

MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2012

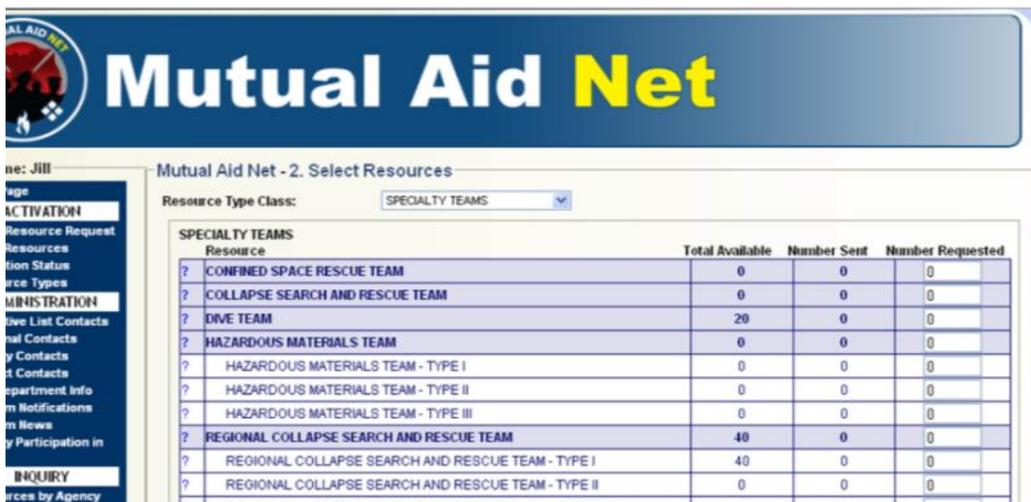
A quarterly report of MABAS WISCONSIN activities to underscore its value to the community and to foster growth and improvement through the sharing of actual experience

MUTUALAIDNET TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN WISCONSIN

BY BRAD LIGGETT, CHIEF, BELOIT FIRE DEPT & FIRE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE - HOMELAND SECURITY COUNCIL

MutualAidNet is a resource database and dispatch system used by states to more quickly and efficiently request and provide the closest most appropriate resources. Having a mutual aid resource data system allows an even more rapid, efficient and

cost-effective movement of personnel, equipment and/or expertise across jurisdictional lines. The next pages provide the details - content provided by the **IAFC MutualAidNet Project**.



This example screenshot is used to select the resources needed for an incident



Inside this issue:

Ashwaubenon Second Alarm	5
MABAS Role in Homeland Security	6
Active Shooter Response to Sikh Temple in Oak Creek	8
Interoperability of MABAS demonstrated at explosion	10
Milwaukee Using MABAS	11
The Interstate Advantage	12
MABAS-IL Expertise Helps	14
MABAS Division Map	16

PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY ED JANKE

As we close in on the date for our Second Annual MABAS Conference, we continue to work towards our goal of providing robust emergency response capabilities across the State of Wisconsin, consistent with the Fire Service Emergency Response Plan. With the addition of Green Lake County and Waupaca County, we now stand at 42 Divisions.

In this issue of "MABAS Wisconsin in Action" we highlight Homeland Security efforts from across the State, the use of Mutual Aid Net to become more efficient in moving resources as well as local events that went beyond the scope of "routine" activities for the fire service. When we analyze the risks that we face, we recognize that the cooperative framework that we are establishing for response, recovery and contingencies strongly rely on the interdependencies that the

MABAS system establishes locally, regionally and both intra and interstate.

Our efforts, in-line with the strategies for homeland security and critical infrastructure protection have been evolving as we consider physical protection and emergency response activities. The Fire Service Emergency Response plan allows us cooperatively to be prepared to respond to and recover from any hazardous event in the State.

Our system relies on the cohesive working relationships that we are establishing across the public safety spectrum. These relationships provide us the capabilities to be "all hazard" and the ability to sustain public confidence.



An intergalactic aerial ladder in use at a MABAS Box? (see page 10)

(Photo by Chuck Liedtke)

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

HOW WISCONSIN WILL USE MUTUALAIDNET *BY BRAD LIGGETT AND THE IAFC MUTUALAIDNET PROJECT*

A mutual partnership lead by the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association in cooperation with Wisconsin MABAS and Wisconsin Emergency Management will be utilizing this program for four purposes.

- Activation of the Wisconsin Fire Service Emergency Response Plan (WFSERP),
- Determining the availability and then dispatching of resources for an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) deployment,
- Assembling a statewide inventory of fire service resources,
- As a planning tool for MABAS Box Card Development.

The project is currently being coordinated by Fire Chief Brad Liggett and WEM Fire Services Coordinator Keith Tveit with the endorsement of WEM Administrator Brian Satula, WSFCA President Glenn Linzmeier, WI-MABAS President Ed Janke.

