

GOT YOUR BACK TALK

MABAS Illinois



Volume 21.1

In This Issue

From the President:

by Chief Don Davids

Greetings to all MABAS Members,

We made it through 2020! Most of us would have never imagined the challenges that presented themselves over the past year. Like almost any other type of incidents, the chiefs, officers, and members of the fire departments and fire districts of Illinois adapted and overcame those challenges. I know that we are not finished with challenges, and just when you think you have encountered those things that have kept you up at night, something else manages to present itself and cause issues.

I know I have mentioned this before, but MABAS is still working closely with IEMA and IDPH on how to support the residents and departments of Illinois with staff and equipment for managing the situations created by the COVID-19 pandemic. MABAS has received over 300 tasking's from IEMA and all divisions have responded well. We continue to monitor equipment conditions and adjust items as requested. If you know of issues with deployed equipment, please contact your Branch Operations Chief and let them know about it.

By now, most of you have probably been informed that the annual MABAS training summits for chiefs and dispatchers that we planned to hold in February 2021 in Bloomington have been cancelled for this year. MABAS staff is working to schedule electronic meetings to support our standing committees to make sure we are supporting our special teams as well as we can. The information those committees provide is critical for grant funding requests and equipment support. Committee co-chairs should have received notification of when their meeting is scheduled.

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Next Executive Board Meeting

February 24, 2021

5 Crucial Cold Weather Tips for Preparing Your House for Winter

Our winterizing your home checklist will help you keep your house cozy and safe from winter's frigid assault.

Preparing your house for winter may not be on the top of your to-do list right now. After all, most of us wouldn't rather spend their down time doing home maintenance tasks when they could be enjoying the fall foliage, going apple picking, or sipping pumpkin-spiced lattes instead of winterizing their house. But, here's the reality: you can't procrastinate if you want your home to be fully prepared for the winter elements.

Indeed, cold weather, ice, and snow can do real damage to your home — unless you take the time to prepare it before the winter chill takes hold. Completing this checklist will effectively winterize your home — and make your abode a lot more enjoyable when the thermometer dips.

Insulate Windows

Winter drafts can drive up your energy bill — and detract from the cozy vibe you want inside your home when it's cold outside — if your windows have any air leaks. But by reducing drafts you can lower your home's energy costs by up to 20% per year, according to the U.S. Energy Department, while also making your living space more comfortable.

Here are five simple solutions (all under \$8!) that will allow you to insulate your windows quickly:

1. **V-seal weather stripping.** Add this plastic weather stripping along the sides of the sashes. Windows can open and shut evenly with the V-seal in place. (Pro tip: Weather stripping also works wonders on doors.)

2. **Rope caulk.** This soft, sticky stuff can be molded to fill the gap — and the caulk removes easily at the end of the cold season.

3. **Shrink film.** Applied with double-sided tape, this clear plastic sheeting shrinks drum-tight when heated with a hair dryer. The film seals off drafts and captures an insulating buffer of air. Use rubbing alcohol to help release the tape in the spring to avoid stripping off any paint.

4. **Nail polish.** If carefully applied, clear polish fills the crack almost invisibly. Once hardened, it will stabilize the glass until you can replace it in the spring.

5. **Draft snake.** If the bottom of your window is letting in cold air, buy a foam-and-fabric draft snake kit. Cut the 36-inch foam tube provided to length and slip the washable cover over it. Then place the snake on the sill, and shut the window on to seal the deal.

Trim Tree Branches



The last thing you need is a winter storm loosing the wrath of that mighty tree whose branches are angling over your roof. Not to mention, overhanging limbs can cause excess water to seep into cracks in your home's roof or siding, which is why you want to make sure any tree limbs or branches surrounding your home are at least 3 feet away from the house.

Inspect Your Fireplace

A visual inspection, both inside and outside your home, can ensure that your wood-burning fireplace is in good shape (read: safe) for the burning season.

During an outdoor inspection, make sure:

- A chimney cap is present and in good condition.

- There is no bird nest or debris buildup on the cap.
- There are no tree limbs above or near the chimney.
- The mortar and bricks on the chimney aren't crumbling or missing.
- The chimney rises at least 2 feet above where it exits the roof.
- The chimney crown — the sloping cement shoulders at the top of the chimney — is beveled, which helps air flow.
- The flue liner is visible above the chimney crown.
- The chimney is plumb and not leaning to one side or the other.
- The roof flashing is tight against the chimney.
- Inside your home, confirm that:
 - The flue damper opens, closes, and seals properly.
 - There are no combustible materials, such as animal nests, or other foreign objects in the flue.
 - The fireplace surround, hearth, and firebox have no cracked bricks or missing mortar.
- If you spot any damage, order a professional fireplace and chimney inspection. An inspection costs, on average, between \$79 and \$500, depending on whether you're ordering a level-one or level-two inspection.
- Gas fireplaces require less maintenance, but you should still:
 - Inspect the glass doors for cracks or latch issues.

