

Science and Technology Committee

Purpose Statement

The mission of the Science and Technology Committee is to determine the status of science and technology in areas that affect homeland security in Illinois, to examine needs of first responders relative to technologic tools presently available to serve this community, to advise the research community in Illinois of such needs, and to suggest potential areas that need further development.

2008 Key Activities

- The Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) has teamed up with the Illinois Terrorism Task Force Science and Technology Committee to design, purchase, and distribute personal radiation detectors (PRDs). These detectors, which provide state of the art technology in determining and quantifying radiation sources and risk to device users, are being distributed to state and local law enforcement as well as fire service personnel in Illinois so that first responders will be aware if they are entering an area that has radiation nearby. ILEAS has contracted with a vendor to supply an initial purchase of 5,001 of these devices.
- In order to ensure safe and consistent response postures by first responders using the PRDs, Science and Technology Committee members worked with personnel from Argonne National Labs to develop a two-hour web-delivered radiation awareness and introduction to the PRD training class.
- According to the Response Infrastructure Plan promulgated by IEMA personnel responsible for overseeing the detector deployment, individuals from the Illinois State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer program and MABAS Level A Fire Hazmat Teams are to be the first line of assistance to PRD users in radiation alarm situations that exceed their capabilities or authority. In order to provide that assistance, these individuals are trained on more advanced radio-isotope identification detectors (RIIDs) and provided the instruments through the ILEAS acquisition process. In October, 39 individuals from these two groups underwent a 3½-day training curriculum and were issued both the PRD and the RIID at the conclusion of the class.





- IDOT and the Science and Technology Committee are planning to test and deploy a television monitoring system that would integrate radiation detection with identification of vehicle and personnel involved in its transit.

2009 Initiatives

- Three pilot deployment areas have been identified for the PRD distribution project. The delivery of training and detectors for users in these areas is scheduled to begin in early 2009.
- Two additional classes to train additional MABAS personnel in the use of RIIDs have been scheduled for the summer of 2009. Upon completion, every Level A Hazmat Team in the state will have had personnel take the training and have at least one RIID issued to their team.
- A course offered by the Department of Homeland Security at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, designed to provide expertise to those who support RIID users, will be given at Argonne National Laboratory in June. Attendees will be health physicists from IEMA and from other radiation protection programs in states adjacent to Illinois.
- Additional PRDs and RIIDs are scheduled for purchase by ILEAS in 2009. At this time the projected numbers of instruments are 1,000 PRDs and 35 RIIDs.

