

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

SPRING 2018

ABBOTTSFORD USES MABAS: AMMONIA STRICKENS 18 IN DIV 130

BY BERT NITZKE, CHIEF, CENTRAL FIRE & EMS DISTRICT

Abbyland Foods is a large employer centrally located in the City of **Abbotsford** (about 35 miles west of Wausau). It manufactures a variety of fresh, cooked, and smoked meat products.

At 7:13pm on **Monday April 23, 2018**, the **Central Fire & EMS District** responded to the plant at **502 East Linden Street** for a report of an ammonia leak. There were 140 employees working at the time and all self-evacuated using their prearranged emergency plans.

As soon as I witnessed the plume and had multiple reports of patients, I requested **MABAS Card 60-08 to the 2nd alarm from Division 130**.

Abbotsford is bisected by Wisconsin State Highway 13 which forms the borderline between Marathon County and Clark County (MABAS Division 152). Our MABAS Cards list both Divisions on them; in this case, the incident was a few blocks into Marathon County.

The issue stemmed from a 14" exhaust pipe intake that was leaking gas and liquid. It was outside on the roof and ruptured due to a stress fracture.

Based on previous training and exercise activities with the plant, we developed a **Target Hazard Box Card** for this facility that has a life safety aspect as well as the Hazardous Materials component listed.

The box card accounts for an airborne ammonia gas condition to affect both counties, so the Emergency Managers (EM) from both Clark and Marathon Counties are on the MABAS Box card as well as the Wausau Fire

Department HazMat team. The EM's responded and worked together to assist command and HazMat with ICS (Incident Command System) forms and notifications.

Eighteen patients were transported to three hospitals (including one firefighter), all with respiratory issues.

Central Fire & EMS District responded with four BLS ambulances, one neighboring service took two patients in one rig, and all others took one patient each, with some returning to the scene for additional transports.

At the peak we had a total of 12 ambulances on scene.

One ambulance was kept in staging at all times for responder safety and scene response.

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(Photo courtesy of WAOW.COM)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY KEVIN BIERCE, CHIEF, PEWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND PRESIDENT, MABAS WISCONSIN



Well here we sit, another day in the life in MABAS! It has been one heck of ride this spring. Even without a formal records check, I'm sure we have broken new records for deployments.

If not for sheer number of deployments, certainly for the scope of our responses. From Brown County to Milwaukee, we have heard the MABAS tones sounded, to which we have responded to fires and EMS evacuations. Simply stated MABAS is here to stay.

I doubt very much if we can turn the clock back now, as responses and deployments will continue to rise.

I was asked by a reporter the other day "What is MABAS?" It's a really good question with from what I can garner, has a whole series of responses depending on where you hail from.

On one hand it is an organizational/tactical tool to support the incident commander. On the other hand it is an organization founded to support the growth of that system. Either way you look at it, MABAS demands time and commitment from everyone to make it stronger.

The MABAS Wisconsin organization was established to help the system grow and flourish. My quest for today is simple - we need you to support the organization and its goals. We are going to continue to see that uptick in demand, but without organization and guidance, chaos is simply standing in the shadows.

I understand in many parts of the State the system is in its infancy, while others have reached a much higher level of proficiency. We understand that no one part fits all. It has to have flexibility much like the

Incident Command System itself. Don't feel like you have to fit your organization into a mold; we understand the challenges you face.

Politics, finances, and turf wars will always unfortunately be part of the fire world. The Regional Coordinators and Executive Board are here to assist you with your challenges anytime, anywhere.

We understand the system will continue to expand and suffer growing pains and see setbacks.

No worries - we prepared and committed to make it stronger. Let us know how we can help you!

Till the next box!

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MABAS WI CORPORATE SPONSORS

As a 501(c)(3) organization, MABAS Wisconsin relies on donations and sponsors to further its mission of mutual aid, associated systems and training. We thank the following organization for their sponsorship:

Mutual Aid Labs provides world-class software to emergency services agencies without regard to their size. For too long size and budget has dictated the quality of technology available to these agencies, Mutual Aid Labs will provide software that revolutionizes processes and procedures, in such a way that it does not place undue burden on an agency's budget.

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.

ABBOTSFORD USES MABAS: AMMONIA STRICKENS 18 IN DIV 130 - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

With a lot of calls coming in, there was some confusion in dispatch, and the following departments responded for EMS to the incident, including some units we special-called for:

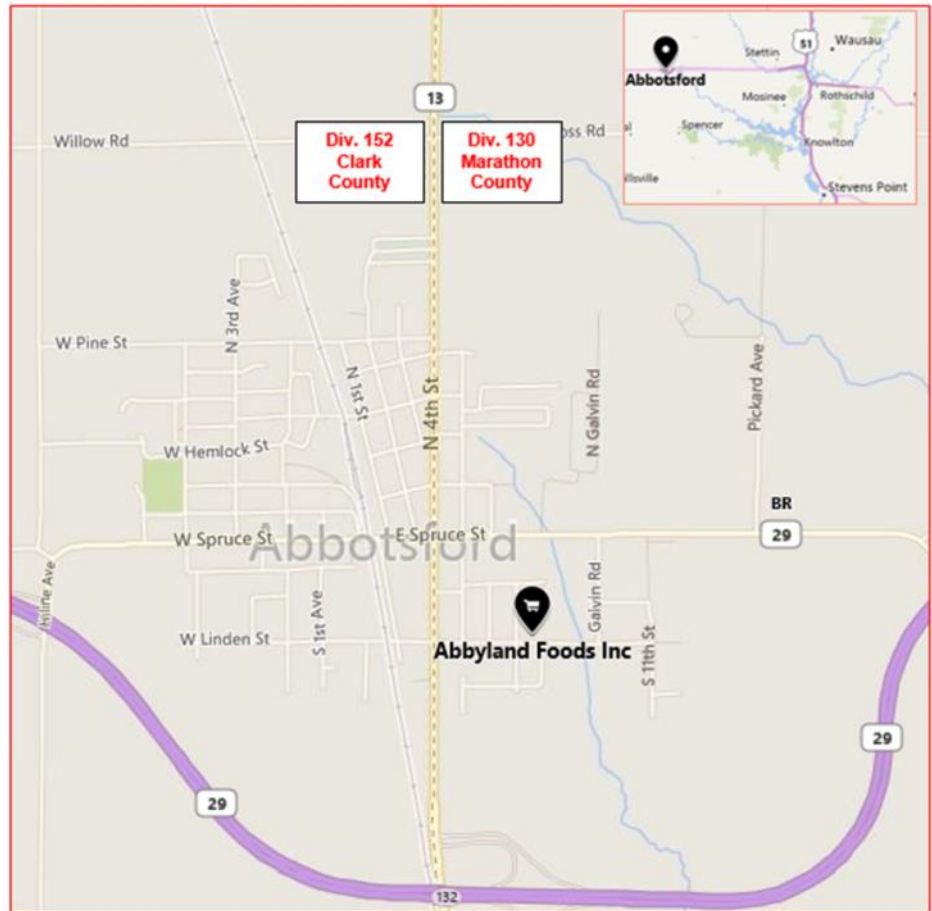
- Spencer (2 ambulances)
- Owen-Withee-Curtiss (1)
- Edgar (1)
- Athens (1)
- South Area Fire Dist. (SAFER) (1)
- Taylor Co EMS (1)
- Aspirus MedEvac Ground (1)
- Central Ambulances (4)