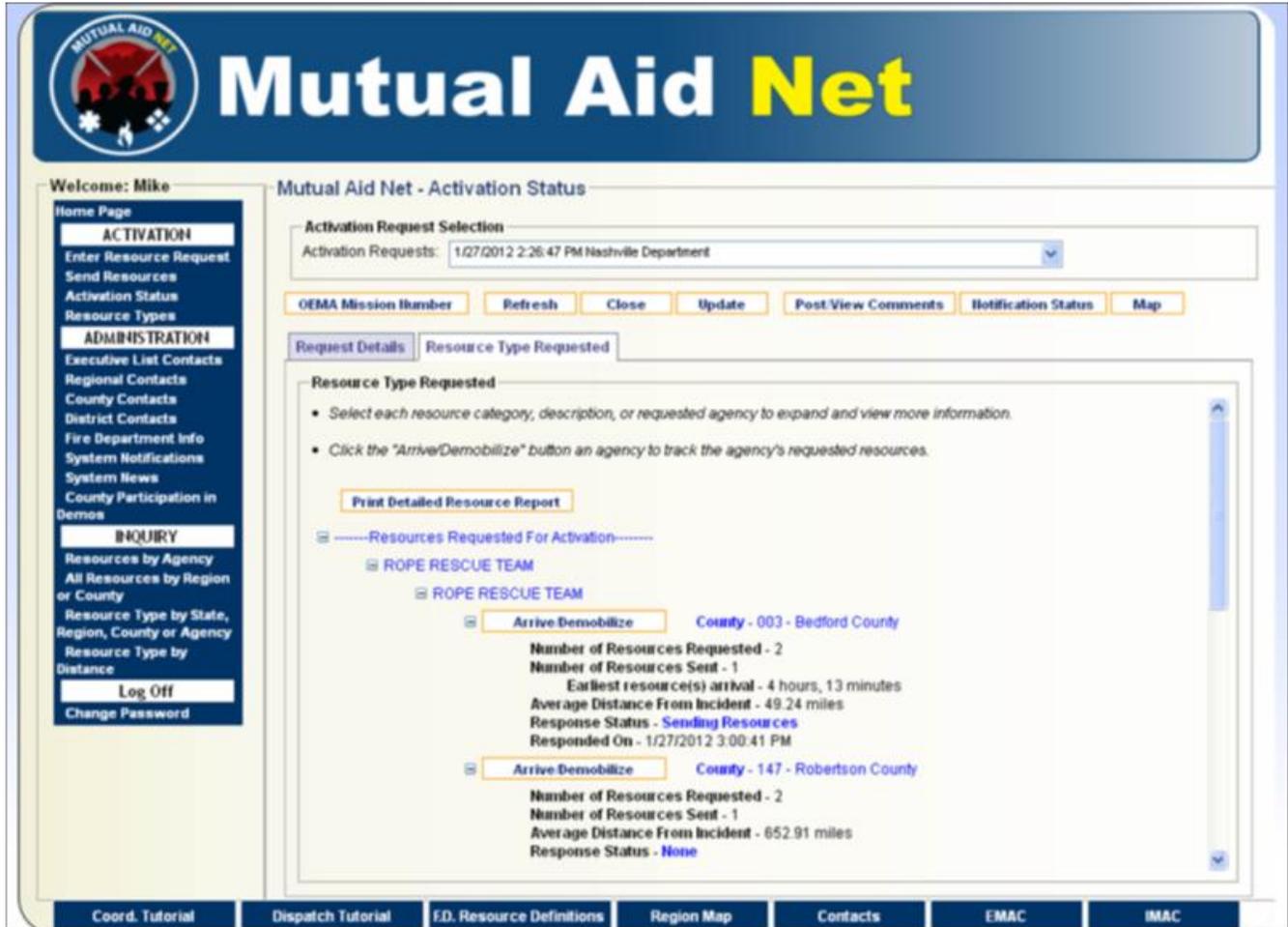
The MutualAidNet Database will contain all of the resources available in the state whether you are a member of MABAS or not. All fire departments in Wisconsin already have their base contact data entered in the system.

The MutualAidNet partners will be rolling out a plan for resource typing and entering the resources that all of the 864 fire departments have in their inventory. Areas of the state that have joined MABAS will be able

to additionally input taskforce or strike team cards. When the resources are entered the Chief will be able to designate whether they are making the resource available for a WFSERP or EMAC response. Departments can also black out availability and black out resources from the inventory that are down for repair or unavailable for response because of critical needs in a community.

The key here is that the local community maintains control of the availability of their resources at all times. The resource inventory is the most important piece. Without this data the plan can never be implemented.

(Continued on page 3)



HOW WISCONSIN WILL USE MUTUALAIDNET — CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

Activation of the WFSERP is available to any department whether a member of MABAS or not. Fire Chiefs should become familiar with the WFSERP and the activation flow sheet.

When MutualAidNet goes live late 2012 / early 2013, there will be many table top and functional exercises, and each department will be able to utilize the exercise features of the program. It will be the goal of the implementation team to have a full scale deployment exercise in the next 12 months.

Key to the activation of the WFSERP is contact information. Notification of an activation is made through email and/or text message. MutualAidNet must have accurate contact information from fire department leadership and local dispatch centers to facilitate efficient notification of aiding departments of the mutual aid request.

Each department and dispatch center must keep up correct information in the system. It's important to remember that if we don't uphold this responsibility for each other, then the resources won't be there when we need them. Together we can make a difference!

Using MutualAidNet for box card development is a great idea. MutualAidNet is a geographical information system based program. It is available via the web and does not require any special computer

training or software, just a good internet connection.

A fire department can utilize MutualAidNet to develop box cards by using the exercise module of the program. You simply input the total number of resources you would need to fill all of the alarm levels for your box card and MutualAidNet will select from the closest available resources giving you a list to populate your cards from.

I know most of you already have an exceptional knowledge of your response area and partners. This is an additional tool I would encourage you to try as I discovered some mutual aid partners I had never tapped before when we were running the program through its paces in development.

WHAT IS THE HOMELAND SECURITY COUNCIL?

BY BRAD LIGGETT

The **State of Wisconsin Homeland Security Council** was formed to advise the Governor and to coordinate the efforts of state and local officials with regard to prevention of, and response to, threats to the homeland security of Wisconsin.

The Council addresses the coordination among state agencies that complement local initiatives and support the national homeland security principles of detection, deterrence, preparedness, response and recovery.

Fire Chief Brad Liggett is the Past-President for the WSFCA, state fire service representative on the Homeland Security Council, IAFC IMAS Project, and the MutualAidNet Project. He can be reached at 608-364-2902 or via email at liggettbc@ci.beloit.wi.us.

Welcome: Catherine

Mutual Aid Net - Send Resources

Request Criteria

You must select the requesting agency prior to committing resources

Requested Date	Requesting Agency
1/27/2012 11:00:43 AM	Nashville Department
1/27/2012 2:14:48 PM	Nashville Department
1/27/2012 2:26:47 PM	Nashville Department

Requesting County: 037 - Davidson County

Activation Details | Resources Requested

Requested Resources:

Resource Type Breakdown	Qty Requested	Qty To Send	ETA Date	ETA Time
ROPE RESCUE TEAM	1	0		Select
SWIFTWATERFLOOD SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM - TYPE I	15	0		Select
SWIFTWATERFLOOD SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM - TYPE II	20	0		Select
SWIFTWATERFLOOD SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM - TYPE IV	25	0		Select

Confirm | FD-Level Deployment

Coord. Tutorial | Dispatch Tutorial | FD. Resource Definitions | Region Map | Contacts | EMAC | IMAC

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

IMPORTANCE OF MUTUALAIDNET

By BRAD LIGGETT / IAFC MUTUALAIDNET PROJECT

The International Association of Fire Chiefs has been working with states, territories and tribal nations since 2006 on the Intrastate Mutual Aid System program. Without a resource data system, states feel that they cannot effectively provide mutual aid resources. Creating and operating a resource data system is therefore the highest priority by participating states. MutualAidNet is critical to intrastate and interstate efforts because:

- ◆ This system uses existing local and state resources efficiently and effectively by allowing first responders to know how many resources there are and where they are located.
- ◆ States, territories, and tribal nations are building a culture of preparedness by leveraging existing capabilities and resources.
- ◆ The system is improving and increasing emergency response capabilities – local, state, and regionally.

