

The Illinois Radio Emergency Assistance Channel (IREACH) was originally conceived and proposed within the confines of the Illinois Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO). Conceptually, the channel was to be used as a support mechanism for 9-1-1 systems so that public safety answering points would have multi-jurisdictional and multi-discipline communications for emergency situations. The Illinois APCO chapter worked diligently to persuade the Federal Communications Commission to set aside the frequency 155.055 MHz for the purpose that was to be designated as the Illinois Radio Emergency Assistance Channel (IREACH).

In 1982, an independent Governing Board was established with the leadership of APCO to act as an advisory organization for licensing, operational policy, and enforcement of issues as they pertain to the IREACH frequency. The Governing Board was carefully selected to be both inter-jurisdictional and inter-disciplinary in order that all potential users would be represented in the Governing Board process.

The IREACH Governing Board has worked hard to establish the following policies that pertain to the state-wide IREACH network. Since there are a large number of potential users, the Governing Board recognized that a strict policy regarding both licensing of base stations and the proper operation of the network would be essential to its success. Accordingly, the IREACH Governing Board, with the support of APCO, asks that each user carefully read and understand the following pages. The success of this program, as well as the quality of the system, depends upon informed licensees and users. But perhaps more importantly, the safety of the individual users and the citizens of Illinois has a definable relationship to the quality of the IREACH program.

- The IREACH Governing Board

DEFINITIONS

APCO Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, Inc.

Board The Governing Board of the Illinois Radio Emergency Assistance Channel

FCC Federal Communications Commission

IREACH Illinois Radio Emergency Assistance Channel (155.055 MHz)

ISPERN Illinois State Police Emergency Radio Network (155.475 MHz)

Public Safety Agency An officially organized law enforcement, emergency medical, fire protection, forestry, conservation, highway maintenance, public works, EMS, EMA/ESDA and disaster response unit of state or local government or a legally constituted private entity so engaged.

INTRODUCTION

The IREACH Channel (155.055 MHz) has been set aside by the Federal Communications Commission for the use of Illinois Public Safety Agencies as a means of communications between public safety agencies when no other direct means of communications are available.

Although IREACH is principally a mobile-to-mobile channel, a base station license may be granted to any public safety agency that meets the requirements specified under the paragraph entitled: "Base Station Licensing Guidelines Statement."

PURPOSE OF IREACH

The purpose of IREACH is to allow any public safety employee to talk to any other public safety employee via radio provided the radio traffic relates to their official duties and the protection of life and/or property. For example, to permit a fire fighter to have direct radio contact with an emergency medical technician in an ambulance or to enable a police officer to talk to an EMA/ESDA official at a disaster site.

A synopsis of commonly asked questions follows:

Authorized users? Public Safety Agencies

Type Traffic Allowed? Official Public Safety duties related to protection of life and/or property, testing; itinerant

Base Stations Authorized? Public Safety agencies meeting licensing guidelines

Base station requirements? Dispatch multi-discipline (two or more authorized disciplines)

Primarily mobile to mobile? Yes

Flash messages? (Base Station Dispatches) Must be of interest to two or more disciplines

Common Channel? Yes, statewide (F-3 position recommended)

FCC license? Yes, each individual agency must apply for and maintain its own base or mobile license.

Governing Board? Yes

How are applications screened? As base station, by Governing Board, and as mobile, by the APCO Co-Primary Frequency Advisors.

IREACH was established as a coordinating channel to enhance public safety effectiveness through better interagency communication.

OPERATING GUIDELINES

The definition of acceptable IREACH traffic is deliberately broad. IREACH may be used to coordinate official public safety activities involving two or more

public safety agencies. Official activities are defined as those serving to provide for the protection of life and/or property.

Licensed base stations will be allowed to operate on IREACH to foster coordination and communications between public safety units. A base station may initiate a dispatch if it is of significant interest to two or more disciplines. Messages that qualify for ISPERN should be forwarded to the appropriate ISPERN control point for broadcast. If the message also has significant value to another discipline, such as Fire, EMS, EMA/ESDA, Highway Maintenance, or Conservation/Forestry, it can be broadcast on IREACH.

