

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 131 UTILIZES INTERDIVISIONAL RESOURCES

BY CHIP MEISTER, SAUK COUNTY SHERIFF

On **Tuesday, March 15, 2016** at 1:07pm, the Sauk County Communications Center received reports of smoke coming from the roof vents of the "Bare Necessities" grocery store in LaValle, WI.

**LaValle Fire and EMS** were paged to respond to the suspected fire. Shortly thereafter, a LaValle Fire official requested Sauk County Dispatch page out a MABAS alert to the third level, which is an automatic mutual aid agreement between fire departments to quickly acquire assistance in large scale events.

Additional assistance to the MABAS fifth level as well as interdivisional assistance brought Firefighters and equipment from as far as New Glarus, WI.

Fire crews battled the fire in excess of 6 hours. The Sauk County Sheriffs Office, assisted by the Baraboo Police Department have begun an investigation into the origin and cause of the fire. At this time an area of origin has been established, but the cause is still under investigation.

Investigators have not found anything suspicious in nature thus far in this investigation, which is ongoing.

The Sheriffs Office, LaValle Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the LaValle community are grateful for the assistance provided by the other agencies that responded to this emergency situation.

To view past newsletters, visit:  
[www.mabaswisconsin.org](http://www.mabaswisconsin.org)  
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(Photo by LaValle FD)



(Photo by Sauk County Sheriff)



(Photo by Josh Chrostowski)

## MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

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

This issue of the newsletter looks at interdivisional responses.

Policy C-01-03.02 **Interdivisional Box Alarm Procedures**, details how interdivision resources are deployed. The policy, in part, points out that we recognize the need from time to time to be able to mobilize large numbers of emergency response personnel for major incidents that exceed the normal response capabilities of a department or even a division.

Within this policy MABAS allows for **two primary mechanisms** for organizing a major response to an incident; **Interdivisional Responses** and then the **subsequent deployment of resources through the Wisconsin Fire Service Emergency Response Plan (WFSERP)**. These deployments come in the form of either task force configurations or strike team configurations.

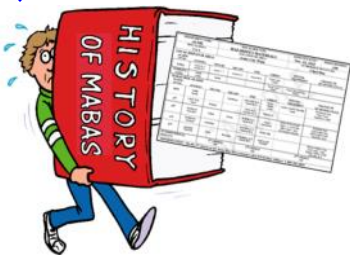
Strike teams and task forces, if quickly implemented in an incident, will allow the incident commander to more rapidly and effectively manage incident priorities. This resource configuration of assets deployed by kind and type has proved to increase safety for the response and incident activities.

History has proved the effectiveness and efficiency of Strike Team / Task Force (ST/TF) deployments. In one case, a division provided an Engine Strike Team to another division in less than 45 minutes despite a 30-minute drive time. There have been numerous other examples of ST/TF deployments in which it has clearly demonstrated that this configuration of resources speeds the time of response as opposed to deployment of single assets.

Interdivisional Box Alarms are

designed to be an extension of a fire department's box alarm system for use at major incidents when all alarm levels on the box alarm card have been requested and additional manpower and/or equipment resources are needed. Three interdivisional responses are listed on the Box Card. Such resources generally respond and communicate as a single group, reducing the risk of too many individually listed assets exceeding the capacity of IFERN, the dispatch center's ability to track the resources, and the management of staging areas.

A few divisions are designing box cards which specify large amounts of individually listed resources, instead of the ST/TF concept, for their disaster cards. Our Policy and Procedure Committee is currently examining this issue to provide guidance as we move forward.



On a bright February afternoon in 2000, two private pilots were cleared to land at Waukegan IL Regional Airport, one behind the other. The second plane, was a high performance aircraft and caught up to the slower Cessna, colliding mid-air over Zion, Illinois.

The Cessna crashed into the parking lot of a five-story nursing home, narrowly missing the building. As a result of the collision and crash, the aircraft was completely destroyed, bursting into flames.

The second aircraft crashed through the roof of Zion's five-story Midwest Regional Medical Center. Fire, being fed by leaking aviation fuel, engulfed part of the fifth floor of the hospital. Responding Zion firefighters were confronted with active fire and visible structural damage to a functioning hospital.

