

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 2021

## INTERDIVISIONALS USED AS 74 AGENCIES RESPOND TO DIVISION 106 BRUSH FIRE

BY DON UMHOEFER, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF-ADMINISTRATION/FIRE PREVENTION, MEMONEE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT, JARED KLUG, BATTALION CHIEF, MEMONEE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND GARY SCHMIDT, MABAS LIAISON, MILWAUKEE FIRE BELL CLUB, AND EDITOR, MABAS WISCONSIN NEWSLETTER

It was the early afternoon of **Friday April 2, 2021**, when the **Union Pacific Railroad freight train left the Butler yards** on the westernmost edge of Milwaukee County and began heading west into Waukesha County. First it would pass through the most populous village in Wisconsin, Menomonee Falls, then through the village of Sussex and the Town of Lisbon as it headed west. There was a seasonal high fire risk due to dry material from last growing season and lack of green vegetation so far in 2021. Very little rainfall in the past several weeks adding to already dry conditions.

Within the hour, there would be 8 miles of sporadic fires along the tracks that would eventually require 74 agencies to respond.

Menomonee Falls is 33 square miles, consisting of a mix of rural areas and

a lot of more tightly packed subdivisions. It makes up the extreme northeast corner of Waukesha County, bordering with Milwaukee County on the east, Washington County to the north and technically touching Ozaukee County where the 4 counties come together at a four-corner point.

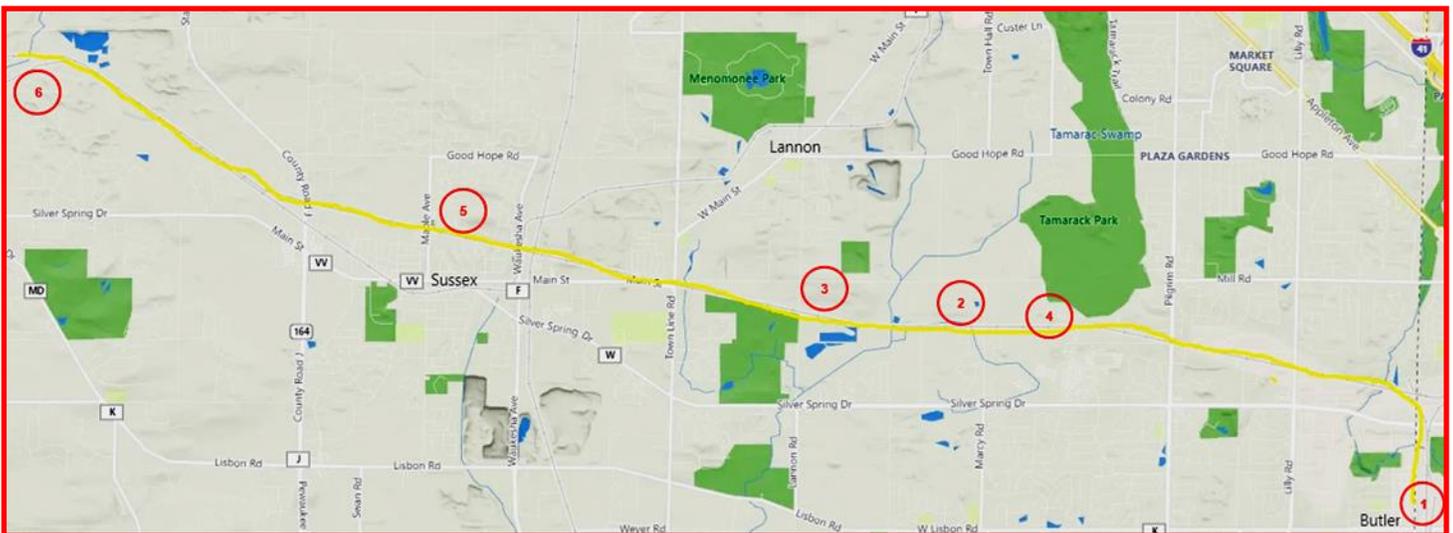
At **1:39pm**, a fire was reported near the **Union Pacific crossing at Marcy Road**. Other calls of fire were coming into WCC (Waukesha County Communications) at the **Lannon Road crossing** about 1½ miles to the west and from Tom's Trailers, in a business park on the south side of the tracks on **Kohler Lane** about a ½ mile to the east. Tom's Trailers is across the street from a Frito Lay manufacturing plant. The street in between crosses the tracks and is an access path to **Flying Electronics Field**, where a local radio-controlled

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Initial path of fire (railroad tracks in yellow): (1) Train leaves Butler Yards, heading west (left in picture); (2) 1:39pm - fire at Marcy Rd; (3) 1:49pm - fire at Lannon Rd; (4) 1:50pm - fire at Kohler Ln; (5) 1:58pm - fire at Maple Rd in Sussex; (6) 2:43pm - fire at Lake Five crossing in Lisbon; train is stopped. Total distance - 8 miles.

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** *BY ROB GOPLIN, ASSISTANT CHIEF, GREEN BAY METRO FIRE DEPT, AND PRESIDENT, MABAS WISCONSIN*

I am honored to be the President of MABAS Wisconsin as it allows me to connect with so many of you, great people doing great work for your firefighters and your communities.

Throughout 2020 and continuing through 2021, the supposed curse of "may you live in interesting times" comes to mind. That being said, despite the recent challenges we have faced, we continue to display one of our best qualities: perseverance.

This newsletter demonstrates that 2021 has been another busy year, and as it comes to a close, we might find it easy to look back with some trepidation about what is to come. However, we should continue to look forward.

The fire service will always face challenges and while some are known to us, many are new and evolving.

Our perseverance and ingenuity enable us to solve problems that no one else can. Our collective creativity and shared experiences give us the strength to confront the challenges we face. The fire service and MABAS must continue to be imaginative, willing to try new solutions and engage our stakeholders.

Inevitably, the future will bring change. While change is often viewed as scary and maybe even unnecessary, it can also be filled with opportunity.

We don't know yet what all the changes might be, but we shouldn't be afraid of them. We shouldn't be afraid to reinvent ourselves. Who better to reinvent us than us?



