

MABAS-WISCONSIN *in ACTION*

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SPRING-SUMMER 2011
DOUBLE ISSUE

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

7,000 BALES OF HAY ABLAZE CREATES A MAJOR RESPONSE

BY BEN SCHOENBORN MABAS PRESIDENT DIVISION 122



Shortly after midnight August 12, 2011 the Hilbert FD was dispatched to a report of a structure fire at the Fox Valley Alfalfa Mill. Box card 39-1-1 was requested from the Working Still to the 3rd Full Box Level bringing units from neighboring communities in Calumet County. The fire was fully involved in a large hay storage facility.

(Continued on page 7)



MABAS 5th Alarm Box Not Enough at Hilbert mill fire

(Photo courtesy of The Post-Crescent, Appleton-Fox Cities, Wisc.)



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER *BY ED JANKE*

In May of 2008 MABAS Wisconsin had just 16 divisions. As we close out 2011 - just 3 short years later - we are approaching 40 divisions. All of this in pursuit of just one goal, simply to seamlessly provide an adequate level of resources in an emergency to the communities we serve. At its face this seems like a daunting task, however the systems are now being put in place that will allow the movement of resources across counties, regions and the State and beyond if necessary, to provide assistance in an emergency. The system and those are processes detailed in the Wisconsin Fire Service Emergency Response Plan.

I am fascinated by the level of dedication and commitment of the members of this organization to succeed in creating and supporting this system. There are a number of people who have worked passionately, giving countless hours to achieve the respectable position that we

are currently in. Committee Members, Division Officers and past MABAS Wisconsin Officers have all worked diligently and collectively; everyone deserves their respective due. In particular I would like to thank past Presidents Chief Guilbert and Chief Satula who have provided exceptional leadership and guidance in our journey to present day.

As we move forward, we will continue towards enhancing the "system." Right now our efforts are focused upon communications and credentialing. We will continue to review our current state to determine what enhancements can be made to streamline the process involved.

In closing I would like to address our First Annual Command and Dispatch Conference. Keith Tveit and Bruce Hedrington, with the members of the Training and Education Committee, developed an outstanding conference with outstanding reviews.



Discussing Box Card Development — see page 8

(Photo by Kristopher Loy)

Knowing the committee members, I suspect next year's conference will be bigger and even better. I look forward as we move towards 100% Division attendance. Thank you for such an incredible effort.

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

NEVER FORGET - 9/11 TEN YEARS LATER *BY GARY SCHMIDT*

This year was the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Events were held across the country to commemorate those who lost their lives in the rescue response. In many States across the nation a Stair Climb was held. In Wisconsin this occurred at its tallest building, the forty-two story US Bank building in downtown Milwaukee.



Participants climbed 110 stories, each wearing one or more ID cards of the 343 firefighters that lost their lives in New York City on that day in 2001.

Firefighters from the following departments were represented:

- Adell,
- Ashlippun,
- Beloit,
- Big Bend,
- Black River Falls,
- Brooklyn Fire Protection Services,
- Butternut (Ashland County),
- Cedar Grove ,
- De Forest Area Fire and EMS,
- Hartland,
- Hudson,
- Madison,
- Menomonee Falls,
- Mequon,
- Middleton,
- Milwaukee County,
- Milwaukee City,
- Mitchell Field,
- Mukwonago,
- Newburg Fire Dept,
- North Shore,
- Port Edwards,
- Richfield,
- Sheboygan,
- Sparta,
- Sussex,
- Wales Genesse,
- Warrenville Fire Protection,
- Waukesha,
- Wauwatosa,
- West Allis



The lower half of the building was climbed three times, then for the fourth time, the entire building was climbed, totaling 110 stories



A company prepares to ascend the stairs of the US Bank building. Many carried hose just like the FDNY firefighters did at the World Trade Center towers.



Color Guard presentation prior to the climb. The climbers obtained sponsors, with proceeds benefiting the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

(All photos courtesy of the Milwaukee Fire Department)

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)

NEVER FORGET - 9/11 TEN YEARS LATER — CONTINUED

The previous day, Saturday September 10, 2011, 343 sets of turnout gear, in Final Alarm Position, were placed on the apron of the Milwaukee Fire Department headquarters.

The gear was on display for 343 minutes.

