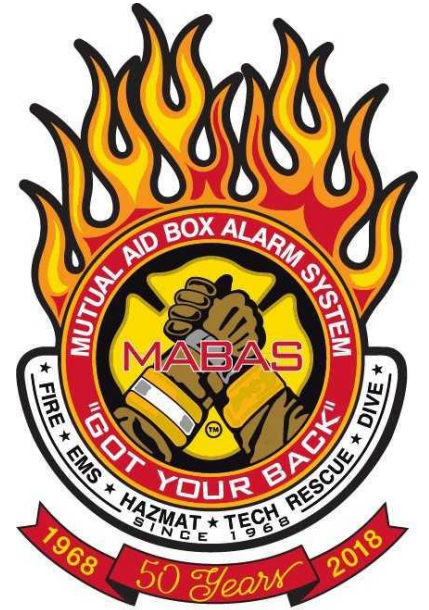


“  
Got Your  
*Back Talk*”

# MABAS Illinois



VOLUME 19.1

IN THIS ISSUE

## Thank you, Mr. President

We would like to thank Chief Macko for the many years of service and dedication given to MABAS. We wish him well in his retirement.



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## Save the Date

2019 MABAS Illinois  
Training Summit  
February 25<sup>th</sup> - March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Marriot Hotel Bloomington  
Normal, Illinois



## A Message from MABAS-Illinois

By: Chief Glenn Ericksen

As we recover from Polar Vortex 2019 Spring cannot come fast enough. We can be proud of all firefighters, first-responders and dispatchers who operated in these frigid and snowy conditions and made a difference.

We are close to the 2019 MABAS Command and Dispatchers Summit that will begin February 25, 2019 in Bloomington-Normal. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there as we have been working very hard to present a diverse and informative program. This Summit will also provide the opportunity to congratulate, and thank, Chief Jeff Macko as he ends his third term as MABAS President. Jeff will not be running for an additional term and his leadership over the years is greatly appreciated.

The new 101st Illinois General Assembly was recently sworn in with many new members. We are working to meet with many of these members to introduce MABAS to them and open lines of communications.



Congratulations also to State Fire Marshal Matt Perez who was reappointed by Governor Pritzker. Matt has been a great supporter of MABAS in the past and we look

forward to working with him in the future.

The Governor also appointed Alicia Tate-Nadeau as the new Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Director Tate-Nadeau has opened lines of communications between our two organizations to better understand the issues we see in the future maintaining our response capabilities and readiness. As you may have heard, Section Chief of Operations Dave Haywood, has announced he is retiring from his position April 1st. As Dave was one of the first employees of MABAS he will be leaving us with some big shoes to fill as we will certainly miss his knowledge and the relationships he has built. We are actively working on the replacement process and hope to have a new person in place soon. Stay warm and see you at the Summit

### MABAS Training Summit

### Bloomington Normal

### February 25<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Be Prepared to Stay Safe and Healthy in Winter

By: cdc.gov

Winter storms and cold temperatures can be dangerous. Stay safe and healthy by planning ahead. Prepare your home and cars. Prepare for power outages and outdoor activity. Check on older adults.



Although winter comes as no surprise, many of us are not ready for its arrival. If you are prepared for the hazards of winter, you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall.

## Take These Steps for Your Home

Many people prefer to remain indoors during winter, but staying inside is no guarantee of safety. Take these steps to keep your home safe and warm during the winter months.

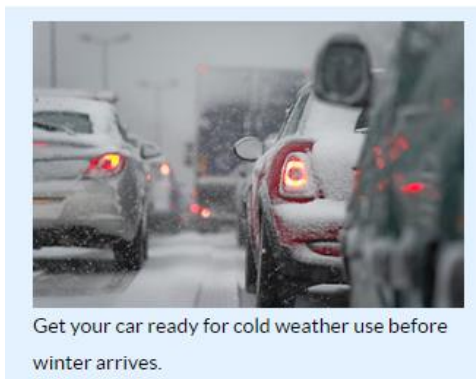
### Winterize your home.

- Install weather stripping, insulation, and storm windows.
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.

### Check your heating systems.

- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly, and ventilated to the outside.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.

- Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.
- Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies.
- Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring.
- Learn symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.



Get your car ready for cold weather use before winter arrives.

## Don't Forget to Prepare Your Car

Get your car ready for cold weather use before winter arrives.

- Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level; check tire tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather or snow tires.
- Keep gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.
- Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you become stranded. The kit should include:

- cell phone, portable charger, and extra batteries;
- blankets;
- food and water;
- booster cables, flares, tire pump, and a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction);
- compass and maps;
- flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries;
- first-aid kit; and
- plastic bags (for sanitation).