BACKGROUND OF MUTUALAIDNET

By BRAD LIGGETT / IAFC MUTUALAIDNET PROJECT

IAFC, through FEMA grant funds, as part of the IMAS project helped the Ohio Department of Public Safety and its ERP System transfer from a main frame system to a server based system. The code was given to IAFC and turned into *MutualAidNet*.

Now, states have the opportunity to enter into a MOU with IAFC in order to use and be part of the User's Group of MutualAidNet.

The four pilot states are Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, and Michigan. The second tier states are Wisconsin, Missouri, Alaska, and Utah.

All states, in order to use the system, must join the Mutual Aid Data Systems User's Group and plan updates that come from this group are shared between the User's Group.

In addition to these four pilot states, there are 16 other states that have expressed an interest in using MutualAidNet.

FEATURES OF MUTUALAIDNET

By BRAD LIGGETT / IAFC MUTUALAIDNET PROJECT

MutualAidNet has a complete cataloging system based upon the NIMS typing system; it offers dispatching, communication and mapping. Some of the system's other features:

- ◆ All agencies and personnel in database are notified of activation. The system transmits over 800 notifications in approximately 60 seconds.
- ◆ The catalog has an automatic removal system as an available resource for local involvement assuming that they are responding to local needs already.
- ◆ Notifications are sent using several methods of alerting (text message and email).
- ◆ Status of the activations can be monitored by all users.
- ◆ Map with locations of agencies with the resources that have been requested
- ◆ Printed report of all incident activities
- ◆ System is customizable to fit each state's operations.
- ◆ Database resource types are user defined.
- ◆ Incorporates NIMS typing.
- ◆ Secured web-based system permits viewing from remote locations.
- ◆ Dispatch feature is user selected option.
- ◆ Handles multiple incidents at one time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS & DEADLINES

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

VIEW PRIOR NEWSLETTERS ON MABAS WI WEBSITE



MABAS In the NEWS

[MABAS WI Newsletter Vol 1 Issue 1](#)

[MABAS WI Newsletter Vol 1 Issue 2](#)

[MABAS WI Newsletter Vol 1 Issue 3](#)

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Your contributions to the various columns will make this newsletter a success. Let me know about your MABAS response activity at garyschmidt@wi.rr.com.

In particular, pictures of activity are needed.

DIV 112 ASHWAUBENON PULLS A SECOND ALARM BOX BY DREW SPIELMAN

Around 1:30 on a hot afternoon of Tuesday, July 24, 2012, Ashwaubenon Public Safety (APS) was dispatched for the report of a garage on fire. Further calls indicated the vehicle was also on fire. A few minutes later, Dispatch advised callers reported two houses on fire.

E311 upgraded to the Working Still while enroute. Upon arrival of APS E311 they had two single-family dwellings well involved. Command upgraded to the Box Alarm level, Box #3-1-1.

The 2nd level was pulled around 2:30pm for additional personnel due to the size of the incident and heat taking its toll on crews. Both houses are deemed to be complete losses.

Still Alarm	APS E311 APS AM311
Working Still	APS E321 Green Bay E441 De Pere L111 APS Chief 390 Green Bay Chief 490 De Pere Chief 190
MABAS Box Alarm Level	De Pere E121 Howard E211 Green Bay E431 Allouez A1611 Howard Chief 290
MABAS 2nd Alarm Level	Lawrence E621 Green Bay L461 Lawrence Chief 690



Photos by Drew Spielman. These photos and others are located at <http://secondalarmimages.smugmug.com>

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

MABAS A KEY PARTNER IN PROTECTING THE HOMELAND BY GARY SCHMIDT

Large scale incidents require a joint response of many agencies. The event could be terroristic in nature, including having biological, radiological, or explosive components. It might be something caused by negligence that has evolved into disastrous magnitude, or it could have a natural origin (tornado, flood). The event could be one that develops into having mass casualties or impacting a large area.

While MABAS plays a key role, often numerous agencies are involved from Law Enforcement, State/Federal government, the military, or private entities (medical, contractors). Through practice and training, our local incident commanders and responders learn how to operate efficiently, effectively, and as safely as possible to keep our homeland communities safe. Here are some examples of how our MABAS Divisions train for significant events.

Date	Type of Event / Scenario	Agencies Involved:	Lead Agency:	MABAS Div
Sep, 2007	Full Scale Exercise School Shooting Incident with Hazmat Incident	Jackson County Sheriff/ERT, Black River Falls PD, Black River Falls FD & EMS, Jackson County Emergency Management, Wisconsin Emergency Management, Tri-State Ambulance, Black River Memorial Hospital, School District of Black River Falls, Jackson County Board of Supervisors	Jackson County Emergency Management	139
May, 2009	Heartland Initiative Radiological Attack Drill	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Law Enforcement (vehicles, boats, Field Operations Support Unit Trailer), US Army Reserve 379th Chemical Company (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Rapid Response team from Chicago with 73 pieces of equipment (decon trailers, vehicles, boats), Milwaukee Police Dept (trailers, vehicles, boats), Port of Milwaukee, USCG Sector Lake Michigan, US EPA, Vessel Lake Guardian, rescue boat, ROV, SeaFLIR II, Milwaukee Fire Dept (Haz Mat, Dive Teams) Total Personnel:- 307	Milwaukee Fire Dept	109
Jul, 2009	Oil Spill with Explosives – Full Scale	Div 112, Brown County Sheriff, Green Bay Police, Coast Guard, FBI	FBI	112
Jul, 2009	Cedarburg High School Mass Casualty Drill	Ozaukee County PD, FD, EMS	Cedarburg FD	119
Aug, 2009	Active Shooter Drill – Nicolet High School	North Shore Police & Fire	North Shore FD	107
Oct, 2009	Tabletop Exercise Anhydrous Ammonia Leak	Hixton FD & 1st Responders, Black River Falls EMS, Hixton Co-op, Village of Hixton, Jackson County Emergency Management, Jackson County Board Chairman	Hixton FD	139
Mar, 2010	Active Shooter Full Scale Exercise at Menomonee Falls High School. This event tested the response of Police and Fire Departs to a mass casualty incident, the medical surge capacity for Community Memorial, radio communications with Milw County EMS and hospital bed status with WITrac.	Menomonee Falls PD, Menomonee Falls FD, Waukesha County Emergency Management; Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM); Brookfield FD, Germantown FD, Lannon FD, Lisbon FD, Sussex FD, Wauwatosa FD, Mequon FD, Butler FD, Elm Grove EMS, Pewaukee FD, Jackson FD, North Shore FD, Merton FD, Richfield FD, Flight for Life, Community Memorial Hospital and Milwaukee County EMS, Waukesha County Sheriff, FBI, Milwaukee PD, Menomonee Falls High School Staff along with Student /Parent volunteers (over 400 participants).	Menomonee Falls Police / Fire & Waukesha County Emergency Management	106, 107, 111, 119
May, 2010	Spill & fire at tank farm's fuel loading rack (table-top exercise).	Chippewa Fire District, Township FD (E.C.), Altoona FD, Village of Lake Hallie PD, Chippewa County Sheriff Dept	Chippewa Fire District	132
Jun, 2010	Airplane Crash Functional	Div 112, Brown County Sheriff, Ashwaubenon PS	Brown County Sheriff	112
Aug, 2010	Airplane Crash – Full Scale	Div 112 Fire, Brown County Sheriff, MCI	Airport	112
Aug, 2010	Apt Complex Conflagration - Func	Div 112, Brown County Sheriff	Howard Fire	112
Sep, 2010	Airplane crash & fire at airport (live exercise)	Eau Claire FD, Township FD (E.C.), Altoona FD, Chippewa Fire District, Eau Claire PD, Chippewa County Sheriff Dept	Eau Claire FD, Chippewa Valley Regional Airport, Chippewa County Emergency Govt	132

