

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 120 HIGH SCHOOL BLAZE NEEDS 5 MABAS ALARM LEVELS

BY MARK PETRIE, CHIEF, MT. CALVARY FIRE DEPARTMENT

At approximately 5:32am on **Saturday March 8, 2014**, the **Mt. Calvary Fire Dept.**, with automatic mutual aid from St Cloud & Town of Calumet Fire Depts. plus Mt. Calvary Ambulance, was dispatched to St. Lawrence Seminary for smoke in their administration building.

At approximately 5:35am, I arrived on scene, and Engine 311 was only 2 minutes behind. Upon arrival there was heavy smoke in the building and flames visible on the south end of St. Joseph Hall. I immediately called Dispatch and opened **MABAS Division 120 Box 3-28** to the 2nd alarm level.

Mt. Calvary's Engine 311 immediately set up and hooked up to the municipal fire hydrants. Our first-in firefighters encountered heavy smoke and high heat. With the ceilings starting to collapse, they exited the building.



(Photo from Mt. Calvary Fire Dept)

We then determined with the construction and past remodeling of the building, it would be best to go defensive and save the Laurentianum Building (also known as Main Building) that St. Joseph Hall was connected to.

At this point we entered into the 5th level box for Tenders and Engines and the 4th level box on Squads. Due to the fact that the municipal system wouldn't be able to handle the large amount of water

possibly needed, we started to set up water relays from the bottom of the hill.

Hand line crews were inside the Main Building, holding the fire back from entering that structure. City of Fond du Lac Ladder 472 and New Holstein's Ladder were opening up the roof from the outside and attacking it from the top. This started using a large amount of water.

I then asked for a strike team of tenders from **MABAS Div 123** - Winnebago and **Div 128** - Manitowoc Counties, which provided us with 10 more tenders. Also with the cold winter we have had, Schwefels pond and Wolf Lake were found to be unusable. This made us travel farther for water and also brought in the need for more Tenders. In all we had 32 Tenders shuttling water from 5 different water sites.

At approximately 9:30am, the 2nd story floor of St. Joseph Hall collapsed and made the structure very weak, with the building's west wall bulging out. At this point we determined that to stop the building from collapsing and to stop the fire in the attic, we would bring in a high hoe (excavator) and tear the building down.

At approximately 11:00am, the high hoe arrived and we proceeded to tear the building down, with the goal of saving the statue of St. Joseph. Building tear down went as planned, the fire was extinguished and the north side with the statue was able to stay standing.

The scene was cleared by all departments at 2:12pm, with no injuries. Estimated water used: 500,000 gallons.

The main objective of putting the fire out was not met due to heavy fire load and the remodeling over the years of the structure.

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Div 102 5th Alarm
See page 8

Photo by
Timothy J. Stein

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

The MABAS Wisconsin Executive Board has been incredibly busy as we address issues that impact the operational preparedness and response of the fire departments within the MABAS system. We are working with the railroad industry to develop and train programs that will assist fire departments in the State to fully develop the level of situational awareness necessary for a safe response to a rail related incident. This training will also help to accurately qualify and quantify the risks associated with these events.

We are also working on a resourcing process that will allow for resource acquisition in a large scale event. Further, we are in the process of developing CNG/LNG fueled vehicle training for departments interested in more information regarding these alternatively fueled vehicles.

We have been securing corporate sponsorships to assist in funding MABAS Wisconsin activities. Our budget is solely focused on education, training and the execution of the Wisconsin Fire Service Emergency Response Plan. We continue to move forward toward aligning our strategic plan, the WFSERP, the budget, training, policies and procedures as well as our mission, vision and values. To that end, we continue to review policies and procedures to determine whether they are effective and efficient; considering all the current divisions as well as future divisions.

In this issue of *MABAS-Wisconsin in Action*, we highlight Divisions who have experienced multi-alarm events. There is much to be learned from these events.

Proactively planning for large scale events will prove invaluable in the future. Sometimes this seems merely an exercise in academics, the outcomes are far reaching. Considering the worst case through the 5th alarm on our box cards will ultimately yield favorable results should the need arise.

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.

As you know, MABAS Wisconsin was organized on August 20, 2004 and was signed into law by Governor Doyle on April 5th, 2006. I recently came across a Legislative Committee Review update provided by WEM on October 5, 2006 with the following excerpt: "Currently, ten counties have formally established MABAS divisions and an additional 20 counties are in the process of adopting the program. Wisconsin Emergency Management has conducted 12 outreach meetings throughout the state to explain the mutual aid measure. It takes 12-18 months for a MABAS division to become fully functional and the most conservative estimate is that it takes a full 5 years before full implementation." It is certainly amazing how far we've come in a relatively short period of time.