## Equip in Advance for Emergencies

- Be prepared for weather-related emergencies, including power outages.
- Stock food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and water stored in clean containers.
- Ensure that your cell phone is fully charged.
- When planning travel, be aware of current and forecast weather conditions.
- Keep an up-to-date emergency kit, including:
  - Battery-operated devices, such as a flashlight, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, and lamps;
  - extra batteries;
  - first-aid kit and extra medicine;
  - baby items; and
  - cat litter or sand for icy walkways.
- Protect your family from carbon monoxide.

*Continued On Page 6*

NEW SWIFTWATER RESCUE CAN



DID YOU KNOW??

The price of oil ended 2018 at \$45.41/barrel, down 24% from its 2017 close of \$60.12. In October of last year oil traded as high as \$76.41/barrel before falling \$31/barrel by the end of the year.  
(BTN Research, CME Group)

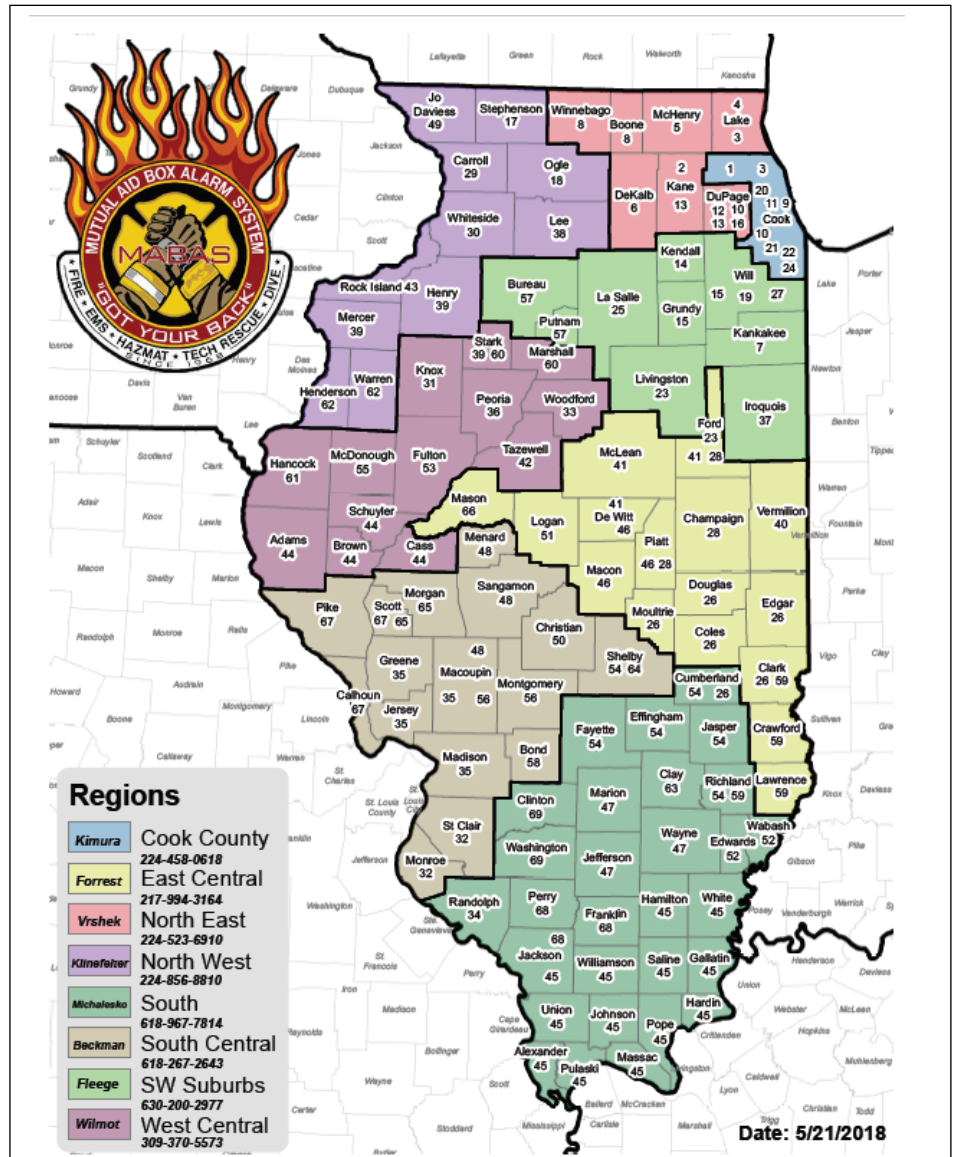
FOR MORE INFORMATION

MABAS, Illinois

847-403-0500



# MABAS Division Map With Branch Chiefs



## Questions/Comments

*Has your Department/Division responded to a call or had a big event and you would like MABAS to add it to our newsletter, Do you have any questions or comments about our quarterly issue of Back Talk please feel free to e-mail or call. We look forward to suggestions and comments.*

E-mail to: [Littlefield@mabas-il.org](mailto:Littlefield@mabas-il.org)

Littlefield @ 847-403-0511

# Be Prepared to Stay Safe and Healthy in Winter

By: cdc.gov

## Continued From Page 4

- Keep grills, camp stoves, and generators out of the house, basement and garage.
- Locate generators at least 20 feet from the house.
- Leave your home immediately if the CO detector sounds, and call 911.

