

**Illinois Emergency Management  
MUTUAL AID SYSTEM  
AGREEMENT**

This Agreement is made and entered into the date set forth next to the signature of the respective parties, by and between the units of local government subscribed hereto (hereafter "Unit(s)") that have approved this Agreement and adopted same in manner as provided by law and are hereafter listed at the end of this Agreement.

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, 1970, Article VII, Section 10, authorizes units of local government to contract or otherwise associate among themselves in any manner not prohibited by law or ordinance; and,

**WHEREAS**, the "Intergovernmental Cooperation Act", 5 ILCS 220/1 et seq., provides that any power or powers, privileges or authority exercised, or which may be exercised by a unit of local government may be exercised and enjoyed jointly with any other unit of local government; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 5 of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 5 ILCS 220/5, provides that any one or more public agencies may contract with any one or more public agencies to perform any governmental service, activity or undertaking which any of the public agencies entering into the contract is authorized by law to perform, provided that such contract shall be authorized by the governing body of each party to the contract; and,

**WHEREAS**, the parties hereto have determined that it is in their best interests to enter into this Agreement to secure to each the benefits of mutual aid in emergency management and the protection of life and property from an emergency or disaster; and,

**WHEREAS**, the parties hereto have determined that it is in their best interests to enter into this Agreement to secure to each the benefits of mutual aid in the preparedness and mitigation phases of emergency management; and,

**WHEREAS**, the parties hereto have determined that it is in their best interests to form an association to provide for communications procedures, training and other necessary functions to further the provision of said protection of life and property from an emergency or disaster.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing recitals, the Unit's membership in the Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System (IEMMAS) and the covenants contained herein, **THE PARTIES HERETO AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

## **SECTION ONE**

### **Purpose**

Certain situations arise, including, but not limited to, emergencies, natural disasters, man-made catastrophes, and special events, in which the Parties recognize that the use of an individual Member Unit's personnel and equipment to perform functions outside the territorial limits of the Member Unit is desirable and necessary to preserve and protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. During such situations, one Member Unit's personnel and equipment may be called

upon to perform functions within the territorial limits of another Member Unit, as is desirable and necessary to preserve and protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. Further, it is acknowledged that coordination of mutual aid through the Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System is desirable for the effective and efficient provision of mutual aid.

## **SECTION TWO**

### **Definitions**

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following terms as used in this agreement shall be defined as follows:

- A. "Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System" (hereinafter referred to as "IEMMAS", also "Agreement"): A definite and prearranged plan whereby response and assistance is provided to a Requesting Unit by the Aiding Unit(s) in accordance with the system established and maintained by the IEMMAS member Units and amended from time to time.
- B. "Unit": (also "Member Unit") Any unit of government, including but not limited to a city, village, or county having an Emergency Management Program, another unit of local government, or any other political subdivision of the State of Illinois, or an intergovernmental agency and the units of which such intergovernmental agency is comprised, which is a signatory to the IEMMAS Agreement, and has been appropriately authorized by their governing body to enter into the IEMMAS Agreement and otherwise and comply with the rules and regulations of IEMMAS.
- C. "Requesting Unit": Means any Unit requesting assistance of another Unit under this Agreement.

- D. "Aiding Unit": A Member Unit furnishing equipment, personnel, and/or services to a Requesting Unit.
- E. "Emergency": Any occurrence or condition which results in a situation where assistance is requested to supplement local efforts and capabilities to save lives, protect property and protect the public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe or Disaster or other Serious Threat to Public Health and Safety.
- F. "Disaster": An occurrence or threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from a natural or human-made cause, including fire, severe weather event, environmental contamination, utility failure, radiological incident, structural collapse, explosion, transportation accident, hazardous materials incident, epidemic, pandemic, or any other calamity.
- G. "IEMMAS Regions": The geographically associated Member Units or unit of which have been grouped for operational efficiency and representation of those Member Units. The State of Illinois shall be divided into eight (8) regions which as identified by Exhibit A, hereto attached and incorporated by this reference.
- H. "Training": The regular scheduled practice of emergency procedures during non-emergency drills or exercises to implement the necessary joint operations of IEMMAS.
- I. "IEMMAS Board": The governing body of IEMMAS shall be comprised of elected representatives from each of the Member Units of the IEMMAS, in the manner detailed by this Agreement.
- J. "Special Event": Any non-routine event, that places a strain on any Member Unit's

resources. Such an event may, but is not required to, involve a large number of people. Such an event should generally require additional planning, preparation, and mitigation for public safety.