All photos courtesy of <http://city.milwaukee.gov/mfd>



Traditionally in the fire service when a firefighter dies in the line of duty their boots, topped by firefighting coat and helmet, are placed in front of a firehouse along the route of the funeral procession.

This empty turnout gear not only symbolizes the missing Firefighter, but also the emptiness felt by family, friends, and the firefighters who share the loss.

- Milwaukee Fire Dept website

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

INTERSTATE FIREFIGHTING OPERATION AT DIVISION 101 FIRE

BY TIM STEIN, RACINE FIRE BELLS

On Sunday evening August 21st, 2011, Paris Fire & Rescue, Somers Fire, Pleasant Prairie Fire and Bristol Fire were

dispatched at 1746hrs to an ARA (Automatic Reciprocal Aid) assignment in the Town of Paris for a passer by report of smoke coming from a home with the back wall of the structure blown out in the 14100 block of First Street.

First arriving units confirmed a working fire and Paris MABAS Card 55-2 was activated to the Box Alarm Level for additional resources.

Upon the arrival of a Paris Fire Officer the alarm was upgraded to the 2nd Alarm Level which bought fire & rescue units from Kenosha and Racine Counties in Wisconsin and Lake County Illinois to the scene.

Firefighters battled the blaze for several hours before bringing the fire under control.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Also assisting at the scene were a Racine Fire Bells Rehab unit and sheriff deputies from Kenosha and Racine counties.

See <http://www.fyrpix.com> for additional pictures.



Water tenders in operation at Town of Paris MABAS Box (Photos by Timothy J. Stein)

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

WE NEED YOUR HELP

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

I will contact you upon receipt to formulate the newsletter article.

In particular, pictures of activity are needed.

LIFE-SAFETY MABAS BOX UTILIZED FOR PROMPT EVACUATION BY TIM STEIN, RACINE FELL BELLS

The MABAS system is not only for fire responses. Division 102 utilized a Life Safety box to handle the evacuation of residents during a very humid July evening.

The temperature at the time of the incident was 83 degrees with a 70 dew point

On Monday evening July 11th, 2011 the City of Burlington Fire Department responded to a report of the smell of smoke in an apartment building with lights flickering in some units at the Board Walk Apartments, 232 Bridge Street at approximately 2000hrs.

Firefighters evacuated all occupants of the 4 story apartment building while they searched for any signs of fire.

The temperature at the time of the incident was 83 degrees with a 70 dew point and 72 percent humidity level which made necessary additional EMS and fire assistance respond to the incident so command activated MABAS Life Safety Box 920-13 to the Box Alarm level.

Fire crews and We Energies searched the entire building which took approximately 2 hours and found no indications of a fire or other problem.



Fire & EMS units on scene included the:

City of Burlington Fire Department, Town of Burlington Fire Department, Wheatland Fire Department, Union Grove-Yorkville Fire Department, Burlington Area Rescue Squad, Rochester Rescue, Waterford Rescue, Lake Geneva Rescue, Medix Ambulance and the Racine Fire Bells Rehab Unit 64 (Lake Geneva Response Team).

(Photos by Timothy J. Stein)

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

MY FIRST MABAS BOX - DIVISION 120 IN ACTION

BY GARY SCHMIDT AND ED COSTELLO, CHIEF, EDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT



On June 24, 2011, Fond du Lac County Division 120 had their first MABAS Box - an incident involving a barn used for storage. Called for Box Alarm to the first level, tenders only. The fire was in an area where water sources are not very close. With extra tenders, we had enough water to extinguish the fire. The MABAS system allowed for "one call and (then) we did not have to be concerned about water supply", according to Chief Ed Costello.

Less than 2 weeks later, on July, 6, 2011, another MABAS Box was utilized. Here are some questions asked of Chief Ed Costello by MABAS Wisconsin In Action:

MABAS Wisconsin In Action: Can you describe the incident (there was no narrative on the website)?

Costello: We were called to a fully engulfed barn fire near some buildings and a house. Upon arrival, we placed master streams on the fire and used handlines to protect buildings around the perimeter.

We called a Box alarm to the first level for tenders only. We had plenty of manpower and our First Responder Unit set up Rehab near the staging area. Campbellsport Ambulance was on scene to assist our personnel with Rehab. A backhoe from Rahn's Excavating was brought in to break apart the hay mow where the fire started.

"The more we use it (MABAS), the easier it gets"

MWIA: Did it make running the incident easier with MABAS?