## Take These Precautions Outdoors

Many people spend time outdoors in the winter working, traveling, or enjoying winter sports. Outdoor activities can expose you to several safety hazards, but you can take these steps to prepare for them:

- Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: wear a tightly woven, preferably wind-resistant coat or jacket; inner layers of light, warm clothing; mittens; hats; scarves; and waterproof boots.
- Sprinkle cat litter or sand on icy patches.
- Learn safety precautions to follow when outdoors.
- Work slowly when doing outside chores.
- Take a buddy and an emergency kit when you are participating in outdoor recreation.
- Carry a cell phone.

## Do This When You Plan to Travel

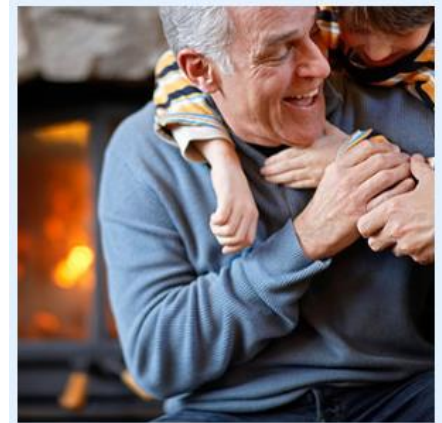
When planning travel, be aware of current and forecast weather conditions.



Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: layers of light, warm clothing; windproof coat, mittens; hats; scarves; and waterproof boots.

- Avoid traveling when the weather service has issued advisories.
- If you must travel, inform a friend or relative of your proposed route and expected time of arrival.
- Follow these safety rules if you become stranded in your car.
- Make your car visible to rescuers. Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna, raise the hood of the car (if it is not snowing), and turn on the inside overhead lights (when your engine is running).
- Move anything you need from the trunk into the passenger area. Stay with your car unless safety is no more than 100 yards away.
- Keep your body warm. Wrap your entire body, including your head, in extra clothing, blankets, or newspapers. Huddle with other people if you can.
- Stay awake and stay moving. You will be less vulnerable to cold-related health problems. As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to improve circulation and stay warmer.

- Run the motor (and heater) for about 10 minutes per hour, opening one window slightly to let in air. Make sure that snow is not blocking the exhaust pipe—this will reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning



Be prepared to check on family and neighbors who are especially at risk from cold weather hazards.

Above all, be ready to check on family and neighbors who are especially at risk from cold weather hazards: young children, older adults, and the chronically ill. If you have pets, bring them inside. If you cannot bring them inside, provide adequate, warm shelter and unfrozen water to drink.

No one can stop the onset of winter. However, if you follow these suggestions, you will be ready for it when it comes.

Be sure to visit CDC's Winter Weather webpage for more winter weather safety tips.

<https://www.cdc.gov/features/winterweather/index.html>

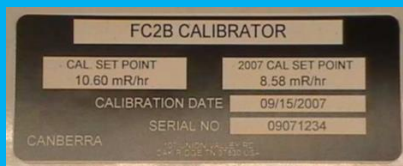
# When is the Last Time you Calibrated your Calibration Check Unit?

By: Michael Graves



All Divisions have a Canberra Calibration Check Unit to complete the annual calibrations of their UltraRadic Personal Radiation Monitors.

The check unit also requires annual calibration, and you can do it. First look at the data plate on the top of the device.



The calibration date is what you need to know for the next step.

After you find the calibration date, turn to page 6 of the User Manual and find the correction factor for your device. Since these devices have a radioactive source in them, the source will decay over time.

In the example above the source age is 11 years since it was built in 2007. The correction factor for an 11-year-old device is 0.777. To find the corrected calibration set point, multiply the CAL. SET POINT by the correction factor. In the example above the CAL. SET POINT is 10.60 mR/hr and the correction factor is 0.777.

$$10.60 \times 0.777 = 8.2362$$

In other words, when you calibrate your UltraRadic Personal Radiation Monitors you will calibrate them to 8.24 mR/hr.

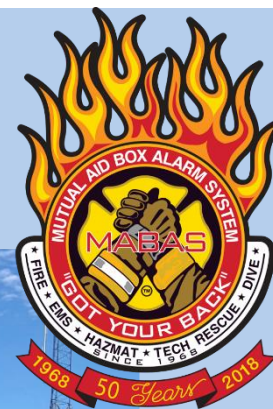
If you can't find your Canberra FC2B User Manual, you can request a copy from your MABAS Region Branch Chief.

