

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

WINTER 2017-18

## LARGE AREA SEARCH BOX CARD USED IN WINTER SNOWSTORM

BY JACK BIERMANN JR., CHIEF, ROCHESTER VOLUNTEER FIRE CO & RACINE COUNTY SHERIFF LT. DAVID KINSERVIK



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On **Saturday, February 3, 2018**, a 79-year-old resident of Milwaukee went for a hike in the **Honey Creek Wildlife refuge** off of Highway W in the village of Rochester in western **Racine County**. It was **12 noon** and the temperature was 30 degrees with winds gusting over 25 miles per hour. At **5:31 pm**, the Racine County Communications Center took a call from a concerned citizen that the elderly male had not returned to his car yet.

The caller stated that he too had been in the area hiking and had been looking for the man for a while but could not find him. The temperature in the area was in the low 30's and snow was starting to fall. The first units on scene attempted to loud hail the hiker with no response.

At **6:05pm**, the **Rochester Volunteer Fire Department** was requested. As I (Chief Biermann) arrived on scene, temperatures were falling, it was dark out, and it started to snow heavily. **The missing person was last seen approximately 6 hours ago.**

I immediately pulled **MABAS Division 102 Box Card 800-13 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm.**

wardens and fire personnel. The first team sent out was led by Deputy Ruffalo and his K9 partner Nitro. They had a good track and after approximately 30 minutes of tracking they located the lost hiker. The hiker was brought out to a waiting rescue squad and was found to be hungry and thirsty but in otherwise good health.

The card worked well. It was designed to work for all weather climates. We do not request any unit that has water or a pump on it to prevent freezing during cold weather. We had resources that could have been deployed to keep responders warm as well as the fire station was only 1/2 mile away if it would have turned into a long-term incident.

Units were Level 2 staged (away from actual scene) at a parking lot approximately 1/4 mile away. Personnel were shuttled up to the scene using one of our ambulances and then assembled into teams, which included at least one ATV, thermal imaging cameras, and flashlights.

These teams were sent out, starting at the road, lined up within sight of each other and were instructed to walk a pattern due West. These teams were approximately 5-10 minutes behind Racine County Sheriff's K-9 units as not to disturb any scent for tracking purposes. Three teams in total were deployed.

Each team consisted of a Racine County Sheriff K9 unit, DNR

DEPARTMENT NAME:	BOX ALARM TYPE:	EFFECTIVE DATE:	MABAS DIVISION					
Rochester	Large Area Search	January 1, 2018	102					
BOX ALARM #	LOCATION OR AREA:	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:						
800-13	Entire District	Chief Jack Biermann						
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:								
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	UTILITY TRUCK (Staffed w/3)	ATV/UTV	SQUAD	AMBULANCES (ALS)	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS
STILL	Rochester		Rochester	Rochester	Rochester	Rochester		
WORKING								
STILL								
MABAS BOX ALARM:								
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	UTILITY TRUCK (Staffed w/3)	ATV/UTV	SQUAD	AMBULANCES (ALS)	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS
BOX		Town of Burlington Waterford Tichigan City of Burlington	Tichigan Town of Burlington Burlington Rescue East Troy		Wind Lake Burlington Rescue	Town of Burlington City of Burlington	Racine Fire Bells Air One (if needed)	Vernon Utility Truck & Chief Kansasville Ambulance Greendale Engine & Chief
2ND		Vernon Union Grove Eagle	Kansasville Mukwonago Eagle		Kansasville	Vernon Union Grove	Racine TC1 Tight for Life (if needed)	Raymond Utility Truck & Chief East Troy Ambulance
3RD		Raymond Elkhorn Tess Corners Somers	Raymond Elkhorn Somers		East Troy	Elkhorn Raymond	Dispatch Contact: Badger Red & MABAS Regional Coordinator	Lake Geneva Utility Truck & Chief Franklin Ambulance
4TH		Lake Geneva North Prairie South Shore	Salem South Shore		Franklin	Lake Geneva	North Prairie FD Auxiliary	Oak Creek Ambulance
5TH		Racine City of Delevan Twin Lakes						
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST	1st CHOICE Div. 101 Kenosha	2nd CHOICE Div. 107 Milwaukee	3rd CHOICE Div. 103 Walworth	Station Location: 31020 Academy Road, Burlington, WI, 262-534-3444 MABAS Knox Box on front of building by glass doors				

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** BY KEVIN BIERCE, CHIEF, PEWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND PRESIDENT, MABAS WISCONSIN



Well, here we are coming off the first Presidents weekend! Thankfully the snow is behind us and some new ideas are in front of us!

If you didn't hear it was the first time we had all the Division Presidents in the same room at the same time.

One of the goals of the executive board was to start bringing more face time to listening to the challenges of the existing divisions around the state.

We understand not all divisions are the same and many are at different levels of development. So, as we move forward to Stage Two of our

organizational development, we've chosen to spend more time "face to face" with the different regions to help us understand the challenges we face in the big picture!

As you can imagine we have become increasingly busy with more deployments and larger resource requests! Kudos to the Regional Coordinators who spend so much time and energy making sure those resources are listed and available for deployment when needed.

If you get a chance to introduce yourself to your Regional Representative please do so. And to

those Division Presidents who make the operation turn daily...THANK YOU!

I understand the challenges that many of you face and I want to let you know the executive board is available when needed if you find a muddy trail.

Otherwise we hope to see you at the Conference. Remember it's our conference; to make it successful, we need you to spread the word!

Till the next box...

**MABAS WISCONSIN CORPORATE SPONSORS**

As a 501(c)(3) organization, MABAS Wisconsin relies on donations and sponsors to further its mission of mutual aid, associated systems and training. We thank the following organizations for their sponsorship:

**Mutual Aid Labs** provides world-class software to emergency services agencies without regard to their size. For too long size and budget has dictated the quality of technology available to these agencies, Mutual Aid Labs will provide software that revolutionizes processes and procedures, in such a way that it does not place undue burden on an agency's budget.

Mutual Aid Labs is the provider of **EMABAS** full electronic implementation of the *Mutual Aid Box Alarm System* (MABAS).



**EMABAS** converts box cards from static data to dynamic documents that change as departments and agencies change; **EMABAS** transforms the manner in which you plan and respond.

The desktop version of **EMABAS** provides the main interface for creating and using box cards. It also provides interfaces into resources, contacts, dispatch and reporting. Additionally the system has the ability to aid agencies in the use of MABAS during actual Calls.

