

# MABAS-WISCONSIN *in ACTION*

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2014-15

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

## MABAS SHOWS SECONDS COUNT - NO LIVES LOST IN MOTEL FIRE

BY STEVE BEER, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF OPERATIONS, FOND DU LAC FIRE DEPARTMENT

Friday July 18, 2014, was a clear day in Fond du Lac with the temperature just reaching 70 degrees. US Highway 41 skirts the west side of Fond du Lac and a 72-room Comfort Inn borders the west side of the highway along the southbound on-ramp from County Road D. The building is U-shaped, with an adjoining pool building. At 9:11am, a fire was reported.

At the time of call, I was on the east side of Hwy 41 about 4 blocks away and could see heavy smoke rising. I called for a box alarm as I was pulling in the long driveway.



**Size-up.** On arrival, a manager stated that all rooms (72) were occupied. I noticed numerous vehicles in the parking lot with people still inside. I knew the fire extended into all three levels of the building. Heavy Fire was on the exterior of the south end of building from the ground floor to attic space. The fire was spreading to first and second floor interior rooms, attic space, and a separate building that contained a pool for guest. By the time I completed a size-up, I upgraded to a 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm.

**Target hazard box type.** In Fond du Lac, we structure our cards to be user friendly. We use the structure fire card only for 1 and 2 family residential fires. We believe that our target hazards include everything from a garden apartment, to a downtown fire, commercial, high-rise. It makes it real simple for our members to remember, plus we know that we need extra help. Our minimum daily staffing is 17. We are in the process of accreditation and established our effective response force to be at 21 for commercial and 24 for high-rise at the time of dispatch.

**Value/Impact of MABAS.** Without a doubt, MABAS was a key in saving this structure and getting this business back in service within a month. We are not considering any changes to the card as a result of this incident. Fond du Lac does not mess around when it comes to our MABAS cards. We bring in 3 engines, 3 chiefs, and 1 additional truck per alarm. We plan for the worst. Last year on our downtown fire, we had enough resources on a 5<sup>th</sup> alarm without going interdivisional.



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### Positive or negative comments about this MABAS experience.

Only positive comments. Many resources were needed on an incident like this one. Primary search along with multiple crews on three floors were needed to bring this fire under control and have zero fatalities or injuries.



(Photos: Sharon Roznik Courtesy of Action Reporter Media Fldreporter.com)

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## MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

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

This issue of **MABAS-Wisconsin in Action** takes a look back at the last 5 years. Gary Schmidt, our editor has done an incredible job of chronicling our activities so that we can reminisce some great achievements and gauge our progress as an organization.

This was the opening paragraph of my first contribution to **MABAS-Wisconsin in Action** in 2011. *"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".*

Today, MABAS Wisconsin stands at 56 divisions with several more counties working towards division status. For our organization, the mission and vision remain the same, simply a mutual aid system that starts with neighbor helping neighbor having the capacity to provide resources from all corners of the State if necessary. What a truly remarkable insurance policy to have in these times of challenged resources and budgets.

#### **Mission:**

**MABAS Wisconsin is the organization that promotes the development, implementation, and sustainment of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) within the state of Wisconsin.**

#### **Vision:**

**The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) is a nationally recognized mutual aid system that will be implemented throughout the state of Wisconsin to provide a seamless response plan of unlimited resources to ensure that every community is protected in case of an emergency.**

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual MABAS Conference will be held July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the date is fast approaching. Keith Tveit and our Education Committee have again put together an interesting and insightful agenda. New this year will be training offered by our corporate sponsors. Both Darley and Solberg Foam will be offering operational level training classes.

In this issue of *MABAS-Wisconsin in Action*, we present the value of MABAS as seen in the eyes of the incident commanders. We also have an opportunity to reflect on the value of all the efforts of Gary Schmidt and his team as he edits **MABAS-Wisconsin in Action**.

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## THIS IS THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF THE MABAS NEWSLETTER

*BY GARY SCHMIDT*

Back in 2009, the annual face-to-face meeting of MABAS Wisconsin was only a one day affair. In August of that year, the meeting was held at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

During the meeting, Div 109 rep BC Dan Holton suggested that something be created that showed the value of MABAS. In attendance at that meeting were two members of the Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Terry Jo Schmidt and Gary Schmidt. For the duration of the meeting, Gary and Terry Jo independently began sketching out ideas.

After the meeting, they showed Chief Holton their ideas for a newsletter, which were strikingly similar. A few weeks later, Chief Holton, after

consulting with the MABAS President at the time, Brian Satula, asked the Schmidts if they were interested in pursuing their ideas. They were.