It took approximately 25 minutes from arrival to shut the valves at the affected pipe with the coordination between plant staff and firefighters. Firefighters did go door-to-door checking on nearby residences.

We have used MABAS before for structure fires and it's a great asset and resource to have. We did not have MABAS before we became a district in 2017. Not having MABAS would have been a nightmare!

Without the pre-designated MABAS cards, it would have taken up valuable radio time, time away from performing IC responsibilities, and other tasks.

We would have tied up Incident Command just to explain and request resources through dispatch instead of focusing on the incident. Honestly MABAS is truly a life saver, not just in convenience, but in getting the needed resources there quickly and without questions.



DEPARTMENT NAME: CENTRAL FIRE DIST.		BOX ALARM TYPE: Target Hazard				EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2018	
BOX ALARM # 60-08		LOCATION OR AREA: ABBYLAND FOODS- STATION 2 ABBOTSFORD				AUTHORIZED SIGN: <i>[Signature]</i>	
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	RESCUE	AMBULANCES	COMMAND	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHA
STILL	CENTRAL	CENTRAL	CENTRAL	CENTRAL	CENTRAL	MARATHON CO EMERG RESPONSE TEAM	
WORKING							1 CEN RE
STILL							
MABAS BOX ALARM:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	RESCUE	AMBULANCES	COMMAND	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHA
BOX	OWC SPENCER	SPENCER MEDFORD	MARSHFIELD	EDGAR TAYLOR CO EMS	MARSHFIELD	WAUSAU FIRE HAZMAT SALVATION ARMY	
2ND	STRATFORD EDGAR	MARSHFIELD	MEDFORD	GREENWOOD THORP	CITY OF WAUSAU	E.M. CLARK COUNTY E.M. MARATHON COUNTY	



(Both photos courtesy of WAOW.COM)



MABAS DIVISION SPOTLIGHT: DIVISION 144 - MARINETTE COUNTY

BY MIKE FOLGERT, DIVISION 144 PRESIDENT

Marinette County is one of the largest counties in Wisconsin in terms of size. Eighteen fire departments are located within Division 144 with only the City of Marinette being staffed full time. All other departments are volunteer and all but four participate in MABAS.

The county is largely rural and heavily forested except for a large industrial and population base in the far southeastern portion of the county.

This includes the Town of Peshtigo, encompassing 74 square miles of land area just outside the city limits of Marinette. The Town also surrounds the City of Peshtigo and is bordered on two sides by the waters of Green Bay. The Oconto County Town of Little River lies adjacent to the Town on the south border and the City of Menominee, Michigan lies to the northeast.

Mutual aid has long been used on a routine basis by utilizing neighboring fire departments with availability of engines and manpower usually never an issue. For the Town of Peshtigo, water tenders is another story. The two closest mutual aid departments, from Marinette and City of Peshtigo, are city departments who primarily rely upon fire hydrants for their water supply. They have no water tenders and neither does Menominee, the next closest Michigan Department. For water supply, The Town of Peshtigo must call for water tenders from the next closest departments, Grover-Porterfield to the west and Little River in nearby Oconto County.

MABAS greatly expands the availability of additional resources for mutual aid in the far southeastern portion of the county and the box cards have incorporated departments from much farther away than had ever traditionally been considered.

The only drawback during box card development is that we are not able to

draw a 50- or 100-mile radius around the southeast section of the Division to consider where to draw resources from as much of that circle would be water (Bay of Green Bay).

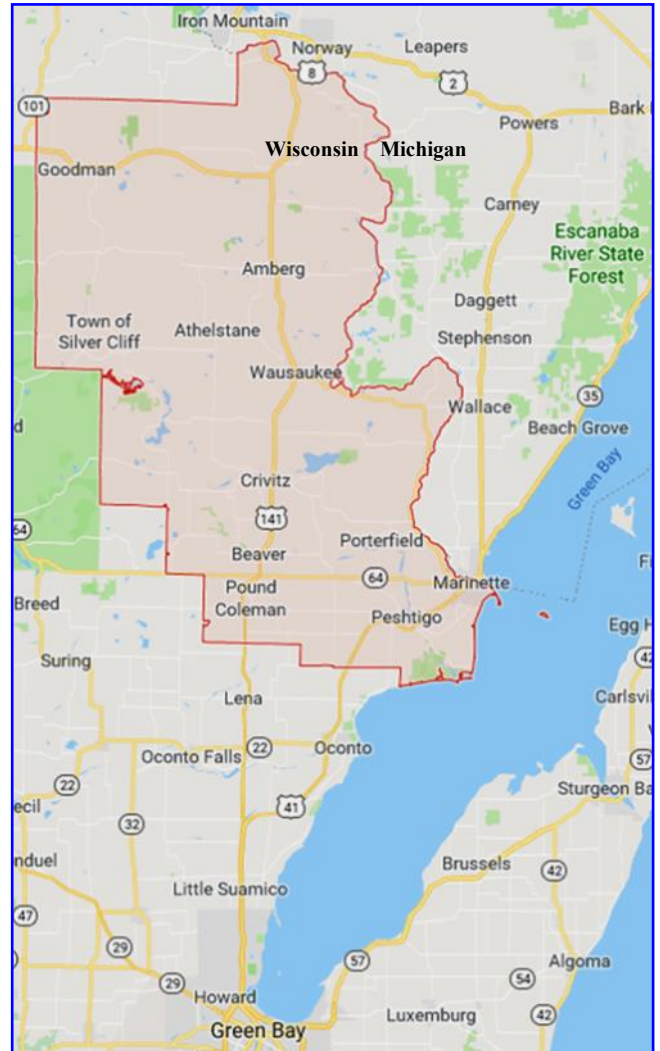
In the past, we had a county-wide mutual aid agreement in place with all departments within Marinette County but never had agreements with departments from neighboring counties.

