

# GOT YOUR BACK TALK

## MABAS Illinois



### Volume 24.2

## From the President:

by Chief Don Davids

Greetings to all MABAS Members,

As most of you are probably aware, there have been a lot of activities that MABAS has been involved in over the past 2-3 months. Most recently, the requests for assistance from North Carolina and Florida. I am extremely proud of how well the process worked and the number of departments that responded to assist. For both requests we were able to deploy the requested manpower and equipment in a timely manner.

MABAS also was involved in the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, and we had command staff, and TRT units involved for 6-7 days, I think that was great experience for our members and we learned much from those activities.

Thank you to everyone that replied to our deployment requests and provided assets. I know many more MABAS members were willing to help, and we are always working on how the selection processes are completed. If you did not receive the notifications promptly, please make sure your division board member names and contact

information are correct with your MABAS operations section chief.

MABAS received numerous media requests for interviews, information about incidents and statewide preparedness because of the large-scale responses and it is good to see the public and other officials interested in what can be provided to assist stricken areas. This is also a good time to remind your elected officials that we need to continue funding public safety and mutual aid if we want to continue to provide it.

The most recent MABAS executive board meeting was held on September 18, 2024, at the Pere Marquette in Peoria, and three remote sites. We had good attendance at all sites and the technology worked well. Thank you to everyone that participated. Our next executive board meeting is in Bloomington in February in conjunction with the MABAS training summit. I hope to see you there.

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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# HOMEOWNERS, HERE'S YOUR COLD WEATHER HOME CHECKLIST

Ten things to do to make your home warmer, conserve energy and protect your house from snow and ice.



Don't let snow and ice get you down this winter.

It's polar vortex season again, which means not only sub-zero temperatures for much of the country, but snow and ice that can become damaging to your home. If you haven't prepped your home for winter yet, it's not too late. Winterizing takes some effort, but luckily, many of the best measures to take are easy and free. Use these home maintenance tips to create a winter home maintenance checklist, so you can spend those cold days warm and cozy. We've also got tips on how to protect your pipes and how to keep your pets safe and calm during a winter storm. We also break down how much it costs to run a space heater.

## Check your house for leaks and drafts

Leaks and drafts coming in through cracks in walls, doors and windows can prevent proper heating and increase energy bills. If your energy company doesn't provide a home energy audit, perform one yourself. Here are a few ways to seal leaks and drafts:

- Put caulk, foam or weatherstripping around moving doors and windows.
- Use bubble wrap or a [window insulator kit](#) to seal up windows you won't be using.
- Add a storm door to reduce heat loss at the main entrance.
- Install insulation in your attic to prevent ceiling heat loss.
- Replace poorly insulated doors made of wood with an Energy Star-rated door like steel or fiberglass.
- Cover mail slots and pet doors with

insulation or heavy towels to keep warm air in and cold air out.

- Use blackout curtains on your windows, keeping them open during the day to let the sun in and closing them at night to keep the heat in.

## Get a chimney inspection

Before you use your fireplace or wood stove for heating, have the chimney or flue inspected and cleaned by a professional. This step can prevent fires in chimneys, which along with other wood-burning devices, account for [18,000 residential fires each year](#).

A blocked chimney or flue can also increase your chances of carbon monoxide poisoning. Don't forget fresh batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

If you have a nonworking or decorative fireplace, you could lose valuable heat through the open fireplace. Investing in a [chimney balloon](#) can prevent heat from escaping and cold winter air from coming in. Just make sure to remove it if you want to start a fire later on.

## Have your furnace inspected

If you have a furnace, you should have it inspected each year, just like a chimney. If your furnace isn't working properly, an early inspection can give you time to buy a new one before winter sets in. You should also consider having your air ducts cleaned or cleaning them yourself. Make sure you're also changing your furnace filters regularly to keep your furnace working properly. (Plus, here are five signs you may need a new furnace.)

## Cover bare floors

Laminate, wood and tile floors look great, but they can cause you to lose heat during the winter. As part of your winter home maintenance checklist, consider adding rugs or installing carpet over your bare floors to keep your feet warm and prevent heat loss.

## Reverse ceiling fan blades

If your home has ceiling fans, you

should switch the blade rotation with the seasons for best results. With most ceiling fans, the blades should move counter-clockwise in warm months, pushing cool air down. In winter, switching the blades to clockwise rotation on the lowest setting



can push the warm air in the room down from the ceiling to keep you warmer.

## Prepare for winter storms

Pay attention to the weather so you have plenty of time to prepare if a winter storm is on the horizon. Have your home and car emergency kits ready to go at all times and make sure your car's maintenance is up to date with a full gas tank in case you need to leave.

