hazard Mitigation	Complete	2025
Recovery Plan	Not Started	2015
Volunteer and Donations Mgt.	In-Progress	2014



Planning Review Session

Emergency Management Budget

HCEM is committed to protect and serve the citizens of Hamilton County through mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery from all disasters, natural and man-made, with all available resources. The major areas of budgetary focus include maintaining current resources and development of community-based plans and programs that assure we are ready and able to handle any disaster or emergency that may impact Hamilton County.

The overall 2019 budget for HCEM to maintain over \$3,000,000 in assets, fund six staff positions, develop and maintain three volunteer programs, and manage disaster response was \$432,202 or \$1.28 cents per capita. The investment in Emergency Management is Hamilton County’s insurance plan to ensure we can respond to and recover from any emergency disaster in a professional, experienced, and expedited manner.

The HCEM operations budget for 2019 was \$65,544.00, of that \$63,338.00 was spent to ensure current resources are ready to deploy at a moments notice when called out to help during a disaster. Emergency Management continues to do all that we can to stretch the budget to ensure aging equipment is available 24/7.

2019 budget highlights

- Maintenance of equipment purchased by the county with past awarded grant funds; ensures proper working order, safeguards items follow safety regulations, as well as capable of producing the desired output
- Improvements to radios, repairs to Mobile Command Vehicle and ATV
- Repairs to staff response vehicles to enhance safety of staff and public

Grant Management

HCEM oversees management of the county’s Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and State Homeland Security grant programs. In addition, HCEM is the lead agency for county management of FEMA Public Assistance reimbursement.

In 2019, Congress’ appropriations for FEMA grant funding continues to decline. Funds awarded to the county from the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Program were unavailable due to the county no longer meeting DHS’s eligibility requirements. Below is a snapshot view of grant funding decline since 2017.

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) is an annual federal grant program from FEMA that provides funding assistance to states for eligible emergency management costs. 50% of the salaries for three HCEM positions is reimbursed back to the county general fund annually. This was a savings of \$125,898.52 to the county in 2019.

HCEM will applies for every grant opportunity provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as well as search elsewhere for additional grant funding opportunities for the county.



Community Outreach

HCEM participates throughout the year in numerous outreach events all over the county. It is through these outreach events that we educate the public about HCEM, who we are, what we do, and educate the importance of community preparedness. Below is a list of some of the community events we participated in last year.

- Storm Spotter Training – March
- Noblesville Street Dance - June
- RACES Field Day – June
- Indy Exec Airport Fly-In – June
- Fishers AMP Concerts – June through September
- Cicero Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast - July
- Noblesville Fireworks – July
- Lights Over Morse - July
- Hamilton County 4H Fair – July
- Run(317) 5K Race- August
- Fishers Public Safety Day – September
- Westfield Public Safety Day – September
- Carmel Public Safety Day – September
- Fisher’s Mudscok Game - September
- Atlanta Earth Fest – September
- International Arts Festival - September
- Noblesville’s Christmas Parade – December
- Cicero's Christmas Parade – December
- Good Samaritan Holiday Food Deliveries



HCEM is committed to improving our ability to engage with, meet the needs of and learn from our residents. As part of this commitment, we will begin hosting Disaster Preparedness Workshops throughout Hamilton County in 2020. The workshops will effectively engage our neighbors, businesses, churches, community groups, and schools to be better prepared for disasters in our rapidly growing county.



Training and Exercise

In 2019, Paula Ricketts was hired as HCEM Training and Exercise Coordinator. Paula worked to revamp the Training and Exercise Program. The current Training and Exercise Program involves a comprehensive approach to training and exercise. The goal of the training component of the program is to host and conduct emergency management and community preparedness training that is available to emergency management professionals, community partners and the public, in order to increase overall disaster resiliency within the community. While the goal of the exercise component of the program is to validate current emergency plans through various Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) compliant exercises which may include a combination of seminars, workshops, tabletops, drills, functional or full-scale exercises.

There were several critical accomplishments of HCEM's Training and Exercise Program in 2019. One accomplishment was the development of both the 2019 and 2020 Training and Exercise Calendars. The calendars provide a detailed schedule of the dates and times that various external training and exercise opportunities will be offered by HCEM to our partners in both 2019 and 2020.

Another accomplishment in 2019 was the delivery of Two HSEEP compliant Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Drills which focused on the EOC activation process. The first Drill allowed participating primary Emergency Support Function (ESF) representatives to practice the EOC activation process. The second Drill allowed participating back-up ESF representatives to practice the EOC activation process as well. The Drills were successful at refreshing or developing new skills among participants. Participating primary and back-up ESF representatives had positive feedback and were thankful to be included in the Drills. Additional EOC Drills are currently scheduled to occur on a quarterly basis in 2020.

EOC Drills and In-Service Trainings for HCEM Staff were internally re-established for both 2019 and 2020. The EOC Drills are designed to routinely allow staff to practice the EOC activation process and further develop the necessary skills to perform the various Command and General Staff functions in an EOC. The In-Service Trainings are specifically designed to allow staff to maintain proficiency with over 25 pieces of equipment routinely used for Emergency Management functions. Both the EOC Drills and In-Service Trainings allow Hamilton County Emergency management staff to maintain a high level of readiness for all-hazards emergency response.