**Paul Conway Fire** is America's #1 Helmet Shield Manufacturer and an industry leader in providing the highest quality in protective gear and safety equipment since 1985. We take great pride in supporting the men and women who selflessly protect and serve our communities.

**Paul Conway Safety** division serves individuals and businesses within the industrial safety field. From first aid to hard hats, protective eyewear to fall protection, traffic safety, respiratory to hearing protection, safety apparel and more.



**Paul Conway Law Enforcement/Tactical** division specializes in providing top-level products and services that you can depend on when it matters most. We are also a major U.S. dealer for OnCall® Body Worn Camera and the OnCall® Live Video System.

Our **Custom Shop** specializes in Gold Leaf vehicle graphics, striping, decals, embroidery, customized command boards, banners, signs and more.

**Mission**

*MABAS Wisconsin is the organization that promotes the development, implementation, and sustainment of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) within the state of Wisconsin.*

## DIV 144 IN ACTION: MARINETTE OLD KNITTING MILL FIRE BY JAY HECKEL, FIRE CHIEF, CITY OF MARINETTE

On Thursday **January 25, 2018**, a fire was reported in a warehouse-type structure at **10:51am**. This was an old **Knitting Mill located at 1650 Pierce Avenue** in Marinette that had been previously closed down and now used primarily for storage. The temps were in the 20's.

Upon arrival of first units - Marinette Engine 109, Quint 120, Service 106 and Menominee (Michigan) Engine 1 - heavy smoke was coming from the basement windows on the B-side of the structure with smoke conditions throughout the remainder of the building (the A-side is the front; B-C-D sides wrap clockwise from the A-side).

An "all-call" was immediately requested for **Marinette Fire Department** personnel. Marinette County Dispatch was contacted and asked if they still had contact with the caller after finding no one on scene. They informed us that they had made two or three attempts to contact the caller with no answer. A third attempt reached the caller who was on the D-side of the structure attempting to move some equipment. He confirmed he was the only one in the structure.

During this time 2½" hose lines were being deployed as well as two 1¾" to attempt knock down. Menominee Engine 1 was positioned on the B-C corner of the structure and deployed 2½" monitors (devices that can hold a flowing firehose) for fire attack and exposure protection.



Additional agencies on scene at this point were Marinette Police controlling traffic and crowds, EMS units from Bay Area Medical Center and Emergency Rescue Squad Incorporated.

Fire began to quickly spread and this is when Operations requested Marinette County **MABAS Division 144 Box Card 100-1-1 to the Box Alarm level at 10:58am.**

Quint 120 was relocated from the A-B corner of the building to the D-side in preparation for use of its aerial stream.

The MABAS Box Alarm brought in engines and personnel from the City of Peshtigo and Town of Peshtigo and Chiefs from those departments as well as additional EMS units.

The Town of Peshtigo engine company was used to lay a supply line to our Quint 120 and the Chief assigned the role as Safety Officer. Their engine was then moved to the C-D corner to deploy master streams.



The City of Peshtigo engine company was utilized to pump additional water to our Quint 120 so that both monitors on the unit could be used. After consulting with Water Department personnel, they had to catch a hydrant from two blocks to the west of the incident to access a larger water main as the hydrants in the immediate area of the incident were fed by six-inch mains and were being taxed by the operation. City of Peshtigo FD personnel were also utilized to operate 2½" hose lines.

Due to heavy smoke in the downwind area and debris lifted by the fire, Marinette Police units were asked to evacuate two homes and advise

*(Continued on page 4)*



Left: Monitors in use. Right: Conditions shortly after arrival (Photos by Val Ihde).

## DIV 144 IN ACTION: MARINETTE OLD KNITTING MILL FIRE - CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 3)*

others in the area to shut down their ventilation systems until smoke conditions cleared. Officers also patrolled the areas around the incident for other fires caused by the drifting debris.

As the fire progressed, city and county cable and fiber optic lines were knocked out by their close proximity to the fire. This hampered mobile data, computer and internet, and communications at the dispatch center.



Above: Pole-to-Pole Fiber lines affected by the fire.  
Below: Command & Operations Chiefs discuss strategy.  
(Photos by Val Ihde).



During this impact, the incident was escalated to the **Second Box Alarm level at 11:51.**

After the metal sheeting roof of the building fell, an excavator from MJB Industries was brought in to move the metal sheets that were covering hot spots and take down walls that were a collapse hazard.

### Challenges

With cable and fiber optic lines being affected by the fire, the second alarm dispatch didn't go as smoothly as the initial box alarm did. Fiber and Cable lines ran along the alley on the B-side of the building from the structure and then down the A-side on Pierce Avenue towards the dispatch center, above ground.

The fire only really impacted about a 5 to 10-foot section of the lines but did knock out computers, mobile

data, and some radio communication.

Dispatch figured it out, going to a backup system and jumping on the phone to get the 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm units coming. It was a great job of adapting and overcoming that obstacle. Fiber and cable companies worked through the night and into the next day, after the fire, to restore systems.

We do have IFERN but chose to stay on our dispatch channel to have a repeated/recorded frequency. We learned that some of the incoming departments did not have that frequency in their radios. We assigned one of our Assistant Chiefs to the area those departments were working in to rectify that issue.

Departments in our area that do not have our City Fire channel will be adding it. Other options would be to utilize a Coordination channel which is repeated and available to everyone. For outside agencies, in the future, we will utilize the Coordination Channel, IFERN, or provide portables to units that do not have the proper channels.

Another issue was that our change of quarters department, from Crivitz Fire, had to travel a good distance to our location. We ended up assigning the second alarm engine company from Grover/Porterfield Fire Department as the change of quarters for any additional responses in the city and assigned Crivitz Fire to fire ground operations.

There were multiple agencies involved in our operation and all worked great for us.

Marinette P.D. provided scene and crowd control as well as handle evacuation and checking the surrounding area for us.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# DIV 144 IN ACTION: MARINETTE OLD KNITTING MILL FIRE - CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 4)*

Marinette County Sheriff's Office Liaison provided communication assistance and a mobile command post that was utilized for rehab.

Bay Area Medical Center and Emergency Rescue Squad personnel kept any eye on everyone and made sure they were rehabbed properly.

Casting services, a business located across from the incident provided use of restroom facilities.

Marinette Water and Waste Water personnel provided great assistance with water main mapping and taking care of runoff that contained anti-freeze and paint. Marinette County Emergency Management secured fuel for apparatus on scene. They also arranged food and water for rehab

donated by our local Walmart and made contact with WI DNR to address asbestos concerns. MJB Industries dispatched an excavator to the scene for final extinguishment operations.