If you don't have a portable generator at home, now might be the time to buy one. Generators can keep your home warm until the power company can get you back up and running.

## Invest in an easy-to-read thermometer

For the seniors in your life, it's always a good idea to have a large, [easy-to-read thermometer](#) in a prime location inside the home. Older people may not feel temperature differences as easily, which can cause serious health issues, especially if they live alone. Having a thermometer and checking the temperature regularly can help them know when to bundle up or if there could be a potential heat loss problem in the home.

<https://www.cnet.com/home/energy-and-utilities/homeowners-heres-your-cold-weather-home-checklist/>



## A Message from MABAS-Illinois

By: Chief Glenn Ericksen

Needless to say, this has been a challenging time for MABAS operations since our last newsletter. This past August both political parties held their conventions 90 miles apart in Milwaukee and Chicago. Planning for both events included daily Technical Rescue Team and EMS standbys in Chicago along with MABAS personnel staffing positions at the various command centers. Then came Hurricanes Helene and Milton and the requests through the states EMAC mutual aid network for emergency assistance in North Carolina and Florida. North Carolina requested two Swift Water capable rescue teams for a possible 14-day deployment in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Personnel from Illinois Task Force 1 USAR Team and Illinois Water Rescue 1 responded and performed heroic search and rescue operations in western North Carolina. While planning the return of those two teams, we had to respond to a request for fire engine strike teams from the state of Florida in anticipation of Hurricane Milton.

The MABAS Staff had to pivot quickly and assemble three fire engine strike teams consisting of five engines, a command component and logistical support. The call for help from the divisions was overwhelming and the three teams soon reported to a staging area in Ocala Florida. Unfortunately, the strike teams received

as many as possible. One thing is certain, officials in both North Carolina and Florida were extremely complimentary of the efforts of MABAS responders which is something we should all be very proud of.

October means the start of both the Federal and State grant request process. We will be working diligently to express the growing needs with State, County and Federal officials in the coming months.

Work on the 2025 MABAS Command and Communications Summit is ramping up. We are close to finalizing the agenda for both Summit portions and will publish it soon. We had a good number of divisions set to speak on their lessons learned at actual events along with a recap of our recent deployments. The Summit is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> through February 21, 2025 at the Bloomington/Normal Marriott Hotel. Watch for the upcoming registration information and plan on attending.

Thank you everyone for your support of MABAS and hope we see you in February!



no taskings while in Florida and returned to Illinois. I know many divisions and departments who volunteered to respond to Florida were not initially tasked, but there will be other future missions where we will work to spread the taskings around to

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 18, 2025  
DURING OUR TRAINING SUMMIT IN  
BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL**



**Class is full. Please look for future classes!!**

WesCom Dispatch has agreed to host a Regional Training Seminar at their training facility!

We will cover a wide range of topics including MABAS and Communications!

**ALL First Responders** are encouraged to attend. The critical role they play in the MABAS system.

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- MABAS overview
- History of MABAS
- Box Cards
- Deployments
- Box Alarm simulator
- Outside Resource
- and more....

## Thursday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

This seminar will take place at the  
Wescom Dispatch Center  
 24600 Presidential Avenue, Plainfield, IL 60544

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

**Class limited to 40 participants!**

**Register early!**

**OT/Backfill reimbursement is available!**

## **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.



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](mailto:tallacksen@mabas-il.org) or via phone at 815-262-4374.



# FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM



## Fire Service Information Sharing and Analysis Program

What Is It and What Can  
It Do For Me.



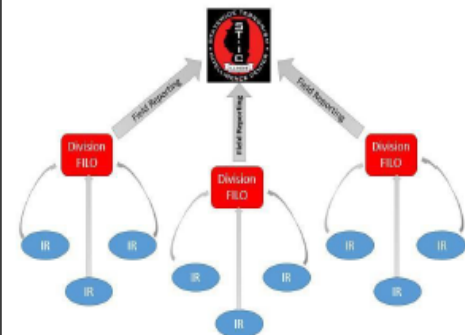
### ADVANTAGES OF THE PROGRAM

- ♦ To assure the systematic and timely sharing of accurate intelligence and information across the wide spectrum of the fire service in Illinois
- ♦ Improves firefighter safety
- ♦ Warns of identified tactics and trends ahead of time
- ♦ Shares close calls / lessons learned
- ♦ Assists with planning and preparedness
- ♦ Can help identify & prevent certain events
- ♦ Enhances mitigation and recovery of major events
- ♦ Will reduce rumor and misinformation

The FSISA program was created to support the fire service and its affiliated representatives in the information sharing environment. Specifically, the FSISA program objectives include:

1. Provide situational awareness and advanced planning preparedness to Information Receivers (IR) to increase responder safety.
2. Have two FILO's for each division to serve as the division contact and to assist in training IR's.
3. IRs to share un-vetted Disaster Intelligence with collaborative partners in order to improve the common operating picture.
4. Share information from all sources as appropriate with public safety, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and private sector partners.

