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McHenry County Emergency Management Volunteer Earns IPEM Certification

WOODSTOCK, IL – McHenry County is pleased to announce that one of its emergency management volunteers, Steve James, has earned the Illinois Professional Emergency Management (IPEM) Certification. Mr. James has been a volunteer with the McHenry County Emergency Management Agency since April 2002, is a volunteer Chief of Telecommunications, and also participates in the Search & Rescue Division. The designation of the IPEM Certification is significant because he is the first volunteer in McHenry County and one of very few Emergency Management volunteers in the State of Illinois to reach this status.

To achieve this certification, Mr. James had to complete roughly 20 hours of training requirements (basic and advanced courses) through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Illinois Emergency Management Agency. He further had to demonstrate proficiency in a situational exercise setting and complete an essay regarding emergency management topics.

Mr. James was recognized for his achievement earlier this month at the Illinois Emergency Management (IEMA) Conference in Springfield. Former Director of the McHenry County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Barry Valentine was also recognized for his years of service in emergency management.

For more information on the IPEM Certification or how you can become a volunteer with the McHenry County EMA, please contact Assistant Director Bob Ellsworth at 815-338-6400.



(Left to Right): McHenry County EMA Assistant Director Bob Ellsworth, retired McHenry County EMA Director Barry Valentine, Steve James, and current McHenry County EMA Director David Christensen at the IEMA Conference in Springfield earlier this month.

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