MABAS A KEY PARTNER IN PROTECTING THE HOMELAND - CONTINUED

Date	Type of Event / Scenario	Agencies Involved:	Lead Agency:	MABAS Div
Oct, 2010	Mass casualty incident at Beloit College – explosion & students held captive. Secondary explosion after shooter taken into custody, trapping rescue workers in an unstable structure.	DPW, Campus Security, WEM, Rock County Beloit PD, EOD Hazardous Device and SWAT Teams from WI and IL, numerous Fire & EMS	Beloit PD & FD, Rock County Emergency Management	104
Apr, 2011	Mass Casualty Shooter (func) – Bayport High School	Div 112 Agencies, Brown County Sheriff	Brown County Sheriff	112
Apr, 2011	Feed Mill Fire, Haz Mat Functional	Div 112, Brown County Sheriff	Greenleaf Fire	112
May, 2011	Mitchell International Airport Full Scale Crash Exercise	Amateur Radio Emergency Service (Communication Van), ANG 128th AFW FD, Bell Ambulance, Brookfield FD, Caledonia FD, Cudahy FD, Greendale FD, Greenfield FD, Franklin FD, Hales Corner FD, Milwaukee County EMS, Milwaukee County Fire Department., Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Milwaukee FD, North Shore FD, Oak Creek FD, Racine FD, Saint Francis FD, South Milwaukee FD, Waukesha FD, Wauwatosa FD, West Allis FD	Milwaukee County Airport Fire Dept	107, 109, 102, 106
May, 2011	Vigilant Guard Port Security Exercise - Lake Michigan from Milw to Port Washington - drug lab offloaded from vessel to smaller boat which went to drug house; IED affixed to drug boat; package dumped overboard	WI DNR aircraft, Milwaukee Harbor Patrol, Milwaukee PD (including State's only marine SWAT team), Port Washington PD, Ozaukee County Sheriff, US Coast Guard, Lake Guardian vessel, Milwaukee Fire Department	Ozaukee County Emergency Management	109
Aug, 2011	Active Shooter at University of Wisconsin - Stout	Menomonie Fire and EMS, Menomonie P.D., UW Stout P.D., Dunn County Sheriff, Colfax Ambulance, Boyceville Ambulance, WI State Patrol	Menomonie Fire Department	117
Oct, 2011	The Menomonee Falls Fire Department practiced "Tender Operations" with the MFD for incidents involving fire in non-hydrant areas of Milwaukee	Menomonee Falls Fire Department (MFFD) Engine 2761 and Tender 2791 and the Milwaukee Fire Department (Engines 38, 39, 16, Truck 3, Battalion 5 and Special Ops Chief)	Menomonee Falls and Milwaukee Fire Departments	106, 109
Oct, 2011	Nuclear Disaster - Functional	Div 112, Brown County Sheriff, Kewaunee County Sheriff, NRC, WEM		112
Oct, 2011	Functional Exercise Railroad Accident/Hazmat Incident	Merrillan FD & 1st Responders, Alma Center FD, Neillsville FD, Jackson County Emergency Management, Clark County Emergency Management, Clark County SO, School District of Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan, Black River Memorial Hospital	Merrillan FD	139
Jan, 2012	Airplane Crash – Full Scale	Div 112 Agencies, Brown County Sheriff, Coast Guard, WDNR, Airport	Coast Guard	112
Mar, 2012	Leak from major Chemical Plant adjacent to major expressway interchange and Marquette University. Victims also affected along bus routes in nearby downtown Milwaukee	Milwaukee Fire, Health, and Police departments, Milw Haz Mat, Racine Haz Mat, area hospitals. Invoked MABAS Box to bring live Div 107 resources into Milw firehouses during exercise.	Milwaukee Fire Dept	109, 107, 102
Apr, 2012	Explosion and Chemical Release at Dairy Plant	Div 119, 111, 106 Fire, EMS, Haz Mat agencies, Cedarburg Police and other Ozaukee County Law Enforcement agencies	Cedarburg FD Cedarburg PD	119, 111, 106
Apr, 2012	Mass Casualty Incident at large public open-air gathering (20,000+ attendance) following severe weather (live exercise).	Chippewa Fire District, Cadott FD, Cornell FD, Chippewa Falls EMS, Cadott EMS, Cornell EMS, Chippewa County Sheriff Dept., Cadott PD, Red Cross	Chippewa County Emergency Govt	132
Jun, 2012	Active Shooter at Wauwatosa West High School	Wauwatosa PD & FD & Oak Creek PD as backup MABAS Center	Wauwatosa PD & FD	107

ACTIVE SHOOTER SCENARIO PLAYS OUT AT THE SIKH TEMPLE BY GARY SCHMIDT

Shortly after 10:25am on Sunday August 5, 2012, **Oak Creek Police and Fire Dispatch** began receiving reports of a shooting within the Sikh Temple complex, located a mile south of Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee County.

Minutes later, a gunman shot an Oak Creek Police lieutenant before he was neutralized by other officers. Numerous other victims were discovered shot, some alive, some dead.

The complex was very large (16,000 sq ft) containing many rooms. It was not known how many adults and children were in the complex or whether there were other shooters. There was one report of a victim that ran to a residence a block away (confirmed). Following Active Shooter protocol, other Oak Creek Police Officers evacuated the downed officer to a safer location for EMS personnel to begin treatment.

The Police initiated a SMART call (Suburban Mutual Aid Response Team) which brought in Police and Sheriff Deputies from Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, and Waukesha Counties. At times, they used MABAS Gold, Black, and/or Gray.