With MABAS, and additional agreements now in place for working stills, we now have the ability to include departments from nearby counties on our box cards at any level. We are also beginning to enter into discussions with neighboring Michigan departments who have expressed interest in MABAS.

We have never used Michigan resources within the Town of Peshtigo in the past but have included the Menominee-Ingallston volunteer fire department on our MABAS cards at the 5th alarm for water tenders. The City of Marinette does have an automatic aid agreement with the City of Menominee but that has not expanded past the city limits.

As Michigan expands MABAS, we hope to include additional departments from that State as we update our box cards in the future.

We are a fairly new division (4-5 years) and continue experiencing growing pains even though, as a



division, we are committed to moving forward with MABAS.

We still have fire departments within our division that refuse to implement MABAS and continue to request mutual aid the old-fashioned way.

Others have adopted MABAS but have either missed opportunities to use it or have never had the opportunity to use their box cards.

This has made it difficult for dispatchers who would find it much more efficient to utilize only one method of calling out mutual aid assistance rather than several.



DIV 128 IN ACTION: FULLY INVOLVED BARN FIRE BY CHIEF CHRISTOPHER DALLAS, VALDERS FIRE AND RESCUE

It was 5:45 on a Sunday morning, January 21, 2018. The Valders Volunteer Fire Department was notified of a barn fire at 5911 Selle Road. The location was about 6 miles from our fire station.

At 5:46am, MABAS Division 128 Box Card 20-1-2 was requested to the Box level. Upon arrival, concerns were power lines down across the driveway preventing our first due engine to set up where they wanted to. The driveway was very narrow and there was no room to move off to the side to allow the ladder truck to set up.



The barn was fully involved and we were unable to get access to the livestock in the barn due to the power lines down and amount of fire. We made contact with the property owner confirming nobody was inside the barn. We had to deal with grass starting to burn and moving away from the barn.

It was mid-January, yet we had no snow cover and temps were close to 40 degrees that day.



(Photos this page by Valders Fire Department)

DEPARTMENT NAME: VALDERS		BOX ALARM TYPE: Structure Fire Non-Hydrant				EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2016		MABAS DIVISION: 128	
BOX ALARM # 20-1-2		LOCATION OR AREA: Valders Fire Department				AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Christopher Dallas			
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:									
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	TENDERS	MAN POWER	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Stations #)	
STILL	Valders Fire Department								
WORKING STILL	St. Nazare Fire Department Full response					Brace Utility 93 with a Chief Reedville RIT Team W/PS to the Scene			
MABAS BOX ALARM:									
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	TENDERS	MAN POWER	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Stations #)	
BOX	Newton Silver Creek	Kiel	Collins W/Kitzler Silver Creek	Brace W/Kitzler	Reedville FR	W/Kitzler	Collins Engine to Clark's Mills		
2ND	W/Kitzler	Two Rivers	Reedville Newton	Newton	Newton FR	Collins	Newton Engine to English Lake Dry Hydrant		
3RD	Kiel	Maitowoc	Francis Creek Kellerzville Kiel	Silver Creek	Silver Creek FR	Silver Creek	Brillco RIT Team (CASO) Notify MABAS coordinator 1-800-943-0003 Opt 3		
4TH	Rockwood	Brillion (CASO)	Town of Two Rivers Rosherville Michigan	Kiel	Kellerzville FR	Two Rivers	Ada Engine (SBO) to Pigeon Lake Dry Hydrant		
5TH	Maitowoc	Chilton (CASO)	Two Creeks Cleveland Maribel Tock Mills	Cleveland	Cleveland FR	Cleveland			
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST	1st Choice Brown Div 112 320-448-4210		2nd Choice Skobogyan 113 320-453-3112		3rd Choice Cahmet 122 320-849-2335				
INFORMATION Red Cross: 1-800-236-8600 Wisconsin Public Service: 800-450-7299 BM WASTE MANAGEMENT 758-3400 WPS - 1-800-450-7299 Brandt Beer- 662-6823 Two Rivers Beer 750-2541 Valders Beer Company 775-9503									

We had two exposures to protect - a garage and the home just to the west of the barn. The actions of the crews prevented the fire from reaching those buildings.

At 5:55am, we upgraded Box 20-1-2 to the 2nd alarm for Tenders Only and at 6:30am, to the 3rd alarm for tenders only. We had a dry hydrant that was about two miles away. Once we got the tenders going it was a pretty quick turn-around for water.

All units cleared the scene shortly before noon. We fought the majority of this fire from the elevated ladder. Handlines were used at the end to get at small hotspots.

MABAS Impact. MABAS worked like it should. We have been an active division for just over 5 years. MABAS streamlined all of our responses; we no longer pick and choose who is paged to our fires. On a box, we pull one resource (engine, tender or squad) from our surrounding departments. It speeds up mutual aid companies' response times as there is no question who is responding to a structure fire in our area. Once a box is requested, departments on our box will start moving our direction even before our dispatch center finished the MABAS request page.

We actively use the MABAS Box Cards on every single call for service, meaning, calling out the potential card for the dispatch center to get ready should you need it.

If this becomes habit on every call, you will never forget to use your box cards when needed. We find this to be very beneficial for our officers and dispatchers and it makes our incidents run that much smoother.

DIV 114 IN ACTION: AIRCRAFT HANGAR FIRE BY VICTOR GEE, ASSISTANT CHIEF, WOODRUFF FIRE DEPARTMENT

Just before 8pm on Monday evening, January 15, 2018, the Woodruff Fire Department paged out a Working Still from MABAS Division 114 Box Card 838 & 832 ST for a structure fire at an aircraft hangar at Dolhun Field, 7436 Retreat Drive.

The location has a Town of Lake Tomahawk address, but is actually located one mile north of that town in the Town of Woodruff.

Besides resources from Woodruff, engines, tenders, squads, and Chiefs respond from Minocqua, Arbor Vitae, and Lake Tomahawk.

Being so close, Lake Tomahawk Chief Doug Rehm arrived on scene quickly and took over as Incident Commander until Chief Mike Timmons from Woodruff reached the scene.



The hangar was 80' x 120' with 12' walls and a metal truss roof construction.

The building was built in the late 1940's or early 1950's. We knew the building was being used for storage (the hangar has not housed aircraft for many years), but we did not know to what extent.

