

A quarterly report of MABAS WISCONSIN activities to underscore its value to the community and to foster growth and improvement through the sharing of actual experience

MABAS ADVANTAGE EVIDENT IN FIGHTING MARSH FIRE

BY GARY SCHMIDT AND CHIEF BILL RICE, MABAS SE REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Just after 9pm on Saturday November 10, 2012, a call came in from Hope Lake Road in a rural area south of **Lake Mills** for a marsh fire. Record high temps in the sixties brought with it winds gusting up to 35 mph. Very quickly, a MABAS Box Alarm for **Division 118 (Jefferson County)** was called.



Lake Mills is 25 miles east of Madison Wisconsin, just south of I-94. Fighting a marsh fire is taxing on responders - often they must pull hoses or carry extinguishers great distances through unfriendly terrain while in full protective gear. Add to this high winds, the darkness of night, and warm temps, this was an extreme challenge for the firefighters.

By 1am, the MABAS card was exhausted (so were responders). **The MABAS system however, has provisions to send as many resources as needed to a stricken community.**

(Continued on page 2)

Div 115 Task Force arriving at Lake Mills FD Parking Lot Photo by Lloyd Schultz



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY ED JANKE

From time to time it is important for an organization to introspect and determine whether the organization is serving its stakeholders. MABAS-Wisconsin by our mission statement is the organization that promotes the development, implementation, and sustainment of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) within the State of Wisconsin.

I believe that we have and will continue to serve our mission by recognizing the challenges that each of our Divisions face through the ongoing improvement of our policies and practices to address those needs. We have recently addressed some of those needs by redefining how our strike teams and task forces may operate. We continue to work on systemic perspectives and processes so that we may assist the geographically diverse regions of the State.

It is my hope that our members and future members see that we are evolving to make sure that MABAS works for everyone, regardless of population density or geographical dispersion.

The goals of our first strategic plan that was authored in 2008 supported our mission. We have accomplished many of those goals and some will be on going. One of the goals that we continue to address is the development of strategic partnerships. Recent discussions with the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association have been productive and will likely prove to be a valuable and effective partnership where advocacy and technical expertise will complement one another. We will begin work on a new strategic plan in 2013 which will address the needs of ALL of our stakeholders in support of our mission.



A third alarm warehouse fire (see page 8) (Photo by Drew Spielman)

Throughout these processes, we can never lose sight of our purpose; which is to coordinate the effective and efficient provision of mutual aid during emergencies, natural disasters, or man-made catastrophes.

(Continued on page 2)

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

MABAS ADVANTAGE EVIDENT IN FIGHTING MARSH FIRE - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

The marsh fire continued to spread, going from acres to miles being involved

The **SE Coordinator for MABAS, Bill Rice**, was contacted for assistance in arranging for help from outlying MABAS Divisions.

Known as **interdivisional requests**, MABAS Divisions preplan for this - selecting a cross section of equipment that can be sent out of a County without placing the local area at risk.

Chief Rice arranged for Task Forces from **Div 106 (Waukesha County)** and **Div 103 (Walworth County)**.

Around 4am, **Div 115 (Dane County)** was called.

With the help of the **SW Coordinator for MABAS, Bruce Hedrington, Div 104 (Rock County)** was sent and two other Divisions began planning for deployment. Fortunately, the fire was extinguished by 8am and Div 104 was sent home before arriving.



Div 103 & 106 chiefs along with Lake Mills FD AC Mark Yandre brief personnel who arrived with the task force.

Photo by Lloyd Schultz



Lake Mills AC Mark Yandre, center, discusses area and scope of the fire with two chiefs from the Div 103 and 106.

Photo by Lloyd Schultz

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

We exist to support and assist neighbors helping neighbors and to provide a system so Divisions can help Divisions and ultimately roll up resources across the State if necessary to assist a community in need.

We continue to emphasize that MABAS Wisconsin is simply the organization that supports the mutual aid system set forth in Wisconsin Statute. Looking to the future, it is our vision that one day all citizens of this State will be served by emergency services providers who are part of a seamless and universal model of receiving mutual aid when in need; having immediate access to any and every type of common or specialty resource they would ever

need to deal with any peril facing them; all available through their normal dispatch process; and without fear of the financial consequences to their community.

In this issue of **MABAS-Wisconsin in Action**, we look at some of the accomplishments and some of the responses of our Divisions.

We also take a look at the Wisconsin Emergency Management Mobile Command Center.

In closing, I am pleased to welcome three new Divisions; Division 143 - St. Croix County, Division 144 - Marinette County and Division 145 - Monroe County.