Costello: This call and the previous one were simplified by the use of MABAS. One call to Fond du Lac County Dispatch and we had the resources we needed

MWIA: What went well with the use of MABAS from a tactical (fire fight) perspective:

Costello: From the firefighting aspect, we had the water we needed quickly. We did not have to think about which depts. to call, it was right there on our MABAS Cards.

MWIA: What went well with the use of MABAS from a radio communications response/fireground perspective?

Costello: This is our second call we used MABAS. The last one was 2 weeks prior to this incident. As we practice and use it, MABAS becomes easier to use. It clears the radio channels. All of our firefighters are getting used to switching channels, IFERN= MABAS, Water Supply = Blue, Operations = Red, Etc.

MWIA: What went well with the use of MABAS from your Comm Center perspective?

Costello: I think they are getting better at it, the more they use it.

MWIA: What might you change based on your experience with this MABAS incident?

Costello: With this incident, we started running short of water after 30 minutes. In hindsight, I would have called another box alarm for tenders and engines. Easier to have them in staging ready to go and we could have pulled them from staging in a moment's notice.

MWIA: If you have had previous experience with MABAS alarms, what is your honest assessment of using MABAS to date?

Costello: The more we use it the easier it gets.

MWIA: Did this MABAS Box go as expected or was there something that developing divisions should know about?

Costello: I would recommend the departments fill each box level for engines, tenders to the max (3). Then when you have a call, get the maximum resources there. You can always turn them back if you do not need them.

REQUEST FOR AN INTERDIVISIONAL RESPONSE

BY GARY SCHMIDT AND ED JANKE, VILLAGE OF HOWARD DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Hilbert alfalfa fire went beyond the five MABAS Box alarm levels and required an interdivisional request. If your division would be called upon, would they be ready to respond?

Brown County Division 112 was asked for a Strike Team of tenders by Calumet County Division 122. MABAS Wisconsin In Action asked Ed Janke, Division 112 President, how well Division 112 was able to react and how seamlessly they worked with Division 122.

MABAS Wisconsin In Action: For the Hilbert fire, an interdivisional request was made by Div 122 to Div 112. Was this the first time this has occurred?

Janke: The formal request for a strike team of tenders is the first interdivisional response for Division 112.

MWIA: How did Div 112 react - did the units just respond individually or did they muster in Div 112 and respond as a group?

MABAS BOX ALARM LEVEL	
BOX	Wa Od
2ND	Gr W
3RD	C Tes
4TH	Not Town
5TH	Gr Mi
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST	

7,000 BALES OF HAY ABLAZE — CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

Tenders were requested to the 5th level and then proceeded to an interdivisional request from Division 112 for a Tender Strike Team.

The hydrant system did not have the capacity for a fire of this magnitude and water was shuttled by tenders from three rural fill sites, two sites were near the Village of Hilbert and the third was in the village of Potter five miles away from the Manitowoc River. It was estimated that overhaul was needed on over 7,000 large bales of hay.



Tender operations at Hilbert mill fire

(Photo courtesy of The Post-Crescent, Appleton-Fox Cities, Wisc.)

Janke: The Brown County Communications Center dispatched our Tender Strike Team Card consistent with the card denoting that the muster point for this response was Ashwaubenon Public Safety. Units mustered at APS with the Strike Team Leader and proceeded to the staging area.

MWIA: How well did communications work on the radio?

Janke: Communications were on MABAS Red and were without issue.

MWIA: What went well?

Janke: Notification, response and operationally everything was consistent with the SOG's.

MWIA: What did not go as planned?

Janke: We only had a clarification issue, i.e. wearing of PPE in/out of the tenders.

MWIA: Will there be any changes to process or procedures as a result of this experience?

Janke: It has been discussed however that some of the tenders had to respond in a circuitous manner to the muster point and then to the staging area. In preliminary discussions we will probably allow the Strike Team / Task Force Leader the ability to change the muster point based on the departments and route out of the County for the sake of efficiency.

MWIA: Do you have multiple mustering points?

Janke: We face our obstruction middle north (the actual bay of Green Bay), thus we have three mustering points, east, west, south which address the arterials of our highway system which will most likely manage 90% of our mutual aid incidents. The location of this event in Calumet County was an anomaly of sorts with no major highway running near the address.