I would also like to add that my Operations, Assistant Chief John Pennings and areas Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs Randy Pecard and Steve Campbell did a great job of supervising operations in their assigned areas.

Officers and crews from the City of Menominee, City of Peshtigo, Town of Peshtigo, Menominee/Ingallston, Grover-Porterfield, and City of Crivitz Fire Departments worked very well together and reported only minor slips and falls due to ice conditions in some areas.

### How MABAS Was Utilized

MABAS does provide advantages but also some challenges.

It provides us mutual aid of our choosing with our neighbors that are close.

Being located at the southeast corner of the county with non-MABAS Michigan to the north and water to the east, means our aid comes from basically one direction, the northwest. This creates longer and longer travel distances for those departments. Instead of drawing from a circular area it's more of a triangle with us.

We have an automatic aid agreement with the City of Menominee Fire Department from across the river in Michigan that has worked very well for us.

This incident brought in an engine company from Menominee/Ingallston Fire Department which is a small volunteer department from Menominee County Michigan.

MABAS brought us resources, manpower, and apparatus in a timely fashion that we could depend on.

It gave us the manpower to be able to rotate crews out that were working the master streams to rehab for food, water, warmup, and rest.

For agencies that are not sure if MABAS is viable for them or just starting, all I can say is it is viable, simple, and user friendly once you put in the initial work.

Disadvantages are few and advantages are many.

MABAS Wisconsin provides assistance and answers to any questions you may have.

Guidelines are set to make sure you get apparatus and personnel that are capable of assisting you with your emergency.



Above: C-D corner. Below: View of the D-side. (Photos by Val Ihde).



## DIV 144 IN ACTION: MABAS USED AT ASPHALT PLANT BY MIKE FOLGERT, FIRE CHIEF, TOWN OF PESHTIGO

It was **3:12am on Wednesday January 31, 2018**, a partially cloudy night in the upper 20's with light winds. A passerby, who stopped at a BP gas station, could see flames about ¼ mile away at **Dun-Rite Asphalt Maintenance, W752 County Road B** and called 911. The plant was in the Town of Peshtigo, just outside the city limits of Marinette.

**Town of Peshtigo Fire**, a volunteer, paid-per-call department, was initially paged out at "03:14:59 for a fire at Dun-Rite Asphalt" with no further information as to type of fire initially available at the time of page.

As a Marinette County Sheriff Deputy was leaving the nearby Law Enforcement Center in response to this call, he reported that he could see flames and could hear explosions coming from the reported fire location. Shortly afterwards, and before fire trucks went enroute, additional information was relayed to the fire department that this was indeed a structure fire and flames could be observed already coming through the roof.

I responded directly to the scene from my nearby residence, arriving on scene just minutes after the first law enforcement officer at **03:20am**.

I immediately called for **MABAS Box Alarm 200-1-2 to the Box Level** when I observed the center of building heavily involved with fire and could hear numerous explosions from inside the structure. A portion of the roof had already collapsed, fire intensity was rapidly increasing and flames were spreading towards an attached two-story office addition that was not yet involved.

A large storage building was threatened immediately adjacent to the involved building on the D-side, and several large bulk storage tanks and a fuel dispensing station were located adjacent to the fire building at the B/C corner.



Numerous vehicles and one semi-tractor/trailer were parked next to the building.

I ordered a defensive operation with no firefighters to enter the building. Incident objectives included protection of the exposures, and to keep the fire from spreading to the attached office area of the building.

I requested that the county highway be closed down to make room for fire apparatus and fire operations. Water supply initially involved shuttling water from the nearest Marinette hydrants located ¼ mile away but was later supplemented by utilizing portable pumps in an adjacent pond.

I did consider laying 5-inch supply line from the hydrants directly to the scene but quickly discounted this due to the distance and what would have resulted in closing down another county highway which was the main travel route to the hospital and law enforcement center.



(Photos this page by Val Ihde).

Due to the proximity to Marinette and heavy smoke conditions, the fire alarms began sounding by 3:58am at the County Law Enforcement Center located about ¼ mile away.

The jail was notified as was Bay Area Medical Center (BAMC), a hospital located downwind approximately ½ mile away.

The county highway department was called in to plow and salt the roads since several inches of snow had fallen during the fire and roads were becoming slippery for water tenders.

The Marinette Water Department was also contacted and responded due to the use of city hydrants.

BAMC Paramedics and Emergency Rescue Squad stood by during the entire operation and the Marinette Sheriff Auxiliary relieved deputies at road blocks.

By **8:01am** all incident operations were moved off the county highway into the Dun-Rite parking lot and the road was reopened at that time.

At the onset of the fire, the business owner and several of his employees were able to move all vehicles and trucks away from the building which provided much needed room to work and reduced the number of exposures we had to worry about.

(Continued on page 7)

## DIV 144 IN ACTION: MABAS USED AT ASPHALT PLANT - CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 6)*

Additionally, several pieces of machinery, including a small backhoe that had been on-site, were utilized to knock down metal walls and tear off a portion of the metal roof so firefighters could access the fire.

At **4:04am** a second alarm was requested for water tenders only since water supply was a continuing issue.

Hose lines had to be shut down several times in the early stages of the fire until adequate water supply could be established. After the additional tenders were incorporated into the water shuttle operation we never ran low on water again.

Once the fire was controlled, a decision was made to enter the office portion of the building to assess structural integrity and attempt to conduct salvage and overhaul.

Fortunately, it was determined that the office building was safe to enter and stairway to the second floor above the office was intact. All hotspots were extinguished and fire crews were successful in saving and securing many valuables and business records for the owner.

The Wisconsin Hazardous Spill hotline was called while firefighters were still

on site and DNR eventually became involved due to the potentially hazardous materials that had been involved in the fire.

Contaminated water runoff and many ruptured barrels were observed so the owner brought in truckloads of sand to spread and dike around the area as firefighting efforts wound down.

It was later determined that the large bulk storage tanks were empty at the time and the 4,000-gallon trailer inside the building never ruptured.

The cold weather and frozen ground made it easier for the owner to clean up the site with his own equipment and remove contaminated product under the direction of DNR.

Shortly after 6am, the second alarm resources (Village of Pound and Town of Lake tenders) were released and Marinette Fire was released at 6:44, Grover-Porterfield at 7:44 and City of Peshtigo by 8:50am.