On arrival, the building was about 75% involved and vented through the roof. Immediately, Chief Rehm upgraded to the 2nd alarm level. Eventually, a 3rd alarm was requested.

It turned out that the building was being used for storage of boats, campers, RVs, cars, and more.

There were pontoon boats that the aluminum completely burned and/or melted. The only evidence of them

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(Top photo by Kyle Timmons. Bottom photo by Victor Gee)

DIVISION 114 IN ACTION: AIRCRAFT HANGAR FIRE - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 6)

was the steel from the trailers that survived, and much of that was melted down and distorted.

There was a large RV in the southwest corner. All that remained of that was a frame and motor.

One person had a brand-new camper that was never slept in. All that was left of that was the trailer tongue and propane tanks.

One of our firefighters had a boat and camper stored in the building. He was able to point out what was left of the camper; his boat was completely gone.

I found one item quite interesting. There was an old air compressor in the area where we believe the fire started. The compressor head was made of iron and was half melted down. This requires at least 12,000 degrees.

All fuels that could have been burning (gas, diesel, fiberglass, plastic, magnesium) were involved.

I believe MABAS was very valuable in this incident. By the time I arrived, MABAS resources were already headed our direction. We could focus on fighting the fire and setting up water supply rather than piecing resources together.

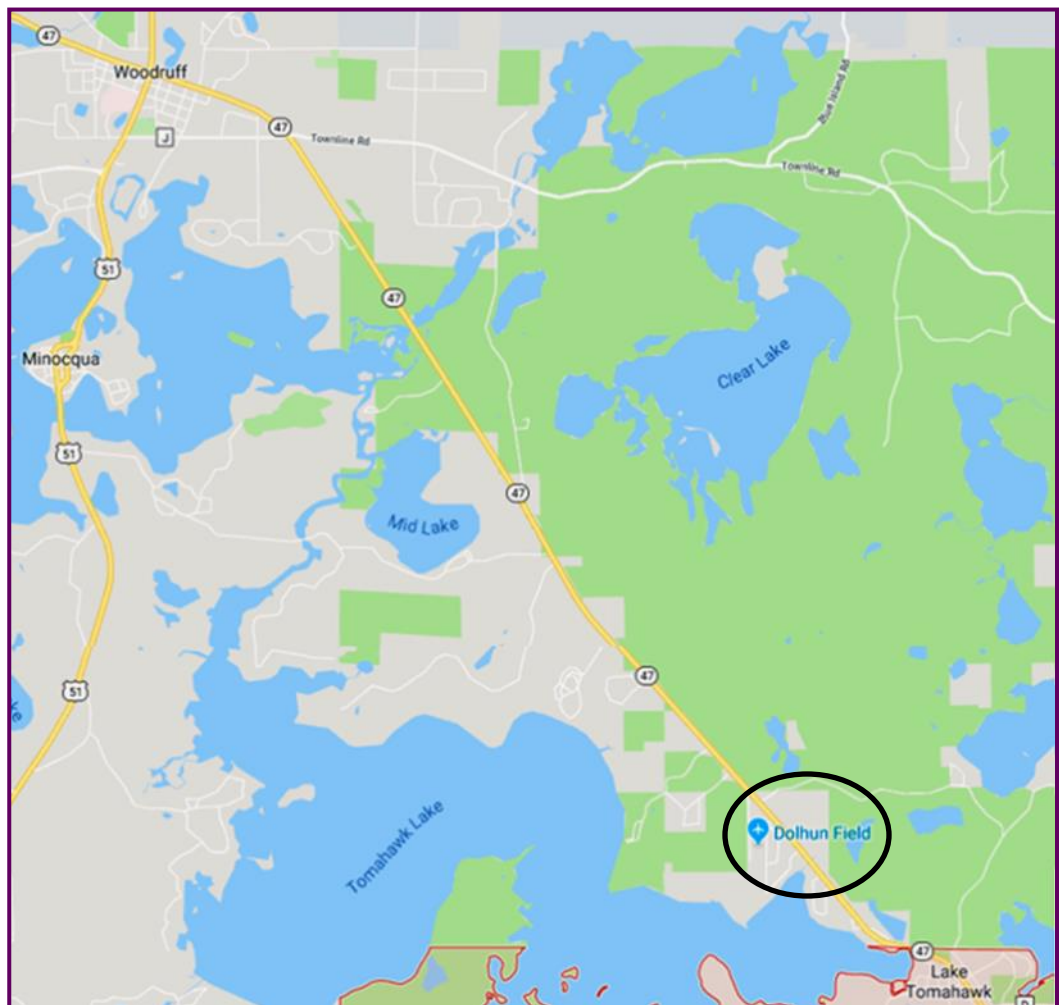
The block construction of the building was the biggest challenge. Walls were compromised so initial attack had to be done using handlines from the outside.

Our nearest aerial was 25 miles away. Once the MABAS units started to arrive we immediately set up two aerials. One unit was from St. Germain and the other was from Three Lakes. This area is not hydranted; MABAS was essential in getting the tenders needed to supply two aerials and multiple handlines.

Mutual air units were released around **1:30am**. Woodruff units remained on scene unit approximately **2:30am** performing overhaul.

In all, MABAS worked the way it was designed. We would have certainly been short of resources had we tried to piece this response together. We ended up with all the units we needed and a few extra in staging for reserve.

The only confusion was that Chief Rehm was expecting resources from his cards, but dispatch used a Woodruff card since the fire was in Woodruff. Once we figured out what was going on everything went to plan.



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

Tell us when you have a circumstance where you found yourself
“thinking outside the MABAS Box card”!

THE DEVASTATING IMPACT TO FARMERS OF BARN FIRES

BY TOM HOCHKAMMER, FIRE CHIEF, TOWN OF NEWTON FIRE COMPANY (MANITOWOC COUNTY MABAS DIVISION 128) , AND MEMBER, HOCHKAMMER DAIRY FARM, LLC.

Editor's Note: When a barn burns, it is almost a guaranteed MABAS Box. Given this is "America's Dairyland", there is a plethora of barns across the State of Wisconsin and barn fires happen frequently. The Newsletter has been looking for someone to explain the impact that a barn fire has, to the farmer. We found Tom Hochkammer, who not only is a Fire Chief, but is also a dairy farmer, and, has experienced his barn burning down.

I am a dairy farmer. I make my sole living off the farm – my entire family is involved.

My barn burned down on July 7, 1999. I lost my whole farm – my barn and my milking cattle. What happens, if you are a dairy farmer, and you lose your building and your cattle, your income stops immediately. You have insurance, but your daily income stops, because if you lose your cattle, you're not milking and you are not shipping out your product.