Neighbors helping neighbors. That is MABAS. We will move into 2022 with that collective creativity and strength to take on what is sure to be another busy year. Together, drawing from each other, helping each other, and maybe with just a touch of luck, we will continue to persevere.

**LARGEST BRUSH FIRE (AT THAT TIME) FOR 2021 WISCONSIN WILDLAND FIRES**



View looking northeast. This is early on showing the Tamarack Swamp on fire. The main fire originated mid-left in the picture, spread to the east (to the right in the picture), then circled north and then west up to vicinity of the subdivisions noted at the top (moving from right-to-left). The Command Post (on Kohler Lane, out of view of the picture) was across the tracks from the Flying Electrons radio controlled model aircraft field. Note how far away the staging area was from the Command Post. (Photo courtesy of Joshua Wilson).

# INTERDIVISIONALS USED AS 74 AGENCIES RESPOND TO DIV 106 FIRE - CONT

*(Continued from page 1)*

model aircraft has an "airport" on the north side of the tracks. This area bordered the southern edge of the **Tamarack Swamp**, an expansive area whose eastern edge was turned into parkland bordered by numerous residential subdivisions. The north side of the tracks is where all of the fires were being reported.

The incident was upgraded to a **Working Still** by the **Menomonee Falls Fire Department (MFFD)** Shift Commander, Battalion Chief Klug, while he was still in route based on the visible heavy smoke. On his arrival at Marcy Road, fire was observed on the east and west side of Marcy Road, just north of the railroad tracks. Since he could see additional smoke to the east and could not determine the scope of the incident, Klug upgraded to a **Box Alarm at 1:44pm, using Waukesha County MABAS Division 106 Brush Fire Card 27-14.**

Battalion Chief Klug initially responded to Marcy Road but soon after relocated to **Kohler Lane** and established Command in the Frito Lay parking lot. The Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) Command Post

was set up at this location with representatives from the MFFD, Menomonee Fall Police Department (MFPD), MFD, North Shore Fire Department (NSFD), West Allis FD, and the Waukesha County Sheriff's Office. NSFD Chief Robert Whitaker was our Drone Liaison.

Even farther west along the tracks, the **Sussex Fire Department** had fire reported at the **Maple Ave. crossing at 1:58pm**. The **Lisbon Fire Department** had fire reported at **2:43pm** at the crossing with **Lake Five Road**. When MFFD started operations in the area of the tracks, WCC contacted Union Pacific to halt their train traffic. This caused the westbound train to stop in Lisbon which likely prevented any further fire spread.

WCC had received numerous calls from residents stating that the fire was "getting bigger". The conditions were changing, and we were still trying to grasp how far the fire had spread or how many areas were currently burning. MFPD was extremely helpful with communicating and checking out areas to see how big this really was.

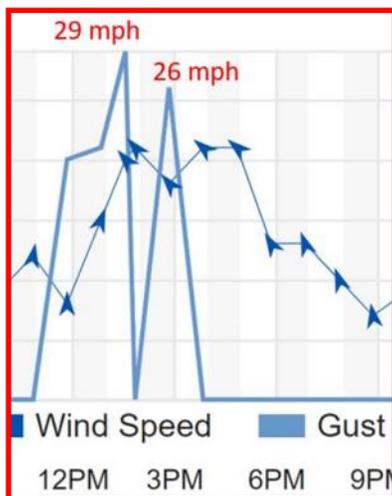
A combined **2nd & 3rd box alarm** was called at **2:11pm**. The fire



spread was chiefly driven by the south/southwest wind conditions which pushed that majority of the fire into the uninhabited area of the **Tamarack Swamp**. There was limited access to water and location of the fire as it moved. Most access had to be on foot and walking through swamp was not an easy task. UTV's were having a hard time getting through due to the terrain.

A **4th alarm was called at 3:18pm**. At that time, a 10-15 mph wind was shifting from the southwest to more out the of the south. We were still fighting multiple fires. We tried to stay ahead of the fire as the conditions were constantly changing.

We were at the mercy of the wind. If the wind speed increased or changed direction, the potential for the fire to "jump" could result in more spot fires that would spread and make it more difficult to contain.



Note the wind gusts & change of direction during the fire.



(Photos this page by timsnopek.com)

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# INTERDIVISIONALS USED AS 74 AGENCIES RESPOND TO DIV 106 FIRE - CONT

*(Continued from page 3)*

**Bill Rice, the MABAS SE Regional Coordinator, arrived on scene at 2:37pm.** Chief Rice facilitated getting more resources when needed. He would ask what we needed, and he would put together strike teams and task forces.

**A 5th alarm for Tenders was called for at 3:43pm,** but due to passes, all five alarm levels on the box card were exhausted. The fire was mostly extinguished on the south and west areas early in the incident. Much of the later fire spread was along Tamarack Drive and then north to Good Hope Road. There was also a finger of the fire that extended to the Shady Lane area to the northwest.

Our greatest challenge was gaining knowledge of the scope of the incident, direction of fire spread, changing wind conditions and coordinating the deployment of resources of such a wide area. With multiple agencies and MABAS Divisions responding there were also some challenges with radio communications (the area was too widespread for Fireground-Red).

The DNR Cooperative Forest Ranger Marc Sass responded from the Pike Lake area in Washington County. He was aware that there were DNR personnel from Washburn in the

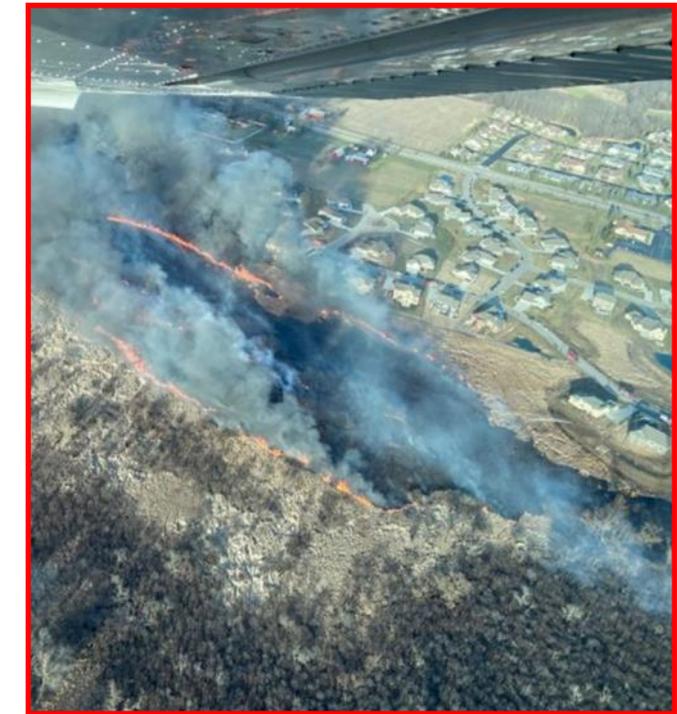
Eagle area (SW Waukesha County) for training. He contacted those crews and they responded to the fire area with two brush trucks and four personnel.