Responding Zion Fire Department shift commander Captain Michael

### WHY RED WHITE BLUE GOLD BLACK & GRAY?

BY PAUL MAPLETHORPE, CHIEF EMERITUS, GREATER ROUND LAKE IL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Stried immediately recognized the seriousness of the situation. A MABAS box alarm was sounded to the hospital to assist with fire suppression. It was soon discovered that there were actually two crash locations, so part of the mutual aid resources were redeployed to the nursing home crash site.

Zion soon recognized that they were dealing with a fire, hazardous material and structural collapse incident. To make matters worse, the hospital suffered serious damage that required complete evacuation of all patients. As a result, three additional box alarms were sounded for ambulances, a hazardous materials team and a structural collapse team.

Hundreds of firefighters from Illinois and Wisconsin, with scores of emergency vehicles, responded to the incident utilizing the predetermined responses within the MABAS system.

Radio communication at the incident was hectic. The VHF MABAS dispatch channel and single tactical

"FIRECOM" frequency were overwhelmed. Recognizing the need for additional radio communications channels for major events, a group of fire chiefs from Lake County, Illinois met, identified additional mutual aid frequencies that were under-utilized in the area, and developed an expanded cache of fireground tactical frequencies.

RED, WHITE and BLUE, as the channels came to be known, were ultimately licensed statewide in Illinois and Wisconsin for low-power incident tactical operation. These initial frequencies were expanded to include three additional tactical channels and has proven very successful in both Illinois and Wisconsin.

So why call the frequencies RED, WHITE, BLUE, GOLD, BLACK and GRAY? They are all single syllable colors that don't sound similar, not to mention being a little patriotic for the original three.

They are simple and concise so responding units can be directed to a specific fireground tactical frequency based on their assignment.





# MABAS INTERDIVISION STRIKE TEAM RESPONSE OF DIVISION 115

BY RICK HAMMOND, SW REGIONAL DEPUTY COORDINATOR AND SCOTT MILLER, PRESIDENT, MABAS DIVISION 115

The **Badger Red Center** notified **MABAS Division 115** of an interdivisional request for a **strike team of engines** from MABAS Division 131 for the fire in La Valle on May 15, 2016.

**MABAS Card 115-10 Interdivisional Strike Team – Engines** was used. One department took a pass, so the next engine listed in the Alternate section was used.

Of the responding engines, Mazomanie bordered the stricken division, so they immediately responded rather than go in the opposite direction where the Division 115 mustering point (Middleton) was located. All others travelled as a group upon reaching the mustering point. It took about 45 minutes to muster.

Division: <b>115</b>	BOX ALARM TYPE: <b>Interdivisional Strike Team - Engines</b>
BOX ALARM # <b>115-10</b>	LOCATION OR AREA:

**MABAS Interdivisional Box Alarm:**

ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	CHIEFS
Primary	Belleville	Monona
	Mazomanie	
	New Glarus	
	McFarland	
Alternate	DeForest	McFarland Deerfield Stoughton Maple Bluff Fitchburg
	Maple Bluff	
	Deerfield	
	Fitchburg	
	Brooklyn Stoughton	

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Division 115 is on Division 131's southeast border; unfortunately, the fire was in the extreme northwest corner of Division 131. From time of request to arrival in staging, it took just over 2 hours.

The initial response was non-emergent. While responding to the scene, it was relayed on WISCOM RCALL11 to me (Rick Hammond) that an emergency response was requested. The strike team then upgraded to an emergent response.



Most radio transmissions for the strike team were handled on IFERN.

I was able to communicate with Regional Coordinator Chief Hedrington and Div 131 Chief Stieve on WISCOM, as well as cell phone. Distance and terrain had impacted communications on all systems.

The strike team was integrated into operations smoothly. No significant changes are planned for our box card, but it might have been better to assemble at the Mazomanie FD and travel as a group that way.

As it happened, there was some consternation when the Mazomanie engine sat in staging waiting until the rest of the strike team arrived.

## MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

### JOINT INTERDIVISIONAL RESPONSE TEAMS BY GARY SCHMIDT

The fire was trapped below the roof but above the sprinklers, deep inside the sprawling factory, housing one of the city's largest employers and a major contributor to the tax base for over 100 years. Anhydrous ammonia tanks were threatened and a massive evacuation of 15,000+ city residents had begun. After nine hours, all five box card alarm levels had been requested. The fire remained at one end of the facility, but was very much inaccessible and out of control. The meatpacking plant was still salvageable, but could it be saved?



