

GOT YOUR BACK TALK

MABAS Illinois



Volume 24.2

In This Issue

From the President:

by Chief Don Davids

Greetings to all MABAS Members,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying our changing weather. The recently held MABAS Command and Communications Summits in Bloomington were very well attended and we had a lot of interesting speakers and vendor interactions. Our committees worked hard the first day of the summit to help direct special teams' activities, equipment needs and long-term plans. I greatly appreciate the time that these committee members spend helping to enhance our abilities to protect all our communities.

Please remember that if you have questions on MABAS equipment or any other MABAS related issue, please reach out to your MABAS Branch Operations Chief or staff at the MRC so we can assist you.

We had a very good turnout for the MABAS executive board meeting on February 21 and the elections of 2 of the current board members went

smoothly. We did encounter an issue with the vote for the updated bylaws. There is a 2/3 majority requirement to make changes to the bylaws and we were short several divisions to pass the changes. We anticipate having the by-law update at the next meeting which will be in Peoria in conjunction with the IFCA symposium on May 23.

We will also vote on filling the Vice President slot that is open. Please try to have a representative in attendance in person or at one of the remote sites. More information will be available about the sites soon.

Please stay safe and keep up the good work of protecting your communities.

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

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Thanks to all who attended the MABAS Summits!

SPRING

Along with spring cleaning, let's take the time to make sure our homes and family are safe from the threat of fire.

Here is a check list you should go over with your family:

⇒ ***Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half***

- ❑ Ensure smoke alarms are installed inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement
- ❑ Test them at least once a month by pushing the test button
- ❑ Replace the batteries in all smoke alarms. Best way to remember is when you change your clocks, change your batteries.

⇒ ***The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.***

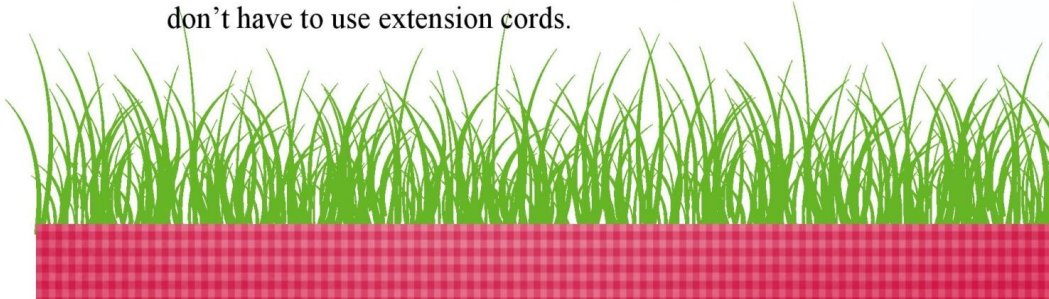
- ❑ Clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- ❑ Keep the area around your dryer clear of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing.

⇒ ***Most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop.***

- ❑ Keep anything that can catch fire - oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains - away from your stovetop.
- ❑ Always stay in the kitchen when frying on the stovetop.

⇒ ***Extension cord fires outnumbered fires beginning with permanent or detachable power cords by two-to-one.***

- ❑ Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use.
- ❑ Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.





A Message from MABAS-Illinois

By: Chief Glenn Ericksen

Spring has arrived, even though it may not feel like it as this is being written, and with it brings a number of changes here at MABAS. Three longtime staff members here at MABAS will be leaving us in mid-April. Jeanie Mercier – Administrative Assistant Special Projects, Kim Szlak – Administrative Assistant and Ray Kay – Homeland Security Branch Chief Cook County will be leaving a large void to fill. Each one of these individuals have given exemplary service to MABAS and their institutional knowledge will be greatly missed. Please be patient with MABAS HQ as we work to fill these positions. Thank you, Jeanie, Kim and Ray as we wish you well in your future endeavors.

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2024 MABAS Summit last February and thanks to the MABAS Staff members who staged the successful event. Attendance was up from the previous Summits after the pandemic and reviews for the overall program were positive. The hotel staff at the Marriott Bloomington/Normal went well

and beyond to make the event a positive experience for all attendees and we thank them for their efforts. Please try to attend next years MABAS Summit beginning February 16, 2025 in Bloomington/Normal.

