

2023 Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council Annual Report

Presented to the Office of the Governor March 1, 2024





IEMA-OHS

ILLINOIS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JB Pritzker
Governor

Alicia Tate-Nadeau
Director

March 1, 2024

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor
State of Illinois

Dear Governor Pritzker,

As the State of Illinois Homeland Security Advisor, it is my pleasure to submit the Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) Annual Report for the year 2023. With your support, the HSAC continues to strengthen the core preparation, response, and recovery capabilities of its members throughout the entire state. This is accomplished through the tying of strategic investments to gaps and shortfalls outlined in Vision 2025. The 2023 HSAC Annual Report details the activities, accomplishments, and recommendations of the advisory council, while highlighting the quantifiable successes, challenges, and future endeavors of your statewide homeland advisory board.

Illinois Executive Order 2023 (03), issued in February 2023, replaced the previous Executive Order 2003 (17) that created the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF). The new Executive Order renamed IEMA and added the Office of Homeland Security. Additionally, it changed the name of the ITTF to the Homeland Security Advisory Council. The HSAC serves the same purpose as the ITTF; however, the EO updated and modernized the mission of the HSAC. It serves as an advisory body to the Governor and provides recommendations and guidance on homeland security programs, policies, protocol, and procedures. Guided by the state's homeland security strategy, Vision 2025, published in August 2021, the council endeavors to establish contemporary and long-term strategic solutions to the threats and realities of terrorism and major events. The strength of the HSAC lies in the willingness of its members to continually collaborate among state, county, municipal, and federal government, as well as private and non-governmental organizations. Their hard work and dedication serve our citizens through achieving and sustaining risk-based attainable target levels of capability. This includes prevention, protection against, response to, and recovery from incidents while minimizing the impact on lives, property, and the economy of this state.

The HSAC membership is made up of over 150 volunteers representing over 70 organizations. The vast majority of the HSAC members represent entities other than state agencies. These members demonstrate their loyalty to the HSAC mission, "to support the State of Illinois' goals of a safe and secure place to live and thrive." This group has fulfilled this role for nearly 27 years. It is nationally recognized and has established itself statewide as a leader in homeland security preparedness.

Though the State of Illinois remains a leader nationally in homeland security preparedness, there are challenges to be addressed. Funding shortfalls and significant decreases in federal homeland security funds

over the last decade pose a significant challenge for state and local public safety agencies. Vision 2025 addresses the most pressing threats to a secure homeland. In 2023, members of the Office of Homeland Security and the HSAC worked to develop the next iteration of Vision 2025, which will be known as Vision 2028. That plan will be presented to your office shortly for approval.

Our necessary dependency on electronic communications and energy leads to ever increasing threats through cyber intrusions and energy disruptions. The current funding levels do not allow for the long-term maintenance of critical systems, filling of identified gaps in continuity of service, nor support throughout the state. If this trajectory continues, the State of Illinois' ability to prevent and respond to disasters and human threats will be impacted. In FY 2010, the federal government cut homeland security funding nearly 85 percent. In FY 2020, the State of Illinois thankfully began addressing that shortfall by creating the Preparedness and Response Grant Fund. This Fund started out at \$2.5 million and was increased to \$5 million in FY21 through FY23. Through your leadership, this fund increased in the upcoming fiscal year to \$7.5 million. This is a welcome trend that we hope will continue into the future as we confront challenges yet to come. More specific details about these concerns can be found in the GAPS Report filed in November 2023.

Additionally, member agencies of the HSAC Prevention Committee, along with support from the Office of Homeland Security, supported two successful grant applications for both community-based and school-based behavioral threat assessments. These grants bring over \$1 million in federal dollars to Illinois for investment in violence prevention.

As your Homeland Security Advisor, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the men and women who have voluntarily given of their time, energy, and considerable expertise over the last 12 months to continue making Illinois a model homeland security program. I also would like to thank you, Governor Pritzker, for your steadfast leadership, vision, and support of homeland security and public safety in Illinois.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia S. Tate-Nadeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

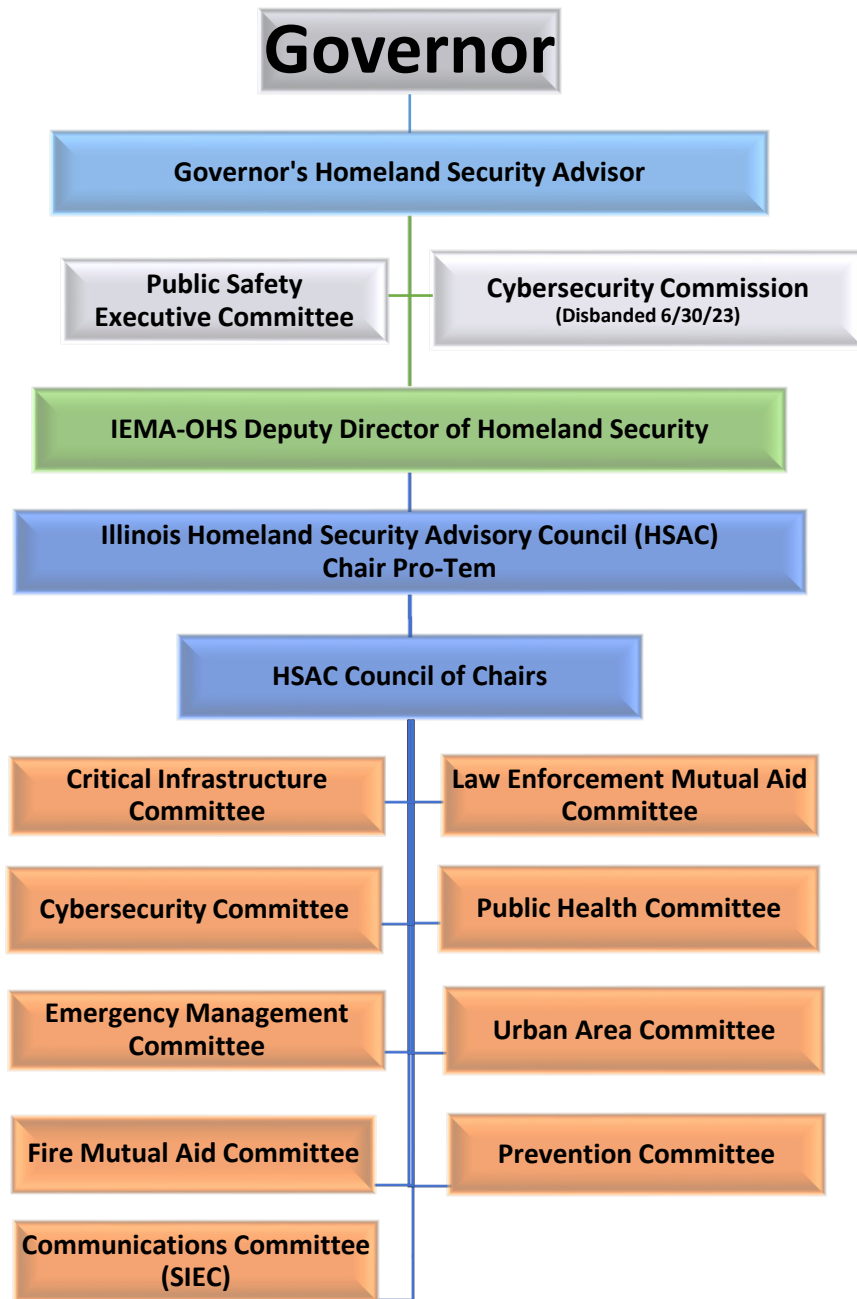
Alicia Tate-Nadeau
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Director, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security

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2023 HSAC Organizational Chart



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Structural Changes from ITTF to HSAC in 2023

On April 18, 2023, Governor Pritzker issued Executive Order 2023-3, which made structural changes to both the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and to the Illinois Terrorism Task Force. IEMA was renamed from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS). The Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) had been formed based on a 2003 Executive Order. EO 2023-3 revoked the original Executive Order, and the ITTF was renamed the Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council (IL-HSAC). The EO laid out the mission of the IL-HSAC, which was very similar to the original ITTF. It includes:

The IL-HSAC, as an advisory body to the Homeland Security Advisor, shall develop and make recommendations regarding the State's domestic terrorism preparedness strategy.

The IL-HSAC shall make recommendations to IEMA & OHS and to the Homeland Security Advisor related to the appropriate training of local, regional and state officials to respond to terrorist incidents involving conventional, chemical, biological and/or nuclear weapons.

The IL-HSAC shall seek appropriate input from federal agencies, including but not limited to the United States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and the United States Department of Homeland Security.

The IL-HSAC shall serve as the Illinois Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) with respect to funds received through the federal Homeland Security Grant Program. In that capacity, the IL-HSAC shall provide recommendations to IEMA & OHS and to the Homeland Security Advisor on issues related to the application for and use of all appropriate federal funding that relates to preventing, protecting against, mitigating, responding to and recovering from acts of terrorism and other threats.

The IL-HSAC shall provide recommendations to IEMA & OHS and to the Homeland Security Advisor on issues related to the application for and use of all appropriate State and other funds as may be appropriate and available relating to homeland security.

The IL-HSAC shall provide recommendations to IEMA & OHS and to the Homeland Security Advisor on issues relating to public safety preparedness and mutual aid to include strategies and tactics to coordinate multi-agency response to significant events, act of terrorism or natural disasters where coordination of local, state and private resources is necessary.

The IL-HSAC shall develop further recommendations relating to coordinating public safety resources and combating terrorism in Illinois and shall present such recommendations to the Homeland Security Advisor.

The IL-HSAC shall recommend to IEMA & OHS and to the Homeland Security Advisor any changes in Illinois state statutes, administrative regulations, or in the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan, that, in its view, may be necessary to accomplish its established objectives.

The Homeland Security Advisor shall submit an annual report to the Governor by March 1st of each year. The report shall detail the activities, accomplishments and recommendations of the IL-HSAC in the preceding year.

The IL-HSAC has pursued the goals established above since April 2023. The Illinois Homeland Security Advisor had previously appointed James R. Page as the ITTF Chair Pro Temp. Page continued in this position after the change was made from ITTF to IL- HSAC.

Vision 2025

Illinois' Homeland Security Strategy

In an effort to refine our strategy for dealing with current and emerging threats and risks, citizen preparedness, and public safety readiness for natural, technological and human-caused events, in 2021 Illinois undertook a statewide project that engaged law enforcement, the fire service, public and private health organizations, emergency management, school officials, the private sector, elected officials, non-governmental organizations and private citizens.

The result of this statewide assessment is an updated homeland security and emergency management strategy called Vision 2025, which builds on the successes of the past decade and addresses the challenges public safety officials face in the future. This strategy provides a comprehensive framework to guide, organize, and unify homeland security efforts in the state of Illinois over a four-year period (2021-2025) as part of the overall emergency management system. Vision 2025 serves as a roadmap to the future to guide the implementation of homeland security related policies, priorities, and programs across the state.

The purpose of Vision 2025 is to achieve a prepared, secure, and resilient Illinois, ready to protect its people from all natural, technological and human threats. Through collaboration, coordination and communication, the state of Illinois will research, develop and implement interdisciplinary, multijurisdictional programs and services to protect the people of Illinois from current and emerging natural, technological and human-caused threats and risks.

The state of Illinois has identified seven goals based on our risk profile and lessons learned from major disasters and exercise after action reports. Each strategy goal contains supporting objectives that further define the programs, initiatives, and steps that must be taken to meet the overarching goal. These goals and objectives are focused on the next four years (2021-2025). This report is organized under these seven guiding goals and objectives:

1. Enhancing Cybersecurity Capabilities
2. Intelligence/Information Sharing
3. Homeland Security Coordination and Communications
4. Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources
5. Prevention of Domestic and Foreign Terrorism/Targeted Violence
6. Conduct All Hazard Preparedness
7. Maintain Mutual Aid

The implementation of Vision 2025 is achieved across all disciplines and all grantees in the following ways:

Each of these goals has between four and six sub-goals to provide specific guidance to each HSAC committee. Each committee will have varying degrees of involvement in each Vision 2025 goal. However, a guiding principle of the HSAC is that each committee and grantee will work together to achieve these objectives.

All HSAC committees and working groups are required to consider specific Vision 2025 goals and objectives when considering assessment of issues and potential solutions.

When potential grantees apply for federal funding for projects determined above, they are required to tie every expense to a specific goal and/or objective in Vision 2025.

All supplemental funding from other sources is also required to tie back to the Vision 2025 strategy.

These goals and objectives are accomplished through a statewide cooperative effort supported by federal and state grants. The federal grants are divided into two categories – State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grants. The UASI funds must directly benefit Cook County and city of Chicago. These two entities, who are both members of the HSAC, work together on the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG). The UAWG serves as the senior policy advisory body for the UASI program.

Some UASI grants can be assigned to organizations that are not Cook County/Chicago; however, they must be spent in total support of the Cook County region. Approximately 9 percent of the UASI funds are retained by the state of Illinois for this purpose.

The core function of the Urban Area Committee/UAWG is one of support to the urban area’s ability to prevent, protect, respond, mitigate the effects of and recover from acts of terrorism and other major disasters. UASI works to formalize the approach to critical issues such as grants management and administration responsibilities as well as funding allocation methodologies. The urban area is committed to working closely with local, regional, state and federal partners to achieve seamless integration and complementary missions. Integration and collaboration are necessary for the urban area to effectively and efficiently accomplish its mission of keeping property secure and preserving regional safety.

Vision 2028

Illinois’ Next Homeland Security Strategy Step

As the objectives developed and implemented in Vision 2025 approach the year 2025, the Office of Homeland Security has begun the development of the next step, Vision 2028. These goals and objectives build on and broaden what was established with Vision 2025.

Vision 2028, as is currently envisioned, will be underpinned by 12 strategic goals, objectives, and key outcomes, which, together, outline the state's homeland security priorities for the years 2024-2028, putting forth a holistic, integrated strategy aimed at protecting Illinois’ residents, critical infrastructure, and resources from a wide array of potential hazards.

Implementation of Vision 2028 will commence statewide under the Governor’s Homeland Security Advisor, supported by direct organizational engagement and coordination facilitated the Deputy Homeland Security Advisor and their representative(s). Administrative support will be provided by IEMA-OHS.

Annual Report Construction

This report is constructed and organized around the Vision 2025 goals and objectives:

1. Enhancing Cybersecurity Capabilities
2. Intelligence/Information Sharing
3. Homeland Security Coordination and Communications
4. Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources
5. Prevention of Domestic and Foreign Terrorism/Targeted Violence
6. Conduct All Hazard Preparedness
7. Maintain Mutual Aid

Each of these headings is listed with the activities of the various agencies, organizations and programs that support those goals/objectives bulleted following the headings. *Please take note that many activities serve multiple purposes and could be listed under more than one heading.* However, for the sake of efficiency and for the most part, each activity is listed under the most appropriate goal/objective.

There are three sections under each heading.

Statewide Activities: The statewide activities category describes the investments made, programs created, and activities undertaken by state agencies and statewide groups such as Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) and Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS). These activities are mostly funded by the State Homeland Security Grant Program and a portion of the Preparedness and Response Grant. Programs and expenditures made pursuant to this category are generally overseen by the HSAC Council of Chairs and the IEMA-OHS Programs and Grants Administration.

Urban Area Activities: The Chicago urban area, comprised of members from the city of Chicago and Cook County, represents the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG). The core function of the Urban Area Committee is to support the urban area's ability to prevent, protect, respond, mitigate the effects of, and recover from acts of terrorism and other major disasters. The UAWG is the senior policy advisory body for the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) program. UASI works to formalize the approach to critical issues such as grants management and administration responsibilities as well as funding allocation methodologies. The urban area is committed to working closely with local, regional, state, and federal partners to achieve seamless integration and complementary missions. Integration and collaboration are necessary for the urban area to accomplish its mission of keeping property effectively and efficiently secure and preserving regional safety.

2024 Initiatives and Plans: This category is self-explanatory. It is a compilation of the various proposals, plans and activities anticipated to occur in calendar year 2024 by the various grantee agencies.

The last portion of the report entitled, *2023 Homeland Security Gaps Report*, is a summary of a report filed by the Homeland Security Advisory Council with the Governor's Office in November of 2023. The original report was a much larger report consisting of a significant amount of data to support a request for additional resources. For more details, please see that report separately.

Homeland Security Gaps Report

In 2022, the then ITTF completed and approved an extensive study exploring and identifying gaps in the homeland security system. Several of the gaps have been identified above in this report by various committees in the form of their key 2023 objectives. That Gaps Report identified very specific trends and gaps that need to be addressed in the coming months and years.

On November 17, 2023, the Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council completed a detailed update to that 2022 report. Included below are highlighted excerpts of the 2023 30-page Gaps Report.

2023 GAPS Report Summary

In concert with the IL-HSAC Annual Report, this document outlines current fiscal stressors that are continuing to hinder the highly successful and effective strategies that have been adopted and implemented to date. These stressors include inflation, continued reduction in federal support for homeland security, the “time bomb” of capital replacement and new threats - all of which have conspired to challenge state and local governments’ abilities to respond to potential terrorist threats (e.g., active shooters) as well as manmade and natural disasters.

Based on a similar report in 2022, the General Assembly and the Governor wisely increased the state’s contribution to homeland security funding by \$2.5 million in State FY2024. This increase was welcome and put to immediate use addressing capital replacement, making the following equipment replacements possible:

- **Two of the nine field mobile field interoperable communications support vehicles - \$417,500 apiece**
- **Bomb vehicle for Illinois Secretary of State Hazardous Device Unit - \$530,000**
- **Two equipment transport trucks for the ISP SWMD Team - \$300,000 apiece**
- **Two of the 10 transport/equipment vehicles for the regional Mobile Field Forces - \$165,000 apiece**
- **Specialty vehicles for the Illinois Fire Service Institute training grounds - \$225,000**

See Appendix A for details.

Federal homeland security grants have continued to decline in recent years. The IL-HSAC strongly believes that a continued increase in state financial support is needed to effectively respond to events that overwhelm local and regional assets. Additional funding will primarily allow the IL-HSAC to continue to seriously address the issue of capital replacement. It also enables Illinois’ public safety first responders to maintain the ability to address crises requiring high level responses while, at the same time, freeing up grant resources to address under- or non-funded needs and provide fiscal flexibility to address emerging issues as they occur. Cook County and the city of Chicago, which are funded separately through a federal Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant (UASI), have been challenged as well. The UASI grant had been stable until two years ago and since then has been reduced by \$2 million.

To address the increasing fiscal squeeze, IL-HSAC requests that the state of Illinois consider increasing the current line item entitled ITTF GAPS Report from \$2.5 million to \$5 million to continue to address the

increasing need for capital replacement and continued training of public safety regional mobile support teams in Illinois.