MABAS WISCONSIN IN ACTION STAFF

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ContributorLloyd Schultz (Johnson Creek Fire Dept)

WISCONSIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MOBILE COMMAND CENTER

BY KEITH TVEIT, FIRE SERVICES COORDINATOR, WISCONSIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The WEM MCC can be requested for both emergent and planned community events. To request the MCC for emergent events, contact the WEM Duty Officer @ 1-800-943-0003 (24/7) and describe the need. If the need meets the WEM criteria it will be dispatched.

For a planned community event contact your respective County Emergency Management Director to make your request. The County EM Director will then send a letter

to their WEM Regional Director who will then forward the request to the WEM Bureau of Response and Recovery Director who will approve or deny the request.

For emergent requests there is no cost to the requestor. For planned events the requestor is obligated for fuel for the generator and any consumables.

http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/EOC/mobile_command.asp



Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs Division of Emergency Management

Mobile Command Center (MCC)

- 45 ft. trailer
- Equipped w/ commo room, and operations room
- VHF, UHF, & HF radios (12)
- ACU-1000
- PSTN patch panel for phone and fax
- Meeting room for 6-8 people

MCC / ACU-1000 Trailer

Use Agreement

Who can request:

- State agency administration /commander
- County Sheriffs
- US Marshals
- Fire Chiefs
- County Emergency Management Director

How to request:

- Contact WEM Hotline number (1-800-943-0003) or (608-242-3232)

Related Information

- [WEM/DNR 24 hour hotline](#)
- [Mobile Command Center](#)
- [ACU-1000](#)
- [WEM Portable 80' Tower](#)
- [WEM Handheld Radios](#)
- [Microwave telephone](#)
- [NAWAS](#)
- [Dial select and City Watch](#)
- [EAS](#)
- [HazCollect](#)
- [NOAA Weather Radio](#)
- [Non-Weather Emergency Messages](#)
- [TIME System](#)
- [ARES/RACES](#)
- [WCIA](#)




MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

2012 DROUGHT CAUSED MANY WILDLAND FIRE BOXES *BY GARY SCHMIDT*

Planning for the unexpected is what the MABAS system is built for. The last thing an Incident Commander wants to do in the middle of an escalating event is to have to think about who should be contacted next and is there a mutual aid agreement with them.

The MABAS system has costs and liabilities already agreed upon at the time a department becomes a MABAS member. The MABAS Box Cards carefully plan out the resources that can be called without depleting a local area. Along with standardized radio frequencies, equipment staffing, and terminology, that makes for extremely quick deployment of resources when needed the most.

The 2012 drought saw many grass, brush, and marsh fires at a scale never seen before. Some departments were caught scrambling due to their Box Cards not filled out for all five alarm levels.

MABAS 3RD ALARM USED FOR KANSASVILLE BRUSH FIRE *BY TIM STEIN*

Kansasville Fire & Rescue is a Racine County Department with a response area that crosses into Kenosha County.

On October 9, 2012, a brush fire was reported at 521 224th Avenue. Eventually **MABAS Box 500-11** was taken to the 3rd alarm level, bringing in an array of brush trucks and other equipment.

Responding units were

Engines:

Kansasville 521, Town of Burlington 962, City of Burlington 923.

Engine/Tenders:

Salem 5813

Tenders:

Kansasville 561, Town of Burlington 968, Trevor 6465, Rochester 968.

Brush Trucks:

Kansasville 571, Salem 6473, Wheatland 6672, Paris 5572, Bristol 5271, Rochester 826, Wilmot 6778 & 6770, Town of Burlington 964.

Gators/Six Wheelers:

Rochester 830, Salem 5891, Randall 5751, Silver Lake 6155.

Squads:

Silver Lake 6156

Ambulances:

Kansasville 533, Salem 5943.

Pick-up Trucks:

Randall 12.

Command Vehicles:

Salem (Unknown unit number).

Rehab:

Racine Fire Bells Rehab 65.



Photos by Timothy J. Stein.

KANSASVILLE BRUSH FIRE — CONTINUED

Depicted is the variety of equipment used to fight the fire

Photos by Timothy J. Stein. These photos and others are located at www.fyrpix.com in the "Featured Galleries Area"



How to Contact Us

Your contributions to the various columns will make this newsletter a success. Let us know about your MABAS response activity at garyschmidt@wi.rr.com. In particular, pictures of activity are needed.