A SWAT vehicle prepares to leave the staging area to go to the Temple grounds. (Photo by Chuck Liedtke)

scene (which required landing zone coordination about ½ mile away) and 2 additional Flight for Life helicopters were moved from outlying counties to stage in Waukesha. Fireground was on MABAS Red while EMS used MABAS Blue. Also on scene were the FBI, ATF, and WEM Administrator Brian Satula.

There were many delayed calls for help either originating from people hiding inside the Temple complex or from relatives relaying calls from those inside.

There were language barriers at times. Many were describing shooting still actively occurring (which was not the case) and also described the gunman from different perspectives, giving the possibility of multiple shooters.

Then came a report of 20-40 victims inside, possibly injured. This precipitated the MABAS Life Safety Box to be upgraded to the second alarm level.

(Continued on page 9)



The Oak Creek Fire Department requested a **MABAS Life Safety** card to the Box Alarm level (bringing in units from Div 102,107,109). In addition to the MABAS card, the Milwaukee Fire Department's Tactical EMS (TEMS) unit responded (paramedics with SWAT training and equipment), one Flight for Life helicopter came to the

ACTIVE SHOOTER SCENARIO PLAYS OUT AT THE SIKH TEMPLE - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 8)

Within the first hour, it was confirmed that there were 7 dead (including a shooter) and 4 shot (one was a grazing). But it would take time (hours) for all of the SWAT resources to arrive and methodically clear the large Temple complex. Evacuating those in hiding had to be carefully executed. Until that happened, it was not known how many victims required treatment.

At one point, food unattended on a stove in the Temple began smoking. There was concern about natural gas being left on.

EMS units lined up about ¼ mile



away in staging. Eventually, a bowling alley parking lot across the street was used as an assembly area for Police and Fire Command rigs, local and Federal tactical vehicles, and support groups such

Top Right: the staging area showing a mix of Fire Dept and Law Enforcement vehicles.

Above Left: Tactical officers assemble with an FBI armored vehicle in the background.

Bottom right: The major event brings local and national network media trucks to the scene.

(Photos by Chuck Liedtke)

as the Milwaukee Fire Bell Club (rehab), Red Cross crisis management teams, and the Salvation Army (once victims were evacuated, they had to be detained for interviews by investigators inside the business establishment).

In the first hour or two, with police resources focused on active shooter protocols, some fire trucks assisted in blocking streets.

Outer perimeter police officers were inundated with family members rushing to the scene, onlookers driving by, and traffic detouring through the neighborhood from the main thoroughfare that the Temple was located on.

Finally, there was the media



onslaught to deal with. Not only were the local stations here, with their news choppers (which was a concern with Mitchell Airport's flight paths), but media from Madison and Chicago came to the scene also.

Note - the author responded on the Box Alarm as a member of the civilian-based Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, which provided rehab to the emergency responders. This is his account based on his observations. At the time of writing, investigations are still ongoing and it is premature for any official statements from the Oak Creek Fire Department.



MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

HOUSE EXPLOSION DEMONSTRATES INTEROPERABILITY OF MABAS BY GARY SCHMIDT

Shortly after 6pm on Saturday May 26, 2012, a residential neighborhood in Glendale (Milwaukee County) was rocked when a 2-story house exploded. One occupant, a female in her 70's, apparently was blown into the backyard. A male, in his 80's, was calling for help. He was still in a recliner inside the structure. Passers-by were able to drag him to safety before the house became engulfed in flames. Houses on either side also started on fire as well as cars in a driveway and structures to the rear.

"The responding units came from 5 MABAS Divisions and there were 6 different radio systems used"

The **North Shore Fire Department** called for a Box Alarm while enroute upon hearing reports from arriving Police squads. Soon after, the incident escalated to a second alarm level. The occupants, some of the Good Samaritan rescuers, and two

police officers eventually were taken to local hospitals for burns and smoke inhalation.

A third alarm level box was called for as staging became depleted. Eleven Departments responded to the scene and three others were transferred to North Shore Fire Houses.

The responding units came from 5 MABAS Divisions (106, 107, 109, 111, 119) and there were 6 different radio systems used (Milwaukee County Motorola Trunked 800 MHz, Waukesha County Motorola Trunked 800 MHz, Greenfield Motorola Trunked 800 MHz, Milwaukee Open Sky Trunked 800 MHz, Ozaukee County EDACS Trunked 800 MHz, and Washington County VHF).



The 800 MHz systems have base station patches to VHF IFERN. At the scene of the incident, a MOBEX cross band repeater is used to patch **8TAC Red** (a statewide 800 MHz simplex fireground frequency) to VHF **MABAS Red**. **Fireground communications was seamless across the six radio systems.**

The last of the mutual-aid MABAS departments left the scene by 11pm, while the North Shore Fire Department remained on scene overnight assisting investigators from the ATF and the State Fire Marshall's office.



Above Left: the scene an hour into the incident. Besides the fire damaged houses, many neighboring houses sustained broken windows.

Top Right: North Shore's new Truck 2

Bottom right: Once darkness fell, the aerial was illuminated with blue LED lights extending along either side of the ladder for safety.



DIVISION 109 - CITY OF MILWAUKEE USING MABAS BY GARY SCHMIDT AND DAN RODE

Following many years of preparation, delays, and distractions, Wisconsin's largest fire department has embraced MABAS in 2012.

After 140 years of operating pretty much on its own, the Milwaukee Fire Department has made available all of its resources to its MABAS neighbors in Divisions 107, 106, 111, and 119. Conversely, Milwaukee is also relying on MABAS resources to keep its City safe during major incidents.

Milwaukee is unique in that it has 36 firehouses, with 15 of the houses having dual heavy pieces (engine and ladder truck). When a firehouse empties for an extended period of time, an engine company from a dual house moves to the empty house. With this approach, Milwaukee can handle a three-alarm incident with its own resources while keeping the rest of the City covered. At the fourth alarm level, with firehouses becoming empty, Milwaukee considers invoking MABAS for change of quarters, depending on the anticipated duration of the incident and whether it is stabilizing or still escalating.

On **June 20, 2012**, shortly before 8am, a fire started in the ground floor of a 3-story brick ordinary constructed mercantile building (Food Castle Meat Market & vacant apartments at 1227-29 W. Vliet St.). The fire spread rapidly throughout the building, threatening adjoining structures.



(Photo by Chuck Liedtke)

The fire grew to an internal (within the Milwaukee Fire Dept) 5th alarm, which sent 17 engines, 6 ladder trucks, 2 heavy rescue companies, 5 ALS units, and 6 chiefs to the scene (there also were 3 engines browned out for the day). Temperatures were climbing towards 90 degrees with a dew point nearing 70.

