

MABAS-WISCONSIN *in ACTION*

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

FALL 2013

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

DIV 135 IN ACTION - RESPONSE TO A DAIRY FARM FIRE

BY RANDALL KOEHN, FIRE CHIEF, CITY OF COLUMBUS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tuesday July 23, 2013, started out as a very windy summer day in South Central Wisconsin, with gusts over 20 miles per hour. The temperature was already in the upper sixties at 6:30 that morning when on a dairy farm in the Town of York, about 15 miles northeast of Madison, a fire was discovered in a work shop / machine shed.

The City of Columbus is located in the far southeast corner of Columbia County.

The Columbus Fire Department protects the city of 5,000 and also rural areas of Dodge County to the east and Dane County to the south. It received the call for the fire located in Dane County at 7663 Highway 73.

At that time of day, some FD members were already at their day jobs, out of the

(Continued on page 2)



(Photo by Columbus FD)



Inside this issue:

MABAS WI Announces New Communication Tool	3
Dangers of HCN in Smoke	4
Div 101 In Action	5
MABAS Division Spotlight - Div 108: Grant County	6
My First MABAS Box - Div 135: Columbia County	6
3rd Annual Command & Dispatch Conference	7
MABAS Can Host Your Division's Website	8
Incident Reporting Important	9
MABAS Division Map	10

PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY ED JANKE, VILLAGE OF HOWARD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The 2013 Annual Meeting is behind us and MABAS Wisconsin now represents 50 divisions with several counties preparing to become divisions. As we celebrate the holidays and prepare to move into 2014, the MABAS Executive Board, Regional Coordinators and the Wisconsin State Fire Chief's Executive Board continue to work on the strategic plan for MABAS Wisconsin.

Our collaborative efforts will help MABAS Wisconsin to fulfill our role in executing the Wisconsin Fire Service Emergency Response Plan.

Strategic planning for our organization helps to clearly define the purpose of the organization and to assist in establishing realistic goals and objectives consistent with our mission

and our organization's capacity for implementation. The plan helps us to communicate those goals and objectives to all of our stakeholders.

Strategic planning ensures the most effective use of our resources and helps us to maintain focus on priorities.

(Continued on page 3)

DIV 135 IN ACTION - RESPONSE TO A DAIRY FARM FIRE - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

area. Fortunately, some personnel who were due to start work at 7:00 were available to respond and went to their jobs later.

Upon arrival, we found a shed fully involved and a nearby barn was in its initial stage of burning. The building of origin was on the north side of the complex and a strong wind coming out of the north made it easy for the fire to spread to other structures.

At 6:43am, on the Working Still alarm, Columbus responded with a quick attack truck, two engines, two tenders, a squad, and the Chief's vehicle along with the Fall River Fire Department bringing a tender and a squad, and Lifestar EMS sending an ambulance.

With the high wind and multiple structures ablaze, a MABAS Division 135 Box was called at 6:48am. That response included an engine and tender from Marshall, a Waterloo tender, a Sun Prairie squad, and a Randolph engine on a change of quarters.

At 6:50am, the box was upgraded to the second alarm level, bringing a Deerfield engine, a Sun Prairie tender, a Deforest tender, a Waterloo squad, and a Marshall ambulance. At 7:14am, the alarm was escalated to the third alarm level, which included a Reeseville tender, a Cottage Grove squad, and additional resources from Waterloo.

Besides battling the wind and fire, approximately 300 head of cattle were on site. None were lost. There were non-fire personnel who were able to move them to a safe place. Timing was critical - prior to MABAS, I would have had to take time to wonder who would be closest to call for aid without having it predetermined.



Above: There were multiple buildings involved. The main barn where the milking parlor is located was 28 x 72, this building had a 50 x 70 open, covered feed lot on the south side, a 10 x 20 lean-to on the west side and a 20 x 40 lean-to, also on the west side.