### Information Sharing Flow - In



Save the date:

MABAS 2025 Command Training Summit

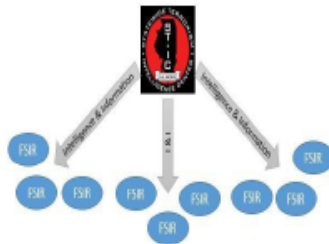
February 17-19, 2025

Bloomington Normal, Illinois

Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

# FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM

## Information Sharing Flow - Out



### Why Is Information Important To Me?

#### *Advanced Planning Preparedness-*

Serves as the preparedness "need to know" in order to plan for specific known situations and/or possible/potential/probable events where members may be exposed to risk. This information may be of particular value addressing gaps that may exist in support of existing departmental guidance like Emergency Operations plans, SOPs and/or SOG's.

#### *• Disaster Intelligence-*

While not universally defined, Disaster Intelligence promotes the concept of sharing raw data associated with evolving events that are of such magnitude, or so dynamic, that the event is or has the potential to overwhelm a jurisdiction's ability to respond to and/or recover. This information can be critical in supporting decision making efforts at the tactical and strategic levels from local agencies through Federal intervention. \_

### Duties of an Information Receiver

- Serve as a consistent local point of contact for the Fire Intelligence Liaison Officer (FILO)
- Receive selected information from FILO
- Establish an internal "SOP/SOG" regarding the internal handling and security of sensitive information
- Share / Educate / Train - department members on the value and uses of intelligence for the fire service
- Provide feedback on the informational needs, what's working / not working, suggestions for improvement
- Provide intelligence updates during significant or unusual incidents

### How To Participate In The Program

- Prospective members of this program begin the process by completing the application.
- Applicants will need a letter of approval and support from their Fire Chief (or executive leadership).
- Applicants will also need a recommendation from their MABAS Division through an existing member or in the case where the Division does not have a member, the Division President.
- Applicants must also complete the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) which outlines operational details.
- Through the STIC, each applicant will be subject to a background check. Successful applicants must pass the limited background check.
- A MABAS-IL representative will provide approval



For more information contact:

Calvert Darbin - MABAS Intelligence Branch Chief

W: 217-558-3360 / C: 224-464-5750

Darbin.Calvert@illinois.gov

Save the date:

MABAS 2025 Communications Training Summit

February 19-21, 2025

Bloomington Normal, Illinois

Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

# STARCOM21

## SWIT TEMPLATE/HANDS-ON TRAINING

**SCAN the  
Code to sign  
up for this  
event!!**



**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

### SESSION TIMES

- 0900-1100 • 1100-1300
- Additional classes can be Scheduled if needed.

This class is designed to give participants a working knowledge of STARCOM21, how to work the radios, and how to use the Statewide Interoperability Template (SWIT).

The class is geared for both new users, as well as existing users that need a refresher course.

Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their assigned radio to class for use in the hands-on portion.

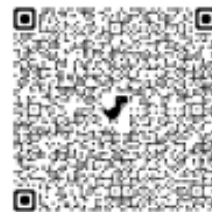
After the class, participants will know how to operate on the correct channel or talkgroup for interoperability, depending on the situation.

### TOPICS INCLUDE

- ✓ Radio system basics for users
- ✓ The Interoperability Template:  
Why we have it, and how to use it
- ✓ Navigating the radio - Buttons, knobs, menus

### LOCATION

**Cherry Valley Fire Protection District  
4919 Blackhawk Road, Rockford, IL. 61109**



Scan QR code with phone camera  
for map & directions



[Visit us on Facebook](#)





JOIN US FOR THE

# STARCOM21

## SWIT TEMPLATE/HANDS-ON TRAINING

Assisted By



**January 28, 29, 30 2025**

### SESSION TIMES

- 1400-1600
- 1800-2000

This class is designed to give participants a working knowledge of STARCOM21, how to work the radios, and how to use the Statewide Interoperability Template (SWIT).

The class is geared for both new users, as well as existing users that need a refresher course.

Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their assigned radio to class for use in the hands-on portion.

After the class, participants will know how to operate on the correct channel or talkgroup for interoperability, depending on the situation.

