

# Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System Mutual Aid Plan

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

- additional law enforcement personnel and equipment to the scene of emergencies, disasters and pre-planned events where the potential of an emergency exists.
- a simple, standardized notification and activation system to ensure an orderly effective response.
- a cooperative spirit for law enforcement emergency planning.
- specialized response teams and equipment that would be cost prohibitive to individual agencies.

The system is based on pre-planned responses through a standard process. **SELF-DEPLOYMENT** is NOT part of the system because it may place staff and agencies not responding pursuant to a mutual aid agreement under considerable liability and legal risk.

Membership in ILEAS does not relieve a community of its responsibility to provide adequate staffing and equipment for day-to-day law enforcement operations. When a situation (real or threatened) exceeds the capabilities of the responsible jurisdiction, the ILEAS mutual aid system may be utilized.

## Definitions

**Agency:** An Illinois law enforcement agency as recognized by the IL. Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.

**Disaster/Emergency:** An occurrence, or the reasonable threat or possibility of an occurrence or, any event that has the potential to cause widespread or severe damage; injury or loss of life or property resulting from any natural, human or technological cause that exceeds the physical and/or organizational response capabilities of a unit of local, state or federal government.

**Mutual Aid Agreement:** A prearranged written agreement and plan whereby regular response and assistance is provided in the event of Disasters/Emergencies between agencies.

**Dispatch Center:** 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 dispatch be unavailable.

**Incident Commander:** The officer-in-charge of the event from Requesting Agency.

**Law Enforcement Alarm Data:** An electronic database containing details of staffing and equipment available to a specific law enforcement request.

**Law Enforcement Personnel:** An employee of a Signatory Public Agency to this Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement (LEMAA) who is a law enforcement officer, corrections officer or court security officer, as defined in Section 2 of the Illinois Police Training Act (50 ILCS 705/2).

**Regional Planning Coordinator (RPC):** ILEAS employee serving as a liaison to the law enforcement Incident Commander to offer advice and secure requested assets. However, the RPC has no operational control of any incident.

**Specialized Resource Database:** A list of resources of specialized staff, skills or equipment that a law enforcement agency may possess.

**Squad Car:** A law enforcement vehicle equipped with mounted or portable warning lights.

**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.

**Requesting Agency:** The law enforcement jurisdiction where the emergency occurs that requires a mutual aid request.

**Responding Agency:** A law enforcement agency furnishing mutual aid law enforcement staffing/equipment to a stricken (Requesting?) agency.

## The ILEAS Dynamic Alarm Card System

Using a computer aided dispatch system created specifically for ILEAS' unique mission, an agency in need of resources has a number of options. Each member agency has the ability to log into their ILEAS web database resource account. The agency representative can enter the specific information about needs and receive a listing of where those assets are located and how to request them.

An agency in need also has the ability to contact the ILEAS Dispatch Center. The Requesting Agency outlines a complete list of the staffing and other equipment and service needs. The "off-loading" of mutual aid notifications to ILEAS allows the Requesting Agency's Incident Commander to manage the disaster/emergency.

## **Procedure for Requesting ILEAS Mutual Aid**

• Pursuant to ILEAS standards, any supervisor, regardless of rank, is authorized to call for mutual aid assistance when, in their opinion, it is necessary to bring an emergency situation under control. However, each member agency may establish its own internal procedures for authorizing requesting mutual aid.

• After assessing the resources necessary to address the situation, the Requesting Agency contacts Northwest Central Dispatch (NWCD) or the Alternate Dispatch Center in Peoria (when NWCD is unavailable) and provides the following information:

1. Requesting Agency name, authorizing officer's name and call back number
2. Nature of the incident
3. Specific location of the incident (based on zip code geo-coding)
4. What agencies are already on the scene
5. What resources are being requested
6. Responders point of contact and method (i.e. phone, radio, channel)
7. Staging Area location and routing information

• NWCD will utilize the resource database to begin the process of notifying agencies until the requested resources are committed.

• Responding Agencies will acknowledge the mutual aid request and follow their internal procedures to secure authorization to immediately dispatch the required staffing to the appropriate Staging Area.

• Agencies contacted by the ILEAS Dispatch Center are encouraged, but not required, to respond. In the event that a contacted agency is unable to respond to a mutual aid request, it should notify the ILEAS dispatcher so that the next agency on the list is requested.

• The Requesting 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, Law Enforcement Personnel assigned to respond to a mutual aid request will arrive in uniform, or otherwise be clearly identified as Law Enforcement Personnel and in a Squad Car. Pursuant to the ILEAS mutual aid agreement, no Law Enforcement Personnel will respond to a mutual aid request unless directed by his department.

## **Operations at the Emergency Location**

The initial responsibility of the Requesting Agency at the emergency site is to evaluate the extent of the Situation and taking immediate steps to ensure that adequate law enforcement staffing and equipment are made available. The Requesting Agency Incident Commander shall assume full responsibility for operations at the scene. They will assign responding personnel and equipment to positions as needed. Some suggested uses of mutual aid personnel are:

- Search and rescue operations & evacuation
- Traffic and crowd control & perimeter security
- Regular law enforcement service

When emergency mutual aid occurs, there will most likely be communication issues. The Requesting Agency will identify which frequencies are used for voice channels. Responding Law Enforcement Personnel lacking the appropriate radio communications should be issued a radio or teamed with other personnel that do have those frequencies. In the event of larger scale or prolonged details, ILEAS Communications staff is able to offer guidance on how to facilitate effective communications set up. ILEAS can also provide additional communications equipment upon request. Due to the differences in ten-signals, common English language will be used.

## **Terminating/Extending Mutual Aid**

When mutual aid assistance is no longer required, the Requesting Agency Incident Commander shall terminate the requests. This means that the situation, while not concluded, is now under control through routinely available resources. Notice of said termination shall be made to the ILEAS Dispatch Center. The order in which staff is returned to duty with their own agencies is at the discretion of the Incident Commander for the Requesting Agency in consult with the responding Agencies. The Incident Commander shall ensure that mutual aid personnel are released and returned to duty as soon as possible.

If a second or subsequent operational period of mutual aid will be necessary, the Incident Commander shall work with the ILEAS Dispatch Center, the responding Law Enforcement Personnel or an RPC to arrange for replacement or additional mutual aid resources.

## **Requesting Specialized Resources**

If a member agency requires specialized equipment, staffing or skills, regardless of emergency status, it may query the ILEAS Specialized Resource Database and contact agencies which possess such resources. This contact is made between agencies and does not necessarily involve the ILEAS Dispatch Center. Providing those resources is optional and all aforementioned procedures apply with regard to supervision and termination.

## **Regional ILEAS Teams**

ILEAS sponsors WMD Special Response Teams and Mobile Field Forces. Additionally, ILEAS employs communication specialists capable of providing communications and technology support centered around the existing UCP and ITECS command and communication units. When a requesting agency is in need of these types of resources, ILEAS Dispatch will put the proper leaders and commanders in direct contact with the agency representative. At that point, the team leader will determine if a response is appropriate and if not, will work with the requesting agency to ensure their needs are addressed.