

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.

FALL 2019

## DIV 119 USES MABAS TO FIGHT MANSION FIRE IN GRAFTON

BY BILL RICE, CHIEF, GRAFTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AND GARY SCHMIDT

The **Town of Grafton** extends west from Lake Michigan in Ozaukee County, encircling the Village of Grafton. Along the lakefront are breathtaking bluffs nearly 100-feet high.

About 20 years ago, Ozaukee County acquired 73 acres of the land along the lake as a nature preserve with trails overlooking the bluffs.

There is a half-mile road leading to that parkland from the nearest highway (County Road C) is aptly called High Bluff Drive.

Nearest to the highway are two upscale houses, one of them being a 7,000 square foot mansion located on a 9-acre lot, built in 2004. That structure, two stories with a large

finished exposed basement and an attached 4-car garage, is located at **585 High Bluff Drive**.

On **Thursday evening, December 5, 2019**, the occupants turned on the gas fireplace in one of the bedrooms and left the area. Adjacent to the fireplace were some foam mattresses.

Later, smoke detectors sounded. The occupants discovered the mattresses on fire and tried moving them outside through a porch door. They got some out before being forced to exit the room, *leaving the porch door open*.

**The Grafton Fire Department was notified at 4:49pm. At 4:50pm, a full still** was requested, bringing in mutual aid from our two nearest neighboring departments, due to the



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report of smoke or fire as we were leaving for the scene. When we heard a deputy arrive and report a working fire, we requested **Ozaukee County MABAS Division 119 Box Card 8-21 (Structure Fire-Non Hydrant)** at **4:58pm**.

It was a cold night, with temps hovering around 32 degrees and a strong 25 mile per hour wind that fed the fire in the interior through the open porch door and helped the fire on the exterior extend to the cockloft.

*(Continued on page 3)*



The house had some brick veneer, but otherwise was of lightweight wood frame that provided for quick fire-spread and destruction (Photo by Gary Schmidt).

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



Well here we are again, another year past and another looming. Each year we continue to see the diminishing fire resources around the State. Unfortunately that simple fact continues to drive the demand for MABAS up.

In the past several months we have experienced the uptick in calls for service from around the State. As in the past, I want to thank the Division Presidents and Regional Coordinators for their continued commitment to helping their neighbors.

We all know the effort each of us puts into the fire service. Whether volunteer, part time, or career, there never seems to be enough time. Thankfully, MABAS leaders and planners find the extra time, on every MABAS call for service, to make the plan come together.

I ask that each of you help support those who commit those extra hours, by making sure the box cards are filled in correctly, the points of contacts are correct and up to date, or simply by providing status updates.

It takes all of us to make the system work each and every time! It's a simple "ask" to support the system that we often times take for granted.

The expectation of the system working is only valid if we have the whole team pull together. Take the time to help us help you. The Executive Board, the Division Presidents and Regional Coordinators are all here to help. Feel to reach out anytime! Till the next box. Kevin

## DIV 119 USES MABAS TO FIGHT MANSION FIRE IN GRAFTON - PICTURES



**Top Left:** upper left corner of the rear (C-Side) of the house where the fire started. Portable lighting was needed for visibility in the pitch black darkness.

**Bottom Left:** the sloping yard of the B-C corner. The turf was very soft and mushy.

**Bottom Right:** The A-B corner (A-side is the front, then B,C,D go clockwise around the structure). Shown are the four garage doors on the B-side. Standing in front is a police officer and the occupants near a salvage tarp containing paintings and other valuables recovered by firefighters. (Photos by Gary Schmidt).





## DIV 119 USES MABAS TO FIGHT MANSION FIRE IN GRAFTON - CONTINUED



*(Continued from page 1)*

District Chief Matt Karpinski, Grafton Engine 863 and I (Fire Chief Bill Rice) arrived at the same time. Matt did the size up.

We had heavy fire conditions showing from the southwest corner of the house. The SW corner is the location of the bedroom where the fire started.

The fire had grown quite large prior to our arrival and was growing fast with strong winds. Once hose lines were laid and charged, there was more fire than our on-board supply could overcome.

We escalated to a **2<sup>nd</sup> alarm at 5:04pm** and a **3<sup>rd</sup> alarm at 5:15pm**.

Our challenges: a large fire requires more water and more operational tasks, a large fire requires longer duration which eventually requires replacement crews, help could only come from 3 directions with Lake Michigan being on the east (and the dead-end roadway had only one access point from Hwy C), and the large finished basement had many halls and rooms to navigate through.