Patrick Cudahy Fire (Photos by Chuck Liedtke)

This was the first major test of MABAS Wisconsin in July of 2009. With all five MABAS box levels used, it was no longer safe to continue to draw upon Division 107 (Milwaukee County) resources. Per MABAS procedures, **interdivisional requests** were next to be used.

**Interdivisional** teams are preplanned packages that another division puts together to assist the stricken division without compromising the fire protection in the outlying division. Units that respond typically gather at a mustering location before traveling together to the destination.

The fire continued to burn. Incident Commanders were working with Cudahy Emergency Management, Patrick Cudahy Management, and (then) Wauwatosa Deputy Chief Bill Rice at MABAS Division 107 Dispatch Center, to consider the next moves.

Chief Rice began working out long term interdivisional strategies with counties that never contemplated ever having to respond to Milwaukee County. And for some, they were just in the startup phases of MABAS – this would be their first use of the system.

In all, over three days, one **Tender Strike Team**, one **Truck Strike Team**, and six **Fire Task Forces** were used, (three additional task forces were preparing to respond but were cancelled after the fire was stopped). 64 fire departments were used. The facility was saved and after a brief shutdown, workers returned to their jobs and the company and city continues to thrive today – all thanks to the MABAS infrastructure of interdivisional requests.

Just as one day your community may need such extended help, you will want to be able to provide the same help to

your neighboring counties. However, **what if your Division does not have the resources to create a strike team or task force and still maintain local protection?** The answer may be forming a joint team with an adjacent Division that probably has a similar dilemma. This is what Divisions 131 and 135 have recently done.

**MABAS Wisconsin In Action (MWIA)** asked the two Division Presidents to recount the process of combining.

**MWIA:** What type of strike teams have you put together?

**Craig Dykstra Captain, Columbus Fire Department and President Columbia County Division 135:** Together we made an engine strike team and a tender strike team.

**Kevin Stieve, Fire Chief / Emergency Management Director, City of Baraboo and President Sauk County Division 131:** The Ambulance Strike Team is just Division 131 right now, but I have talked with Divine Savior in Portage (Division 135) and they are interested in getting on it.

**MWIA:** Did you also develop a Task Force interdivisional strategy?

**Stieve:** We have discussed it briefly, but due to the number of resources, specifically Trucks, it may be difficult to bring together.

**Dykstra:** We are getting the strike teams started and looking in the future of getting a task force started.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## JOINT INTERDIVISIONAL RESPONSE TEAMS - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 4)

**MWIA:** What were the reasons behind a joint effort?

**Dykstra:** Currently 135 only have 4 departments interested in doing interdivisional responses. Columbus, Lodi, and Portage are willing to send either an engine or a tender. Fall River is willing to send a tender only due to daytime staffing. There were other departments interested in joining the interdivisional responses but they don't have a lot of firefighters at the fire 1 certification level in which they didn't want to commit and end up taking a pass because the fire 1 certified firefighters couldn't go.

Columbus is willing to send their truck on an interdivisional response; they are also on interdivisional cards for division 115 since they have response area in Dane County.

As for EMS, one side of the county is a private for profit EMS service (Lifestar) that contracts for 2 communities. The other side of the county is a hospital based service (Divine Savior) and they wanted to make sure they could fulfill the contracts that they have. Divine Savior is hoping in the future to be able to be part of an interdivisional team.

The other EMS services from smaller communities were concerned about staffing especially during the daytime.

Bruce Hedrington mentioned at our regional meetings that two divisions could join efforts to make interdivisional response cards. So when Chief Stieve contacted me to see if we would be interested in joining up I jumped at the chance and said yes but would have to bring it to the division and the fire and EMS associations.

**Stieve:** The reasons for combining were the size of our Divisions. We could not muster enough resources as a single division so when the idea was brought forth by the SW MABAS Regional Coordinator Bruce Hedrington, we went to work on it.

**MWIA:** How are you handling mustering points?

**Stieve:** Right now the mustering points will have to be determined upon dispatch. That coordination will take place after the resources are dispatched out.