A 63 x 182 free stall barn attached to this group of structures was minimally damaged. The building of origin was considered a work shop / machine shed. This building was approx 25 x 72.
(Photo by Columbus FD)

Left: The aftermath - hosing down hot spots.
(Photo Courtesy: WKOW.COM)

MABAS WISCONSIN ANNOUNCES NEW COMMUNICATION TOOL

BY ED JANKE, PRESIDENT, MABAS WISCONSIN

To improve email communication in MABAS Wisconsin, we are implementing a new communication system through the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association List Serve. The **MABAS List Serve** is provided as a member benefit to allow easy communication to MABAS Wisconsin members.

This will be the official MABAS list serve to receive important MABAS Wisconsin information including announcements and meeting information.

If you would like to participate, please follow the instructions below to join the MABAS List Serve.

The MABAS list serve is for MABAS Wisconsin related communications and is INTERACTIVE. This means members on the list serve can send messages to the entire list. It is just like sending an email to one person – but it goes to the entire list. Once you send out your message, watch to see that it has indeed been received by you (and therefore everyone else on the list).

These items are appropriate for sending to the list serve:

- * Requests for information or assistance on fire service topics
- * Promotion of MABAS programs and services
- * Training opportunities
- * Department events
- * Line of Duty Deaths

Unacceptable postings to the MABAS list serve include (but not limited to):

- * Solicitations of business
- * Political positions for or against legislative actions, except those approved by the MABAS Board of Directors

How do you send an important or official MABAS message on the list serve?

1. Open your email browser (Outlook, Entourage, Yahoo, etc) and put the list serve email address in the "TO" field. The list serve email is: MABAS@mailman.wsfca.com
2. Type the subject with the topic of your message (Example: Training Announcement)
3. Place the message inside the body of the email and be sure to include contact information.
4. Attach any corresponding material to the email. However, there is a limit to the attachment's size. Combined all attachments must be less than 1MB. If you send the message with attachments larger than that, your message will be forwarded back to you with an error message.

Who do I contact if I have trouble with the list serve or the attachments?

If you have any trouble sending a list serve message or have questions please contact the WSFCA Business Office at 800-375-5886 or send an email to: info@wsfca.com.

We are happy to help figure out the error and answer questions.

To become part of the MABAS List Serve - Visit: <http://mailman.wsfca.com/mailman/listinfo/mabas>

1. Enter your email address,
2. Enter your name,
3. click subscribe.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

Finally, long term planning helps us to maintain consensus regarding direction of our organization.

In this issue of *MABAS-Wisconsin in Action*, we highlight activities in Division 135 and 101 and we take a look at the accomplishments of Division 108.

In addition, I wish to thank Chief Litton from Green Bay Metro Fire Department for information regarding the dangers of Hydrogen Cyanide.

The danger of HCN poisoning are clear and the presence of this danger on our collective firegrounds are clear. For more information, go to <http://www.firesmoke.org>.

Finally, I wish to thank Keith Tveit and the rest of the training team for an outstanding conference.

The 3rd Annual Command & Dispatch Conference was well attended and based on the evaluations, very well received. In closing, if you haven't signed up for the MABAS list serve, please do.

DANGERS OF HYDROGEN CYANIDE IN SMOKE AT FIRES

BY CHIEF DAVID W. LITTON, GREEN BAY METRO FIRE DEPT

Monitoring Carbon Monoxide is a widespread practice at fires, however, are you familiar with something just as common, yet much more dangerous – Hydrogen Cyanide or HCN?

HCN is formed during the combustion of almost any material found or used in the construction of human dwellings.

HCN is a toxic gas, colorless or pale blue, having a faint bitter almond odor. It is irritating and has a burning taste, however, up to 40% of the population is unable to detect the odor.

Firefighters are even less likely to smell HCN gas especially in a structure fire.

Cyanide in fire smoke can come from:

- Wood
- Cotton
- Silk
- Hay
- Polyurethane Foam
- Resins
- Plastics
- Nylon
- Styrofoam
- Carpet
- Bedding

In a fire, HCN and CO are the toxic twins – CO attacks the blood by preventing the movement of oxygen, while HCN attacks the organs by preventing the absorption of oxygen by cells.