The roadways leading to and including High Bluff Drive were rural two-lane lined with culverts having a sharp drop-off and little shoulder room. For this time-of-year, there already was extreme darkness.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Above:** the long narrow driveway from High Bluff Drive to the house. Note the soft grass, water turning to ice, and the long lay of 5" Large Diameter Hose (LDH).  
**Below Top:** the tenders dumping their water into the portable reservoir.  
**Below Bottom:** the line of tenders needed to sustain the LDH water supply to the fire suppression units at the house. (Photos by Gary Schmidt).



## DIV 119 USES MABAS TO FIGHT MANSION FIRE IN GRAFTON - CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 3)*

There was a 200' long, winding driveway from the street to the house, surrounded by damp, soft, grass (an ambulance got stuck, sinking into the turf).

Setting up a water supply was challenging, but once it was established, it functioned well.

There was a 700' length of 5" LDH from the engine at the portable reservoir that supplied water to our aerial ladder truck master stream as well as several hand lines.

With the fill site being several miles away, we upgraded **MABAS Box 8-21 to the 4<sup>th</sup> level for Tenders Only at 5:50pm** to ensure a continuous flow of water.

By **7:58pm**, we struck out the box and cleared the scene by **10pm**. The large turnout of tenders went very smoothly.

We had no operational problems regarding MABAS deployment.

Many turndowns but were handled well by Division 119 dispatch.

## OZAUKEE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT USES DRONE DURING GRAFTON FIRE

*BY SCOTT ZIEGLER, WCEM, DIRECTOR, OZAUKEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT*

The Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office Drone program has been under development since the first of the year 2019. The program is capable of 24/7 operations, weather dependent.

Drones will not be operated in rain or during active snowfall. Winds must be under 25 MPH. The Pilot in charge has the last call on a go / no-go for a flight for safety.

The response time goal is to have a drone on scene ready to fly in 30 minutes. The time to scene can be much less if pilots are on duty or in the office at the time of the call. Flights may also be pre-planned.

We fly two drones, a DJI Spark and a DJI Inspire 1 that is FLIR (advanced thermal imaging) as well as HD PTZ (Pan Tilt Zoom) camera capable.

We currently have ten pilots within the Sheriff's Office that are a mix of personnel ranging from Deputies with the Patrol and Detective Divisions as well as Dispatchers and Emergency Management.

The goal is to have all pilots obtain their FAA part 107 pilots license. Each flight requires two people per drone being used - a pilot and observer. The pilot in charge must hold a part 107 license.

Both drones can fly for about 20 minutes with a fully charged battery under ideal conditions. The flight time is less during cold (under 32°) and higher winds - approximately half.

We are able to support multiple 20 minute flights per drone as well as charge batteries on scene.

Given the charging times and the flight time restrictions on batteries, it is important for the pilots and Command to have a clear understanding of the mission needs so it can be flown as efficiently as possible to maximize the flight time.

Your contributions to the various columns make this newsletter a success. Let us know about your MABAS response activity at [mabaswinews@gmail.com](mailto:mabaswinews@gmail.com).

In particular, pictures are needed of actual emergencies or Division-wide training events.



**Drone Use:** the green lights mark the drone as it lands under the control of Scott Ziegler (EM), a Jackson Fire Chief, and Sheriff's Office personnel. The initial flight was to assist command looking for hot spots in the structure to direct firefighters to those areas for a closer hands-on search and overhaul. A second flight, after daylight, was to assist investigator with scene documentation and close inspection of some areas not easily accessible due to debris and stability concerns (photo by Gary Schmidt).



# DIV 119 USES PROACTIVE DISPATCHING DURING MANSION FIRE IN GRAFTON

BY BILL ESSELMANN, MABAS DISPATCHER, NATIONALLY CERTIFIED EMD, TERT, CEDARBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTING AS MABAS DIVISION 119 DISPATCH

I was the dispatcher for the Grafton incident once MABAS was requested for their mansion fire on High Bluff Drive.

From the onset, I knew we needed to be proactive. The Box level listed a tender from Cedarburg. The Cedarburg Fire Department had sold their old tender and the new one hadn't been placed in service yet, thus being our home department, we were aware of no tender available, making Grafton's 1<sup>st</sup> alarm box short one tender.

So we took from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and, as escalations occurred, did so thru the 4<sup>th</sup> alarm. When the Incident Commander (IC) went to the 4<sup>th</sup> alarm I did make the IC aware that there were only two tenders left in the 5<sup>th</sup> box, thinking that if they needed more water, we might have to go interdivisional.