I classify farmers into 3 groups: cattle (beef or dairy), grain/crop, and hobby farmers (those who do not rely on farming as the sole income source).

For a crop or hobby farmer, if you lose your building, you can move to another facility, and possibly continue on. This is similar to a business owner, where you may lose your equipment, but upon replacing it, you may temporarily relocate.

But even if a dairy or beef farmer saves their cattle, they still have to find a place to move them to and milk them, resulting in a lot of extra costs, including rental costs. You should have insurance, covering 80-100% of the costs, but your income stops.

If you lose your cattle, it makes for a difficult time as you cannot just replace cattle. You must build up the quality of your cattle over the years and of course have a facility to house them until your building is replaced.

In my case, it took 4 months before my facility was back up and operational and milking cows again. And that was pretty quick.

We had a target date of October 31, 1999, so we bought a lot of cattle that were going to calf in the early part of November, which triggers the ability to produce milk.

With a crop/grain farmer, they could lose a building with machinery in it, but with the insurance money, they can go out and buy a piece of equipment rather quick and still operate.

This time of year (late winter), a grain farmer may have both equipment and their seed in there. They may lose that but still could be replaced easily.

A barn replacement depends on type of building – grain farmers need less permits, but still may take at least 6 months or longer if winter when construction may be delayed.

Barns may have bales of hay stored in them. If there is a fire, the bales must be removed by backhoes – I had 4 or 5 backhoes and it took 12 hours to remove everything that was smoldering. Replacement hay or other product is then bought on the open market, which is more expensive than growing it yourself.

The contents of a barn may contain feed for the cattle, but more modern farms store it outside. On a dairy or grain farm, machinery (tractors or combines) usually is not stored in the same building as your cattle,

(Continued on page 9)



Tom Hochkammer with some of his cows at the stalls where the cows can free roam on the Hochkammer Dairy Farm Thursday, Feb. 4. The farm has about 600 animals and milks 240 of them. (Photo: Yi-Chin Lee/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)

To view past newsletters, visit:
www.mabaswisconsin.org

THE DEVASTATING IMPACT TO FARMERS OF BARN FIRES - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 8)

although they may be close to one another which would be an exposure concern for firefighters.

One of the biggest challenges for a dairy or beef cattle farm is what do you do with the animals as the building is burning, assuming you are able to get them out. The days of having them in a pasture are pretty much gone, so you need to be able to catch them so they are not roaming around aimlessly.

A newer technique is having robots do the milking – a very expensive process. Those animals are never outside.

Cows may be milked usually 8 or 12 hours apart, so while a fire can make the schedule be off a little bit, you do have to find a place to milk them.

Other farmers are typically willing to help, but you must consider the size of the farm. A small operation may have 80 cows. That's what I had in 1999; I now have 240. Some farms have upwards of 5,000 cows – with neighboring facilities generally close to or at capacity, where do you move thousands of cows?

The low end of dairy farms may have 50 cows. After a fire, do you get back into farming or not, and if you do, you need to get bigger to have more income to pay back the debt remaining after insurance pays out.

Firefighting concerns

Some areas of the State have older barns – newer ones are more metal - so there are not as many barn fires as years ago.

Interior attacks are used if you can get to the fire and prevent it from spreading. Power lines could be a hazard, but modern barns may have power underground from the street.

Most of the time, the barns collapse inward when burning, reducing a collapse hazard to exterior crews.

Bigger cattle farms may have manure digesters in the barn that reuse the waste product from the animals. Firefighters have to worry about the manure – the digester takes the methane out of the manure – and have concern for the methane burning adding to the hazard.

Newer buildings have the insulation

that could be toxic when burning.

Water is a big concern – you need the tenders at once. Enormous amounts of water used. At a recent fire, my Fire Department trucked 50 loads of water.

Animals need to be herded away from a burning barn – it's their home; they want to go back in. Even if the animals are freed from the burning building, smoke may no longer make the animals viable to produce product.

Firefighters may be used to save the animals (about 20% of rural volunteer firefighters may be farmers and are used to working with animals). A cow is worth \$1500-\$2000, so saving dozens or hundreds or thousands of cows in a short amount of time could result in reducing monetary losses considerably.

Injury to firefighters with cattle on scene is minimized because in newer facilities, animals are running freely in the building, so if you can safely get in and open a gate up, then get behind them and chase them out.

**Division Presidents
Fire Chiefs
Company Officers
Dispatch Administrators**



**Firefighters
Dispatchers
Emergency Managers
EMS Providers**

We are excited to bring the 8th annual MABAS-WI conference to the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in centrally located Stevens Point. The training opportunities for this year's conference will prove to be beneficial to all. If this is your first MABAS conference, or you're a seasoned veteran, there is no better place to learn alongside fire service personnel, emergency managers and 911 emergency dispatchers.

**The Conference registration cost is only \$125.00 (which includes 2 lunches and the Friday evening picnic).
Conference lodging cost is @ state rate: \$82.00 per night.**

The Holiday Inn Hotel Phone Number is: 715-344-0200 and press #3. When making reservations, we ask that you please reference the group name, Mutual Aid Box Alarm System-MABAS or the Group Block Code: MAB

MY FIRST MABAS BOX - DIV 148 BUFFALO COUNTY BY STEVE ANDERSON, CHIEF, MONDOVI FIRE DEPT



My first MABAS Box occurred on Sunday **December 31, 2017**. I am Chief of the **Mondovi Fire Department**, located in the township of Naples in the far northeast corner of Buffalo County.

Around **1:30pm**, a call came in reporting a fully involved barn fire at Lazy L Tack & Trailers, **W394 US-10**. We had horse trailers lined up about 10 feet from the barn so we had to move about 12 trailers away from the barn.

The structure was used for storage of hay and some antiques in the upper level and the downstairs was used for some livestock. About four animals perished in the fire. We went to **2nd box alarm**.

Everything went well except for how we had set up our box card. Since the fire, we updated it - the old one had some departments that were not as close as the ones on the new box card.

We used departments from Division 117 and 140 but did not use Division 126. All communication went very well.