Other responding apparatus was a Heavy Unit-Type 4 Engine trailing a "Low Ground Unit" and a DNR plane that was able provide reconnaissance

The DNR plane was reporting the fire location/spread to the DNR crews located on the south side of Good Hope Road in the area west of Pilgrim Road (the main north-south road along the eastern edge).

These DNR crews were deployed throughout the fire scene and with the guidance from their aerial spotter, lit back fires along the south side of Good Hope Road to increase the width of the fire break already created by the roadway.

This proved to be the "last stand" and, although a few spot fires were extinguished north of Good Hope, the fire did not advance beyond Good Hope Road.



(Photo by John Jorgenson, Wisconsin DNR Pilot)

from multiple sources including citizen reports to WCC, MFFD personnel, MFPD personnel, the DNR and direct observation through the Waukesha County Sheriffs' drone footage that was streamed to the Command Post. This combined information led to resources being deployed to both the Tamarack Trail and Shady Lane areas. Efforts in these areas included the MFPD **evacuating a combined 52 homes**, the deployment of master streams along Tamarack Drive and additional Chief Officers to monitor the fire conditions.

Within the command post, we had direct contact with the multiple divisions who were giving us updates as the fire progressed. With the multiple resources we staged additional resources ahead of the fire as needed. We were watching the weather via various apps along with the live feed from the Waukesha Sheriff drone footage along with direct contact with DNR and their knowledge

Incident Commander (IC) Klug was receiving information



(Photo by Marc Sass, Wisconsin DNR )

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# USING ICS DIVISIONS TO ATTACK THE MOVEMENT OF THE DIV 106 BRUSH FIRES

BY GARY SCHMIDT, MABAS LIAISON, MILWAUKEE FIRE BELL CLUB, AND EDITOR, MABAS WISCONSIN NEWSLETTER



As areas of fire were extinguished, those resources were reallocated to the areas with reports of fire spread. When substantial resources were sent to a specific area, a **division** was established using the name(s) of the streets as the designation. D1, D2, and D3 [noted as such for newsletter brevity] were established immediately and were separate areas of fire. The fires spread east from D3 eventually reaching the D4 area and then proceeded north and west, and divisions D5 - D9 were established as the fire progressed and moved closer to residential areas.

These divisions were set up and given resources to continue to extinguish the fire and to protect these exposures. Except for one deer stand on the edge of the swap, there were no structures damaged. Resources were deployed ahead of prior to the fire moving to be more proactive and allow crews time to set up and wait for the fire to come to them.

Not to be confused with MABAS "Divisions", a *division* in this case is an Incident Command System (ICS) function - a unit arranged by geography, along jurisdictional lines if necessary, and not based on the makeup of the resources within the division. It enables maintaining span of control - no one commander being overloaded due to directly managing too many resources as each division had command of its resources.

## INTERDIVISIONALS USED AS 74 AGENCIES RESPOND TO DIV 106 FIRE - CONT

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on how best to approach the constant changing conditions.

Initially it was difficult to determine how widespread the fire was and what access points would be the best to use.

As more information came in, we had to deploy resources over a very large area and continue to monitor the fire conditions and the suppression progress.

This was accomplished by establishing the geographical divisions and processing the information received from them.

We also monitored wind conditions as both the wind direction and speed changed throughout the afternoon/evening.

Overall winds were out of the S/SW at 15-20 mph with gusts as high as 29 mph before turning southeast.

Communications were initially on 8TACRED, but as resources spread out farther from the Command Post this did not have sufficient reach.

Command changed the working channel between Command and Divisions to our 800 MHz Digital (repeated) channels. Incoming units were on IFERN.

Incident Command called the fire **under control at 8:06pm** and the **Box was struck out at 8:10pm**. The evacuated residents were allowed to return at **8:45pm**. By then over 450 acres burned.

The MABAS System worked well even though there were other related incidents in Sussex and Lisbon that utilized resources on our cards.

Having the MABAS Southeast Regional Coordinator, Chief Bill Rice, in the Command Post was extremely helpful as he was able to coordinate the Interdivisional resources and tailor the response to the resources needed.

## THINKING OUTSIDE THE (MABAS) BOX BY BILL RICE, SOUTHEAST REGIONAL COORDINATOR, MABAS WISCONSIN



Each MABAS Division, as part of their box cards, pre-plans for Interdivisional requests in the form of strike teams (3-5 units of the same type, like "engines") or task forces (a full complement of resources, typically for a structure fire). The Interdivisional cards are used for quickly escalating scenarios when there is no one like a Regional Coordinator (RC) assisting the IC or Dispatch.

This makes the response more rigid. Preferably, having an RC involved enables more customization to ensure the interdivisional becomes part of the larger response plan objectives to mitigate the incident.

For the Falls brush fire, each interdivisional need became unique to the rapidly changing conditions. Interdivisional brush cards generally are only listing UTV's and other brush rigs. We needed to think outside of these box cards.

I was in the Command Post. I was in contact with neighboring Division Presidents, letting them know what was happening and advising them what might be needed.

Then the Operations people would tell me what they needed and I would make a decision on what Division to call.

Normally, Interdivisional requests do not respond emergent, however, in one case (I think it was Division 118), they were asked to respond emergent.