### TOPICS INCLUDE

- ✓ Radio system basics for users
- ✓ The Interoperability Template: Why we have it, and how to use it
- ✓ Navigating the radio - Buttons, knobs, menus

### LOCATION

**Huntley Fire Protection District**

11118 Main St. Huntley, IL 60142

To Register for the class  
EMAIL [rmadsen@huntleyfpd.org](mailto:rmadsen@huntleyfpd.org)

# WATER RESCUE MOBEX

By Spencer Kimura

On September 25, 2024, Illinois Water Rescue 1 (IL-WR1) conducted a mobilization exercise (MOBEX) at

Apple Canyon Lake located on the Apple River in Jo

Daviess County. IL-WR1 is a specialized NIMS trained and equipped swiftwater/flood search and rescue team to perform large area water-based and land searches. Additional capabilities include administering in-field ALS care following EMS System Standard Operating

Procedures as directed by EMS System. The MOBEX was designed to focus on boat operations in order to rapidly perform search and rescue operations during a flood

environment. IL-WR1 team tested their capabilities to establish a base camp, conduct boat operations, and perform victim rescue operations. Once the command post

was established, IL-WR1 interacted with local agencies to develop incident action objectives. The search and rescue incorporated victim removal from remote location, triaging and treating patients, and transporting patients to an evacuation point for further medical care. A medical helicopter from Dubuque Iowa, *Aircare 3*, also participated in the exercise.



A total of 19 MABAS-IL personnel attended the MOBEX during the 24-hour deployment. Eleven MABAS-IL fire Departments participated in this exercise. MABAS IL-WR1 served as the lead organization and is a NIMS Type I Swiftwater/ Flood SAR Team. Other exercise participants included: Scales Mound Volunteer Fire Department, Apple Canyon Lake Security Personnel, four Aircare 3 helicopter personnel, and Advocate Lutheran General Hospital EMS System.

# 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

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***MABAS will be implementing notification testing starting in November 2024.***

# ILTF 1 Hurricane Helene Response



## EMAC request for a Type II Swiftwater Team to North

Carolina ILTF - 1 mobilized and traveled to Buncombe County where they were assigned to Skyland FD. They assisted with 19 Rescues and numerous evacuations the first few days with conditions never seen before in the region.

Chuck Gros, Squad Officer and Water Function Group Leader said "As the crew were enroute to assist with evacuations, individuals flagged down our convoy. Informing us that individuals were in immediate need of rescue. The members of ILTF1 switched gears and engaged in a new mission. Arriving at the end of a dirt road we found a small group of mobile homes. In the distance, cries for assistance were many. Our members without needing guidance, launched the boats and immediately started to effect rescues."



Swannanoa FD area response



# ILTF 1 Hurricane Helene Response



Darren Creek area conducting wide area searches using SARCOP platform.



Trinity Baptist Church 216  
Shelburn Dr. Asheville.

# ILTF 1 Hurricane Helene Response



Fairview, NC ILTF – 1 Members working with K9 handler & K9, National Guard, NCTF 6, NCTF 9.  
and local equipment operators delayering the debris piles.





# REIMBURSEMENT REMINDER

By: Chief Bernie Lyons

**With the increase of recent reimbursements,  
Please Remember:**

## **For Class Reimbursements:**

Student must be on their MABAS Divisions related Divisional Specialty Teams Training Roster in CIMS 3.0 at least 6 weeks prior to the start of the class. **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.

The request must include a coversheet on Department Letterhead, signed by the Chief of Department, and a listing of the **student and backfill personnel's standard and overtime pay rates.**

The Reimbursement Request for Overtime/Backfill form must be included and filled out including the student and any backfill personnel;

The maximum rate per hour of reimbursement is **\$58.00**

Only the number of hours spent in class is reimbursable. This includes the total hours paid out to student and/or backfill personnel.

Lodging reimbursement is based on double occupancy., and the class must be **more than 50 miles** from the sponsoring department. Personnel are not reimbursed for travel or per diems.

The reimbursement rate for lodging is available on the Illinois Department of Central Management Services website 'Preferred Hotel Listing' <https://cms.illinois.gov/employees/travel/preferredhotel.html>

The student must pass the class to be eligible for reimbursement.

The student is eligible for a re-test twice within a year.

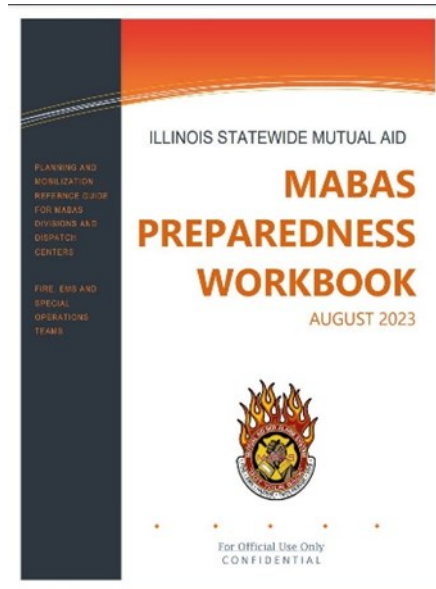
Re-tests must be administered by the IFSI.