## MABAS Division 45

By: Grayson Palmer

On December 19, 2018, at approximately 2:25 pm, the MABAS Div. 45 Hazardous Materials Team was dispatched to the Vienna Correctional Center for a suspicious white powder. Responding to the scene were 14 responders/team members representing 8 area departments. Staff at the correctional center opened a letter containing a very small amount of a suspicious white powder. The HMRT was able to determine that it was not a biological from the 20/20 test results. Due to the very small amount of product, secondary testing was nearly impossible. We were able to get results via the Hazmat ID, but none of the results were within a reliable range of confidence. All items were collected and transferred to the FBI for further testing. All units back in service at 6:20 pm.

## MABAS Division 50



Attached is a photo of eight (8) of the nine (9) Generator/Light Towers that were used during the tornado response in Taylorville, Illinois. Division 50's is not in the photo. The photo is of the eight of them that were requested as inter-divisional aid, they are parked behind the Taylorville Fire Department after Sloan's Implement finished servicing them for free following the tornado event before they were demobilized. Below is the Implement Dealer that serviced them at no cost to Taylorville, MABAS Divisions, or MABAS-Illinois.

Sloan's Implement  
240 South Spresser Street  
Taylorville, IL 62568

# 2019 Annual MABAS Command Summit

By: Bernie Lyons

The 2019 Annual MABAS Command Summit takes place on February 25th through February 27th at the Marriott Hotel in Bloomington-Normal. MABAS-Illinois takes great pride that this annual gathering is a Summit, not a conference, not a convention, a Summit, an assembly of organizational leaders from across the fire and emergency management spectrum coming together to share and receive critical and leading-edge information on the challenges facing our state, our citizens and our first responders.

This year's subjects include: Active Threat Response, School Safety, Active Shooter, and what promises to be a memorable presentation by Father Jim Swarthout of the Rosecrance Health Network on the mental health and well-being of First Responders. Other sessions will include discussions on some of the larger emergency events of the past year, including the Illinois Task Force 1 deployment to North Carolina to assist in rescue operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.

Who should attend? - Fire Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Officers, Acting Officers, MABAS Division Board members, Team Leaders, Emergency Managers.... If you want to know how Illinois will meet the next wave of emergent challenges, if you want to represent and give voice to your organization, if you want to be part of the answer and contribute to Illinois' continued reputation as having the best organized mutual aid emergency response network in the nation, then you need to take this opportunity to come and be part of the 2019 Annual MABAS Command Summit.



Chief John Michalesko

for the Dallas Morning News. John is active in his community and enjoys biking, hiking, hunting and fishing when time allows.

John represents MABAS Divisions 34, 45, 47, 52, 54, 63, 68 and 69.

## Do You Know!!!

John Michalesko began his emergency services career with the Southern Illinois University Ambulance Service (later known as the Jackson County Ambulance Service) in 1975. In 1980 he was employed as a firefighter for the City of Carbondale. At Carbondale he served in several capacities including K-9 Handler, Lead Fire Investigator, Captain, Assistant Chief and retired as Fire Chief in November of 2015.

John is originally from Chicago Heights and is a graduate of Bloom Township High School. He holds Associate and Bachelor of Science degrees from Southern Illinois University, as well as numerous state and national certifications. He resides in Carbondale with his wife Debbie and they have one son Rvan. a photojournalist for

**MABAS ILLINOIS**  
**233 W. Hintz Rd.**  
**Wheeling, IL 60090**  
**847-403-0500**

[www.mabas-il.org](http://www.mabas-il.org)





