

RICH TOWNSHIP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 8, 2026

Rich Township Attends 2026 Cook County Resilience Summit

Working Together to Build Stronger, Safer Communities

RICHTON PARK, IL – Rich Township Deputy Administrator **Percy Harris**, Rich Township Emergency Management Coordinator **Rufus Moore**, Village of Olympia Fields Trustee **Kelvin Oliver**, and Village of Richton Park Community Relations Coordinator **Kenneth L. Jones** attended the **2026 Cook County Resilience Summit** on Thursday, October 8, at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, Illinois.

The summit was hosted by **Phillip Mason, Preparedness Manager with Cook County Emergency Management and Regional Security (EMRS), and the Cook County EMRS team**. The event brought together local government officials, emergency management professionals, and community leaders to discuss emergency preparedness, disaster response, and community safety.

The summit's theme, **"The Power of Us: Connected Communities, Resilient Futures,"** highlighted the importance of working together before, during, and after emergencies.

Learning from Recent Storms

The summit was especially important following the severe storms that affected Rich Township communities in July and August 2026. These storms caused power outages, property damage, and other challenges for residents and local governments.

Rich Township Deputy Administrator Percy Harris emphasized the need for stronger regional cooperation.

"The July and August storms showed us the importance of working together. I hope this summit is the first step toward bringing all ten municipalities, community organizations, and volunteers together to develop a Township-wide Emergency Operations Plan. We need to be better prepared for the next emergency," said Harris.

Rich Township Emergency Management Coordinator Rufus Moore also stressed the importance of planning and teamwork.

“Preparedness starts with planning and teamwork. By working together, sharing resources, and improving communication, we can better protect and assist our residents when emergencies occur,” said Moore.

Moving Forward Together

Rich Township hopes to work with its ten municipalities and community partners to develop a coordinated approach to emergency preparedness.

The goal is to improve communication, share resources, organize volunteers, and ensure residents receive assistance when disasters occur.

Rich Township looks forward to continuing its partnership with Cook County Emergency Management and Regional Security and neighboring communities to strengthen emergency preparedness throughout the Township.

Media Contact

Percy Harris

Deputy Administrator

Rich Township

Phone: (708) 228-5027

Email: pharris@richtownship.org

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Photo Caption: Rich Township Deputy Administrator Percy Harris, Emergency Management Coordinator Rufus Moore, Olympia Fields Trustee Kelvin Oliver, and Richton Park Community Relations Coordinator Kenneth L. Jones attended the 2026 Cook County Resilience Summit, hosted by Phillip Mason and Cook County Emergency Management and Regional Security, on October 8, 2026, in Palos Hills, Illinois.