

Revised Illinois Homeland Security Strategy February 20, 2008

The State of Illinois strives to provide a system of centralized coordination and communication among various federal, state and local governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from major events in order to minimize the impact on lives, property, and the economy. Applying the principals of the National Incident Management System and adopting a statewide approach to preparedness will enable the State of Illinois to build upon capabilities and programs that will achieve more success in combination with a shared commitment than individual, disparate efforts.

Serving as an advisory body to the Governor, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) provides statutory recommendations and guidance on homeland security laws, policies, protocol and procedures. The task force continues to establish and maintain short-term and long-term strategic solutions to the threats and realities of major events as Federal, State, and local entities, their private and non-governmental partners, and the general public collaborate to achieve and sustain risk-based target levels of capability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from these incidents in order to minimize the impact on lives, property, and the economy.

Serving as an advisory body to the Governor, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force provides statutory recommendations and guidance on homeland security laws, policies, protocol and procedures.

Members of the task force understand that domestic preparedness in response to major events is a priority of the highest magnitude and to that end, maintains an all-hazard approach to preparedness. The task force continues to build upon a strong foundation of established working partnerships among Federal, State, and local entities, their private and non-governmental partners, and the general public toward the facilitation and coordination of resources. Jointly, the committees, sub-committees and working groups of the task force, through the integration among subject matter experts, work toward cooperative preparedness, prevention, protection, response and recovery goals and objectives, the standardization of equipment and response protocols, and the sharing of finite resources in the attempt to build Illinois' capacity to protect the lives and property of its citizens.

The task force continues to build upon a strong foundation of established working partnerships among Federal, State, and local entities, their private and non-governmental partners, and the general public toward the facilitation and coordination of resources.

This strategy is reflective of the *National Preparedness Goal* and framework for national preparedness, including the four mission areas to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from major events. Illinois has been proactively engaged in building and maintaining a complete and on-going assessment of the risks to critical infrastructure and key assets, and the general public.

Additionally, effective partnerships are being forged with federal, state and local governments, as well as a private sector to ensure the safety of Illinois' population and assets. The task force continues to align its strategy with the Homeland Security Presidential Directives related to the *National Incident Management System, National Response Framework, National Infrastructure Protection Plan, National Preparedness Goal*, capabilities-based planning tools, and grant



program guidance and unifies its capabilities and resources into an all-discipline, all-hazard approach to domestic incident management.

The approach to emergency management in Illinois continues to be “all hazard” in scope: for mitigation and prevention against, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from any hazard to which the State is vulnerable. Developing effective emergency organizations and associations, preparing emergency operations plans and procedures, equipping public safety officials, and providing training and exercise assistance are the means to fulfill this mission statement. The State of Illinois has established the following overarching goals to support this mission.

1. Continue to build and sustain capabilities to support Illinois’ mission to enhance preparedness, prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from major events in order to minimize the impact on lives, property, and the economy.
2. Continue to incorporate lessons learned from international, national, state, and local events; training and exercises; and emerging threats and technology to validate and revise Illinois’ homeland security goals and objectives.
3. Continue to bring together Federal, State, and local, their private and non-governmental partners, and the general public to build and sustain intra- and inter-state partnerships to support national and state goals to prepare for, prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from major events.
4. Continue to prioritize the application of finite resources to continue key initiatives, and implement new programs based upon known hazards within the State, emergency threats and technology to prepare for, prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from major events.

Following are the goals and objectives adopted by the task force on February 20, 2008, to develop, improve, or enhance Illinois’ capabilities supporting the National Priorities listed in the *National Preparedness Goal* as the building blocks for the *National Preparedness System*.

Goal 1: Preparing our First Responders, Healthcare Providers, and Critical Infrastructure

Sustain, implement and develop plans, procedures, policies, training, and exercises, and procure equipment necessary at the state and local level to maximize the ability of first responders, healthcare providers, and critical infrastructure to build, sustain, and improve their operational capability to prevent, respond to, and recover from major events.

Objective 1.1

Conduct monthly meetings of the Governor’s task force for homeland security, the ITTF, to coordinate the preparedness activities of Federal, State, and local entities, private and non-governmental partners to ensure efficient use of funding and development and implementation of standardized



protocols, policies and procedures, and statutory recommendations to prevent, protect, respond to and recover from major events.

Objective 1.2

Apply for, administer, and utilize Federal and State homeland security and health and human service grants to support programs and projects that support *National Preparedness Goals, National Response Framework*, and Illinois' Homeland Security Strategy.

Objective 1.3

Expand the intra- and interstate mutual aid organizations and multi-state collaborations that represent critical state and local public safety and health agencies, and private sector throughout Illinois, including, but not limited to fire service, law enforcement, emergency management, public health, medical, public works, agricultural, transportation, telecommunicators, and private companies that possess key response and recovery resources, to support statewide all-hazard preparedness.