Welcome to the  
2019  
MABAS-Illinois Training Summit

February 25 – March 1, 2019

Marriott Hotel  
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois

**MABAS-ILLINOIS TRAINING SUMMIT  
CHIEFS AND COMMAND  
February 25 – February 27, 2019**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 25, 2019</b>	
0730 – 0830	Continental Breakfast for Committee and Staff Members – Redbird North Lobby	
0700 – 1700	Registration – North End	
0830 – 0915	Committee Orientation & 2019 Briefings – Redbird C/D	
0915 – 1230	Committee Work Sessions	
	By-Laws Committee – Hunt	Water Rescue Committee – Beaufort
	Fleet & Mechanics Committee – Fell A	TCD Committee – Redbird E
	MIST Committee – Fell B	US&R Committee – Redbird F
	TRT Committee – Fell C	HAZMAT Committee – Broadway
	Operations Committee – Blackburn	Fire Intelligence Liaisons – Redbird G
0930 – 1030	Break – Set up near committee meeting rooms	
1145 – 1230	Working Committee Lunches (Provided – delivered to Committee rooms)	
1300 - 1345	<b>Welcome &amp; Dignitaries Comments – Redbird C/D</b> <b>Presentation of Colors Normal Fire Department Color Guard; Pledge of Allegiance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chris Koos, Mayor, Town of Normal</li> <li>- Tari Renner, Mayor, City of Bloomington</li> <li>- Matt Perez, State of Illinois Fire Marshal</li> <li>- Mick Humer, Fire Chief, Town of Normal</li> <li>- Brian Mohr, Fire Chief, City of Bloomington</li> <li>- MABAS Leadership Team Executive Board</li> </ul>	
1345 – 1515	<b>MABAS Division 3 Active Threat Response Plan – Redbird C/D</b> <i>Drew Smith, Fire Chief Prospects Heights FPD; Pete Dyer, Deputy Chief, Des Plaines FD; Chris Lienhardt, Executive Director RED Center</i> – Presentation will cover how the 14 agencies that make up R.E.D. Center developed their response guidelines, the challenges encountered and the final product that was adopted both locally and at the MABAS Level.	
1515 – 1530	Break – Lobby Area	
1530 – 1615	Vendor Setup – Redbird A/B	
1530 – 1700	<b>Improving School Safety through Lessons Learned, Prevention Techniques and a Free State Information Sharing Program – Redbird C/D</b> <i>Mia Ray Langheim, School Intelligence Officer, Statewide Terrorism &amp; Intelligence Center, Illinois State Police, Western Illinois University</i> – Presentation will reflect on the lessons learned from school shooting incidents. Attention will be drawn to resources and ideas to help mitigate these issues; information about the free School Safety Information Sharing Program.	
1615 – 1700	Vendor Briefing – Redbird A/B	
1700	Administrative Announcements & Day's Summary – Redbird C/D	
1800 - 2030	Supper Served – Redbird A/B Tired Travelers with our Vendor Sponsors – Redbird C/D	

**MABAS-ILLINOIS TRAINING SUMMIT  
CHIEFS AND COMMAND  
February 25 – February 27, 2019**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 26, 2019</b>
0730 - 0830	Continental Breakfast for Summit Attendees – Redbird Lobby
0700 – 0900	Summit Registration – North End
0815 – 0830	Welcome and Admin. Announcements - General Session – Redbird C/D
0830 – 1000	<b>MABAS Division 56 Borgic's Farm Fire 5/25/18; After Action Review – Redbird C/D</b> <i>Greg Nimmo, Montgomery County EMA Director &amp; County 911 Coordinator; Kevin Schott, Fire Chief Litchfield FD, Vice-President Division 56; Danny McCallum, Fire Chief Raymond-Harvel Volunteer FD</i> – Presentation will provide an After-Action Review, lessons learned, and incident challenges faced during this interdivisional incident. Several positive outcomes were observed, some of which were the use of a drone on a large incident, the need for going deep into the box cards and reaching a substantial water supply in a rural setting.
1000 - 1015	Break with Vendors – Redbird A/B
1015 - 11:45	<b>Small Town-Big Incident; Village Glen Apartments Render-Safe Operation, Beaver Dam Wisconsin – Redbird C/D</b> <i>Alan D. Mannel, Fire Chief Beaver Dam Fire &amp; Rescue Department, Wisconsin</i> – On 3/5/18, an explosion rocked the Village Glen Apartment Complex in Beaver Dam Wisconsin. An improvised explosive device detonated destroying the apartment and set off a 12-day operation that ended with the thermal destruction of the 16-unit apartment building with exposures. This unusual and complex incident involved multiple challenges including 4 additional events that would be noteworthy on their own. This presentation will provide an in-depth discussion of these events, including the immense MABAS-Wisconsin resources involved for sufficient firefighting forces to cover the incident.
1200 - 1315	<b>Working Lunch – Redbird E/F/G</b> <b>IPWMAN Group and UAS/ Drone Work Group Updates</b> <i>Mark Doerfler, IPWMAN Representative; Keenan Newton, UAS/Drone Work Group Representative</i>
1330 - 1500	<b>Systematic approach to Active Shooter / Hostile Events – Redbird C/D</b> <i>Nate Hiner, Firefighter/Paramedic Arlington County Virginia High Threat Response Program</i> – Presentation will provide a program definition/historical look at Active Shooter, Tactical Emergency Medical Care (integrated Police & Fire response), importance of Rapid Point of Care, Communication Center coordination.
1500 - 1530	Break with Vendors – Redbird A/B
1530 - 1700	<b>Understanding the First Responders Role in Counterterrorism – Redbird C/D</b> <i>Elisa Shutler, State &amp; Local Intelligence Analyst, Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team, National Counterterrorism Center; Sergeant Andrew McCulloch, California Highway Patrol</i> – Presentation will review how first responders can contribute to the fight against terrorism based on roles, responsibilities and duties. This presentation will touch base on the various resources that are available, to include external partnerships.
1700	Administrative Announcements & Day's Summary – Redbird C/D
Evening	On Your Own – Enjoy Bloomington and Normal