(Photos by Mondovi Fire Department)

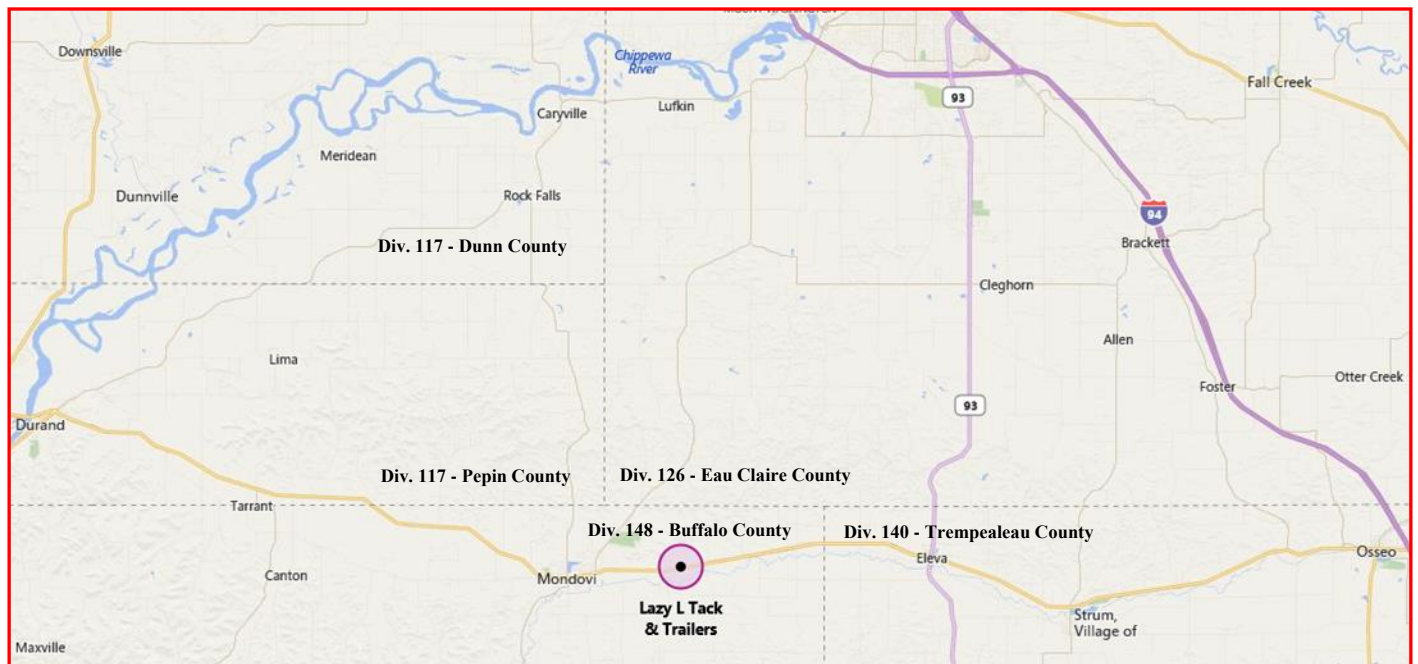
Buffalo County By Matt Prieur

I am a dispatcher for Buffalo County as well as the Division 148 president.

Our county is very unique in the terrain that we cover. We have a lot of big ridges and deep valleys. Due to that fact, our IFERN base isn't operational to other counties. Any time that we need an out-of-county agency, Dispatch has to physically call them on the phone to request the equipment we are looking for.

We have a very large amount of out-of-county agencies on box cards for many of our departments. As Chief Anderson related, the card they had made up for that area, didn't necessarily work for them, so it turned into a manual request for what they wanted.

The next department they were going to be calling for was from Division 126. They have since changed their cards up to be much more effective for that area, as well as a few other changes they thought they needed to make.



DIV 106 IN ACTION: HIGH WINDS REQUIRE MABAS ESCALATION BY TIM SNOPEK

On **April 22, 2018**, at **1:13pm**, the **Mukwonago Fire Department** was called out to a car fire in a residential attached garage at **W326 S9050 Stone Book Pass** in the Town of Mukwonago. Before any units arrived on the scene, a Chief enroute called for a **Working Still** because of the smoke he could see in the sky.



for a **Working Still** because of the smoke he could see in the sky.

With a sturdy northeast wind and an open garage door, this fire just took off into the home, running the full length of the house.

The call used **MABAS Box 34-12** and a **second alarm** for tenders.



MABAS: Bringing as many resources as needed! (All photos this page by timsnopek.com)

MABAS IN THE NEWS - DIV 114 *SUBMITTED BY JASON GOELDNER, CHIEF, SUGAR CAMP FIRE DEPT*



2/24/2018 7:30:00 AM

Area departments hold major emergency drill | **Jamie Taylor**
Exercise simulated a major fire in downtown Rhinelander | **River News Reporter**

Anyone listening to emergency radio traffic Wednesday evening would be forgiven for concluding that a major structure fire had broken out in downtown Rhinelander. Fortunately, there was no real fire, it was only an important training exercise.

The calls were transmitted as part of a simulation testing how area firefighters and law enforcement officers would react to such a scenario.

The drill was conducted at Nicolet College's Birchwood Center and involved representatives from fire departments in Oneida, Langlade and Lincoln counties. It gave the departments a chance to rehearse the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), a computer program that allows a coordinated and rapid response to major fires, while freeing leadership from becoming overwhelmed in a stressful environment.

Coincidentally, the MABAS system was used Wednesday morning, on a smaller scale than in the simulation, to help the Sugar Camp Fire Department deal with a major structure fire. It also was used to coordinate the response of 15 fire area departments to the fire at Dolhun Field in Woodruff last month, said Rhinelander Fire Department Lt. Michael Wesle.

The simulated fire involved the Brown Street Apartments at 28 N. Brown Street.

"We had a computer simulation of the building downtown, and as the drill went on it (the fire) became progressively more involved and more involved," Wesle said. "And the incident commander was responsible for using our MABAS program to call the appropriate resources, and they did that through the Oneida County Sheriff's Department. If there was anyone listening to the radio last night, there was a ton of radio traffic and all the radio traffic sounded like it was the real deal."

The MABAS "boxes" contain specific equipment from each area fire department, so it was just a matter of calling in additional boxes through the dispatch.

"People were assigned roles," Wesle said. "We had one person that was designated as incident commander and we had another person who was the operations commander. The incident commander is more of a planning and administrative role at that point, and the operations was actually the boots on the ground actually doing the firefighting. Everyone reports to the person above them, so the operations guy would report to the incident commander."

Since the simulated fire was quite large, Wesle said participated simulated attacking it from three different angles; one from the front, another from the back and the third on the roof.



Members of the Pine Lake and Rhinelander fire departments watch a video feed of the "fire" Wednesday as they help coordinate the efforts of several fire departments during a MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) drill at Nicolet Area Technical College in Rhinelander.