Please email any questions or **Class reimbursements** to [overtimereimbursement@mabas-il.org](mailto:overtimereimbursement@mabas-il.org)

**Exercise reimbursements** should be emailed to Michael Graves at [graves@mabas-il.org](mailto:graves@mabas-il.org)

**Deployment reimbursements** should be emailed to [deployment@mabas-il.org](mailto:deployment@mabas-il.org)

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



**Go to [www.mabas-il.org](http://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!**

## Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute

**2024 Executive Summit Series****“Bridging the Gap: Achieving Seamless Communication Interoperability”****Tuition Free!****Date**

Wednesday,  
November 20, 2024  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Location**

Illinois State University  
Alumni Center  
Normal, Illinois

**Who Should Attend?**

Law Enforcement, Fire,  
EMS, EM, and 911  
Command Staff

**Registration is Limited!**

Registration Deadline  
November 18, 2024

**Register by email to**

[eric.benson@illinois.gov](mailto:eric.benson@illinois.gov)

**Questions?**

Contact Derek Carle  
at (309) 298-2646  
or [dw-carle@wiu.edu](mailto:dw-carle@wiu.edu)  
[www.iletsbei.org](http://www.iletsbei.org)

What happens when your agency has a really bad day, and you need to talk to everyone coming in to help? In almost every incident, in almost every After Action Report, the most common problem is usually Communications.

Today we all need to work on improving radio interoperability so you can communicate with everybody that will be there to help - on what could be your agency's worst day. This seminar will cover tips and best practices to improve your agency's Communications performance in most situations from day-to-day use to disasters. Topics include interoperability channels, FCC considerations, backup plans, training, the new “Statewide Interoperability Template” (SWIT) and Communications resources available to any agency in Illinois. This will all be presented in an easily understandable, non-technical manner to help you begin planning how to improve your communications capabilities.

**Presenters: ILEAS, IEMA-OHS, MABAS, ISP**



*Funding provided in whole or in part by the Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council.*

**Promoting Professionalism in Policing**

## Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute

**2024 Executive Summit Series****“Bridging the Gap: Achieving Seamless Communication Interoperability”****Tuition Free!****Date**

Thursday,  
December 5, 2024  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Location**

IEMA-OHS HQ  
Springfield, Illinois

**Who Should Attend?**

Law Enforcement, Fire,  
EMS, EM, and 911  
Command Staff

**Registration is Limited!**

Registration Deadline  
December 3, 2024

**Register by email to**

[eric.benson@illinois.gov](mailto:eric.benson@illinois.gov)

**Questions?**

Contact Derek Carle  
at (309) 298-2646 or  
[dw-carle@wiu.edu](mailto:dw-carle@wiu.edu)  
[www.iletsbei.org](http://www.iletsbei.org)

What happens when your agency has a really bad day, and you need to talk to everyone coming in to help? In almost every incident, in almost every After Action Report, the most common problem is usually Communications. Today we all need to work on improving radio interoperability so you can communicate with everybody that will be there to help - on what could be your agency's worst day. This seminar will cover tips and best practices to improve your agency's Communications performance in most situations from day-to-day use to disasters. Topics include interoperability channels, FCC considerations, backup plans, training, the new "Statewide Interoperability Template" (SWIT) and Communications resources available to any agency in Illinois. This will all be presented in an easily understandable, non-technical manner to help you begin planning how to improve your communications capabilities.

**Presenters: ILEAS, IEMA-OHS, MABAS, ISP**



*Funding provided in whole or in part by the Illinois Homeland Security Advisory Council.*

**Promoting Professionalism in Policing**

## MABAS Trivia

The picture below is of the first MABAS State wide response.

What city did this take place?

- A. Chicago
- B. New Lenox
- C. Warrenville
- D. Utica

The answer will be in the January Newsletter!



Answer from the July newsletter...