When you have a circumstance where you find yourself  
"thinking outside the MABAS Box card"

let us know at:  
[mabaswinews@gmail.com](mailto:mabaswinews@gmail.com)

### Menomonee Falls Brush Fire Interdivisional Responses

**Division 119:** UTV Request  
Request approx. 2pm  
UTV: Grafton, Waubeka

**Division 111:** Modified Task Force  
Request approx. 4:30pm  
Engines: Newburg, Allenton, St. Lawrence  
Tenders: West Bend, Kohlsville  
UTV: Kewaskum, Hartford  
Brush: Hartford  
Ambo: Jackson  
Chief: Hartford

**Division 118:** Brush Truck and UTV Strike Team  
Request approx. 4:45pm  
Brush Trucks: Ixonia, Watertown, Waterloo, Sullivan, Jefferson, Johnson Creek  
UTV: Sullivan, Fort Atkinson, Waterloo, Jefferson  
Chiefs: Lake Mills, Jefferson, Ixonia

**Division 102:** Brush Fire Task Force  
Request approx. 5pm  
Engines: City Burlington, Tichigan, Caledonia  
Brush w/UTV: Raymond, Kansasville, Rochester  
Tender: Tn of Burlington, Wind Lake, Union Grove  
Chief: Kansasville, Union Grove

**Division 119:** Modified Task Force  
Request approx. 5:30pm  
Engines: Port Washington, Belgium, Fredonia  
Tender: Saukville  
Chief: Fredonia

## STAGING OF RESOURCES FOR THE MEMOMOONEE FALLS BRUSH FIRES

BY GARY SCHMIDT, MABAS LIAISON, MILWAUKEE FIRE BELL CLUB, AND EDITOR, MABAS WISCONSIN NEWSLETTER

As a member of the Milwaukee Fire Bell Club (MFBC), I responded on the 2nd box level to the staging location, a DPW facility. MFBC provides liquids for hydration, food for sustenance, and restrooms in our RV-style rig.

It was a very atypical situation for us. For several hours, there was just occasional movement of rigs – a contingent of engines, brush trucks, tenders and a chief's car would bolt from staging and head out. At the 2-hour mark, I could see a plume of

smoke in the distance – perhaps a mile away. About 45 minutes later, something was falling out of the sky – it wasn't snow, wasn't rain, but instead some chunks of burnt ashes.

Within minutes, the smoke was getting closer to us and more importantly, the school across the street from us in staging.

Suddenly, more and more rigs were moving out. The fire was heading north, coming to us (we did have a three-lane highway separating us).

As crews stopped the fire short of the school, it went west, paralleling Good Hope Rd. More houses were in its path. Staging was becoming empty fast.

Just at the right moment, reinforcements showed up. Some of the interdivisional task forces were arriving in mass – what a welcome sight.

The fires kept going west for a few more hours as darkness came, but we never ran out of resources.



**Top pictures:** Rows and rows of apparatus in the staging area, at the Menomonee Falls Department of Public Works facility. **Middle left:** Fires threaten a new school addition & playground. **Middle right:** Division 118 arrives with their Interdivisional Strike Team. **Below left:** After passing close to the school, the fire rages westward towards more homes with the sun setting on the far right. **Below right:** One of the drones returning to the staging area, hovering above its landing target. (Photos by Gary Schmidt)



## DIV 121 IN ACTION - RESTAURANT FIRE IN ARBOR VITAE UTILIZES MABAS

BY MIKE VAN METER, FIRE CHIEF, ARBOR VITAE FIRE & RESCUE

Forty-two minutes after midnight, it was now **Monday morning, June 14, 2021** and a call came in describing Stingray's Bar and Grill, **134 U.S Hwy 51 N**, as fully involved in **Arbor Vitae**, in southernmost **Vilas County**. Having been born and raised up here, I've known this place and the owners since I was kid, so it kind of hit home.

When I arrived on scene with the first due Engine from **Arbor Vitae Fire & Rescue**, we found heavy fire showing from the C side (rear) of the structure. I established Hwy 51 Command and began my 360° size up. When I came around the C side, I found the deck to be fully involved and the fire had mitigated its way in the main structure through the large picture windows overlooking Snake Lake.

When we were dispatched at **12:42am**, I activated **Vilas County MABAS Div. 121 box card 311-1** to the **working still** level. We arrived on scene at 12:51am and at **12:55am**, I upgraded to the **box alarm level**.

Our department SOP (standard operating procedures) is to pull a box card to the working still every time we are dispatched to a confirmed working structure fire, so I asked for the card

as soon as I acknowledged the page that morning. I went to the box level as soon as we arrived on scene and saw the amount of fire showing and where it was going within the building.

We used box card 311-1, which is our hydrant card. We also utilized a tender shuttle due to the amount of water we were pulling off the sanitary system.

Being it was early morning, a lot of our staff was home, residing with a couple miles of the station so with night calls we have very fast out the door times.

There was a business located on the D side (A side is the front, with B-C-D going clockwise around the 4 sides of the structure) that was an exposure concern, but the fire was held mostly to the B, C side of the structure.

The structure posed a lot of challenges to us during the fire suppression. The original structure dating back the 1950's was an old dining rail car set on a crawl space. Over the years there had been several additions added on and a few fires in that building over the years. The biggest challenge was the four different layers of roofs on the building which held the fire in between the layers.

Through our fire inspections and pre plans I knew the condition of the building and when I established command it was immediately noted that this was only going to be a defensive operation. We called in an **excavator at 4:30am** to pull the false front of the building off to gain access to the layers of roofs that were holding the fire.

We originally tried to set up our brush truck which also serves as water supply down at the lake behind the structure, but the lakefront was too swampy to draft water, so the plan was quickly abandoned.

The **box was stuck out** (no further escalation expected) around **3:30am**. The companies that responded on the box started releasing around **5:30-6am** with the last unit from Arbor Vitae Fire & Rescue leaving the scene at **10:59am**.

### MABAS impact.

We average about 12 working fires a year through mutual aid, every time we get one, we use MABAS. I can't say enough great things about MABAS. It definitely takes the pressure off during the incident knowing you have resources moving and it's such an efficient way to move multiple resources to the scene.