For all other resources, Grafton was at the 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm level and I had passes to fill for Change of Quarters:

- Thiensville Ambulance took a pass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm level, so I used the next ambulance listed (none at the 3<sup>rd</sup>, so I went to the 4<sup>th</sup> level) from Saukville
- Belgium Engine passed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> level, so I used West Bend from the 4<sup>th</sup> alarm level.
- Belgium Chief passed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm level, so I contacted Germantown (listed on the 4<sup>th</sup> alarm level). They also passed, so I used Hartford Chief from the 5<sup>th</sup> alarm level.

The completeness of the box card allowed me to make these decisions without having to bother Incident Command.

Change of Quarters (COQ) is important, as during the MABAS Box, Grafton had a call for a party not breathing and the Saukville ambulance responded to that call from the Grafton Firehouse.

I then advised the IC and asked if he wanted another replacement for Saukville at Grafton for COQ (he did).

While all of this was happening, my community (Cedarburg) had multiple EMS calls at the same time. So, I was juggling COQ for Cedarburg during the Grafton MABAS call.

As other volunteers reported for duty and crews freed up, including Thiensville paramedics, they were used to replace Saukville in Grafton until Grafton got additional staffing.

Bottom line: routine calls do not stop during a MABAS event.

DEPARTMENT NAME: Grafton		BOX ALARM TYPE: Structure Fire-Non Hydrant			EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/1/2019		MABAS DIVISION 119	
BOX ALARM # 8-12		LOCATION OR AREA: North of Highway 60			AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: William Q. Rice			
<b>LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:</b>								
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	TENDERS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)	
Still	863 865	860	866	851 852	Grafton			
Full Still	Cedarburg		Port Washington		Cedarburg Port Washington	WE Energies		
<b>MABAS BOX ALARM:</b>								
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	TENDERS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)	
BOX	Mequon Port Washington Fredonia (to fill site)	Thiensville	Saukville North Shore Cedarburg		Mequon Thiensville		Waubeka Engine North Shore Chief Mequon Amb	
2ND	Waubeka Newburg		Fredonia Mequon Waubeka	Mequon	North Shore Jackson	Milwaukee Fire Bell Oz. County Command Post	North Shore Engine Fredonia Chief Thiensville Amb.	
3RD	North Shore Jackson	Germantown	Belgium Slinger Farmore		Waubeka Fredonia		Belgium Engine Belgium Chief	
4TH	Belgium West Bend		Cedar Grove Jackson Silver Creek	Thiensville	Belgium Saukville		Milwaukee Engine Germantown Chief Saukville Amb	
5TH	Milwaukee Menomonee Falls	West Allis	Adell Menomonee Falls Oostburg		Germantown Milwaukee		Hartford Engine Hartford Chief	
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST		1st Choice 107	2nd Choice 111	3rd Choice 106				
<b>INFORMATION</b> Notify WEM of any incident that reaches a third alarm at 1-800-943-0003 Press 3 Grafton Fire Station 1431 13th. Avenue 53024								

## DIV 102 IN ACTION - MABAS INTERDIVISIONALS USED AT RECYCLING FIRE

BY GARY SCHMIDT AND TIM STEIN

**John's Disposal Service** handles the garbage and recycling pickups from a large number of communities in the counties of Dane, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth and Waukesha. Imagine the issues arising from a disruption in service. That fear almost became a reality on **Sunday July 1, 2018** as their processing center became engulfed in fire at **12:27pm**.

A huge column of thick black smoke was seen for miles as bales of recycled material were on fire with popping and snapping noises - possible explosions - occurring.

The location of the fire was **7311 Omega Circle** in Racine County (MABAS Division 102). The property abuts US-45 just north of CR-G (also known as 6 Mile Rd).

US-45 (also known as 124<sup>th</sup> Street) is the border between the Town of Raymond (on the east side) and the Town of Norway in the jurisdiction of the Wind Lake Volunteer Fire Department. A mile and a half to the north on US-45 is the boundary between MABAS Divisions 106 and 107. Calls were coming into many dispatch centers.

*(Continued on page 7)*



(All photos by Timothy J. Stein. These photos are located at [www.fyrpix.com](http://www.fyrpix.com) in the "Fire Photography Gallery")



## DIV 102 IN ACTION - MABAS INTERDIVISIONALS USED AT RECYCLING FIRE - CONT

(Continued from page 6)

The **Town of Raymond Fire Department** responded, and upon arrival, pulled their **Commercial Non-Hydrant Structure Fire Box Card 400-12** at 12:41pm.



