

[When Seconds Matter: Will County Public Preparedness Workshop](#)

Agenda **Saturday, March 22, 2025**

Registration & Early Bird Exhibits

8:30 AM

Please stop by our exhibit tables for preparedness information, volunteer opportunities, and free giveaways! Exhibits will be open during breaks and at lunch. Don't forget to get your exhibit card signed for a chance to win a raffle prize at the end of the workshop!

Welcome

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino- Tarrant

The Plainfield Tornado: 35 Years of Advancement in Severe Weather Forecasting and Preparedness

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Zachary Yack & Mike Bardou - National Weather Service

Join us for a look back at the meteorology of the Plainfield tornado and see how severe weather forecasting, detection, and communication have advanced in the last 35 years period we'll also take an updated look at some of the data that was available at the time, revisit the track of the tornado, and explore which areas of present-day Plainfield were impacted. Finally, we will outline how to be weather aware in order to be best protected from severe weather.

Disaster Scam Awareness: Protecting Yourself from Fraud After Crisis

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM

Norman "Skip" Gonsoulin, Jr - Office of the Attorney General

This program will educate the community on common scams that arise before, during, and after disasters. The program helps individuals recognize fraudulent contractors, fake charities, identity theft schemes, and other scams that exploit disaster survivors. Through workshops, informational materials, and community outreach, participants learn how to identify red flags, report scams, and protect themselves and their communities from financial and emotional harm.

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Thinking in Chaos

11:30AM – 12:15 PM

Kyle Matousek

Throughout his career, Kyle has led teams through some of the most challenging and unpredictable situations imaginable – from military operations in volatile regions to coordinating Fire/EMS response during emergencies. This presentation will share insights from these experiences offering practical strategies, lessons learned, and thought-provoking takeaways that will help navigate high-stress, chaotic environments.

Lunch

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

A light lunch is being provided by the Salvation Army located on the patio.

Lessons from the Storm: A First Responder's Perspective on Tornado Recovery and Preparedness

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Jackie Palkovitz and Lt. Edward Ludwig – Manhattan Fire Protection District

Join Manhattan Fire's Lieutenant Ludwig as he shares his firsthand experience as a responder during the July 2024 Ranch Oaks tornado's aftermath, providing a unique perspective from both professional and personal standpoint. Discover how emergency operations unfolded, the challenges of recovery efforts, and the critical needs of the community in the wake of disaster. Fire and Safety Educator Jackie Palkovitz will offer practical tips to help you prepare for emergencies and insights into the long and complex rebuilding process. With Lieutenant Ludwig's dual perspectives - as both a first responder and a resident of the impacted subdivision - this session promises to be both compelling and highly informative.

Closing Remarks and Raffle

2:00 PM

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