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"Then we had a staging officer who took care of the resources that were arriving on scene and sending them to the appropriate places," Wesle said.

This person would direct the personnel and equipment to wherever the operations commander determines they are needed.

"It streamlines it (the process) and sets up some rules for how things are going to work so everything is cohesive and working on the same page," Wesle said. "It sets up a predetermined response and a communications plan."

In a real fire, each section would have its own command that reported to the operations commander. The various sections were located in different rooms so they had to communicate over the radio like they would at an actual fire scene. They also monitored a simulation of the fire via a video telecommunications network.

Wesle said the more the system is used the more comfortable area department have become.

"This has been years in the working, we've had these cards made but it actually takes someone being the first person to actually do it so everybody can buy in and see that it works," Wesle said. "In the last year, year end a half, in Oneida County anyway, we've used it more than we probably ever have since the program started. And it's not for the fact that we're having more fires or incidents, it's just that people are buying into it and getting used to it because it is a system that works."

The command structure set up under MABAS is far superior to the way a senior person on the scene of a fire would call for help under the old system, Wesle added.

"He would have to request every single unit individually, so not only does he have to think about what he needs, he has to also think about where it's coming from and then he has to think about who has what," Wesle said. "This takes all that out of the equation. He just says I need more people and just upgrades or calls a box alarm and dispatch has it all pre-planned and written down on paper right in front of them."

Wesle said Wednesday's drill went pretty well, all things considered.

"Like in any incident, the first 15 minutes are pretty chaotic," he said. "When you arrive on scene and you're the incident commander, you are the incident commander and you're responsible for operations. You're in charge of everything. So, essentially, you're wearing five or six different hats. Any incident, including the drill, if you listen to the communications, it's pretty chaotic. As more people arrive on scene and you're able to divvy up the responsibilities and assign people positions and get everyone on the right radio channels and communications sorted out, after that it's like clockwork."

It was pretty impressive to listen to the various radio channels and hear how smooth everything went once the command structure was established, he added.

While the various fire departments involved had representatives at Nicolet to simulate the boots on the ground scenario, Oneida County dispatchers were assisted by their counterparts from Price and Vilas counties or they observed how everything was working to become more familiar with the system, Wesle said.

Drills are essential to emergency responders as the more time spent on drilling the more second nature everything becomes when a real emergency occurs, Wesle noted.

"That's the whole idea that we encourage for these drills, at least, we encourage all the departments to send people who are either not very familiar with, or just not comfortable with it yet," he said. "The reaction from a lot of the people was, they thought at first that this is kind of chaotic, but once they got into it and they went to the stations and they listened to the radio traffic, they figured it out pretty quickly. They all had a pretty positive response in the end."



From left, an unidentified firefighter, and Pelican Fire Department deputy chief Norm Peterson, participate in a MABAS drill Wednesday at Nicolet Area Technical College.

Story by Jamie Taylor, photos by Kayla Breese.
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DIV 101 IN ACTION: CHALLENGES OF NEWER HOME CONSTRUCTION

BY DAVID WILKINSON, ASSISTANT CHIEF, PLEASANT PRAIRIE FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

On **Monday February 5, 2018**, **Pleasant Prairie Fire & Rescue** received a report of a possible fire at **9:06am** at **4335 94th Street** in the village of Pleasant Prairie and responded with a **Still Alarm** assignment. The first arriving engine had light grey smoke showing. The company officer had a female occupant of the home state she thinks there is a fire in the basement with everyone out of the home. The crew entered the home and found zero visibility on the first floor. They located the basement stairs and proceeded to search for the fire.

Once in the basement they were unable to locate the source of the fire and had to exit the basement due to low air (in their self-contained breathing apparatus – SCBA).

While exiting they advised that they found fire coming through the stairs. Having an active basement fire with limited access we upgraded the fire to a **Box Alarm using Division 101 Card 56-1** at **9:31am**.

At **9:53am**, due to the design of the home, the fire began moving into void spaces causing the floor in part of the first story and the stairs to lose integrity resulting in an upgrade to the **Second Alarm**.

Noting that the outside temperature was below freezing, a decision to



Jeff Rudolph - Box Alarm Photography

upgrade directly to the **Fourth Alarm** was made to rotate crews at **10:10am**.

The box was struck out at **1:57pm**. The last unit from Pleasant Prairie cleared the scene at **3:40pm**.



(Photo by Jeff Rudolph - Box Alarm Photography)

Challenges of the Structure.

This was a newer constructed home, built in 2004. The total square footage was 3,300 square feet excluding the basement and the garage.

It was built with an open concept on the first floor and this presented several challenges.

Of significance were void spaces created to house decorative items inside the home.

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DIV 101 IN ACTION: CHALLENGES OF NEWER HOME CONSTRUCTION - CONTINUED

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The void spaces contributed to the expansion of the fire and difficulty in extinguishing the fire.

Having a large home required us to quickly separate the incident into several geographic divisions to manage the responding companies.

The use of strong ICS (Incident Command System) principals from the first-in companies allowed this call to come to completion with no injuries to firefighters or civilians.

Standardization is Key to MABAS Success

MABAS WI In Action: Your department obviously works very closely with Illinois departments. I assume you were part of MABAS Illinois before MABAS Wisconsin was formed. How seamless is it using Illinois resources under the MABAS Wisconsin organization? Has anything changed from before MABAS Wisconsin came into existence?

Asst. Chief Wilkinson: The Village of Pleasant Prairie joined MABAS-IL in 1987 as an associate member in Division 4 (Lake County IL) shortly after Division 101 was formed which Pleasant Prairie immediately joined. The great part of MABAS is the requirements are the same between the two states. With our proximity to the State line, we write our cards as if the border does not exist. We immediately pull resources from Illinois on our Still Alarms as part of ARA agreements. IL Division 4 and WI Division 101 work in tandem to get the resources we request on any box alarm.