**Dykstra:** Mustering points will be determined on where we are going.

### MABAS Interdivisional Response Teams

**Strike Team:** a set number of resources of the *same kind and type*, such as 5 ambulances.

**Task Force:** a combination of resources assembled to *support a specific mission or operational need*. A **Fire Task Force** might consist of 3 engines, 1 truck, 1 heavy squad or extrication engine, 3 ambulances, 1 chief.

**MWIA:** Does the joint strategy come with limitations or restrictions – are you limiting requests to certain geographic areas and why; what timing considerations (lead times) are you anticipating if you are called upon?

**Dykstra:** I believe there is no limitations or restrictions on where we would respond. I have sent out notices to other divisions that has 135 down for interdivisional request that we have joined with 131 and that it may take a little longer to muster so if needed call early enough to give us time to muster.

**Stieve:** I think we will have to evaluate the request when it comes through. The little experience I have had with Strike Teams has been short term. So I don't think responding to that would be an issue. It would be a longer duration event that may bring issues. It will have to be an ongoing educational process for our Divisions making sure we are prepared for all cases.

**MWIA:** How does the dispatching occur with a request for activation?

**Stieve:** Since we are in the infant stages of this process, if a request came through for a Strike Team, I would have our County use our MABAS Dispatch tone to activate the necessary resources. This is a countywide tone that would alert all departments to the activation. This would provide a pre-alert that some departments will be without some resources so if another significant call is received for that department a Box Alarm may be activated.

**Dykstra:** For dispatching, Sauk County will page out Sauk departments and Columbia County will page out Columbia departments.

**MWIA:** What needed to be ironed out to make this joint effort workable?

**Dykstra:** For 135 I just had to make sure that there wouldn't be any major coverage gap within the county.

**Stieve:** I felt the process was pretty painless. I talked with our Division about it and gathered the departments that wanted to be on the card. Craig Dykstra came to a few of our meetings and provided the department names from his Division that wanted to participate. Division 131 just approved the cards recently after receiving word from Division 135 it was okay to do so.

**MWIA:** Is there anything else that should be shared with other divisions that are trying to accomplish a similar setup?

**Stieve:** Just like the basis of MABAS – work together and communicate.

**Dykstra:** This definitely allowed Division 135 in being able to help out for interdivisional requests from other divisions.



## MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

### MABAS WISCONSIN 2016 CORPORATE SPONSORS

As a 501(c)(3) organization, MABAS Wisconsin relies on donations and sponsors. For 2016, MABAS Wisconsin has announced the corporate sponsors to further its mission of mutual aid, associated systems and training:

**Solberg** is your one-stop resource for Class A and B firefighting foam concentrates and custom-designed foam suppression systems hardware. An Amerex Corporation company, Solberg has the expertise, capabilities and resources to serve the fire protection and firefighting industry.



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Mutual Aid Labs is the provider of **EMABAS** full electronic implementation of the *Mutual Aid* Box Alarm System (MABAS). EMABAS converts box cards from static data to dynamic documents that change as departments and agencies change; EMABAS transforms the manner in which you plan and respond. The desktop version of EMABAS provides the main interface for creating and using box cards. It also provides interfaces into resources, contacts, dispatch and reporting. Additionally the system has the ability to aid agencies in the use of MABAS during actual Calls.

# DIV 112 STANDARDIZES HEAVY RESCUE RESPONSES BY DREW SPIELMAN, BATTALION CHIEF, GREEN BAY METRO FIRE DEPT

A project was started by Greenleaf Chief Joe Daul. In his fire district, there are several mega farms with extremely large equipment. Joe's concern is when this equipment is involved in an accident such as a roll over how are they going to stabilize and remove the patient.

Chief Daul had been working on developing a call list of available contractors for lifting equipment and cribbing. He was able to obtain an emergency contact number for Dawes Crane Service out of Kaukauna.

After hearing of his project I contacted Crosby Heavy Duty Wrecker (HDW)

out of Green Bay. We have used Heavy Duty numerous times at Green Bay Fire and I was well aware of the services they offered.


Chief Daul and myself met with Steve Crosby one day to go over what they have for services. We all agreed that the best approach would be to have HDW come to a Division 112 meeting and do a show and tell.

Steve brought their 75 Ton rotating wrecker and demonstrated by picking up a 55,000 lbs. tractor. Steve discussed with members that they also have 2 35 Ton rotator wreckers and are building a 55 Ton unit. HDW


also offers smaller wreckers and has diesel recovery capability.