The problem was that the business was actually in the **Town of Norway** and the **Wind Lake Fire Department** was the authority with jurisdiction (the property was on the west side of US-45). This added a layer of complexity into the event.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm was transmitted at 12:58pm, a 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm at 1:12pm, and 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> alarms at 1:32pm due to many passes occurring.

As being quite common with this type of fire, getting to the root of the fire is difficult making extinguishment challenging and time consuming.

**Interdivisional** Strike Teams (a grouping of the same type of resource from an outside Division) were needed to replenish spent crews.

A **Tender Strike Team** from **Div. 106**, a **Strike Team of Engines** from **Div. 103**, a **Div. 107 Ambulance Strike Team**, and a special calls for the **Racine and Milwaukee County Airport Fire Department foam trailers**, were eventually requested.

The next morning, a **Task Force** (engine, trucks, chiefs, etc.) was requested from **MABAS IL Div. 4**.



(All photos by Timothy J. Stein. These photos are located at [www.fyrpix.com](http://www.fyrpix.com) in the "Fire Photography Gallery")

## Are You Reporting Your MABAS Incidents?

This newsletter reports on only selected MABAS deployments of a particular interest, however, MABAS is used every day to prevent local incidents from becoming large, thereby saving lives, minimizing property loss, and reducing impact to your community. The value of MABAS cannot be understated, yet it is difficult to communicate that message to those that can provide funding mechanisms and other support without an effective method to track the MABAS success story.

Listed below are all the incidents entered by each Division for each of the last nine years. Are these grossly undercounted? Please contact your Division President or Regional Coordinator with suggestions as to how this reporting can be improved or made easier. It is not too late to go back and enter missing incidents.

DIV	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
101			2	9	1		2	2	5	21
102			4	2		3	1	9		19
103			1	7	2	5	2			17
104		2	3	3			11			19
105							7	9	4	20
106		10	7	5	8	31	29	31	13	134
107		4	1	7	9	4	1	2	1	29
108								2	2	4
111						1	2	2	4	9
112		4	3		3	3	1	5	6	25
114						1	1	4	6	12
115	1	10	8	2	18	26	15	24	28	132
116								2	1	3
117		2	6	9	5	1	6	1	8	38
118		4		9	12	12	5	7	4	53
119	11	15	14	12	14	9	11	12	13	111
120			5	3	3	4	4	2	5	26
122								2		2
123							2	1		3
124				2			2	3	1	8
125							1			1
Divisions not listed have not reported any incidents										
DIV	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
127				3	4		3	3		13
128			1	1		1	1	2		6
129								8		8
130					14	4	4	2	6	30
131									1	1
132							3		1	4
134			1	1						2
135			1				1			2
137				6	6	6	3	1	1	23
140						1				1
141						2	1			3
142			2	2	1	3	1	2	2	13
143				2	1	1		7	10	21
144					3	3	5	8	8	27
145							1	1		2
147								1		1
148							4	4	5	13
149							1	1	2	4
152					1	1	1		2	5
156							1	1	1	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>868</b>

### MABAS WISCONSIN CORPORATE SPONSER

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, MABAS Wisconsin relies on donations and sponsors to further its mission of mutual aid, associated systems, and training.

We thank the following organization 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.



**Mutual Aid**  
L A B S

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.



## MABAS WISCONSIN IN ACTION: DIVISION PRESIDENT ACTIVITIES BY GARY SCHMIDT

Did you know, that once a month, the MABAS Wisconsin Division Presidents meet via a phone conference? Whether it be legislation, infrastructure, new technology, communication advances, or Homeland Security updates, there are several people involved from MABAS Wisconsin that participate in those areas and the results of their meetings are presented at the Presidents' meetings for the purpose of disseminating the information to you.

The objective is to continually improve the MABAS experience while retaining the standardization that allows seamless integration with neighboring MABAS States.

If you have an interest in leadership role in MABAS or just want to get a deeper insight into MABAS, you are welcome to attend. Contact your Division President for the dates, times, and call-in numbers.

