

# Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System Mutual Aid Plan

## Purpose

The Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) is a statewide law enforcement mutual aid system. The purpose of ILEAS is:

- To provide immediate extra law enforcement manpower and equipment at the scene of law enforcement emergencies.
- To provide for an automatic and systematic response of law enforcement manpower teams.
- To provide for contractual responsibilities and liabilities.
- To provide broad area coverage.
- To foster a cooperative spirit for law enforcement emergency planning.
- To provide access to specialized manpower and equipment which no one department could afford to maintain.

ILEAS does not relieve a community of its responsibility to provide adequate manpower and equipment for day-to-day law enforcement operations. Each agency has its first line of defense and its reserves. A community may only report to ILEAS when a law enforcement emergency has caused the agency to exceed its own routine capabilities.

## Definitions

*Aiding Agency:* An agency furnishing law enforcement manpower and equipment to a stricken agency.

*Alarm Log:* A form used by the ILEAS dispatcher at the Dispatch Center to record the response to a mutual aid request.

*Disaster:* An emergency situation that threatens or causes loss of life and property, and exceeds the physical and organizational capabilities of a unit of local government. Generally, the word "Emergency" within this document refers to situations connected to a law enforcement response to severe storms, floods, hazardous material incidents, transportation accidents, large fires, or situations which are beyond the ability of the individual agency to deal with effectively in terms of manpower and equipment resources on hand at a given time.

*Mutual Aid:* A prearranged written agreement and plan whereby regular response and assistance is provided in the event of alarms (emergencies) from a stricken agency by the aiding agencies in accordance with the law enforcement alarm assignments as developed by the agency heads of the participating law enforcement agencies.

*ILEAS Dispatcher:* The Dispatch Center is responsible for the coordination and assignment of law enforcement mutual aid personnel under this plan. The Dispatch Center will handle most requests for mutual aid. The Alternate Dispatch Center will handle the activities should the primary dispatcher become involved in an emergency.

*Law Enforcement Alarm Area:* A geographic area in which a Law Enforcement Alarm location exists.

*Law Enforcement Alarm Assignment:* A predetermined listing of manpower and equipment that will respond to aid a stricken agency. It includes a series of law enforcement response levels (Plans) designed to meet the needs of varying degrees of emergencies.

*Law Enforcement Alarm Card:* A printed form containing details of manpower and equipment to respond to a specific law enforcement plan request.

*Law Enforcement Officer:* An employee of a participating law enforcement agency who is a peace officer (as defined by state law and the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board or federal law) and by virtue of his office or public employment, is vested by the state or federal law with the primary duty of maintaining public order and making arrests for violations of state or federal law.

*Squad Car:* A law enforcement vehicle that is equipped with mounted or portable warning lights and has communications equipment.

*Staging Area:* A predetermined location outside the immediate emergency area where law

enforcement personnel and equipment will assemble.

*Staging Area Supervisor:* An officer from the stricken agency assigned to coordinate activities and log in responding personnel at the staging area.

*Stricken Agency:* The agency in which an emergency occurs that is of such magnitude that it cannot be adequately handled by the local law enforcement agency.

### **The ILEAS Alarm Card**

The ILEAS emergency plan consists of a series of manpower response levels designed to meet the needs of varying degrees of emergencies. At the same time, the plan ensures that aiding agencies maintain adequate manpower levels in their own communities.

Member agencies divide their areas into Law Enforcement Alarm Areas. Each area is assigned a unique Law Enforcement Alarm number and a Law Enforcement Alarm Card is developed. Predetermined responses of manpower and equipment from adjacent agencies are then listed on this card.

An ILEAS Level 1 Alarm summons five (5) law enforcement officers (one officer from five different agencies) to respond to a staging area. If an emergency continues to escalate, and more manpower is needed, the stricken agency can request additional alarms, a Level 2, 3, 4, up to 10. Each alarm brings more manpower and equipment to the staging area.

In case of high life hazard, the stricken agency may choose to call a large amount of manpower and equipment to the staging area quickly. The stricken agency can skip as many alarm plans as necessary to fulfill their manpower requirements. A Level 3 would immediately bring to the staging area all of the manpower and equipment listed in alarm Levels 1, 2 and 3.