The demonstration and discussion was well received by Division 112 Fire Chiefs and all members in attendance. After the meeting, the Division 112 Training Committee, at the urging of members, developed a "Heavy Rescue Considerations" checklist that was sent out to all departments.

We now as a Division work off of the same criteria for incidents and all departments will be adjusting their Technical Rescue cards to reflect the changes for 2017.



## HEAVY RESCUE CONSIDERATIONS



**When contacting Dispatch to request the response of Heavy Equipment and Heavy Rescue Resources consider reporting the following:**

- What type of rescue is it? (Trapped under/in, entanglement, engulfment)
- Is it an emergency or is the person just trapped with no injuries?
- What is the object needing to be lifted? (Tractor, semi, wall panel, etc.)
- How heavy is the object needing to be lifted?
- How close can the rescue equipment get to the lift?
- What type of ground is around the rescue? (Paved, hard pack, mud, etc.)
- Is the vehicle on a grade or slope?
- How high does the lift have to be to be effective?
- Are there site hazards? (Electrical lines, Hazardous Materials, etc.)
- Give a contact phone number for a point of contact on scene.

**Other items to consider:**

- Cribbing/Blocking Material (4x4, 6x6, larger?)
- Other heavy equipment (Loader, dozer, high hoe)



(Photos by Drew Spielman)

## ANNUAL MABAS CONFERENCE

*BY ED JANKE, VILLAGE OF HOWARD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND PRESIDENT, MABAS WISCONSIN*

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual MABAS Wisconsin Command & Dispatch Conference in Stevens Point was a success with attendance comparable to last year.

The Training Committee is already working hard on developing the Command and Conference & Dispatch for 2017.

Now's the time to budget for sending your firefighters and dispatchers in 2017!

## MABAS WISCONSIN IN ACTION STAFF

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## MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

### Incident Reporting Is Important & Easy To Do

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

**To enter an incident, login with a UserID of *mabas* and a password of *wisconsin*.** After the initial entry, Departments need their specific credentials to alter the incident information or to alter the other information on the site about their department. Departments should contact their Division President for the login information

#### Incidents Entered January, 2016 thru March, 2016

Date & Time	Location	MABAS Div	Host Agency	Box Type
1/1/2016 3:58	N6103 Cedar Valley Road	119	WAUBEKA FIRE DEPARTMENT	Structure - Non Hydrant
1/1/2016 21:25	1148 Velp Ave.	112	GREEN BAY FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
1/3/2016 6:22	1686 Shawano Ave.	112	GREEN BAY FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
1/4/2016 20:39	E6150 490th Ave.	117	MENOMONIE FIRE DEPT	Target Hazard
1/21/2016 22:53	W 105 Ruders Circle	118	SULLIVAN VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
1/28/2016 12:00	N3330 Old Highway 89	103	DARIEN VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
2/13/2016 18:18	7625 Pond Rd	111	HARTFORD VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
2/15/2016 12:00	128 MAIN ST	143	SOMERSET FIRE/RESCUE	Structure - Hydrant
2/19/2016 13:18	N88 W18432 Duke St	106	MENOMONEE FALLS FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
2/19/2016 15:14	568 Lexington Drive	115	OREGON AREA FIRE/EMS DISTRICT	Structure - Hydrant
2/20/2016 14:48	W350 S2875 Waterville Rd	106	DOUSMAN FIRE DIST	Structure - Non Hydrant
2/27/2016 11:41	S87 W35580 Eagle Ter	106	EAGLE FIRE DEPT	Brush Fire
2/27/2016 18:54	4841 County Hwy TT	115	SUN PRAIRIE VOL FIRE DEPT	Brush Fire
2/28/2016 17:12	266 W BEECH STREET	119	GRAFTON VOL FIRE DEPT INC	Structure - Hydrant
2/29/2016 22:38	10302 N GRASSLYN RD	119	MEQUON FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
3/2/2016 0:00	W3373 Snake Road	103	LINN TWP FIRE/EMS	Structure - Non Hydrant
3/2/2016 0:00	7619 Nordale Av	102	RAYMOND FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
3/2/2016 16:15	6398 Schutt Lake Road	137	UNDERHILL TWP VOL FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
3/6/2016 12:00	N5468 CTH E, Porterfield, WI	144	GROVER-PORTERFIELD FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
3/6/2016 15:43	236 Llamberis Pass	106	WALES GENESEE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
3/6/2016 15:43	236 Llamberris Pass	106	WALES GENESEE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
3/6/2016 22:57	N 5585 Cty Rd D	118	HELENVILLE FIRE PROT DIST	Structure - Non Hydrant
3/7/2016 15:57	407 E Stanley St	152	THORP AREA FIRE DISTRICT	Structure - Hydrant
3/11/2016 12:00	5418 County J	137	OCONTO FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
3/14/2016 10:08	4230 Acker Road	115	SUN PRAIRIE VOL FIRE DEPT	Commercial - Non Hydrant
3/15/2016 12:00	W4191 CTH D	144	GROVER-PORTERFIELD FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
3/16/2016 12:00	I-39 MM 173 and 175	130	MOSINEE FIRE DIST	Life Safety
3/18/2016 13:18	N30268 River Valley Rd	140	ARCADIA GLENCOE FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
3/19/2016 12:20	W 7130 Pond Road	118	FORT ATKINSON FIRE DEPT	Brush Fire
3/20/2016 12:48	516 Hickory St	118	FORT ATKINSON FIRE DEPT	Structure - Hydrant
3/20/2016 16:26	N 5366 CTy Rd Y	118	JOHNSON CREEK FIRE DEPT	Structure - Non Hydrant
3/21/2016 1:54	W 3382 Sunshine Rd	118	HELENVILLE FIRE PROT DIST	Structure - Non Hydrant





