



Merit Matters

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JOB SPOTLIGHT: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



The role of the Emergency Management Agency extends well beyond the Wednesday morning tornado sirens. Many people are not aware that EMA is even part of the Merit System. However, the Emergency Management Agency is very much a part of civil service and community safety within Jefferson County.

We had a chance to speak with Michael Harter of the EMA and discuss the impact of EMA.

EMA handles the emergency response and coordination efforts in of a multitude of emergency situations. They handle anything from tornados, hazardous materials, dangerous weather conditions and lately planes that crash

into neighborhoods. When they are not attending to emergencies efforts are focused on training so that first responders will be ready. This means working with police, fire, hospitals, public works, or anyone who may be called into action when disaster strikes.

To assist the public, EMA coordinates a Community Awareness Day each October in Lynn Park. The goal is to educate the public and allow for interactions with first responders.

In recent weeks they served as the information hub for city, county and state agencies dealing with icy road conditions and passed that information to the public through news agencies.

“When anything suddenly bad happens EMA gets a call from first responders,” said Harter.

EMA not only strives to connect people and government with the skills and coordination they need but also local business. A new focus of EMA is preparing businesses for disasters

“How are you going to contact employees, what do you do about shipping, how do you recover your business with no revenue is coming in,” asked Harter. “These are issues businesses need to be able to answer.

When Disaster Strikes...

- Have a plan. Know where important things are and have a destination in mind.
- Have a communications plan. Who is your best contact? Remember long distance lines are easier to get to and those people are typically out of the danger zone.
- If you need EMA, call. Find the best agency to deal with the problem at hand.

WASHINGTON JOINS THREE-MEMBER BOARD

The Citizens Supervisory Commission held a special session on December 7, 2010 to appoint a new Personnel Board Chairperson to replace Alfred "Buddy" Smith who resigned his position after three and half years of service as the Board's Chairperson in November 2010. The Commission appointed Associate Board Member, Judge Kenneth Moore as the new Chairperson. Judge Moore has served as an Associate Member on the Board since June of 2006. The Commission then selected Lonnie Washington to the Associate Member position vacated by Judge Moore. Mr. Washington is co-founder of Washington, Lloyd & Henderson, PC and has practiced law in various capacities in the Birmingham area for nearly twenty years including serving as Assistant District Attorney for Jefferson County, Municipal Judge for the City of Brighton, and judge pro-tem for municipal courts in the cities of Birmingham, Midfield, and Fairfield.



The Personnel Board will be closed, Monday February 21 for President's Day.

Expected Job Openings

- Director of Economic/Community Development (Fairfield)
- Arborist
- Records Analyst
- Chairman Board of Registrars
- Court Monitoring Specialist
- Court Referral Officer
- Drug Court Coordinator
- Police Community Relations Assistant
- Senior Grants Management Coordinator
- Equipment Service Writer

Registers Released

- Building Inspection Superintendent
- Electrician Supervisor
- Traffic Systems Engineer
- Building Maintenance Supervisor
- Patient Care Technician
- Parole and Probation Aide
- Fire Captain
- Probation Officer
- Police Chief I
- Police Chief II
- Police Chief III
- Human Resource Planner
- Driver Messenger
- Public Works Director III
- Fire Lieutenant
- Fire Battalion Chief II
- Attorney

If you have any questions for Merit Matters please email them to meritmatters@pbjcal.org