Mobile Ventilation Unit (MVU)

See page 19

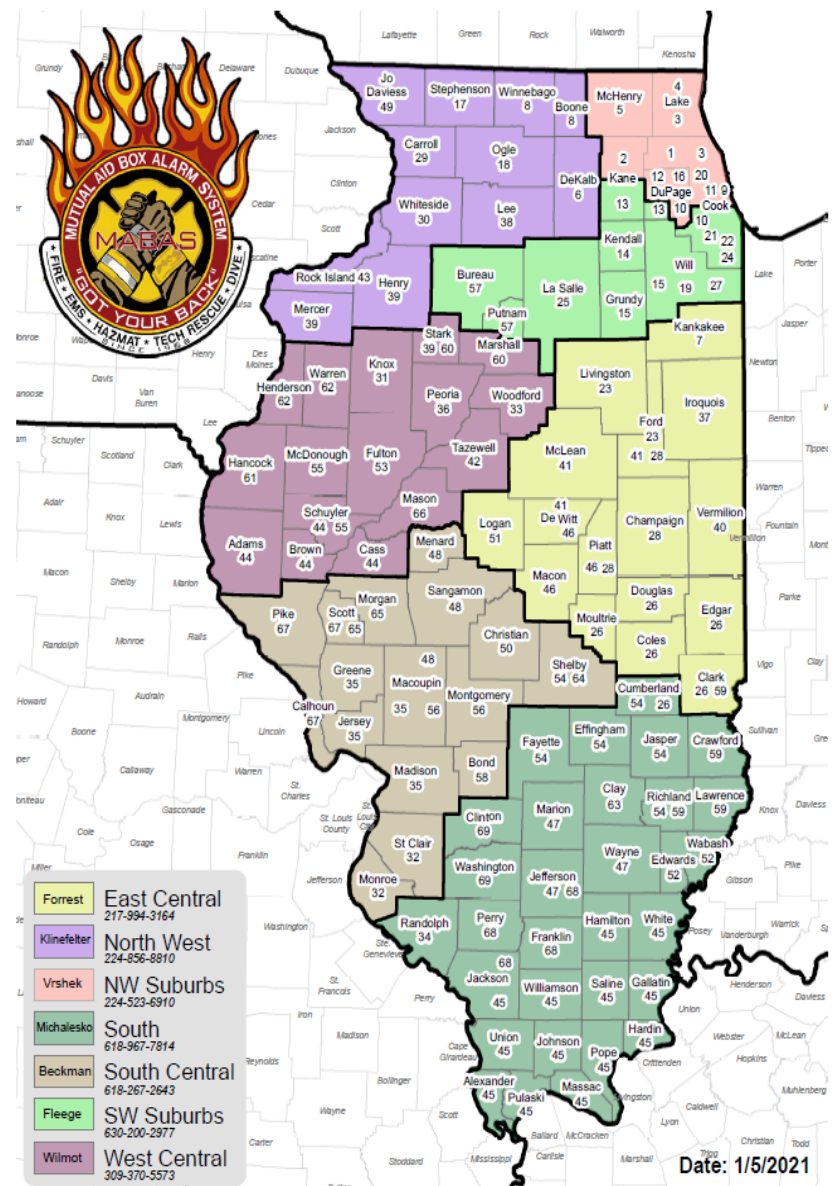
For More Information

MABAS, Illinois

847-403-0500



## 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](mailto:Littlefield@mabas-il.org) Phone—847-403-0511

# MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM



## MOBILE VENTILATION UNIT (MVU)



### Concept of Operation

The MABAS Mobile Ventilation Units (MVU) can be used to control the movement of air, heat and gases inside any large enclosed structure, rail or road tunnels and provide a misting system for cooling.

Supports: All ESF's

Response time is Notification + Travel Time

NIMS Typing: n/a

FEMA Cost Code: 8805 (cost \$264 per day)

Equipment Rate: \$21.94 per hour

### Specifications

Road dimensions:

9' wide x 24' 2" long x 11' 5" height

GVWR: 13,000 LB

*\*\*\*Driver's License required – Class B*

### Features

- Ventilation Fan Capability
  - Maximum fan operational height: 15' 7"
  - Output: up to 130,000 CFM
  - Fan rotation: 360\*
  - Tilting gear: +/- 30\*
  - Water misting system (water supply is needed)
- Run time – 2.5 hours
- Fuel: Premium gasoline
- VHF mobile radio mounted in the cab

### Number of Units: 8

### Locations

- Division 1 (Cook)
- Division 28 (Champaign)
- Division 8 (Winnebago)
- Division 32 (St. Clair)
- Division 10 (Cook)
- Division 45 (Williamson)
- Division 27 (Will)
- Division 48 (Sangamon)



## MOBILE VENTILATION UNIT (MVU)

WWW.MABAS-IL.ORG | REVISED 7/24/2023

PAGE 1 OF 1

**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](http://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](mailto:cruz@mabas-il.org)**

*Is your department a Chapter member?*



# 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](mailto:contact@projectfirebuddies.org)**

For more information on **PROJECT FIRE BUDDIES**, what we do,  
or how to **DONATE**, visit our website: **[projectfirebuddies.org](http://projectfirebuddies.org)**

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



## OUR MISSION

We are firefighters who offer support to children fighting critical illnesses. Their battle will not be fought alone!

Project Fire Buddies is a beacon of hope for every family we have the honor to serve.