The Law Enforcement Alarm Card contains the following information:

#### ***Agency Name and Telephone Number***

The name and telephone number of the agency for which the Law Enforcement Alarm Card was developed.

#### ***Law Enforcement Alarm Assignments***

A chart that lists ten (10) Law Enforcement Alarm levels with their corresponding assignment of aiding agencies.

#### ***Law Enforcement Alarm Locations***

A listing of Law Enforcement Alarm Locations, each covering its own Law Enforcement Alarm area within the agency. A unique Alarm Number identifies each alarm. A Staging Area name, address and location description is provided for each alarm.

### **Procedure for Requesting a Law Enforcement Alarm**

- Any supervisor, regardless of rank, is authorized to call into effect a Law Enforcement Alarm Plan of any level which, in their opinion, is requested to bring an emergency situation under control.
- After determining the Law Enforcement Alarm and Plan level needed to bring the situation under control, the stricken agency, through its law enforcement dispatcher, will immediately contact the ILEAS dispatcher and provide the following information:
  - The name of the requesting agency.
  - The Law Enforcement Alarm Number requested.
  - The Law Enforcement Alarm Plan Level Requested.
  - The nature of the incident.
  - Any other special details or instructions for responding personnel.
- The ILEAS dispatcher will check the corresponding Law Enforcement Alarm Card and notify those departments due to respond to the stricken agency's alarm.
- Agencies due to respond will acknowledge the mutual aid request and, unless otherwise directed, immediately dispatch the required manpower to the appropriate Staging Area.
- If an agency cannot, because of an existing situation, immediately send the required manpower due on an alarm, they must notify the ILEAS dispatcher immediately so that fill-in manpower can be assigned from the next Plan level.
- The stricken agency will assign an officer to act as the Staging Area Supervisor. The Staging Area Supervisor will report to the Staging Area and will log in and coordinate

the assignment of ILEAS personnel as they arrive.

Unless otherwise directed, each law enforcement officer assigned to respond to a Law Enforcement Alarm will respond in uniform, or otherwise clearly identified, and in a Squad Car. No law enforcement officer will respond to a mutual aid request unless directed by his department.

### **Operations at the Emergency Site**

The initial responsibility of the stricken agency at the emergency site is to evaluate the extent of the emergency situation and take immediate steps to ensure that adequate law enforcement manpower and equipment are made available.

The officer-in-charge, of the stricken agency, shall assume full responsibility and command for operations at the scene. He will assign personnel and equipment, of the aiding agencies, to positions when and where he deems necessary.

Some suggested uses of mutual aid personnel are:

- Provide care and aid to injured.
- Search and rescue operations.
- Evacuation.
- Traffic and crowd control.
- Perimeter security.
- Maintain regular law enforcement service.

As a general rule, mutual aid personnel will supplement the stricken agency's forces, and as such, should not be assigned to hazardous duties when adequate manpower from the stricken agency exists.

As much as possible, one common radio frequency will be utilized by all law enforcement agencies involved. Initial response will be coordinated through ISPERN. Ground voice communications operations will be conducted on another frequency agreed to by the regional response units, i.e., IREACH. Those officers not having the agreed upon frequency should be assigned to positions not needing immediate communications or assigned with an officer having access to the frequency.

Due to the differences in ten-signals, common English language will be used in contrast to codes and ten-signals.

The incident commander, of the stricken agency, shall ensure that mutual aid personnel are released and returned to duty with their own agencies as soon as the situation is restored to the point, which permits the stricken agency to satisfactorily handle it with its own resources.

### **Terminating a Law Enforcement Alarm**

Whenever a plan has been implemented, the officer-in-charge, for the stricken agency, shall terminate the alarm when adequate law enforcement personnel have responded. This means that the situation is now under control, but that the emergency is not necessarily terminated. Notice of said termination shall be made to the ILEAS dispatcher at the Dispatch Center. The order in which the manpower is returned to duty with their own agencies is at the discretion of the officer-in-charge for the stricken agency.