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(Photo by Arbor Vitae Fire Department)

# DIV 121 IN ACTION - RESTAURANT FIRE IN ARBOR VITAE UTILIZES MABAS - CONT

*(Continued from page 8)*

We found a couple weak spots on the card we used that morning, so our command staff is actively working on solutions to those weak points. It actually played out even better than I had planned; it was the first time I've used that card on a fire as we usually use our rural structure fire cards.

We work very close with Oneida County Division 114 to our south, and our auto aid on every fire is Woodruff Fire Department from Division 114.

We train together a lot and work together a lot and we are their auto-aid as well. Most of our resources come out of Division 114 because those departments geographically are closer and have faster response times.

Radio frequencies that we used were our county repeater for dispatch radio traffic. Fire ground red was fire ground operations. Fire ground blue was water supply. Fire ground white was aerial operations because we were using two aerials, one straight stick and a platform.

There is definitely a large amount of drive time between departments in

Division 121, but staffing is more of an issue right now.

We seem to travel a lot within our division and into Division 114 because we have such a large roster of members at 47 and most of them are air pack firefighters.

I just wish more departments in our division would use MABAS as it's such an amazing tool. I'm definitely a strong advocate of it. I'm also currently our division president.



(All photos this page by Arbor Vitae Fire Dept )

DEPARTMENT NAME: <b>Arbor Vitae</b>		BOX ALARM TYPE: <b>Structure Fire</b>		EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>November 26, 2018</b>		MABAS DIVISION <b>121</b>	
BOX ALARM # <b>311-1</b>		LOCATION OR AREA: Hydrant District HWY 70 and South		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:			
<b>LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:</b>							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
STILL	ARBOR VITAE		ARBOR VITAE	MED 5	ARBOR VITAE	ARBOR VITAE TENDERS	NONE
WORKING STILL	WOODRUFF MINOCQUA ( RIT )	WOODRUFF	WOODRUFF		WOODRUFF MINOCQUA	WOODRUFF TENDERS WPS BOULDER CASCADE	NONE
<b>MABAS BOX ALARM:</b>							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
BOX	HAZELHURST ST. GERMAIN	EAGLE RIVER	LDF		ST GERMAIN	MINOCQUA TENDER LDF TENDER BOULDER REHAB	LAKE TOM ENGINE TO WOODRUFF
2ND	LAKE TOM LDF	ST. GERMAIN		MED 4	BOULDER JCT	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOULDER TENDER	NEWBOLD ENGINE TO WOODRUFF
3RD	NEWBOLD BOULDER JCT ( RIT )	THREE LAKES	MANI WATERS		HAZELHURST	HAZELHURST TENDER ST. GERMAIN TENDER VILAS HWY DEPT.	PLUM LAKE TO ST. GERMAIN
4TH	PLUM LAKE CASSIAN	LAND O LAKES	NEWBOLD	ST GERMAIN	LAKE TOM	PLUM LAKE TENDER	MANI WATERS ENGINE WINCHESTER TENDER TO A.V STATION
5TH	PIKE LAKE MANI WATERS	RHINELANDER				MANI WATER TENDER CASSIAN TENDER	EAGLE RIVER ENGINE AND TENDER TO ST. GERMAIN FD
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST		1st Choice 114 ( ENG.CO. STRIKE TEAM )	2nd Choice	3rd Choice			

## DIV 118 IN ACTION - MULTI-DAY WAREHOUSE FIRE REQUIRES INTERDIVISIONALS

BY DARYL RAUSCH, FIRE CHIEF / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR, CITY OF FORT ATKINSON

Neighbors reported smoke coming from the **D B OAKS Warehouse at 704 Oak Street**. Multiple businesses are in the complex that totals 253,000 square feet. At **11:59am, Tuesday August 10, 2021**, it already was hot, sunny, and humid, with temps reaching 90° and dew points around 75°. That afternoon, the winds would pick up and gust to over 40 miles per hour.

The **Fort Atkinson Fire Department** responded and while enroute, we upgraded to **Jefferson County MABAS Division 118 Box Card 81-11**. Upon seeing the roof begin to collapse forcing a defensive operation, I upgraded to a **2<sup>nd</sup> alarm** at **12:12pm**.

We had an approximately 65,000 sq. foot high-bay warehouse which was being used as transit warehouse - large amount of extruded rubber products and manufacturing supplies to be eventually sent out to retailers and/or wholesalers.

Most of our area Fire Departments

are volunteer / paid on call (POC). At this time of day, many were at their full-time jobs. During the day we have seven city employees who are also POC members. The first Engine and truck was made up (mostly) of those people. Staffing is always an issue. Our cards worked well except we ran out of resources when I upgraded at **12:56pm** to the **4<sup>th</sup> alarm** level due to numerous passes on the preceding levels.

Water was an issue as the city water system, although never in danger of running out, could not transfer enough water to the affected area. The system is largely underground storage, moved using pumps, rather than elevated using gravity. There is a significant choke point between the north and south zones at the Rock River. Only 4,300 gallons a minute can be pumped and we were using significantly more than that. The north half of the city was experiencing low water pressure.

We did have an **interdivisional request for EMS** units due to high

heat and humidity. We requested **interdivisional Engine strike teams** in anticipation of setting up two 4000-foot relays from the river.

By the time they arrived after 3pm, we had stopped the advance of the fire at a fire separation wall and were allowing the fire building to burn up as the DNR was worried about runoff and the low water pressure precluded extinguishment.

The EPA was not on scene until that evening; otherwise I believe they would have advocated for not allowing it to burn. The EPA did air monitoring through the next Sunday and did not find high levels of hazard in the air (but they weren't there during the most intense portion of the fire).

Even so we used 1.3 million gallons of water through the course of the event. DNR did run-off monitoring and found very little hazard although they did set up a primary detention basin and several booms in the river.

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(Photo by Andy Klug)

# DIV 118 IN ACTION - WAREHOUSE FIRE REQUIRES INTERDIVISIONALS - CONT

*(Continued from page 10)*

Our cards call for MABAS regional be called at the 3rd alarm level.

Once they arrived, they handled all the additional interdivisional requests for the current and future operational periods. Task Forces made up the **second and third operational periods** to monitor and control teams.

We had continuous operations through Thursday 8/12 (staffed by Fort Atkinson FD personnel after Tuesday noon 8/11).

