



# EMA Command Staff Informational Guide

## *Porter County Emergency Management Agency*



The Porter County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is comprised of 4, full-time Command Staff members. The command staff is responsible for the overall functionality and leadership of the agency. Each of these team members have specific areas they are responsible for. However, at any time, they may be required to switch roles in order to fill in for the other.

### **Director**

Lance Bella has been the Director of the agency since September of 2017. Director Bella had 39 years of prior public safety and emergency response experience before to joining Porter County EMA. The Director's primary responsibilities include:

- Setting the overall vision of the agency.
- Developing long-term, strategic plans to accomplish the vision.
- Overall responsibility for command staff members.
- Development and oversight of the agency's budget.
- Ensure all response equipment is maintained in a ready state.
- Ensure the County's 52 weather warning sirens are maintained in a ready state.
- Ensure all personnel are trained to respond to critical incidents and disasters.
- Ensure all personnel are trained to operate the agency's vast array of response equipment.
- Maintaining a countywide emergency response plan.
- The coordination of resources when emergency services agencies have exceeded their own capabilities.
- Coordinating the efforts of emergency services organizations and municipal departments for the overall safety of the citizens of Porter County.
- Responding to emergency scenes as needed.

### **Deputy Director**

Mark Carlo has been the Deputy Director of the agency since May of 2018. Deputy Director Carlo served as an EMA volunteer for 18 years prior to taking a full-time position with the command staff. The Deputy Director's primary responsibilities include:

- Acting in the capacity of the Director in the Director's absence.
- The execution and coordination of long-term, strategic plans.
- Responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the agency.
- Responding to emergency scenes as needed.
- Overseeing the overall operation of the agency's response assets.
- Coordinating the deployment of assets for both planned and unplanned events.
- Responding to emergency scenes as needed.



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### **Hazardous Materials Team Commander**

Greg Eckhardt has been associated with and served on the Porter County Hazardous Materials Team since 1983. He served initially as a volunteer and became the team commander in 2012. Commander Eckhardt's primary responsibilities include:

- Responding to emergencies involving spills and releases of chemicals, along with unknown products on facility sites, waterways, State Roads, Interstate Highways and Municipal roadways within Porter County.
- Conducting investigations into environmental complaints.
- Overseeing and insuring compliance in cleanup operations.

### **Support Services Coordinator**

Jeff Furst has been the Support Services Coordinator of the agency since January of 2023. Commander Furst had 4 years of public safety and emergency response experience prior to joining Porter County EMA. Commander Furst's primary responsibilities include:

- Coordination of fiscal activities and monitoring the budget of the agency.
- Coordination of grant tracking and associated reporting.
- Coordination of training and associated tracking for agency personnel.
- Coordination of maintenance and associated tracking for agency response equipment.
- Coordination of maintenance and associated tracking for the County's 52 weather warning sirens.
- Coordination of public messaging, including the agency's social media platform
- Responding to emergency scenes as needed.