At its height, 3 water towers, 1 tower ladder, and numerous deluge sets/big lines worked. There was a collapse of A, B, & C sides and a parapet wall collapse on D side onto a 2-story brick ordinary constructed commercial building (Best Quality Furniture warehouse at 1231 W. Vliet St.).

At 9:54am, Division 109 initiated MABAS Box 1-11 to the second alarm level, which requested 5 engines, 3 trucks, and 5 chiefs from Division 107 to cover the emptied City of Milwaukee firehouses. The Southeast Regional MABAS Coordinator responded to Milwaukee's Communications Center. By 1:30pm, the last of the Division 107 resources were released.

Four weeks later, on **July 17, 2012**, a fire erupted in a 2-story auto body shop with an adjoining third story artist studio/apartments. On that day, temperatures *exceeded 100 degrees*. The City of Milwaukee Division 109 used Box 1-11 to the Box level as that fire again reached a 5th alarm level.

BUSY DAY FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY BY GARY SCHMIDT

June 20, 2012 turned out to be a very busy day for Division 107. About the time the Food Castle fire started in Div 109, Div 107 was beginning a house training burn at the far southeast corner of the County in the City of Oak Creek. Many of the Div 107 departments had an engine or truck on the scene.

As the third evolution was underway (10am), Div 109 invoked a MABAS Box which required the Div 107 participants to abort the training as their departments were called to Milwaukee.

At 11:30am, about 1 mile west of the training burn, a fire was reported in the attached garage of a large 2-



Photo by Timothy J. Stein. This photo and others are located at www.fvrpix.com in the "Featured Galleries Area"

story home at 10130 Warwick Drive in Oak Creek. Temperatures were reaching the upper 90's. OCFD soon requested a Div 107 MABAS Box. Included in the response was an ALS unit from Div 109.

This location was 15 miles from the Div 109 greater alarm. Some units responded from the Oak Creek house burn, to the Milwaukee fire, then to the Oak Creek fire. The Oak Creek house was owned by the brother of the owner of the Milwaukee building that was burning.

THE MABAS *INTERSTATE* ADVANTAGE BY GARY SCHMIDT

When neighboring states combine MABAS with gubernatorial cross-state agreements, the ability to provide emergency services to the *region* exponentially increases. The benefits apply to both smaller communities such as Wind Lake, Wisconsin or Belvidere, Illinois as well as large metropolitan areas such as Chicago or Milwaukee.

Several times monthly, MABAS boxes are used for structure fires whereby both Wisconsin and Illinois units respond. Typically these are located with relatively close proximity to the Wisconsin-Illinois border. But MABAS is not just for structure fires and the incident may not be close to the border. MABAS is truly a regional solution to a local problem and there have been recent examples in 2012.

On May 21, 2012, a mulch fire at a

Pallet company in Belvidere (Boone County) quickly escalated and took several days to extinguish. Over 100 fire departments were used. The location was about 25 miles from the Wisconsin border. As Illinois resources were becoming taxed and exhausted, the Incident Command looked to MABAS Wisconsin for additional help.

Departments from **Divisions 101, 103, 104, 105, 106, 115, and 124** responded at various times with Tender and Engine Strike Teams. It was challenging as conditions kept changing at the fire scene.

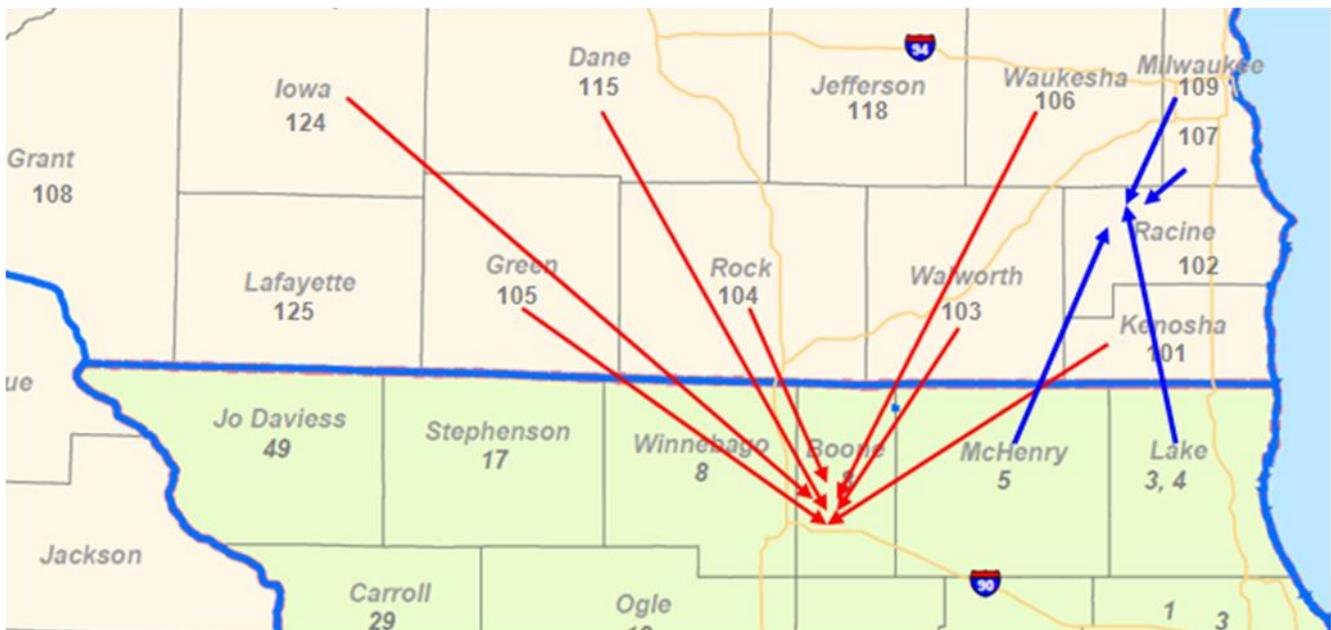
On July 7, 2012, a man drowned in Wind Lake (Racine County) and it took several days of dive operations before the body was recovered. Many dive teams from MABAS Wisconsin **Divisions 102, 107, 109** and MABAS Illinois

Divisions 4 and 5 were used (see story on next page).

In both cases, the need for additional resources was met by crossing the border.

In 2009, when 64 departments from Southeast Wisconsin responded to the Patrick Cudahy meat packing plant fire in Milwaukee County, several MABAS Illinois departments were alerted that they were next in line had the fire continued to escalate. In 2010, a training exercise demonstrated the ability of MABAS to deliver 270 fire and EMS units to the Chicago area in 90 minutes of a tornado striking a mass population center.

Key to making an interstate response work is MABAS with its standardized communication and response protocols.