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A Message from MABAS-Illinois

By: Chief Glenn Ericksen

As we welcome in 2021 and leave 2020 behind, we see there are still many challenges ahead for MABAS. The COVID 19 pandemic is still as strong as ever but there is hope in the form of the vaccines. MABAS is working with health officials to see where MABAS members may be called upon to assist in the monumental task of vaccinating millions of Illinois residents along with the first responders.

As I am writing this article, the country will be inaugurating a new President and Congress in the wake of the devastating violence at the Capitol Building. We will be watching to see how the new administration addresses the needs of the fire service and the grant funding that supports the ability of MABAS to continue to provide the response capabilities the State will continue to need. The focus since 9/11 has been to prepare for foreign terrorism, but the events of January 6th has added a new dimension of domestic violence.

In 2012 the Illinois Emergency Management Agency conducted a series of summits to determine the level of Homeland Security readiness in Illinois. It led to the creation of a report titled, "Vison 2020." 2020 has come and gone and it is time to look forward to the future of MABAS given the uncertain economic climate in Illinois and the changing priorities in Washington D.C. MABAS will be creating a "MABAS 2025 – Vision Document" in the next few months.



The MABAS Leadership Board will be reviewing and discussing the report in January as the first step. Everyone in MABAS has worked too hard, and invested too much, for us not make every effort to identify how to maintain MABAS in the future. We will probably discuss this more at the February 24th Executive Board meeting.

We are approaching the time where we would be staging the annual MABAS Summit in Bloomington/Normal. The event had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, but we are still moving forward with some portions of the Summit. One of the new realities under the pandemic restrictions is the increased use of electronic media platforms such as Zoom or Teams to host meetings where face-to-face attendance is impossible. At the beginning of each Summit the MABAS Committees gather to establish new priorities and needs assessments while meeting individually. We did not want this important work by the MABAS Committees to slip without the Summit so we will be holding these meetings virtually and continue the great work by the members of the individual Committees. We thank all those who work on these Committees and provide guidance to the Leadership Board and Staff.

Again, we would like to thank all those who have aided in the fight against COVID 19 throughout the State and look forward to a time when the pandemic is history. Stay safe and continue to support each other.

See map on page 5

From the President

Continued from page 1

Information provided from various health departments and IDPH seem to indicate that some areas of the state are well on their way to getting first responders vaccinated and that is great news. Please stay in contact with your local EMS systems and county health departments to receive the most up-to-date information and make sure they know what your department/district needs are.

The next MABAS executive board meeting is scheduled for February 24 at the MABAS Readiness Center and two remote sites - IFSI in Champaign and Southern Illinois Airport in Carbondale. The information about the meeting including the agenda and site access has been sent to all divisions. There are two spots on the elected leadership team up for a vote at this meeting so please make sure to attend so we have an appropriate number of members voting.

Please stay safe, wear a mask when appropriate, wash your hands, and get the vaccine if you can.

Respectfully,

Don Davids
President, MABAS-IL
davids@mabas-il.org

5 Crucial Cold Weather Tips for Preparing Your

Continued from page 2

- Check that the gas logs are in the proper position.
- Turn gas off at the shut-off valve and test the igniter.

Ignite the fire and look for clogged burner holes. If present, turn off gas and clear obstructions with a pin or needle.

Check the Roof

You certainly don't want to find out you have a leaky roof *after* the first snow hits. A roof inspection can help you spot any potential issues.

Squeamish about heights? Don't worry — you can do a thorough inspection from the ground using a pair of binoculars.

Work your way around your house, looking for these defects:

- Cracked caulk or rust spots on flashing.
- Shingles that are buckling, curling, or blistering.
- Missing or broken shingles.
- Cracked and worn rubber boots around vent pipes.
- Masses of moss and lichen, which could signal the roof is decaying underneath. Black algae stains are just cosmetic.

Some roofing fixes are easy to do yourself, such as repairing shingles or caulking flashing, if you're comfortable working on a roof. If you're not, you'll want to consult a specialized roof inspector. Be prepared to pay between \$119 and \$296 for a standard roof inspection.