The process to finalize the new Master MABAS Agreement continues with staff working to correct some clerical issues with some submittals. Overall,



the process has been a success as only 15 Illinois fire agencies have chosen not to remain part of MABAS to date. We will continue to work with these departments in order to bring them back into the fold if possible.

The next MABAS Executive Board meeting will be held Thursday May 23, 2024 at the conclusion of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Symposium in East Peoria. The meeting will be video

-conferenced at four other locations throughout the state in order to improve the opportunity for more division representative to attend the meeting. The changes to the MABAS Bylaws, which will be an agenda item, require approval by 2/3 of the divisions, or 46 affirmative votes. Please watch for the meeting notice to come out later this month and try to attend at one of the sites. There will also be a special election held to fill the vacant 2nd Vice President position. Currently there are two candidates running to fill the vacancy.

Also, with the coming of Spring comes the new grant budget process in Springfield. Once again, we are dealing with cuts to the Federal grants and an uncertain amount of funding Illinois will receive from FEMA and the uncertainty this presents to MABAS in maintaining operational readiness. We will continue to work with the State to fill these potential budget gaps. Hopefully we will have more information available at the May Executive Board meeting.

Thank you everyone for your support of MABAS and stay healthy and safe.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
MAY 23, 2024

MABAS-IL Change-of-Quarters Knox-Box® System

Fire departments anticipating being tied up for a length of time on a multiple alarm fire or other large or complicated incident often (and should) include Change-of Quarter (COQ) companies on their MABAS Box Alarm Cards in order to have Mutual Aid departments move into their station(s) to provide response protection for other possible incidents in their village, municipality or district. In “the old days” the hosting department could simply leave their station unlocked so incoming companies could walk right in. But these days, fire stations are advised not to leave their stations open.



#3275

In early 2002 MABAS-IL, through the Knox Company, instituted a unique COQ Knox-Box® system to facilitate ease of entry by incoming COQ companies to an otherwise empty station. This a voluntary participation program available to all MABAS-member fire departments in Illinois.

Here’s how it works: Dealing with the MABAS-IL Knox-Box Program Coordinator, a member fire station purchases a small key safe for mounting on the exterior of their station. Once the box is securely mounted, they lock their station key/card/fob/entry code inside the key safe. Incoming COQ companies participating in the program then use their MABAS-IL key to open the key safe to get the key, etc. to

then access the station. The simplicity of the program is that participating fire departments have to carry just one statewide COQ program key on their outgoing COQ vehicles to gain access to any and all participating fire stations.

Want to know more about the program? Contact Chief (ret.) Harry Tallacksen via email at tallacksen@mabas-il.org or via phone at 815-262-4374.



#3264

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS



Jeanie Mercier

MABAS Illinois is sad to announce the retirement of our longtime Administrative Assistant of Special Projects, Jeanie Mercier. Jeanie was the longest tenured employee of MABAS Illinois, and will be missed by all.



Ray Kay

Also, our Intelligence Liaison for Cook County, Ray Kay will be departing to take a position with the Illinois Fire Chiefs. We wish Ray all the best in his new position.



Kim Szlak

And last, but not least, everyone's helper and favorite Administrative Assistant, Kim Szlak, will be leaving us for a position with Salamander Live. Kim was everyone's "go-to" person for both internal and statewide administrative issues. Kim will be greatly missed by everyone.

Want to help your Fire Department?

– *Learn Facts versus Fiction in today's world*



Fire Intelligence Liaison Officer (FILO)



A Collaboration Between the Fire Service in Illinois and
The Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC)

There are Two ways to participate and improve your situational awareness:

Individual Information Receiver (IR)

Become part of the daily information distribution that could:

- Improve Firefighter/Responder Safety
- Improve preparedness in your jurisdiction
- Maintain Weather Awareness for safety

Or

Fire Intelligence Liaison Officer (FILO) for your department/Division

- Become an IR
- Work within your Division supporting the Information Sharing needs of your department and region
- Eligibility to receive additional training opportunities to support FILO mission

Feedback:

Through the FILO Program, feedback is provided to the STIC.