The base station call sign shall be broadcast at the end of each series of transmissions as an indication that the agency has concluded its use of the channel momentarily and is ready to accept traffic.

Automatic station identifiers are specifically prohibited.

IREACH shall not be used by a single agency for field operations or as an intra-agency car-to-car channel. Paging and other forms of selective signalling will not be allowed on IREACH.

LICENSING

Each agency desiring to utilize IREACH must apply for a mobile and/or base station license. Before the FCC will act on a license application, the request must be coordinated by one of the two Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, Inc. (APCO) Co-Primary Frequency Advisors assigned for Illinois. Frequency coordination is the act of evaluating an application for a frequency to determine if interference may be caused to an entity already utilizing that channel.

The address and telephone, facsimile and voice, for the Illinois APCO Co-Primary Frequency Advisors are included in Appendix 1 following this manual. They can be contacted for the correct coordination forms.

Mobile Licensing

Once the application has been completed and delivered via facsimile or mailed to the appropriate Co-Primary Frequency Advisor, as contained in Appendix 1, the Frequency Advisor will review the documentation and render a decision based on applicant eligibility and notify the requesting agency of the decision. If approved, the coordination form must then be submitted with appropriate forms and fees to APCO (International) for licensing.

Mobile Licensing Guideline Statement

Mobile licenses will be granted to any applicant defined as a local government or eligible public safety agency and meeting the basic radio service criteria established by the Federal Communications Commission and the APCO Frequency Advisor. No paging or selective signaling devices shall be allowed on this frequency. The IREACH frequency, 155.055 MHz, installed in multi-channel radios shall be assigned, whenever possible, to the F3 position.

Base Station Licenses

Base station requests must be prepared on appropriate FCC and APCO coordinating forms and copies delivered (without fees) to the appropriate APCO Co-Primary Frequency Advisor as contained in Appendix 1. The Frequency Advisor will forward the request with pertinent co-channel research data to the IREACH Governing Board for their consideration. Filing restrictions placed by the FCC

demand, at a minimum, two filing windows for IREACH licensing. Filing windows are established as January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, and October 1st. The Board will meet no more than 45 days after each filing deadline to consider the applications. The Board reserves the right to request certain additional documentation from the applicant before making their final decision. The IREACH Governing Board has developed the licensing statements to guide them in their deliberations:

Base Station Licensing Guidelines Statement

Base station licenses will be granted to any public safety agency that, through common agreement, provides (or is establishing an agency to provide) a multi-discipline emergency dispatch service on a 24-hour basis utilizing the frequency 155.055 MHz. Discipline, for the purposes of this guideline, is defined as public safety agencies as defined on page two. Applications must be accompanied by proper documentation. The permitted effective radiated power, ERP, and antenna height shall be no more than necessary, based on an engineering study conducted using the APCO provided Topographic Analysis Program, to cover the jurisdiction area. No paging or selective signaling devices shall be allowed on this frequency. The IREACH frequency, 155.055 MHz, installed in multi-channel radios shall be assigned, wherever possible, to the F3 position.

Condition of Authorization

1. Base station licenses are recommended without regard to compensation for services rendered and licensees shall provide emergency services, without prejudice, to other authorized users.
2. The IREACH Governing board retains the right to either waive certain requirements or impose more stringent requirements when it is in the best interest of public safety and the citizens of the geographical area to do so. Further, the IREACH Governing Board retains the right to require, at license renewal time, a review of an authorization to ensure that the best service is being provided for public safety.

Special Provisions for Northeast Illinois

Recognizing that the six-county Chicago metropolitan area, encompassing Cook, Lake, DuPage, McHenry, Will, and Kane counties, presents special conditions in relation to the assignment of base station licenses on the IREACH channel, the IREACH Governing Board approved the following policy statement on March 7, 1984.