- K. “Emergency Management Coordinator”: Means the Emergency Management Coordinator or agency head of a Unit, or their designee.
- L. “Emergency Management Staff”: includes any person who is an authorized employee or agent of a Unit. An Emergency Management Staff includes, without limitation, the following: full time, part time, volunteer, paid-on-call, paid on premises, and contracted personnel, as well as emergency operations center staff, support personnel, and authorized members of non-governmental response Units.
- M. "Emergency Services": means the provision of personnel, equipment, or other support to a Requesting Unit in the preparedness of, prevention of, response to, recovery from, or mitigation of any Disaster, Emergency, or Special Event, and includes joint training for the provision of any such services by a Unit.
- N. “Initial Governing Board”: The first Governing Board of IEMMAS established after two or more Public Agencies enter into this Agreement.
- O. “Public Agency”: A public agency shall have the same meaning as in the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (5 ILCS 220/2(1)).
- P. “IEMMAS Regional Directors”: The elected members of the Governing Board, representing the IEMMAS Regions.

### SECTION THREE

#### **Authority and Action to Effect Mutual Aid**

The Parties hereby authorize and direct their respective Emergency Management Coordinators, to take any reasonably necessary and proper action to render and request Mutual Aid to and from the other Parties to the Agreement, and to participate in Training activities, in furtherance of effective and efficient provision of Mutual Aid pursuant to this Agreement.

In accordance with a Party's policies and within the authority provided to its Emergency Management Coordination, upon an Aiding Unit's receipt of a request from a Requesting Unit for Emergency Services, the Emergency Management Coordinator may commit the requested Mutual Aid in the form of Emergency Management Staff, and/or Emergency Services to the Requesting Unit. All Mutual Aid rendered shall be to the extent of available personnel and equipment, taking into consideration the resources required for adequate protection of the territorial limits of the Aiding Unit. The decision of the Emergency Management Coordinator of the Aiding Unit as to the personnel and equipment available to render aid, if any, shall be final.

Whenever an Emergency, Disaster, or Special Event occurs and conditions are such that the Emergency Management Coordinator of the Requesting Unit determines it advisable to request aid pursuant to this Agreement he shall notify the Aiding Unit of the nature and location of the Emergency, Disaster, or Special Event, and the type and amount of equipment, Emergency Management Staff, and/or Emergency Services requested from IEMMAS.

The Emergency Management Coordinator of the Aiding Unit shall take the following action immediately upon being requested for aid:

1. Determine what equipment, Emergency Management Staff, and/or Emergency Services is requested;
2. Determine if the requested equipment, Emergency Management Staff, and/or Emergency Services can be committed in response to the request from the

Requesting Unit;

3. Dispatch the requested equipment, Emergency Management Staff and/or Emergency Services is, to the extent available, to the location of the event or location reported by the Requesting Unit in accordance with the procedures of IEMMAS; and
4. Notify the Requesting Unit if any or all of the requested equipment, Emergency Management Staff, and/or Emergency Services cannot be provided.

## **SECTION FOUR**

### **Compensation for Aid**

Equipment, Emergency Management Staff, and/or Emergency Services provided pursuant to this Agreement shall be at no charge to the party requesting aid; however, any expenses recoverable from third parties, including but not limited to reimbursements, fees, grants, or insurance proceeds tied to the events from which the Emergency, Disaster, or Special Event arose, shall be equitably distributed among responding parties, in the manner described by this Section Four of the Agreement.

Nothing herein shall operate to bar any recovery of funds from any third party, local, state, or federal agency under any existing statutes, or other authority. Each Aiding Unit is responsible for the compensation of its Emergency Responders providing Mutual Aid, equipment expenses, Emergency Services, and for any additional costs incurred to ensure its jurisdiction has adequate resources during the rendering of Mutual Aid.