**MABAS-ILLINOIS TRAINING SUMMIT  
CHIEFS AND COMMAND  
February 25 – February 27, 2019**

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 27, 2019</b>
0730 – 0830	Continental Breakfast for Attendees – Redbird Lobby
0830 - 1000	<p><b>MABAS EMAC (Emergency Management Assistance Compact) Process Review and Mission Tasking Hurricane Florence, Riegelwood North Carolina Redbird C/D</b></p> <p><i>Kevin Lyne, Deputy Operations Section Chief, MABAS-IL.; Darryl Dragoo, IEMA; Chuck Gros, Firefighter/Paramedic, IL-TF1; Steve Camlin, Fire Chief, Riegelwood N.C. Fire/Rescue Department</i> - Presentation will provide a review and discussion of the EMAC, State of Illinois EMAC actions, MABAS EMAC actions, RED Center EMAC actions and EMAC mission tasking/MABAS mission ready package response/actions.</p>
1000 - 1015	Break with Vendors – Redbird A/B
1030 - 1200	<p><b>First Responders “I experience it time and time again on the Rig” Post Traumatic Growth after Grief and Loss – Redbird C/D</b></p> <p><i>Father Jim Swarthout, Rosecrance Health Network/St.Florian</i> – In his presentation Father Jim will discuss “the experience of living includes the encounters we have with loss and change in our lives”. He will explore and understand the concept of Post Traumatic Growth and consider what this may mean in your life going forward.</p>
1200 - 1300	Lunch on your own
1300 - 1500	MABAS Executive Board Meeting – Redbird C/D
1500 - 1600	Raffle & Door Prizes – Redbird C/D

**MABAS-ILLINOIS TRAINING SUMMIT  
DISPATCHERS  
February 27 – March 1, 2019**

<b><i>Wednesday</i></b>	<b><i>February 27, 2019</i></b>
0800 - 1600	Dispatcher Summit Registration – Redbird North Lobby
1000 - 1030	<b>Welcome to the 2019 MABAS-Illinois Dispatchers Summit – Redbird E/F/G</b>
1030 - 1200	<b>Opening Speaker – Health and Welfare in our profession – Redbird E/F/G</b> <b><i>Sarah Gura, MA,LCPC, The Self Care Path LLC.</i></b> – We welcome back Sarah who specializes in dealing with our profession in stress, depression and PTSD.
1200 - 1330	Conference Registration and Lunch on your own! Explore Bloomington-Normal!
1330 - 1500	<b>General Session – From North to South, City to Country, it's all the same! – Redbird E/F/G</b> <b><i>Chris Lienhardt, Executive Director, R.E.D Center; and Rachel Thompson, 911 Telecommunicator, Bond County and Greenville Police Department Fire and EMS; Assistant Chief Dave Caulk, Shoal Creek Fire Protection District</i></b> – A presentation on a Division 3 fire and a Division 58 fire, and how the system works regardless of the location.
1500 - 1630	Raffle & Door Prizes – Redbird C/D
1800 - 2030	Supper Served - Redbird A/B Tired Travelers with our Vendor Sponsors – Redbird C/D <b><i>Join us for our 'St. Patrick's' themed gathering!</i></b>