## MABAS IN THE NEWS SUBMITTED BY QUENTIN POPP

### Area fire departments begin utilizing mutual aid support system

Updated: Thu 10:48 PM, Mar 17, 2016

By: Jessica Bringe

**ARCADIA, Wis. (WEAU)** -- For the first time, an area fire department utilized a multi-jurisdictional mutual aid response service. The mutual aid box alarm system, called MABAS, has been in place in Wisconsin since 2006 but Trempealeau County just recently went live with the service.

After four years of organizing 13 fire departments Derek Olson, MABAS division 140 president and member of the Osseo Fire Department, says they became part of MABAS around January.

“Now each individual fire department can look at their neighbors and know what they have for inventory based on the type of incidents we respond to in the service,” said Olson.

MABAS allows agencies to design and tailor box cards to meet their local risk needs that are then activated through a radio network. As part of division 140 the Arcadia Fire Department was able to experience the benefits of the service first hand since being activated.

Fire Chief Jeff Halvorsen says it was during a fire on River Valley Rd., Wednesday afternoon. “It was a structure, so it was pretty big fire for us,” said Halvorsen. Halvorsen says rural fires often pose an issue for the department. “That was one of the major stressful things as an officer is making sure we do have enough water,” said Halvorsen.

However, this fire gave the department an opportunity to utilize MABAS and make sure firefighters had enough water to put out the fire. “I started dispatching mutual aid and then I got thinking we're part of MABAS, I'm going to pull a box card,” said Halvorsen.

Olson says with 400-500 fire calls a year county wide, nearly one a day; the system will serve as an asset to Trempealeau County. He says especially now, when volunteer fire service staffing is difficult, especially during the day. Olson says this system provides a safety network for fire departments. Olson explained, “With this predetermined plan, we know that there's help coming no matter what time of day, we know that we'll never be understaffed.”

More than 750 Wisconsin departments have joined MABAS for free, including Eau Claire County. “If we were to have an aircraft related incident in the city of Eau Claire we already have the resources listed on our MABAS card that would respond to that incident,” said Fire Chief Allyn Bertrang.

While the Eau Claire Fire Department has yet to have a need to utilize MABAS those that have, like Arcadia, say it allows firefighters to focus on what's most important. “I don't have to think about it, I can get to the scene and worry about what's going on at the scene and work the fire,” said Halvorsen.

The Eau Claire Fire Department says while it has never utilized the system itself it has responded to several MABAS calls.

The Osseo Fire Department says since going live with MABAS, along with Arcadia, it has also used the service twice.