How To Get Involved

Volunteers in Hamilton County contribute thousands of hours of services annually. HCEM volunteers stand ready to serve our community 24/7; our volunteers respond at a moments notice. It is far more than doing a good deed, it's a way to have an impact on our community.

HCEM heavily depends on volunteers to help further the mission to provide support to plan, prepare, mitigate, respond, and recovery from natural, human caused, and accidental hazards. HCEM has three volunteer programs to assist in day-to-day operations, as well as carry out tasks assigned when activated by HCEM. Some activities include filling positions in the EOC when activated, attending meetings, trainings and exercises, provide public outreach during fairs, help with traffic control during concerts and parades, and assist with opening warming or cooling centers when needed.



Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a group of licensed expert amateur radio operators who provide tactical emergency radio communications for special events, shelter operations, severe weather, and more. RACES members support HCEM operations from their radios at homes, in the field, and in the EOC. RACES was the first volunteer group for Hamilton County. In 2019, RACES expanded their capabilities with the addition of a High Frequency radio with two antennas to the EOC.

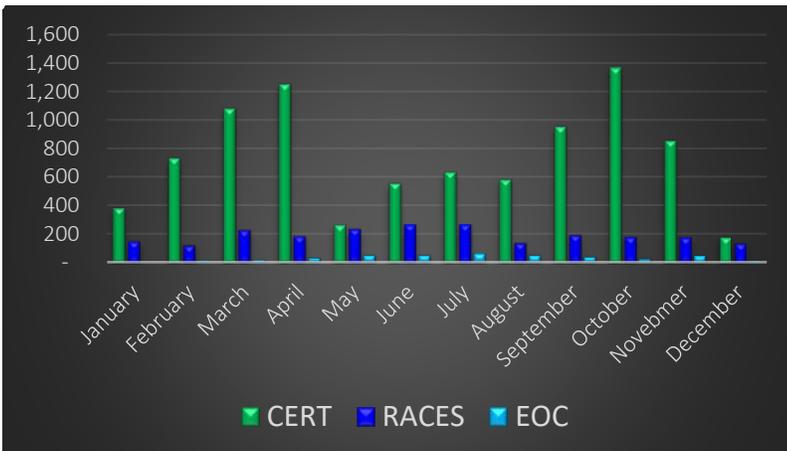


Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) teaches the community about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact the county. Local teams exist in Carmel, Cicero, Fishers, Britton Falls (Fishers), Noblesville Westfield, and Sheridan. Each team has a dedicated team leader who coordinates activities at the local level. Teams stand ready to respond in their community and throughout the county.



Emergency Operation Center volunteers allows individuals to serve the community by learning how to staff and manage the EOC. This allows military, law enforcement, fire, or emergency management experience to build upon their skills.

In 2019, HCEM volunteers saved the county over \$285,000. HCEM uses the FEMA rate of \$25 an hour to calculate the value of volunteer's time. Below is a breakdown of year-to-date hours and value.



RACES

- YTD Hours: 2,230
- YTD value: \$55,750

CERT

- YTD Hours: 8,841
- YTD value: \$221,025

EOC Volunteers

- YTD Hours: 341.75
- YTD Value: \$8,769

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986 establishes requirements for Federal, State, local governments, and industry regarding reporting on hazardous and toxic chemicals. The act also requires the establishment of LEPC's. EPCRA has four major provisions: Section 301-303, Emergency Planning, Section 304, Emergency Release Notification (spill reporting), Section 311-312, Hazardous Chemical Storage Reporting (Tier II), and Section 313, Toxic Chemical Inventory Reporting. EPCRA provisions help increase the public's knowledge and access to information on chemicals at facilities who store, manufacture or transport chemicals.



LEPC receives award from Indiana Emergency Response Commission for facility outreach.



The LEPC is a volunteer group of 40 professional and interested parties from Hamilton County representing over 25 organizations. The LEPC representatives are responsible for updating The LEPC Hazardous Materials Plan annually. The plan is a guide to help protect both human and environmental health from adverse effects as a result of the storage or possible release of chemicals.

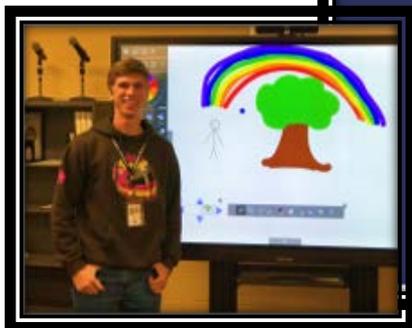


The plan is exercised each year using the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) methodology. In 2019, the Full Scale LEPC Hazmat Exercise was a big success with participation from several fire departments, several county departments, who exercised their Continuity of Operation plans.

An after-action review was held to develop an improvement plan from the exercise evaluations.



One County - One Community



Know your Neighbors!!

One County – One Community



CONNECT WITH US!



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