- The network of FILO's across Illinois can provide information to the STIC that may protect responders, save lives and protect property
- **Disaster Intelligence**, described as ground truth, reported by FILO's to the STIC and MABAS when calamities strike will:
 - Reduce the response time for larger scaled resources
 - Reduce the response time of assisting disciplines
 - Inform & improve decision making by cooperation and coordinating agencies
- Reporting unusual actions or activities
 - Suspicious Actions or Activities **MUST BE** reported to local law enforcement

More information is available at the MABAS-IL website:

<https://www.mabas-il.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2022-FILO-Brochure.pdf>



MABAS ILLINOIS

NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

MABAS utilizes three different types of systems to notify Dispatch Agencies, Divisional Executive Boards, and members for situational awareness and escalating events. These systems are redundant to reduce failures in sending out notifications. Please see below of a description of each.



Constant Contact is used for general non-emergent notifications for MABAS Illinois and the MABAS Foundation.



OnSolve is used for deployment and operational messaging for MABAS Illinois



Regroup is used for deployment and operational messaging for MABAS Illinois

MABAS will be implementing notification testing starting in May 2024.

TOUR OF MABAS

On Saturday, March 30th, numerous dignitaries from the Villages of Arlington Heights and Hoffman Estates visited the MABAS Readiness Center (MRC) in Wheeling. The group of eleven visitors was shown a brief presentation on MABAS, which included the history of MABAS, our Administrative Structure, local and field assigned resources, and events that MABAS Illinois and Illinois Task Force 1 has deployed to over the years.



After the presentation, the group was given a tour of the entire facility. The walk-through included explaining the multiple uses of the building, the in-house apparatus, equipment and resources of MABAS Illinois and IL-TF 1.



We welcome all visitors from the fire service to come and see what you are a part of. If any members of your fire department or local administration is interested in a tour of the MRC, feel free to contact us to schedule a visit at 847-403-0500.

Thanks for the very informative briefing, tour, and photos.

Comforting to know that MABAS has our back!

Best regards,

Tom Hayes

Mayor, Village of Arlington Heights



NEW LENOX SAFE COMMUNITIES HEALTH AND SAFETY EXPO



Despite the rain limiting access to the vehicles on display, the event was a huge success. MABAS had a display table along with our friends from E-Environmental Solutions, and Project Fire Buddies, as well as representatives from over 50 agencies.

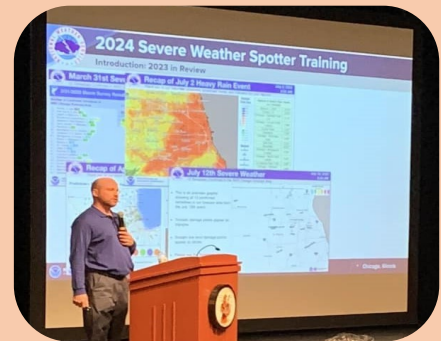


Patrick Hardin & Mark Sikorski



Dan Martin New Lenox Safe Communities
Coordinator

Wednesday night, April 3rd Patrick Hardin, USAR Operations Branch Chief, and Mark Sikorski, MABAS Plans Administrator, represented MABAS Illinois at the New Lenox Safe Communities Health and Safety Expo and Touch-a-Truck event which took at LincolnWay West High School.



After the Health and Safety Expo, Mike Bardou and Zack Yack from the National Weather Service – Romeoville presented a seminar on Severe Weather Spotting, which filled the High School auditorium.

[For more information on Project Fire Buddies see page 16](#)

ILLINOIS TASK FORCE 1

IL TF – 1 is working on reducing cost of Deployments

Illinois Task Force 1 members have been tasked with reviewing and updating the Equipment Cache and load plan. With input and data from State Urban Search and Rescue Alliance (SUSAR) and Indiana INTF 1, the Team is heading in the right direction with reducing the vehicle footprint. With the reduction, the team is reducing number of vehicles needed for transportation, lowering the cost of fuel, and daily cost. All function groups are participating in the project.



*FOLLOWING THE FEMA
EQUIPMENT CACHE LIST
RESCUE ALONE HAVE
REDUCED FROM 3 CANS
TO ONE SKID.*



THANK YOU!