Firefighters have all experienced headaches after fires. This could be a symptom of HCN poisoning. Other symptoms are:

- Giddiness
- Confusion
- Dizziness
- Hyperventilation
- Palpitations
- Loss of Consciousness
- Death

Safe Hydrogen Cyanide Limits	
IDLH	50 ppm
OSHA PEL	10 ppm
NIOSH REL	4.7 ppm
EPA AEGL	27 ppm for 10 mins
EPA AEGL	21 ppm for 30 mins

Safe Carbon Monoxide Limits	
IDLH	1200 ppm
REL	35 ppm

Columbia SC FD Study of HCN Levels created by smoke from:	
Pan on stove	22 ppm
Dumpster	25 ppm
Small fire - apt bldg	30 ppm
Hay - Training Burn	48 ppm

IDLH (Immediate Danger to Life and Health)
PEL (Permissible Exposure Limit)
REL (Recommended Exposure Limit)
AEGL (Acute Exposure Guideline Level)

The Green Bay Metro Fire Department has implemented the following monitoring standard before SCBA can be removed:

HCN < 5 ppm and CO < 35 ppm.

Battalion Chiefs and Inspector vans have ToxiRAE gas detectors. Post structure fire cleanup includes washing all turnout gear ASAP, showering upon returning to station, changing and washing duty clothes, and having an awareness of signs or symptoms of smoke exposure.

Brown County MABAS Division 112 is looking at expanding this division wide.

Also being looked at is the use of Cyanokit to be administered to smoke inhalation victims.

The Houston Fire Department had a 24 year old firefighter in full arrest that was saved after the use of Cyanokit and has seen a 59% success rate (7 of 12) after administering to civilians in full arrest.



The most notorious incident of deaths from toxic mix of hydrogen cyanide and carbon monoxide was at West Warwick Rhode Island nightclub fire Feb 20, 2003.

Pyrotechnics instantly set substandard sound suppressing foam to sheets of flame. HCN and CO levels soared and people were quickly overcome by the smoke, resulting in 100 deaths and 200 injuries.

From the National Institute of Standards and Technology: “*the high temperatures, low oxygen, high carbon monoxide, and high HCN levels within the test room in the absence of a sprinkler all contributed to a non-tenable condition within 90 seconds after ignition.*”

Health care providers at all levels of this tragedy did not consider HCN exposure during course of treatment for the surviving victims. The New England Journal of Medicine reported: “*despite the signs and symptoms indicating CN poisoning, the victims were treated with standard modalities for burns and CO toxicity*”.

Saratoga County NY has a 75% civilian success rate using Cyanokit (6 of 8). The entire state of Florida (thanks to a grant) carries Cyanokit, but has no reporting system to track success rates.

DIVISION 101 IN ACTION BY TIM STEIN

On June 26th, 2013 at approximately 0925hrs **Somers Fire & Rescue** were dispatched to a report of a house on fire at 1820-100th Avenue.

While responding Chief 6300 requested MABAS Box Card 63-1 be activated to the Working Still Alarm as smoke could be seen in the distance.

Upon arrival smoke was showing from a very large multi story brick home from the roof line. Firefighters immediately verified that there were no occupants in the home with one of the owners of the residence.



As firefighters battled the fire Somers Command requested MABAS Box Card 63-1 be upgraded to the 2nd Alarm at 1003hrs for additional manpower and tenders.



The fire was under control within an hour and fire officials determined the blaze was caused by a lightning strike to the home as storms moved through the area.

Firefighters assisting Somers Fire & Rescue at the scene included:

- Pleasant Prairie Fire
- Bristol Fire
- Silver Lake Fire
- Kenosha Fire
- Salem Fire & Rescue
- South Shore Fire
- Kansasville Fire
- Union Grove-Yorkville Fire
- Newport Fire
- Racine Fire Bells Rehab Unit 65

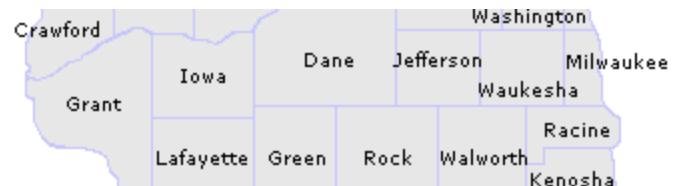


Photos by Timothy J. Stein. These photos and others are located at www.fyrtix.com in the "Featured Galleries Area"

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

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION**MABAS DIVISION SPOTLIGHT - DIVISION 108 - GRANT COUNTY**

BY STEVE TRANEL, CHIEF, CUBA CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Grant County is one of the largest counties in southern Wisconsin and the ninth largest in the State, covering 1,147 square miles with a population just over 50,000. The Wisconsin River forms its northern boundary with Crawford County, while the Mississippi River separates Grant County from the State of Iowa on the west.