Town of Peshtigo Fire cleared the scene by **10:29am** but an engine was sent back several times throughout the day to check for and extinguish several minor hotspots.

The incident terminated at **5:12pm** when the last engine returned.

### What Was On Fire

The main part of the building that burned was a one story, metal sided and metal roofed structure approximately 100 ft x 50 ft in size built on a concrete slab.

This consisted of an original wood frame pole building constructed sometime around 1992 and a second steel frame structure of about the same size towards the rear that was added on several years ago. Both sections were attached to each other by a common roof and common walls.

A wood frame, two story office building approximately 25 ft. x 50 ft. in size was located immediately east of the main shop building. This office was partially connected to the shop with a common employee entrance door extending to a wall behind the stairs leading to a crawl space underneath the office. Beyond this point the office was separated from the shop by an approximate eight-foot open space.

The building was non-sprinklered with no fire or smoke alarms present. Located within the shop portion of the building were a number of flammable and combustible liquids typical of an asphalt maintenance company or vehicle repair garage.

There were a number of 55-gallon drums of various paints, smaller containers of motor oils & solvents, compressed gas cylinders and one 4,000-gallon trailer containing driveway sealer.

Other contents included numerous tools and equipment including a fork lift, vehicle lift, welding equipment, several trailers, a 6-wheeler, a large air compressor and building construction materials to include stacks of piled lumber, shingles and sheets of OSB.



(Photo by Val Ihde).

## FEEDBACK FROM THE ANNUAL MABAS CONFERENCE BY GARY SCHMIDT, EDITOR, MABAS WISCONSIN NEWSLETTER

Throughout the 2017 MABAS Command & Dispatch Conference held in Stevens Point, I asked participants for feedback on their *individual* experiences with MABAS:

**Gary Schuett** is a Communications Operator at the Jefferson County Sheriff Communications Center (**MABAS Division 118**). He has over 20 years experience.

He agreed to answer some questions upon returning from the 2017 Annual Conference.

**MABAS Wisconsin In Action:** Have you been to prior MABAS conferences and if so, how many?

**Gary Schuett:** I have been to 5 prior MABAS conferences.

**MWIA:** As a dispatcher, what did you think about the general presentations with the guest speakers - were there things that you found to be particularly valuable to apply to your role as a dispatcher?

**Schuett:** In general, I have found the general presentations that include somebody involved from the dispatch end (such as the presentation by Dodge County at this year's conference) to be the most useful.

**MWIA:** What is your overall impression of the dispatcher classes you attended?

**Schuett:** Overall, I have found them to be very good. Again, classes where the presenters were a mix of both dispatchers and fire/EMS personnel were the ones I seemed to get the most out of.

One that specifically stands out in my mind was one from about 2 or 3

years ago where an assistant fire chief went over some of the terminology that fire personnel use (different types of equipment, etc.).

**MWIA:** Did you attend non-dispatcher classes at the conference?

**Schuett:** I have not attended any non-dispatcher classes at the conference.

**MWIA:** Were there any other aspects of the conference that you liked or found valuable?

**Schuett:** As with just about any conference, I think the opportunity to network with different agencies and departments is a valuable experience. You can get a sense of what works (and hasn't worked) for other people and realize (especially when you are first starting out) that a lot of the questions and frustrations you have are shared by other places.

**MWIA:** What advice would you offer to dispatch centers that have never sent a dispatcher to an annual conference?

**Schuett:** Definitely send as many people you can. We have 9 full-time dispatchers that work at Jefferson county, and I believe 5 of us have attended so far. One of the sessions we have all attended and seemed to get a lot out of was the chance to sit at an actual dispatch console and practice paging out a MABAS call (even those of us who had some experience with MABAS calls).

### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST SURPRISING OR UNIQUE USE OF MABAS?

"Boys missing in a mine"



"Looking for lost people (such as a lost turkey hunter) in adjacent counties that we have been called for to assist and for flood response."



"A life safety box (first in 10 years of dispatching)"



"Flood response"



"Missing person"



"Request for boats from another division"



"High School Cross country event that needed a life safety card"

**MWIA:** Are there any other comments you wish to make about annual conferences?

**Schuett:** I would just like to say it seems the presence of dispatch (both in the percentage of the conference attendees and the material presented at the conferences) keeps increasing every year. I am happy to see the role that dispatch plays in the process being recognized as an important one by everybody involved.

*More Conference Feedback on Page 9.*

## 8th Annual MABAS Wisconsin Conference August 9th — August 11th, 2018

The lodging room rate will be \$82.00 per night. If your guests decide to make reservations over the phone, please call 715-344-0200 and press #3. When making reservations, we ask that you please reference the group name Mutual Aid Box Alarm System-MABAS the Group Block Code: MAB

**Host Facility**  
**The Holiday Inn & Conference Center**  
1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54482

## FEEDBACK FROM THE ANNUAL MABAS CONFERENCE - CONTINUED

WHAT TYPE OF INCIDENT HAVE YOU PERSONALLY USED MABAS FOR MOST OFTEN?

“Structure Fires (17)”



“Trench Rescue”



“Brush Fires (2)”



“MABAS Drills”

(From a Comm Center Supervisor)

HERE ARE THE DIVISIONS THAT VOLUNTEERED TO BE SURVEYED:



WHAT WOULD IMPROVE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH USING MABAS?

“Get every department in my division on MABAS”



“Since we are new (about 6 incidents so far), it has been hard getting departments used to MABAS as they still have the habit of requesting resources one at a time”



“More interaction between chiefs and dispatchers as sometimes dispatchers are not understanding what is being asked for”



“Responders staying on the correct frequency”



“We are on the edge of a county and not yet using IFERN”



“Get all 72 counties on MABAS”



“Well developed system as long as it is not abused”



“IFERN is a struggle as outlying departments not on IFERN”



“Change the perceptions of the old school fire chiefs”



“IFERN not deployed everywhere”



“Wish I could get all of the departments to follow MABAS”



“Terms not clear or have different meanings, such as, working still”



“Get it all electronic so that fire trucks can see box cards on a Toughbook”



“What is the best way of requesting just manpower”



“Explaining to dispatchers fire terminology such as A-B-C-D side, RIT team”



“Having easier access to the cards”



“Nothing because my division constantly reviews and updates the cards; from a dispatcher standpoint, everything is ready to go”

# 8th Annual MABAS Wisconsin Conference

## August 9th — August 11th, 2018

The lodging room rate will be \$82.00 per night. There will be a link provided on the website that can be used for making reservation online or by calling (715)-344-0200.