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

DIVISION WEBSITES *BY GARY SCHMIDT*

Some MABAS Divisions in Wisconsin have created their own website. Here are some I found - check them out:

<http://mabas112.org>

<http://division102.mabaswisconsin.org>

SE WI Re	M
MABAS V	Availabil
MABAS V	Availab
Racine	Comm

(Continued on page 7)

DIVISION WEBSITES - CONTINUED

<http://www.mabas115.org> (Some black/white colors were reversed for newsletter readability)



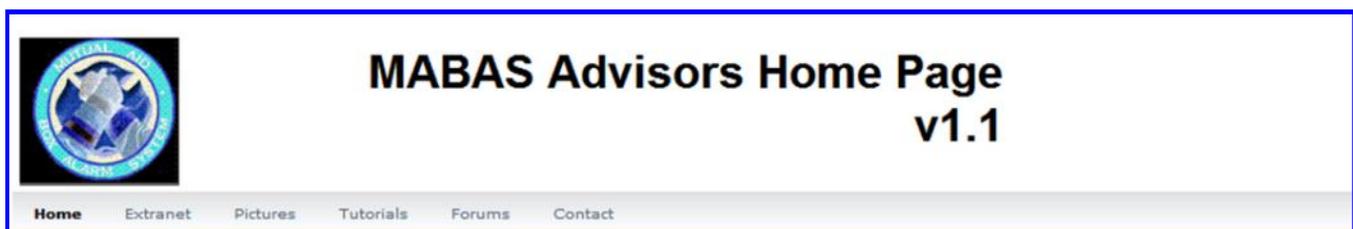
Home | What is MABAS | MABAS Links | Box Alarm Card Information | Meetings Information



The Dane County Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 115 assists departments with pre-planning for emergency situations by providing organized mutual aid within our County and throughout the Mid-West. In addition to incident response pre-planning (box alarm cards), the MABAS System provides standardized radio communications, personnel accountability, and contractual agreements between all members.

<http://www.mabasadvisors.com>

(this is created by **Division 113**. The black/white colors were reversed for newsletter readability)



MABAS Advisors Home Page
v1.1

Home Extranet Pictures Tutorials Forums Contact

The purpose of a MABAS / Mutual Aid Advisor is to provide Incident Command with relevant MABAS / Mutual Aid information ranging from Box Card fill status to radio procedures during the MABAS / Mutual Aid incident.

It is NOT the purpose of the advisors program to provide a type of county wide / district-wide "roaming chief". A MABAS Advisor will NOT take command of an incident; the main goal of the advisor is to provide support to command. In addition to providing support to command at incident scenes Advisors will be in the unique position to speed the flow of knowledge throughout the division and provide training when required.

The MABAS Advisors program was official adopted by the Sheboygan County Chief's Association on March 26th 2009.

Use the menu at the top to navigate to the different sections on the page.

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

MABAS DIVISION 112 IN ACTION - GREEN BAY THIRD ALARM WAREHOUSE FIRE By DREW SPIELMAN

On September 20, 2012, the **Green Bay Fire Department** pulled MABAS Box 4-31 to the 3rd level for the warehouse fire located at 2325 Hutson Road.

The \$350,000+ in damage may have been from a cleanup project involving a torch inside the warehouse on Green Bay's west side. The large, L-shaped building is mostly metal and was being used as storage and office space.

Firefighters believe the blaze had burned for a while before being reported just after 11 a.m. Crews used a defensive attack to extinguish the fire and prevented it from spreading to nearby exposure buildings.



Companies On Scene:

Green Bay - Engines 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 Ladders 2,5,6
Ambos 3,5,6 Battalions 1,3 Chiefs 401,402,403 and
Green Bay Mobile Command

Howard - Engine 211 Ladder 211 Chief 290

DePere - Ladder 111 Chief 190

Ashwaubenon - Engine 311 Ambo 313 Chief 390

Hobart - Engine 1711

Suamico - Engine 1211

New Franken - Engine 1513 pulling MABAS 112
Rehab trailer

Change of Quarters:

Bellevue - Engine 511 Chief 590

New Franken - Engine 1511 Chief 1590

Lawrence - Engine 621 Chief 690

Time of alarms:

Initial Dispatch: 11:05am

Working Still: 11:11am

Box Alarm: 11:30am

2nd Box 12:13am



DIV 112 REHAB TRAILER BY DREW SPIELMAN

Brown County MABAS Division 112 has a rehab trailer used for large scale incidents. It carries extra bottled water, water coolers, tables, chairs, misting fans, and is air conditioned for summer use and heated for winter.



Also carried is a RAD57 CO monitor. It was received through a grant and is used to monitor CO and O₂ in the blood, and pulse and respiratory rate.