Camping, fishing, boating, and snowmobiling are major attractions along long scenic trails. The largest cities are Platteville and Lancaster.

There are 20 fire departments serving the area. Only a small (approx 10 mile) section of Grant County borders Illinois, yet mutual aid is more likely with Illinois than Iowa due to the lack of crossings over the Mississippi with Iowa.

Grant County was formed as MABAS Division 108 and has been live for over three years. The area is mostly rural farmland. Fire protection concerns are farm buildings, nursing homes, and some local industry. MABAS has been used three times since going live.

To keep trained, there are bimonthly meetings hosted by the 10 fire departments that have joined Division 108. While enroute to each meeting, a radio drill is held. This helps find radio dead spots and issues, and helps keep dispatching skills sharp. It has been a challenge convincing the remainder of the county to join MABAS, getting them to understand its value, and even to attend informational meetings.

MY FIRST MABAS BOX - DIVISION 135 COLUMBIA COUNTY

BY RANDALL KOEHN, FIRE CHIEF, CITY OF COLUMBUS FIRE DEPARTMENT

The first MABAS Box for Division 135 was for the dairy farm fire reported in the issue.

What did not go as planned was:

- Did not hear from a department that we expected to respond;
- Two departments had to decline for change of quarters;
- Had some difficulty contacting our dispatch on IFERN.

At the fire, we used IFERN, Red and Blue.

What worked well was having the responding departments predetermined.

Based on this initial use of the card, I plan to add more departments to the change of quarters list.

**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)

ContributorLloyd Schultz (Johnson Creek Fire Dept)

How to Contact Us

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

MABAS 3RD ANNUAL COMMAND & DISPATCH CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS *BY GARY SCHMIDT*

For parts of four days, members of MABAS Wisconsin descended upon Wausau, Wisconsin to attend the MABAS 2013 Conference. The conference was held August 22-25 and was attended by over 130 personnel from all over the State.

The overall attendee breakdown was 65% fire personnel, 25% dispatch center staff, and 10% Emergency Management resources.

Breakout sessions covered a variety of subjects. Some included hands-on training, such as Division Dispatch Center simulations of MABAS Box alarm calls.

In addition to the simultaneous breakout sessions (which were repeated so that all could eventually attend), there were several general sessions, including a very realistic simulation of a major disaster striking a large populated area.

The combination of very experienced MABAS personnel and those very new to MABAS delivered a rewarding event for all.

Future newsletters will detail the content of the conference and provide feedback from attendees.



Above: A general session describing the experiences of those at the largest MABAS deployment to date - the Burlington Echo Lakes food processing plant fire of early 2013. (Photo by Gary Schmidt)



Left: Chief Randy Pickering describes radio operations, including how the simple positioning of a portable can dramatically impact quality of reception and transmission.

This session also talked about the new Badger Red Center. (Photo by Gary Schmidt)



Above: Listening outside of the conference room, at the registration desk, this future firefighter holds the radio as instructed by Chief Pickering and tunes to MABAS Red. (Photo by Gary Schmidt)

MABAS WI CAN HOST YOUR DIVISION'S WEBSITE

BY GARY SCHMIDT

The main components behind a “website” are the HTML code and the server that houses the pages. These are two independent entities.

Websites are hosted by commercial organizations such as www.godaddy.com, by private corporations, or by public agencies that have and maintain the infrastructure needed for a website.

MABAS Wisconsin will host your Division’s website if you can provide the web page development (“code”) for it.

Contact Racine Fire Chief Steve Hansen at steve.hansen@cityofracine.org to have your already coded website uploaded and hosted by MABAS Wisconsin.

At left is the main page of the MABAS Wisconsin website.