**A big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who attended
the
2024 MABAS Command and Communications
Summits!**

AND....SAVE THE DATES

**The 2025 MABAS Summits will again be held at
The Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and
Convention Center**

The Command Summit will be held

February 17th – 19th

The Communications Summit will be held

February 19th – 21st



TRAINING REIMBURSEMENT REMINDER

By: Chief Lyons

With spring and summer comes the return of essential training courses. Remember:

- Only personnel listed in CIMS 3.0 as Statewide Deployable Team members at least 6 weeks prior to the start of the course are eligible for reimbursement. **Be sure the get your roster, and training roster into CIMS 3.0.**
- Reimbursement requests **MUST BE submitted to MABAS within 30 days after the completion of the course.** This is very important, as MABAS cannot guarantee reimbursement on late submissions.
- Personnel are not reimbursed for travel, but are reimbursed for lodging and tax at 50% of the state reimbursement rate, providing the sponsoring department is over 50 miles away from the course location.

Please contact Administrative Section Chief Bernie Lyons, lyons@mabas-il.org, if you have any questions regarding training reimbursements.

TORNADO SAFETY FOR EMPLOYERS



Label Shelter Locations: Use small interior rooms or hallways on the lowest level (away from windows, doors).



Ensure Accountability: Develop an emergency response plan and checklists to assign roles and account for everyone onsite.



Have Disaster Supplies: Keep first aid kits, food, water, and more in all shelters.



Train Staff: Ensure everyone knows what to do during emergencies. Regularly practice sheltering exercises.

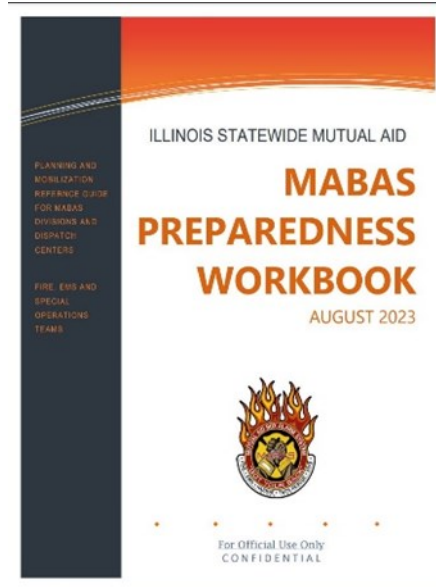


weather.gov
osha.gov/tornado



OSHA
Occupational Safety
and Health Administration

**Does your Dispatch Center have the updated Preparedness Workbook?
(Dated August 2023)**



**Go to www.mabas-il.org, and click on the
'MABAS INFORMATIONAL UPDATES'
tab on the main page;**



Select the '2023 Preparedness Workbook' to download!

Contact your Operations Branch Chief with any questions!



Support Summer Camp & Our Survivors

by joining the Fire Service T-Shirt Campaign!



Directly Support Young Burn Survivors from Across Illinois and Beyond

Benefit #1



Highlight Your Union's or Department's Support of the Camp I Am Me Mission

Benefit #2



Directly Align with an Illinois-Based, Fire Service Oriented Nonprofit Organization

Benefit #3

Discounted Price of \$400 per Fire Department, Fire Fighter Union, or Fire Service Association.

A SPECIAL, ONE-OF-A-KIND, FIRE SERVICE ONLY T-SHIRT WILL BE DEVELOPED AND DISTRIBUTED TO ALL CAMPERS AND VOLUNTEER STAFF AT SUMMER CAMP. EXCESS SHIRTS WILL BE SOLD TO PROUD SUPPORTERS OF CAMP I AM ME.

All participating fire service organizations will be represented on shirts, acknowledged on Camp I Am Me website & social media sites, and featured at Summer Camp during the Appreciation Day celebrations. Register at www.IFSA.org/ways-to-give/sponsorships or complete the form on the backside and mail along with check. Credit cards also accepted.