Clear Out Gutters and Downspouts

Clogged rain gutters or downspouts can damage your home's foundation or cause ice dams, which can lead to expensive repairs. So, after the leaves have fallen, clean your gutters to remove leaves, twigs, and gunk. Also, make sure the gutters aren't sagging and trapping water, tighten gutter hangers and downspout brackets, and replace any worn or damaged materials.

https://www.houselogic.com/organize-maintain/home-maintenance-tips/5-crucial-cold-weather-tips-for-preparing-your-house-for-winter/?cid=eo_em_sse_hlsse&email-refer=1

Article recommended by Ed Gibis. Ed is responsible for maintaining all apparatus at MABAS readiness Center

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Customized MABAS Division Apparel

MABAS' previous apparel vendor, US Safety Products, has some remaining customized apparel items with Division numbers. US Safety Products can be contacted at 708-747-7639. There is a limited quantity of these customized items available.

MABAS is looking to get your department logo!!!

MABAS would like for you to email your department logo to us. We are using department logos for Tier II cards.



MABAS-IL Electronic Inventory Update

Each Division has recently received a message from MABAS-IL CEO Glenn Ericksen regarding the documentation and tracking of their MABAS issued assets. All MABAS issued assets are purchased with Grant Funds which require documentation of use and periodical audits. The audits are used to prove the funds were spent and maintained per the grant agreement, thus the need for an inventory tracking program.

When MABAS started purchasing and accumulating equipment and assets they used a program called Asset Trax. At that time there were no guidelines regulating data entry, standardized inventories and with multiple people entering info for 69 Divisions, 45+ Hazmat Teams, 45+ Technical Rescue Teams, Water Rescue Teams and multiple Decon & Air Trucks, MVU's, MSU's and many other MABAS assets, records were very random. This led to inconsistent data which could put the MABAS program at financial risk. In an attempt to correct these short falls, MABAS has elected to utilize a different software package

(Salamander) that they already own and use for personnel deployment tags. The Salamander program is internet based so data can be accessed by any



computer, tablet or cell phone with the Salamander App. The program has many more features that we are trying to utilize.

A new Inventory policy was established and approved at the Feb 2020 MABAS-IL Executive Board Meeting. The old database was converted to a spreadsheet to allow it to be reviewed, edited and separated per Division. The spreadsheets were then sent to each Division for confirmation of possession and verification of the data.

Each inventory spreadsheet is then adjusted for content and verified a second time.

When verified correct, the data is then uploaded into the Salamander program, an Inventory ID number is generated by the program, a separate "Other ID" is generated by MABAS and QR Code labels printed. The label is applied to each item and a photo taken and linked to the QR code.

At each annual SAV review, the Branch Chief will scan the QR code for proof of inventory. The items can also be scanned to document repairs, status changes and removal from service. The ultimate goal is to be able to track all MABAS equipment from initial quote through final disposal including all of those documents attached.

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Freeport Fire Department
MABAS 17 Secretary
MABAS 17 TRT Coordinator
IL-TF1 Logistics Manager
korte@mabas-il.org
815-541-8667



Benton Fire Department

107 N. Maple Street

Benton, IL 62812

Phone: 618-439-2511 Fax: 618-438-0704

"An Ounce of Prevention, is Worth a Ton of Water"

1/2/21

RE: MABAS/Sonar

For as long as I can remember, Dive Rescue Operations in Southern Illinois have been short of stellar. Although we did our very best, the lack of manpower and budget to properly handle a water rescue incident weighed critical on our success. While we persevered, we were just too often faced with long operations that taxed the physical and mental health of our men and women operating, the community's additional emergency response requirements and most importantly, the families of those who's loved ones hadn't arrived home. That all changed with the help of the great folks of MABAS ILLINOIS when our southern divisions of 68/45 received the support of MABAS and the Sector Scan Sonar Unit. This unit has an immediate impact and has brought closure to multiple families and assisted law enforcement on major cases in just a few short months. Additionally, it has brought a group of first responders together and strengthened our partnership, allowing our divisions greater safety and efficiency while operating in such dangerous of an environment. We are very grateful and I know first-hand how extremely thankful the families of those we serve are to have wonderful assets such as those provided by MABAS Illinois to our region.

Yours in Service,

Shane Cockrum
MABAS Div. 68 President
City of Benton Fire Chief

COVID-19 RESPONSE LINE OF EFFORTS

By: Chief Lyne

MABAS currently has 70 Western Shelter (WS) tent systems deployed around the state to support the various COVID-19 response line of efforts (LOE). This number includes 45 divisional WS or expedient shelter systems and 25 MABAS centralized tent systems. At its peak, MABAS had 82 WS tent systems deployed. This response effort has been a massive undertaking. MABAS has been working on a daily basis with IEMA and IDPH on this effort to put WS tent systems at hospitals and health care facilities. Additionally, MABAS has worked with the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) to support statewide mission taskings to provide WS tent systems at correctional facilities. WS systems have been used to support the Illinois National Guard at Com-

munity Based Test Sites (CBTS), law enforcement agencies and flood response efforts. As the COVID-19 vaccination distribution expands, there is outreach by IEMA to potentially support distribution pods with MABAS resources.