The 4th Annual Command & Dispatch Conference is approaching and the conference agenda has been established. The conference will provide learning opportunities for all who are involved with the MABAS Wisconsin system. The conference will be held in Green Bay, commencing July 31, 2014. In closing, if you haven't signed up for the MABAS list serve, please do so.

MABAS List Serve - Visit: <http://mailman.wsfca.com/mailman/listinfo/mabas> and enter your email address and name and click "subscribe."

2014 Annual Command and Dispatch Conference Preview

General Sessions

- Glen Haven Nursing Home Fire
- Simultaneous MCI Card activation
- Tactical EMS
- Operation Rainbow Operational Period III



**Annual Conference
Jul 31-Aug 3**

Break-out sessions

- Division President Responsibilities – It's more than a popular vote!
- Fire Ground Management - Basic Fundamentals
- First Due - When Do I request a Box Alarm
- Health and Wellness – The whole body!
- MABAS Box Cards – The NEXT Generation
- MABAS Radio Operations - Overcoming IFFERN Challenges
- MABAS-DNR Interface
- Mission Ready Packages – Who, What, When, Where & How
- New Dispatcher Training – You want me to do what?
- The Trial and Tribulations of Managing a MABAS Dispatch Center
- Veteran Dispatch – Where do I fit on the Team?

Visit <http://www.mabaswisconsin.org> for Registration Information

DIV 120 HIGH SCHOOL BLAZE NEEDS FIVE MABAS ALARM LEVELS - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

This made it too dangerous for firefighters to continue an interior attack.

The objective changed to saving the

Main Building attached to St. Joseph Hall. With the hard work of all Departments involved we met this objective plus we were able to save the Statue of St. Joseph that dates back to the 1800's.

Every Department involved should be proud; we accomplished our objective with no injuries. Looking at the scene, we did have property loss, but we saved a lot more than we lost.

Photos by Mark Was



Responding Department Resources Used:

16 Engines: Mt. Calvary (2), Town of Calumet (2), St. Cloud, St. Anna, City of Fond du Lac, Eden, North Fond du Lac, Campbellsport, Lamartine, Plymouth, Glenbeulah, Waupun, Elkhart Lake, & Ripon.

32 Tenders: Mt. Calvary (2), Calumet (2), Campbellsport (2), Elkhart Lake (2), St. Cloud, Eden, Greenbush, St. Anna, Kiel, Town of Fond du Lac, Lamartine, Chilton, Van Dyne, Plymouth, Brownsville, Oakfield, Kewaskum, Eldorado, Div 123 Strike Team (5), Div 128 Strike Team (5).

3 Trucks: City of Fond du Lac, New Holstein, & Campbellsport.

11 Squads: Mt. Calvary, St. Cloud, Calumet, Campbellsport, Stockbridge, Eldorado, Town of Fond du Lac, New Holstein, Kiel, Brandon, Rosendale

Chiefs & Asst. Chiefs: Mt. Calvary, St. Cloud, Calumet, City of Fond du Lac, St. Anna, Eden, North Fond du Lac, Kiel, New Holstein, Campbellsport, Lamartine, Plymouth, Chilton, Greenbush

EMS: Mt. Calvary Ambulance, St. Cloud, Calumet First Responders

MABAS: Fond du Lac County President Tom Miller, Regional Coordinator Ben Schoenborn

EFFECT OF MABAS ON THE SEMINARY FIRE BY MARK PETRIE, CHIEF, MT. CALVARY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Without MABAS, the scene wouldn't have run near as smooth. I would have been piecing departments together to get the help needed. With MABAS, it was preplanned and ran as smooth as it could have. **Because of MABAS, we saved the Main Building, which was connected to St. Joseph Hall.**

From a fire attack standpoint, all aspects of MABAS went well. Most of the nearby departments with engines or trucks on top the hill have drilled with us in the past at St. Lawrence. All those departments

knew what they needed to do, and it trickled down to the other responding departments, making it a smooth operation. **It was impressive to see 41 different agencies from 7 different counties work so well together.**

Myself and other Chiefs on scene felt it went as good as possible. I had my MABAS Box Card loaded up pretty heavy and it paid off.

The interdivisional went well also. It is a resource that is there, but it takes time to get them. With the

frozen outside water sources we needed to drive farther for our water, and needed more tenders.

Communications. We used Red, White, Blue, IFERN, and two of our county private channels. The only issue we had was that the communication from on top the hill to below the hills had a weak signal on portables. The only reason we can figure, is the buildings blocking signal. Otherwise it was good. We also had some issues with other counties on different frequencies, but we worked through it.

