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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **ROCKFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT JOINS ILTERT**

**ROCKFORD – February 23, 2012-** Rockford Fire Department became an active member of ILTERT or Illinois Telecommunicator Emergency Response Team. The Illinois Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce (IL-TERT) is an Intergovernmental Mutual Aid program intended to provide teams of highly qualified 9-1-1 Telecommunicators to:

- Respond rapidly to the scene of disaster situations any place in the State of Illinois.
- Respond to disaster situations out-of-state under the EMAC or Emergency Mutual Aid Compact.
- Provide assistance to other Illinois PSAP's that encounter crisis situations.
- Provide advice to agencies that wish to develop local Field Communications teams.

The need for such a program resulted from a recognition that the Illinois Terrorism Taskforce has deployed a number of large Incident Command vehicles throughout the state each of which have a communications component. Efficient operation of the communications function requires the deployment of professional Telecommunicators who have been specially trained in incident command and field operations. In addition, hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the fall of 2005 demonstrated the need to deploy Telecommunicators with those same skill sets to the disaster area. There are currently 46 member agency's (Rockford included) and over 130 trained Team Members.

## **ADDITIONAL ILTERT FACTS**

### **Deployment and Mutual Aid:**

**Illinois received a request to deploy 20 Telecommunicators to the disaster area, but could not do so since no formal mutual aid program existed. Subsequently, the Illinois group (IL-TERT) moved forward to form a statewide Telecommunicator mutual aid system and at the same time has made an effort to work in conjunction with the national program. The national program has evolved into a cooperative effort of APCO and NENA called the National Joint TERT Initiative (NJTI). Since IL-TERT officially formed in August of 2006; there were (2) deployments during the southern Illinois flooding in May of 2011.**

### **Active Membership:**

**Provides that each member agency will enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement much like that used by ILEAS and MABAS. Active members have voting rights, and their team members receive specialized training and equipment. The intent is to develop a pool of trained Telecommunicators who are able to provide mutual aid assistance to stricken PSAP's in Illinois as well as to provide field operations assistance in declared disaster situations either within Illinois or on an Interstate (EMAC) basis. As a Member of ILTERT, Rockford Fire Department would also have access to mutual aid assistance in a disaster situation.**

### **What is EMAC:**

**EMAC is the nation's state to state mutual aid system.**

### **Rockford Fire Department's Team Members:**

**Todd Gustafson  
Sileena Crawford  
Dan McNames  
Andrea Goetz**