The red lines indicate the Wisconsin Divisions utilized in the Boone County mulch fire in May, 2012. Divisions 108 and 118 were also in the process of putting together Strike Teams when the Box was struck out.

The blue lines indicate the Illinois and Wisconsin Divisions utilized in the Racine County dive recovery in July, 2012.

INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST USED FOR DIVE INCIDENT

BY ROB ROBINS, CHIEF, WIND LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Saturday, July 7, 2012

At 4:38pm, the **Div 102** Racine County Comm Center received a call that a 50 year old male jumped off a blue pontoon boat into Wind Lake and did not resurface. They were located about 300 yards from shore in an area of the lake that was 40 feet deep.

Wind Lake Ice/Water Rescue Box 600-15 used a STILL response that toned out the Racine County Water Rescue Response Team (RCWRRT) and boats from Wind Lake and Tichigan Fire Depts. In total, 5 boats responded, including DNR Wardens.



Within the hour, Air-One, a helicopter from Winthrop Harbor, IL, was enroute. Upon arrival, it dropped a buoy to mark the coordinates of the cell phone caller.

Underwater visibility on Saturday was only about 1 foot (it would worsen in the days following). After five hours of searching and darkness setting in, all boats were pulled from the lake.

Sunday July 8, 2012

The Dive Team was toned out at 5:34am. Overnight weather reports indicated light winds – original target location remains. Water depth up to 51 feet, search area approximately 8 acres. A witness arrived in the morning to advise on search area. Air temperature was in

the mid-eighties. Diving continued throughout the day. Resources from the Box level of card 600-15 used. Four boats were available today.

At 8:30pm, calls went out to see what divers would be available for Monday. By 10:08pm, all boats and divers were out of the water.

Monday July 9, 2012

5:29am – IC at boat launch. Weather reports indicate no significant winds that may have disrupted search location overnight. At 3:44pm, Air-One requested again to assist in the search. At 10:06pm, dive operations ceased for the day.

Tuesday July 10, 2012

5:00am – IC enroute to boat launch. Weather reports still good. 7-9am: Difficulty assembling enough divers to sustain entire day. Second and third level Box card dive teams not available. At 12:08pm, Div 102 IFERN requests were made to **Div 107** for City of Franklin FD Dive Team.

Around 1pm, an Interdivisional MABAS request for Side Scan



Sonar equipment and techs was made to **Div 109** City of Milwaukee and CenCom Division 4 in Illinois. The Lake (**Div 4**) and McHenry (**Div 5**) County Side Scan Sonar Response Team arrived by 2:20pm.

Shortly after 8pm, the body was recovered. Command was terminated at 10:22pm.

DIVE CALL FOLLOW-UP

BY GARY SCHMIDT

One month later, Chief Robins was asked by **MABAS Wisconsin In Action** about the incident:

MWIA: Dive operations can be a drawn out process. How did you handle this?

Robins: The Racine County Water Rescue Response Team is a large conglomeration of Sheriff and Fire Department divers from throughout the County. This is a huge asset, a big advantage having dozens of divers and boats available in one package.

MWIA: With so many agencies involved, what radio frequencies were used?

Robins: IFERN, MABAS Blue, Marc 1, Marc2.

MWIA: Any communication issues?

Robins: Initially we could not communicate with Div 109 or Air-One chopper on scene. Situation was rectified within 15 minutes by giving them our portables.

MWIA: Had MABAS not been in existence, how would that have impacted the incident?

Robins: We would not have located the body. We would not have known what resources were available in other divisions (both in Wisconsin and Illinois). The Side Scan Sonar equipment made the difference.

MWIA: Do you have any closing comments?

Robins: The resources and expertise from all areas made it happen. This was the first time many worked together, from many different areas, and the operation went incredibly smooth. Next time, as long as there is a targeted area established, I will call for the extensive sonar equipment sooner.



MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

MABAS-IL EXPERIENCE HELPFUL WHEN STARTING A MABAS DIVISION

BY GARY SCHMIDT

There are several Wisconsin Fire Chiefs with MABAS-Illinois experience. In the last issue, Chief Paul Menches recalled his experiences with the formation of the La Crosse County MABAS Division. Listed below are the thoughts of two more Wisconsin Chiefs with a MABAS IL background.

Pete O’Leary, Chief of the City of Fond du Lac Fire Dept, came from Div 12 to Div 120. O’Leary reports that prior to MABAS in Fond du Lac County, “We were missing a pre-planned approach to ordering resources for major events within the county. Chief Officers had to make up box cards on the scene and there was no rhyme or reason for the way it was done. Departments would use up all of their resources for neighboring departments without having any plan for how they would handle a call in their own community”.

“MABAS was on the cusp of being implemented in FDL County when I arrived in FDL. I was able to squelch some of the misconceptions that were out there in meetings within our county. I was able to be an advocate by talking from my own positive MABAS experiences”.

When asked what obstacles were encountered when trying to form Div 120 and what eventually made it happen, O’Leary replied: “It was the fear of the unknown. It was hard for some departments to lose what they believed was doing things “their way.” I understood this and reminded them that MABAS is a asset and not something to be afraid of. We worked through the development of box cards and continued to keep the lines of communication open. Patience was the key”.

How does MABAS IL differ from MABAS WI from a working box alarm perspective? “Box cards are very similar. We had more box cards in IL, but I am sure in time we will develop more cards for specific target hazards”.

Alan Mannel, Chief of the Beaver Dam Fire Department, came to Div 129 from Div 27, 19, and 24 (southern Chicago suburbs). When asked what did MABAS bring to the table that was lacking in Dodge County, Mannel said: “Without a doubt, the 80/20 concept was biggest issue. Dodge County had a mutual aid concept in place similar to MABAS that worked fairly well for the initial response. However, neighbors would send all of their resources leaving their community unprotected. I would not allow my department to send everything to our neighbor”.

“There was/is also some resistance to the move-up change of quarters concept. Some smaller departments have never had a second incident and don’t feel it is important to have their backs covered while they are out on the first. I subscribe to the theory that it is vitally important to offer the community protection while the chips are down. Some departments don’t want change of quarters and don’t want to provide it. There are issues with volunteers needing to get back to their jobs”.

Regarding the impact of his previous MABAS experience in the formation of Div 129, Mannel states: “There were several key players in the county that had the ball rolling when I got here. I just helped push that ball along. We have a strong MABAS committee within the Dodge County Chiefs Association that did a great job of selling MABAS”. There were obstacles however – “smaller departments failing to see the need, ‘we’ve never

done it that way, we don’t need it, it will never work, that’s big city stuff’, the usual; some departments that really didn’t want to participate in the first place dragging their heels in getting their box cards; some departments continuing to do mutual aid the old way, playing build-a-box on the scene. The old dogs need to learn new tricks”.