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

DIV 117 MABAS 5 ALARMS BRING 50 AGENCIES TO NURSING HOME COMPLEX FIRE

BY GREG HOLDEN, CHIEF, GLENWOOD CITY FIRE, QUENTIN POPP, DIV 117 DIRECTOR, AND RICK MERRYFIELD, MABAS WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Glenwood City is approximately 45 miles northwest of Eau Claire in St. Croix County (Div 143). When MABAS Div 117 was forming in Dunn County 3 miles to the east, the **Glenwood City Fire Department** joined Div 117 as they cover parts of Dunn County (Div 143 is not live yet).



Photo by Dewitt Media

At 5:04am, on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, fire was reported at the Glenhaven Health & Rehabilitation Center in a new construction area. At the time, heavy snow was falling and wind chill temps were below zero.

Eventually, three buildings would be involved. Thirty-three residents were sheltered in place in the older part of the facility. Before it was over, 50 agencies, 83 pieces of apparatus,

and 239 personnel, helped move over 600,000 gallons of water. **This would turn out to be the biggest fire many of the responders have ever worked at.**

After an hour, we were in need of Tender and Engine support to relay to the trucks that were positioned around the building. Also City Water supply ran down to the point of being shutdown 3 different times during this incident requiring us to rely solely on tender shuttles at times. For this reason, **we upgraded to a combined Box, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th alarm at 6:20am.**

We had no issues with calling multiple alarms at once. The units were from multiple counties so the biggest issue was making sure each dispatch center got the correct unit needed from each of their counties. Not all the division's involved have IFERN in their dispatch centers, or have the ability to page the IFERN tones out. So all information had to be handled through use of the phones.



Photo by Dewitt Media

We used IFERN for MABAS, Blue for water control, Red for Fireground, attempted to use Black for accountability.

When City water supply was to the point that we could not use it, we had to switch to Tender shuttle. We also called for additional Engine Companies for manpower due to length of time on scene and weather conditions.

(Continued on page 5)



Photo by St. Croix Sheriff

Glenwood Retirement Home Fire - Resources Used:

Fire Department	Apparatus Type	Fire Department	Apparatus Type	Engine Strike Team Div 126	
Amery FD	Truck	Rock Creek FD	Tender	Township FD	Squad
Boyceville FD	1 Engine, 3 Tenders	St. Joseph FD	Engine on Standby their qtrs	Eau Claire FD	Engine
Chippewa Fire Dist	2 Tenders	Sand Creek FD	River Pump Trk, Cmd Veh	Altoona FD	Engine
Clear Lake FD	Engine, Tender	Somerset FD	Tender	Fairchild FD	Engine
Colfax FD	River Pump Truck	Spring Valley FD	Engine, Tender	Fall Creek FD	Engine
Deer Park FD	Engine, Tender	Township FD	Tender, Squad	Augusta-Bridge Creek FD	Strike Team Leader
Durand FD	Tender - Mech Issues	United FD	Air Van, 3 Engines, Tender	Tender Strike Team Div 132	
Elk Mound FD	Tender	On Standby for Rehab and possible Evacuation		Tilden FD	Tender, Pickup/Trailer
Ellsworth FD	Tender	Glenwood City EMS	2 Medic Units	Caddot FD	Tender
Glenwood City Fire	2 Eng 1 Sqd, 1 Tender	Baldwin EMS	2 Medic Units	Bloomer FD	Tender
Hudson FD	Engine, Tender	New Richmond EMS	2 Medic Units	Anson FD	Tender
Menomonie FD	Truck, Tender	River Falls EMS	Medic Unit	New Auburn FD	Tender
New Richmond FD	Engine, Tender	Boyceville EMS	2 Medic Units	Anson FD	Strike Team Leader
Prairie Farm FD	Tender	Menomonie FD	Medic Unit	Division 126 Director	Coord Strike Team
Ridgeland FD	Tender	Regional Coordinator	Coordinating Strike Teams	Division 132 Director	Coord Strike Team
River Falls FD	Truck, Tender	WEM Fire Serv Coord	Coordinating Strike Teams	Division 117 Director	Coord Div Resp
Roberts-Warren FD	Tender, Eng-Chge Qtrs	WEM Duty Officer	Coordinating Strike Teams	Division 143 Director	Assist with Div Resp

DIV 117: MABAS 5 ALARMS BRING 50 AGENCIES TO RETIREMENT COMPLEX - CONT



Photo by St. Croix Sheriff



Photo by Dewitt Media

(Continued from page 4)

A request for an Engine Strike Team was made to Division 126 President Al Bertrang, and a request for a Tender Strike Team along with river pumps to Div 132 President Doug Matthews. Weather conditions and travel times delayed the response.

When the strike teams arrived, fire operations was beginning to have difficulties with personnel being tired, PPE equipment starting to freeze, and Tenders/Engines beginning to experience valve freezing issues.