Please read further for supportive details. As previously mentioned, addressing capital replacement as soon as possible is imperative. The IL-HSAC strongly supports this proposal that, if approved, will ensure that the funds are invested wisely, effectively, and efficiently.

Impending Degradation of Public Safety Service

IL-HSAC has strategically managed the fiscal resources available so that funds are spent efficiently and effectively. For instance, where possible:

- all assets are available statewide, regardless of who possesses them.
- all grantees receiving funds must meet minimum baseline standards of interoperability and commonality of training to qualify for funding.

However, several factors are conspiring to significantly challenge the continued excellence to which the citizens and the state have become accustomed. These factors include:

- ***Continued reduction of Federal Homeland Security Funding*** – Funding for state and local governments has dropped 81 percent from \$68 million to \$13 million since 2003. Funding for Cook County and Chicago was stable for many years but has now started to drift downward as well. It dropped nearly \$1 million this year. Note that of the \$13 million grant, 80 percent must be spent by local governments and 20 percent by the state. The effect of this is already being felt.
- ***Capital Replacement*** – From 2003 to 2009 state and local governments received nearly \$400 million. A significant increase in response and prevention capabilities was built, which included training and equipment. However, the equipment – some of which was purchased in 2004 – needs replacement. With the current federal budget of \$13 million, the capital replacement problem ***cannot*** be addressed. The ***ONLY*** option is to ***not replace*** that equipment. The result will be a reduction in officially recognized Mobile Support Response Teams and emergency services for critical incident response and mitigation across the board, affecting overall first response capability of first responders across the state.
- ***New and Changing Threats*** – Preventing Illinois’ response and prevention posture from degrading as the state addresses current threats, such as pandemics, cyberterrorism/cybersecurity, targeted violence (active shooters), and domestic violent extremism, requires funding. This, in turn, decreases funding for existing training and equipment needs.
- ***Inflation*** – The current inflation rate of 3-4 percent (on top of last year’s 8-9 percent) reduces buying power and further challenges effective budgeting. Last year’s buying power of \$13 million suddenly became \$12 million this year due to inflation.
- ***COVID-19*** – Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, training for dozens of regional, statewide, and specialized teams was largely cancelled for almost two years. A significant amount of funding has recently been directed to “catch up” with current training as well as to train new team members because of the continued exodus of senior public safety employees in the last year.

The combination of the above factors, along with shortages in law enforcement and other public safety disciplines, creates a situation in the immediate future where public safety service – especially disaster and crisis response - for the citizens of Illinois will begin to degrade.

Current Funding Shortfall Problem

The 2021 ITTF Annual Report noted the following:

“In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks in 2001 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the federal government distributed large homeland security and disaster response grants to the states. Those funds were used to increase the posture of state and local public safety across the entire nation. The state of Illinois effectively utilized these funds to create a nationally recognized homeland security program. Some of Illinois’ accomplishments include:

- The development of one of the nation’s most robust public safety mutual aid system
- Establishment of the nation’s first 24/7 state fusion center, the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (*awarded as a national fusion center of the year in 2022*)
- The creation of more than 90 statewide public safety deployable response teams that provide support to all jurisdictions impacted by an emergency.

Between federal fiscal years 2010 and 2011, the federal government decreased the funding for statewide homeland security programs in Illinois by **86 percent**. As a result, the IL-HSAC was forced to prioritize projects by focusing on the most valuable programs, combining resources among disciplines, and scaling back other critical public safety investments. Since federal fiscal year 2013, appropriation of federal preparedness funds has somewhat stabilized. The current funding level allows for maintenance of essential baseline capabilities but prevents further development or expansion of capabilities to address emergent threats to which the state is most vulnerable.

The IL-HSAC understood from the beginning that federal homeland security grants would not remain at elevated levels. It is for this reason the state established a posture to implement preparedness systems that benefit all communities in Illinois as opposed to diluting funding by supporting uncoordinated initiatives that couldn’t be sustained with decreased funding. It was inevitable that federal funding levels would decrease as new, non-homeland security priorities emerged. From the start, the IL-HSAC’s goal was for local entities to sustain established levels of performance. Despite having considerable resources, both federal and state governments rely heavily on local resources to respond to disasters. In the 2010 Congressional Report titled, “Perspective on Preparedness: Taking Stock Since 9/11*,” a federal blue-ribbon commission noted that 2.4 percent of public safety expenditures in the United States were borne by the federal government, while 97.6 percent were state, local, and tribal*. In 2019, the state of Illinois appropriated, for the first time, funding to help address this shortfall – the Preparedness and Response (PAR) Grant Program. It is through this critical funding that Illinois can continue many homeland security priorities, such as capital replacement of equipment that has exceeded its serviceable life, support of streamlined regional special teams, and development of a statewide school helpline called Safe2Help Illinois. However, more resources are needed to ensure the level of support needed to protect Illinois’ citizens.”

The report goes further by saying:

“Action is needed immediately to chart a course that allows Illinois to not only maintain its response capabilities but also address future priorities and threats, such as cybersecurity and domestic terrorism.”

The report notes that capital replacement is a growing concern:

“Capital Replacement of Homeland Security Assets - The response equipment that local and state agencies rely on as part of the state’s homeland security response to disasters and terrorism incidents is rapidly deteriorating. The majority of the IL-HSAC’s major capital expenditures were funded well over a decade ago, with some critical response equipment nearly 20 years old. The loss of this response equipment would significantly diminish Illinois’ capability to effectively respond to crises. For instance, using federal grant funds, statewide law enforcement and fire mutual aid organizations worked collaboratively to purchase 13 mobile command posts that are used continually by local public safety agencies for local and state response events. Each one of those command posts costs \$250,000 in 2004 dollars. They are all at least 15 years old, and much of their response capabilities have been degraded due to lack of funding for equipment replacement. Hundreds of vehicles are assigned to special teams across Illinois. They range from simple cargo trailers to high-tech communications vehicles, special team equipment vehicles, and bomb robots.”

As noted in the report last year, available homeland security funding is dropping while, at the same time, training and equipment needs are quickly trending upwards. In 2021 and then again in 2022, IL-HSAC conducted an extensive system-wide study of capital replacement, revealing a critical need to replace equipment before its end of life. Some vehicles and equipment that are still in operation are 19-21 years old. **Many of the communications devices do not meet modern technological or security standards and cannot be upgraded.** The effects on training and exercising from COVID-19 and inflation are notably reducing the ability to purchase equipment at a reasonable cost. Mobile Command Post vehicles are a good example of this. The 16 mobile command posts acquired in 2004 were \$225,000 apiece. Today purchasing the current version of the Mobile Command Posts would cost upwards of \$420,000 each – an 87 percent increase. Recently, newly negotiated labor contracts are increasing costs to keep up with inflation, thereby increasing the cost of training.

Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR)

The USAR team is managed by the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) and is based in Cook County. It is a large and necessary resource for the state of Illinois that must continue to operate at a high level. USAR is funded with UASI funds, which have fallen by \$2 million in the last two years. There is no indication that the UASI funding for Cook/Chicago will continue to do anything but fall in the future. The pressure of capital replacement, maintenance, and preparedness costs for the USAR team continues to increase as the funding decreases – putting pressure on Cook County to cut other programs to continue to fund USAR. The confluence of reduced funding and increased need requires alternate resources for the USAR team.

Unmet Needs

Four years ago, the Homeland Security Advisory Council produced a document entitled “Homeland Security Unmet Needs,” which identified the same issues as above. The result was the Governor and the General Assembly creating a \$2.5 million **Preparedness and Response (PAR) Grant** program to start addressing the needs. It grew to \$5 million the second year and is now \$7.5 million. While the PAR grant began to address the issues, the COVID-19 pandemic occurred, and the active shooter response capability increased, exacerbating the PAR Grant shortfalls. Initially, Safe2Help alone **took half** of the PAR Grant. Safe2Help is a statewide system proposed and developed by the HSAC which provides an option for students to report for immediate investigation situations such as potential school shooters, students making threats, suicidal ideations, etc.

Other unfunded gaps include:

- Development and implementation of regional Behavior Threat Assessment Management (BTAM) Teams that are called for in the most recent report entitled, “Illinois Targeted Violence Prevention Strategy – K-12 and Higher Education.” This report, paid for and commissioned by the National Governors’ Association, was developed by experts in the fields of public safety, education, psychology, and social work. It calls for a system-wide approach to preventing active shooters, and part of that prevention is the creation/enhancement of BTAM teams. Currently, no funding exists to pursue that strategy. Two federal grants have recently been approved, enabling Illinois to run pilot programs in a couple of locations. However, if the pilot programs are successful, there is no direct funding to spread the programs throughout the state.
- Development of unmanned aircraft systems training for fire, emergency management and law enforcement (within the confines of the Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act).
- Development and implementation of online learning management capabilities for common skills across the entire public safety spectrum, e.g., interoperable communications.
- In 2021, there was a \$440,000 shortfall in funding for the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC) for analysts, equipment, and software.
- Creation of an online dashboard that provides public safety across the entire state with a one-stop shop for information on available training.
- Equipment for electronic highway surveillance and detection.
- The replacement of modernized mobile communications and command post suites that can be moved to the scenes of regional or large disasters and events. These assets are 20 years of age. The total replacement cost is estimated to be \$10,000,000 statewide.
- The replacement of cached portable radios to be issued during large events so that all public safety responders are on common radio and interoperability technology platforms. This cost could approach \$10,000,000 as well.
- Law enforcement and fire special teams require the use of respirators for specific situations. The current respirators and filters have a shelf life that has already been exceeded by years in some cases. The replacement costs will range into the millions of dollars.
- Homeland security law enforcement training for line officers – how to respond to terrorism, recognizing domestic violence extremism, targeted violence, etc. The funds directed toward that goal have been static or reduced over the years. With the extreme turnover in law enforcement, this is a real need in today’s world that is not being significantly addressed.
- Nearly 100 vehicles are exceeding a 10-year lifetime. The replacement cost is in the millions. Please note that the HSAC has a policy against grantees acquiring personally assigned vehicles. Virtually all the vehicles needing replaced are specialty-built team vehicles - not cars. Vehicles that need replaced are all for the teams and are highly specialized and very expensive (e.g., bomb response and transport vehicles).

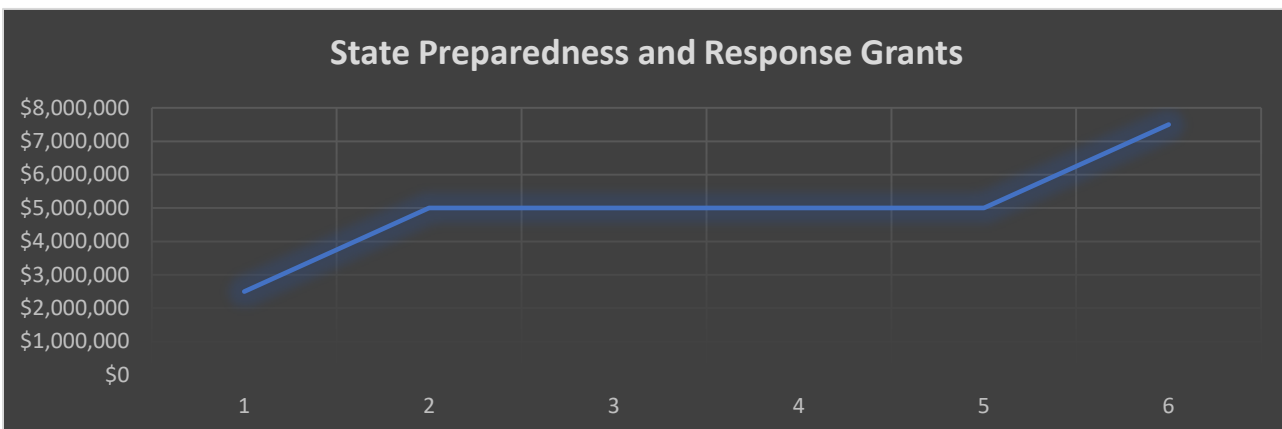
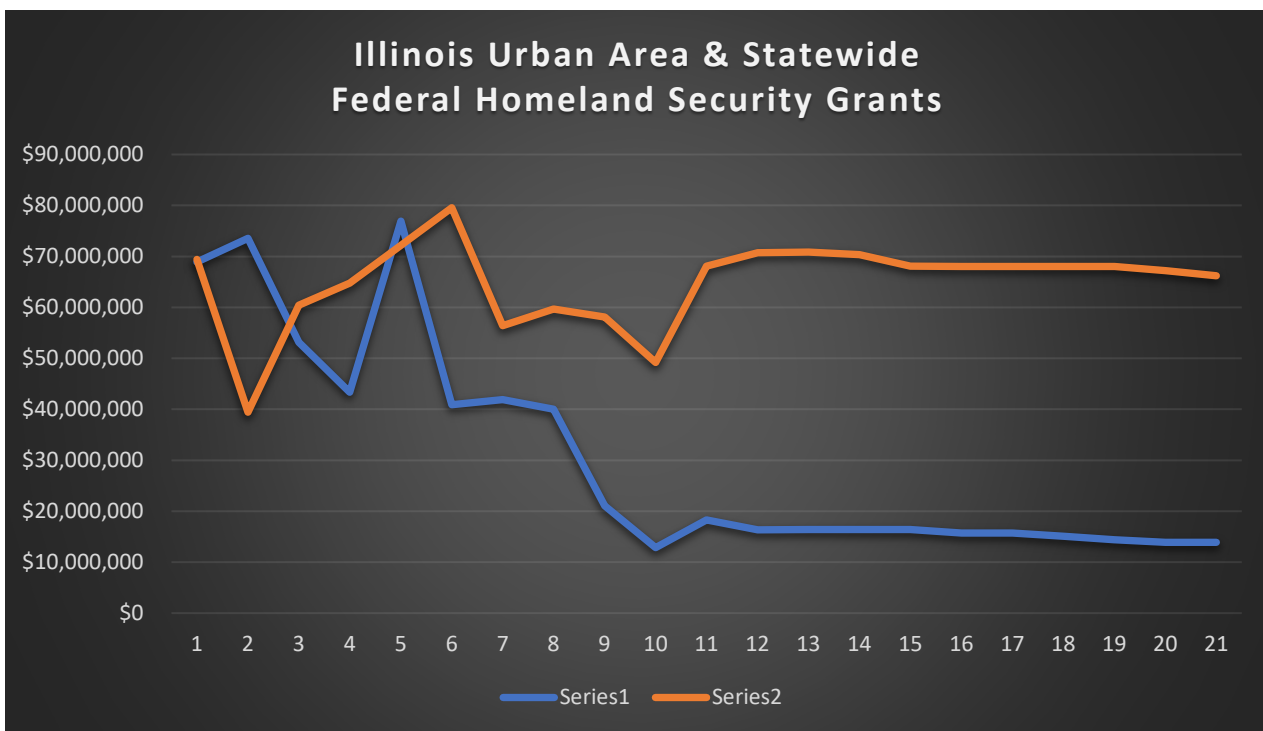
These are just highlights of some of the unmet needs and capital replacement items that need to be addressed; however, given the current funding level, it is not possible to do so.

The HSAC leadership proposes that the line item in the IEMA-OHS State Preparedness and Response Budget be increased to address:

1. the continuing capital replacement shortfall;
2. the corrosive effect of inflation; and
3. the decrease of the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) federal dollars

The Homeland Security Advisory Council believes that it is necessary to stem the upcoming tide of equipment degradation and the hindering of public safety responses. The HSAC is always researching methods to do more with less resulting in an increase in budgeting efficiency. However, without continued funding, the only alternative is reduction in service.

Illinois Homeland Security Funding



Enhancing Cybersecurity Capabilities

The Vision 2025 Homeland Security Strategy has seven goals, one of which is the enhancement of cybersecurity capabilities across the state. The mission of the HSAC Cybersecurity Committee is to research, develop and implement integrated cybersecurity programs and services that support the security and functionality of critical infrastructure and core capabilities as they relate to preventing, preparing for, protecting against, responding to and recovering from intentional acts to disrupt, destroy or threaten the delivery of essential services, the function of critical infrastructure, or sustainment of community lifelines through exploitation or sabotage of the physical and cyberspace environments. Other committees, such as the Critical Infrastructure Committee and the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Committee, also support the achievement of the Vision 2025 cybersecurity objectives. The key activities of this goal are:

1. Build a Culture of Cyber Awareness
2. Prepare and Plan for Cyber Incidents
3. Mature Cyber Capabilities
4. Build a Cyber Workforce
5. Collaborate and Share Information

Statewide Cyber Activities

- Endpoint Detection program was operationalized. Endpoint detection was provided with CISA funds to 122 units of local government and infrastructure across the state. This technology addresses the need for continuous monitoring and response to advanced threats.
- Established 11 master contracts for cybersecurity products so local units have the ability to purchase at state pricing, which is about 60 percent off MSRP.
- Cyber Navigator program works with mutual aid groups and organizations such as, but not limited to, Illinois Law ILEAS, MABAS, GMIS, Illinois Municipal League, Board of Elections, Illinois State Police, and Illinois Public Health Association. These partnerships and working relationships facilitate trust and shared information.
- Participated in the Cyber Shield exercise with National Guard. The mission of Cyber Shield is to develop, train, and exercise cyber forces in the areas of computer network internal defensive measures and cyber incident response. This prepares staff who help monitor local government endpoints to respond to various events that could impact state systems that serve the citizens of Illinois.
- Attended training by MS Information Sharing and Analysis Center on best practices for local units of government in cybersecurity.
- Support the SeCUR Committee to respond to State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for cybersecurity grants for local units of government.
- The Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC) maintains a Cyber Security Information Sharing (CSIS) Program, forming trusted partnerships among all information sharing communities (law enforcement, private sector, and public safety) to share technical material that may impact the security of information technology at their agencies/companies. The Cybersecurity Intelligence Officer manages the CSIS program at STIC and serves as a subject matter expert and point of contact for cyber related issues. The Cybersecurity Intelligence Officer works with other cyber professionals to detect and analyze malware samples from other state, local and federal government agencies, as well as private sector

partners. The Cybersecurity Intelligence Officer also prepares and disseminates cyber related intelligence reports at all classification levels and designations.