### Statewide Div. President's Meetings First Thursday of Each Month at 7pm

At these meetings, the Officers of MABAS Wisconsin, the standing committees, and other ancillary areas provide updates to the Division Presidents. A typical agenda may be:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call – Attendance (Secretary Goplin)
- 4) Secretary's Report/Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Secretary Goplin)
- 5) Treasurer's Report (Treasurer Popp)
- 6) Officer's Reports/Correspondence:
  - ◇ President Bierce
  - ◇ Vice President Pickering
  - ◇ Additional from Secretary or Treasurer
- 7) Committee Reports
  - ◇ Communications (Chair Hansen) Chief Hansen attends many Statewide meetings and provides updates. This includes possible grant opportunities.
  - ◇ Website (Chair Hansen)
  - ◇ MABAS Training & Education (WEM Fire Service Coordinator Tim Haas)
  - ◇ Policies, Procedures & Guidelines (Chair Rice)
  - ◇ Finance and Funding (Treasurer Popp)
  - ◇ Public Information (Chair O'Leary)
  - ◇ Newsletter (Chair Schmidt)
- 8) BadgerRED Center Update (Brian Becker)
- 9) WEM Update (FSC Tim Haas)
- 10) Old Business (Example: Division 101 taking the lead on researching wide-area search model protocol and training)
- 11) New Business
- 12) Region/Division Roundtable (Regional Coordinators / Division Presidents)
  - ◇ Regional Reports (SE, SW, EC, WC, NE, NW)
  - ◇ Division Reports
  - ◇ MABAS-IL Update from Liaison to MABAS-WI Patrick Gallagher (example: MABAS IL has 20 mission tasks right now in the flood zone and multiple single resource requests).
- 13) Announcements
- 14) Next Meetings

### Division President Winter In-Service Meeting February 21-22, 2020

**Location: Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells**

The Winter In-Service is an opportunity for all Division Presidents and MABAS-WI officers & leaders to meet face-to-face to tackle issues faced during the previous year's MABAS activations and other matters that require in-depth strategizing.

The most cost-effective, yet centrally located venue is sought out each year. Availability is often the deciding factor.

**This year, we were fortunate to find a place that the family can also enjoy.** Here are some questions & answers (provided by Randy Pickering):

- 1) Who can attend the meeting?
  - > Our goal is to get (at least one) someone from each Division:
  - > The focus of the In-Service is for the Division President; but,
  - > Other Division Officers, and individual Division Member Department MABAS Coordinators are welcome to attend.
  - > Good news this year is, we do not have a space limitation.
- 2) The venue agreed to accept the State Rate. What is the State Rate?
  - > \$82.00/night, and Tax Exempt if the person provides their Department Tax ID number. This is for a single occupancy room.
  - > Exec Board, Committee Chairs, etc. can be covered under the MABAS-Wisconsin Tax ID number.
- 3) The In-Service starts early Saturday morning on 2/22/2020. The day before (Friday 2/21/2020) is reserved for "pre-meetings" conducive to face-to-face exchanges during the day and a round-table discussion in the evening. Basically, topics that needed more time than a monthly call-in. When can the State Rate be used?
  - > The State Rate applies for single occupant rooms Thursday and Friday nights (Thursday is for those who want to come up early for the Regional Coordinator sessions on Friday).
- 4) Can one bring their family for the Resort activities and what is the special rate for a 2nd day if they choose?
 

A Special Group Rate (\$149) applies:

  - > For family rooms (i.e., 2-4 occupants) Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
  - > For anyone who stays under the State Rate for Thursday/Friday and wants to stay Saturday night as well (1-4 occupants).
  - > For anyone who stays just Saturday night (1-4 occupants).
  - > Arrangements can be made for families who need room for greater than 4. That will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- 5) What Resort perks do they get?
  - > State rate and Special rate includes water park passes (at no additional cost) for all registered occupants.
- 6) What are the approximate timings of the meeting on each day?
  - > Friday 10am – 5pm (Regional Coordinators Meetings with WEM, WFSCA)
  - > Friday night Division Presidents Roundtable (7 - 9 pm)
  - > Saturday In-Service (9am – 4pm)

## MABAS WISCONSIN IN ACTION: DIVISION PRESIDENT'S IN-SERVICE MEETING

BY RANDY PICKERING, CHIEF, EDGERTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, AND VICE-PRESIDENT, MABAS WISCONSIN

### The goal of the Division President's Winter In-Service is to:

- \* Get to know their fellow Division Presidents.
- \* Give Division Presidents access to subject matter experts to get answers or guidance on issues.
- \* Help Presidents be successful in leading their Division.

All Division Officers and member department MABAS representatives are welcome to attend as well.

We have no restrictions on rooms this year.

