

I.L.E.A.S.
Conference Meeting
March 6 & 7, 2003
Crowne Plaza
Springfield, Illinois

Meeting was called to order by President Jim Olson at 1:12 pm.

Participants included: Mike Snyders, Mike Chamness, Bill Knight, John Monnet, Darrell Turcol, Jim Leuking, Dave Owens, Michael DeVoss, Brent Fisher, John Zaruba, Jeff Chudwin, Michael Blazek, Mel Messer, Hiram Grau, Don Bennet, Jeffrey Bock, Terry Dove, Gary Stryker, Randy Justus, Stuart Erlenbush, James Olson, Pete Smith, Diane Carper, and Michel Shields.

Joe Lewison, IL. Dept. of Labor spoke on issuing equipment rules and regulations.

Respirators: if used, employees must be medically evaluated. If they answer "YES" to questions, they will not have to be evaluated. If they answer "NO" to any one or more question, they must be medically evaluated. This can be done at the County Health Dept., or by a nurse practitioner or doctor. If the agency has an annual physical, they do not have to be evaluated.

Rule only applies when employees first go on the team. It is suggested that each agency does follow-up with its own evaluations.

HAZMAT members must have annual physicals.

Masks must be cleaned after each use by a qualified outside source or by a trained agency member.

Respirators are approved for four different levels – know which level(s) your respirator is approved for: biological, chemical, radiological, or nuclear. At this time, none are approved for nuclear.

Certification must be performed annually. If you certify in January of one year, you are good until February of the next year.

Equipment must be worn properly. Employees must be trained in the correct use of the equipment, discipline those who do not.

Training: mandatory for all personnel for all aspects of special situations

Gary Stryker: NIPAS tape

Talked about importance of region co-chairs going back to their regions and "selling" Mutual Aid Plan to towns that are not on-board. Strategies need to be developed to reach those agencies.

Gas Masks (Avon FM12): Motion made by Jeff Chudwin to reimburse agencies that have already purchased masks and canisters prior to state funding up the amount allowed by the state, provided equipment is approved and purchased after 9/11/01. Reimbursement would occur after all other agencies have received funding for equipment provided to them. 2nd by Mel Messer, voice vote carried.

Motion made by Mel Messer to include Mike Chamness as an ex-officio member of Board. 2nd by Don Bennet, after a brief discussion, voice vote carried.

HB3719: Pat Rushing stated the bill would be going to the Legislative Committee on Wednesday, 03/12 at 1:30 pm. HB3719 is the Public Safety Trust Fund, whereas a charge to homeowners insurance (perhaps \$1.30 per policy) has been presented to the legislature and Insurance Assn. Old SB1704 passed out of the house with no problem. **Note:** out of committee is the bill to abolish the death penalty and a bill to expunge record once offender has completed his/her sentence.

Special Containment Teams (Jeff Chudwin): Communications with agencies around the state regarding overtime and commitment to teams shows a matter of concern. Considerable training and equipment invested in each team member. Jeff would like to see a letter of commitment for two to three years to each agency. This is not binding legally, but ethically attaches the agency to the team commitment. Detailed letter to be developed and sent to agencies regarding function and commitment of teams. Dealing with situations that escalate to a higher level of danger/hazard require that Special Containment Teams are given the ability to do more, i.e., cross the line from warm to hot zones, to secure an area and make it safe. After a considerable amount of discussion regarding the mission of the team, the culture of police work and the mind set of officers with regard to “doing something”, a motion by Mel Messer was made to review basic mission of the teams and determine what training is necessary to accomplish an expanded mission. 2nd by Jim Lueking, voice vote carried.

Equipment: Jeff Chudwin recommended the purchase of minimum three suits per team member using dollars not spent from current budget that would have to be returned if not used. Cost per man is estimated between \$4K and 6K. Question is, should team size be artificially limited? Mel Messer said the answer is we need manpower whether it is in terms of a larger team or additional teams. Accountability for equipment is very important. The cost of equipment mandates each officer and agency be held responsible for the care of their equipment.

Possibility of blending regions: Don Bennet expressed concerns about the I-80 divide. Regions south of I-80 can't be shortchanged. Jim Olson agreed and asked “what if a southern region doesn't form a team? Are all the rest to be penalized?” Region 11, Bill Kilquist said there is no way a team could be put together. Jeff Chudwin suggested looking at issues, problems and solutions and continue looking forward.

Radios: Will the frequency blender meet our needs? Mel Messer said it cannot be used in SWAT situations because of the delay factor in the transmission of signal.

good number. Mel Messer suggested that police officers receive the equipment first then distribute remainder to other groups.

Next meeting set for May 1 & 2, 2003.

Discussion by board regarding Mike Chamness and his remaining on the ILEAS Board resulted in a motion by Jim Lueking that Pres. Olson send the Governor a letter asking that Mike Chamness remain on the board, that he is doing a great job for us and is a valued asset. 2nd by Jeff Chudwin. Voice vote carried.

Meeting adjourned.