MABAS Trivia

**Who is known as
"The Father of MABAS?"**

- A. Tim Littlefield
- B. Jay Reardon
- C. Don Kuhn
- D. Chris Lienhardt

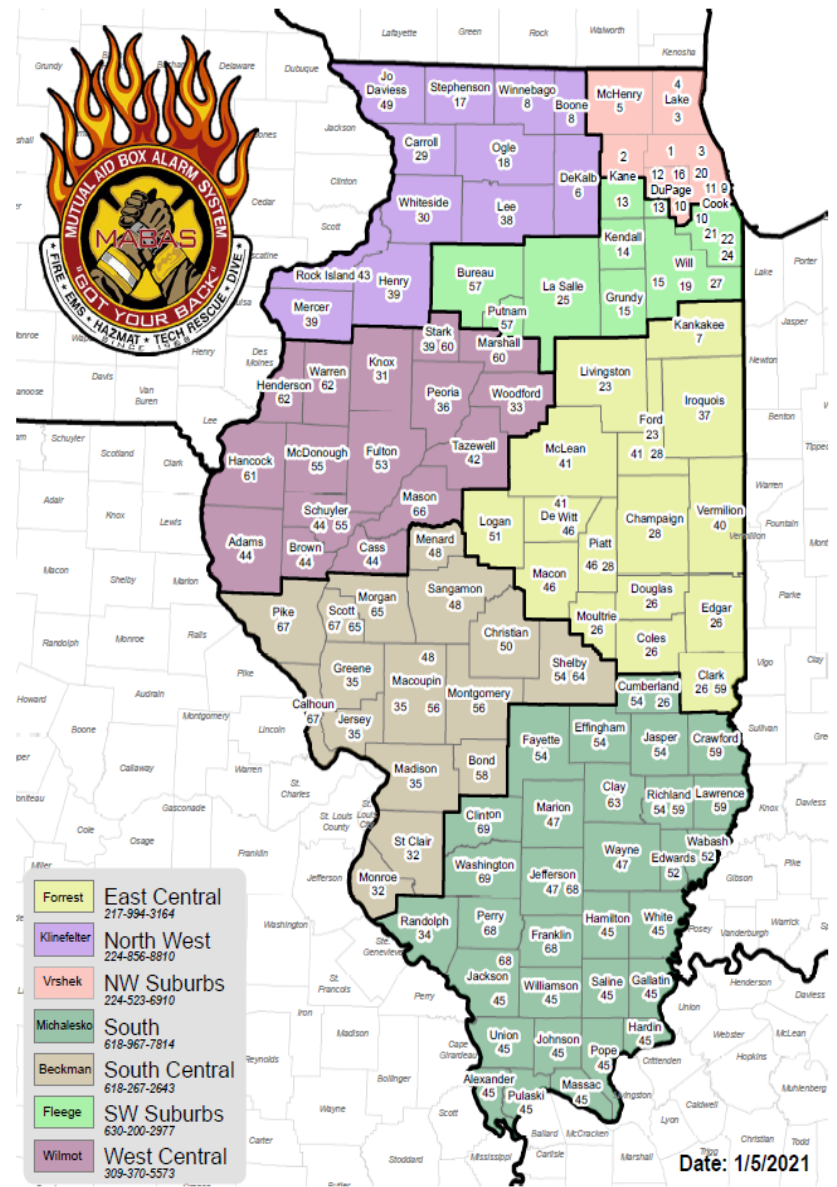
Answer will be in July's Newsletter
Correct answer for January's trivia: C

Division 32



Used at St. Claire Catholic School this morning for a gas leak in the kitchen of the school. Several students transported by EMS for evaluation.

MABAS Division Map With Operation Branch Chiefs



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, 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

For More Information

MABAS, Illinois
847-403-0500






WHAT IS PROJECT FIRE BUDDIES?

We are firefighters who offer support and give back to children fighting critical illnesses. We all go above and beyond for our Fire Buddies!

Every critical illness a child is battling, is a fight we will give our all to. We strive to ensure that each child we reach will stand with the support of our firefighters and our community

A  child should never fight their battle alone.
Your Support Makes a Difference

Do you know a child who is struggling with a critical illness and needs a reason to smile? Project Fire Buddies wants to hear from you. Email our Executive board at contact@projectfirebuddies.org

For more information on **PROJECT FIRE BUDDIES**, what we do, or how to **DONATE**, visit our website: projectfirebuddies.org

Follow us on **FACEBOOK** and **INSTAGRAM** @projectfirebuddies

Has your Dispatch Center gone through a consolidation.....

Have you had personnel changes in management....

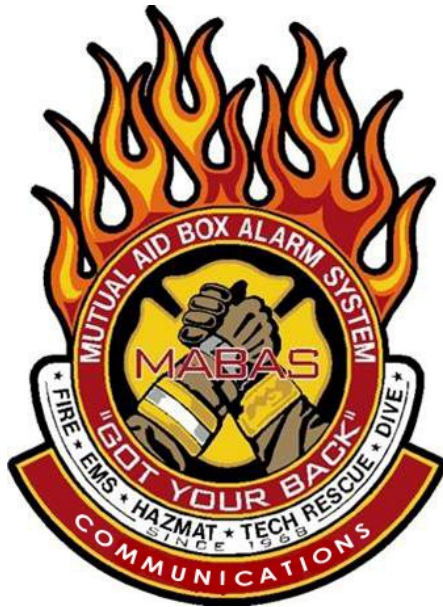
Is your Dispatch Center information up-to-date?