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If you see MABAS described in your local community news, please let us know at: [garyschmidt@wi.rr.com](mailto:garyschmidt@wi.rr.com)



# MABAS – Wisconsin

## Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Organized 2004

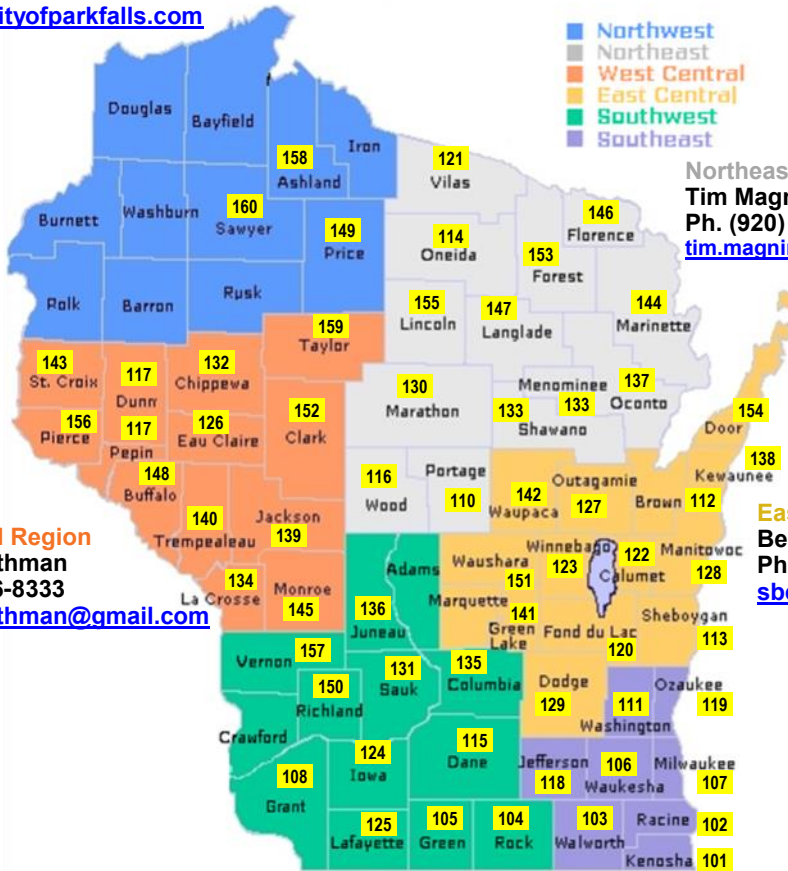
### MABAS Wisconsin Regional Coordinators

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WEM Duty Officer

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#### Divisions

- 101 – Kenosha County
- 102 – Racine County
- 103 – Walworth County
- 104 – Rock County
- 105 – Green County
- 106 – Waukesha County
- 107 – Milwaukee County
- 108 – Grant County
- 110 – Portage County
- 111 – Washington County
- 112 – Brown County
- 113 – Sheboygan County
- 114 – Oneida County
- 115 – Dane County
- 116 – Wood County
- 117 – Dunn/Pepin County
- 118 – Jefferson County
- 119 – Ozaukee County
- 120 – Fond du Lac County
- 121 – Vilas County
- 122 – Calumet County
- 123 – Winnebago County
- 124 – Iowa County
- 125 – Lafayette County
- 126 – Eau Claire County
- 127 – Outagamie County
- 128 – Manitowoc County
- 129 – Dodge County
- 130 – Marathon County
- 131 – Sauk County
- 132 – Chippewa County
- 133 – Shawano/Menominee Cnty
- 134 – La Crosse County
- 135 – Columbia County
- 136 – Juneau County
- 137 – Oconto County
- 138 – Kewaunee County
- 139 – Jackson County
- 140 – Trempealeau County
- 141 – Green Lake County
- 142 – Waupaca County
- 143 – St. Croix County
- 144 – Marinette County
- 145 – Monroe County
- 146 – Florence County
- 147 – Langlade County
- 148 – Buffalo County
- 149 – Price County
- 150 – Richland County
- 151 – Waushara County
- 152 – Clark County
- 153 – Forest County
- 154 – Door County
- 155 – Lincoln County
- 156 – Pierce County
- 157 – Vernon County
- 158 – Ashland County
- 159 – Taylor County
- 160 – Sawyer County

#### MABAS OPERATING FREQUENCIES

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

\*Future use