Base station licenses on the IREACH frequency, 155.055 MHz, may be approved for groups of two or more political sub-divisions in the six county Chicago metropolitan area, one of which has agreed to provide base station services on the IREACH frequency free of any charge. A political sub-division, for the purposes of this policy, has the same definition as provided in Chapter 127, Section 1104 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes (County, City, Village or Incorporated Town). The IREACH Governing Board reserves the right to establish "communications areas" for the purpose of IREACH use only, based on the geographical location of group members. The base station transmitter output, antenna height, and ERP shall be limited, based on an engineering study conducted using the APCO provided Topographic Analysis Program, to that necessary to serve the "communication area". The IREACH Governing Board reserves the right to suggest membership in an established group and to deny base station application based on the fact that the applicant is within an established "communication area".

ARBITRATION AND ENFORCEMENT GUIDELINES

The IREACH Governing Board was constituted to establish guidelines for the IREACH frequency, 155.055 MHz, and will also serve as the arbitration and enforcement arm for that frequency. In such capacity, the Governing Board will oversee the frequency use and ensure adherence to the operational guideline by all users. The following procedures have been adopted by the Governing Board.

1. Complaints regarding the misuse of the IREACH frequency should be forwarded with the pertinent documentation to the IREACH Governing Board c/o the appropriate Illinois APCO Co-Primary Frequency Advisor. Address and telephone information is contained in Appendix 1.
2. Complaints, with all pertinent license information and documentation provided by the Co-Primary Frequency Advisor, will be forwarded to the Chairman of the Governing Board for review.
3. Investigation of the situation will be conducted by the IREACH Governing Board member representing the appropriate discipline or by an alternate appointed by the Governing Board Chairman.
4. Subsequent to investigation of the complaint and a report being submitted, the Governing Board will solicit response from all concerned parties and will review all facts, hear all arguments and reach a majority ruling. The Board will then inform interested parties of its ruling.
5. If indicated, the Board will serve written first notice to the party or parties involved in the infraction requesting corrective action and a response as to their positive intent or notice of what action was taken to correct the misuse.
6. Hearing no further complaint, the case would be closed.
7. A repeat complaint of the same misuse will constitute issuance of a second notice, which will warn the party or parties involved that if misuse continues, the IREACH Governing Board will forward to the Federal Communications Commission a request that this offender's license be revoked.
8. If misuse continues after a second notice, the IREACH Governing Board will issue a third notice, which will include a recommendation to the FCC to revoke the IREACH license.

Termination of Participation

1. Any license holder desiring to terminate IREACH participation should notify the Governing Board.
2. Any negligent, willful or continued misuse of the IREACH frequency will be subject to the arbitration and enforcement procedure after which the Board may recommend that the FCC revoke the operating authority of the violating agency.

IREACH GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board was created to develop guidelines, policies and procedures to regulate the use of IREACH and to serve the APCO Frequency Advisors and the Federal Communications Commission in an advisory capacity.

The Governing Board is composed of 20 voting members representing all public safety disciplines. The Board meets quarterly, or as directed by the chairman.

Correspondence with the Board should be addressed to the appropriate Co-Primary Frequency Advisor as contained in Appendix 1.

GOVERNING BOARD BY-LAWS

The Governing Board is an independent governing board without affiliation to other organizations. It was created to develop guidelines, policies and procedures to regulate the use of the Illinois Radio Emergency Assistance Channel radio frequency and advise the Illinois Association of Public Safety Communications Officials Co-Primary Frequency Advisors and the Federal Communications Commission. The Governing Board will review information pertaining to existing licenses and recommend continuance, disciplinary action or cancellation, as required.

Article I. Membership

1. The Board shall consist of 20 voting members. The Board, in selecting these members, shall endeavor to include all geographical areas of the State as well as the appropriate population centers.

2. Members of this Board shall be nominated by the following organizations or authorities and their membership shall be subject to confirmation by the full Illinois Radio Emergency Assistance Channel Governing Board.