“What finally got it up and running in Dodge County was the MABAS committee got all of the key players in the county (about 1/3 of the 27 departments and Dodge County Communications) up to speed and set a date to go live, May 1, 2011. We knew it was a lofty goal, but we had to start someplace.

May 1 came and went without going “live” - we just weren’t ready. Then at the October (I believe) Dodge County Chiefs Association meeting, it was decided that we were going “live” November 1

come hell or high water. If you were on board, you were on board – if you weren’t too bad. This was not a unanimous decision, and there was some “spirited” discussion. Not all departments got their cards in, some still don’t have them in. But, we are doing it. I think we may see someone from the county dispatch at some point saying “this is how it’s going to be, use it...”

So, how does MABAS in Illinois compare to MABAS in Wisconsin? “Seems very similar, they (IL) made some changes just as I was moving to WI, but very similar lay-out as I recall. One of the best things I can say about the IL system, is that it

(Continued on page 15)

DIV 107 (OAK CREEK FD) COMMAND VEHICLE

BY JOE PULVERMACHER, BATTALION CHIEF, TRAINING

The Oak Creek Fire Department Command Post responds at the Full Still level within the City of Oak Creek and is listed on many other Div 107 department cards at the Box level. The vehicle is available upon request to other divisions. The 16-foot mobile command center was built by Lynch Diversified Vehicles of Burlington WI in 2001.

Features include:
7.5 kW diesel generator
Canopy
Television/DVD
Bathroom
WIFI Laptop
Mobex Cross-band Repeater
Weather Station (Temp/wind/barom)
Exterior telescoping lighting
Chemical Info & Preplan Books



MABAS WISCONSIN IN ACTION STAFF

- Content Editor.....Gary Schmidt (Milwaukee Fire Bell Club)
- Format Editor.....Terry Schmidt (Milwaukee Fire Bell Club)
- ContributorTim Stein (Racine Fire Bells)
- ContributorDrew Spielman (Green Bay Fire Dept)

MABAS-IL EXPERIENCE HELPFUL - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 14)

helped bring people together operationally. The more you work together, the easier it got. In the 30 years I worked in IL, at least in the area I worked, we went from the "Hatfields and McCoys" to actually liking each other. It was a good transition. Initially mutual aid was viewed as admitting weakness, but when I left, it was pretty seamless. It worked very well".

"The system (MABAS in Dodge County) has some issues that we are working through, but as time passes, some of these will fix themselves. IFERN coverage in the county is spotty, and we can't simulcast over multiple antenna sites in the county. It takes forever to dispatch a call. The county has radio upgrades in the capital improvement plan for 2013, so hopefully this will be fixed".

"Dispatcher familiarity with the system continues to improve. Unacceptably long delays in the time period between request for the MABAS alarm and the actual dispatch is getting better. I'm used to a system in my old MABAS district in IL where the dispatcher did 2 or 3 MABAS events a week. The dispatcher was just waiting on the other end of the radio for command to give the order. Most of the time there was no break in the radio traffic between the dispatcher acknowledging the box to the MABAS tones going out. It was that fast".

"Illinois is well ahead of us. But, I believe that it's only because of IL's familiarity with it and frequency of use. Time will fix this in WI. I think WI will catch up quickly. In WI we have a good statewide program in place and dedicated people running it. It is a good program and I hope people accept it".



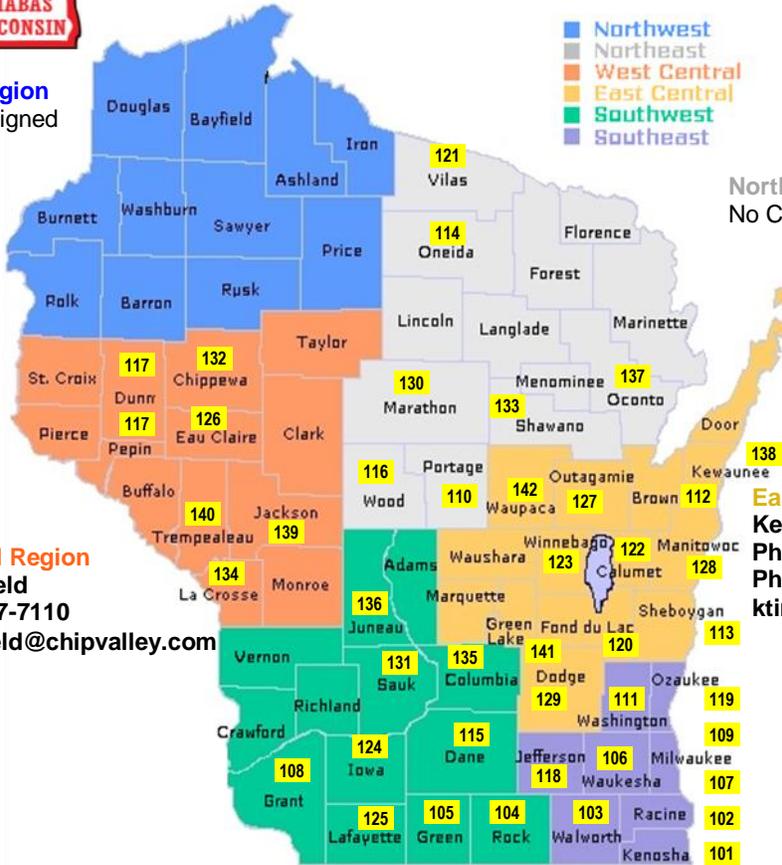
MABAS – Wisconsin

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Organized 2004

MABAS Wisconsin Regional Coordinators

Northwest Region
No Coord. Assigned



Northeast Region
No Coord. Assigned

West Central Region
Rick Merryfield
Ph. (715) 577-7110
Rickmerryfield@chipvalley.com

East Central Region
Kevin Timm
Ph. (920) 860-3777
Ph. (920) 553-3713
ktimm@lakefield.net

Red Center
Ph. (T.B.D.)

Southwest Region
Bruce Hedrington
Ph. (608) 751-6203
Ph. (815) 289-1092
hedrington@ci.beloit.wi.us
brucehedrington@gmail.com

Southeast Region
Bill Rice
Ph. (414) 333-3626
Ph. (414) 471-8456
wrice@wauwatosa.net

WEM Duty Officer
Ph. 800-943-0003

Divisions

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

Fire Service Coordinator
Keith Tveit
Ph. (608) 220-6049
Keith.Tveit@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Homeland Security Council
Brad Liggett
Ph. (608) 364-2902

MABAS OPERATING FREQUENCIES

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