Day-to-day Mutual Aid should remain free of charge because the administrative

requirements of reimbursement make it infeasible to charge for day-to-day Mutual Aid. However, the following exceptions may apply:

1. **Third Party Reimbursement.** – Expenses for Emergency Services recovered from third parties shall be proportionally distributed to all participating Units by the Unit recovering such payment from a third party. The Unit responsible for seeking payment from a third party shall provide timely notice to Aiding Units of a date by which submission of a request for reimbursement must be received. Reimbursement shall be based on the accurate and timely submission of allowable costs and documentation attributable to the incident by each Aiding Unit. These costs include personnel, use of equipment and materials provided, damage or loss of equipment, use of facilities, and any other costs associated with the Aid provided that may be recoverable. The Unit recovering payment from a third party shall notify Aiding Units that such payment has been made, and such Unit will reimburse the other Aiding Units. If the third party payment is less than the full amount of all Units' cost submittals, the funds shall be proportionally distributed based on each Unit's submitted costs compared to the total of all costs submitted.
2. **Intrastate Emergency Management Agency Tasking.** Expenses recovered related to a response to an Emergency or Disaster at the request of The Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) or other State or federal authority shall be based on the accurate and timely submission of allowable costs and documentation attributable to the response by each Aiding Unit. These costs include personnel, use of equipment and materials provided, damage or loss of equipment, use of facilities, and any other costs associated with the aid that may be recoverable. The Unit recovering payment from the State or Federal Government shall notify Aiding Units that

such payment has been made, and such Unit will reimburse the other Aiding Units. If the payment is less than the full amount of all Units' cost submittals, the funds shall be proportionally distributed based on each Unit's submitted costs compared to the total of all costs submitted.

3. Interstate Emergency Management Assistance Compact ("EMAC") Response - Expenses recovered related to a response to an Emergency or Disaster at the request of another emergency management agency or the authority of another state government pursuant to an EMAC response. Reimbursement shall be based on the accurate and timely submission of allowable costs and documentation attributable to the response by each Aiding Unit. These costs include personnel, use of equipment and materials provided, damage or loss of equipment, use of facilities, and any other costs associated with the aid that may be recoverable. If these payments are not made directly to the participating Units, the Unit recovering payment from another state or emergency management agency shall notify Aiding Units that such payment has been made, and such Unit will reimburse the other Aiding Units. If the payment is less than the full amount of all Units' cost submittals, the funds shall be proportionally distributed based on each Unit's submitted costs compared to the total of all costs submitted.

## **SECTION FIVE**

### **Insurance**

Each Party shall procure and maintain, at its sole and exclusive expense, insurance coverage, including comprehensive liability, personal injury, property damage, workers' compensation, auto, and, if applicable, watercraft, aircraft, or drone liability. The obligations of

this Section may be satisfied by a Party's membership in a self-insurance pool, a self-insurance plan, or arrangement with an insurance provider approved by the jurisdiction. To the extent permitted by governing law, each Party agrees to waive subrogation rights it may acquire, and to require any insurer to waive subrogation rights they may acquire, by virtue of the payment of claims, suits, or other loss arising out of this Agreement, and shall, as to any insurer, obtain any endorsement necessary to effectuate such waiver of subrogation.

## **SECTION SIX**

### **Jurisdiction Over Personnel, Equipment, and Assets**

Emergency Management Staff, equipment, or other assets dispatched to aid a Requesting Unit pursuant to this Agreement shall, at all times, remain employees, agents, or equipment of the Aiding Unit, and are entitled to receive any benefits and compensation to which they may otherwise be entitled under the laws, regulations, or ordinances of the United States of America, their respective States, and their respective political subdivisions. This includes, but is not limited to, benefits for pension, relief, disability, death, and workers' compensation. If a person from an Aiding Unit is injured or killed while rendering assistance under this Agreement, benefits shall be afforded in the same manner and on the same terms as if the injury or death were sustained while the person from the Aiding Unit was rendering assistance for or within the Aiding Unit's own jurisdiction.

Emergency Management Staff, equipment, or other assets of the Aiding Unit will come under the operational control of the Requesting Unit's Emergency Management Coordinator, or other appropriate authority, until released or withdrawn. The Aiding Unit shall, at all times, have the right to withdraw any and all aid upon the order of its Emergency Management Coordinator.

The Aiding Unit shall notify the Requesting Unit of the extent of any withdrawal, and coordinate the withdrawal to minimize jeopardizing the safety of the operation or other personnel.

If, for any reason, an Aiding Unit determines that it cannot respond to a Requesting Unit, the Aiding Unit shall promptly notify the Requesting Unit of the Aiding Unit's inability to respond; however, failure to promptly notify the Requesting Party of such inability to respond shall not be deemed to be noncompliance with the terms of this Agreement and no liability may be assigned. No liability of any kind shall be attributed to or assumed by a Party, for failure or refusal to render aid, or for withdrawal of aid.

The obligations and duties set forth in this Section shall survive the end or termination of this Agreement.