**HELP US CREATE GOOD DAYS.**



## OUR STORY

In 2016, Project Fire Buddies was initiated based on Kurt DeGroot's vision while serving at a fire department in the south suburbs of Chicago. With the collaboration of Ryan Ballard, steadfast support from his wife and children, and the dedication of other team members, the organization's influence has expanded significantly, driving its ambitious goals.

## WHAT WE DO

Project Fire Buddies brings joy to kids struggling with critical illnesses. We believe that no child should fight their battle alone. Since its inception PFB has been steadily growing and expanding.

From 2023 to 2024 alone, the organization grew by 500%. New chapters are committing to the mission every day and helping us to bring joy to even more children.

## OUR CHAPTERS

Our chapters prioritize cultivating connections with their Fire Buddies. Members of PFB pay visits to Fire Buddies at their homes, often times arriving in a parade of fire vehicles with flashing lights and blaring sirens. They bring presents for birthdays and holidays, engage in games, offer tickets to concerts and special occasions, and participate in significant events in the children's lives. PFB has also assisted families in obtaining essential medical equipment and supplies. Fire Buddies even drop by the firehouse occasionally for meals with the crew, station tours, and to see the rigs.



Do you know a child who is struggling with a critical illness and in need of a reason to smile? Project Fire Buddies is here to help. While healthcare privacy laws are crucial, they can make it challenging for us to reach the children who require our support.

Visit our website today to complete our contact form and help Project Fire Buddies make a positive impact on a child in your life.

## GET INVOLVED

*YOUR SUPPORT  
MAKES A DIFFERENCE*

As of 2024, Project Fire Buddies has expanded to include more than 100 chapters spanning nine states. Check out the Chapters section on our website to discover if a fire department in your area is affiliated with Project Fire Buddies.



## Follow Us!



Project Fire Buddies is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on the support of kind donors. We welcome cash and check donations throughout the year, and you also have the option to donate through our website.

EAGLE ENGRAVING, INC.

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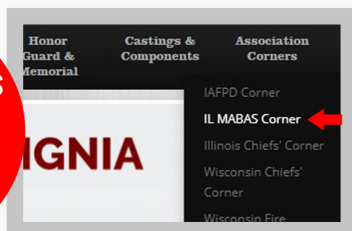
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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
PRELIMINARY EXPOSURE REDUCTION PROJECT



**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](mailto:sikorski@mabas-il.org)



## Special Teams Audit

Over the past 2 years, MABAS has been completing an audit of the recognized statewide deployable Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue Teams. A benchmark of this audit was that teams would need to have a minimum of (20) fully trained individuals on their deployment roster. Members on the various training team rosters have been attending courses to increase deployment roster numbers. With decreasing levels of homeland security grant program funds, including those that fund training, its necessary for MABAS to implementing the following steps in 2025 in order to continue to provide support for teams:

For Technical Rescue Teams (TRT):

- Rope Operations
  - ◊ Will be a pre-requisite to be placed on the TRT training roster – will no longer eligible for reimbursement
- Vehicle & Machinery Operations (VMO)
  - ◊ Will no longer eligible for reimbursement
- Vehicle & Machinery Technician (VMT)
  - ◊ Eligible for reimbursement for members on a Technical Rescue Team (TRT) training roster after they complete all the required technician courses
  - ◊ Eligibility for reimbursement is for 1 year after completion of the required technician courses

Additional information on reporting requirements will be provided to Divisions with special teams. Please contact your regional Operations Branch Chief with any questions.

***For more information please contact Chief Lyne at: [lyne@mabas-il.org](mailto:lyne@mabas-il.org)***

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

## MABAS-Illinois Swiftwater Teams

### 2024 Hurricane Helene Member Agency Listing

| #  | Fire Department/Sponsoring Agency              | Number of Deployed Members | MABAS Division | County      |
|----|--|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1  | Arlington Heights Fire Department              | 2                          | 1              | Cook        |
| 2  | Carol Stream Fire Protection District          | 1                          | 12             | DuPage      |
| 3  | Chicago Fire Department                        | 4                          | 9              | Cook        |
| 4  | Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District | 1                          | 3              | Lake        |
| 5  | Des Plaines Fire Department                    | 1                          | 3              | Cook        |
| 6  | Downers Grove Fire Department                  | 1                          | 16             | DuPage      |
| 7  | Hoffman Estates Fire Depart                    | 1                          | 1              | Cook        |
| 8  | Lisle Woodridge Fire District                  | 1                          | 16             | DuPage      |
| 9  | Morton Grove Fire Department                   | 1                          | 3              | Cook        |
| 10 | Mount Prospect Fire Department                 | 1                          | 1              | Cook        |
| 11 | Naperville Fire Department                     | 1                          | 16             | DuPage/Will |
| 12 | Orland Fire Protection District                | 1                          | 19             | Cook        |
| 13 | Palatine Fire Department                       | 1                          | 1              | Cook        |
| 14 | Rolling Meadows Fire Department                | 1                          | 1              | Cook        |
| 15 | Skokie Fire Department                         | 1                          | 3              | Cook        |
| 16 | Wheeling Fire Department                       | 2                          | 1              | Cook        |
| 17 | Wilmette Fire Department                       | 3                          | 3              | Cook        |