**MABAS-ILLINOIS TRAINING SUMMIT  
DISPATCHERS  
February 27 – March 1, 2019**

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 28, 2019</b>	
0700 – 0800	Continental Breakfast and Registration for Attendees – North Redbird Lobby	
0815 – 0930	<b>General Session – Lessons Learned</b> Redbird E/F/G Division 7 Pembroke Brush fire – <i>Matt Shronts and Jen Palacio</i> Division 10 Gas leak - <i>Kent Adams</i> Division 56 Hog Containment Fire - <i>Greg Nimmo</i>	
0930 – 1015	<b>General Session – Sun Prairie Explosion/Dispatch Evacuation – Redbird E/F/G</b> <i>Kevin Fosso, Assistant Operations Manager, Dane County (Wisconsin) Dispatch</i> A presentation on their incident that shook the entire community	
1015 – 1030	Break – North Redbird Lobby	
1030 – 1145	<b>General Session – Las Vegas Active Shooter – Redbird E/F/G</b> <i>Letha Lofton, Matt Grogan, Melanie Straeter, Combined Communications Center, Las Vegas, NV.</i> A presentation on the Mandalay Bay incident from multiple perspectives!	
1145 – 1300	<b>Working Lunch – MABAS TCD in review – Chris Lienhardt, Executive Director, R.E.D Ctr.</b> Redbird D <b>Who we are, what we're doing, and where we are going! Meet the members, a Review of our Committee meeting, and upcoming events</b>	
1300 – 1345	<b>An Outsiders Perspective- Chief Petty Officer Allen C. Holtsford, USN, Retired</b> <b>"Leadership and vitality of dispatching; the keystone to a crisis"- Redbird E/F/G</b> <i>A discussion of how dispatchers are leaders up and down the chain of command and throughout an organization!</i>	
1345 – 1500	<b>MABAS for Beginners – Redbird E/F/G</b> <i>'Fire 101' An interactive presentation on the basics of firefighting -Andy Russell, Mike Spiro and Jamie Fleisner</i>	<b>MABAS Advanced – Redbird D</b> <i>'Statewide and beyond' – A review of the steps in an escalating incident! Mark Sikorski and Tom Clifton</i>
	<b>MABAS Basics – A presentation on the how's and why's of dispatching a box alarm - Mark Sikorski</b>	<b>'Deployment review'- An inside perspective from notifications, to EMAC requirements, through deployment!!!</b>
	<b>Let's Talk about your Box Cards!</b> <b>With Jamie Fleisner and Bill Neumann</b> <b>An open discussion regarding YOUR box cards!</b> <b>Bring your Local BOX CARDS!!!</b> <b>-Dispatcher Simulator available!!!!</b>	<b>Chip Wilmot, Steve Groszek and Chuck Gros</b>
1500 – 1515	Break	
1515 – 1545	<b>IL-TERT Presentation – Brian Tegtmeyer; Update Illinois TERT – Redbird E/F/G</b>	
1545 - 1700	<b>Open Forum – "It's not about you, it's the mission"!</b> A theater themed open discussion – <i>Chris Lienhardt, Allen Holtsford and Kent Adams</i> – Redbird E/F/G	

**MABAS-ILLINOIS TRAINING SUMMIT  
DISPATCHERS  
February 27 – March 1, 2019**

<b>Friday</b>	<b>March 1, 2019</b>
0700 – 0830	Continental Breakfast for Attendees – Redbird North Lobby
0830 – 0930	An update from MABAS Illinois – A State of the Organization briefing and discussion on Deployment request – Redbird E/F/G <i>Glenn Ericksen, Fire Chief (Ret), CEO, MABAS-ILLINOIS; Chris Lienhardt, Executive Director R.E.D Center.</i>
0930 - 0945	Break
0945 – 1045	<i>Closing Speaker – Mike Toomey – ‘You are not secretaries... You are SUPERHEROES!’ An enlightening, and entertaining session with WGN Chicago's Funniest “News Reporter”!</i> Redbird E/F/G
1045 – 1130	2019 Dispatcher Summit – Open Forum - A discussion about upcoming events and classes....and Closing Remarks Redbird E/F/G

## **MABAS-ILLINOIS COMMAND SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**Drew Smith, BS, EFO/CFO, LP** is Fire Chief, Prospect Heights Fire Protection District, **MABAS Division 3**. A 40-year member of the fire service, the past twenty-nine years as a chief officer, he had been a member of volunteer, combination and career departments. An experienced training officer, regional academy director, regional TRT director, Statewide TRT committee chair and college faculty with multiple firefighting, special operations, officer and instructor/training manager certifications. A member several state and national fire service organization, he has presented at both FDIC as well as state and regional conferences numerous times over the past 26 years.

**Peter Dyer, Deputy Fire Chief, Des Plaines Fire Department, MABAS Division 3**. Is a 37-year veteran of the fire service. He began his career as a paid-on-call firefighter for the Elk Grove Township Fire Protection District in 1982. He was hired as a full-time contract firefighter/paramedic for Public Safety Services of Illinois based out of Rosemont, Illinois. In 1987 he joined the Des Plaines Fire Department where he serves as Deputy Chief of Operations. As Deputy Chief he is responsible for all shift and Division operations. He has an extensive background in teaching. He served as EMT program coordinator for Triton College from 1983 to 1995 when he transitioned to the Northwest Community EMS system as EMT program coordinator. There he taught both EMT and paramedic classes. He currently instructs for the Illinois Society of Fire Instructors and the Illinois Fire Chiefs Instructor Foundation. He is certified as Fire Officer II, Incident Safety Officer and Training Program Manager through the State of Illinois.

**Chris Lienhardt** is a 30-year member of the Public Safety community, serving the past 19 years at R.E.D Center and was recently promoted to the position of Executive Director. Chris was part of the very first MABAS Dispatchers Conference, as APCO Illinois and NENA instructor, as well as part of the team who presents the Regional Dispatch Seminars throughout the State since 2011.