Gary began developing the articles while Terry Jo searched for the right newsletter software (Microsoft Publisher was chosen) and then assisted in formatting the articles written by Gary. A draft for the first issue was created. Brian Satula tweaked some of the graphics and fonts and suggested more pictures. The rest is history.

Composing each issue of the newsletter can be challenging. On average, it takes about 4 hours per page, including researching each incident, contacting the Incident

Commanders, developing & formatting the stories, and locating pictures.

Events must be made known to the editor. At first, that was somewhat easy as the most active divisions were all within monitoring distance from Milwaukee, where Gary lives. As MABAS Wisconsin grew, Gary began to rely on sources throughout the State to make him aware of MABAS incidents.

Finding time is the greatest obstacle. Fire Chiefs are busy and are modest - they don't like making a big deal about simply doing their job. Chiefs sometimes need to be contacted multiple times. but all have been graciously cooperative.

## DIV 113 IN ACTION - MABAS 5TH ALARM IN CASCADE BY TODD TRIEBENSEE, FIRE CHIEF, CASCADE FIRE DEPT

The owner of a flower shop with an adjoining residence had been gone for a short period of time and upon her return home found smoke in the structure.

This was reported to the **Cascade Fire Department** at 504 Madison Avenue about 9:40am on Monday **January 5, 2015**. Being the first work day back after a holiday our first out engine was a bit short staffed and also took a bit longer to get out the door because of the distance and traffic that some encountered as they came from their jobs.



Upon arrival there was very little smoke coming from the building. First in crews could see clearly through the living quarters of the building and helped the owner remove some valuables from the building.

Our crews were first sent to the basement by the owner because they were thinking it was a heater that was plugged in the basement that was causing the smoke, our crews found nothing in the basement and proceeded to search the living quarters of the building and didn't find anything till they got to the area where the flower shop and living quarters came together. That's where they found a wall in the flower shop burning. Once the fire burned through the wall, it quickly spread into the first floor and upward into the second floor.



A MABAS request was called immediately upon our departments' page for a working still on box 5-1-1 and escalated from there. Our department made special requests from Campbelsport FD (Fond du Lac County) and Boltonville FD (Washington County) for manpower. I believe in all 18 fire departments and 100 firefighters were on scene that day that lasted for approximately 8 hours.

The building dates back some 125 years, and had been added on to several times. Some of the walls still had sawdust in them used as insulation.

The weather that morning was about -5 to -10 with a wind chill of -25. Engines, tenders, trucks and ventilation saws were freezing up at various stages of the fire and it was important to keep water flowing through any lines that were deployed.

MABAS has met our departments' expectations and did on this call as well. It is nice knowing that you don't have to guess where to draw your next piece of equipment from as it is all written down and listed for you and the dispatch center and it's ok to make a few special requests.

I can't stress enough to fill out MABAS cards through all 5 alarms. We have added some extras to our cards for our next card rewrites. If your department doesn't do any "live" MABAS drills where you pull a card and have an actual movement of equipment and some water, I think you are missing out on a great opportunity to actually see if you have your cards built up correctly - you never know if your cards work till you use them. It's also good experience for your dispatch center as well to keep them in practice. And don't hesitate to activate a MABAS request, better to call early then to call too late!!



**The pickup with the front mount pump is used to fill tenders or as a relay truck. It set up by a river just down the street from the fire scene and was used to relay water to our attack engine as a supplement to the water supply we had set up. It is a very handy truck to have in a rural area!!**

(All photos by Asher Heimermann/Incident Response). For a video of the fire, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xm8RzZ0dUE8>.

### MABAS WISCONSIN IN ACTION STAFF

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 Contributor .....Tim Snopek (Waukesha County)  
 Contributor .....Asher Heimermann (Sheboygan County)

**MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION**

**FIVE YEARS OF NEWSLETTERS** *BY GARY SCHMIDT*

The quarterly newsletter began with Volume 1 Issue 1 in December, 2009 and covered the largest deployment of MABAS to date at that time from earlier in the year - the Patrick Cudahy meatpacking plant fire in Milwaukee County. It was the first taste of a multiple-day, large scale fire service effort in Wisconsin with all resources using common radio frequencies, common terminology, and following common standards.

The plan for the newsletter was to have Issue 1 of each year being the Winter issue, with Issue 2-Spring, Issue 3-Summer, and Issue 4-Fall to follow. Time constraints caused by the editor working full time in the private sector forced a series combined "double issues" - Fall 2010 (Vol 1 Issue 4) was combined with Winter 2010 (Vol 2 Issue 1), Spring and Summer of 2010 were combined, as well as Fall and Winter, 2010. Since then, we have been able to produce 4 issues each year (coincidentally, the editor retired from his full time job).