### Tentative Agenda Friday, February 21, 2020

- 10 am Regional Coordinator RAVE System Deep-dive Training
- 1 pm MABAS Regional Coordinator / WEM Regional Coordinator Meeting
- 3 pm MABAS Executive Committee (EC/RC/CC/WEM) Meeting
- 7 pm Division Presidents informal meet-and-greet and roundtable

### Saturday, February 22, 2020

(Food and refreshments on Saturday are all provided )

#### Morning session beginning at 9am

- Opening Comments and Introductions
- RAVE Notification System Overview
- WEM Update
- Statewide Air Coordination Group Overview
- Peer-to-Peer Best Practices
- Working lunch (Live Website Assistance (Box Card Uploading, Incident Reporting))

#### Afternoon session beginning at 12:30pm

- Army Corp of Engineers and NOAA Spring Flooding Outlook
- MABAS-Illinois Operations/Resource Brief
- MABAS things I have forgot or never knew
- New Division Presidents roundtable
- Closing Comments

## A VISIT TO THE MABAS-ILLINOIS READINESS CENTER

BY RANDY PICKERING, CHIEF, EDGERTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, AND VICE-PRESIDENT, MABAS WISCONSIN



On October 23, 2019, an in-depth tour was given of the MABAS-Illinois Readiness Center located in Wheeling, Illinois.

The Readiness Center is the hub of all MABAS-Illinois operations, aka: "Headquarters", where the MABAS-Illinois Executive Board and Readiness staff work out of.

The Readiness Center is also the "central store" for all MABAS-Illinois specialty assets and acts as the "Deployment Center" on any out-of-state (IMAC, FEMA, etc.) responses. The Readiness Center is also used to conduct a significant amount of training.

While MABAS-Illinois has assets deployed across the State in each of their regions, the specialty resources are all located at the Readiness Center.

Note that this facility differs from the MABAS-IL RED Center (RED = Regional Emergency Dispatch), of which there is a primary and backup location.



**MABAS-Illinois Operations Team members show some of the resources available at the MABAS-Illinois Readiness Center.**

**They will gladly provide tours if you are interested.**

(Photos by Bruce Hedington.)



## MABAS WISCONSIN IN ACTION: INTERFACING WITH OTHER STATES BY GARY SCHMIDT

**MABAS is an interstate concept.** While individual States have their own MABAS organizations, **it is the standardization between them that makes MABAS a regional solution.** Every month, if not every week, “border crossings” occur under a MABAS activation.

In the ten years of doing this newsletter, there have been several events documented of Wisconsin resources going into Illinois, Illinois departments coming into Wisconsin, and Michigan departments coming into Wisconsin (although that still is a non-MABAS mutual-aid agreement until MABAS-WI and MABAS-MI have a gubernatorial agreement).

MABAS-IL includes some departments from Iowa and Missouri, including the St. Louis Fire Department. MABAS is also growing in Indiana and Michigan.

## WISCONSIN DIVISIONS MEET OFTEN WITH ILLINOIS NEIGHBORS BY ROLAND IWEN, DIV 101 PRESIDENT



Wisconsin Divisions 101, 102, 103 and Illinois Division 4 annual Box Cards Review. (Photo by Scott Remer)

MABAS Wisconsin Divisions 101 (Kenosha), 102 (Racine), 103 (Walworth) and MABAS Illinois Division 4 (Lake) meet once a year to discuss topics in the area.

In addition, there also is a joint Box Card Party to work through response plans for the four divisions during the annual update of box cards.

Finally, a Wisconsin representative, currently Craig Roepke, Chief of Pleasant Prairie WI Fire & Rescue, attends MABAS-IL Division 4 meetings on a monthly basis.

### MABAS-WI In Multi-State Meetings By Randy Pickering, MABAS-WI Vice-President

MABAS-Wisconsin took the lead, starting at our 2019 Annual Conference in Stevens Point, to begin bringing the Executive Boards of all the MABAS states together.

The 2019 meeting brought Executive Board representatives from Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan together for the first time ever to discuss mutual cooperation and common challenges.

The next meeting is scheduled during the MABAS-Illinois Annual Conference in February 2020 in Bloomington, Illinois.

It will have Executive Board representatives from Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana.

The plan is to try and bring the Executive Boards together face-to-face one or two times each year.

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

### MABAS-WI Attends CORE State Meetings By Randy Pickering, MABAS-WI Vice-President

CORE is “Coordinating Operational Responses Effectively” and was an outgrowth of a MABAS-Wisconsin Strategic Plan Initiative to build better partnerships with other statewide organizations. When there is a major situation somewhere in Wisconsin, and we all end up at the location, we need to be talking ahead of time to do a better job of planning and coordinating safe and effective responses and operations. We shouldn’t be meeting each other for the first time in the middle of a field someplace.