The fire was mostly extinguished by the following Thursday 8/19 although we had a response for a hotspot 23 days after the incident.

### Post incident thoughts.

The more MABAS is upgraded during an incident, the more likely that passes will occur due to staffing issues in nearly all departments.

Make sure your cards are filled to the fifth alarm and ensure that you are not requesting strike teams or task forces from the same areas as the units on the 1st through 5th alarms.

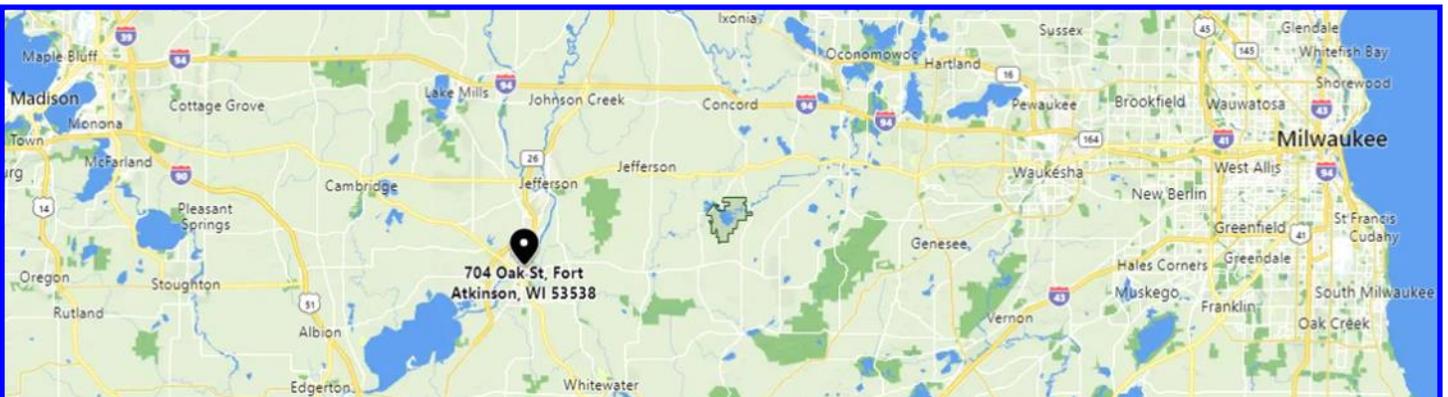
Do not plan on interdivisional requests to fill emergent roles as the time lag to muster, rally and respond make that possibility unlikely.

Interdivisional resources should only be planned for subsequent duties or operational periods.

Plan for long-term monitoring and ensure the proper resources are requested. MABAS really needs to have a formal credentialing process specific to Safety Officers.



(Photos this page by timsnopek.com)



## BUSY YEAR FOR THE MABAS SOUTHEAST REGIONAL COORDINATOR

BY BILL RICE, CHIEF, GRAFTON FIRE DEPARTMENT AND MABAS WISCONSIN, SOUTHEAST REGIONAL COORDINATOR AND GARY SCHMIDT

What does a MABAS Regional Coordinator do? Well, 2021 proved to be busy for Grafton Fire Chief Bill Rice, who also serves as the MABAS Southeast Region Coordinator (RC). Here are some examples and his thoughts on how well each event went, with the benefit of hindsight, as well as describing his role as Regional Coordinator.

**January 2021 - City of Kenosha, MABAS Division 101.** In 2020, the country experienced a peak in high profile, controversial incidents involved law enforcement. One occurred in Kenosha, where a suspect was shot by police. In the aftermath, community protests became destructive and there were many nights of unrest that included the setting of fires at local businesses in Kenosha in the summer of 2020.

In January 2021, a decision was forthcoming from the District Attorney regarding the legality of the police action. Learning from the successive dangerous days of destruction in August 2020, the City of Kenosha Fire Department worked with MABAS to pre-plan for deployment for reaction to the decision (see Winter 2020-21 Newsletter Volume 12, Issue 1).

Looking back on it, Chief Rice had this to say: *"The initial mutual aid (in 2020) and MABAS calls to Kenosha followed standard protocols. It was not until more extensive planning started to take place that the RC got involved. I worked with representatives of the Kenosha Fire Department to move an Interdivisional into Kenosha for evening hours. These resources were staged at a well-coordinated location and supported by a massive law enforcement group also. During the Interdivisionals no resources were called out"*.

**April 2, 2021 - Village of Menomonee Falls, MABAS Divisions 106.** Did the location of this incident (adjacent to Divisions 111, 107, 119) cause a challenge when considering what resources were called beyond the 5<sup>th</sup> alarm? Were outside divisions already tapped out or was the box card well designed and considered that? Was this a case where being onsite was an advantage?

Chief Rice: *"This area has possibly the highest number of available resources in the State. Waukesha MABAS Division 106 (which is a large division) had resources on scene, so they were avoided. Other Divisions were chosen for proximity and having required apparatus type. For example, Milwaukee County MABAS Division 107 can respond quickly, but they have very few brush trucks or UTV's, while other neighboring Divisions had just about any other resources needed"*.

**June 14, 2021 - Village of Rockton, IL, MABAS Divisions 103 (SE), 104 (SW) 105(SW) 115(SW).** Chemtool is a major manufacturer of greases in Rockton, Illinois and experienced a major explosion and fire. This is located one mile from the Wisconsin border, and in particular the City of Beloit in Rock County MABAS Division 104 in the MABAS Southwest (SW) Region. It is also located just 15 miles from Walworth County, MABAS Division 103, part of the MABAS (SE) Southeast Region. The original response to Rockton included many resources from Division 103 and the fire was rapidly expanding. Fortunately, the wind was keeping toxic smoke from Wisconsin. What was your involvement for an incident not in your region, but involving your region's assets?