## **SECTION SEVEN**

### **Liability**

Each Party will be solely responsible for the acts of its own governing body, officers, employees, agents, and subcontractors, expressly including, but not limited to, all of its Emergency Management Staff, the costs associated with those acts, and the defense of those acts. No Party shall be responsible to another Party for any liability or costs arising from the act of an employee or agent of another Party. Each Party hereto shall hold all other Parties hereto harmless for any liability or costs arising from the act of an employee or agent of another Party. The Provisions of this Section shall survive the termination of this Agreement by any Party.

Any Party responding under this Agreement to another state shall be considered agents of the Requesting Unit in the other state for tort liability and immunity purposes related to third-party claims to the extent permissible under the laws of both states. Nothing in this Section shall

be deemed a waiver by any Party of its right to dispute any claim or assert statutory and common law immunities as to third parties.

## **SECTION EIGHT**

### **Term**

This Agreement shall be in effect for a term of one year from the date of signature hereof and shall automatically renew for successive one-year terms unless terminated in accordance with this Section.

Any party hereto may terminate its participation in this Agreement at any time, provided that the party wishing to terminate its participation in this Agreement shall give written notice to the IEMMAS specifying the date of termination, such notice to be given at least 90 calendar days prior to the specified date of termination of participation. The written notice provided herein shall be given by personal delivery, registered mail, or certified mail.

## **SECTION NINE**

### **Effectiveness**

This Agreement shall be in full force and effective for each Party, upon approval by that Party's governing body in the manner provided by law and upon proper execution of this Agreement.

## **SECTION TEN**

### **Binding Effect**

This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of any successor of entity

which may assume the obligations of any party hereto. Provided, however, that this Agreement may not be assigned by a Member Unit without prior written consent of the parties hereto; and this Agreement shall not be assigned by IEMMAS without prior written consent of the parties hereto.

## **SECTION ELEVEN**

### **Validity**

The invalidity of any provision of this Agreement shall not render invalid any other provision. If, for any reason, any provision of this Agreement is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, that provision shall be deemed severable, and this Agreement may be enforced with that provision severed or modified by court order.

## **SECTION TWELVE**

### **Notices**

Notices given under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered by one or more of the following processes: personally delivered, sent by express delivery service, certified mail, or first-class US mail postage prepaid to the head of the governing body of the participating Member Unit.

## **SECTION THIRTEEN**

### **Governing Law**

This Agreement shall be governed, interpreted, and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois.

## **SECTION FOURTEEN**

### **Execution in Counterparts**

This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts or duplicate originals, each of which shall constitute and be deemed as one and the same document.

## **SECTION FIFTEEN**

### **IEMMAS Board**

By agreement by and between each Member Unit to this Agreement, there shall exist a third party Public Agency, created by the Member Unit parties to this agreement, which shall be known as the Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System (hereinafter referred to as “IEMMAS”). IEMMAS that shall be considered a Public Agency, as that term is defined in 5 ILCS 220/2(1). The Public Agency IEMMAS shall have a governing board, consistent with the meaning of the phrase “governing board” in 5 ILCS 220/2(1), which shall be known as the “IEMMAS Board.”

The IEMMAS Board is hereby identified as the authority to consider, adopt and amend from time to time, as needed, rules, procedures, by-laws, and any other matters deemed necessary. For the avoidance of doubt, it is expressly understood that as a Public Body, the IEMMAS Board shall be subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/1-1, et seq.), Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1-1, et seq.), and any other laws and regulations of the state for which Public Bodies must comply.

An Initial Governing Board, created upon enactment of the IEMMAS agreement by two or more Public Agencies, shall serve as the IEMMAS Board. One (1) representative from each of

the eight (8) IEMMAS regions, the State of Illinois shall be divided into eight (8) regions as identified by Exhibit A. Such representatives shall be selected by the President of IESMA, and along with the President of IESMA, (a total of nine (9) individuals), who shall serve as the Initial Governing Board of IEMMAS. If a member of the Initial Governing Board is not able to complete their term, the IESMA President shall appoint a replacement with a candidate from the same IEMMAS region as the person who was unable to complete the term. If there are no parties interested in the position from the IEMMAS region, the IESMA President can then appoint a replacement from any of the IEMMAS regions to finish the term.