- STIC's all-crimes and all-hazards approach has led to the development of public safety outreach programs, the goal of which is to provide mutually collaborative communications and information sharing between the fusion center and public safety partners to enhance public safety and provide support in the fight against terrorism and criminal activity. STIC shares information through in-person meetings, daily information dissemination, and monthly webinars. Through this program, 114 agencies participate in the cybersecurity arena, receiving specific information on cyber issues as they arise.
- Safe2Help Illinois provides a free app, text/phone, and website (Safe2HelpIL.com) for students to share school safety issues in a confidential environment. Over 3 percent of the hundreds of calls to Safe2Help are specifically regarding cyberbullying. They were either referred to local law enforcement or to the affected school directly.
- ILEAS Regional Planning Coordinators (RPCs) assist local law enforcement agencies with homeland security planning/preparedness and response. Each RPC is assigned approximately 100 law enforcement agencies to support. In 2023, ILEAS continued to facilitate the interaction between local law enforcement officials and the DoIT Cyber Navigators. The ILEAS RPCs have supported a liaison program to introduce local chiefs and sheriffs to their assigned Cyber Navigators. This partnership is intended to provide local government a specific person to reach out to when they need training, cybersecurity advice or support during a cybersecurity attack.
- Many times, a cybersecurity event is associated with a criminal act by the suspected actor. Law enforcement officers are usually a first point of contact to initiate action. ILEAS has incorporated continuously updated Navigator information into the resource data base used by member agencies. Additionally, RPCs routinely introduce and act as liaisons between commanders and DoIT staff during local and regional meetings to encourage familiarity with personnel and capabilities.
- In 2023, ILEAS staff members recorded 124 cyber-related contacts with agencies across the state, including attending meetings, introductions to department heads, exercises and presentations.
- One Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN) member agency was involved in a cyber breach in 2023. Details have been provided to IPWMAN to share with the membership to increase awareness.
- IPWMAN and MABAS worked together to use the Salamander Live Application to develop Tier II Identification cards for employees of member agencies. The current plan is to tie the National Qualification Standards as well as public works certifications to these cards to determine if a responder is a qualified responder. This information will be available in a master database.

Urban Area Cyber Activities

- Cook County Information Security Office's (ISO) Security Information Event Managers processed a total of 243,884,425,269 auditable events. Of the total events monitored, 5,324 events required analysts to triage the incident, and 707 incident tickets were opened because of these investigations and other known malicious activity.
- Cook County ISO worked with the Cook County Clerk's Office to ensure voters have complete faith and confidence in the security of elections. ISO supported the Consolidated Primary Elections on February 28, 2023, and the Consolidated Elections on April 4, 2023.

- Cook County ISO received unanimous approval from the Cook County Board of Commissioners for a contract to bring governance, risk, and compliance services to the county.
- Cook County ISO facilitated a tabletop exercise on June 6, 2023, as part of the cybersecurity incident response training and testing program with all Cook County agencies.
- Cook County ISO completed implementation of Two Factor Authentication on the Virtual Private Network Infrastructure and the Enterprise O365 environment.
- Cook County adopted a Cook County Board of Commissioners resolution recognizing October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month, sent out weekly cyber newsletters, hosted a cyber-focused lunch and learn discussion on cybersecurity issues, and handed out flyers on privacy and security to employees and residents.
- Cook County ISO completed the Nationwide Cybersecurity Review.
- Cook County ISO updated the FY23 cybersecurity training model, working closely with all agencies to support cyber hygiene. The model includes additional training specifically for those who have enhanced privileges or system administrator rights.
- Cook County ISO Implemented a new phish testing capability that is available to all county agencies.
- Developed new relationships with Squad CC-6 (Cybercrimes, Cyber Task Force) FBI Chicago Field Office and the United States Secret Service Chicago Field Office.
- In 2023, the Chicago Information Security Office deployed a new set of job titles supporting cybersecurity. These titles allow for internal advancement and more closely reflect the job market. To that end, the ISO posted to backfill one of the four UASI-funded roles on the team at the end of 2023. This role is targeted to be filled in 1Q24.
- Chicago ISO prepared a security awareness training campaign for city employees to be launched in early 2024.
- Chicago ISO implemented the first phase of a security solution for the city's Department of Water Management (DWM) Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) environment with a primary use case of asset management. The ISO and the DWM continue to plan out additional expansion of use cases and coverage in 2024.
- Chicago ISO continued to build out and mature NIST Cybersecurity Framework based controls.
- Chicago ISO continued to leverage and build out capabilities for the city's Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) toolset allowing for the digitization and automation of previously paper-based GRC activities.
- Chicago ISO continued to expand the use of multi-factor authentication.
- Chicago ISO continued to develop and strengthen its Vulnerability Management program through growing the scanning and agent footprint. The remediation program matured in partnering with IT and application stakeholders.
- Significant strides were made in bolstering the Chicago Public Safety Information Technology (PSIT) cybersecurity and communications capabilities in 2023. A key achievement was the enhancement of cybersecurity measures, specifically through the implementation of endpoint and edge controls in both on-premises and cloud environments. This was crucial as the Chicago Police Department (CPD)

transitioned to a more mobile network environment that integrated over 5,000 new mobile devices into the Public Safety Network.

- To bolster network reliability for first responders, Chicago Office of Public Safety Administration (OPSA) has prepared the Public Safety Network for the transition from Cisco Next-Generation Firewalls (NGFWs) to Palo Alto NGFWs aimed at enhancing protection and allowing Public Safety IT to capitalize on the city of Chicago's existing expertise with Palo Alto systems.
- Chicago Public Safety's commitment to expanding cyber capabilities extended to protecting critical infrastructure and implementing NIST Cybersecurity Framework-based controls beyond the core public safety network. This initiative safeguarded essential networks such as city of Chicago cameras, Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) System, 911 systems, and radio-related networks, ensuring up-to-date firewall protections. In addition to cybersecurity, significant advancements were made in communication infrastructure.

2024 Cyber Initiatives

- ILEAS will continue to build upon the relationship between DoIT Cyber Navigators and law enforcement chiefs and sheriffs. It is vital that when a disaster strikes, departments are able to immediately reach out to a seasoned professional who can offer proper guidance regarding accessing resources.
- In March 2024, ILEAS will conduct an annual training conference to educate attendees on current cybersecurity issues, including AI technology and threat abatement.
- Delivery of training products and services to local units of government through CISA funding.
- Deployment of a customer relationship management tool to partners supporting the Illinois Information Sharing and Analysis Center (IL-ISAC). This will supply local and state entities contact information in incidents.
- Continue to provide End Point detection services to local governments. This enables real time alerts to potential problems and security operation staff assistance. This provides a huge cost savings to local government that does not have the expertise, manpower or budget to provide this security service.
- Collaborate with HSAC partners to make basic training available to local units of governments to meet new state law.
- Work with CISA to navigate the implementation of infrastructure dollars dedicated to cybersecurity.
- In FY2024, the Chicago ISO is targeting a number of cybersecurity initiatives that include:
 - o Addressing opportunities for process improvement in Identity & Access Management
 - o Enhancing the deployment of a security solution for the city's Department of Water Management (DWM) Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) environment.
 - o Building out and maturing the city's NIST Cybersecurity Framework based controls with foci in Identity & Access Management, Threat Management and Security Operations.
 - o Continuing to refresh the city's cybersecurity toolset.
 - o Continuing to place a focus on the cybersecurity controls protecting the city's critical infrastructure components.
 - o Host tabletop exercises to drill and prepare for cyber incidents.

Chicago Public Safety IT will continue to collaborate with the city's Department of Technology and Innovation INFOSEC department to focus on a holistic approach to vulnerability management and to align this effort with the state's emphasis on enhancing cybersecurity capabilities.

- Chicago PSIT will continue installation of the new Palo Alto firewalls and ensure the protection and functionality of critical infrastructure and core capabilities against cyber threats.
- The retirement of legacy applications and outdated IT infrastructure, particularly those supporting the Chicago Police Department CLEAR System, will continue to be a Chicago PSIT priority in 2024. The replacement and upgrading of these systems will be facilitated through UASI funds, ensuring the system's long-term sustainability and alignment with the state's goal of protecting critical infrastructure and key resources.
- To enhance operational resilience, Chicago PSIT will implement redundant Virtual Machines and core backup networks at the Chicago OEMC. This initiative aligns with the state's objective of maintaining an integrated and equipped operational structure to address preparedness for various threats.
- IPWMAN has plans to research and partner with agencies that can assist members in the cybersecurity arena as it relates not only to daily office operations, such as billing and accounting, but also to critical infrastructure. Many members manage water and wastewater facilities that are controlled remotely where a cyberattack could wreak havoc on a community or multiple communities based on the size of the system. Several IPWMAN members are also responsible for the distribution of electricity to its communities. A malicious breach of an electrical grid, no matter the size, could be detrimental to a community. IPWMAN is planning to work to get its members in touch with people who can offer best practices in cybersecurity awareness, training, and solutions.
- Members of an IPWMAN operations subcommittee are working on building a GIS dashboard with assistance from MABAS. The dashboard will include the location of all IPWMAN members, IPWMAN deployment kits and IPWMAN response trailers. The dashboard has other important mapping information such as the IPWMAN (IEMA-OHS) regions and the contact information of the IPWMAN board member representing that region. They have also added the two seismic zones and the path of the 2024 solar eclipse and are developing a debris management application to be used following a significant storm event. This application, while ever evolving, is designed to allow a “strike team leader” to go out ahead of the clean-up crews and mark the location of debris piles so that they can be assigned to the clean-up crews. Once the pile has been removed, the clean-up crew can mark it off the list showing the progress that is being made. This application will also allow the truck driver to keep track of loads taken to the dump location and assist with calculating the quantity of debris that has been removed. Because this application is “live,” the real time accountability of each person, including their real time location, will allow for a safer operation. This information can be viewed by anyone with a web link and log in information, allowing it to be viewed in the SEOC or any other command post. Future plans are to develop an all-hazards approach to this sort of technology.
- Ensuring that IPWMAN members are aware of cyber issues in relation to the public works sector, especially water and wastewater facilities. Forwarding all cyber-related bulletins received through the Critical Infrastructure Committee to the full membership list.

Intelligence/Information Sharing

Intelligence and information sharing provide access to, analysis of, and timely sharing of open-source, unclassified and classified information, suspicious activity reports/tips/leads, and actionable intelligence on indicators and behaviors to accurately identify, assess and mitigate a wide array of threats to which Illinois is most vulnerable, including terrorism, targeted violence, and other threats to life. The state of Illinois supports the Intelligence and Information Sharing objective of Vision 2025 primarily through the establishment and operation of the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC). It is a “one-stop” resource for police officers and public safety officials to obtain information related to criminal activity, terrorism, and public safety. Analysts perform a thorough search of all available databases and resources, thus reducing the need to make numerous contacts with various organizations. The primary objectives of intelligence and information sharing are:

1. Synchronized, Cohesive Enterprise
2. Multi-Directional Informational Exchanges
3. Production of Strategic Intelligence Products
4. Access to Data and Systems
5. Maintaining a Cadre of Intelligence Professionals
6. Outreach and Partnership Development

Statewide Intelligence Activities

- By belonging to the national network of fusion centers, STIC can quickly obtain information that is shared with partners regarding national trends and critical incidents. In 2022, STIC began hiring new analysts in support of the newly established crime gun initiative. In 2023, seven of these positions were filled.
- STIC participated in several events throughout the year to provide information to incident/event managers and commanders to facilitate operations:
 - The 2023 Governor’s Inauguration held in January 2023 in Springfield was supported by STIC analysts providing on-site information and intelligence analysis.
 - Participation in the Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago/Chicago's Preparedness Tabletop Exercise in November 2023. Members from STIC served as panelists, and the exercise provided an opportunity to update and revise current planning and processes based on unanswered questions or gaps in preparing for the Democratic National Convention.
 - Utilizing tools developed for the sharing of homeland security information, the STIC Public Safety Room was activated seven times in 2023 in support of significant weather events. Information regarding these events, which generally affect large regions or even the entire state, is shared among both the public safety and private sectors.
 - STIC received information about 1,760 special events submitted by law enforcement and public safety partners throughout the state. STIC provided analytical support for these events as needed. Some of these events included the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, Illinois State Fair, Lollapalooza, Chicago Air and Water Show, and the NASCAR Chicago Street Race.
- The Illinois State Police utilized ESRI tools to help secure the 2023 Illinois State Fair. A Survey123 form was used by troopers on the fairgrounds to report incidents such as ejections, missing children, and medical incidents. This also allowed for text messages to be sent out to all ISP phones on the fairgrounds

alerting of a new incident. A dashboard was used to view the incidents back in the command post with additional layers and widgets, such as a weather widget. Over 450 incidents were reported by troopers using the app.

- Local Law Enforcement Fellowship – Local law enforcement officers were invited to apply for a fellowship to immerse them in all the resources available at STIC. In 2023, nine officers participated in this program. This program enhances the communication and networking of state and local officers with regard to Vision 2025 information sharing goals.
- STIC’s all-crimes and all-hazards approach has led to the development of public safety outreach programs, the goal of which is to provide mutually collaborative communication and information sharing between the fusion center and public safety partners to enhance public safety and provide support in the fight against terrorism and criminal activity. STIC shares information through in-person meetings, daily information dissemination, and monthly webinars. The following public safety programs are available:

Program	Members
Cybersecurity	147
Disaster Intelligence	All Programs
Dispatch Centers	145
Election Officials	262
Emergency Management	384
Fire Service	423
Human Trafficking	187
Infrastructure Security Awareness (Private Sector)	491
Jail Intelligence	214
Law Enforcement	2,645
Public Health	431
School Safety	1,375
Total	6,704

- ILEAS is uniquely positioned to help STIC collect and disseminate intelligence information quickly. RPCs work closely with local agencies on numerous planned events that can serve as the source location for disaster. Ensuring that all events of significance are reported for STIC evaluation and threat oversight maximizes safety and resource deployment.
- ILEAS staff continuously educate and encourage local and regional participation and cooperation with state counterparts to foster an information sharing relationship for the betterment of all.
- ILEAS shares call-out information directly with STIC, which then posts the incident live for all first responder and investigative units. This relationship allows for those in need to have a “10,000-foot view” of what is happening in particular areas and how those activations paint a picture of even larger,

coordinated, multi-jurisdictional emergencies and disasters that are starting to unfold and what population will be impacted.

Urban Area Intelligence/Information Activities

- Cook County's Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (EMRS) continues to operate and grow its Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which first opened in 2015 to serve as the countywide coordination facility for managing critical incidents and disasters. The EOC is equipped with technology solutions allowing virtual participation, initially necessitated by pandemic conditions.
- Cook County EMRS used its open-architecture mass notification system to provide alerts to departments and bureaus within Cook County government, sister agencies, and client jurisdictions. Alerts can be sent by text, email, or voice messaging to public safety stakeholders and county employees regarding ongoing response and coordination activities through a blanket or geo-coded effort.
- Cook County EMRS continues to invest in the WebEOC system, which helped create municipal status boards and lifelines status boards for emerging and evolving events impacting participating municipal governments, allowing EMRS to maintain situational awareness and make resource support decisions as needed. In the first quarter of 2023, EMRS and WebEOC administrators created and implemented updates to the system that have increased efficiency and effectiveness.
- Cook County EMRS continues to invest in and broaden its capabilities to assist municipalities and county residents by using the Everbridge Mass Notification system. During 2023, the system was used to communicate with public safety stakeholders and Cook County employees regarding response activities, inclement weather, and other potential threats. Additionally, a number of municipal public safety partners have been vetted as users of the system, and that number is expected to grow throughout 2024.
- Cook County EMRS continues operating mobile asset communications systems, including satellite and repeater access, allowing for an enhanced communication capability to support municipal partners during evolving incidents.
- The Chicago Police Department (CPD) Crime Prevention and Information Center (CPIC) — the urban area's designated fusion center — utilized UASI funds to continue improving and sustaining its capabilities to provide relevant and timely intelligence to federal, state, and local partners.
- The Chicago Fusion Center renewed technology licenses for a diverse toolset of applications utilized to develop and distribute various opensource intelligence products and manage mass notifications.
- Chicago Fusion Center personnel, including the command staff and analysts, were supported with virtual and in-person training in compliance with baseline fusion center performance measures outlined in the UASI NOFO. This included participation in several regional and national fusion center conferences that focused on fusion center privacy considerations, open-source investigations, security assessment certifications, and other essential skills. The Fusion Center Counterterrorism Section continued to conduct monthly and quarterly Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO) meetings to discuss related topics that included:
 - o Terrorism Prevention and Deterrence
 - o Current trends, tactics, and procedures domestic terrorist utilize
 - o Intelligence reporting on foreign terrorist organizations

- o Grooming for homegrown violent extremist
- o Case studies on recently arrested offenders for funding terrorist organizations
- o Intelligence reporting on current opioid recoveries/arrests/investigations
- o Training on classification and surveying of bomb making material
- o Opensource intelligence reporting on foreign terrorist organizations
- o Intelligence reporting on racially motivated violent extremists
- o Information and reporting on cyberterrorism
- Chicago Public Safety IT acquired additional portable radios for the Chicago police and fire departments, maintaining the technology refresh cycle to meet P25 standards. The P25 system saw notable improvements in coverage capacity and maintenance. Initiated in 2017, the system has progressively integrated the city's radios into a unified, secure, and encrypted system, enhancing interoperability with neighboring public safety entities and leading to a net positive ROI by reducing dependence on external vendors. These comprehensive efforts in 2023 substantially fortified Chicago's readiness and response capabilities in public safety and emergency situations.

2024 Intelligence/Information Goals

- The urban area will continue to enhance information sharing capabilities across all sectors including public, private and nonprofit. This includes but is not limited to utilization of internet-based information sharing tools and capabilities, agency-to-agency collaboration and communication, and operational coordination. A key priority of the urban area is to build a strategic information sharing program that incorporates the numerous capabilities currently utilized by the urban area.
- The Chicago Fusion Center will initiate the Fusion Center Refresh Project at the Public Safety Headquarters building. This includes replacing the raised floor and video wall that has been used for more than eight years. The upgrades are needed to be able to replace worn cabling and project higher definition videos. New electronic status boards will also be installed on available wall space to expand the Center's ability to provide updated information without impacting the activity on the main board. Other planned activities include filling sworn vacancies for supervisors and intelligence analysts, continue updating the Suspicious Activity Reporting System and the Facility Information and Management System modules and server infrastructure, and piloting new technologies that will contribute to better intelligence products for partners and stakeholders.
- New relevant training for Chicago Fusion Center staff is also being identified for 2024, to include the impact of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence on Fusion Center operations.
- STIC will implement a behavioral threat assessment and management program to recognize, evaluate, and control potentially dangerous or violent circumstances for state agencies, facilities, and employees.
- STIC will continue to support the crime gun initiative.
- STIC will continue to enhance the operational status of Safe2Help Illinois.
- STIC will continue to aid in reducing the occurrence of violent crimes through investigative support and intelligence initiatives.
- STIC will continue to share information across the National Fusion Center Network and to/from federal, state, local, and public safety partners to fill critical information and intelligence gaps.