- A. Illinois Department of State Police 1 member
- B. Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police 1 member
- C. Illinois Sheriffs' Association 1 member
- D. Illinois Fire Chiefs' Association 1 member
- E. Illinois Assn of Fire Protection Districts 1 member
- F. Illinois Association of County Engineers 1 member
- G. Illinois Emergency Services Management Assn 1 member
- H. Illinois National Emergency Number Assn 1 member
- I. City of Chicago - 911 Center 1 member
- J. Illinois Emergency Management Agency 1 member
- K. Enhanced 9-1-1 Coordinator 1 member
- L. Southern Region Co-Primary Frequency Advisor 1 member
- M. Northern Region Co-Primary Frequency Advisor 1 member
- N. Illinois Commerce Commission, 9-1-1 Division 1 member
- O. Multi-Agency Communications Services Section 1 member
- P. Illinois State Ambulance Association 1 member

3. The Governing board shall appoint non-affiliated persons to the following positions as voting members of the Board:

- A. Active telecommunicators 2 members
- B. Ambulance/Rescue personnel 1 member
- C. Forestry and Conservation 1 member

Article II. Terms of Appointments

1. Membership on the Governing Board will be for a term of two (2) years. Terms of appointment will begin as of July 1 as follows:

A. Odd numbered years:

Illinois Department of State Police
Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police

Illinois Sheriffs' Association
Illinois Fire Chiefs' Association
Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts
One Telecommunicator Seat
Illinois State Ambulance Association
Illinois Emergency Management Agency
Illinois Commerce Commission - 911 Division

B. Even numbered years:

Illinois Association of County Engineers
Illinois Emergency Services Management Association
Illinois National Emergency Number Association
Forestry and Conservation Seat
Enhanced 9-1-1 Coordinator Seat
One Telecommunicator Seat
Ambulance/Rescue Seat
City of Chicago - Enhanced 9-1-1 Center
Multi-Agency Communications Services Section

2. All terms stated above will commence July 1, and expire June 30, two years thereafter.

3. All members of the Board shall continue in office until their successors are appointed.

4. To fill a vacancy, the Secretary will notify, in writing, the appointing authority and request that another person be appointed to complete the unexpired term.

5. All members shall be eligible to succeed themselves indefinitely.

Article III. Member Absence and Alternate Members

1. A Board Member may appoint an alternate member to attend the meeting and vote in the member's behalf. Such appointment must be made in writing and presented to the Chairman.

2. Any member not attending (or appointing an alternate) for three (3) consecutive meetings shall forfeit his/her seat.

Article IV. Officers

1. The Board shall elect from its own members one Chairman, one Vice-Chairman, one Secretary and one Treasurer. The terms of office shall be two years.

2. In the absence of the Chairman; the Vice-Chairman, Secretary, or Treasurer; in that order, will serve as Chairman.

3. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Secretary, and the Treasurer; a temporary Chairman will be selected by the board.

4. All officers may succeed themselves indefinitely.

5. The Board may create and fill through election, from its own membership, such additional officers as is necessary.

Article V. Nomination and Election of Officers

1. The nomination of officers shall be held at the first meeting after January 1 of each even year. The election of officers shall be held at the first meeting held after April 1 and shall be by ballot unless there is no contest for the office.
2. A special election to fill a vacancy in office may be held at any regular meeting. Any officer so elected will serve in that capacity until the next regular election.

Article VI. Meetings

1. Regular meetings of the Board will be quarterly or as called by the Chairman.
2. Written notice of all regular meetings must be delivered via facsimile or mailed to members at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.
3. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman, or upon written request of three members of the Board. Notification of special meetings may be made by facsimile, telephone, radio contact or mail, provided notices are given to all members and their appointing authority not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date.