The Initial Governing Board shall identify the process to be used for the election of the permanent IEMMAS Board members. The proposed election process shall be approved by a vote of the eight (8) interim IEMMAS Regional Directors with a simple majority. If the vote on the election process should result in a split decision, the IESMA president shall cast the tie breaking vote. The Initial Governing Board shall conduct the election process to identify the eight (8) IEMMAS Regional Directors.

After the eight (8) IEMMAS Regional Directors have been duly elected, a date to transfer the responsibilities from the Initial Governing Board to the IEMMAS board shall be determined. Upon the transfer of responsibilities, all governing board powers are hereby transferred to the elected IEMMAS Board.

The composition IEMMAS Board after the Initial Governing Board have served their term shall consist of the following:

- A. Eight (8) IEMMAS Regional Directors elected from each of the eight (8) IEMMAS Regions.
- B. The President of IESMA, or their designee, will hold a permanent, and non-

elective IEMMAS Board membership.

The eight (8) IEMMAS Regional Directors shall serve as the voting representative of their region on IEMMAS matters. Those elected to represent their region on the IEMMAS Board may appoint a designee to serve temporarily in their stead. The eight (8) IEMMAS Regional Directors shall be from a Member Unit within their respective IEMMAS Region and shall have all rights and privileges attendant to a representative of that region. Every Governing Board Member must be affiliated by employment with, or relation to, a signatory Member Unit.

The Public Agency IEMMAS shall have a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer who shall be appointed by and from the elected members of the IEMMAS Board, at its discretion. The officers shall have the duties, responsibilities and powers accorded to them by the Bylaws of IEMMAS as the Bylaws are established and may be amended from time to time by the IEMMAS Board.

## **SECTION SIXTEEN**

### **Duties of the IEMMAS Board**

The IEMMAS Board shall meet regularly to conduct business and to consider and publish the rules and procedures of the IEMMAS.

## **SECTION SEVENTEEN**

### **Rules and Procedures**

The IEMMAS Board shall establish rules and procedures of the IEMMAS as deemed necessary for the purpose of administrative functions, the exchange of information and the common welfare of the IEMMAS, subject to the laws governing Public Bodies in the State of

Illinois.

## **SECTION EIGHTEEN**

### **Revocation of Prior Agreements**

This Agreement shall replace all prior Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System agreements effective at 12:01 a.m. Central Standard Time on January 1, 2025. Any Member Unit that has not become a Party to this Agreement by 12:01 a.m. Central Standard Time on January 1, 2025, shall no longer be affiliated with IEMMAS in any capacity, shall not continue to benefit from its prior association with IEMMAS, and shall not rely on IEMMAS for emergency responses, until subsequently rejoining IEMMAS by the adoption of an approving ordinance or resolution and entering into this Agreement, as may be amended from time to time. The effective date for any new Member Unit joining after January 1, 2025, shall be the date set forth next to the signature of that new Member Unit.

## **SECTION NINETEEN**

### **Amendments**

This Agreement may only be amended by written consent of all the parties hereto. This shall not preclude the amendment of rules, procedures of the IEMMAS as established by the IEMMAS Board to this Agreement. The undersigned unit of local government or public agency hereby has adopted, and subscribes to, and approves this MUTUAL AID SYSTEM Agreement to which this signature page will be attached and agrees to be a party thereto and be bound by the terms thereof.

[SIGNATURE PAGES FOLLOW]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

This Signatory certifies that this Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System Agreement has been adopted and approved by ordinance, resolution, or other manner approved by law, a copy of which document is attached hereto. A certified copy of the approving ordinance, resolution or authority, along with the executed Agreement is included and shall be sent to the IEMMAS Board.

In Witness Whereof, the Signatory Public Agency designated below enters into this agreement with all other Signatory Public Agencies who have signed or will sign this agreement pursuant to legal authorization granted to is under the Constitution of the State of Illinois (III. Const. Art. VII, § 10), the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (5 ILCS 220/1 et seq.) and the final approval required of an entity such as the undersigned Public Agency

\_\_\_\_\_  
Public Agency Name

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Legally Authorized Agent

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

State of Illinois                    )  
  ) ss  
County of \_\_\_\_\_            )

\_\_\_\_\_, after being duly sworn on oath, deposes and states under penalty of perjury that he/she is the duly authorized agent for the Public Agency shown above, that he/she has read the agreement in its entirety, that the entity shown above the “Public Agency Name” line, above, is a Public Agency within the meaning of 5 ILCS 220/1 et seq. and that he/she signs this document pursuant to proper authority granted by that public agency.