Objective 1.4

Revise the Illinois Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan, including related standard operating procedures, policies, training, and exercises. Replace or procure voice, data and video equipment that ensures capabilities of the State's strategic technology reserve, first responders, healthcare providers, and critical infrastructure can communicate effectively during major events.

Objective 1.5

Implement and maintain a training program, as outlined in the ITTF Training Matrix, for State and local public safety personnel to permit them to prevent, protect, respond to, and recover from major events, in compliance with appropriate Federal and State rules, regulations and guidelines.

Objective 1.6

Implement and maintain an exercise program, compliant with the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program and outlined in the Illinois Training and Exercise Schedule to validate preparedness to prevent, protect, respond to, and recover from major events, through practical, table-top, hands-on, and scenario-based exercises.

Objective 1.7

Implement initiatives to enhance safety for students, faculty, staff and visitors at Illinois' K-12 public and private schools, institutions of higher education, and other educational institutions to better prepare these facilities and sites to prepare for, respond to and recover from major events.

Objective 1.8

Develop a comprehensive emergency management program of planning, training, and exercises, to promote an effective and consistent response to any threatened or actual disaster or emergency, regardless of the cause.

Objective 1.9

Review academic research and development effort to locate experimental data, evolving trends, scientific research and cutting edge technology for application in Illinois to remain contemporary and progressive. Recommend technology to support statewide efforts to prevent, protect, respond to and recover from CBRNE incidents and major events.



Goal 2: Preparing our Citizens

Sustain and implement preparedness activities necessary at the state and local level to maximize the ability of communities, elected officials, volunteers and general public to build, maintain, and improve capabilities to respond to and recover from emergencies prior to, during and after the major event.

Objective 2.1

Prepare citizens through the Citizen Corps and community-based, not-for-profit and private sector programs. These preparations shall include empowering citizens through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer and better prepared to respond to the threats of major events.

Objective 2.2

Revise the system to manage volunteers and voluntary donations, Volunteer Management Support Teams and Spontaneous Volunteer Centers based upon the 15 scenarios described in the *National Preparedness Goal*.

Objective 2.3

Sustain and build upon current efforts to educate elected officials and other community leaders to increase their knowledge of the Illinois Homeland Security Strategy and requirements of the *National Incident Management System* to better enable them to implement programs to prepare their community for major events.

Objective 2.4

Revise the Ready.Illinois.gov website, develop brochures and other publications, and conduct public outreach programs to provide public safety agencies, the general public, and the private sector with a comprehensive source for emergency information prior to, during, and after a major event.

Objective 2.5

Develop public service announcements to ensure the public is self sufficient a minimum of 72 hours following a major event and aware of Illinois homeland security preparedness and response activities implemented by public safety officials to make individuals, families, communities safer, and better prepared to respond to the threats of major events.

Goal 3: Preventing a Major Event from Occurring

Sustain, implement and develop systems and capabilities to prevent an incident or emergency from occurring within a community to protect lives and property. These actions involve the application of intelligence and other information, including implementation of countermeasures and, as appropriate, specific public safety and health operations aimed at identifying, deterring, preempting, interdicting, or disrupting a terrorist activity or major event.



Objective 3.1

Strengthen information sharing and collaboration capabilities among Federal, State and local fusion centers; and private sector security in Illinois. Maintain an integrated intelligence gathering and warning system that can detect and report terrorist activity before it manifests itself in an attack, to enable effective prevention, protection, and response actions.

Objective 3.2

Implement a statewide, multi-jurisdictional infrastructure to electronically communicate and coordinate, both internally and externally, risk and emergency information to detect, prevent, protect against, and respond to major events.

Objective 3.3

Strengthen the security and surveillance at transportation sector venues, such as highway, rail, waterway, and air systems, through planning, training, exercises and equipment procurements to detect, deter and preempt a major event.

Objective 3.4

Strengthen the availability of State and local public health officials, agriculture, the private sector, and critical infrastructure to improved active and passive surveillance, security operations, law enforcement and application, and disease control and containment to recognize and understand the full nature of covert or overt threat to the public.

Objective 3.5

Develop a system to check motor vehicle records in other states to ensure that drivers do not hold multiple licenses, and for verification against federal records like immigration status. Standardize methods to seamlessly verify an applicant's information with another state and deploy data and document verification capabilities that can be used by all states, while protecting personal identification information.

Goal 4: Protecting Against a Major Event

Reduce the vulnerability of critical infrastructure or key resources, through the coordinated action on the part of Federal, State, and local governments; the private sector; and concerned citizens in order to deter, mitigate, or neutralize terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

Objective 4.1

Develop mitigation plans and provide target hardening, interoperable communications and other detection and mitigation equipment to state and local public safety agencies to reduce the threats and vulnerabilities to key resources and critical facilities, transportation systems, and functions identified in Federal and State infrastructure protection assessments.

Objective 4.2

Implement target hardening activities of nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of international terrorist attack. Integrate nonprofit preparedness activities with broader state and local preparedness efforts, and promote



coordination and collaboration in emergency preparedness activities among public and private community representatives, State and local government agencies, and Citizen Corps Councils.