Photo by Dewitt Media

One thing that was noted in after action review of this incident was a lack of chief officers. All divisions: make sure you have ample chiefs filled out in the chief's column and don't be afraid to start out heavy with

chiefs in the early alarm levels of the box cards. As a regional coordinator, it was important to have MABAS division representatives on the scene of the incident to coordinate with me for the resources needed. Cell phones were used for those communications. A WISCOM capable radio would have been helpful.



Photo by St. Croix Sheriff



Photo by St. Croix Sheriff



Photo by Dewitt Media

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

THE 4TH ANNUAL MABAS CONFERENCE IS FOR DISPATCHERS

"I strongly encourage dispatch representatives to go to the conference. It's a way to learn what works, what doesn't work, what they do to keep fresh with MABAS, and to discuss what issues are going on and listen to others and how they handled those issues" - Lisa Div 120



"I attended the first conference because our local fire departments were signing cards for adjacent counties and I wanted to know more about MABAS. I returned from that conference excited about the possibility of our County becoming a MABAS division someday. Participating in breakout sessions gave me an understanding of the terminology we would have to become familiar with and theory behind the developing cards and how to choose mutual aid resources".

"I attended the conference again last year and found it to have even more communications specific breakout sessions that helped in reinforcing how communications should operate during a MABAS event" - Laura Div 141

"I have attended the last two MABAS Conferences and I have found them to be a valuable experience. The topics and sessions have variety for Dispatch and Fire and EMS personnel alike. You have the ability to speak with other Professionals regarding MABAS from Wisconsin and Illinois, and network with them. Hands on experience is provided in sessions and scenarios. I would encourage anyone involved in MABAS to attend the conferences in the future" - Michael Div 113



Managing a Dispatch Center - attended by Divisions 102 103 113 115 120 124 127 130 134 135 137 140 141 147 (Photo by Gary Schmidt)

"I attended the 2012 conference myself. In 2013, I brought another supervisor and Telecommunicator because the information in the breakout sessions is extremely informational for Telecommunicators and the scenarios in the mobile command posts are hands on. A lot of these sessions (have) actual Telecommunicators doing the instruction and scenarios so they understand the dispatch role. The benefits for Telecommunicators to work with Fire/EMS personnel from around the state, to understand their role is invaluable. Whether you are new to MABAS or established, the weekend is well worth it. Between sessions and evenings allow for networking" - Michael Div 127

Realistic Dispatch Training

At the 2013 conference, new dispatchers were given the opportunity to observe and conduct a radio drill, under the guidance of a veteran Dispatcher trainer.

Near Left: A dispatcher announces a MABAS Box. Seated to the left is the trainer.

Bottom Left: Awaiting their turns behind the dispatch console, these participants follow along with the call in progress. Participants were encouraged to bring their own division's cards to practice with.

Top Right: MABAS Incident Commanders and veteran Communicators act as responding units, calling in their status as they respond to the MABAS Box. Realistic situations, such as 2 units talking at once, or responding to the wrong assignment, are part of the exercise.

Bottom Right: two field units were used in the parking lot of the conference hotel; one housed the "Dispatch Center" and the other one had the "responding units".



Photo by Renee Monestero

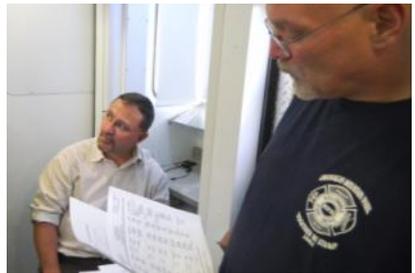


Photo by Gary Schmidt



Photo by Gary Schmidt



Photo by Gary Schmidt

THE 4TH ANNUAL MABAS CONFERENCE IS FOR FIREFIGHTERS, CHIEFS & OFFICERS



Break-out Session: First Due - When Do I Call For A Box Alarm - Attended by Div 103 108 121 124 135 144 145 147 & Future Division Lincoln County (Photo by Gary Schmidt)



Break-out Session: ABC's of Box Card Development - Attended by Div 102 103 104 114 116 118 120 127 130 134 138 141 142 & Future Division Crawford County (Photo by Gary Schmidt)

THE 4TH ANNUAL MABAS CONFERENCE IS FOR **EVERYONE**



General Session: History of MABAS by Brian Satula (Photo by Renee Monestero)



Family Style Picnic Hosted by Rib Mountain Fire-Rescue: A chance to network and socialize with MABAS users from all around Wisconsin (Photo by Renee Monestero)



General Session: Largest MABAS Deployment Ever - Echo Foods Fire of Div 102 (Photo by Gary Schmidt)

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

DIVISION 102 IN ACTION - DOWNTOWN WATERFORD 5-ALARM FIRE *BY GARY SCHMIDT*

The stillness of the predawn hours of **Friday January 3, 2014**, was interrupted by the report of smoke in the downtown district of the **Village of Waterford** (northwest Racine County).