**Host Facility**  
**The Holiday Inn & Conference Center**  
 1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54482

## DIV 114 IN ACTION - FIRE IN SUGAR CAMP BY JASON GOELDNER, CHIEF, SUGAR CAMP FIRE DEPARTMENT

On **Wednesday February 21, 2018**, I received a dispatch at approximately **10:21 am** for a commercial garage on fire at **Home Heavy Equipment Repair Shop, 4484 County Road D, in Rhinelander (Town of Sugar Camp)**. Additional dispatch information confirmed this was an active structure fire that contained several vehicles, diesel, gasoline, and storage.

I responded from my place of employment at **10:25 am**.

Additional dispatch information stated a vehicle was fully involved and vegetation was beginning to become involved. I requested two tenders as mutual aid from the Pine Lake Fire Department.

Upon arrival by Town Crew Foreman/Firefighter Mike Kortenhof, it was recommended we would require additional apparatus and personnel.

Around **10:33am**, I requested **MABAS Structure Fire Box 826/825 - ST** to the **second alarm** level.

Upon the arrival of Sugar Camp Engine 1, a fully involved structure fire was confirmed. Engine 1 crew advanced a **2½"** line to the B-side of the involved structure and D-side of the residence.



I observed heavy black smoke from approximately 10 miles south of the fire scene. Upon my arrival, the structure was mostly involved with heavy fire and smoke appearing to originate near the A/D vicinity of the structure.

I assumed command and re-positioned the **2½"** line from Engine 1 to cool the residence until additional water arrived.

Upon arrival of Three Lakes Ladder, they were directed to set up on the A-side and assist in suppression with use of the aerial device.

Upon the arrival of Sugar Camp Engine 2, an additional line was stretched to the D- and C-sides while Engine 1 covered the B- and C-side.

Water supply at the station and Sand Lake Boat Landing were procured and we estimated approximately 50,000 gallons of water was used to extinguish the structure.

*(Continued on page 11)*



**Shortly after Sugar Camp Engine 1 arrived on scene. First in crew advanced a 2½" line to the B side of the structure.**  
(Photo by Mike Kortenhof, Sugar Camp E1 pump/operator)

To view past newsletters, visit:  
[www.mabaswisconsin.org](http://www.mabaswisconsin.org)  
(look for the Newsletters links)

# DIV 114 IN ACTION - FIRE IN SUGAR CAMP - CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 10)*

Based on owner's account of the incident and investigation it appears the origin of the fire was around the wood-boiler, air-compressor, and breaker panel area on the D-side near the corner of side-A.

An excavator was requested to assist with removing the steel roofing to allow for complete suppression. Additional combustible piles were also removed and extinguished. The last units cleared the scene at **4:06pm**.



**Automatic aid department Three Lakes Fire using a master stream from their truck to penetrate the steel roofing** (Photo by Mike Kortenhof)

## 2018 MABAS CONFERENCE

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual MABAS Wisconsin Command & Dispatch Conference will be held in Stevens Point August 9-11.

The Training Committee is working hard on developing the program.

Now's the time to budget for sending your firefighters and dispatchers!

If you see MABAS described in your local community news, please let us know at:  
[garyschmidt@wi.rr.com](mailto:garyschmidt@wi.rr.com)

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](mailto:garyschmidt@wi.rr.com). In particular, pictures are needed of actual emergencies or Division-wide training events.

Let us know when you have a circumstance where you found yourself **"thinking outside the MABAS Box card"**!

DEPARTMENT NAME: <b>Sugar Camp Fire Dept</b>		BOX ALARM TYPE: <b>STRUCTURE FIRE</b>		EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>1-1-2017</b>	MABAS DIVISION: <b>114</b>			
BOX ALARM #: <b>826/825-ST</b>		LOCATION OR AREA: <b>Sugar Camp</b>		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:				
<b>LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:</b>								
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TENDERS	TRUCKS	SQUADS	EMS	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (STA #)
STILL	Sugar Camp	Sugar Camp		Sugar Camp		Sugar Camp	Sugar Camp 2 Water Point	
WORKING STILL	Three Lakes	Three Lakes			Medic 11 Medic 1	Three Lakes	Wisconsin Public Service	
<b>MABAS BOX ALARM:</b>								
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TENDERS	TRUCKS	SQUADS	EMS	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (STA #)
BOX	Pine Lake St. Germain	Pine Lake Eagle River St. Germain				Pine Lake	Pine Lake Cascade MARC 1 Repeater	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Newbold	Pelican Stella Newbold		Newbold w cascade		Newbold	Red Cross Emergency Management Command Post & Cascade	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rhineland Crescent	Crescent Lake Tomahawk Monico				Rhineland	Notify Div President, Regional Coordinator, WEM	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Eagle River	Woodruff Cassian						
5 <sup>th</sup>	Woodruff	Woodruff						
6 <sup>th</sup>								
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST		1 <sup>st</sup> CHOICE		2 <sup>nd</sup> CHOICE		3 <sup>rd</sup> CHOICE		
<b>INFORMATION:</b>								

## WHY I USED MABAS AT THE ASPHALT PLANT FIRE BY MIKE FOLGERT, MABAS DIVISION 144 PRESIDENT

Personally, the biggest advantage of using MABAS for this incident was that, as incident commander, I only had to make one simple radio request to dispatch requesting a box alarm and let them know where staging would be located.

After that, I was able to concentrate on setting up and organizing our fire attack since all the preplanning had been done well in advance when developing our cards. I did not have to order additional resources piecemeal and did not have to spend valuable time on the radio explaining what was needed.

Additional advantages included knowing exactly who was coming and with what resources. Since we all know, work and train together locally, we are well aware of each other's capabilities and found it easy to work each other into the operations.

Even when additional resources that we don't normally work with on a frequent basis come to help from farther away, it's nice to know that they come to the table having specific qualifications and meeting specific standards.

Personnel accountability has improved greatly with MABAS and with the use of the Passport system that we are now using. Overall incident management just seems to flow much more smoothly by utilizing MABAS.

For this particular fire, two new 911

dispatchers were alone on duty at the time. They had not been fully trained in MABAS procedures and had never dispatched a MABAS call.

As a result, the initial MABAS dispatch did not go as smoothly as it could have, the script was not followed, and the alerting tones were delayed by more than several minutes.

This caused some confusion and some delays in getting resources on the road. One neighboring department from an adjacent county was totally missed and never did respond with a much-needed water tender. However, all other resources responded as expected and were easily integrated into the operations.