Chief Rice: *"As the RC for the SE, I had a very limited role in this event. The State MABAS Leaders held an impromptu Zoom Meeting to discuss how requests would be handled. I personally felt this location was somewhat isolated with proximity to a river, therefore I was confident large amounts of water would not be sprayed onto this fire, but rather a let-it-burn approach was more likely."*

*In the end, MABAS Illinois was able to supply the necessary resources".*

**August 10, 2021 - City of Fort Atkinson, MABAS Division 118 Interdivision incident, and, August 10, 2021 - Interdivisional Task Force Requested by MABAS Division 107**

During the day, Fort Atkinson's warehouse fire started. Later that evening, a line of severe storms struck the region and Milwaukee County was hit especially hard with power outages, wires down, the Wisconsin State Fair in progress, and then simultaneous house fires, one a second alarm, in the northern half of the City of Milwaukee. There were at least 50 calls "stacked", meaning, on a list to respond to (mostly wires down). Going strictly by the book, according to their box cards, Milwaukee called for an Interdivisional request from Waukesha County Division 106 to respond to Fire Station 22 on Milwaukee's northwest side to maintain protection for the City. As typical for interdivisionals, this was a non-emergent 60+ minute response.

This was a direct request via MABAS (with no prior phone consultation) and resulted in a lot of confusion. Division 106 had units in Fort Atkinson and was dealing with the same storm. Nonetheless, Division 106 pulled units from all over their county to be sent to northwestern Milwaukee County, some traveling over 35 miles. In the end most of the Division 106 response was cancelled to 107 as by the time they were arriving, Milwaukee County resources were becoming available.

Chief Rice: *"I was out of town and was not notified (I did have my phone with me). While MABAS will still work without human interaction, the RC is able to stand back and gather a big picture assessment of the region and often will customize the interdivisional responses. This is especially important when there are multiple*

*(Continued on page 13)*

## BUSY YEAR FOR THE MABAS SOUTHEAST REGIONAL COORDINATOR - CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 12)*

incidents competing for the same resources”.

### Closing Summary

Chief Rice: “I think the most important issue to understand is MABAS can always deliver a huge number of responders. The trick is to have a coordinated system when they arrive.

These responses take time and coordination to respond. Early identification by the IC that more help will be needed is always key. Too often extra help is not requested until

the time it is needed. This creates a not-enough then too-much scenario.

The RC’s primary job is to smooth these needs and requests. The RC is always looking at operational periods.

When MABAS uses Operational Periods, there is a better and more coordinated response. In 2021 we saw events that were rapidly developing and some events that were planned weeks in advance.

The RC may need to respond to a scene in some cases but often does

not. It is a matter of where communications can be best handled.

The other key role of the RC is to assure Divisions are constantly looking at ways to improve their Box Cards.

Often a Division President will call me and say there is a large incident at XYZ and they have a really bad card.

We need to constantly work to improve all cards and implement lessons learned for others in our area”.

## BUILDING ON A FANTASTIC 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BY PETER O’LEARY, CHIEF, FOND DU LAC FIRE/RESCUE, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO), MABAS WISCONSIN

We were thrilled to have so many learning opportunities at this year’s MABAS conference in Stevens Point. The Training Team worked tirelessly to ensure they brought all attendees quality educational offerings at an affordable price with exceptional value.

**Dr. Denis Onieal**, no stranger to the US fire service, delivered a solid keynote address focused on leadership in turbulent times which continue to grip our nation and world.

Everyone in attendance actively listened as Dr. Onieal looked back at his fire service career and how his experiences going up the ranks in Jersey City helped mold his career.

Dr. Onieal is a humble, approachable, and dedicated fire service leader

whose messaging resonated with those lucky enough to have been attendance.

Giving the dispatchers a great tire pump was IL-Red Center Executive Director **Chris Lienhardt**. Chris was able to tap into his unique experience as a former chief fire officer with his long career as a fire dispatcher to connect the dots on the “why” we ask for what we do, and the ever-changing roles dispatchers have played over the years evolving into a vital link in the public safety wheel of success.

Chris is truly a dispatcher’s dispatcher, and we hope he will come visit us again next year.

Closing the conference was **Marty MacPhee** a leadership and emotional

wellness coach who has spent her career in training and providing welfare for animals in the zoological industry.

Throughout her time at Disney’s Animal Kingdom, Marty developed herself as an industry expert in many aspects of animal enrichment. Marty shared her experiences of leading and growing those who care for animals and how animal welfare lessons can transcend to human behavior.

As the committee continues to search out the best times, dates, venues, and content for YOUR conference, one thing we need the most is positive attendance. Our MABAS divisions and the dispatch agencies in them benefit greatly by the educational offerings that are offered at an incredible value.



### THANKS TO 2021 CONFERENCE SPONSORS

BY QUENTIN POPP, TREASURER, MABAS WISCONSIN

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Fire Service, Inc.  
FirstNet by AT&T  
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**Bronze Level:**  
Custom Fire Apparatus  
Andres Medical Billing  
Air One Equipment  
US Cellular

(Photos by Jon Kemmett)



## 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 DBMS Login drop down box.

**To enter an incident, login with a UserID of *mabas* and a password of *wisconsin*.** After the initial entry, the individual who entered the record or the Division President can alter or update the incident information at a later date. Departments should contact their Division President for the login information

Incidents Entered June 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2021			
Date & Time	Location	Community	Div.
2021 06-01 14:26	2142 Utica Rd	Town of Christiana	115
2021 06-07 16:28	21700 Burlington Rd	Town of Dover	102
2021 06-09 20:00	34700 Chestnut St	Town of Burlington	102
2021 06-10 23:24	S64 W27645 River Rd	Town of Mukwonago	106
2021 06-11 10:45	415 Foster St	City of Fort Atkinson	118
2021 06-12 16:30	313 Monroe St	City of Fort Atkinson	118
2021 06-13 14:45	W9352 Island Dr	Whitewater	103
2021 06-14 00:00	W5892 Hwy A	Village of Bear Creek	127
2021 06-14 00:41	134 US Hy 51	Town of Arbor Vitae	121
2021 06-14 15:24	N4846 County Trunk D	Arkansas	117
2021 06-15 08:48	100 Ringstad Dr	City of Ripon	120
2021 06-16 12:33	Highway 18 & Potters Rd	Town of Oakland	115
2021 06-16 13:45	I94/Mile Marker 158	Town of Albion	104
2021 06-16 18:41	511 Danks Rd	Town of Rutland	115
2021 06-18 01:08	W 3850 Prawatschke Rd	Town of Leroy	129
2021 06-18 02:40	425 West St	Village of Palmyra	118
2021 06-19 06:10	4474 Summt Ridge	Slinger	111
2021 06-19 17:30	1915 Hwy C	Town of Angelica	133
2021 06-21 22:32	5800 Six Mile Road	Town of Belgium	119
2021 06-22 10:45	10452 Hwy 14	Evansville	104
2021 06-22 18:55	339 Spring St	City of Ripon	120
2021 06-24 16:22	W 7669 Hwy Q	Watertown	118
2021 06-26 11:25	W 6799 Grogan Rd	Fort Atkinson	118
2021 06-26 19:29	2400 E Geneva St	City of Delavan	103
2021 06-28 20:00	204 E Eureka St	City of Ripon	120
2021 06-30 16:50	W 2691 Hwy 20	Town of Troy	103
2021 06-30 19:36	W1837 State Hwy 64	Town of Peshtigo	144