Go to www.mabas-il.org, and click on the 'MABAS INFORMATIONAL UPDATES' tab on the main page;



Select the 'Primary and Secondary Dispatch Centers' document to review your centers information.

Please notify your Operations Branch Chief, or send updates to Linda Cruz at cruz@mabas-il.org



Attention **ALL** First Responders!
You are invited to attend a **FREE**
MABAS Regional Training Seminar



The MABAS Communications Committee will be holding a Regional Training Seminar for the Galesburg area!

We will cover a wide variety of MABAS and Communications related topics!

ALL First Responders are encouraged to attend to learn the critical role they play in the MABAS system!

To Register: Send Attendees name, direct email and Division affiliation to tcd@mabas-il.org

HIGHLIGHTS

- MABAS overview
- History of MABAS
- Box Cards
- Deployments
- Box Alarm simulator
- An outside Resource display and more...

Tuesday June 4th, 2024

This seminar will take place at the
Galesburg Fire Department
150 S. Broad Street, Galesburg, IL 61401

Time: 08:30-4:30 Lunch will be Provided

Class limited to 40 participants! Register early! OT/Backfill reimbursement is available!

ATTENTION Chiefs~ There will also be MABAS briefing with Chiefs from the region to review the days topics and discuss current MABAS items!

Location: GFD 150 S. Broad Street, Galesburg Time: 6pm

To register, Send Name, Email, and Department/Division affiliation to tcd@mabas-il.org



OSFM

PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTION CLASS

WHEN

June 13, 2024
8:30am-12:30pm

Class size restricted to first 80 individuals that register.
This class also qualifies for 4 hours of refresher training

WHERE

Alsip Village Hall
4500 W. 123rd Street
Alsip, IL 60803

Additional Information

<https://sfm.illinois.gov/about/divisions/fire-prevention-and-building-safety/public-school-inspection-program.html>

BECOME A QUALIFIED PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTOR

COST: FREE

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

(any one of the following)

OSFM Fire Officer I, II
OSFM Company Fire Officer
OSFM Advanced Fire Officer
OSFM Fire Prevention Officer
OSFM Basic Fire Prevention Officer
OSFM Advanced Fire Prevention Officer
NFPA/ICC/OSFM Fire Inspector I
See link for Info on Tier 2 Program

REGISTER

Send the following info to

SFM.FirePreventionAA@illinois.gov

- your name,
- your department name,
- a copy of your qualifying certificate
- signed letter from Chief
- a list of public schools (with addresses) in your district

QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER?

SFM.FirePreventionAA@illinois.gov
or 217-785-4714 or 217-606-9808

SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHT



FRIDAY AFTER OPENING CEREMONY:

TAILBOARD TALK

TRAINING & TRADITION

DAVE CLARK
ED "EE" ENRIGHT
BOB HOFF
JIM KEIKEN
BOB MCKEE
JOHN "JR" RUTLEDGE
STEVE WILLIAMS

Legacy Instructors will look back at 100 years of training progression

REGISTRATION IS OPEN: [FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU](https://fsi.illinois.edu)

2024 FIRE COLLEGE SPONSORS





LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

STEP UP AND LEAD LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Seminar based on Deputy Chief Viscuso's best selling book, Step Up and Lead. This popular class is relevant for everyone in your department from Probationary Firefighter to Chief.

FRANK VISCUSO
DEPUTY CHIEF (ret.)



STEP UP AND LEAD



FRANK VISCUSO

JULY 31, 2024

Starts 8:30 a.m. / 6-hour session
Lockport East High School—Auditorium
1333 E. 7th Street, Lockport

TICKETS \$50.00 PER ATTENDEE



SCAN
HERE!

LUNCH PROVIDED



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



EAGLE ENGRAVING, INC.