A local tavern called Martini MO'z soon would be ablaze, serving its last of over 60 different varieties of Martinis just hours before.

It would take 5 alarms, 2 strike teams, and a task force, working 9 hours, before all was extinguished. **MABAS Div 102 Box 750-11** was used. Tender Strike Teams from **Div 106** and **Div 101** and a full task force (3 engines, 2 trucks, 3 ambulances, and 4 chiefs) from **Div 107** were utilized to relieve crews working overnight.



These photos and others are located at www.fyrpix.com in the "Featured Galleries Area"

All photos by Timothy J. Stein

MABAS PREPARED FOR MASS EVACUATIONS DUE TO NATURAL GAS SHORTAGE

BY KEITH TVEIT, WISCONSIN EMERGENCY MGMT FIRE SERVICES COORDINATOR AND REACT CENTER DIRECTOR

In late January, 2014, MABAS Divisions were notified of the potential for a large scale need for strike teams of ambulances in West Central Wisconsin.

Should there have been a need for evacuations, the State would have relied on MABAS to assist in the movement of people to shelters who couldn't do it on their own.

This was in response to the US losing 1 of 3 natural gas supply lines from Winnipeg, Canada.

Based on information received regarding the distribution grid of natural gas, there was a potential that a minimum of 5 western Wisconsin Counties could have been impacted with the loss of natural gas service.

There was the potential to have to move at risk populations.

Then to exacerbate things further, the outage could have continued to spread across Wisconsin creating a cascading event.

As a precaution, MABAS Wisconsin was tasked to ensure we had adequate resources readily available had patient movement become necessary due to the loss of the natural gas supply.

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)

To subscribe to this newsletter, visit <http://mailman.wsfca.com/mailman/listinfo/mabas> and enter your email address and name and click "subscribe." This is the List Server for all MABAS related information.

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CALLING FOR INTERDIVISIONAL REQUESTS BY GARY SCHMIDT

The use of Interdivisional Requests is infrequent. Yet, in this issue of the newsletter, there are 3 incidents described that required Strike Teams (all of the same type of resource) or Task Forces (a mix of equipment).

Those involved were asked about their recent experience. At right is a chart summarizing the responses. Listed next are some specific remarks about the event they participated in earlier this year.

Any delays or problems locating the scene?

Div 101: None. Prior to arriving, contacted Command for specific location and staging instructions.

Div 107: No

Div 123: No, most units knew the general area they were headed to.

Div 128: None. We had phone communications with the regional coordinator multiple times

Div 132: I am not aware of any problems locating the scene. The Div 117 President provided good directions.

Any communication issues?

Div 101: Used Kenosha County Fire Freq enroute to muster, IFERN (Team to MABAS Div 102), FG Blue (Water supply)

Div 107: No. Used IFERN to staging, Tactical on Red.

Div 123: A couple of units did not have the VHF frequencies that were being used but, that is being corrected.

Div 128: We used IFERN as we left muster point and it was crystal clear when we talked to Div 120 dispatch. On scene we used FG Blue and had no issues.

Div 132: Strike Team switched to IFERN as they neared the scene, to check in with the Staging Officer, but could not make contact. Inter-Strike Team was on FG Blue while enroute (to and from).

Any other issues traveling or at the scene?

Div 101: Yes, communicating to Strike Team while enroute to deliver changing information and attempting to stay off of IFERN.

Div 107: No, Radio Communication was maintained with lead and tailing units (Chiefs)

Div 123: One concern was that the strike team was not utilized - none of the units dumped their water. Raised some questions among those responding.

Div 132: Greatest issues were the weather and road conditions.

Miscellaneous Comments:

Div 117: There was upwards of 8 inches of snow falling, with blowing and drifting conditions, during the incident that requested Interdivisionals from Div 126 & 132.

Div 132: Due to weather (heavy snow, unplowed roads, etc.), it took the last tender over 2 hours to arrive at muster point.

Div 107: All resources were dispatched as planned on the card. One exception - Franklin's EMS unit met up with the task force at a nearby intersection (they had been on a previous call and didn't make it to the muster point).

Div 132: Interdivision Tender Strike Team card had been prepared since July, 2012, but two of the Primary designated tenders (from Chippewa Fire District) had already been requested as mutual aid to this incident, so they had to be replaced from the Alternates listed on the card. (Lesson here - - fill in Alternates on the cards !!)