Overall, its main use is to get personnel out of the elements to warm up or cool off.

Photos by Drew Spielman.



DIV 107 IN ACTION - 2ND ALARM MABAS BOX

BY GARY SCHMIDT

At 3am, on September 10, 2012, a fire was reported in a large three-story apartment building in the **City of St. Francis**, located a few blocks north of Mitchell International Airport. The building was one of several in the complex.

With much of the roof on fire upon arrival and a high life safety concern, a structure fire MABAS box was called for **Division 107**. The incident escalated to a second alarm level before being brought under control.



Photos by Timothy J. Stein. These photos and others are located at www.fvrpix.com in the "Featured Galleries Area"



ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS & DEADLINES

- It's very important for the Wisconsin Fire Service Emergency Response Plan contact information to be current and in Esponder. It will be especially important to WEM Fire Services Coordinator and the MABAS Regional Coordinators.
- Send completed MABAS Box cards to Dean Nelson at dnelson94@wi.rr.com

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

MABAS BOX ALARM CALLED AFTER PLANE CRASHES INTO BACKYARDS *BY GARY SCHMIDT*



In an area of Racine County (Div 102) that is mainly farmland, a small plane crashed into a subdivision adjacent to Eagle Lake.

The plane crashed in the back yards that border each other along two parallel streets.

The pilot was the only occupant in the plane and was killed. No one on the ground was injured.

The Box-level MABAS Box was called as several sheds, garages, vehicles, and trees were on fire. Downed wires also were a concern.



Photos by Timothy J. Stein.

**MABAS Wisconsin
General Mailing Address
PO Box 233
Camp Douglas, WI 54618**

WHAT IS MABAS (MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM)? BY GARY SCHMIDT

Using MABAS, when your Fire Department responds to an incident, they respond with a preplanned set of resources/vehicles appropriate for the situation. This may be augmented further upon confirmation of a working incident.

This first alarm set of resources is often referred to as a Working Still.

When conditions require another "set of resources" or alarm, the Incident Commander (IC) will use MABAS to request resources from other departments ("mutual aid").

By using MABAS, the IC is assured of:

- √ A specific minimum number of firefighters per unit type
- √ A specific level of training/certification of responders
- √ The other departments will have the same radio frequencies
- √ The other departments will use the same terminology
- √ All costs and liabilities are borne by the outside departments coming to the stricken community
- √ Other departments will cover the community having the incident
- √ As many additional "sets" (alarms) as needed can be called for

This allows the IC to focus on the emergency at hand and the tactics to be deployed.

The inherent standardization by all MABAS departments enables a fast, efficient response to an escalating emergency situation.

This saves lives, minimizes property damage, and can prevent economic devastation to the local community.

In 2009, a meatpacking plant fire in Cudahy WI, had 16 additional alarm sets called for, involving 64 Fire Departments.

DEPARTMENT NAME: Union Grove		BOX ALARM TYPE: DISASTER		EFFECTIVE DATE: June 15, 2011		MABAS DIVISION: 102		
BOX ALARM#: 300-18		LOCATION OR AREA: Entire District		AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE: Tom Czerniak Chief				
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:								
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TENDERS	TRUCKS	SQUADS	EMS	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS
STILL	Union Grove		Union Grove	Union Grove	Union Grove	Union Grove		
WORKING STILL	Kansasville Raymond				Raymond	Kansasville Raymond	Kansasville Trailer	
MABAS BOX ALARM:								
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TENDERS	TRUCKS	SQUADS	EMS	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS
BOX	Town Burlington Somers		Caledonia	Antioch	South Shore Paris Kansasville	Caledonia	Fire Bells South Shore Mass Casualty	Wind Lake (Ambulance) City Burlington (Truck) South Shore (Chief)
2 ND	City Racine		City Burlington	Zion	Bristol Wind Lake	South Shore	Racine Tactical Command Red Cross	Rochester (Engine) Burlington (Ambulance) Oak Creek (Truck) Pleasant Prairie (Chief)
3 RD	Rochester		Oak Creek		Burlington Waterford	Pleasant Prairie	Air One	Newport (Engine) Randall (Truck) Salem (Ambulance) Town Burlington (Chief)
4 TH	Newport		Randall		Salem Tichigan	Town Burlington		Franklin (Engine) Kenosha (Truck) Winthrop Harbor (Ambulance) Kenosha (Chief)
5 TH	Franklin		Kenosha		South Milwaukee Winthrop Harbor	Kenosha		
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST		1 ST CHOICE Division 4		2 ND CHOICE Division 103		3 RD CHOICE Division 107		
INFORMATION: Union Grove - Yorkville Fire Department station located at 700 Main Street (Hwy 45) Union Grove, Wisconsin								

At left is the MABAS Box Alarm Card format that lists the preplanned resources.