24

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Members Deployed                     | 24 |
| Fire Departments/Sponsoring Agencies | 17 |
| MABAS Divisions                      | 6  |
| Counties                             | 4  |



Thanks for all who helped in our  
response!

## MABAS-Illinois Fire Engine Strike Team

### 2024 Hurricane Milton Member Agency Listing

| #  | Fire Department/Sponsoring Agency                  | Number of Deployed Members | MABAS Division | County      |
|----|--|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1  | Aurora Fire Department                             | 4                          | 13             | Kane/DuPage |
| 2  | Batavia Fire Department                            | 2                          | 13             | Kane        |
| 3  | Beecher Fire Protection District                   | 3                          | 27             | Will        |
| 4  | Carbondale Fire Department                         | 1                          | 45             | Jackson     |
| 5  | Carpentersville Fire Department                    | 1                          | 2              | Kane        |
| 6  | Crete Fire Department                              | 1                          | 27             | Will        |
| 7  | Des Plaines Fire Department                        | 1                          | 3              | Cook        |
| 8  | Elburn-Countryside Fire Protection District        | 2                          | 13             | Kane        |
| 9  | Elgin Fire Department                              | 3                          | 2              | Cook/Kane   |
| 10 | Fairmont City Fire Department                      | 1                          | 32             | St. Clair   |
| 11 | Flossmoor Fire Department                          | 3                          | 24             | Cook        |
| 12 | Freeburg Fire Protection District                  | 1                          | 32             | St. Clair   |
| 13 | Herrin Fire Department                             | 2                          | 45             | Williamson  |
| 14 | Highland Fire Department                           | 3                          | 35             | Madison     |
| 15 | Lansing Fire Department                            | 1                          | 24             | Cook        |
| 16 | Marion Fire Department                             | 4                          | 45             | Williamson  |
| 17 | Markham Fire Department                            | 5                          | 24             | Cook        |
| 18 | Munster (IN) Fire Department                       | 1                          | 24             | Lake (IN)   |
| 19 | Murphysboro Fire Department                        | 2                          | 45             | Jackson     |
| 20 | North Aurora Fire District                         | 2                          | 13             | Kane        |
| 21 | O'Fallon Fire Protection District                  | 2                          | 32             | St. Clair   |
| 22 | Pingree Grove-Countryside Fire Protection District | 1                          | 2              | Kane        |
| 23 | Richton Park Fire Department                       | 1                          | 27             | Kane        |
| 24 | Rutland Dundee Fire Protection District            | 1                          | 2              | Kane        |
| 25 | Sauk Village Fire Department                       | 1                          | 27             | Cook        |
| 26 | Smithton Fire Department                           | 1                          | 32             | St. Clair   |
| 27 | South Chicago Heights Fire Department              | 4                          | 27             | Cook        |
| 28 | South Elgin & Countryside Fire Protection District | 3                          | 2              | Kane        |
| 29 | South Holland Fire Department                      | 1                          | 24             | Cook        |
| 30 | Springfield Fire Department                        | 5                          | 48             | Sangamon    |
| 31 | St. Charles Fire Department                        | 2                          | 13             | Kane/Dupage |
| 32 | Thornton Fire Department                           | 1                          | 24             | Cook        |
| 33 | Troy Fire Protection District                      | 1                          | 35             | Madison     |
| 34 | West Dundee Fire Department                        | 1                          | 2              | Kane        |

# FOUNDATION NEWS

The MABAS Foundation has received and \$30,000 grant from Union Pacific Railroad's Community Ties Grant Program. This allows MABAS to supply MABAS Hazardous Materials Teams with magnaseal patches, these are urethane sheets that allow first responders to staunch for flow of hazardous material leaks as quickly and safely as possible.



Photo of MAGNASEAL

Union Pacific has proven to be an indispensable partner to the MABAS Foundation and a strong supporter of the Illinois Fire Service. Through the MABAS Foundation, Union Pacific has awarded \$200,000 in directed grants since 2022, all with the purpose of keeping firefighters safe.

Thank you Union Pacific!



**BUILDING AMERICA®**

# 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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**February 17-21, 2025**