Div 128: We base the mustering point on where the incident we are responding to is located and then the FD on the cards that's closest to the incident is where we will meet & head out a one group.

Div 107: We are considering making our mustering point relative to the location of the scene, i.e., a fluid staging of resources.

Requesting Division	102	102	120	120	117	117
Division That Responded	101	107	123	128	126	132
Time Notified				7:30	6:40	6:40
Time Activated	8:16	8:37	8:50	8:50	7:20	8:55
Minutes Taken for all to Muster	32	40	15	31	67	70
Minutes to Arrive at Fire Scene	18	25	55	34	78	64
Distance (miles) Muster to Fire	15	24	40	33	54	38
Time Spent at Incident	2:58	2:51	2:30	2:35	6:08	4:34
Used a Prepared Interdiv Card	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Were All Resources Available	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		No
Predetermined Muster Site	Yes	Yes	Yes	Varies	Yes	Yes
Response with Lights & Sirens	Yes	Yes	In Div	Yes		No
Everyone Respond Together	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
First Interdivisional Response	No	No	No	Yes		Yes

Div 132: Response mode to the scene was without red lights and sirens. Travel was too difficult to drive very fast, and too hazardous to try to request other vehicles to move out of our way. Everything was moving at about 40 - 45 MPH.

Div 128: In dispatch we were given two muster sites, the muster site from Div 120 and the site for our county to muster at prior to the final destination. Div 128 had slight confusion with this since someone, other than the primary incident commander, came across the radio to have responders go directly to the scene.

Div 132: All responders stated it went quite well. Biggest complaint was a lot of time was spent waiting in Staging.

Div 107: Our previous interdivisional response was accomplished non-emergent (2am). For this one (9am), due to anticipated traffic, all units traveled emergent to insure the convoy would remain together.

Div 128: When request for MABAS is made for agencies outside of the event's County, to be aware that not all Counties monitor IFERN. Division 128 did have a heads up of this event, however, if there would not have been any prior heads up, we would not have heard the request on IFERN. Our Division (128) does not monitor IFERN on a regular basis, thus, we need to be contacted via Point to Point or phone.

Div 132: Due to the size of Chippewa County and the distances between fire departments, it takes quite a while for apparatus to reach any peripheral muster point, and the weather this day added to that issue. One tender had to travel 30 miles just to reach the muster point.

Div 128: Division 128 MABAS advisors were great on communicating with our dispatch center as to the possible interdivisional request. By having our dispatch center "on alert" assisted in us being able to gather necessary instructions/information prior to the request, which saved some time once the request was received.

MABAS WISCONSIN IN ACTION STAFF

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MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

DIV 103 IN ACTION: EGG FARM FIRE LASTS 16 HOURS BY CHIEF JOHN DUERST, LAUDERDALE-LAGRANGE FIRE DEPT

Shortly before 8pm, on **January 31, 2014** a fire was reported at the S&R Egg Farm at N9406 Tamarack Road in **La Grange**, WI. This is near the northern boundary of Walworth County, about 7 miles east of Whitewater.



Upon arrival of the **Lauderdale-LaGrange Fire Department**, the conditions were around 10 degrees. Winds were very light and access was good for winter (driveways were plowed). The fire was through the roof in middle of the building with lots of heavy smoke out each end.

We opened the Div 103 box to 2nd level – should have gone all the way to the 5th level. Approximately 30 minutes in, I realized we needed a lot more resources. Shortly thereafter, we went to the interdivisional requests for 2 strike teams of 5 tankers each from Div 118 and 104.

At the 8 hour mark, we needed to switch out some manpower and

equipment, so we called for task forces from Div 101 and 102 at 4am.

The total time from dispatch to leaving scene was about 16 hrs. 56 Departments responded to our incident.

The value of MABAS in this case was immense, a huge time savings. It would have taken at least 15-25 minutes to request and think about the needed resources instead of the few seconds to request a MABAS Box.

Without MABAS, this incident would have “cleaned out” the surrounding departments and we would not have used other departments in other counties.



The fire building was over 500' long. The priority was to contain fire to this building. The additional resources from MABAS allowed us to focus on that task.

We don't have many other really large commercial buildings, so in hindsight, we are going to develop some new box cards specifically for these types of structures. This will amount to only 1-2 cards; we don't like to have a lot of cards to keep things simple.



To newer divisions, I would really suggest that departments with large buildings, commercial or otherwise, realize that they are going to need a lot of resources for a long drawn out event.

What I learned:

- don't strike the box too soon
- make sure you have enough resources on site to do the job
- try to realize early that it may be a long operation and plan for it.

MABAS works; just use it and you become a believer. Another note - our dispatchers were GREAT. They really helped a lot.