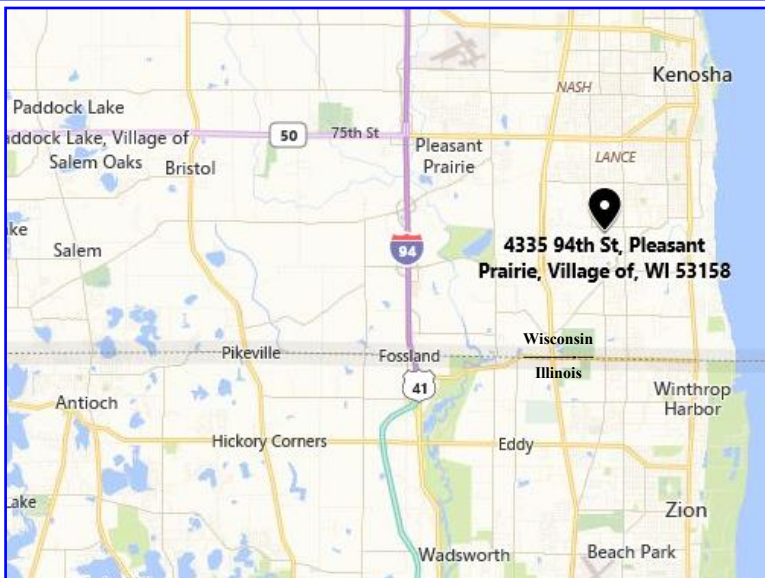
Since the formation of MABAS Wisconsin, the only change we noticed was an organized structure for requests for assistance from departments in Racine County (Division 102) and for Interdivisional Boxes such as the Patrick Cudahy Fire in 2009 to Div. 107 in Milwaukee County.

MWIA: When you go to a MABAS Illinois box, is there anything they do differently than MABAS WI?

Wilkinson: The only difference that we have is we contact IL Division 4 when responding into that division. The standards for Passport accountability, staffing of apparatus, and radio communications remain the same.

Below: Beach Park, IL FD traveled 9 miles on the Still Alarm to the Pleasant Prairie fire.

DEPARTMENT NAME: Pleasant Prairie		BOX ALARM TYPE: Structure Fire				EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2018		MABAS DIVISION 101	
BOX ALARM # 56-1		LOCATION OR AREA: Entire Village of Pleasant Prairie				AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Chief Craig Roepeke			
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:									
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)		
STILL	Pleasant Prairie Beach Park Newport Winthrop Harbor	Pleasant Prairie Zion		Pleasant Prairie	Pleasant Prairie Beach Park Newport Winthrop Harbor Zion				
WORKING STILL	Kenosha			Salem Lakes	Kenosha				Kansville Ambulance (Sta 2) Bristol Engine (Station 2) Bristol Chief (Station 2)
MABAS BOX ALARM:									
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)		
BOX	Bristol	Somers		Kansville	Bristol	Racine Fire Bells			Paris Engine (Station 2) Antioch Ambulance (Station 2) Somers Chief (Station 2) Waukegan Engine (Station 1)
2ND	Waukegan Paris Gurnee		Union Grove		Salem Lakes				Gurnee Engine (Station 1) Lake Villa Engine (Station 2) Quad 2 Rehab
3RD	Wheatland	South Shore		Antioch	Paris	Contact Badger Red			Twin Lakes Ambulance (Station 2) Libertyville Engine (Station 1) Caledonia Engine (Station 2)
4TH	Caledonia Libertyville		Lincolnshire		Gurnee				
5TH	Racine Lake Villa	Randall			South Shore	Southeast Wisconsin Incident Management Team			
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST		1st Choice 103	2nd Choice 5	3rd Choice 107					
INFORMATION Resources - Division 4 Light Tower Bus - Kenosha Area Transit (262) 653-4287 First Student (262) 657-7155 Badger Red 1-800-943-0003 press 2 Station 1 - 3801 Spring brook RD, Pleasant Prairie WI 53158 Station 2 - 8044 88th AV, Pleasant Prairie WI 53158									



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 - ContributorTim Snopek (Waukesha County)



MABAS – Wisconsin

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Organized 2004

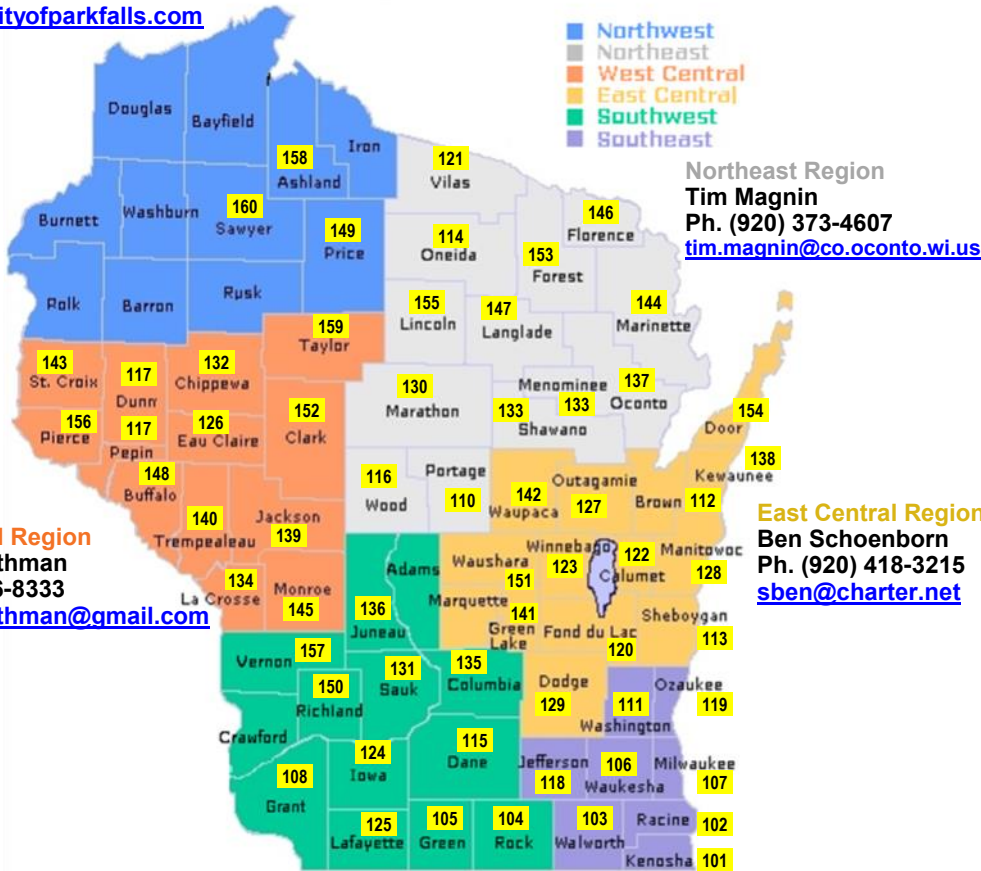
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MABAS Divisions

- 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
	Contact with Wisconsin Red Center
MABAS2 (WISCOM)	Regional Coordinators - WEM Coordination*
	*Future use