While it is uncertain when the COVID-19 response LOE will end, we do anticipate a slow demobilization of WS tent systems and other deployed resources (generator light towers - GLT's, Mission Support Units - MSU's, etc.). Divisions will be notified when their WS are ready for demobilization. As part of the demobilization process, divisions will be tasked to provide an inventory of damaged tent items or parts that need replacement. The MABAS Branch Chiefs will coordinate with the divisions so that the

needed parts are available during the demobilization process. Periodic inspections and surveys are being completed to identify up front what tent parts are needed. Overall, the long term deployed WS have held up well.

Please contact your Branch Chief if you are notified directly by a hospital or health care facility to demobilize your WS system. The Branch Chiefs in turn, will coordinate with IDPH to insure the demobilization process is carried out properly.

In 2020, all 69 MABAS divisions had provided some support, resources or personnel to support the statewide COVID-19 LOE. Thank you for your continued efforts!

HARDIN COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL AND CLINIC



Volunteers from Hardin Co EMA, Rosiclare Fire Dept., and Pope/Hardin Ambulance service assisted MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) in setting up a climate controlled tent outside the Emergency Room entrance of the hospital. The tent will be used for testing and treating COVID patients out of the weather.



To All MABAS Division Boards, MABAS Elected Leadership Committee, Board Packet Recipients and MABAS Staff

MABAS Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2021 - 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

This meeting will be held in three locations.

MABAS Readiness Center

233 West Hintz Road

Wheeling, IL 60090

Illinois Fire Service Institute

11 Gerty Drive, Paratech Room

Learning Resource and Research Ctr

Champaign, IL 61820

Southern Illinois Airport

3470 New Era Rd., 2nd Floor

Emergency Ops Center

Murphysboro, IL 62966

MABAS Incident Reporting

A new way of reporting MABAS box alarms requests has been developed in the past months. Previously using spread sheets sent to MABAS headquarters, our new development is completely electronic.

If you are responsible for reporting within your division, you should have received a username and password. The link for the Incident Reporting can be found on MABAS's web site (www.mabas-il.org). On the top banner you will click on Dispatchers then click on PSAP – Inci-

dent Reporting. You will be prompted for your username and password. Within this site you will need to answer several questions based on the box alarm level. The information that we receive is compiled annually for a report that is given to the State of Illinois.

The more accurate the information is the better we can describe the importance of having MABAS as a resource for Illinois Fire Departments. We will soon be sending out usernames and passwords to all fire departments. This will be used to

document when a MABAS asset is used, not just on an emergency call. A few examples would be parades, training, or founders' days for your town.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Tim Littlefield 847-403-0511

Generator Light Tower Safety



Recently, an agency received a safety notice from the Department of Labor concerning fraying on a cable on the generator light tower. The cable is part of the light standard raising/lowering mechanism. Please take a moment to visually inspect this cable. Divisions should contact their Branch Chief with any questions regarding MABAS assigned resources.



How Illinois USAR Task Force 1 Ensures Personnel Readiness with D4H



USAR operations are unique in that specialized training and equipment are required to mitigate the incident in the safest and most efficient manner possible. [D4H Personnel & Training](#) allows IL-TF1 to easily see if any members are missing qualifications based on the expectations for their role and proactive alerts ensure no lapse in training. IL-TF1 can now summarize the entire task-force down to a single green traffic light as ready-to-go.