The photo lower right shows similar adjacent structures that were saved. All photos by Timothy J. Stein. These photos are located at www.fyrpix.com in the “Featured Galleries Area”

DIV 119 IN ACTION: MABAS 3RD ALARM FOR CHRISTMAS DAY BARN FIRE BY GARY SCHMIDT

Early morning of **December 25, 2013**, a **Mequon FD** Captain was passing by his brother's farm at 6am when he noticed smoke coming from the roof. Upon investigating, fire suddenly erupted in the large barn. This fire went to a **Box Alarm (3rd alarm for tenders)** with below zero wind chill temperatures.



Above: Quick reactions saved the cows by moving them to an adjacent area. Units left the scene after 5 hours.

Below: The narrow roadway where the tender operation was taking place. (All photos by Chuck Liedtke)



DIV 119 IN ACTION: MABAS NEEDED - FARMHOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE BY GARY SCHMIDT

About 11pm on **March 2, 2014**, a fire was discovered in a farmhouse at 7245 Highway LL, in the **Town of Belgium**, in northeast Ozaukee County, about 500 feet from the Sheboygan County line. As wind chills dipped as low as **-30°**, a **MABAS Box Alarm** was called. Div 113 resources assisted in the Div 119 box during the 8 hour operation.



Above: The burning house next to a barn and other structures.

Below left: In order to completely extinguish the fire in the unsafe structure, an excavator was brought in.

Below right: As dawn broke, Grafton Fire Chief Bill Rice assisted with frozen hose pickup. (All photos by Chuck Liedtke)



MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

MY FIRST MABAS BOX - DIVISION 131 SAUK COUNTY

BY DARREN P. JORGENSEN, CHIEF - DELTON FIRE DEPT, DIRECTOR-VILLAGE OF LAKE DELTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The **Delton Fire Department** has several large properties that are popular tourist attractions in our coverage area such as the Kalahari Resort, Wilderness Resort, Great Wolf Resort, Mt Olympus Resort, Ho-Chunk Casino, Noah's Ark, and the Tanger Outlet Mall to name a few. MABAS makes it possible to bring the needed resources to our area if there were an incident at anyone of these large properties or if we need help at something as small as a single family house fire.



My first MABAS box was at 228 W Delavan St, Lake Delton, WI. It occurred at 12:45am on Saturday **September 24, 2011**.

It was reported to be a porch on fire at a 6-unit, 2-story apartment building. Upon arrival of the fire dept the entire back side of the building was involved with fire.

Delton Fire responded with 20 firefighters and Kilbourn Fire (the volunteer department of Wisconsin Dells) responded per an auto aid agreement.

Within five minutes of arriving on scene, **MABAS box card LDF 64-2** was called to the box level which brought the following additional resources: Reedsburg, North Freedom, Baraboo, Portage Fire Departments, Dells/Delton Ambulance, and Salvation Army.

This was Delton Fire's first MABAS activation and it went better than expected. I was surprised at how quickly the resources arrived, went to work, and extinguished the fire.

Prior to MABAS, I would have needed to request all the resources individually.

For anyone who has been in the command role of a large, rapidly evolving incident, you understand the demands placed upon yourself to make quick decisions.

The MABAS cards are very simply resource pre-plans that allows that commanding officer to make one quick request for help



(Photo by Delton FD)

and then move on with his/her duties at the scene.

At the fire, we used IFERN and MABAS Red. The dispatch center did not have any major issues with the activation. This was one of the first activations for our division. Prior to this there was a lot of valuable training to include radio drills which is primarily why the initial activations of MABAS in Division 131 went very smooth.

Speaking from personal experience as a new chief and being new to the whole MABAS idea, it was a bit overwhelming to grasp it and get up to speed. I would suggest to keep things simple and user friendly. Don't

turn a few pages of MABAS rules and guidelines into a novel.

More effort should be placed on conveying the ABC's of how MABAS works and how it DOES benefit everyone.

If there is a beginner's guide to MABAS it should be made readily accessible to everyone; if there is not a beginner's guide, it should be created. The key to the guide should be that it is simple enough for even a non-fire person to understand the concepts. And, add pictures too!

Our division does need to keep working on filling out the cards completely to the 5th box level.

DIVISION 107 IN ACTION - GREENFIELD 3-ALARM APARTMENT FIRE BY GARY SCHMIDT

On Saturday March 1, 2014, shortly after 1pm, "a lot of smoke" was reported coming from the basement of a 16-unit, 2-story apartment building located at 7325 West Southridge Drive in the City of Greenfield in southern Milwaukee County.

Upon arrival, smoke was seen emanating from both entrance doors on the east-facing A-Side as well as dark pressurized smoke from the chimney. Attack crews encountered zero visibility in a narrow hallway in the basement and found fire in a storage room.



