

**For immediate release**

**Will County 9-1-1 Recommends**

**Entering 'ICE' Number in Cell Phones**

(JOLIET, April 11, 2006) – If you ever become incapacitated and can't speak for yourself, due to an emergency, the "first responders" who arrive to help may need a quick way to learn who to contact on your behalf.

"Unfortunately, those first responders (paramedics, police and/or firefighters) often waste valuable time trying to figure out which name in a cell phone to call when an emergency occurs," said Steve Figved, chief administrator of the Will County Emergency Telephone System. "The accident scene is probably hectic and they may need to talk immediately to a family member, close friend, or some other person (possibly your doctor) – so that they can get you the medical attention you need as soon as possible.

"To help ensure that you get that attention, all you have to do is put the name of your emergency contact in your cell phone's phone book with the word 'ICE' in front of it," said Figved, adding that "ICE" stands for "In Case of Emergency."

If, for example, your emergency contact is Sheila, you should put "ICE – Sheila" in your cellular phone book. In this way, the emergency responders who are treating you can quickly contact "Sheila" to get the information they need to proceed. In fact, you may want to have more than one emergency contact – by listing them as ICE1, ICE2, etc.



All of Illinois' emergency agencies have been notified to look for ICE numbers if they ever come across an unconscious person in an accident. With the extra seconds provided via these ICE numbers, police officers, firefighters and paramedics may one day help save your life.

Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year of providing emergency services to Will County residents and first responders, the 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System currently operates through about 150 telecommunicators at nine dispatch centers. Located in Joliet, Plainfield, Crete, New Lenox, Steger, Romeoville, Wilmington and Braidwood, plus the Will County Sheriff's Office, these emergency communication centers handled a combined total of more than 293,000 emergency calls in 2005. About 45 percent of those calls were placed by users of cell phones.

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**For more information,  
contact Steve Figved at 1-815-725-1911**