- STIC will provide analytical support, intelligence analysis, and threat assessments as needed in relation to the Democratic National Convention to be held in Chicago in August 2024 and the 2024 General Election.
- STIC will continue to produce intelligence products as related to identifying, mitigating, and preventing threats to public safety and security.
- Improve analytical technology capabilities.
- STIC will continue to hire Terrorism Research Specialists to meet staffing requirements.
- STIC will provide information and analytical support up to and during the total solar eclipse that will be visible throughout Southern Illinois in April.
- Strengthen relationships with federal partners through collaboration and joint exercises.
- STIC will continue to host law enforcement officers once a month in support of the law enforcement fellowship program.
- STIC will continue to strengthen relationships with federal partners including DHS and FBI personnel assigned to STIC.
- STIC will participate in intelligence analysis and sharing exercises when available.
- ILEAS will continue to advertise and support the STIC host program that allows for a multi-day experience for ranking personnel to see and understand the operation of the fusion center firsthand.
- ILEAS will maintain its resource data base, along with the external resource guide and full agency contact information, to assist with individual, regional, county or even statewide transmission of vital information and intelligence as needed.

Homeland Security Coordination and Communications

The goals and objectives outlined in the Vision 2025 section regarding homeland security coordination and communication are wide-ranging, intending to communicate the homeland security preparedness strategy to all public and private safety organizations to ensure activities conducted at the local, regional, and statewide levels are integrated; enhance the overall response and recovery posture of the state; and support achievement of a common homeland security preparedness strategy. This objective is shared by virtually all HSAC committees and public safety disciplines. Communicating the Vision 2025 goals throughout the breadth of the public safety community is vitally important. It covers the following actions:

1. Establish a Common Operating Picture
2. Utilize a Single Governance Structure
3. Achieve Operable and Interoperable Communications
4. Communicate Risks to the Public
5. Maintain a Comprehensive Volunteer Program

Statewide Homeland Security Coordination/Communication Activities

- The HSAC Emergency Management Committee was revitalized in 2023. Two new co-chairs were appointed, and a significant amount of work was completed by bringing together new and existing groups, including the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association, the Illinois Professional Emergency Management Association and the Illinois Incident Management System. The Emergency Management Committee is working to promote a culture of resilience and preparedness by integrating emergency management into the HSAC objectives and providing crucial support for emergency management response capabilities.
- IEMA-OHS has leveraged the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program to implement the National Qualification System (NQS) to develop a deployable cadre of qualified, certified, and credentialed personnel capable of managing and supporting incidents of diverse types and sizes. This effort includes the development of courseware and programs of instruction to train entities across the state to meet federal standards for Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and FEMA Supplemental Response Teams (SRT). The Credentialing and Qualification Committee, established as the governing body, plays a pivotal role in setting standards to facilitate the credentialing of individuals engaged in jurisdictional qualification programs.
- Modest acquisition of deployable command post equipment and prime movers has been completed, allowing for more strategically positioned assets that are deployment-ready and ensuring effectiveness in emergency response efforts.
- The Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System Regional Planning Coordinators (RPC) program continues with 11 ILEAS staff members strategically located across the state to provide one-on-one service to every member law enforcement agency in Illinois. Each RPC is a liaison to approximately 100 law enforcement agencies, available to assist at any location during large-scale emergencies. All current RPCs are retired, very experienced senior law enforcement officials who assist in planning and evaluating exercises, agency website access, NIMS compliance, access to specialized equipment, and the ability to offer advice and guidance during a crisis. They continually meet with chiefs, sheriffs and senior

law enforcement commanders to assess department needs and work toward fulfilling them. The RPC program remains the first point of contact between member agencies, ILEAS administration, other public safety agencies, and the state of Illinois.

- During 2023, ILEAS RPCs made 740 agency visits across the state. Additionally, 1,719 phone and remote services were carried out on behalf of departments with needs. Staff attended 663 meetings and conferences with organizations representing a full cross section of emergency responder agencies in Illinois. This is key to building relationships across disciplines and jurisdictions.
- RPCs assist ILEAS member agencies during the planning phase of many large-scale events. ILEAS liaisons deploy to the IEMA State Emergency Operations Center to field resource requests for personnel and equipment. Requests are vetted and assigned priority based on the type and magnitude of the incident. Additionally, RPCs deploy to the field to support on-scene incident commanders with personnel and asset resource recommendations upon request. RPCs bring years of skill and experience to emergency and disaster incidents, both unexpected and pre-planned. In 2023, there was a significant increase in calls for mutual aid to assist with large crowds that had grown beyond local control. Many times, those crowd sizes and make up then led to other problems on a larger scale. Active shooters, armed and barricaded subjects, and other persons reported to be armed joined large crowd control as some of the most likely reasons for calling for mutual aid assistance.
- Through the recent funding and hiring of an Executive Director, IPWMAN now has a single point of contact to manage all aspects of the organization. This will allow for not only an overall improvement in response and recovery but also the growth and development of IPWMAN. IPWMAN is in the process of updating its operations manual and procedures for deployment, as well as procedures for being notified of any incident. IPWMAN has been able to connect itself with many “bulletins” through the HSAC Critical Infrastructure Committee, the STIC, the LID and other statewide resources. Because of this new position, IPWMAN is now more visible during both informational and planning meetings at the state, county and local levels.
- Because of the recent hiring of an Executive Director, IPWMAN is able to commit the proper amount of time and dedication to ensuring that the statewide governance structure is maximizing funding to accomplish goals. This Executive Director attends meetings to discuss unmet needs as well as to eliminate the duplication of resources.

Urban Area Homeland Security Coordination/Communication Activities

- Cook County EMRS participated in 83 community engagement and preparedness outreach events throughout the summer and fall, providing preparedness and safety-oriented messaging to thousands of festival and event attendees.
- Cook County EMRS participated in four cross-discipline tabletop and full-scale emergency response exercises and hosted numerous Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training opportunities including Ground Search and Rescue, and Damage Assessment classes. EMRS also supported the sustainment of six active municipal CERT programs in Cook County, as well as the Illinois CERT Association Prairie State Challenge, which was attended by 39 municipal CERT programs from across Illinois.
- In partnership with the city of Chicago, EMRS updated its Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), which involved assessing and planning for the hazards and threats posing the greatest risk to the combined statistical area. As part of the THIRA process, the urban area performs

security site analysis and surveillance operations of identified critical infrastructure and key resources. The urban area also completed the FEMA Stakeholder Preparedness Report and worked with the Illinois Capability Assessment Tool to properly analyze the county's response capabilities.

- Cook County EMRS Conducted 120 training events during which 3,416 individuals representing 100 (74 percent) of county municipalities received approximately 62,735 hours of training.
- Cook County EMRS developed a five-part training series and functional exercise on emergency management policies and practices with a concentration on continuity of operations planning for executive leaders under the Office of the President. This training supports responsive and flexible policymaking, thereby allowing county leadership and its strategic goals to adapt to and evolve with present and current challenges. Lastly, the ETLs was developed to build within Cook County a body of experts equipped to create a preparedness culture that can withstand any future disruptions. Said skills will allow for optimal performance when existing patterns and practices remain unaffected.
- Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) purchased a new, appropriately equipped light tower truck to enhance on-site emergency management capacity. The truck will be utilized to support nighttime operations for large events at various locations in Chicago.
- Chicago OEMC also purchased a new mobile command center van to replace an aging mobile command vehicle. It is expected to see service by Q2 2024.
- Chicago OEMC hosted two Whole Community Training Summits – one in Chicago in March and another in Naperville in November. Topics covered included cybersecurity and world threats, vulnerable populations, psychological preparedness, and more. The events featured break-out discussions, presentations, and panels from experts in the emergency management community. The conferences were attended by critical stakeholders across the region to exchange best practices. These summits are part of a multi-year plan to provide whole community engagement and training for 2022 (focus: preparedness), 2023 (focus: response), and 2024 (focus: recovery). Objectives are to continue engagement with stakeholders, provide essential training, share best practices, provide a forum for networking, and gain a better understanding of the changing needs of the various sectors.
- The goal of the Chicago OEMC Safe Chicago program is to improve the safety of Chicago residents and municipal employees by making life-saving equipment readily available at city facilities and offering training on its use. Since the program's inception, OEMC and Chicago Fire Department instructors have trained over 3,000 city of Chicago employees and equipped them with bleeding control kits and doses of Narcan. This program also provides wall-mounted bleeding control kits at every occupied, city-owned, or leased facility. To date we have installed more than 800 kits in over 350 locations citywide. In 2023, OEMC program staff conducted 25 classes on the use of bleeding control kits, training over 500 city employees and partners. Additionally, new in 2023, they partnered with the Chicago History Museum, the Field Museum, the Art Institute, the School of the Art Institute, Wrigley Field, Guaranteed Rate Field, United Center, and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to install kits at their respective facilities and further grow the program.
- Chicago OEMC conducted three CERT classes to train new volunteers, bringing more than 45 additional personnel into the program. CERT has assisted the city this year with the new arrivals mission, CPD K9 training help, Air and Water, Festival of Lights, and Chicago Marathon, to name a few examples.

Interoperable Communications

ILEAS manages the operation of the Strategic Technology Reserve, which includes Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications Systems (ITECS), Unified Command Posts (UCP), and other interoperable communications assets. This includes grant management of virtually all the technology, voice communications and other communications grants at ILEAS. ILEAS continues to be heavily involved in state-level communications and interoperability coordination. Led by the IEMA-OHS Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) and supported through ILEAS management and staff, the Strategic Technology Reserve work products are aligned according to the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). Following are accomplishments in 2024:

- ILEAS has seen a large increase in requests for communications training of all kinds. ILEAS delivered numerous communications-focused training classes and exercises across the state, including STARCOM21 Hands-On training, two Communications Unit Leader (COML), Communications Technician (COMT), Statewide Interoperability Template (SWIT), and Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) courses.
- ILETSB and IEMA-OHS requested ILEAS develop and deliver executive level training on Best Practices for Radio Interoperability at seven locations around Illinois.
- ILEAS will work closely with multiple agencies from numerous disciplines to address Communication requirements during the April 2024 Solar Eclipse event.
- ILEAS Communications staff will plan and engage with the appropriate points of contact to ensure operational success during the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, occurring in summer 2024.
- In conjunction with IEMA-OHS and Illinois National Guard, ILEAS participated in planning and conducting a full-scale statewide communications exercise (Prairie Voice 2023)
- Maintained 1,200 Starcom21 cache radios, plus 300 VHF radios, hosted by various agencies around the state, plus the ITECS and UCP vehicles. These radios are used during a multitude of different events and incidents and are deployed in quantities of five to 500 to areas and agencies who need interoperable communications support.
- Working closely with the state SWIC and IEMA-OHS, ILEAS has continued its ongoing project to build two more RapidCom communications vehicles. These are designed to supplement and, in time, act as highly capable replacements for the ITECS as they begin to be retired. The ITECS vehicles were procured in 2006 and are reaching the end of their useful life. The goal is to replace the ITECS with a much more cost-effective vehicle. ILEAS, in conjunction with DuPage County OHSEM, built the first RapidCom 4 vehicle as a prototype. RapidCom 4 has been very successful, providing nearly the same capabilities as a full size ITECS at half the cost. The lessons learned from this project will be applied to the construction of new vehicles.
- ILEAS will continue a project to replace Mobile Field Force Starcom21 radios.
- Replaced Starcom21 radios for ILEAS caches and UCP caches. Each of these equipment replacement projects allowed for the removal of aged units that were no longer as effective or supported by the manufacturer or had become obsolete for the mission assignment.

- ILEAS communications experts participated in various related committees and working groups to help guide planning efforts for future communications projects. ILEAS staff offers a law enforcement perspective – from large to small agencies, including rural agencies of all disciplines. ILEAS chairs two subcommittees under the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC): Broadband, which covers cellular and data issues, and Customer Advocacy, which addresses agency perspectives such as cost, complexity, and user issues.
- Coordinated land mobile radio, broadband data, satellite, GIS, AUXCOMM/amateur radio, field IT needs, and public alert and warning under a singular structure for planning, strategy development and eventual deployment.
- Bolstered communications capability through monthly radio drills; requesting that ITECS, UCP and Illinois Medical Emergency Response Teams (IMERT) test satellite systems every other month; maintaining and coordinating statewide radio cache resources; maintaining satellite service for ITECS, UCP, and IMERT; and continuing to maintain all technology capabilities and field interoperable communications for all teams.



- IEMA-OHS doubled the satellite phone capability of the agency with implementation of 15 new iridium devices and two IMARSAT devices, which helps to improve the state's Primary Alternate Contingency and Emergency (PACE) Communications Plan.
- IEMA-OHS improved field personnel's response capability to incidents through the use of 20 priority internet connection devices. These devices improve connectivity and throughput of data services to cellular towers. They can boost cellular transmission strength by up to six times, so responders can maintain critical connectivity throughout more of their areas of operation than ever before.
- IEMA-OHS improved the radio interoperability capability of the agencies three deployable command vehicle assets.
- IPWMAN has recently deployed a portable Starcom21 radio to each of its executive board members and duty officers. This will allow for statewide interoperability for IPWMAN command staff during a disaster. These radios are tested each month as part of the IPWMAN monthly radio drill. IPWMAN also has three caches of Starcom21 radios located in the north, central and south parts of Illinois. These radios have been deployed during IPWMAN activations to allow all responders the ability to communicate not only with each other but also with IPWMAN command staff.
- Ameren, in conjunction with AT&T and Verizon, participated in Operation Power Play to better prepare for communication outages that impact Ameren-Illinois services or power outages that

impact communications.

- IPWMAN utilizes many social media platforms to highlight and promote IPWMAN and keep its followers up to date on significant happenings in the state. The Social Media Chairman is connected with all five National Weather Service offices that service the state of Illinois and relays any pertinent information.
- Employs the use of a mass emailing program that allows for the sending of “Information Sharing Documents.” These documents are sent to every member in the database to make them aware of any topic that is shared. These documents include things such upcoming training, potential weather events, the line of duty death of a public works employee, pertinent safety information, and relaying information from CISA and other such agencies to help keep the membership up to date.
- IPWMAN publishes a quarterly newsletter that allows the organization’s leadership to keep its members updated on the regular “goings on” of the organization. This, too, is distributed through mass emailing.
- This year IPWMAN has worked to refresh its website, bringing it to ADA compliance as well as giving it a fresh look. This is the “go to” place for IPWMAN members to learn more about and keep connected with the organization. All membership documents such as the mutual aid agreement, the operations manual and the emergency contacts list is located there. With log in credentials, members can find the contact information of any agency member. A list of available resources is also available with higher level credentials.
- The American Association of Civil Engineers recent national conference was focused on identifying ways to reduce the high number of highway fatalities.
- With the exception of the Executive Director and the contracted Executive Secretary, all IPWMAN board members, committee chairpersons, duty officers, and SEOC agency representatives serve on a volunteer status. A comprehensive database of these individuals is available to credentialed members of IPWMAN. Not only are these individuals volunteers to the organization, but the responding communities themselves volunteer to respond to deployments. No agency is required to respond to an IPWMAN deployment, so the need to maintain an accurate list of all membership contact information is paramount to the success of IPWMAN. A list of available resources from each community member is also kept by IPWMAN in the event of a significant need.
- MABAS initiated an audit of all Starcom radios assigned to MABAS divisions throughout the state to verify functionality.
- MABAS has completed upgrades to the communications suite of the Mobility Control Center (MCC) at the MABAS Readiness Center (MRC). The communications center is now fully capable to act as a back-up communications center for statewide deployments.
- The Regional Emergency Dispatch Center (RED Center) in Northbrook is the primary dispatch agency for MABAS. Equipment has been provided to allow the RED Center to be fully interoperable with the city of Chicago, enhancing operational coordination.
- The MABAS Illinois Task Force 1 Urban Search & Rescue Team has completed the upgrade of Starcom portable communications systems utilized by the team.
- MABAS is working with Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and stakeholders from other states on the development of standardized Mission Ready Package (MRP) templates for fire, EMS,

US&R, swift water and technical rescue team interstate deployments. MABAS maintains involvement on the Emergency Management Assistance Compact Advisory Group.

- Urban Search & Rescue Team Task Force Communications personnel participated in the Prairie Voice 2023 Exercise.

2024 Coordination and Communications Objectives

- The Emergency Management Committee is working to ensure the continued availability and functionality of equipment critical to mutual aid support statewide. This includes the development of a generator, communications system, and other key equipment capital replacements.
- The Emergency Management Committee will also work in 2024 to expand the cadre of credentialed emergency management personnel capable of supporting response operations. This includes scheduling more statewide trainings for incident management and emergency operations center responsibilities and the expansion of exercise opportunities.
- Work will also continue in 2024 to strengthen local emergency management programs throughout Illinois by:
 - Establishing a mutual aid organization that can coordinate the deployment of disaster response capabilities and incident management teams
 - Increasing collaboration with existing stakeholders such as the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association and the Illinois Professional Emergency Management Association.
- ILEAS will continue to support the RPC program and the benefits that it provides with agency coordination and support. The RPC staff will always be a vital link between individual agencies and any number of organizations that have a task that requires cooperation.
- ILEAS will always be available to respond and represent local law enforcement at all points of need across the state and, if necessary, out of state if deployed. Assigned to the SEOC, SUAC, LESC and JOC, staff will ensure that mutual aid needs are met.
- The ILEAS resource management system will continue as a system-wide tool that grows as new capabilities and equipment are developed and added. Along with the ability to constantly update agency email and contact information, ILEAS is one of the most efficient ways to engage with any agency in Illinois.
- ILEAS RPCs will work continuously with appropriate agencies and liaison personnel to offer assistance and locate necessary resources to aid with known and unknown disasters, emergencies and significant events in 2024. Already they are involved with MFF training that will coincide with the solar eclipse and planning with representatives for the Republican and Democratic National Conventions.
- The procurement and upgrading of radio assets and infrastructure, including new dispatch consoles at the Chicago OEMC, is planned. These improvements will support current operations and the upcoming hosting of the 2024 Democratic National Convention, integrating with the new Central Square CAD system and the NG-911 project. This effort reflects the state's goals of improving homeland security coordination, communications, and the protection of critical infrastructure.

Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources

The Vision 2025 Goal/Objective for the Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources aims to identify, assess, and support strengthening and maintaining secure, functioning, and resilient critical infrastructure and key resources of the state, based on current threat and vulnerability assessments, in partnership with the private sector. The Critical Infrastructure Committee primarily focuses on achieving the goals as outlined above. However, all the committees must be cognizant of these goals and support them when possible. These goals include:

1. Protect Physical and Cyber Critical Infrastructure
2. Prepare for Disruptions in Life Safety Resources (Supply Chains)
3. Provide Security Presence at Designated Events
4. Establish Partnerships with Public and Private Stakeholders

Statewide Infrastructure/Key Resources Activities

- In the process of developing the Illinois-State Assessment for Infrastructure Resilience Tool that would allow for a multi-year effort to identify, assess and manage statewide risks to identified critical infrastructure, which will enhance resilience of both public and private sector critical infrastructure in Illinois. It will also provide the state of Illinois a ready database of current resilience information by critical infrastructure section to justify future grant requests.
- Illinois Department of Transportation is working through the second year of identifying and providing backup power to IDOT manned facilities to ensure mission readiness during prolonged power outages.
- Illinois Commerce Commission completed Cybersecurity Resiliency Joint Exercise (CRJE) at Argonne National Lab with over 40 different entities participating; ICC also provided grants to improve safety at rail crossings throughout Illinois.
- American Public Works Association is hosting the 2025 APWA National Convention, which will promote opportunities for HSAC members to exchange information with entities throughout the country.
- Ameren-Illinois is hosting cybersecurity exercises with bomb squad and local responders in the Champaign County area.
- Amtrak is working on a continuity of operations plan related to the Chicago Union Station location with emphasis on life safety and keeping the training moving. They are also continuing their Passenger Train Emergency Response Training throughout the country, which involves trained individuals interacting with local first responders concerning the response to train-related incidents in their area. Three national exercises are scheduled in 2024, including a tunnel exercise in New York, along with New Orleans, and an active shooter exercise in Seattle.
- Illinois Central Management Services, working jointly with Illinois State Police, conducted large-scale evacuation drills at two large state office buildings in Chicago with others to follow. This process will be used to continually update emergency action plans in all CMS-maintained facilities. Continuing to administer Federal/State Surplus Property Program that provides property to local governments, qualifying not-for-profit organizations, and the general public.

- Chicago Department of Water Management is working with Chicago OEMC and Cook County OHSEM on completing their THIRA and stakeholders preparedness report.
- Memorial Health System is working on active shooter exercises for their critical access hospitals and updating their continuity of operations and cybersecurity response plans based on recent attacks on a local hospital.
- American Red Cross continues to respond to events throughout Illinois and is participating in a planning process related to both the 2024 eclipse and the upcoming Democratic National Convention.
- ComEd participated in the Operation Power Play exercise and is partnering with the Secret Service to ensure their needs are being met in relationship to the Democratic National Convention.
- Northshore/People's Gas is conducting training with both fire/law enforcement agencies along with conducting joint planning for the Democratic National Convention in Chicago and with their sister company in Wisconsin for the Republican National Convention.
- DuPage County OHSEM completed a draft natural hazard mitigation plan to support DuPage County jurisdictions regarding the safe passage of many busloads of asylum seekers to Chicago.
- Midwest Truckers Association completed 2023 MTA Convention and Mid-West Truck/Trailer Show, which includes training to ensure drivers are aware of all associated federal/state regulations, along with the TSA 1st Observer Plus Security Awareness Training Program, which encourages truck operators to be the eyes and ears for anything questionable and provides a way to report that kind of activity, along with promoting the Truckers Against Trafficking Program training opportunities.
- Illinois Trucking Association is working on the Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act to help provide \$755M for additional truck parking since there is currently not enough truck parking available; scheduled 2024 Safety Maintenance Conference with emphasis on truck/highway safety as well as maintenance and security issues; working on the Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act to consolidate the multiple duplicate background checks into one; working on the issue of outfits in Mexico that are selling fake Mexican commercial driver's licenses -- once these drivers cross the border, based on the reciprocal agreements between the U.S. and Mexico, they can be issued a state CDL.
- PACE is partnering with the City College in Harvey and Triton College to help address the current driver and mechanic shortages; will soon complete the Intake Center in Markham that will be used to program their electric busses; working with the different fire departments and SWAT teams to provide orientations on how the PACE busses work, as well as providing these departments with information on using the PACE busses as both heating and cooling centers.
- American Water is working on conducting a tabletop exercise for all five Illinois divisions; participated in U.S. Coast Guard cybersecurity exercise and conducted three days of power outage exercises that incorporated the central, eastern and central divisions; and is promoting front line staff to complete FEMA Disaster Management for Water/Wastewater Utilities Training.
- Illinois National Guard has established a task force to assist with the upcoming elections and for the Democratic National Convention.
- Illinois Association of County Engineers is hosting the 2025 National County Engineers Conference in Schaumburg.
- IPWMAN participated in multiple training activities throughout the year, including Operation Power

Play. This statewide event allowed a number of member agencies in Will County to understand what IPWMAN does and how it can help those in need. Another activity that IPWMAN continues to participate in is Odin's Dawn. IPWMAN was involved in the tabletop exercise and was able to add valuable insight from a public works perspective.

- Many IPWMAN board members, committee chairpersons and duty officers are sent the Daily Watch Report that is made available by IEMA-OHS. Some members also have HSIN accounts allowing them access to information available through the STIC and the LID allowing access to public safety rooms.
- Many IPWMAN members have a partnership with the National Weather Service, attending the weather briefings and receiving the decision support packets. This relationship has been fostered by the NWS having a standing invitation to present at the annual IPWMAN Conference, where their latest NWS Chat 2.0 and other tools such as the Event Ready Program are highlighted.
- IPWMAN has had a long-standing relationship with MABAS and ILEAS. However, in the last year, that relationship has grown to new levels. MABAS assists with the management of grant funds as well as assisting with technology and telecommunication needs.
- American Association of Civil Engineers' recent national conference was focused on identifying ways to reduce the high number of highway fatalities.
- ILEAS can play a major role in infrastructure and key resource access and security. Many larger public works related target facilities that greatly impact value of life are subject to failure or exposure. Large law enforcement responses to protect water supplies, power stations, transportation hubs and distribution centers can all be organized by ILEAS. Rarely are large infrastructure units under the sole control of a single entity. Larger water reservoirs, high line power runs, underground gas and oil pipelines as well as rail and roadway systems represent singular examples that span multiple jurisdictions. ILEAS is connected to all of the agencies potentially involved in large scale incidents that involve law enforcement response. Supply chain avenues must remain open to ensure there is no disruption, whether due to disaster or man-made emergency, to medical treatment, food, water and other vital manufacturing needs for the common good.
- ILEAS provides live updates on all calls for mutual aid assistance to the STIC. These calls represent incidents where the local agency has exceeded its own resource capability and now must reach out for help. Calls like this can indicate the existence or development of larger, more complex types of disasters that are unfolding. Having this information can allow for quick reaction and preventative measures to be executed well before critical infrastructure is destroyed.
- SWMDT personnel assisted ISP and Secretary of State HDU in protecting critical state government functions and events, such as the Governor's Inauguration, State House Inauguration, and Governor's State of the State.
- SWMDT personnel participated in Joint Hazardous Assessment Teams (JHAT) protecting high population and high-profile events in Chicago, including the NASCAR Race, Lollapalooza Festival, Pride Parade, Bank of America Marathon, Air & Water Show, and Festival of Lights, in collaboration and with federal WMD partners, the Chicago Fire Department, and the Illinois National Guard – Civil Support Team.
- SWMDT personnel participated in a JHAT mission with St. Clair County Emergency Management Agency, Illinois National Guard – Civil Support Team, and WMD federal partners in protecting the attendees of the Illinois 300 NASCAR race in Madison, Illinois.

- SWMDT personnel, at the request of the Illinois National Guard – Civil Support Team, provided law enforcement support as part of a Hazardous Assessment Team (HAT) in support of the Galena Annual Halloween Parade.
- SWMDT participated in 20 operations in 2023, including multi-day JHAT events, suspicious hazardous material response, clandestine lab response, hazardous interdiction, and security.
- SWMDT personnel attended a DHS Hostile Surveillance Detection Course.

Urban Area Infrastructure/Key Resources Activities

- Cook County EMRS provided ongoing support to suburban municipalities involved in hardening security infrastructure or purchasing security equipment. Over \$2 million in subgrants was awarded to over 20 different suburban communities. A particular focus for many of the awards was the purchase of anti-vehicle barriers to protect crowds and high-profile targets.
- Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications expanded the number of marked light poles along the city's lakefront under its Pole Marking Project. The expansion has included various lakefront locations north and south of DuSable/Lake Shore Drive that have been identified as locations where city residents and guests are known to congregate and, as such, may become soft targets.
- Chicago OEMC completed the purchase of 80 portable bollards, 10 hauling trailers, and connector cables that will be utilized during large scale events. This purchase exemplifies the city's emphasis on ensuring that soft targets and crowded places across the city are afforded layered protection from the use of vehicles as a weapon.

2024 Objectives for Infrastructure and Key Resources

- A significant effort will be directed toward addressing the Chicago Operation Virtual Shield (OVS) camera repair backlog and continuing the expansion of the city's camera network with license plate readers and additional cameras in selected areas. This initiative supports the state's goals in terms of intelligence/information sharing and prevention of domestic and foreign terrorism/targeted violence.
- Chicago Public Safety IT objectives for 2024 closely align with the overarching goals of the urban area's strategy, focusing on cybersecurity, system modernization, network resilience, advanced communication systems, and enhanced surveillance infrastructure to ensure public safety and preparedness for various threats.
- Cook County will continue to advance information sharing and support efforts for critical infrastructure tracking and support, working to identify best practices and consolidate available county-specific data sets to support municipal collaboration.
- Cook County will contract to undertake a security review and to support security improvements for key county-operated critical infrastructure sites such as the Cook County Health campus, Cook County Courthouse facilities and other essential locations.
- Chicago Public Safety IT (PSIT) will continue to purchase and install new License Plate Readers and safety cameras to expand the program to critical locations within the city. PSIT will also continue upgrading the camera backhaul infrastructure to account for the additional cameras and increased definition as well as performing camera replacements on aging devices and ancillary equipment.
- ILEAS will participate in any infrastructure exercise or disaster preparedness event that requires consideration from a law enforcement perspective. This may range from dealing with crowds at the

scene, traffic control, evacuations or mass casualty occurrences from significant failures or contaminations.

- ILEAS has the ability to broadcast important, need-to-know information to the public via radio transmitters and panel board displays along with LRAD public address systems.

Prevention of Domestic and Foreign Terrorism/Targeted Violence

Illinois School and Campus Safety Program

The Illinois School and Campus Safety Program provides awareness and preparedness training and technical assistance to enhance organizational capacity to prevent, plan for, respond to, and recover from an emergency or disaster. The program is entirely externally funded by IEMA-OHS and the Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council.

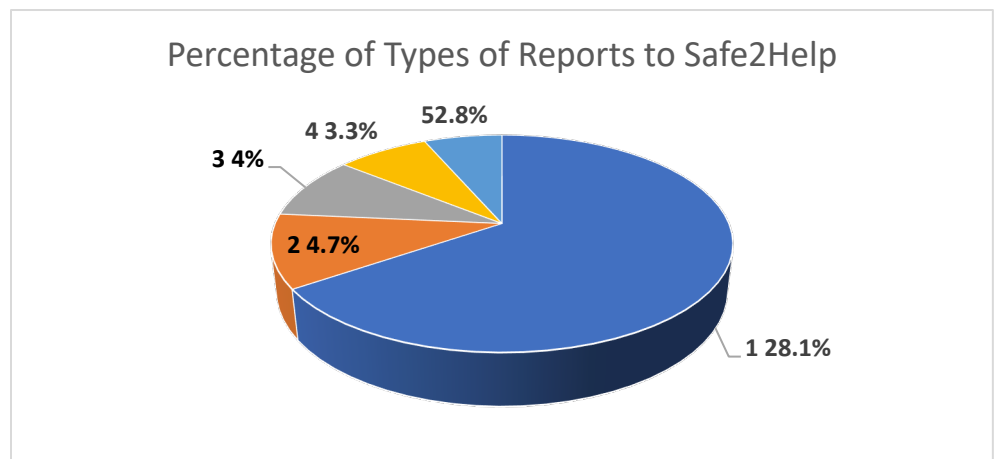
- Facilitated 34 trainings (including both online and in person) attended by 1,369 students for a total of 11,976 training hours, including sessions on the following:
 - Digital Threat Assessment and Advanced Digital Threat Assessment
 - Behavioral and Digital Threat Assessment
 - Developing Emergency Operations Plans
 - Surviving Bombing Incidents for Educators
 - Preparing for the Unimaginable: An In-Depth Look at Wellness, Trauma Recovery, and Resilience
 - Preventing Targeted Violence through Leakage and Cyber Investigations
 - Campus Threat Assessment and Management
 - School Behavioral Threat Assessments: An Introduction
 - Conducting K-12 Site Assessments with SITE ASSESS
 - Communicating Through Crisis: Navigating Critical Incidents
 - The Road to Resilience: An In-Depth Look at the Impact of Critical Incident Trauma on Organizations and How to Create Ways to Enhance Recovery and Build Resiliency
 - “It *IS* Your Business”: Grooming and Sexual Assault Awareness for K-12 Schools and Institutions of Higher Education
- Presented at various conferences throughout the year, including the Joint Annual Conference, the Illinois Chapter of the Association of Physical Plant Administrators Annual Conference, the UIC Targeted Violence Prevention Summit, the IEMA-OHS Training Summit, the Illinois Tactical Officers Association, the North West Police Academy Training Summit, the National Federation of High Schools, the Illinois School Resource Officers Association, the NISSA School Safety Conference, and the Illinois School Safety Conference.
- Co-chaired the Prevention Committee of the Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council.
- Supported the interior school mapping initiative through the Illinois State Board of Education, Next Gen 911 and the Illinois State Police.
- Supported the Illini Bluffs School District full scale reunification exercise.
- Worked with UIC on behavioral threat assessment research, with IESMA on creating legislation for emergency operations plans, with Safe2Help IL and West40 ISC on a Department of Homeland Security Violence Prevention grant, and with Safe2Help IL and IEMA-OHS on the statewide targeted violence prevention initiative.
- Supported three successful U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant Applications.
- Drafted a proposal for a change of language in the School Safety Drill Act.

- Worked with the IL-HSAC to approve funding for the Mobile Team Units for active threat training.
- Continued updating the Illinois School and Campus Safety Resource Center website, including adding new topic areas and checking links.
- Partnered with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security to develop a statewide initiative on Targeted Violence Prevention and Behavioral Threat Assessment. This initiative also included the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Safe2Help

One of the initial recommendations of the School Safety Working Group (now known as the Prevention Committee) resulted in the creation of Safe2Help Illinois, a statewide school safety initiative. Officially launched in October 2021, Safe2Help Illinois provides a free app, text/phone, and website for students to share school safety issues in a confidential environment. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at no cost to all K-12 schools in the state. In addition to the helpline, Safe2Help Illinois offers students self-help resources on the website and a Mental Health Toolkit for educators that supplements Illinois social emotional learning standards. Program highlights include the following:

- In 2023, the helpline saw 1,646 incidents shared, which is an increase of 66 percent compared to 2022.
- To date, approximately 34.1 percent of school districts are registered, covering 1,545 public schools and 769,400 students.
- Top incident categories **directly** impacting students are shown in this graph.



Success Stories

- Suicidal Ideation- Self Reported
A student contacted Safe2Help Illinois with thoughts of harming themselves and concerns over sharing this information. Safe2Help Illinois staff provided comfort and confidentiality to this student. officials were able to get a social worker and counselor to meet with the student and provide intervention.
- Self-Harm
A student shared information concerning another student engaging in self-harm. Safe2Help Illinois was able to share this information with school officials as well as local law enforcement. A social worker was able to meet with the student and their parents.
- Threat of Planned School Attack
Safe2Help Illinois received information regarding a student bringing a weapon to school with the intention of harming others. The information was shared with school officials and referred to law

enforcement. The school was able to intervene and enact a safety plan before students returned to school.

This table lists the 1,646 Safe2Help Illinois helpline incidents for 2023.

Type	Percent
Bullying/Harassment	28.10%
Misuse of System (i.e., Spam, Accidental Contact, etc.)	17.20%
Insufficient Information Provided	14.50%
Suicidal Ideation - Reported by Another	4.70%
School Complaint	4.00%
Concerned Reporter	3.40%
Drugs (includes vaping)	3.30%
Cyberbullying	2.80%
Test	2.70%
Duplicate	2.30%
Depression	2.10%
Threat to safety	2.00%
Suicidal Ideation - Self reported	1.60%
Self-harm	1.50%
Threat of Planned School Attack	1.20%
Safe2Help Illinois Program Inquiry	1.20%
Threat of Assault/Battery	1.20%
Possession of a Weapon	1.00%
Anxiety/Stress	0.90%
Fighting	0.90%
Child Abuse	0.80%
Sexual Assault	0.70%
Alcohol	0.40%
Theft/Stealing	0.30%
Sexually Explicit Images/Videos	0.30%
School Rule Violation	0.30%
Eating Disorder	0.30%
Dating Violence	0.20%
Vandalism	0.10%



The information shared below is reliant on the school providing dispositions on what services and help were offered as a result of the information shared.

Disposition	Number
Standard Dispositions	63
Critical Dispositions	37
Total	100

Preventing Targeted Violence

In 2023, leadership from IEMA-OHS and HSAC merged the school safety working group, targeted violence prevention initiative, and domestic violence extremism through the creation of the “Prevention Committee” of the HSAC. This move combined three robust initiatives that have been focused on the following areas: Targeted Violence Prevention, Domestic Violence Extremism, K-12 and Higher Education Behavioral Threat Assessment and Case Management, Community Based Targeted Violence Prevention, School Safety Response Protocols, Mental Health Services and Trauma Informed Approaches.