Objective 4.3

Revise the transportation mass evacuation plan for Chicago and other urban areas in Illinois using input from the public and private sectors, including the development of an information campaign to educate the general public on the implementation of the plan.

Objective 4.4

Develop a public alerting and notification system to rapidly communicate urgent protective action recommendations to the public, through voice, data and video systems, for a specified geographical area, following a statewide or local emergency or major event.

Goal 5: Responding to a Major Event

Implement activities that address the immediate, direct effects of an incident or major event including immediate actions to save lives, protect property, contain and control the situation, and meet basic human needs through the execution of emergency operations plans and procedures, implementation of response activities, and deployment of state and local first to lessen the effects or consequences of an incident.

Objective 5.1

Implement the National Incident Management System and National Response Framework as applied to all hazard and weapons of mass destruction incidents in accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), *Management of Domestic Incidents* and related compliance documentation provided by the Secretary of Homeland Security and State of Illinois.

Objective 5.2

Develop an inter-state strategic plan, policies and memorandum of agreement to provide immediate, short-term post-event, large-scale mass sheltering and mass care to support existing local and multi-state sheltering operations. Identification of resources required to implement these shelters.

Objective 5.3

Implement regional, intrastate and interstate collaboration through mutual aid agreements and assistance compacts, including Emergency Management Assistance Compact, to serve every region and community in the state, contiguous states, and nationally, in order to meet the target levels of capability in the most effective and expedient manner.

Objective 5.4

Implement chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) detection, response, and decontamination capabilities by continuing to develop, credential, train, exercise and implement state and regional



response teams capable of safely responding to terrorist incidents and major events to support local units of government, including the standardization of team qualifications, training, operating procedures and activation protocols in order to facilitate team interoperability.

Objective 5.5

Implement medical surge and mass prophylaxis capabilities to support public and medical health response systems to facilitate resource sharing, and enhance the ability of Federal, state and local jurisdictions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to coordinate and communication more effectively with public health agencies, hospitals, and public safety agencies.

Objective 5.6

Leverage resources within the private sector to mitigate the impact of incidents, including natural disasters and acts of terrorism by developing agreements with the private sector which provide for the utilization of resources during a critical incident.

Objective 5.7

Implement state and local emergency management structures and processes for local, regional, and statewide incident management, collaboration, and response to enable entities impacted by a major event to manage operations and preparedness activities consistently and effectively.

Goal 6: Recovering from a Major Event

Support the development, coordination, and execution of service- and site-restoration plans that assist with the reconstitution of government operations and services; long-term care and treatment of affected persons; additional measures for social, political, environmental, and economic restoration; and to rapidly restore communities to pre-disaster condition.

Objective 6.1

Develop a short-term and long-term recovery strategy and action plan to be implemented after a major event to restore critical infrastructure, support economic recovery and restoration to minimize business disruption, and ensure essential lifeline services for the impacted population, including the restoration of gas, electric, oil, communications, water, wastewater and sewage, transportation and transportation infrastructure, and other utilities.

Objective 6.2

Develop pre-event plans, procedures, policies, training, and exercises to support hazard mitigation strategy measures to be implemented after a major event.



Ready Illinois Disaster Preparedness Website

In 2008, the state of Illinois made significant enhancements to the Ready Illinois website. Ready Illinois, the state's disaster preparedness website unveiled in September 2007, continues to evolve, with several new features and updated content. Some of the major updates to the site include the ability to provide real-time updates to the public during emergencies, the addition of audio links to the successful individual and family readiness public service announcements, multilingual capability, and a disaster preparedness campaign for children.

The website's emergency information feature, which allows up-to-the-minute information to be posted during disasters and emergencies, was utilized for three events in 2008—the Northern Illinois University shooting in mid-February, the Wabash Valley earthquake in mid-April, and widespread flooding in June. Through the site, state officials were able to provide immediate updates on the events, public safety recommendations, information on federal and state assistance programs, and shelter information. Because changes to the site can be made within the State Emergency Operations Center during disasters, state officials can provide immediate situational updates to the public. Website hits increased significantly during each of these three emergencies, showing that citizens are turning to Ready for current information about such events.

The screenshot shows the Ready Illinois website interface in Internet Explorer. The main content area features a red banner for the "Illinois Flood Report". Below the banner, a list of counties is provided, with a legend indicating that blue counties are "declared" and yellow counties are "impacted". A map of Illinois shows these counties highlighted. A dropdown menu is open for Sangamon County, displaying "Emergency Contact Info" and "Current River Conditions". The left sidebar contains navigation links for "Home", "Before an Emergency", "During an Emergency", "After an Emergency", "State Links", "Search Illinois", "Threat Level" (with an "ELEVATED" warning), and "Current Illinois Weather Conditions". The bottom of the page includes a section for the "National Flood Insurance Program" with explanatory text and a link to "FloodSmart".

During widespread flooding in June, visitors to the Ready Illinois site could select a county on the interactive map for emergency contact information and current river conditions.