Note in the quick links section is a link called [Division Web Links](#) (encircled for emphasis by this author).

When clicked on, the screen shown below will display.

Division 101 Kenosha	Division 102 Racine	Division 103 Walworth	Division 104 Rock	Division 105 Green
Division 106 Waukesha	Division 107 Milwaukee Cty	Division 108 Grant	Division 109 Milwaukee	Division 110 Portage
Division 111 Washington	Division 112 Brown	Division 113 Sheboygan	Division 114 Oneida	Division 115 Dane
Division 116	Division 117	Division 118	Division 119	Division 120

At left is the web page that contains placeholders for all of the MABAS Divisions.

If a Division website exists, the link will be active and appear in green (see Divisions 102 and 112).

When clicked on, you will be directed to that division's website.

MABAS WI INCIDENT REPORTING IS VERY IMPORTANT BY RACINE FIRE CHIEF STEVE HANSEN AND GARY SCHMIDT

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.

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

Departments should contact their Division President for the login information.

Listed below are the entries for 2013.



Incident Entry

Incident Date (yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	2013-05-23 11:18:00
Incident Address	3415 Hilltop Way
Community	Green Bay Metro
Division	112
FDID	GREEN BAY FIRE DEPT
Box Card Type	Structure - Hydrant
Local FD's Dispatched	Green Bay Metro Fire Department
Box Alarm Time	12:0
Box Alarm Depts	Green Bay, Howard, De Pere, New F
2nd Alarm Time	12:2
2nd Alarm Depts	Ashwaubenon, Suamico, Ledgeview,
3rd Alarm Time	12:4
3rd Alarm Depts	Hobart, Bellevue, Denmark, Howard
4th Alarm Time	13:4
4th Alarm Depts	Lawrence, Morrison, Pulaski, Green I Wrightstown, Menchville

Date & Time	Location	Host Agency	MABAS Div
2013 01-03 13:38	N70 W13055 Mary Dale Drive	Menomonee Falls	106
2013 01-04 12:53	5200 Schluter Road	City of Monona	115
2013 01-13 21:17	N12004 County Road W	Grant Township - Colfax, WI	117
2013 01-20 16:35	W284 S10975 Hwy 83	Mukwonago	106
2013 01-25 13:45	W325 S7184 Squire Lane	Mukwonago	106
2013 01-30 17:59	33102 S Honey Lake Road	BURLINGTON	102
2013 01-31 09:58	226 WAPITI LANE	VILLAGE OF ELK MOUND	117
2013 02-09 13:44	1200 Schumann Street	City of Sun Prairie	115
2013 03-18 00:36	N13441 County Road M	Sand Creek	117
2013 03-18 13:21	N13441 County Road M	Sand Creek	117
2013 04-09 13:25	W4117 Pine Valley Rd	Belleville	115
2013 04-26 22:20	Hwy O @ Hwy BB	Township of Deerfield	115
2013 04-28 06:05	N81 W15085 Appleton Avenue	Menomonee Falls	106
2013 05-15 15:00	7745 Marshall Rd	Township of York	115
2013 05-23 11:18	3415 Hilltop Way	Green Bay Metro	112
2013 06-02 07:47	1282 Carmen Ct.	De Pere	112
2013 06-07 22:06	107 N. Main St.	Fond du Lac	120
2013 07-04 16:58	I-90, 144.2 mile marker	Township of Blooming Grove	115
2013 07-04 19:36	E5846 330th AVE.	Menomonie	117
2013 07-07 16:26	2042 Memorial	Howard	112
2013 07-13 05:56	N3755 947th St.	Elk Mound	117
2013 07-23 06:30	7663 Hwy 73	Town of York/ Dane County	135
2013 07-24 19:26	2418 W Badger Rd	Township of Madison	115
2013 07-26 14:40	2919 Camp Leonard Rd	Township of Dunn	115

No incidents have been entered since July 26, 2013. Divisions: please input your 2013 responses.