All of these focus areas had been previous identified by the School Safety Working Group, Targeted Violence Prevention Initiative, and Domestic Violence Extremism Initiative, which are represented by the following agencies:

Chicago Public Schools	DuPage Regional Office of Education
IL Association of Chiefs of Police	IL Association of Regional School Superintendents
IL Association of School Administrators	IL Association of School Boards
IL Association of School Social Workers	IL Attorney General’s Office
IL Behavioral Health	Il Board of Higher Learning
IL Community College Board	IL Department of Children and Family Services
IL Department of Human Services	IL Emergency Management Agency
IL Fire Service Institute	IL School and Campus Safety Program
IL School Counselors Association	IL School Psychologists Association
IL School Resource Officers’ Association	IL Sheriffs’ Association
IL State Board of Education	IL State Police
IL. HSAC	Illinois Emergency Services Management Association
Illinois Federation of Teachers	Illinois Principals Association
Office of the Fire Marshal	West 40
Illinois Office of the Attorney General	ILETSB
Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council	Illinois Chiefs Association
UIC Chicago	National Alliance of Mental Health
Western IL University	Illinois Emergency Management Agency OHS

The Prevention Committee also:

- Supported initiatives from state, county and local agencies and associations on the prevention of violence as well as response and recovery capabilities.
- Supported the establishment of state funding for the institutionalization and enhancement of Safe2Help as an essential function of state government.
- Created a standing Prevention Committee of the Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council by merging the School and Campus Safety, Domestic Violence Extremism, and Preventing Targeted Violence workgroups. This committee has focused on the development of funding and implementation of the

strategies established in the *“Trends & Mitigations of Domestic Violent Extremism in Illinois”* and *“Illinois Targeted Violence Prevention Strategy”* reports and *“School and Campus Safety Recommendations.”*

- Supported the University of Illinois Chicago’s successful application for a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant to establish three community based targeted violence prevention initiatives in DuPage County, Lake County and Springfield, Illinois.
- Supported the Peoria County Regional Office of Education’s successful application for a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant to establish Behavioral Threat Assessment and School Safety Specialist programs in Regional Offices of Education in: West 40 ISC #2, ROE 48 and ROE 20.
- Supported Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in their U.S. Department of Homeland Security Research and Training Grant on Targeted Violence Prevention.
- Supported recommendations to the HSAC and IEMA-OHS on prevention and response.
- Cook County EMRS hosted FBI Terrorism Officer Liaison Trainings, which were attended by 457 law enforcement personnel from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.
- Chicago Fire Department (CFD) continued its Simulation Laboratory and Mobile Laboratory training programs for its members. The Sim Lab is academy-based and provides CFD members with CBRNE training. The Mobile Lab enhances members' skills training for mass casualty incidents, including the use of tourniquets, clotting materials, triaging procedures, and focused interventions. For this, the training team goes to CFD firehouses to conduct training refreshers.
- During this period, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) continued to provide its Detectives with video forensics training and purchased continuation licenses for forensic technologies. CPD also continued its replacement program for expiring Air Purifying Respirators (APRs) issued to front-line personnel by recertifying front-line personnel and distributing new APRs and filters. CPD collaborated with Chicago Public Safety IT to continue upgrades and maintenance of CPD's CLEAR System, which provides the backbone of the urban area's enterprise-wide criminal information capabilities.

2024 Goals for Preventing Targeted Violence & Domestic Violent Extremism

- During the development of the Behavioral Threat Assessment Management Team concept and implementation, ILEAS will be able to assist as a point of contact and coordinator of some efforts and law enforcement involvement when necessary. In nearly all cases, initiatives that involve schools and school children also require multi-discipline and multi-jurisdictional considerations. A school district, especially in rural areas, crosses through a number of different local communities and can also include county sheriff representation.
- Having been awarded a grant for Less Lethal Alternative for Law Enforcement from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, ILEAS will spend the majority of the first part of 2024 working with departments in acquiring and training on the use of conducted energy weapons (CEW) “tasers.” This grant will offer new opportunities to agencies that are not currently using these devices, while also allowing for expansion and upgrades to departments that do.
- ILEAS will be working with a number of training sources to help educate agency employees across the state on interacting with community members in ways that de-escalate tension and result in more positive outcomes.
- 2024 has the potential to be a very active year in light of national interest events that have escalated emotions and tension. Migrant relocation, Republican and Democratic National Conventions, political

elections, and current armed conflicts overseas all add to the need for coordination and preparation among local, county and state responders.

- Cook County EMRS will focus on developing training with an emphasis on the whole community and its relationship to targeted violence. This includes data collection tools, training opportunities and a focus on addressing implicit bias in response to targeted violence and terrorism preparedness.
- The Chicago Police Department will continue to sustain its video forensics capabilities through new and refresher training for investigators. Similarly, additional respirators and related supplies will be purchased using the new technical equipment and protective contract, allowing CPD to continue its replacement cycle of respirators for all eligible sworn personnel.
- School and Campus Safety Program (SCSP) will continue to serve K-12 schools and institutions of higher education through educational programs, research, and technical assistance.
- The SCSP will work with national subject matter experts, including the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center, Safer Schools Together, New Mexico Tech, Louisiana State University, the Department of Homeland Security, the I Love U Guys Foundation, and the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals.
- The SCSP will facilitate training for K-12 schools site safety and security assessment.
- Support Regional Offices of Education, the State Board of Education, the Community College Board, the State Board of Higher Education, and their professional associations in strategizing trainings on school and campus safety.
- Support Chicago Public Schools Office of Safety and Security Behavioral Threat Assessment Training and Implementation Initiative.
- Support the Western Illinois University Emergency Operations Center.
- Further expand the Illinois HSAC Prevention Committee's support of community based targeted violence prevention initiatives.
- Continue to support the University of Illinois Chicago's U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant research and implementation in DuPage County, Lake County and Springfield, Illinois.
- Continue to support the Peoria County Regional Office of Education's U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant in establishing Behavioral Threat Assessment and School Safety Specialist programs in Regional Offices of Education in West 40 ISC #2, ROE 48 and ROE 20.
- Support Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in their U.S. Department of Homeland Security Research and Training Grant on Targeted Violence Prevention.
- Provide recommendations and strategies to the HSAC and IEMA-OHS on prevention, mitigation, response and recovery.
- Provide budget request/proposals for projects that support the mission and vision of IEMA-OHS and the HSAC.

Conduct All Hazards Preparedness

The goal of All Hazards Preparedness focuses on the maintenance of an integrated, trained and equipped operational structure to address preparedness across the mission areas of prevention, mitigation, response and recovery activities as they relate to current, rapidly evolving and emerging natural, technological and human caused threats. This is accomplished by:

1. Enhancing Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and/or Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Capabilities
2. Protecting Against Unmanned Aircraft Systems
3. Protecting Schools and Campuses from Threats and Hazards
4. Interoperable Training and Education
5. Strengthening Interagency Planning for Epidemics/Pandemics
6. Reducing Opioid-Related Death Statewide

ILEAS WMD Special Response Teams

- ILEAS supports five Weapons of Mass Destruction Special Response Teams along with a sixth unit that represents the Springfield area with tactical services. Each WMD/SRT is manned by 24-45 experienced SWAT officers (NIPAS team ranges from 75-100 officers), all trained to handle the human element during an actual WMD or potential WMD incident.
- The ILEAS supported units are fully trained and equipped to work closely with the Illinois SWMDT operators during critical incidents. In the event of an actual contaminated tactical event, an operator may have as little as 30 minutes within a hot zone before relief is necessary. ILEAS WMD/SRT has the ability to either be a first response unit while awaiting SWMDT units or to act as a backup and support to state units that are engaged.
- These deployments are incredibly manpower intensive. Decontamination lines and personnel are vital for safe operations and require highly specialized training.
- A number of the ILEAS teams also operate as regional SWAT assets, called upon to handle situations that are far beyond the capability of any individual agency. Having access to a large trained team that is fully equipped with the most modern tactical equipment and vehicles is invaluable, especially to smaller and rural departments.

EOD Bomb Teams

- In addition to the Illinois Secretary of State Hazardous Device Team supported by the SWMDT, ILEAS supports eight local Federal Bureau of Investigation-certified explosive ordinance disposal (EOD) teams by providing equipment and facilitating and hosting statewide EOD commanders' meetings.
- ILEAS provided bomb robot maintenance training, allowing the teams to bring their ANDROS bomb robots to the ILEAS training center to undergo a complete maintenance overhaul supervised by the manufacturer. ILEAS will continue to include much needed capital replacement equipment considerations during the budgeting process. For instance, the MED ENG EOD bomb suits (used) cost over \$35,000 each and have a lifespan of only seven years. In 2023, ILEAS was able to purchase and assign four suits to teams in need.

- ILEAS continues to work with all EOD teams to provide equipment and training vital for the effectiveness and interoperability of the teams in support of all law enforcement in Illinois.



ILEAS Mobile Field Force Teams

- ILEAS supports 10 regional Mobile Field Force (MFF) Teams, all identically trained and outfitted with equipment to ensure uniformity. The MFF teams consist of 50-70 officers/deputies who are trained to handle civil disturbances and secure large venues, such as pharmaceutical distribution sites and critical infrastructure. For instance, when the COVID vaccine was initially distributed in 2020, ILEAS MFF teams provided escort security from the distribution point to the hospitals and public health facilities across the state.
- The MFF Teams can be considered an “all purpose” law enforcement response capability. Each team is basically a 50-70 person police department that can be assembled and deployed to any incident where there is a need for security, perimeter support, search and rescue or any general law enforcement function.



Illinois State Police SWMDT

- Conducted internal and external CBRNE response validation exercises for Illinois specialty teams trained to operate in hazardous environments.
- Continued involvement and collaboration in response and mitigation at large, high-profile events throughout the state.

- SWMDT staff will attend a SCBA/SHIELD maintenance and preparedness course to enhance its ability to maintain mission readiness.
- SWMDT training staff will attend a comprehensive decontamination course (Train the Trainer).
- Additional radiation primary and secondary courses in cooperation with Secure the Cities are scheduled, which will include additional R700 backpacks, RIIDs, and RSI being issued into the field statewide.
- Planning to attend IEMA-OHS and other county-level emergency management agencies hosted Center of Domestic Preparedness designated courses.
- SWMDT/SWAT officers will seek participation in New Mexico Tech U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security First Responder training courses, UAS-borne threats course, and LSU tactical operations in CBRNE environments course.
- SWMDT/SWAT anticipates its second tactical K9 with explosive and apprehension capabilities.
- SWMDT will be adding 11 certified SWAT tactical officers. Once fully trained, they will have the ability to enter a CBRNE environment.
- As part of different JHAT missions throughout Illinois, a SWMDT duty was unauthorized drone detection and interdiction over “no-fly zones” at large events. In total, 329 drones were detected at events in 2023.
- Continue UAS detection capabilities in conjunction with ISP Intel Support Unit
- SWMDT assisted with a bomb-communicated threat by utilizing an explosive canine team to sweep the school. No threat was found.
- SWMDT assisted Illinois State Police SWAT on 13 operations that involved methamphetamines or fentanyl.
- SWMDT is represented throughout the state by four teams that can be activated by the ISP Springfield Call Center at any given moment.
- SWMDT will maintain response packages through the four teams and response packages at the Springfield and Rockford offices.
- Securing the Cities (STC): SWMDT partnered with local, state and federal partners across various public safety disciplines to detect, prevent, respond, and mitigate radiological threats to the Midwest region. In cooperation with STC, ISP SWMDT received 15 Radiation Identification and Detection devices fielded statewide.
- Federal WMD partners – SWMDT attended improvised explosive device training in southern and central Illinois and a northern Illinois WMD roundtable.
- SWMDT personnel observed the ILEAS WMD validation and training exercise.
- SWMDT attended and participated in the activities sponsored by IEMA-OHS through the 2023 IEMA-OHS Training Summit held in Springfield.
- Illinois National Guard – Civil Support Team – SWMDT participated in an interagency decontamination training with the federal partners.
- Southern Illinois - MABAS – SWMDT participated in a full-scale WMD scenario in cooperation with MABAS in Dahlgren, Illinois.

- SWMDT participated in JHAT training with Chicago Fire Department, Chicago Bomb, National Guard – Civil Support Team, and WMD federal partners.
- In the first quarter of 2024 there is a planned JHAT TOC and Field training with Chicago Bomb, Chicago Fire Department, Illinois National Guard – CST, and WMD Federal Partners.
- MABAS is conducting research to procure equipment to be able to fill SWMDT SCBAs through the Air Trailers.
- All SWMDT members utilize the same SCBA and decontamination equipment. ILEAS is slated to procure the same decontamination method as SWMDT by switching to Dahlgren Decontamination.
- SWMDT conducted two scenarios (Northern Illinois and Southern Illinois locations). SWMDT validated ISP SWAT officers in decontamination procedures during annual team evaluations.
- SWMDT plans to conduct two scenarios, plus annual team evaluations.
- ISP SWMDT and SWAT maintain interoperability communications and information sharing with Chicago SWAT through applications such as ATAK/ITAK and shared radio channels.
- SWMDT utilized MACH, Dragon Force, and ATAK/ITAK, which are secure tracking and information-sharing platforms to increase situational awareness in all CBRNE response situations.

Urban Area Team Activities

- Chicago Fire Department (CFD) purchased 225 new cardiac monitors/defibrillators and related supply items to replace dated equipment that were at end of life and posed a significant risk to CFD's ability to respond to and mitigate mass casualty events. The purchase also included extended warranties for all the devices to ensure that these would continue to be available for service as needed.
- Chicago Fire continued to conduct specialized training for its front-line personnel as well as Special Operations Teams. These courses that included supporting the mobile Simulation Training Lab that provided on-site training and demonstrations for CFD personnel at fire houses. Special operations teams also received additional certification trainings that allowed CFD members to be deployable national assets trained who are equipped to conduct specialized rescues for terrorism incidents, mass casualty events from Active Shooter, IEDs, vehicle ramming, vertical (high-rise) terrorism, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents, and fire used as a weapon. Courses included Swift Water Rescue, Field Force Extrication, Public Safety Sampling, Emergency Medical Response to WMD and All-Hazard Incidents, Hazmat IC, Hazmat Tech B, Below Grade Tunnel, Vehicle and Machinery Operations (VMO), Vehicle and Machinery Technician (VMT), Responder Intervention Team (RIT), Confined Space, Trench Tech/Ops, Collapse Tech/Ops, Rope Tech/Ops, and Public Safety Diver Instructor, among others.
- Chicago Fire also utilized UASI funds to sustain maintenance protocols for mass casualty care equipment such as older model cardiac monitors (pending the purchase of cardiac monitors), carts, and WMD/hazmat detection devices. CFD also purchased new equipment to replace old or damaged gear including thermal imagers, stair chairs, flight helmets for pilots, and aviation night vision goggles.
- The Active Shooter Exercise Program jointly conducted by the Chicago fire and police departments conducted a functional exercise with the staff of the Willis Tower.
- Chicago Police Department (CPD) specialized response teams maintained their capability through the purchase of new equipment and training.
- Chicago Police and the Chicago Office of Public Safety Administration (OPSA) worked with IEMA-OHS and other city departments to begin the process of purchasing two (2) new Bell 407 Law Enforcement

Helicopters. With IEMA-OHS's guidance, the city received authorization to obligate UASI funds for this project.

- Chicago Police and OPSA also collaborated with the city's Department of Fleet and Facilities Management (2FM) to purchase a new Mobile Command Center Vehicle for the CPD Bureau of Detectives. This vehicle will be deployed to large events where CPD Detectives are deployed as part of the city's response or to incidents requiring the presence of CPD Detectives. BOD capacity to conduct large scale investigations was also bolstered by providing mobile device forensics training to 22 new Detectives.
- Chicago SWAT continued its equipment replacement cycle for new body armor, rifle-rated ballistic shields, new automated external defibrillators (AEDs), communications kits, and multi-threat weapons of mass (WMD) suits SCBA systems. Grant funds were also used to provide the SWAT team with training courses that included SWAT team leader roles and responsibilities, counter-suicide bomber response and interdiction, advanced breaching, rope rescue, less-lethal tactics, linear assault and hostage rescue, negotiators' training, and SWAT tactical medics certification.
- During this period, Chicago SWAT worked with the Chicago Office of Public Safety Administration (OPSA) and other city departments to initiate the purchase of three (3) new armored rescue vehicles to increase SWAT capability to safely address multiple active threat incidents.
- The Chicago Bomb Squad took possession of four (4) response vehicles that allow Chicago Explosives Technicians to respond faster to calls for service. Each vehicle is equipped with the necessary tools to address and mitigate suspected explosive devices, including a bomb suit, a portable x-ray, disruptors, and hand tools. In conjunction with the FBI Bomb Squad, the Chicago Bomb Squad has established a capability to address underwater improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and purchased the necessary SCUBA gear. Certification and skills training is ongoing.
- Chicago Explosives Detection Canine Teams (EDCTs) funded through UASI purchased three (3) new explosives detection canines to replace dogs retiring this year. The unit also initiated a replacement cycle for eight (8) EDCT response vehicles that have been in service for the last seven (7) years. UASI funds also supported weekly maintenance and annual certification training for all EDCTs, as well as large-venue joint training with CPD SWAT and the Bomb Squad.
- The purchase of a replacement camera for one of the Chicago Police helicopters jointly operated with the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department was completed. UASI funding also supported the certification training for four (4) Chicago Police pilots on the Bell UH-1N helicopter that the city acquired.
- The Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) anticipates using UASI funds to purchase FAA-compliant drones and replace its current fleet. The pole marking and bollard projects will continue to be expanded this year. This will increase the number of deployable portable bollards as well as locations within Chicago that is covered by the pole marking system.
- The Chicago Police Department (CPD) expects the delivery of two fully equipped Bell 407 Law Enforcement Helicopters in Q4 2024. Prior to delivery, CPD will use UASI funds to provide certification training on the new aircraft for CPD pilots and aircraft technicians.
- In Q2, Chicago Police expect the delivery of a new Dive Truck for the Chicago Police Marine Unit.
- Chicago Police specialized teams will continue to replace and upgrade equipment by purchasing NVGs, WMD SCBAs, portable x-ray devices, explosives detection canines, and response vehicles for EDCTs and the Bomb Squad. Joint active threat training will also be continued in 2024, with new locations discussed

with other stakeholders and partners. Certifications for Chicago Police Explosives Detection Canine Teams will be renewed through regular training and participation in large venue drills and exercises.