### Tell Us About Your MABAS Experiences !

Your contributions to the various columns make this newsletter a success. Let us know about your MABAS response activity or training events at

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

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 Contributor .....Tim Snopek (Waukesha County)

## 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.

<b>Incidents Entered July 1, 2021 thru August 15, 2021</b>			
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Div.</b>
2021 07-01 17:51	320 Mill St	Village of Cayman	129
2021 07-03 21:00	1799 Bristol Road	Town of Bristol	115
2021 07-08 18:00	W 6919 Grogan Rd	Town of Koshkonong	118
2021 07-10 02:13	112 E Bowen Rd	Village of Curtiss	152
2021 07-10 03:00	N8811 Church St	Town of Brillion	122
2021 07-11 18:17	W6390 Challenger Drive	Greenville	127
2021 07-13 15:45	350 Constance Blvd	Village of Williams Bay	103
2021 07-16 17:52	CTH LL & Jay Rd	Town of Belgium	119
2021 07-17 06:00	1471 Spring St	Town of Aniwa	133
2021 07-17 10:58	N6734 Poeschel Rd	Durand	117
2021 07-18 08:02	244 Russell Ave	City of Hartford	111
2021 07-18 17:55	E5071 970th Ave.	Boyceville	117
2021 07-21 08:58	N2567 Maloney Rd	Town of Freedom	127
2021 07-21 13:37	1548 Main St	Village of Saint Cloud	120
2021 07-22 10:05	N2564 Maloney Road	Freedom	127
2021 07-22 15:05	6405 Yellowstone Trail N	Town of Addison	111
2021 07-23 11:23	N6854 State Road	Black Creek	127
2021 07-23 20:21	3149 Norman Dr	Town of Barton	111
2021 07-24 18:56	6451 Townline Rd	Town of Norway	102
2021 07-26 13:15	13603 N Martin Way	City of Mequon	119
2021 07-27 00:00	238588 Deer Creek Lane	Hamburg	130
2021 07-27 16:05	W5145 Fifrick Lane	Town of Grover	144
2021 07-29 02:05	W 3761 Potter Rd	Town of Lafayette	103
2021 07-29 02:40	2342 N Airline Rd	Village of Mount Pleasant	102
2021 07-29 05:56	N 4185 Oak Hill Cir	Town of Decatur	105
2021 08-01 10:34	2254 Jay Road	Town of Belgium	119
2021 08-01 19:04	1550 S Lake Shore Dr	Town of Linn	103
2021 08-02 10:37	19801 Spring St	Union Grove	102
2021 08-03 19:25	7545 Townline Rd	Town of Norway	102
2021 08-10 12:00	710 Oak St	City of Fort Atkinson	118
2021 08-10 19:07	120 Red Fox Dr	Village of Johnson Creek	118
2021 08-10 21:22	8814 W Lisbon Ave	City of Milwaukee	107
2021 08-15 16:38	1462 W Windpointe Ct	City of Mequon	119



# MABAS - Wisconsin

## Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Organized 2004

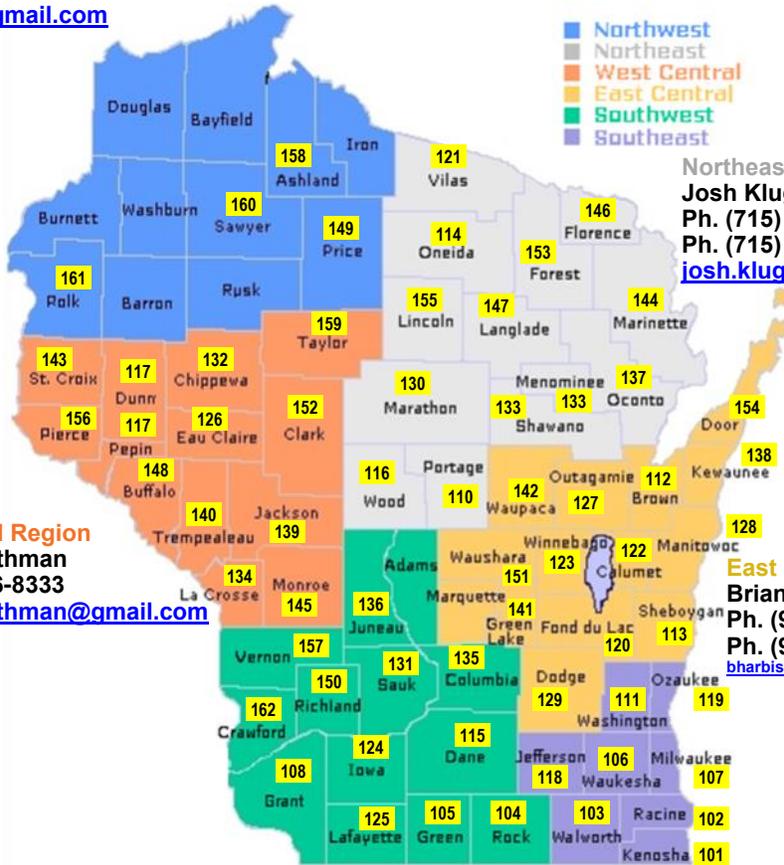
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Kevin Bierce

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#### 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

#### 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