MABAS – Wisconsin

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Organized 2004

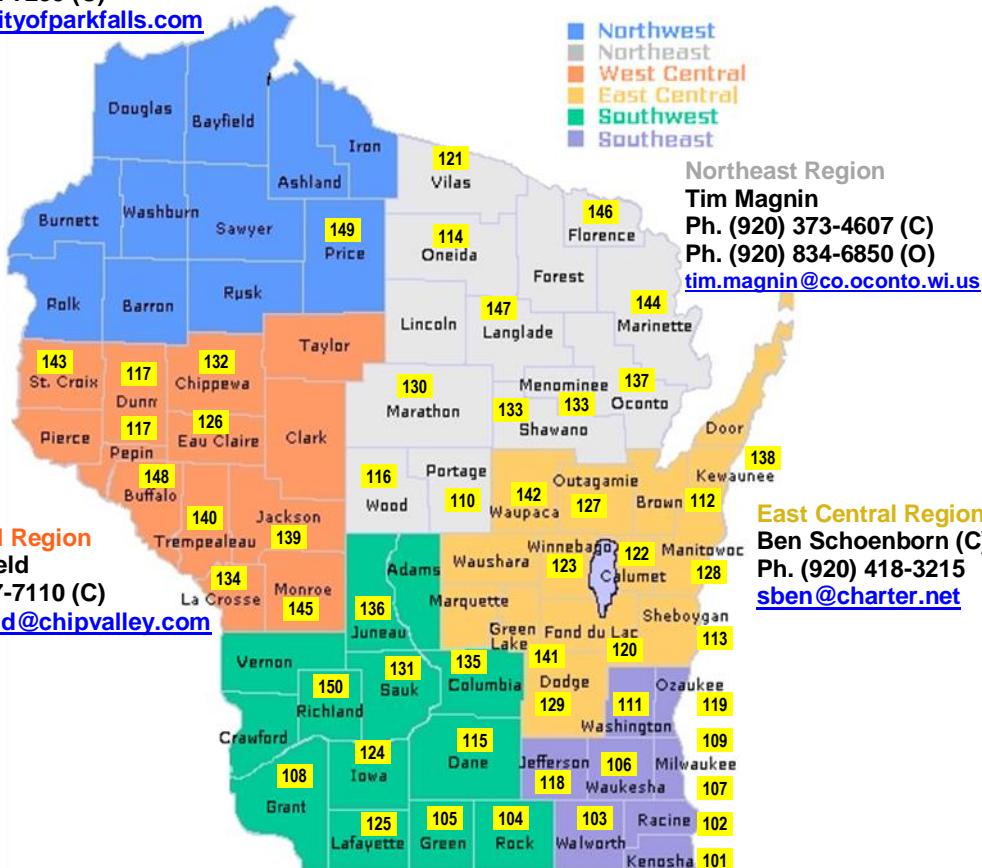
MABAS Wisconsin Regional Coordinators

Northwest Region

Phil Bochler

Ph. (715) 492-7235 (C)

assessor@cityofparkfalls.com



West Central Region

Rick Merryfield

Ph. (715) 577-7110 (C)

rickmerryfield@chipvalley.com

Red Center

Ph. 608-757-4000

WEM Duty Officer

Ph. 800-943-0003

Southwest Region

Bruce Hedrington

Ph. (608) 751-6203 (C)

Ph. (815) 289-1092

hedrington@ci.beloit.wi.us

brucehedrington@gmail.com

Fire Service Coordinator

Keith Tveit

Ph. (608) 220-6049 (C)

Ph. (715) 209-6360 (C)

keith.tveit@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Homeland Security Council

Brad Liggett

Ph. (608) 364-2902

Ph. (608) 751-6201 (C)

Southeast Region

Bill Rice

Ph. (414) 333-3626 (C)

Ph. (262) 375-5314

wrice@grafton.village.wi.us

MABAS OPERATING FREQUENCIES

IFERN

MABAS Alerting / intra-Divisional responses

IFERN2

Alternate intra-Divisional responses

MABAS1 (WISCOM)

Inter-Divisional Responses

Contact with Wisconsin Red Center

MABAS2 (WISCOM)

Regional Coordinators - WEM Coordination*

*Future use

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/Menominee Cnty
- 134 – La Crosse County
- 135 – Columbia County
- 136 – Juneau County
- 137 – Oconto County
- 138 – Keweenaw 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