During the week after this incident, the Marinette County 911 Communications Center supervisor set up a meeting with all dispatchers where we (Marinette Fire Chief Heckel and myself) met with them to discuss the two recent incidents in the County, MABAS procedures and to provide additional training.

This resulted in some excellent discussion and has already paid off with a renewed commitment, better understanding of box cards, and reinstatement of weekly radio drills.

MABAS is an excellent tool that should be used and practiced on a regular basis. MABAS is not only a pre-planned mutual aid dispatch tool

but also helps to improve fireground management, firefighter accountability, and overall incident safety.

We have found that MABAS has opened up previously underutilized communication channels between Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement and Dispatch and has helped us to build and strengthen solid working relationships.

All of the resources needed to implement MABAS are readily available and there are lots of people willing to help get you started. Don't be afraid or too proud to ask for help. It requires lots of work and planning but this is all done on the front end before a major incident occurs.

You can't expect to get it all right at first and you need to continually address any shortcomings and make continual updates to improve operations.

You might think you'll never need to use MABAS, but in our case we had two major fires about a mile apart from each other in two separate communities within a week of each other. We learned a lot from each incident. And we will improve for the next time.

There will be plenty of growing pains and even a few skeptics as MABAS is newly implemented. Don't give up. It's well worth the effort.

### Standardization is Key to MABAS Success

MABAS is a regional solution to a local emergency, in use in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, with Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri moving towards implementation. To make this work - being both functional and effective - standardization is mandatory.

MABAS in all States use the same radio frequencies (IFERN, Red, White, Blue), same terminology for resources, same announcement script over IFERN, same minimum staffing, same firefighter certification, and same Box Card format. This "sameness" allows for seamless integration for any participating department. The stricken Incident Command staff can rely on getting as many resources as needed. In a 2010 deployment test, 300 rigs responded from 3 States and arrived in Chicago within 90 minutes (see MABAS Wisconsin In Action newsletter Volume 3, Issue 1).

With hundreds of Divisions and thousands of Fire Departments participating, member-departments must adjust their procedures to meet the organizational standards and policies in order to keep MABAS strong and effective.

## MY FIRST MABAS BOX - DIV 114 ONEIDA COUNTY BY JASON GOELDNER, CHIEF, SUGAR CAMP FIRE DEPT



I would preface by stating participating departments of Oneida County MABAS Division 114 have conducted extensive training sessions. This did benefit me and our department when responding to and calling for MABAS.

For me, there was no hesitation at all and the process flowed seamlessly. This may not occur for everyone though if they do not participate with local division activities.

Additionally, prior to the monthly MABAS meeting our division conducts a radio drill originating from various host departments within our county/division. This also gives each Chief/Chief Officers the opportunity to request MABAS and allows participating and responding departments to review the cards, respond to county dispatch, respond to MABAS dispatch via IFERN, and report to Staging.

My first MABAS request was Division 114 Box Alarm 826/825 – ST for a structure fire that was dispatched at 12:58:41 pm on September 26, 2016. Fortunately for our department, two members were at the station the time of dispatch, one member was at home a couple miles away, and additional fire department members responded within minutes of dispatch. I had the card in front of me as I was in the officer's seat of the first in engine and was aware of the resources requested.

I was amazed at the response. we received everything we requested on our card. This was crucial for water supply. Once we began fire suppression we never lost water supply. This is a critical point to make to call for a Box before it is needed so when you do realize resources are needed, they are either already on the way or in staging.

The ease of calling for a Box, radio traffic, and apparatus / personnel response, happened as expected from the Division training I participated in.

## SITE ON WHEELS (SOW) BY JOSHUA RIPP, WISCOM PROGRAM MANAGER

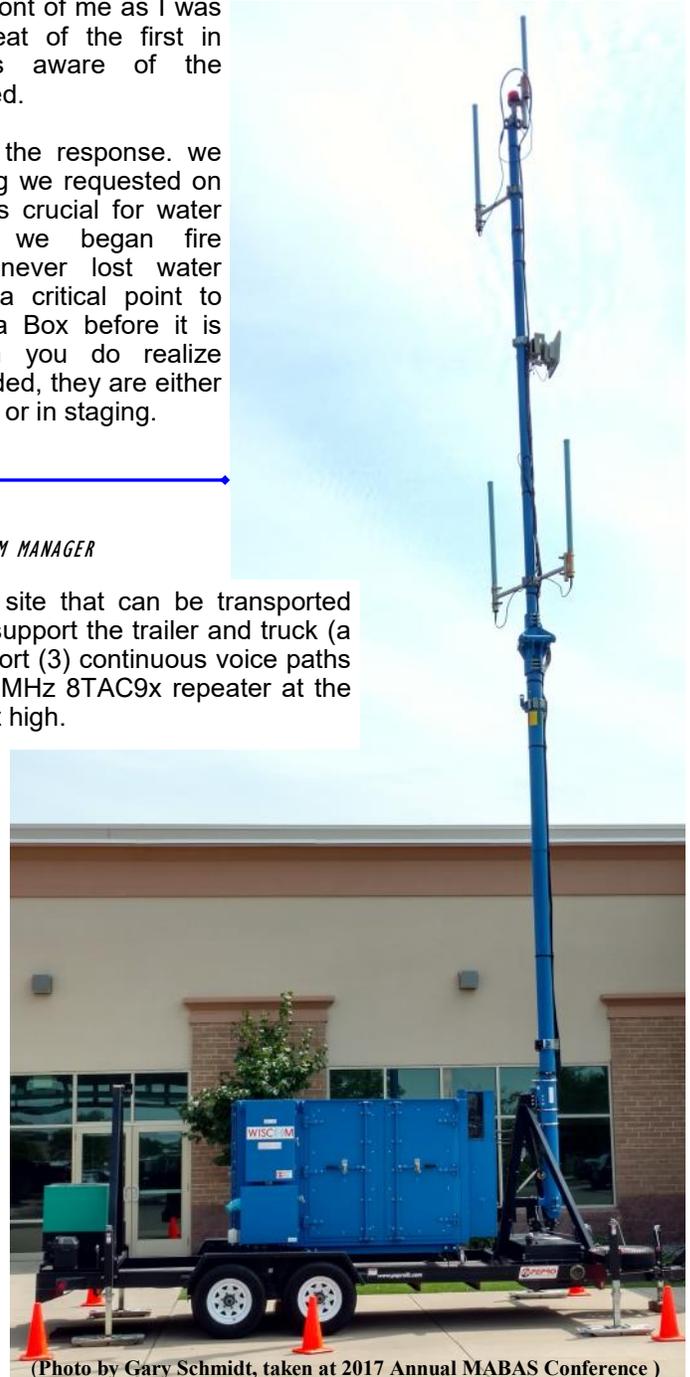
The Site on Wheels (SOW) is a trailer-mounted WISCOM site that can be transported anywhere across the state with a roadway stable enough to support the trailer and truck (a little over 10,000 lbs.). It is a full functioning site and will support (3) continuous voice paths on WISCOM, in addition to a VTAC36 repeater and an 800 MHz 8TAC9x repeater at the same time. When deployed, the tower is approximately 40 feet high.