FAST FACTS



Fou

Captain Donald Kuhn

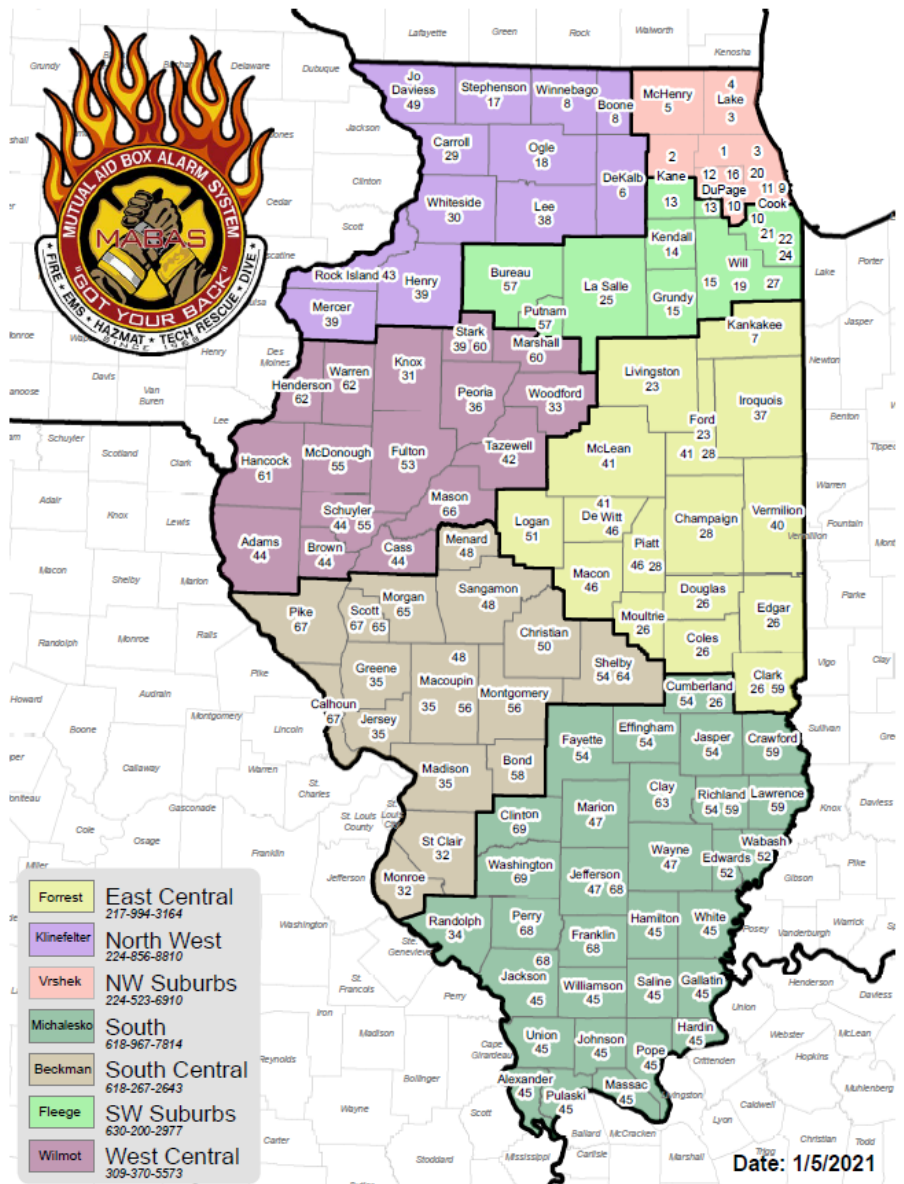
Captain Donald Kuhn is noted for the MABAS concept. In 1968 Captain Kuhn had the idea of implementing MABAS box cards in the suburbs of Chicago to help with much needed assistance during an emergency when suburban departments depleted their resources.

Fun Fact

Three presidents, all Founding Fathers—John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe—died on July 4. Presidents Adams and Jefferson also died the same year, 1826; President Monroe died in 1831. Coincidence? You decide.

constitutioncenter.org

MABAS Division Map
With Branch Chiefs



For More Information

MABAS, Illinois
847-403-0500



Questions/Comments

If your Department or Division has responded to a call or had a big event and you would like MABAS to add it to this newsletter, or you have any questions or comments about the newsletters? If so, please feel free to email or call us. We look forward to any and all suggestions or comments.

Email—Littlefield@mabas-il.org

Phone—847-403-0511

Illinois Task Force 1



October 14 - 15 Trench Training at Operating Engineers Local 150 in Wilmington IL – TF 1 members working in “T” Trench environment, using Paratech Struts and support equipment.



November 11 -12 IL TF 1 Training

Confined Space / Haz Mat at North Aurora training site

Members were tasked with rescuing trapped workers at multiple locations. Hazardous atmosphere, debris removal, and Comms / SABA line management were challenges built into the scenario.

MABAS Foundation

Partners



Each month on 'Inside Darley' Paul Darley highlights industry trends, new products, best practices, thought leadership and more. The videos typically last about 4 minutes and are supplemented with insightful articles and resources. We invite the MABAS community to watch our October series here and if you want even more content, we hope you'll subscribe.

The latest video can be found here <https://darley.com/about/entry/inside-darley-october-2020>

People can sign up for newsletters here: <https://darley.com/about/newsletter-signup>



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