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

1ST ANNUAL COMMAND AND DISPATCH CONFERENCE *BY GARY SCHMIDT*

In conjunction with the 2011 annual face-to-face meeting of MABAS Wisconsin, the first Command and Dispatch Conference was held. This enabled a lot of valuable interaction to occur at numerous break out sessions as well as several general sessions.



Brian Satula, Ed Janke, and Keith Tveit lead a discussion
(Photo by Kristopher Loy)

As noted in the name of the Conference, there was an emphasis on the Dispatch Centers and the role they play in MABAS. General sessions included a Dispatch Open Forum Panel discussion, a session called “The Winning Team: Dispatchers & Chiefs”, and breakout sessions on Basic MABAS Communication, TERT, and Successful Dispatch Centers.

Other general sessions were on Communications (Wisdom & Narrow banding), Rural MABAS, and credentialing. Other breakout sessions were: New Divisions (getting started. Box card development, basic communication), Esponder, and Administration (IMT’s, WEM, Task Forces & Strike Teams).

This was held over a three day period (August 26-28) in Minocqua.



Box Card Development breakout session
(Photo by Kristopher Loy)



The older we get, the younger the new recruits seem to look!
(Photo by Kristopher Loy)

1ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE — CONTINUED

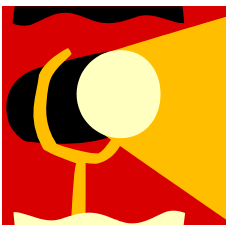


Communications That Occur When Requesting a MABAS Box
(Photo by Kristopher Loy)



Quentin Popp and Ed Janke conducting the annual meeting
(Photo by Kristopher Loy)

DELAYED TO NEXT ISSUE



The Division Spotlight and articles on Incident Command vehicles will be postponed until the next issue to allow for more time sensitive information to be presented in this issue.

MABAS/IFERN RADIO DISCIPLINE

Division Dispatcher Use of MABAS IFERN

- 1) Obtain a staging location when taking the initial call.
- 2) Only use the **Tones** to announce:
 - a) a MABAS Box Level Alarm or subsequent levels
 - b) the striking out of a MABAS Box

The Tones wakeup (turn on) some types of receivers, alerts all departments in the local region (even outside of your division) that an incident has escalated to the Box level, and that they should remain on alert until the Box is struck out.

The Tones and use of IFERN can travel a great distance across other divisions, counties, even States.



Do NOT use the Tones to announce a response prior to the Box level (like a working still), weather bulletins, or local hospital closings.

Responder use of MABAS IFERN

- 1) Notify the MABAS Division Dispatch having the incident that you are responding
- 2) Notify the Division Dispatch having the incident when you have reached the scene
- 3) Notify the Division Dispatch having the incident when you are leaving the scene

Do NOT use MABAS IFERN to call your local dispatch or to tell MABAS Dispatch that you are back in quarters or have arrived at a hospital.

Incident Commander Use of IFERN

- 1) Only use IFERN to communicate with the Division Dispatch
- 2) Do not use IFERN for tactical information. Use the fireground for such transmissions.

MABAS IFERN is used throughout multiple States. Proper radio discipline enables simultaneous incidents to use the same frequency at the same time.

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

WHAT IS MABAS (MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM)? BY GARY SCHMIDT

MABAS is a system that preplans the resources needed when an incident exhausts local resources. The activation of MABAS may differ depending on the area of the State, but an example could be when an incident escalates beyond a full first alarm assignment. A full first alarm assignment generally consists of 2-3 pumper engines, 1-2 aerial ladder trucks, 1-2 water tenders (tanker trucks), a BLS and/or ALS unit, and 1 or more chiefs. A BLS is basic life support, such as EMT-staffed ambulance; ALS is advanced life support, such as a paramedic staffed ambulance.