The SOW is typically stored at the Deforest State Patrol post and has a tow vehicle assigned. A DOT Tech takes primary responsibility for maintenance, transport, setup and teardown. Deployments will generally start from Deforest. Local DOT Techs often will meet the SOW in locations outside of southern WI.

The trailer has a standalone generator with a diesel tank that typically can run 3-4 days, depending on how busy the site is. It has HVAC to operate in warm or cold weather. We generally arrange for staff to check on the unit at least daily.

There is presently no charge for SOW requests. However, we would ask that arrangements are made for the SOW fuel tank to be filled up by the requesting agency when the deployment is complete (and during the event if necessary).

The SOW can be requested by emailing [INTEROP@WISCONSIN.GOV](mailto:INTEROP@WISCONSIN.GOV) or [WISCOMTECH@DOT.WI.GOV](mailto:WISCOMTECH@DOT.WI.GOV).



(Photo by Gary Schmidt, taken at 2017 Annual MABAS Conference )

## Incident Reporting Is Very Important

This newsletter issue is focused on the largest MABAS deployments to date, however, MABAS is used every day to prevent local incidents from becoming large, thereby saving lives and saving money by minimizing property loss. The value of MABAS cannot be understated, yet it is difficult to communicate that message across the State without an effective method to track the MABAS success story.

Incidents Entered November 1, 2017 thru December 31, 2017				
Date & Time	Location	Div.	Host Agency	Box Type
11/5/2017 8:03	W304 S4732 Old Mill Rd	106	WALES GENESEE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
11/6/2017 20:20	N12946 780th Street	117	SAND CREEK FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
11/18/2017 17:47	N12390 170th Street	117	BOYCEVILLE VOL FIRE DEPT	Target Hazard
11/22/2017 7:10	N61W6058 COLUMBIA ROAD	119	CEDARBURG VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
11/23/2017 15:05	282 Rodney Rd	115	CAMBRIDGE COMM FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
11/26/2017 15:14	2082 LAKE SHORE ROAD	119	GRAFTON VOL FIRE DEPT INC	Brush Fire
11/27/2017 16:25	W245 N6697 Grogan Dr	106	SUSSEX FIRE DEPT	Brush Fire
11/29/2017 12:46	2844 Deer Creek Rd	115	SUN PRAIRIE VOL FIRE DEPT	Brush Fire
12/1/2017 14:05	1100 W Fairy Chasm	107	NORTH SHORE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
12/5/2017 5:10	1212 West Street	130	WAUSAU FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
12/7/2017 22:20	12531 N LAKE SHORE ROAD	119	MEQUON FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
12/8/2017 21:47	580 ROSEDALE DR	119	THIENSVILLE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
12/11/2017 0:37	8554 Mullen Ln	115	CAMBRIDGE COMM FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
12/12/2017 4:55	305 W Circle Dr	148	TRI-COMMUNITY FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
12/12/2017 7:07	W648 Bauer Rd	148	FOUNTAIN CITY VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
12/13/2017 5:35	W328 S4674 Spring Ridge Ln	106	WALES GENESEE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
12/14/2017 20:09	W226 N7548 Woodland Creek Dr	106	SUSSEX FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
12/19/2017 15:28	208 N Main	148	TRI-COMMUNITY FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
12/22/2017 22:38	S82 W35210 Mailman Rd	106	EAGLE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
12/25/2017 13:23	1222 River Park Cir W	106	MUKWONAGO FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
12/26/2017 15:01	400 CHURCH LANE	119	SAUKVILLE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
12/27/2017 8:48	1535 Thomas St.	144	MARINETTE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
12/30/2017 16:53	N11887 County Trunk W	117	COLFAX COMMUNITY FIRE DEPT	Commercial - Non Hydrant
12/31/2017 13:36	W394 US hy 10	148	MONDOVI FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant

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## Incident Reporting Is Easy To Do

MABAS Wisconsin has a tool in place to log the use of MABAS. The **Incident Entry Portal** can be accessed via <http://incident.mabaswisconsin.org> or through <http://www.mabaswisconsin.org> using the Databases drop down box.

**To enter an incident, login with a UserID of *mabas* and a password of *wisconsin*.** After the initial entry, Departments need their specific credentials to alter the incident information or to alter the other information on the site about their department. Departments should contact their Division President for the login information

### Incidents Entered January 1, 2018 thru February 15, 2018

Date & Time	Location	Div.	Host Agency	Box Type
1/1/2018 15:00	N6447 HWY 55	122	STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
1/1/2018 22:55	11347 N ORIOLE LANE	119	MEQUON FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
1/2/2018 3:16	5510 CTH D	105	SOUTH WAYNE VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
1/2/2018 7:03	3400 N Calhoun Rd	106	BROOKFIELD FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
1/2/2018 11:49	n398 Wolf Rd	105	BROWNTOWN JORDAN CADIZ FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
1/3/2018 15:38	N6118 Hwy 180	144	GROVER-PORTERFIELD FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
1/5/2018 17:33	N10792 Lakeshore Rd	142	CLINTONVILLE VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
1/7/2018 9:06	W849 Abischer Rd.	122	CHILTON VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
1/7/2018 23:42	Bohner Dr. & Steel Dr.	102	BURLINGTON TWP VOL FIRE DEPT	Life Safety
1/8/2018 3:05	2202 STH 147	128	MISHICOT FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
1/8/2018 21:58	213 S DIVISION STREET	119	PORT WASHINGTON VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
1/9/2018 7:51	W305 S7686 Applewood Ln	106	MUKWONAGO FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
1/12/2018 17:10	11488 County Highway ZZ	137	BRAZEAU TWP FIRE DEPT	Commercial - Non Hydrant
1/19/2018 17:32	2271 County Road B	108	PLATTEVILLE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
1/21/2018 5:45	5911SELLE Road	128	VALDERS VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
1/25/2018 13:39	1650 Pierce Ave	144	MARINETTE FIRE DEPT	Commercial - Hydrant
1/30/2018 0:19	W329 S5402 Hwy E	106	WALES GENESEE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
1/31/2018 8:52	W752 CTH B	144	PESHTIGO TN FIRE DEPT	Commercial - Non Hydrant
2/1/2018 23:11	W4474 RIVER ROAD	119	WAUBEKA FIRE DEPARTMENT	Structure - Non Hydrant
2/2/2018 8:04	204 Wood St.	124	BARNEVELD-BRIGHAM FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
2/3/2018 18:52	Honey Creek Wildlife Area	102	ROCHESTER VOL FIRE CO	Life Safety
2/4/2018 16:23	8488 Hart Dr.	102	WIND LAKE VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
2/6/2018 14:40	W1568 Rose Valley Rd	148	TRI-COMMUNITY FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
2/10/2018 22:06	1080 6th Avenue Baldwin WI	143	UNITED FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT	Structure - Hydrant
2/12/2018 7:58	US Hwy 151 NB at MM 78.2	115	VERONA VOL FIRE DEPT	Life Safety