Article VII. Duties of Officers

1. The Chairman shall call all meetings, set the agenda for meetings, preside at meetings, and appoint sub-committees when needed.
2. The Vice-Chairman shall assume the duties of the Chairman in his absence. He shall perform other duties as assigned by the Chairman.
3. The Secretary shall maintain Board records as required, record minutes of all meetings, and distribute copies of the minutes to:
 - A. Each member of the Governing Board.
 - B. Any one else designated by the Chairman.
4. The Treasurer shall maintain all funds, monies, and financial records. A financial report shall be provided at each meeting.
5. The Co-Primary Frequency Advisor shall compile pertinent data for each application received for presentation to the Board and compose correspondence to applicants, when required, with the full authority of the Governing Board.

Article VIII. Sub-Committee Membership

The Chairman of the Board may appoint persons as needed to sub-committees for special projects or studies. Professional and/or technical personnel, so appointed, need not be members of the Board.

Article IX. Amendments

These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Governing Board, provided, however, that the proposed amendment has been introduced for consideration at the previous meeting and has been made a part of the minutes of that meeting. A majority of those present must vote in the affirmative to amend the by-laws.

Article X. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of members and appointed alternate members of the Board.

Revised: August 14, 1996

Historically, Illinois has been one of the top five states in numbers of Public Safety FCC licenses held and number of radios purchased and operated. In June 1994, the International office of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials approved the plan submitted by the Illinois Primary Frequency Advisor to divide the state for coordination activities into two regions. The regions are geographically defined by Interstate I-80. Those counties that contain I-80 and those counties north of I-80 were assigned to the Northern Region.

The Northern Region covers the following 22 counties: Boone, Bureau, Carroll, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Henry, JoDaviess, Kane, Kendall, Lake, La Salle, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Putnam, Rock Island, Stephenson, Whiteside, Will, and Winnebago. The remaining 80 counties make up the Southern Region. The Illinois Co-Primary Frequency Advisors can be contacted as follows:

Northern Region
Primary Frequency Advisor
Office of Emergency Communications
1411 W. Madison Avenue
Chicago, IL 60607
(Work) 312-746-9252
(Fax) 312-746-9202

Southern Region
Primary Frequency Advisor
531 Sangamon Avenue
Springfield, Illinois 62702
(Work) 217-782-5742
(Fax) 217-524-4396

Appendix 1

Revised: June 22, 1999

ILLINOIS RADIO EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CHANNEL
GOVERNING BOARD

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR IREACH BASE STATION LICENSE APPLICATION

1. Applicant Organizational Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

2. Do you provide dispatch service on a multi-discipline and/or multi jurisdiction basis, on a regular, 24 hour basis? YES NO Provide list below and include letters from the disciplines and/or jurisdictions served or explain your answer:

3. If your department receives an IREACH base station license, will you agree to provide EMERGENCY radio communications to all other jurisdictions and disciplines in your area utilizing the IREACH Channel and to maintain the base station, all at no charge to the other agencies? YES NO

4. I / We have read the IREACH Manual and agree that use of said base station will follow the guidelines issued by the IREACH Governing Board. YES NO

5. I / We understand the IREACH Channel is not to be used for paging, selective signaling, or tone squelch applications. YES NO

6. Do you intend to have more than one operating point for the base station? YES NO If Yes, how many? _____ Who will have the operating points?

Please complete this form and return to the appropriate Illinois Co-Primary Frequency Advisor for submission to the IREACH Governing Board. Your license application will receive consideration at the next IREACH Governing Board meeting.

Appendix 2
Revised: August 14, 1996

Illinois Radio Emergency Assistance Channel

The IREACH Governing Board is pleased to present this copy of the IREACH Users Manual. In order to facilitate the update process, please complete and return the form below. Future updates will be forwarded to your agency as they are published. Thank you for your interest in the IREACH frequency.

Complete agency/municipality Name: _____

Complete Mailing address: _____

Point of Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

License Callsign authorizing usage of IREACH: _____
Number of units; Base Stations: Mobiles: Portable:

Please include a brief description of your involvement with IREACH and any suggestions that you feel could make this radio asset more effective to your operation.

Return survey by mail to:

Thomas J. Ward, Jr.
531 Sangamon Avenue
Springfield, IL 62702

or Fax: 1-217-524-4396

Enclosure 1