- Chicago Fire Department (CFD) Special Operations Teams will continue to be deployable assets and will be trained in a diverse set of specialized rescue scenarios associated with terrorism incidents, including vehicle ramming, vertical terrorism, and the use of fire as a weapon. Fire Suppression and EMS units will also be leveraged and trained through the Mobile Lab program. Specialized extrication equipment such as rescue saws and grinders will be purchased for all CFD front line units to ensure that all teams are sufficiently equipped to address mass casualty and/or multi-incident response scenarios. Specialized teams will be receiving newer model gas meters, ventilation fans and additional thermal imaging cameras, in addition to other hazmat detection gear. The Simulation Training Lab will continue the replacement cycle for end-of-life equipment and purchase new mannequins, airway management trainers, cameras, and other training equipment.
- Chicago Fire is planning to create, equip, and train a Drone Team in 2024. To comply with grant guidance, CFD is in the initial stages of drafting internal policies compliant with state and federal guidelines, determining training requirements, and equipment needs.
- Through collaboration, network building and coordination with county, municipal, local and regional partners, EMRS will continue to engage with communities to prepare the next generation and identify of future emergency managers via school-based programming. EMRS will accomplish this by strengthening communications with media and conducting in-person community outreach to build whole-community resilience through collaborations with volunteers, institutions and community-based organizations. EMRS will continue serving as a hub for community access to county emergency preparedness information, education and resources, and expanding the suburban network of CERT programs to build community level resiliency.
- The Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) will be offering three training classes for new CERT personnel. Work will continue to assess and guide this program through an equity lens. To further diversify our volunteer network and engage more closely with South and West side communities, OEMC will target these areas of the city related to CERT classes to bolster representation.
- As a component of Chicago OEMC's Whole Community efforts, the final summit of the latest three-year cycle will be completed in October and will focus on Recovery. The previous summits centered around Preparedness (2022) and Response (2023). Strategic planning continues the next cycle of summits looking ahead to 2025-2027, as well as creating a consortium of emergency management partners to assist with subject matter expertise and best practices for future conferences.
- In 2024, Chicago OEMC will continue to expand the Safe Chicago program, to include equipping government-operated fleet vehicles with Safe Chicago kits, branching out into the nonprofit and private sectors with additional partnerships with a focus on schools, cultural properties, street organizations, etc. These efforts are in addition to ongoing training for government employees and partners and expanding public education work on promoting life-safety equipment.
- The new Chicago OEMC Mobile Command Center Vehicle will be completed and in service by Q2 2024. This will be in time for numerous large-scale events that characterize the warm months in Chicago, which will be an excellent way to test the vehicle's systems in preparation for the 2024 Chicago DNC in August.
- With the upcoming Democratic National Convention taking place in Chicago in August 2024, Chicago OEMC will emphasize the importance of maintaining Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) across

governmental agencies to ensure they can continue to perform their mission-essential functions during a wide range of emergencies. To support our partners in building and maintaining their respective COOPs, OEMC will be hosting a series of COOP workshops in advance of the DNC.

Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team (IMERT)

- IMERT has moved into a new warehouse that also functions as a training center. This new space allows for storage of trucks, trailers, medical equipment, and supplies. Furthermore, it provides space to conduct team trainings that include hands-on utilization of clinical, communication and logistics equipment.
- IMERT conducted 16 trainings in 2023. The primary focus was on operational readiness. Subject matter included the set-up and operation of an alternate care site, clinical operations, responder health and safety, supply and equipment management, and communication.
- IMERT hosted members of the Illinois Army National Guard presenting their role as the Civil Support Team.
- IMERT participated in the IEMA-OHS project for updating ESF-8.
- IMERT conducted a functional exercise at Fort Massac State Park in Metropolis, testing convoy operations and communications, alternate care site set-up and operations, and responder health and safety. Multiple agencies participated, including the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Metropolis Fire Department and local EMS.
- IMERT conducted two STOP the Bleed sessions at the IEMA-OHS Training Summit.
- IMERT participates with an on-going project with the Illinois Strategic Technology Reserve as well as IEMA-OHS on implementing Starlink for the Illinois Transportable Emergency Communication System (ITECS), Unified Command Posts (UCP) and IMERT.
- IMERT is assisting the IDPH Radio Coordinator on upgrading and distributing Starcom radios for local health departments and upgrading radios for IDPH staff.
- For years ILEAS has acted as the fiduciary for the IMERT mission and personnel. ILEAS' ability to effectively manage funds directed toward IMERT have resulted in successes that benefit the citizens of Illinois.
- In 2023, ILEAS acted to aid in the purchase of patient monitoring equipment that can be used during mass-casualty events.

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

- IDOT Aeronautics: The FAA has implemented a test for even recreational drone users, so there is no purely recreational exemption in terms of not needing the FAA to be aware of recreational pilots and not being registered. IDOT Aeronautics is continuing to monitor the ongoing federal level of interest in foreign-made drones, while some federal agencies are restricting their usage at specific locations.

2024 Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Initiatives

- Further develop telehealth applications for disaster medical response to include access by hospitals and Emergency Management for situational awareness.
- Maintain IMERT membership, equipment and supplies and conduct team trainings and participate in multi-agency exercises.

- Protect schools and campuses from threats and hazards. Continue to access both the online School Nurse Emergency Care (SNEC) training as well as conducting the three-day in-person SNEC courses in at least eight Illinois locations to address the educational needs of school nurses in their day-to-day emergency readiness as well as disaster preparedness.
- Interoperable training and education: Update the following pediatric disaster specific educational modules and resources to assure these trainings and guidelines remain consistent with current evidence/standards: 1) Caring for Children During Disasters: Incorporating Children into Exercises; 2) Caring for Children During Disasters: Identifying, Tracking, and Reunifying Unaccompanied Minors; 3) Pediatric and Neonatal Care Guidelines; 4) Children with Special Health Care Needs Quick Reference Guide; 5) Pediatric Mock Code Toolkit; and 6) Child Abuse and Neglect Policy & Procedure Guidelines/Toolkit.

Interoperable Training and Education

Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI)

IFSI provides the highest quality state/nationally certified, FEMA-approved, NFPA-compliant technical rescue, hazardous material, fire management, suppression, and NIMS/ICS training. IFSI's high-fidelity training supports the National Preparedness Goals, the Illinois Homeland Security Strategy, and the Illinois Homeland Security Council Primary and Secondary Committee Assignments for Vision 2025 Goals and Objectives (VG&O).

In 2023 IFSI utilized Illinois' Homeland Security funding and trained a total of 7,476 first responder students in the following categories: Technical Rescue & HazMat (*Includes all IFSI HazMat NFPA & OSHA classes*), Rope Rescue, Confined Space, Trench Rescue, Collapse Structure Rescue, Responder Intervention Team, and Vehicle Extrication – 4,435; Fire Suppression and Management – 495 (including Leadership Development and Decision Making); National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS) – 3,041, in 130 classes at locations across the state of Illinois.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) provide a standardized training curriculum that qualified instructors and teaching institutions can utilize to train first responders. IFSI continued to deliver Active Shooter Incident Management training – Basic (ASIM) and School Safety and Violent Event Incident Management – Reunification (SSAVEIM) for leadership personnel in fire, EMS, law enforcement, and school administration. The framework for both courses is the National Incident Management System. Both courses have received HSAC, ILEAS, ILETSB, MABAS, and IEMA-OHS support.

IFSI replaced or upgraded props, vehicles, trailers, specialized tools, and equipment to deliver programs and provided greater access to support student development and expanded capabilities. IFSI also offered training to instructors in using new equipment and props.

IFSI Special Operations Training

- Delivered two Responder Intervention Team Under Fire single 10-hour courses for FDIC reaching 98 students, including international students.
- Updated the Responder Intervention Team Rescue Technician curriculum to NFPA 1407, 2020 Edition.
- Updated the Rope Awareness and Operations, Trench Awareness and Operations, and Trench Technician curricula to NFPA 1006, 2021 Edition.
- Developed and delivered a Responder Intervention Team Chief training to concurrently run with the RIT Technician course.
- Developed and obtained ProBoard accreditation for Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) Operations – NFPA 2400. IFSI is one of only four ProBoard accredited NFPA 2400 programs.
- Updated the Structural Collapse Awareness and Operations and Technician curricula to NFPA 1006, 2021 Edition. Additionally, updated Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations to NFPA 470, 2022 Edition.
- Through a partnership with the Illinois Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative, developed Pipeline Emergencies – First Responder Awareness curriculum for online on-demand training opportunities to educate Illinois First Responders on best risk-mitigated practices when responding to pipeline emergencies.

- Designed and constructed a new multi-use prop to support training for collapse rescue techniques during high-hazard incidents.
- Developed and delivered Wilderness Search and Rescue Awareness, Operations, and Technician Train the Trainer and course delivery.
- Provided equipment support and instructor professional development opportunities at the Midwest HazMat Conference, the second largest hazmat response conference in the U.S.
- Partnered with General Motors to deliver Battery Electric Vehicle Training throughout the United States. The partnership has provided invaluable expertise and experience enhancing IFSI's instruction in Alternative Fuel Vehicle training within Illinois.
- Completed the development of the Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations course. This course meets the NFPA 2400 requirements for Remote Pilot in Command and Visual Observer.
- Updated the Vehicle and Machinery Rescue Program's curriculum to the NFPA 1006, 2021 Edition.
- Updated the HazMat Field Operations Guide (FOG) manual.

2023 SOTP HSAC Funded Training Courses		
Course Title	# of Classes	# of Students
Confined Space Operations	1	33
<i>Hazardous Materials Awareness Online – OSHA Online and Face-to-Face</i>	8	1,846
<i>Hazardous Materials Awareness Online – NFPA Online and Face-to-Face</i>	12	1,002
<i>Hazardous Materials Awareness Refresher Online - OSHA Online</i>	1	534
<i>Hazardous Materials Operations (1072 - Ch 5, 6.2, 6.6)</i>	6	193
<i>Hazardous Materials Technician</i>	4	115
Hazardous Materials Refresher	2	60
Responder Intervention Team Rescue Technician	3	96
Rope Operations / Blended Rope Operations	4	122
Rope Refresher	1	11
Rope Technician	2	51
Structural Collapse Operations	1	38
Structural Collapse Technician	2	58
Trench Operations	1	35
Trench Technician	1	37
Vehicle Machinery Operations	5	175
Vehicle Machinery Technician	1	29
TOTAL	55	4,435

IFSI Fire Management and Suppression

- A new live-burn prop is in the construction phase. The intent is to provide students with realistic emergency scene decision-making scenarios during live-burn training.
- The Engine Company Operations and Advanced Breathing Apparatus Specialist programs in-serviced program trailers to support off-site training deliveries to take the training to local departments.
- Fireground Company and Command Officer School and Advanced Breathing Apparatus Specialist courses were delivered on the weekend to serve volunteer firefighters' training needs.
- The LDDM curriculum developed and implemented the Leadership Reaction Course as an objective assessment that provides students with actionable feedback on their performance in the areas of leadership, decision-making, and communication.



2023 Fire Management and Suppression (FM&S) – Firefighting HSAC Funded Training Courses		
Course Title	# of Classes	# of Students
Advanced Breathing Apparatus Specialist	3	79
Engine Company Operations	2	43
Fire Attack and Suppression Techniques (FAST)	1	30
Fire Investigator/Blended	4	109
Fireground Command Officer School	4	29
Fireground Company Officer School	4	107
Leadership Development & Decision Making (LDDM)	6	70
Search Techniques for the Fireground	1	31
Truck Company Operations	2	48
TOTAL	27	546

IFSI National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) Program

- The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) enjoys the opportunity to educate students on the National Incident Management System. The purpose of this training is to help communities and first responders better prepare to mitigate and respond to emergencies. The IFSI NIMS Training provides a framework that enables effective coordination and integration of various emergency management functions during

planned events and emergencies. Financial support through the Homeland Security Advisory Council allowed IFSI to teach 2,495 students this year.

- Following the success of the July 2022 Advanced Active Shooter Incident Management Course, IFSI worked with C3 Pathways and the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board to deliver another course at the MABAS Readiness Center in September 2023. This course allowed over 50 local police, fire, dispatchers, EMS, and EMA to train together over three days of intense simulated exercises.

2023 NIMS Courses		
Course Title	# of Classes	# of Students
Active Shooter Incident Management	31	696
All-Hazards Liaison Officer	1	16
All-Hazards Incident Management Team	1	17
ICS 300 - Intermediate	20	406
ICS 400 - Advanced ICS	20	399
School Safety & Violent Event Incident Management	30	961
TOTAL	103	2,495

2024 IFSI Initiatives

- Provide training opportunities for state and local government officials in the National Incident Management System.
- Provide training opportunities that increase the command, coordination, communication, and collaboration between fire, EMS, law enforcement, and schools to respond to active shooter incidents.
- Provide training opportunities connecting local fire, EMS, law enforcement, and schools to manage violent events in schools and student reunification.
- Participate in the planning and execution of an extensive, full-scale reunification exercise.
- Pursue a continuous NIMS, ASIM, and SSAVEIM Instructor Development Program to provide IFSI Instructors with the latest information and education.
- Additional funding is needed to execute all levels of NIMS/ICS training at locations around the state. More first responders and community leadership will be able to attend the training when offered closer to their fire department. This lessens the local community's budget burden due to less money allocated for travel and lodging.
- Continued funding for mobile simulation technology to regularly deliver the Advanced Active Shooter Incident Management Program throughout Illinois.
- Maintain the best risk mitigation practices to deliver a full SOTP training schedule.



- Update and integrate the student use of the Rope and Confined Space Rescue Field Operation Guide (FOG) manuals.
- Update the Rope Rescue Technician curriculum to NFPA 1006, 2021 Edition.
- Update the Responder Intervention Rescue Basic curriculum to NFPA 1407, 2020 Edition.
- Develop and deliver SOTP Operations level refreshers to assist fire departments in meeting OSFM re-certification requirements.
- Continue to use and develop the confined space and hazmat fixed facility components into the new SOTP prop. Continue fabricating the Structural Collapse Technician streetscape prop to include the second floor, roof structures, and a skywalk connecting the parking garage to the mixed-use occupancy structure.
- Review and refine the Special Operations Instructor cadre and include appropriate professional development opportunities to ensure IFSI maintains world-class staff, curriculum, props, equipment, and technology integration.
- Firefighter training at the basic and advanced levels strengthens the responding community's ability to protect critical infrastructure. Firefighters must have access to this training. All Illinois firefighters trained are the same who continue their professional training development into other response disciplines such as hazardous materials, structural collapse, confined space, swift water rescue, and high angle rescue.
- Provide more training opportunities across the state to allow more firefighters to attend training with less travel, lodging expenses, and time away from their departments.
- Design, fabricate, and in-service two fixed live-fire burn props to support firefighter training.
- Pursue a continuous LDDM Instructor Development Program to provide all IFSI LDDM Instructors with the latest information and education.
- Additional funding is needed to execute all levels of firefighting training at locations around the state. More firefighters can attend the training when offered closer to their fire department. This lessens the fire department's budget burden due to less money allocated for travel and lodging.
- Additional funding is needed to purchase equipment to meet the increased training requests. If the number of students increases, the equipment has a shorter life span. Firefighting equipment is a vital component of all firefighter training activities.

Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB)

The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) Executive Institute remained active in the delivery of comprehensive educational programs addressing homeland security topics through innovative education, training, research, publications, and services. Following are the Executive Institute's major accomplishments in 2023:

- The Center for Homeland Security Leadership (CHSL) continued to serve command and executive public safety leaders within Illinois. The CHSL mission is to enhance the knowledge and understanding of homeland security for today's public safety leaders through innovative education, training, publications, and services to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from homeland security incidents.

- The ILETSB Executive Institute continued to partner with 13 regional Mobile Team Units (MTU) that deliver in-service training to local and state law enforcement officers along with other public safety personnel. Through this partnership, the Executive Institute sponsored 50 SHSP homeland security and terrorism related workshops throughout Illinois for 1,022 officials, supervisors, line officers, and other public safety personnel totaling 13,600 student hours.
- The Online Learning Network (OLN) is a virtual learning environment that manages and delivers training to the public safety community at any time throughout the day or night. The following homeland security related courses are available in OLN:
 - Gangs
 - Human Trafficking
 - Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Awareness
 - Counterterrorism Awareness
 - Homeland Security Orientation
 - Opioid Overdose Response Training

A total of 16,447 officers completed homeland security courses in OLN, for a total of 16,447 training hours.
- The ILETSB Executive Institute continued the Active Threat Master Course; 30 officers from municipal, county, and state law enforcement agencies participated and graduated from the four-week course. With the addition of 30 more instructors, the 13 MTUs are increasing the number of end-user course offerings for their law enforcement agencies. These include:
 - High Risk Operations;
 - Rapid Response;
Solo Officer Response;
 - Rescue Task Force MAC TAC/Urban Response
 - Use of Force
- MAC TAC/Urban Response and Rescue Task Force was utilized by law enforcement, Fire and EMS during the Highland Park mass casualty event.
- In the spring of 2024, ILETSB Executive Institute will offer the Active Threat Master Course again.

ILEAS - Opioid Overdose Response & NARCAN Distribution

- ILEAS will continue its long-standing relationship with the Illinois Department of Public Health to target the opioid crisis through the Empowering and Equipping Law Enforcement and Communities in Rural Illinois to Reduce Opioid Overdose grant issued by the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. ILEAS provides NARCAN and training to every law enforcement and fire officer in a targeted 63 county area in southern and central Illinois whose agencies wish to participate. This is an expansion from the original 18 county area of responsibility. ILEAS is also reaching out and providing NARCAN to Regional Offices of Education in those counties if they are interested and providing public access boxes for agencies that wish to place them at their facilities.
- Over 15,40 classes and quizzes have been taken by public safety and educational staff regarding the proper use of administering NARCAN. ILEAS has purchased and tracked 20,342 two-dose packs of the drug naloxone to every trained officer in the region to counteract opioid overdoses. This distribution includes a two-year period where ILEAS was tasked to handle this outreach to the entire state of Illinois.

- ILEAS has designed and shipped “Leave Behind Kits” to 30 agencies. The Leave Behind program is designed so that when an officer responds to a call, they will also have resources to leave behind with the victim, family or friends. Given the shortening response window due to fentanyl, this provides an opportunity for NARCAN to be on hand immediately. The kit includes two single use doses of NARCAN Nasal Spray, Fentanyl test strips, instructions in English and Spanish, a disposable CPR mask and contact information to reach support services.
- In order to stay up to date with the current needs of communities, ILEAS will be developing and sending out a new survey allowing for statewide input on how to best serve citizens and every type of first responder with these types of grants.



Maintain Statewide Mutual Aid

Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS)

- ILEAS is a consortium of governmental agencies that have adopted by resolution a common mutual aid agreement similar to the MABAS model. Currently in Illinois, there are 1,004 total non-federal law enforcement agencies, of which 913 are ILEAS members. Over 98 percent of all sworn officers in Illinois work for agencies that are members of ILEAS.
- ILEAS' primary role is the coordination of law enforcement mutual aid throughout Illinois. Routine mutual aid occurs in Illinois hundreds of times a day; however, ILEAS steps in when the need for assistance exceeds the ability of a stricken agency to respond with the tools immediately available to them. The affected agency makes one phone call to ILEAS with its specific resource needs, and the ILEAS system responds by providing those resources from wherever they are in the state. Northwest Central Dispatch in Arlington Heights is the primary dispatch center coordinating this service, and Peoria Dispatch is the backup center.
- In 2023, agencies contacted Northwest Central Dispatch for Mutual Aid assistance 138 times. This is a 35 percent increase from 2022.
- The 138 callouts resulted in over 1,416 officers responding to incidents to include:

Mutual Aid Request Type	# of Incidents
Armed Subjects	7
Shootings	10
Officer Involved Shootings	3
Active Shooters	4
Suicidal Subjects	2
Armed/Barricaded	16
Crowd Control/Protesters	27
Investigations/Warrant Service	10
Evidence Searches	2
Perimeter Control	11
Bomb Threats	3
Missing Persons/Children	7
Traffic Control	14
Traffic Investigations	20

- The ILEAS Training Center marked its 15th year of operation. The table below shows the activity at the Training Center since June of 2008.