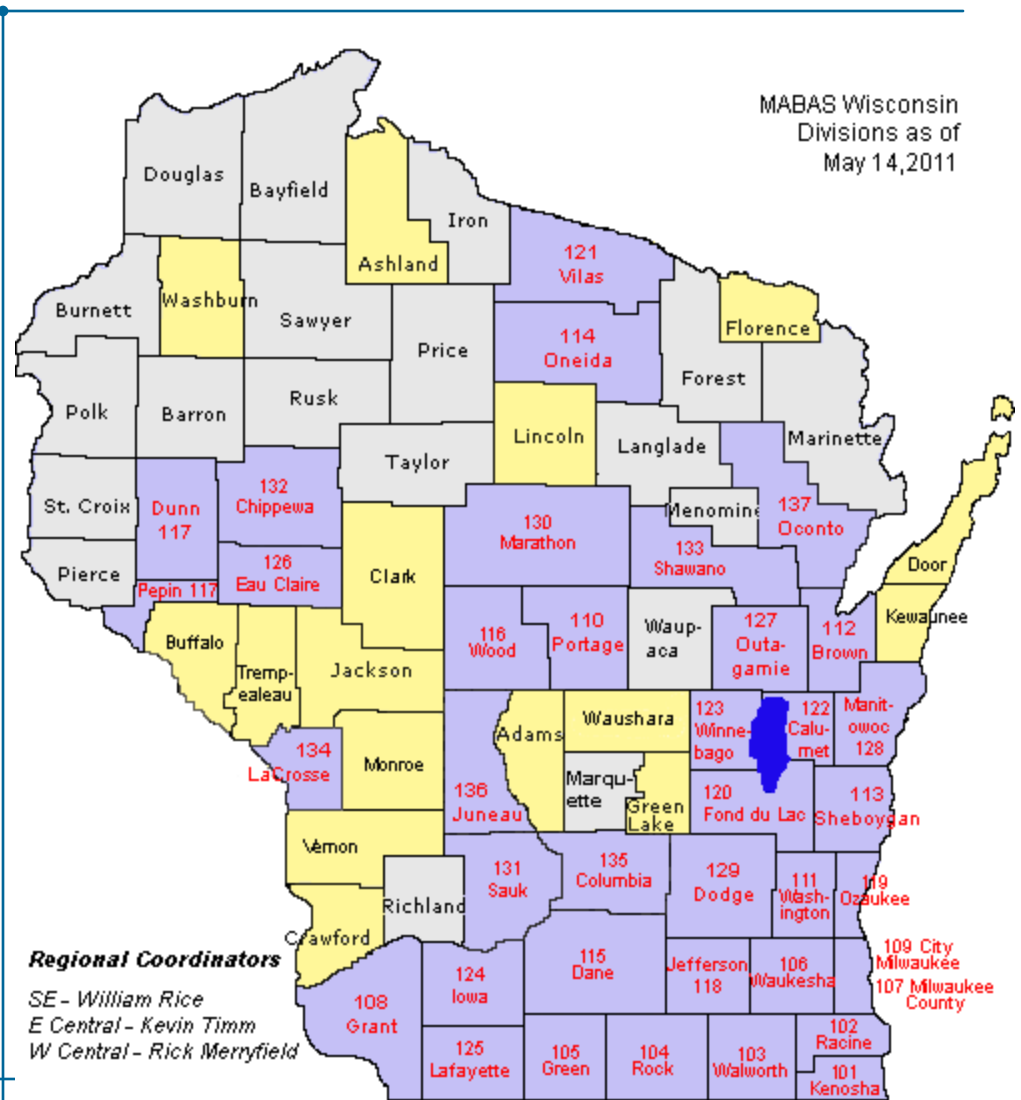
When a MABAS box is requested, special procedures go into effect. In some Divisions, the local Dispatch Center is relieved of the dispatching of additional resources when the MABAS Division's central dispatch center takes over.

In areas that already have a centralized dispatching center, often additional dispatching resources get called in when a MABAS Box occurs. Most importantly, a single radio frequency is used that is common to all Fire Service agencies in the MABAS system. This allows for very quick dispatching of many units from multiple jurisdictions. The MABAS system also handles the staffing of firehouses in the stricken community by outlying departments.

MABAS Wisconsin dictates the minimum staffing and certification of the resources requested so that an Incident Commander always knows that fully staffed, certified resources will be responding to provide aid to the incident. Common terminology and radio frequencies are used throughout the MABAS Wisconsin system, enabling interoperability between agencies.

The preplanning of resources ensures that no community will be depleted of resources should another incident occur. Besides structure fires, MABAS has box cards for grass fires, mass casualty incidents, hazardous materials, trench rescue and other types of emergencies.

MABAS has coordinator positions for regions based on the six Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) regions.



For more information about becoming a member of MABAS-Wisconsin, visit: www.mabaswisconsin.org

MABAS WISCONSIN continues to grow. There are 37 active divisions and other counties are at various stages of formation.