Here's a look at the covers of all 17 prior issues. All issues can be accessed from the MABAS Wisconsin website. Note the diversity of events that MABAS is used for.

**2009-2010**

<p><b>MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION</b></p> <p>VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1A</p> <p>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</p> <p>WINTER, 2009</p>	
<p><b>DIVISIONS IN ACTION: DIVISION 107</b> <i>BY GARY SCHMIDT</i></p> <p>In this issue's Divisions In Action section, we summarize the experiences of those who fought the Patrick Cudahy Meat Packing Plant fire in southeastern Milwaukee County. This was the largest deployment of fire departments to a structure fire in the history of the State of Wisconsin. At stake was the economic base to the local community and it tested the ability of the Wisconsin Fire Service to react in a cohesive and comprehensive manner to a disaster while maintaining safe operating levels in non-stricken areas. The MABAS system's interoperability standards were</p>	

<p><b>MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION</b></p> <p>VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2</p> <p>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</p> <p>SPRING, 2010</p>	
<p><b>DIVISIONS IN ACTION: DIVISION 117</b> <i>BY GARY SCHMIDT</i></p> <p><b>Rural Firefighting Used in Corn Drier Fire</b></p> <p>It was a little after 2am, Tuesday morning December 1, 2009 when fire was discovered coming from a 70 foot tall corn bin and dryer in Menomonie Wisconsin. The fire was at the top and there were thousands of bushels of corn within the structure, adjacent to</p>	<p><b>MABAS Training Important in Fighting Corn Drier Fire</b></p> <p>When Dunn and Pepin Counties formed MABAS Division 117 in Western Wisconsin, one of the first tasks was to have a joint training exercise. The value is to determine interoperability of radio systems, equipment, tactics, and terminology</p> 

<p><b>MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION</b></p> <p>VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3</p> <p>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</p> <p>SUMMER, 2010</p>	
<p><b>HOW WI-TERT CAN ASSIST DURING A MABAS INCIDENT</b></p> <p><i>BY GARY SCHMIDT, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM HEIDI MUELLER AND CONNIE CATTERALL</i></p> <p>A Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce or TERT, is an organized network of trained dispatchers that could be deployed to assist a dispatch center or staff a command post in the event any of our public safety communication centers would become compromised or overwhelmed due to a natural disaster</p>	<p><b>An Actual Event:</b> The meatpacking plant was a major employer in the city. A fire not only was threatening to destroy the entire plant, but also was coming close to breaching the ammonia tanks. The entire city needed to be evacuated.</p> <p><i>The Police Chief requested the EOC to "get him all the resources they could".</i></p> 

**2010-2011**

<p><b>MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION</b></p> <p>VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1</p> <p>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</p> <p>FALL-WINTER 2010 DOUBLE ISSUE</p>	
<p><b>RACINE REHAB GROUP HAS LONG MABAS HISTORY</b></p> <p><i>BY STEVEN JONES, RACINE FIRE BELLS</i></p> <p>When the Racine Fire Bells began their canteen service over 60 years ago, their "theatre of operations" was almost exclusively limited to the needs of the Racine Fire Department. Over the years, an occasional run would be made to a suburban incident, but those runs were few and far between.</p> <p>"The bottom line is that our rehab services and local MABAS divisions have formed a partnership that is mutually beneficial to all"</p> <p>The emergence of MABAS in Southeast Wisconsin two decades ago really identified the need for a rehab function at these emergency</p>	

<p><b>MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION</b></p> <p>VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2</p> <p>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</p> <p>SPRING-SUMMER 2011 DOUBLE ISSUE</p>	
<p><b>7,000 BALES OF HAY ABLAZE CREATES A MAJOR RESPONSE</b></p> <p><i>BY BEN SCHOENBORN MABAS PRESIDENT DIVISION 122</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>(Continued on page 7)</p>	

# FIVE YEARS OF NEWSLETTERS - CONTINUED

## 2011-2012

### MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1  
FALL-WINTER 2011  
DOUBLE ISSUE

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#### MABAS REACTS WHEN WATER SUPPLY IS EXHAUSTED

BY GARY SCHMIDT AND RANDY WICHLACZ, CHIEF-PULASKI TRI-CO FIRE DEPARTMENT

It was the "call of a lifetime" as Chief Wichlacz described the fire "that could have consumed the whole downtown of Pulaski if not for the

van, arriving within minutes of the 11:31pm call and upgraded to a full first alarm assignment (working still) at 11:38pm. bringing in 2 additional



### MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2  
SPRING 2012

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#### ICE/WATER RESCUE BOX USED - 6 SNOWMOBILERS THRU ICE

BY ALAN HANDEL, CHIEF, BEAVER DAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

It was an hour after sunset on a 30-degree Saturday evening of February 18, 2012. At 6:25pm, the Beaver Dam Fire and Police

immediately realized the severity of this complex situation and initiated appropriate action. Departments received a call for four



### MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3  
SUMMER 2012

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#### MUTUALAIDNET TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN WISCONSIN

BY BRAD LIGGETT, CHIEF, BELLOTT FIRE DEPT & FIRE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE - HONOLAND SECURITY COUNCIL

MutualAidNet is a resource database and dispatch system used by states to more quickly and efficiently request and provide the closest most appropriate resources

cost-effective movement of personnel, equipment and/or expertise across jurisdictional lines. The next pages provide the details, contact provided



### MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4  
FALL 2012

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

#### MABAS ADVANTAGE EVIDENT IN FIGHTING MARSH FIRE

BY GARY SCHMIDT AND CHIEF BILL RICE, MABAS SE REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Just after 9pm on Saturday November 10, 2012, a call came in from Hope Lake Road in a rural area south of Lake Mills for a marsh fire. Record high temps in

Lake Mills is 25 miles east of Madison Wisconsin, just south of I-94. Fighting a marsh fire is taxing on responders - often they must pull hoses or carry



## 2012-2013

### MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1  
WINTER 2012-13

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

#### COMMUNICATION: THE BACKBONE OF MABAS

BY GARY SCHMIDT

One of the reasons for the success of MABAS is the ability to get a large amount of the correct type of resources to a stricken community very quickly. This occurs because the same terminology is used by all departments

This issue of the newsletter focuses on those behind the scenes - the MABAS Dispatchers. Throughout this issue, you will find what the Comm Centers think of MABAS, what is working for them, and what can be improved. We will



### MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2  
SPRING 2013

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#### ACTIVE SHOOTER SCENARIOS

BY GARY SCHMIDT

In the Summer 2012 issue of this newsletter, there was an article that listed a sampling of the MABAS training exercises performed by Fire Departments throughout the State (see MABAS: A Key Partner in Protecting The

and fall of 2012, leaving eleven dead and seven others shot, including a Police Lieutenant who survived after he was shot 12 times with 3 additional rounds embedded in his protective vest.



### MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3  
SUMMER 2013

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#### ECHO FOODS - THE LARGEST MABAS DEPLOYMENT TO DATE

BY SOUTH SHORE FD DIVISION CHIEF MARK PIERCE, MABAS DIVISION 102 PRESIDENT

It was 6pm on a cold winter night of January 30, 2013 at the Echo Lake Foods processing plant when a fire was reported. The 70,000 square foot facility

The plant began in 1941 with numerous expansions over the years, straddling the boundary of the Town and City of Burlington, which is located in the far



### MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4  
FALL 2013

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

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

Tuesday July 23, 2013, started out as a very windy summer day in South Central Wisconsin, with gusts over 20 miles per hour. The temperature was already in the upper sixties at 6:30 that morning when

The Columbus Fire Department protects the city of 5,000 and also rural areas of Dodge County to the east and Dane



## 2013-2014

### MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1  
WINTER 2013-14

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#### SE REGION HAS FIVE CONCURRENT LIFE SAFETY BOXES

BY GARY SCHMIDT

The forecast for Sunday December 8, 2013 was for snow to fall in the afternoon. It was a surprise to everyone when it started falling shortly after 9am in southeastern Wisconsin. Before it was all over, 6 inches would fall, but it was the

conditions and lost control of their vehicles. Then other vehicles came upon completely stopped traffic and unimaginable collisions resulted and continued happening for 5-15 minutes at multiple locations.



### MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2  
SPRING 2014

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#### DIV 120 HIGH SCHOOL BLAZE NEEDS 5 MABAS ALARM LEVELS

BY MARK PETRIE, CHIEF, MT. CALVARY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

possibly needed, we started to set up water relays from the bottom of the hill. Hand line crews were inside the Main Building, holding the fire back from entering that structure. City of Fond du



### MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3  
SUMMER 2014

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#### MABAS NEEDED FOR LANDMARK BUSINESS FIRE IN DIV 102

BY GARY SCHMIDT

On Saturday April 5, 2014, within minutes of a Div 101 MABAS Box (66-02) being struck out 9 miles away, the

Fire then self-vented out the roof. Shortly after defensive attack began, the first floor collapsed into the basement of



### MABAS-WISCONSIN in ACTION

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FALL 2014

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#### DIV 109 IN ACTION - WORKERS TRAPPED 270 FEET UP

BY GARY SCHMIDT

Night was falling, snow was falling, temperatures were falling. It was time for the air sample collection team to call it a day and descend the 400 foot high smokestack. One by one, they were to use the one-person elevator that hugged the exterior of



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**MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION****Recent fires in Rock County trigger MABAS system**

Posted: Aug 06, 2014 10:02 PM CDT

Updated: Aug 21, 2014 10:02 PM CDT



By Pete Zervakis

**MABAS IN THE NEWS**

SUBMITTED BY ED JANKE, PRESIDENT, MABAS WI

ROCK COUNTY (WKOW) -- A pair of fires in Rock County this week triggered the Mutual Aid Box Alarm, or MABAS, system.

Randall Pickering, an Edgerton firefighter who also serves as Vice President of MABAS Wisconsin, said the system utilizes pre-written protocols to make sure fire departments around the state can efficiently and effectively help out other first responders dealing with large scale emergencies.

Pickering said MABAS agreements cover 95 percent of Wisconsin's population.

"It's a pre-planned way of making sure you have all the resources necessary to respond to whatever Mother Nature throws your way," Pickering said.

The MABAS system is based on index cards, officially dubbed "box cards," which are filled out by fire chiefs and EMS directors around the state. The cards detail which fire departments or EMS agencies dispatchers should call in certain, pre-planned scenarios.

For instance, Edgerton's MABAS cards call for Evansville, Stoughton and Footville to send engines to assist the Edgerton Fire Department in the event of a box alarm, structure fire in a rural area with no fire hydrants. The same card also instructs dispatchers to call for Stoughton, Fort Atkinson and Whitewater to send tender trucks.

Edgerton's box card detailing scenarios for structure fires in the city, where there are fire hydrants in all areas, calls for the City of Beloit, Fort Atkinson and Footville to send fire engines in the event of a box alarm. If the fire is more severe, officially dubbed a level two box alarm, Edgerton would also request engines from Cambridge, Brooklyn and Orfordville.

Pickering said the cards enable dispatchers to all at once contact the first responders needed at an emergency scene. He said such calls can take roughly 30 seconds. Pickering said a fire department trying to improvise on the fly and determine which agencies to summon while on scene would be wasting precious time.

"With MABAS... you're not standing out there not only trying to deal with the emergency itself, but also trying to figure out 'who do I call for help?'" Pickering said.

Pickering said the Edgerton Fire Department relied on MABAS for assistance in battling the fire at the Anchor Inn Monday morning. He said the mutual aid allowed firefighters to salvage the structure of the building and some of the owner's belongings inside, although damage was still estimated at \$500-thousand to \$1-million.

A MABAS call was also issued for a fatal house fire in Beloit Tuesday.

"We (fire departments) can assist each other when the worst possible scenario happens," said Beloit Fire Chief Brad Liggett.

Liggett said equally important to the extra firefighters and equipment MABAS provides at emergency scenes is the manpower summoned to back fill fire stations. The box cards provide instructions for which, neighboring agencies should staff empty fire stations when a municipality's full department is out on a major call.

"It's important to have those resources coming in so we can respond to other emergencies," Liggett said.

"Life is going to go on," Pickering said. "The world doesn't just stop because we have one, major fire."

Pickering said the MABAS system also relies on what he called an "80/20 system" to make sure it doesn't drain any one fire department's resources. He said no more than 20 percent of any one fire department is allowed to provide mutual aid at once.

"You don't want to strip your neighbor," he said. "You want to take a little bit from each neighbor instead of taking all those extra resources from one municipality."

"You don't want to strip any community in case they have another event to respond to," Pickering said.

*Reprinted with permission of WKOW Television, Inc.*

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

## DIV 102 IN ACTION - MABAS BOX STOPS BUSINESS FIRE FROM SPREADING *BY TIM STEIN*

A workshop outbuilding at Ron's Custom Built Cabinets at 8312 Gittings Road in Caledonia (just west of Racine) caught fire just before 8pm on **December 2, 2014**. The MABAS response, requested by the **South Shore Fire Department**, helped save other buildings.