### MABAS WISCONSIN IN ACTION STAFF

Content Editor...Gary Schmidt (Milwaukee Fire Bell Club)  
 Format Editor.....Terry Schmidt (Milwaukee Fire Bell Club)  
 Contributor .....Tim Stein (Racine Fire Bells)  
 Contributor .....Drew Spielman (Green Bay Fire Dept)  
 Contributor .....Matt Gerber (Green Bay Fire Dept)  
 Contributor .....Chuck Liedtke (Milwaukee Fire Bell Club)  
 Contributor .....Tim Snopek (Waukesha County)

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# MABAS – Wisconsin

## Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Organized 2004

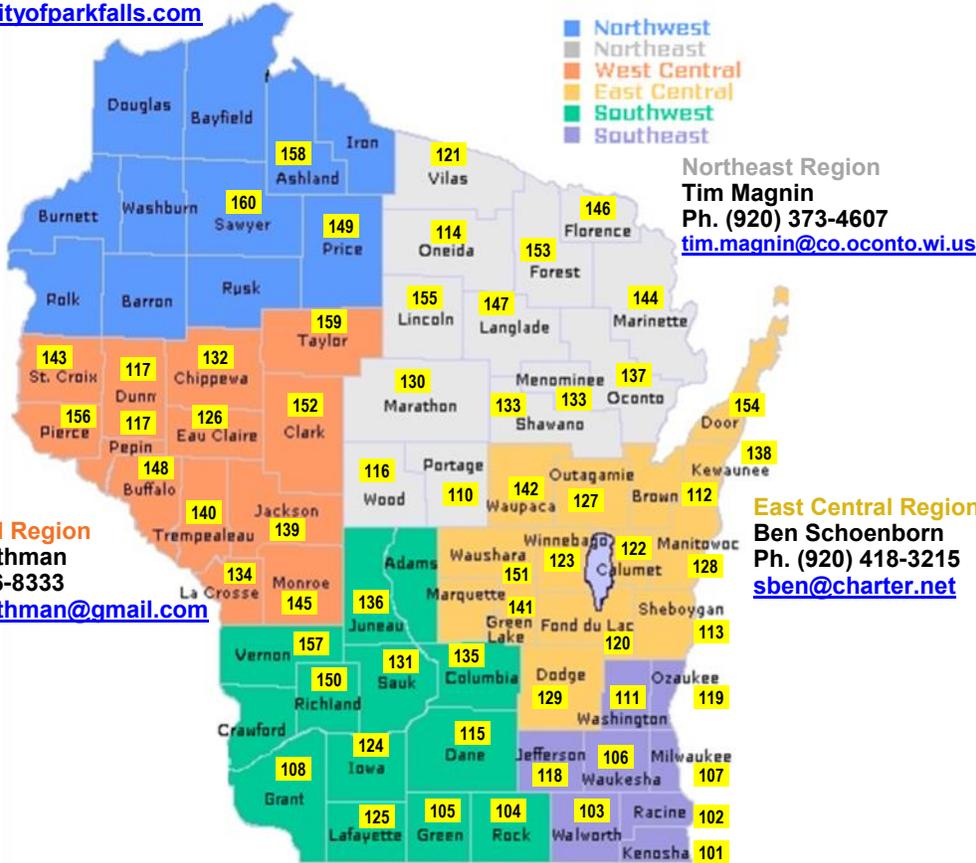
### MABAS Wisconsin Regional Coordinators

#### Northwest Region

Phil Bochler

Ph. (715) 492-7235

[assessor@cityofparkfalls.com](mailto:assessor@cityofparkfalls.com)



#### Northeast Region

Tim Magnin

Ph. (920) 373-4607

[tim.magnin@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:tim.magnin@co.oconto.wi.us)

#### West Central Region

Thomas Barthman

Ph. (651) 246-8333

[mabaswibarthman@gmail.com](mailto:mabaswibarthman@gmail.com)

#### East Central Region

Ben Schoenborn

Ph. (920) 418-3215

[sben@charter.net](mailto:sben@charter.net)

#### Red Center -

WEM Duty Officer

Ph. 800-943-0003 (Press 3)

#### Southwest Region

Bruce Hedrington

Ph. (608) 449-9000

Ph. (815) 289-1092

[brucehedrington@gmail.com](mailto:brucehedrington@gmail.com)

#### Southeast Region

Bill Rice

Ph. (414) 333-3626

Ph. (262) 375-5314

[wrice@grifton.village.wi.us](mailto:wrice@grifton.village.wi.us)

#### Fire Service Coordinator

Tim Haas

Ph. (608) 220-6049

#### Wisconsin Homeland Security Council

Brad Liggett

Ph. (608) 364-2902

#### MABAS OPERATING FREQUENCIES

IFERN	MABAS Alerting / intra-Divisional responses
IFERN2	Alternate intra-Divisional responses
MABAS1 (WISCOM)	Inter-Divisional Responses
	Contact with Wisconsin Red Center
MABAS2 (WISCOM)	Regional Coordinators - WEM Coordination*
	*Future use

#### MABAS 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
- 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
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- 127 – Outagamie County
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- 133 – Shawano/Menominee Cnty
- 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
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- 146 – Florence County
- 147 – Langlade County
- 148 – Buffalo County
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