MABAS is used in Wisconsin, Illinois, and other neighboring States, providing for a regional solution to a local problem.

Since all departments in all States using MABAS listen to the same radio frequency, one transmission will notify numerous departments. Such interoperability is key to the success of MABAS.



For more information about becoming a member of MABAS-Wisconsin or to view all issues of this newsletter, visit: www.mabaswisconsin.org (scroll down for newsletter links)





MABAS – Wisconsin

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Organized 2004

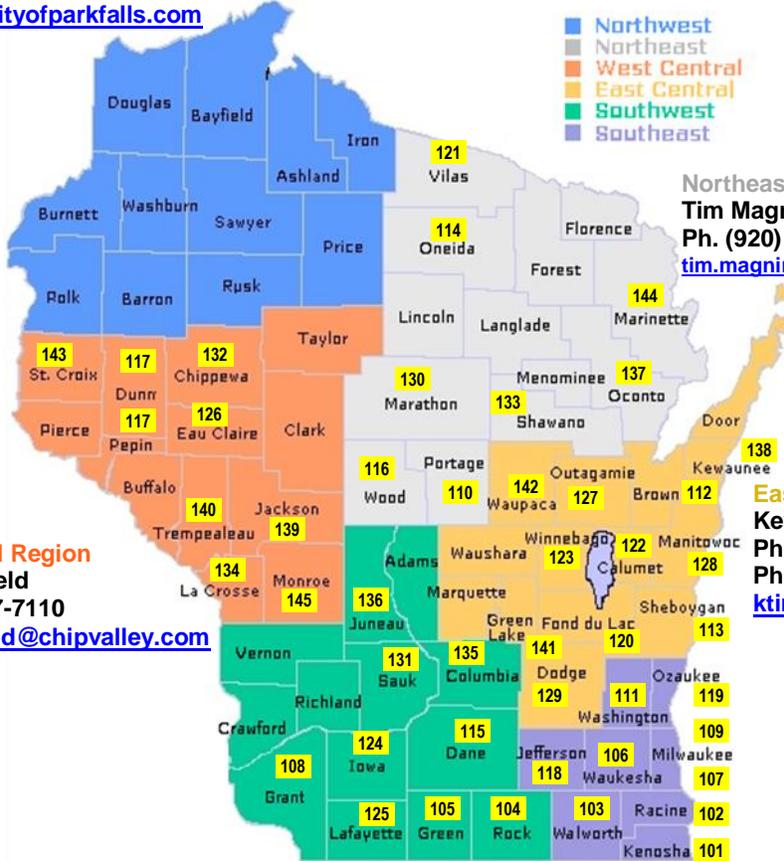
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Wisconsin Homeland Security Council

Brad Liggett

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Divisions

- 101 – Kenosha County
- 102 – Racine County
- 103 – Walworth County
- 104 – Rock County
- 105 – Green County
- 106 – Waukesha County
- 107 – Milwaukee County
- 108 – Grant County
- 109 – Milwaukee City
- 110 – Portage County
- 111 – Washington County
- 112 – Brown County
- 113 – Sheboygan County
- 114 – Oneida County
- 115 – Dane County
- 116 – Wood County
- 117 – Dunn/Pepin County
- 118 – Jefferson County
- 119 – Ozaukee County
- 120 – Fond du Lac County
- 121 – Vilas County
- 122 – Calumet County
- 123 – Winnebago County
- 124 – Iowa County
- 125 – Lafayette County
- 126 – Eau Claire County
- 127 – Outagamie County
- 128 – Manitowoc County
- 129 – Dodge County
- 130 – Marathon County
- 131 – Sauk County
- 132 – Chippewa County
- 133 – Shawano County
- 134 – La Crosse County
- 135 – Columbia County
- 136 – Juneau County
- 137 – Oconto County
- 138 – Kewaunee County
- 139 – Jackson County
- 140 – Trempealeau County
- 141 – Green Lake County
- 142 – Waupaca County
- 143 – St. Croix County
- 144 – Marinette County
- 145 – Monroe County

MABAS OPERATING FREQUENCIES

IFERN

IFERN2

MABAS1 (WISCOM)

MABAS2 (WISCOM)

MABAS Alerting / intra-Divisional responses

Alternate intra-Divisional responses

Inter-Divisional Responses

Contact with Wisconsin Red Center

Regional Coordinators - WEM Coordination*

*Future use