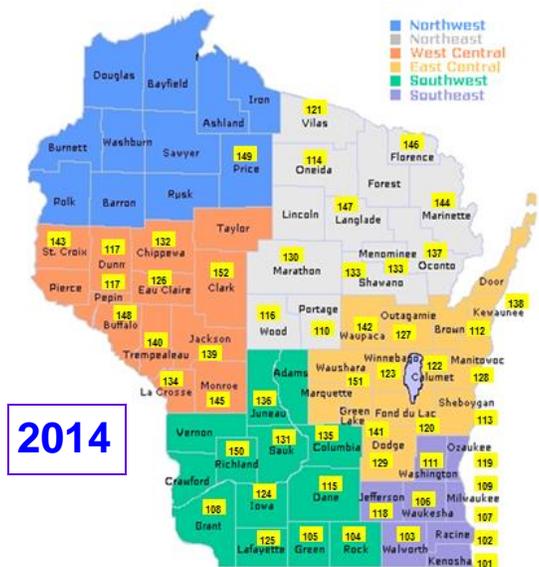
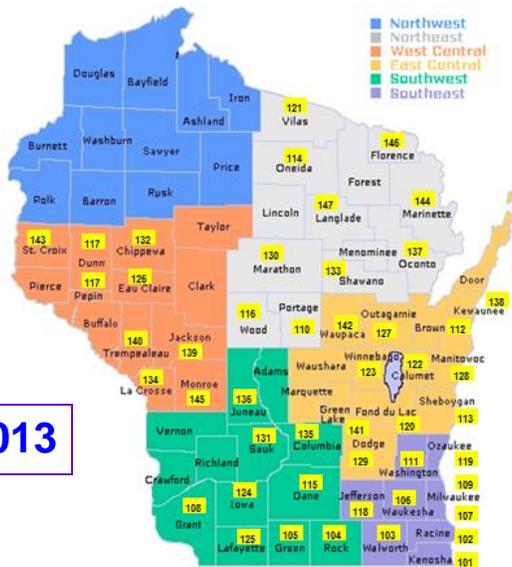
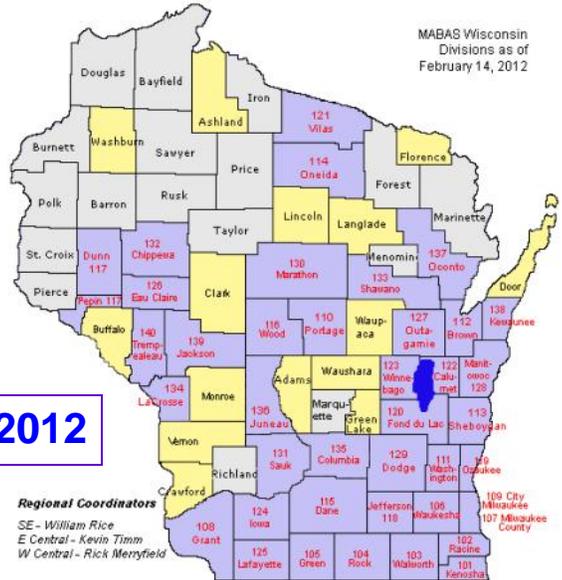
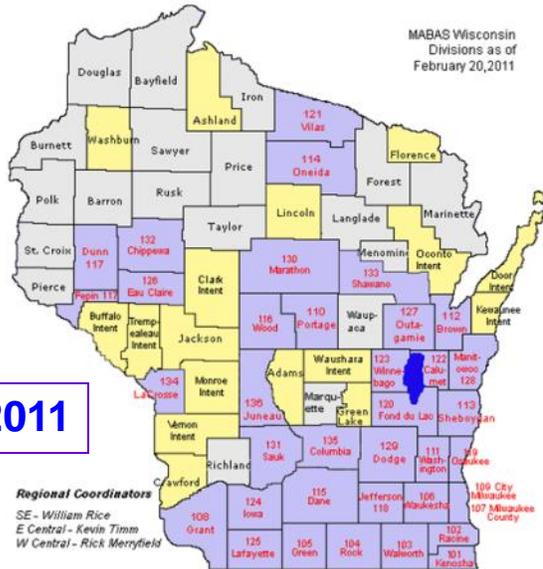
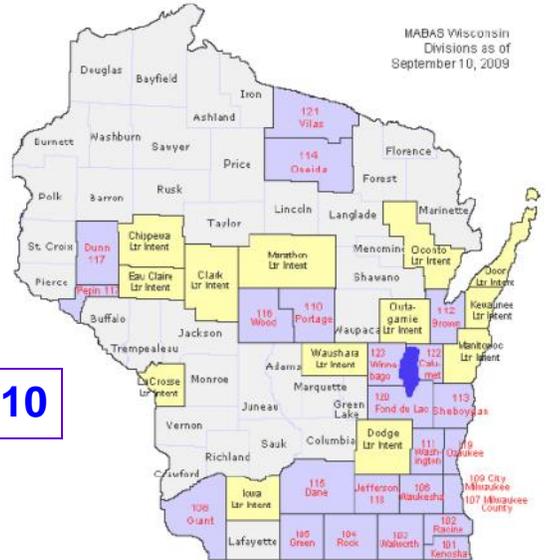
(All photos by Timothy J. Stein. These photos are located at [www.fvrpix.com](http://www.fvrpix.com) in the "Featured Galleries Area")