The group holds its meetings at each other’s conferences throughout the year, and the meeting is attended by representatives of the Executive Boards or representatives of each of the organizations. Much like the multi-state meetings, the topics discussed are around common issues and how to better plan and work together during emergency situations. Included is:

- APCO (Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials)
- BSSA (Badger State Sheriffs' Association)
- HERC (Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition)
- MABAS-WI (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System)
- NENA (National Emergency Number Association)
- WCPA (Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association)
- WEMA (Wisconsin Emergency Management Association)
- WEMSA (Wisconsin EMS Association)
- WSFA (Wisconsin State Firefighters Association)
- WSFCA (Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association)

## MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

## 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 described in the **Local Dispatch Area** of the response card.

When conditions require another "set of resources" or alarm, the Incident Commander (IC) will use **MABAS Box Alarms** to get help from other departments ("mutual aid") by simply asking Dispatch for another alarm.

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: Grafton		BOX ALARM TYPE: Structure Fire			EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/1/2020		MABAS DIVISION 119	
BOX ALARM # 8-11		LOCATION OR AREA: Village			AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: <i>William Q. Rice</i>			
<b>LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:</b>								
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)	
Still	863 865 864	860		851 852	Grafton			
Full Still	Cedarburg	Port Washington			Cedarburg Port Washington	WE Energies		
<b>MABAS BOX ALARM:</b>								
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)	
BOX	Mequon Fredonia	Thiensville	Saukville		Mequon North Shore		North Shore Engine Thiensville Chief Mequon ALS	
2ND	North Shore Waubeka	Jackson		Mequon	Thiensville Jackson	Milwaukee Fire Bell Oz. County Command Post	Belgium Engine West Bend Chief West Bend ALS	
3RD	Belgium Newburg	Germantown	Slinger		Waubeka West Bend		Milwaukee Engine Belgium Chief	
4TH	Milwaukee Richfield	West Bend		West Bend	Belgium Saukville		Richfield Engine Germantown Chief Wauwatosa ALS	
5TH	Menomonee Falls Greendale	West Allis	Port Washington		Milwaukee Germantown		Milwaukee Truck West Allis Chief	
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST		1st Choice 107	2nd Choice 111	3rd Choice 106				
<b>INFORMATION</b> Notify WEM of any incident that reaches a third alarm at 1-800-943-0003 Press 3 Grafton Fire Station 1431 13th. Avenue 53024								

Shown above is the MABAS Box Alarm Card format that lists the preplanned resources. The Change of Quarters column ensures that resources are backfilling the stricken community's firehouses for other calls that may occur during the MABAS incident. Generally, only one or two resources are used from each neighboring department so that they also do not get depleted. Each alarm level requests departments from a greater distance out.

MABAS is used in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, 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.



## Incident Reporting Is Important & 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 DBMS Login 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 September 1, 2019 thru December 31, 2019

Date & Time	Location	Div.	Host Agency	Box Type
9/1/2019 16:52	399 N Main Street	119	THIENSVILLE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
9/2/2019 13:44	1671 BEECH LANE	119	FREDONIA FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
9/3/2019 11:30	W1755 Kamine Rd. Marinette	144	PESHTIGO TN FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
9/4/2019 10:39	3900 Vinburn Rd	115	DE FOREST AREA FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
9/6/2019 14:11	1605 NAVAJO STREET	119	GRAFTON VOL FIRE DEPT INC	Structure - Hydrant
9/12/2019 23:25	1802 Shepherd Ct	106	WAUKESHA FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
9/19/2019 0:26	7263 Cth A	115	BELLEVILLE VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
9/25/2019 7:51	4533 Thurston Ln Apt 8	115	FITCHBURG FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
9/28/2019 20:10	S1938 Cty Rd U	148	WAUMANDEE-MONTANA VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
9/28/2019 21:44	1896 130th Avenue	143	UNITED FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT	Structure - Non Hydrant
9/30/2019 0:00	N7490 Menominee River Drive	144	GROVER-PORTERFIELD FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
10/1/2019 22:05	River St / Third Ave	115	BELLEVILLE VOL FIRE DEPT	Disaster
10/3/2019 21:17	2501 Cth Mn	115	COTTAGE GROVE VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
10/3/2019 23:42	1840 SCHUSTER RD	115	FITCHBURG FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
10/16/2019 20:39	3810 Sunburst Rd	115	SUN PRAIRIE VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
10/24/2019 17:53	1012 Criglas Rd	106	WALES GENESEE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
10/29/2019 13:55	740 N Meadows Parkway	117	MENOMONIE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
10/31/2019 7:32	N3351 Jefferson Road	111	HARTFORD VOL FIRE DEPT	Life Safety
11/5/2019 21:46	4984 Irish Ln	115	FITCHBURG FIRE DEPT	Commercial - Non Hydrant
11/20/2019 5:04	1327 WISCONSIN AVE	119	GRAFTON VOL FIRE DEPT INC	Structure - Hydrant
11/22/2019 10:43	107 Hillside Drive, Wheeler, WI	117	BOYCEVILLE VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
11/26/2019 20:06	226088 Hollywood Rd	130	SOUTH AREA FIRE-EMERGENCY	Structure - Non Hydrant
11/28/2019 3:51	1220 Severson Dr	115	SUN PRAIRIE VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
12/2/2019 2:32	555 Oconto Ave.	144	PESHTIGO CITY FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
12/4/2019 16:58	585 HIGH BLUFF DRIVE	119	GRAFTON VOL FIRE DEPT INC	Structure - Non Hydrant
12/10/2019 10:13	961 County Hwy. "U"	124	NULL	Structure - Non Hydrant
12/13/2019 4:29	7922 CEDAR CREEK ROAD	119	CEDARBURG VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
12/23/2019 19:19	1361 State Street Houlton WI	143	ST JOSEPH VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
12/28/2019 1:07	1330 W GRAND AVE	119	PORT WASHINGTON VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant

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To view past newsletters, visit:

[www.mabaswisconsin.org](http://www.mabaswisconsin.org)  
 (see left side column of links)

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



# MABAS - Wisconsin

## Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Organized 2004

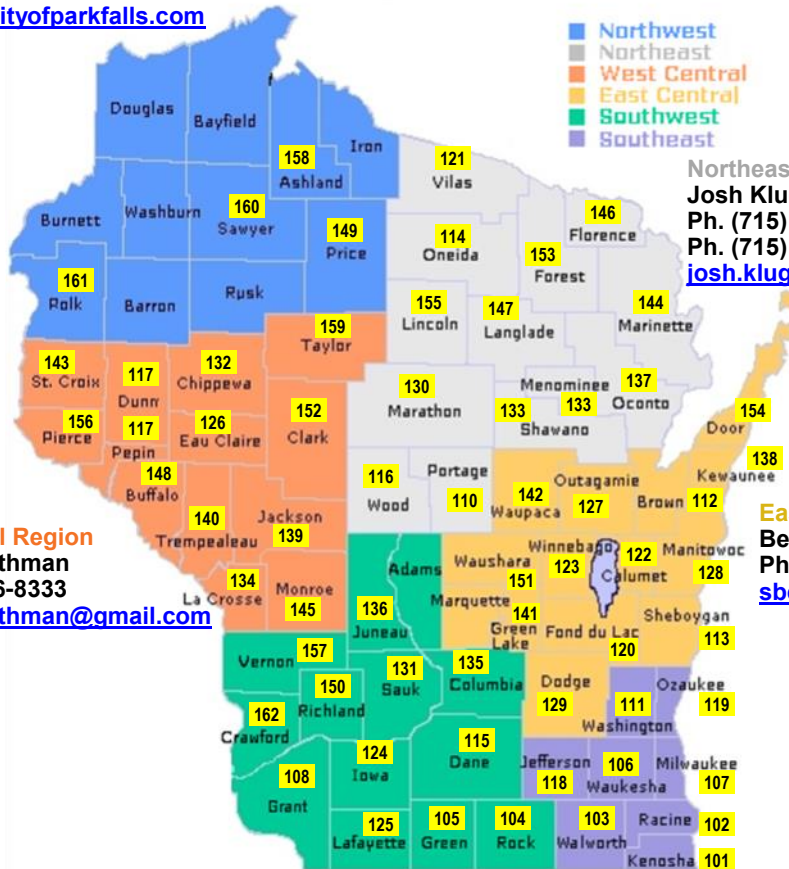
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### MABAS OPERATING FREQUENCIES

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

### MABAS WI 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
- 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/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
- 144 – Marinette County
- 145 – Monroe County
- 146 – Florence County
- 147 – Langlade County
- 148 – Buffalo County
- 149 – Price County
- 150 – Richland County
- 151 – Waushara County
- 152 – Clark County
- 153 – Forest County
- 154 – Door County
- 155 – Lincoln County
- 156 – Pierce County
- 157 – Vernon County
- 158 – Ashland County
- 159 – Taylor County
- 160 – Sawyer County
- 161 – Polk County
- 162 – Crawford County