	2023	Since the ITC Opened
Training Events	194	2,826
Attendees	3,885	78,885
Student Hours	37,734	511,660

- The ILEAS Training Center is a multi-function facility with spaces to both hold classroom and practical exercise events. Its serves as a valuable law enforcement training hub for the various ILEAS sponsored Field Forces and SRT units.
- Twice annually, the facility is used by statewide EOD teams to bring their robots in to be completely broken down and refurbished under the supervision of the original manufacturer. This has allowed these very expensive pieces of equipment to stay in exceptional shape well beyond the normal anticipated life span.
- The ITC is also a popular location for local groups and Mobile Training Units to conduct specialized meetings and gatherings on a wide range of topics. ILEAS routinely collects over \$70,000 in subleases, rentals and subscriptions. Those funds are then invested directly back into the operation of the facility.
- Beginning in mid-2023, ILEAS began a \$3 million renovation of portions of the Training Center. Working with funding allocated by the state legislature through the Department of Economic Opportunity and the city of Urbana, ILEAS has established plans to improve their current facility. These funds will be used to accomplish a number of high priority initiatives that will have a direct impact on ILEAS’ homeland security training and mutual aid mission. Thousands of square feet of new training space will be developed and used by numerous first responders and civilian actors.
- Expansion of training opportunities to outside agencies such as P.T.I. and even local community groups will benefit future law enforcement trainees while expanding the public’s ability to respond during, and their resilience after, a traumatic incident.
- New storage and workspaces will be developed for the proper housing of numerous radio and communications caches as well as to continue serving as a centralized location for training. This storage expansion also allows for the ongoing relationship with LSU as a Regional Shipping Facility for their NCBRT program.



2024 ILEAS Initiatives

- ILEAS will continue to evaluate and improve validation exercises for the WMD/SRT and MFF Teams. New and emerging tactics will be introduced. Additionally, ILEAS will be seeking out live-fire alternatives to the Mid-South training compound.
- In 2024, the last two replacement Bearcats will arrive and be deployed. Including the original units that are still in operation, this will be a total of 17 Armored Bearcat Rescue Vehicles purchased and posted across the entire state. The upgrade and replacement of the MFF transport vehicles is underway. The lessons learned of past usage has allowed for newer equipment at a reduced cost to the state.
- Eleven sets (22 units) of Ballistic Shields will be distributed at the beginning of 2024 in a continuation of a program that has seen nearly 80 Patrol/Tactical Shields issued. These tools are purchased using funds allocated for immediate use projects that ensure funds are utilized before expiration. This will include a mandatory 40-hour certification training.
- Coordination between state and local teams and resources will continue in order to maximize efficiency and cooperation during joint operations. ILEAS communicates with state agency representatives during purchasing decisions to ensure continuity. Strategies and tactics are shared and trained across the board to make unit blending seamless.
- ILEAS is in a constant cycle of adding, training and deploying new members to the special teams in order to maintain a consistently viable response unit that is prepared at all times. Manning levels can be difficult to maintain under the current conditions.
- In preparation for major events in 2024, ILEAS Special Teams have planned training sessions that will prepare and test the specific capabilities required to respond to know actual challenges and threats.

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System – MABAS

The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) provides emergency, rapid response, and sustained operations when a jurisdiction or region is stricken by an overwhelming event generated by man-made, technological, or environmental threats. MABAS serves local fire agencies, MABAS member divisions, state of Illinois agencies, and Cook County Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) – Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (DEMRS). MABAS provides a systems-based resource allocation and distribution network of robust traditional and nontraditional Fire-EMS-Rescue and Special Operations Teams for emergency and sustained response within and outside of the state of Illinois. MABAS will mobilize and deploy a sustained response, including fire, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, technical rescue, water rescue, urban search and rescue (US&R), and incident management assistance personnel to prevent loss of life, human suffering and further damage to property. In 2023 MABAS accomplished the following:



- The 69 MABAS Divisions responded to close to 6,000 mutual aid events in 2023.
- Supported 985 fire personnel to attend 52 certification classes totaling 18,688 instructional hours for new members of deployable hazardous materials, technical rescue, and water rescue teams.
- Reduced the number of hazardous materials response teams from 37 to 33 by consolidations or terminations. Reduced the number of technical rescue response teams from 34 to 27 by consolidations and terminations.
- Instituted a statewide audit of all deployable special response teams to determine their readiness and staffing levels.

- MABAS maintained 16 water rescue teams statewide. Three of those teams are specially equipped and trained to respond to swift water/floodwater situations.
- Coordinated MABAS Special Response Teams for emergency events in Whitewater (Wisconsin), LaSalle, Carroll County, Henry County, Carthage, I-55 Dust Storm Accident, Davenport Iowa Collapse, Peru, O'Fallon and Granite City.
- Implemented a new vehicle maintenance tracking system (Fleetio Software) that improves the availability and life of MABAS special response vehicles and trailers.
- Five Urban Search and Rescue Team search dogs and handlers achieved full Type I live find certification.
- MABAS provide input as a member of the Illinois Community Risk Reduction Task Force.
- MABAS is working with the IAFC on expansion of the National Hazardous Material Teams GIS cataloging initiative. MABAS resources are populated on this GIS map.
- MABAS is a participant in the International Association of Fire Chiefs/United States Fire Administration workgroup on the development of the *Fire and EMS Multi-Agency Preparedness Guide*.
- Responded to seven mission taskings from IEMA-OHS statewide and six mission taskings supporting the Chicago southern refugee arrivals.
- Inclusion of MABAS resources on the IEMA-OHS GIS HUB.
- MABAS is working with the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) on updates to the National US&R Administrative and Operations Standards and continues its involvement on the US&R Standards Committee, Technical Committee and Commission.
- US&R Task Force is working with Wisconsin Task Force 1 (WI-TF 1) and Illinois Army National Guard (ILNG) on Operational Readiness Exercise.
- Boat Operations and Wide Area Search using Survey 123 and sharing data on Search and Rescue Standard Operating Platform (SARCOP).
- Over 85 percent of MABAS member agencies have adopted the new Master MABAS Agreement to date. This agreement will also be used by neighboring states to provide seamless cross-border mutual aid.
- Sponsored/participated in 11 statewide exercises involving multiple MABAS teams and other agencies. Exercises such as Operation Power Play, Michigan Search & Rescue Exercise, and Operation Prairie Voice are some examples.
- Supported expansion of the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network by providing guidance and fiduciary services.
- Eight separate trainings/exercises were completed by the Illinois Swift/Water Rescue Team 1 statewide.
- Partnered with the city of Chicago in the "Save the Cities" program through which radiation detection equipment will be distributed to Chicago area MABAS divisions to enhance the capability of MABAS to detect potential WMD use.



- IFSI purchased and in-serviced a vehicle extrication trailer to support the high demand for vehicle rescue training deliveries.

2024 MABAS Initiatives

- Continue to validate/test remaining deployable special response teams at designated exercises.
- Maintain accreditation status of Illinois Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Team.
- Continue to pursue secure state funding for the Illinois Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Team and regional deployable special teams.
- Continue the restructuring of existing deployable special response teams to maintain readiness and reduce costs.
- Ensure the replacement and sustainment of interoperable equipment for MABAS divisions and special teams.
- Plan/participate in four statewide exercises involving MABAS teams and other response agencies.
- Expand the partnership with Chicago OEMC in the regional response equipment inventory database project (Salamander Live Solutions).

Urban Area Mutual Aid Activities

Through its Mutual Aid Box Alarm System subgrant, Cook County provided essential equipment replacement for urban area-based special response teams and MABAS divisions including:

- Equipment calibration test gases and replacement vapor sensors to all Cook County-based hazardous materials response teams.
- Replaced expired Duo-Dote chemical weapon antidote kits required for the Cook County-based Urban Search & Rescue Team.
- Updated two area RAE remote vapor monitoring devices used by hazardous materials response teams to continue their Cook County availability. Replacement of oxygen sensors for six Multi Rae Pros and repairs to cracked housings of the meters to protect the meters when used in a hazardous environment.
- Supported the multi-day Operational Readiness Exercise in June 2023 of the Urban Search & Rescue Team deployed to the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign.
- A swift water rescue team multi-day mobilization exercise in Oglesby.
- USAR TF1 PPE & Uniforms for new rescue specialist per the FEMA cache list for Type 1 USAR deployable teams.
- Helmet, Rescue and Recovery, Protective, Technical Rescue Incidents - covers protective clothing and equipment used in TRT incidents that include victim search, rescue, body recovery, and site stabilization. Helmet-mounted illumination.
- MABAS/Cook County Swiftwater Rescue Team required PPE/Uniforms to be used for training, exercises and when deployed.
- Multiband radios from Illinois state contract needed as transportable board radios for use in the rented vehicles for Cook County-based response teams. These radios are the last four radios needed for the aforementioned purpose.

- Supported the required testing and maintenance of Cook County based MABAS breathing air compressor vehicles.
- Support of ongoing maintenance needs of over 40 UASI procured special response vehicles and equipment trailers.
- Provided funding to continue Salamander Technologies software annual renewal. Software for all MABAS accountability during deployments, inventory and resource management.
- Maintenance and utility support for the MABAS Readiness Center facility in Wheeling.
- Updated pharmaceutical stocks used by the Urban Search & Rescue Team physicians.
- Replacement of equipment items used by the swift water rescue team and the larger urban search & rescue team.
- Support of mandatory ongoing continuing skills training for 220 members of the Urban Search & Rescue Team throughout 2023.
- Supported the Prairie Fire 23 Exercise, which was a MABAS response for the activation of the statewide plan for a simulated terror event involving members from various Cook County-based special operations teams and other resources (May 17 at Elk Grove Village and Wheeling).
- Supported various training exercises of the Cook County based IL-Water Rescue 1 Team. This includes training in Highland Park on ravine and slope rescues in May and September 2023. Additionally, an eight-hour training session in River Grove on Police Procedures & Tactics and how to support law enforcement in a disaster in August of 2023. And lastly, an 8-hr. training in Palos Hills on Navigation and Victim Search.
- Replacement of rescue boat outboard motors used by Cook County based water rescue teams for swift water and floodwater rescue situations.
- Support of 55 special team member certification and training courses, which provided education to 1,331 Cook County-based special response team members, totaling 12,980 student hours.
- Cook County EMRS maintains and deploys a robust cache of support equipment designed to help municipalities manage large public gatherings with increased risk.
- As in previous years, the city of Chicago renewed MOUs with collar jurisdictions as well as universities and agencies that operate within city limits for radio operations to enhance interoperability. These MOUs contribute to the ongoing assessment of interoperability needs and ensure these agencies have the proper channels to communicate with the city with no additional communications coordination required in the event of a large-scale incident.
- Chicago is part of the MABAS and ILEAS response plans and continues use of the public safety radio cache. The entire cache is used frequently to enhance public safety communication around large-scale events throughout the city. These radios facilitate interoperable communications between Cook County's 134 municipalities, which can be called upon to supply personnel during an event. This ensures the capacity for timely communications in support of security, situational awareness, and operations for emergency personnel.

Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network

The IPWMAN Statewide Mutual Aid organization that started in 2009 with six members is currently made up of over 470 member agencies that respond to numerous events annually. Some public works departments in

Illinois consist of one or two people with only one truck. Due to the lack of manpower in many public works agencies, it is becoming more and more difficult to manage events that fall outside of routine. As more tornadoes happened in Illinois in 2023 than anywhere else, this led to a number of calls to IPWMAN for assistance. In 2023, for the first time since 2009, IEMA-OHS requested IPWMAN to deploy as a state asset to Macomb, due to a lack of public works resources in Region Six because the number of communities impacted by the same storm system. Many lessons were learned on each of these deployments, most regarding the increased technology that is available to public works. Internal plans are being developed to capitalize on the available technology to make IPWMAN deployments more streamlined.

IPWMAN is working with MABAS to begin discussion on how GIS dashboards can be used by the two organizations to take on an all-hazards approach. These applications can be used for such things as damage assessment, debris management, search and rescue, as well as other law enforcement and emergency management activities. Because these dashboards are updated in real time, anyone with the link (such as the SEOC or any other command posts) and log in information will have real time access to the disaster site from a distance. This will allow a more timely and accurate decision-making process.



IPWMAN is currently working on a “membership blitz” to increase membership in the southern one-third of the state. Because of the upcoming solar eclipse, as well as the ever-present seismic threats to the area, an increase in membership in those regions would have a significantly positive impact on robust public works mutual aid. As part of this “membership blitz,” IPWMAN plans to revisit our partners at Township Officials of Illinois Risk Management Association to increase township road district memberships as well.

IPWMAN has very few “IPWMAN owned” resources. Currently, it owns two response trailers with supplies that can be used at disaster locations. These two 16-foot trailers are divided in half, the front half being a small office space and the back half used to house disaster supplies. IPWMAN also has eight deployment kits, which are rolling toolboxes with various offices supplies to assist with setting up a command post or assist with continuity of operations (COOP) for a stricken community. IPWMAN also has three caches of portable Starcom21 radios distributed around the state. Those radios, while available to IPWMAN, are under the control of ILEAS and the SWIC.

IPWMAN owns no motorized equipment and currently has no plans to purchase. All of the specialized motorized equipment is owned, maintained and operated by member agencies. If a specialized piece of equipment is needed, there are many rental companies throughout the state where that equipment can be obtained. IPWMAN recognizes and supports the need for fire and law enforcement mutual aid organizations to “own” specialized equipment, due to the inability to “rent” such equipment, but IPWMAN also understands the significant burden to maintain and replace such equipment and currently feels that there is no need for IPWMAN to own specialized equipment. IPWMAN also is respectfully aware of the need to reduce the duplication of resources. Because of partnerships and Memorandums of Understanding, IPWMAN has access to a full array of assets that would be beneficial during a time of disaster.

IPWMAN does plan to increase its footprint in technology assets through the use of cloud-based computing, which should lead to easier event management, and GIS dashboards to allow for quick access to information by command staff, responders, and others with better mass notification software, leading to better communication of events to our member agencies. If IPWMAN is allowed to take advantage of technology upgrades, IPWMAN responses will be better communicated, monitored, and organized leading to faster and less costly deployments.

IPWMAN is working to establish mutual aid teams that will provide technical assistance to state agencies,

local jurisdictions, volunteer organizations and the private sector to help determine the structural integrity of building following an earthquake or other natural disasters.

IPWMAN annually hosts a training conference free to all its members. The conference, held in central Illinois, had the largest attended conference to date in 2023, with 135 members registered to attend and 25 speakers delivering public works-related content. Not only are the educational sessions beneficial to members, but the opportunity for public works employees to network with each other has proven to be beneficial. Planning for the 2024 conference is underway, and several people have expressed interest in presenting. This is IPWMAN's largest annual expense, and currently there are no plans to charge members to attend. The current board of directors believes that the value of the conference to the membership is much more than monetary, as it increases the effectiveness and interoperability of IPWMAN.

Following the 2023 Annual Conference, IPWMAN started discussion of developing a Public Works Training Academy, similar to what police officers and firefighters participate in at the very beginning of their careers. A private risk management company is spearheading this event and has invited IPWMAN to be part of the steering committee. Meetings are already scheduled for 2024 to put this into motion.

Discussions are in place to begin developing a 30-minute or less presentation that includes topics such as Who is IPWMAN? How does IPWMAN work? What can IPWMAN do for you? When do I call IPWMAN? Where do I join IPWMAN? This presentation will be conducted regionally to current members to gain a greater understanding of IPWMAN.

IPWMAN spends many hours annually training and retraining its duty officers. This training is important as the duty officer is the first point of contact a requesting agency may have with IPWMAN. It is important that the duty officer not only acquire the appropriate resources for the requesting agency but also know the process by which the system works so that during an emergent event, it works as smoothly as possible.

Homeland Security Advisory Council Membership

Ameren
American Public Works Association
American Red Cross
American Water
Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois
Aurora University
Central Management Services
Cities of Bloomington-Normal
Cities of Champaign-Urbana
City of Chicago
City of Joliet
City of Naperville
City of Peoria
City of Quincy
City of Rockford
City of Springfield
Collaborative Health Care Urgency Group
Cook County Department of Emergency Management
and Regional Security
DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and
Emergency Management
Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police
Illinois Association of County Engineers
Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators
Illinois Association of School Administrators
Illinois Association of School Boards
Illinois Board of Higher Education
Illinois Campus Law Enforcement Administrators
Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers
Illinois College of Emergency Physicians
Illinois Commerce Commission
Illinois Community College Board
Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiners Association
Illinois Council of Code Administrators
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Illinois Department of Corrections
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology
Illinois Department of Military Affairs (IL National Guard)
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Advisory Members

Argonne National Laboratory
Federal Emergency Management Agency Region V
Illinois Governor's Office
State Universities in Illinois Emergency Management Coalition
United States Department of Agriculture
United States Department of Homeland Security
United States Marshals Service
United States Navy

Illinois Department of Public Health
Illinois Department of Transportation
Illinois Department on Aging
Illinois Education Association
Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of
Homeland Security
Illinois Emergency Services Management Association
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Firefighters Association
Illinois Fire Chiefs Association
Illinois Fire Service Institute
Illinois Health and Hospital Association
Illinois Incident Management System
Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System
Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board
Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team
Illinois Public Health Mutual Aid System
Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network
Illinois School Psychologists Association
Illinois School Resource Officers Association
Illinois Sheriffs' Association
Illinois State Board of Elections
Illinois State Police
Illinois Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
Lake County Emergency Management Agency
Logan County Emergency Management Agency
McHenry County Emergency Management Agency
Metro-East Emergency Management Agency (St.
Clair/Madison Counties)
Mid-West Truckers Association
Mutual Aid Box Alarm System
Nicor Gas
Office of the State Fire Marshal
Ogle County Emergency Management Agency
People's Gas and Northshore Gas Companies
Quad Cities
Regional Superintendents of Schools
Secretary of State Police
Will County Emergency Management Agency

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Illinois Broadcasters Association
Offices of the United States Attorneys
United States Coast Guard
United States Department of Energy
United States Department of Justice
United States Postal Inspection Service
United States Transportation Security Administration