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

**MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION**

**THE GROWTH OF MABAS WISCONSIN DURING THE 5 YEARS OF THE NEWSLETTER**

Here are the MABAS Wisconsin Division Maps from the first issue of each year of the newsletter.



# MABAS ILLINOIS FIRE CHIEF REFLECTS ON REGIONAL GROWTH OF MABAS

BY CHIEF PAUL MAPLETHORPE, GREATER ROUND LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (MABAS-IL DIVISION 4)

Chief Maplethorpe is a subject matter expert regarding communications as a 35 year fire service veteran, has extensive experience working with MABAS, serves on the MABAS IL Executive Board as Comptroller, and serves on the Communications Committee. - Patrick Gallagher, Training Officer, Western Springs Department of Fire/EMS, MABAS IL Liaison to MABAS WI. Editor's note: MABAS-IL Div 4 shares a common border with MABAS-WI Div 101.

Having been involved with the organization of Division 101 in 1986-87, watching MABAS-WI grow has been fantastic. The positive impacts have been numerous, including cross-border (daily) mutual aid, interdivisional responses (Badger Cork x2, Burlington's Egg Factory, the meat packing plant south of Milwaukee), common communications plans, recognition of MABAS as **the** mutual aid system in the region. Chicago, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Madison, Peoria, Rockford, Springfield and even St. Louis all belong to the same mutual aid pact as Round Lake or Western Springs or even Taylorville. If I thought more, I'm sure that the benefits far exceed what is mentioned.

As for challenges, other than increased radio frequency congestion (which isn't as bad as some may perceive), I can't think of any.

This has been a common problem for years. The easiest solution is to mitigate unnecessary radio traffic on IFERN – however this has a huge learning curve. Like any dispatch frequency, when call volume increases, personnel need to use discretion in their radio traffic.

Dispatching on different frequencies will have many drawbacks, as responders routinely cross state lines on incidents. In addition, when divisions get busy, it affects subsequent alarms by reducing available units (departments).

A good example of this was the January 9, 2009 tornado event that affected Boone and McHenry counties in IL and Walworth and Kenosha counties in WI.

Divisions 5, 8 and 101 all had box alarms. Division 4 was responding with Haz-Mat to Harvard and Tech

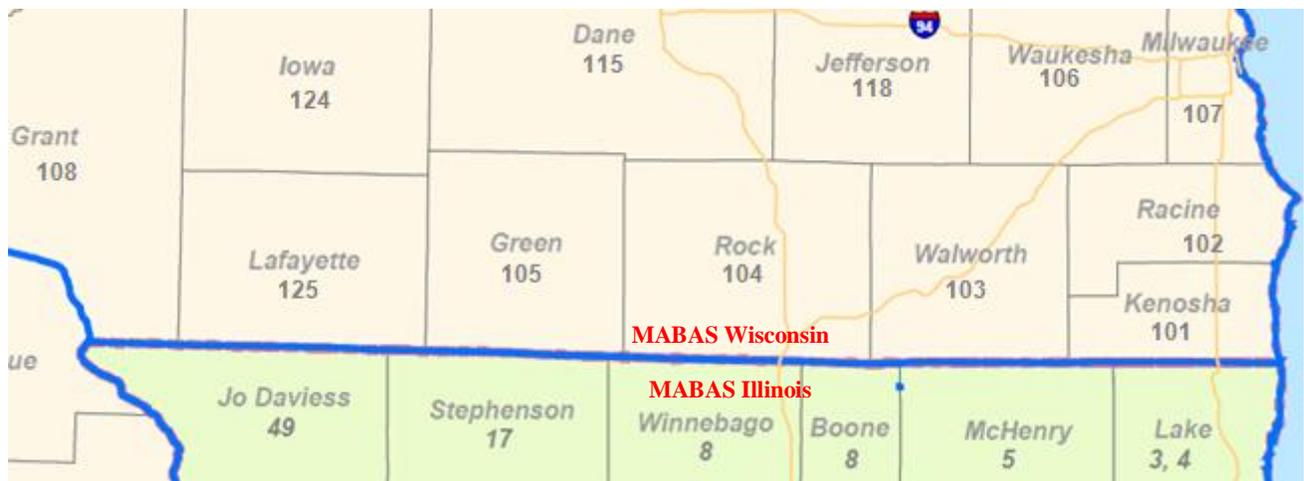
Rescue to two locations in Kenosha County.