About this time, snow began to fall and would continue for the next several hours (3 inches total). The temperature dropped below 10 degrees. The area around the building was already covered with over a foot of snow.

The building was the farthest from streets and parking lots in a complex of 8 buildings with no street access from the C-Side (it abutted a park), or the D-Side (snow covered green space). The B-Side was adjacent to a strip mall that was cordoned off by a fence and embankment (a ladder truck was able to park there and extend the aerial to reach the fire). Even the A-side was 50+ feet from the street.

Natural gas had to be shut off via digging in the snow by utility crews as meters were in the basement.

MABAS Div 107 Box card 9-01 was escalated to the 2nd alarm level at 2:30pm and the 3rd alarm at 4:00pm. The box was struck out at 8:30pm.

This was only the second time under MABAS that all departments in Milwaukee County had a heavy piece at the same fire.

MABAS Div 106 sent a New Berlin engine to the scene on the 3rd alarm and had a change of quarters for a Vernon ALS unit and an engine and chief from the City of Brookfield.

MABAS Div 109 (City of Milwaukee Fire Department) continued to expand their involvement under MABAS by supplying 4 engines, 2 trucks, 2 paramedic units, 3 chiefs, and their Incident Command Post (with a telescoping thermal imaging camera that could track the fire extending from over 100 feet away).



Div 109 also offered up their Heavy Urban Rescue Team (HURT) which eventually took over as RIT (rapid intervention team).

During overhaul, 4 hours into the incident, that team rescued a firefighter who fell through the second story floor during a MAYDAY.

The firefighter was OK, but missed falling through a first floor hole to the water-filled basement by 10 feet.



Concurrently, all apartments were searched with one conscious female found and removed. There were no basement windows to provide for ventilation.

During this time, a Working Still (1:20pm) and then a Box Alarm (1:30pm) were called for. With conditions rapidly deteriorating, the decision to change to a defensive strategy was made. Fire extended to the first and second floors and gradually advanced north from the south end of the building.



Lower Left: Snow falling during the fire. (All photos by Chuck Liedtke)

Lower Right: Snow storm ended but fire raged on.



MABAS – Wisconsin

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Organized 2004

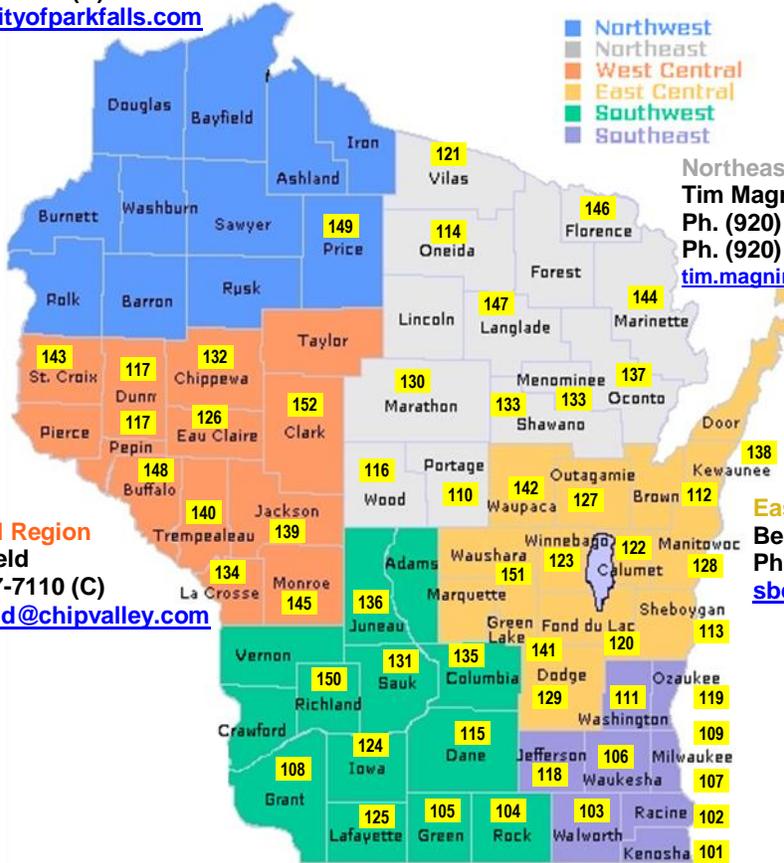
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MABAS OPERATING FREQUENCIES

IFERN

IFERN2

MABAS1 (WISCOM)

MABAS2 (WISCOM)

MABAS Alerting / intra-Divisional responses

Alternate intra-Divisional responses

Inter-Divisional Responses

Contact with Wisconsin Red Center

Regional Coordinators - WEM Coordination*

*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 – 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