IL MABAS



PRESENTS THE 2021

CORNER



Custom EMBROIDERED APPAREL

We embroider your logo on top-notch quality shirts, outerwear, and active-wear. You can count on us to provide you with the best customer service. Personalization with your name or division is available upon request.

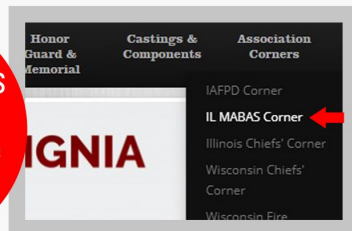
QUESTIONS?

apparel@eagle-engraving.com
630-377-1056

IL MABAS MERCHANDISE

Proudly display your MABAS IL membership with our wide selection of engraved gifts and accessories. Personalization is also available for these products.

Visit our IL MABAS corner on our website for more exclusive items!



STATE OF ILLINOIS
PRELIMINARY EXPOSURE REDUCTION PROJECT



**FREE DECON EQUIPMENT
AVAILABLE TO ILLINOIS FIRE DEPARTMENTS**



*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.

Please send your logo to sikorski@mabas-il.org



MABAS Needs your assistance:

Survey 1- Equipment

We're updating our records for MABAS equipment and need your help! Completing this survey, <https://arcg.is/1TiGP9>, will help us identify a reliable contact person for each piece of equipment, ensuring smooth communication about maintenance and other concerns. This survey doesn't collect information for deployment authorization.

If you manage multiple pieces of equipment, kindly complete a separate survey for each one. This allows us to track each item accurately.

By providing your information, you'll help us streamline communication and maintain MABAS equipment in top condition.

If you have any questions or encounter any issues while turning on your radio or completing the survey, please don't hesitate to contact BC Bob Bush at 224-612-4137 or bush@mabas-il.org.

Survey 2- Radios

Help us keep Starcom Radios in Top Shape!

We're conducting a quick survey to ensure your ITTF/MABAS Starcom radios are functioning optimally. Your input will help us identify any potential issues and streamline future maintenance efforts.

Here's how you can help:

- Turn on your Starcom radio(s).

- Allow it to synchronize with the Starcom system. This typically takes a few minutes.

- Complete this short survey. <https://arcg.is/Or9Lrr0> It will only take a few minutes and will ask some basic questions about your radio and any recent experiences you've had with it.

Why is this important?

By understanding your radios' performance, we can:

- Proactively address any potential problems.

- Improve communication and support.

- Ensure your radios are always ready for action.

We appreciate your time and cooperation! Your participation will help us maintain a reliable and efficient Starcom network for everyone.

If you have any questions or encounter any issues while turning on your radio or completing the survey, please don't hesitate to contact BC Bob Bush at 224-612-4137 or bush@mabas-il.org.

If you are interested in hosting a MABAS Communications Seminar, send an email to tcd@mabas-il.org, or contact your Operations Branch Chief

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>



**AIR ONE
EQUIPMENT, INC.**

Founded in 1990, Air One Equipment, Inc. is a family owned and operated full-line fire and safety equipment distributor. Our sales and service staff work out of a modern 8,000 square foot facility located in South Elgin, Illinois. Our second location is operated out of a 3,500 square foot facility in Menomonee Falls, WI. In both locations, we have a warehouse full of best in class products available for our first responders.

At Air One Equipment, Inc., "You know us by the company we keep". We offer our customers quality equipment at competitive prices from the leading manufacturers in the industry. We pride ourselves in continuing to provide exceptional service after sale, both on the products we sell and the way we treat our customers. With over 400 years of combined experience in the fire service industry, our sales consultants and factory trained service staff are able to assist you in choosing and maintaining the equipment you need to safely perform your job. Contact "The House That Service Built!" to see how we can serve you in the future. 888-247-1204



**BUILDING
AMERICA®**

Union Pacific Railroad Company is the principal operating company of Union Pacific Corporation (NYSE: UNP). We are one of America's most recognized companies, with a heritage of building the country and a vision to keep doing so.

Our rail network connects 23 states in the western two-thirds of the country, providing a critical link in the global supply chain. Over the last 10 years, from 2009 to 2018, Union Pacific invested \$34 billion in our network and operations, supporting America's transportation infrastructure and enabling economic growth.



MABAS ILLINOIS

233 W. Hintz Rd.

Wheeling, IL 60090

847-403-0525

WWW.MABASFOUNDATION-IL.ORG