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## ITTF POLICY STATEMENT 2011 (1)

TO: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Preparedness Fund Sub-recipients

FROM: Mike Chamness, Chair  
Illinois Terrorism Task Force 

DATE: January 26, 2011

SUBJECT: Illinois Terrorism Task Force Policy Statement Regarding Validation Process for Mobile Support Teams

### INTRODUCTION

Governor's Executive Order 2003 (17) created the statewide homeland security advisory committee, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF). The ITTF is responsible for developing and helping to implement the state's homeland security strategy as an advisory body to the Governor and overseeing the management and administration of federal preparedness grants. The task force continues to build upon a strong foundation of established working partnerships among its over 60 members, which represent all public safety agencies and associations and every community in Illinois.

### BACKGROUND

Mobile Support Team (MST) validation is a unique concept that Illinois developed in 2007 to certify the readiness and capabilities of Illinois' statewide deployable fire service Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials Technician Response Teams. Instead of just making sure teams met federal training requirements, Illinois took it a step further by ensuring the teams could demonstrate that training in "real-life" scenarios. The teams then used the results of the validation to identify future training needs for each team. Today, all statewide fire service and local law enforcement Mobile Support Teams are scheduled to participate in team validations on a rotating basis.

#### Voting Members

Adams/McDonough Counties • American Public Works Assoc. • American Red Cross • Archer -Daniels-Midland • Associated Fire Fighters of IL • Central Management Services • City of Aurora • Cities of Bloomington-Normal • Cities of Champaign-Urbana • City of Chicago • City of Joliet • City of Naperville • City of Peoria • City of Rockford • City of Springfield • Cook County DHSEM • DuPage County OEM • Governor's Office • IL Assoc. of Chiefs of Police • IL Assoc. of Public • Health Administrators • IL Assoc. of School Boards • IL Attorney General's Office • IL Board of Higher Education • IL Campus Law Enforcement Administrators • IL Coalition of Community Blood Centers • IL College of Emergency Physicians • IL Community College Board • IL Coroners Association • IL Department of Agriculture • IL Department of Corrections • IL Department of Human Services • IL Department of Human Services • IL Department of Military Affairs • IL Department of Natural Resources • IL Department of Public Health • IL Department of Transportation • ILL Emergency Management Agency • IL Emergency Services Management Assoc. • IL Environmental Protection Agency • IL Firefighters Association • IL Fire Chiefs Association • IL Fire Services Association • IL Fire Service Institute • IL Health Care Association • IL Law Enforcement Alarm System • IL Law Enforcement Training & Standards Bd. • IL Municipal League • IL National Emergency Number Association • IL Office of the State Fire Marshal • IL Public Health Mutual Aid System • IL Public Works Mutual Aid Network • IL Sheriffs Association • IL State Police • IL States Attorneys Association • Lake County ESDA • Metro East (St. Clair-Madison) • Mutual Aid Box Alarm System • Quad Cities (Moline-E. Moline-Rock Island) • Regional Superintendents of Schools • Secretary of State Police • Will County EMA

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## **DEFINITIONS**

A “Mobile Support Team,” sometimes referred to as a Statewide Deployable Team, is defined in the Illinois Emergency Management Act as “a group of individuals designated as a team by the Governor or Director to train prior to and to be dispatched, if the Governor or the Director so determines, to aid and reinforce the State and political subdivision emergency management efforts in response to a disaster.”

“Validation,” for the purposes of this policy statement, is defined as a third party evaluation in an operational setting against a discreet set of performance requirements based on ITTF- and Department of Homeland Security-approved curriculum for team certification.

## **GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT**

This policy will serve to standardize the validation process for all Mobile Support Teams. The validation process includes three tiers as established by the ITTF Training Committee:

1. Local team training and skill validation—conducted annually;
2. Regional team readiness validation—conducted at least once every two years; and
3. Statewide validation—interdisciplinary exercise conducted at least once every three years.

The ITTF committee overseeing a Mobile Support Team that participated in a deployment for an actual event may request, on behalf of the MST, a waiver from the Exercise Validation Sub-committee of the ITTF Training Committee from tiers 1 and 2. For tier 3 requirements, the ITTF committee overseeing a Mobile Support Team may request, on behalf of the MST, a waiver from the Exercise Validation Sub-committee. The ITTF Training Committee will be responsible for providing to the ITTF Chair, or his designee, a report on the status of MST validation by December 31 each year.

## **REMOVAL FROM LIST TO DEPLOY**

Failure to comply with the above general policy statement will result in a team’s removal from the State Emergency Operation Center’s list of teams to deploy. The ITTF will routinely monitor progress of the Mobile Support Teams’ compliance with this policy. Teams not in compliance with this policy will not be eligible for equipment purchases through federal preparedness funds administered by the ITTF.

## **EXCEPTION**

If there are extenuating circumstances that would prevent a Mobile Support Team from adhering to this policy, the team should communicate their concerns to the ITTF Training Committee Validation Sub-Committee, the entity responsible for oversight of this policy.

## **EFFECTIVE DATE OF POLICY**

This policy is effective as of January 26, 2011.