It worked, because it allowed good coordination of all resources from the Divisional dispatch. In addition, Division 5's dispatch was overwhelmed during this event, and Division 4 assumed dispatch responsibility for the Division 5 haz-mat incident.

## Div 108 to IL Train Wreck

By Steve Tranel, Fire Chief, Cuba City Fire Department

On Thursday March 5, 2015, a train consisting of over 100 Bakken crude oil cars derailed near Galena IL, causing more than a dozen to erupt in fire. The event lasted multiple days. MABAS Div 108, Grant County borders the affected area. Five tenders from Div 108 responded, although it was not a MABAS event.



**How to Receive MABAS Emails**  
Visit the list server site, enter your email address & name and click "subscribe":  
<http://mailman.wsfca.com/mailman/listinfo/mabas>



# MABAS – Wisconsin

## Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Organized 2004

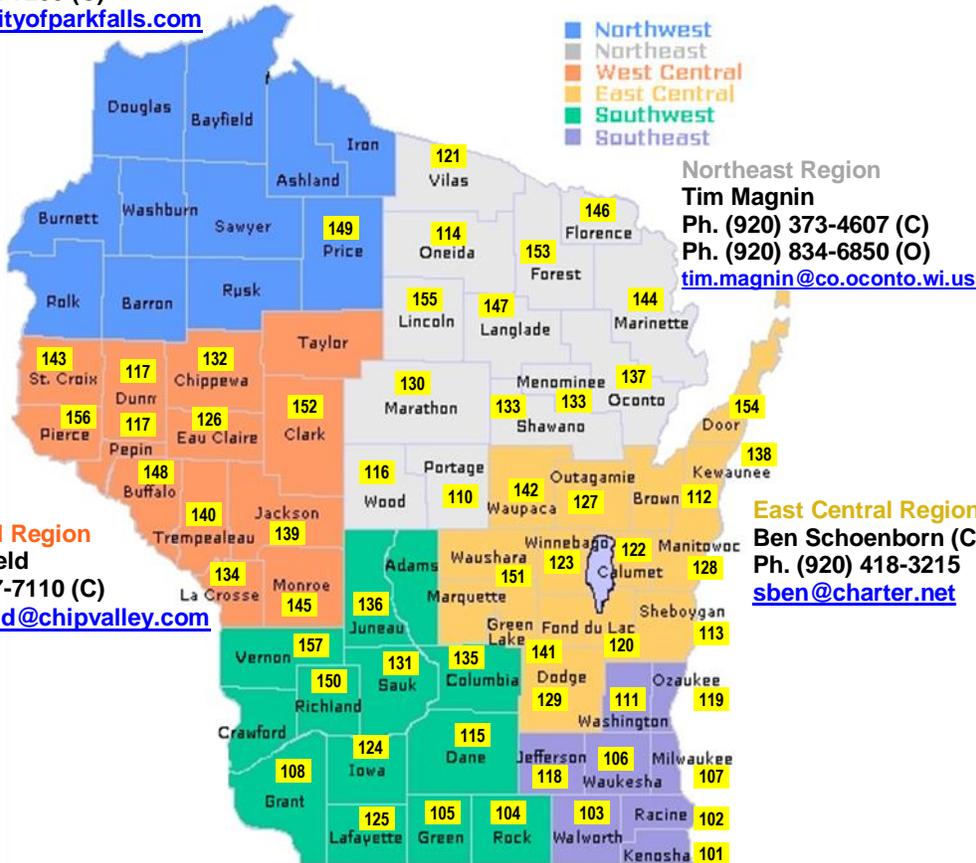
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#### Divisions

- 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

#### Wisconsin Homeland Security Council

Brad Liggett

Ph. (608) 364-2902

Ph. (608) 751-6201 (C)

#### 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

#### Red Center

Ph. 608-757-4000

#### WEM Duty Officer

Ph. 800-943-0003

#### Fire Service Coordinator

Keith Tveit

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