

Urban Area Committee

Purpose Statement

The Urban Area Committee consists of first responders, subject matter experts, transportation and transit agency officials, private sector representatives and policy makers. Through the eight committees of the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG), the senior policy and advisory body for the Urban Area Security Initiative funding, the committee assesses existing capabilities, prioritizes projects, and seeks funding for critical initiatives necessary to provide increased levels of prevention, protection, response, and recovery capabilities throughout the Urban Area regarding natural disasters and acts of terrorism. This is truly a broad-based effort, given this ITTF Committee is composed of key subject matter experts from across all disciplines, agencies, and jurisdictions from the 156-member UAWG and its eight committees.

2008 Key Activities

- As working partners in the Urban Area Working Group, the city of Chicago and Cook County completed the final review of the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP). Additionally, in 2008, the city of Chicago and Cook County entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement, which will govern the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Public Safety Interoperable Communication grant (PSIC).
- The Urban Area Working Group added its eighth committee, the Regional Catastrophic Planning Team, which will have separate funding via the Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program. Also in 2008, the UAWG drafted and approved for submission to the Department of Homeland Security charters for both the Urban Area Working Group and the Regional Catastrophic Planning Team.
- Cook County entered into an agreement with a prime contractor to provide engineering, training, and equipment regarding planned region-wide 800/700MHz interoperable voice communications, in connection with the upgrade of Cook County's existing 800/700MHz radio system and paving the way for P25 compliance and enhanced linkages to Starcom21.
- As part of its Operation Virtual Shield (OVS), the city of Chicago expanded the current fiber and wireless camera surveillance network, installing additional cameras throughout the central business district. The city has also connected all Navy Pier cameras via fiber back into the Office of Emergency Management and Communications' (OEMC) camera network. Currently, OEMC has the capability to view several hundred cameras. OVS has also expanded its private sector video capabilities, connecting banks and financial institutions and other private sector institutions to the OEMC's network and allowing it to utilize all video at its disposal during a disaster.
- The city of Chicago established satellite capabilities for the Chicago Fire Department's (CFD) command/communications vehicles. Leveraged technology was already available at the OEMC's satellite truck. The CFD can now respond to the scene of an incident and provide



secure voice communications as well as the ability to view city cameras, server/data and Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) rail software connected via satellite.

- The city of Chicago, through the OEMC, upgraded its Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system to allow streaming video to be seen at each call taker position. When a 9-1-1 call is received, the CAD will poll cameras and display all relevant video within 150 feet of the incident.
- The city of Chicago installed Global Positioning Systems (GPS) on 2,500 Chicago Police vehicles. This will provide location accuracy as well as asset management during peak periods or major disasters. This system is also tied into the life safety systems of the vehicles. If an air bag deploys, it will trigger an emergency crash message to the controlling dispatcher as well as send a "Pin-In" response to the Fire CAD for assistance.
- The city of Chicago purchased approximately 400 Panasonic Portable Data Terminals for Chicago Police. This is a multi-year approach to refresh the fleet of in-car computers.
- The city of Chicago continued Incident Management Team (IMT) training for the Chicago Fire Department.
- The city of Chicago implemented Chicago Police Department (CPD) fusion center enhancements such as SCIF, satellite feeds, video conferencing and camera integration with the OEMC.
- Cook County conducted three Evacuation Summit Tabletop Exercises for 150 participants in northern, central and southern sectors of Cook County (8/19/08 in Glenview, 8/20/08 in Hillside, and 8/21/08 in Tinley Park). Each venue had 50 participants from jurisdictions, agencies, and first responder disciplines, along with numerous federal and state representatives, facilitators, evaluators, subject matter experts and observers. The tabletop exercises covered roles and responsibilities, especially command and control; strengths and gaps in the command structure; strengths and gaps in interoperable communications; citizen evacuation, shelter-in-place, and public information and warning; mass care; and Emergency Operations Center management.

2009 Initiatives

- The city of Chicago and Cook County government, through the Urban Area Working Group, will continue to expand regional interoperability for its radio network utilizing 800/700MHz. The PSOIC efforts will continue in order to achieve radio interoperability throughout the region with linkages among the city of Chicago, County of Cook, and state of Illinois' Starcom21. Additionally, a region-wide Interoperability Channel Plan has been promulgated to agencies of Chicago and Cook County for final review and approval in early 2009.
- Working with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the Urban Area will produce a final copy of its TICP. This will be distributed to all jurisdictions and agencies within the city of Chicago and Cook County.



- The Urban Area Working Group will conduct a full scale TICP drill with the city and Cook County to exercise the final written plan and validate all aspects of voice and data communications within the Urban Area.
- Cook County Project SHIELD, with its increased capabilities for digital data, image, and video sharing, is expected to be completed in 2009.
- The Region V multi-state Catastrophic Planning Team (the RCPT) will focus on developing a direction and control plan, identifying/coordinating evacuation routes, and establishing near and mid-term mass care comprehensive plans for evacuation. This initiative, an outgrowth of planning begun in 2007, is funded by the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant.
- The city of Chicago will install additional fiber and wireless cameras throughout lower levels and streets in the city.
- The city of Chicago will implement a new back up facility for 9-1-1, Joint Operations Center (JOC) and Operations Center (OC).
- The city of Chicago will expand the current satellite earth station for redundancy, with the goal of implementing a second dish.
- The city of Chicago will build a unified command/strategy vehicle for the purpose of conducting briefings at the scene of an incident. This vehicle will pair with our satellite truck. All technology will stay within the satellite vehicle. This vehicle will be equipped with a conference room and briefing technology.
- The city of Chicago will initiate a multi-year project to install 1.2M KU-Band satellite dishes on key governmental buildings. This will provide secure and non-secure telephone lines, video conferencing, and data exchange in the event of a disaster that results in damage to land-based lines.
- The city of Chicago will increase satellite band width capacity to 20 MB.
- The city of Chicago will implement a new helicopter video strategy for the CFD and CPD.
- The city of Chicago will procure new Blade PCs for the JOC as well as a new Joint Information Center.