**Mia Ray Langheim, School Intelligence Officer, Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center, Illinois State Police**. She was hired to create and manage the School Safety Information program shortly after Sandy Hook in March 2013 by the State of Illinois Fusion Center. This is the first program of its kind in the country that can share intelligence information with administrators and those who need to know in schools and campuses that was previously unavailable to anyone outside of the first responders. The School Safety Information Sharing programs goal is to share information with those assisting in safety in educational facilities from local, state and federal agencies about current threats and trends that could affect students, staff, faculty and facilities. She is constantly working on bridging the communication gap and improving education to those in public safety and education to help all involved improve safety decisions. Mia's background includes over fifteen years of experience in research and large data management, over ten years teaching at the college level and five and a half years of managing the School Safety and Information Sharing program.



## MABAS-ILLINOIS COMMAND SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Greg Nimmo serves in a dual role as the Montgomery County EMA Director and Montgomery County 911 Coordinator.** He has previously served as a Volunteer Firefighter and EMT-I for over 20 years, Field Instructor with the Illinois Fire Service Institute and the Illinois Incident Management Team with deployments of Hurricane Katrina and Mississippi River floods. Montgomery County EMA is an active member of MABAS Division 56 to include the Divisions Hazardous Materials and Water Rescue Teams. In addition, Director Nimmo leads an active Local Emergency Planning Committee, Incident Command/Management Team, Search and Rescue and Drone Teams.

**Kevin Schott, Fire Chief, Litchfield Fire Department,** has been a Volunteer Firefighter, Military Firefighter, Career Firefighter and Chief during his 36 years in the Fire Service. He is an Iraq War Veteran having been deployed to Iraq as a firefighter in 2006. In addition, he spent 3 years with the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office as the Senior Policy Advisor under State Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis and Chief Operating Officer under State Fire Marshal Matt Perez. He is currently Chief of the Litchfield Fire Department, a combination department delivering ALS and fire response, a Director with the Illinois Firefighters Association and Vice-President of MABAS Division 56.

**Danny McCallum, Fire Chief, Raymond-Harvel Fire Protection District,** a volunteer fire department. He has been a firefighter for 34 years, assuming the role as Chief in 2013. He is also a member of the Raymond-Harvel ambulance service as an EMT-B. He is currently a member of the Montgomery County Search & Rescue (SAR) Team and Drone Team. He also is on the advisory board as a member for MABAS Division 56's 501(c) Non-for-Profit organization.

**Alan Mannel, Fire Chief, Beaver Dam Wisconsin,** 2009 to present, entered the fire service in 1974 as a Cadet Firefighter with the University Park, Illinois Fire Department until 1988, holding all ranks up to Assistant Chief. Career Firefighter/Paramedic 1979 – 1985. He was a career Firefighter/Paramedic with Matteson, Illinois Fire Department, retiring as a Lieutenant, 1985 – 2009. Served as Fire Chief with Steger Illinois Fire Department 2001 – 2004. He also was adjunct faculty at Prairie State College/South Suburban College, 1990 – 2009. Chief Mannel has an Associates in Applied Science Degree from Prairie State College and a bachelor's degree in Fire Science Management from Southern Illinois University.

## MABAS-ILLINOIS COMMAND SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Nate Hiner is a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Arlington County Virginia Fire Department,** for 9 years and is currently assigned to the Arlington County High Threat Response Program where he works on response policy and training specific to high threat events. In his current assignment he assists with managing a regional, grant related to addressing Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks. He is the lead warm zone care instructor for the department and is an adjunct instructor for the Arlington County Police Departments Tactical Training Unit. He is a member of the departments Technical Rescue Team having reached the rank of specialist within the team. He currently sits on the Northern Virginia High Threat Response Committee, the Washington DC Council of Governments Complex Coordinated Attack Working Group, the Washington DC Council of Governments Fire Intel Committee, as well as the Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care as a member of the Board of Advisors. He is lead instructor and course architect for the National Tactical Officers Association's Rescue Task Force course. Nate is an adjunct instructor for George Washington University in Emergency Medicine and teaches for FEMA in Tactical Emergency Casualty Care and High Threat response. He recently accepted a position with The National Center for Security and Preparedness out of the University of Albany working on their Rescue Task Force course.

**Andrew McCulloch, Sergeant, California Highway Patrol,** is a 17-year member and had previously been assigned within the Protective Services Division, Capitol Protection Section. He is responsible for first-line supervision of field-level personnel within the high-profile 102-member command. His duties include supervising a variety of law enforcement services including; patrol, criminal investigations, protective details, community orientated policing efforts and site-security responsibilities to the California State Capitol and hundreds of other state facilities in the downtown Sacramento region. He is also the primary supervisor of the Special Investigations Unit and the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

**Elisa Shutler is a State and Local Intelligence Analyst** assigned to the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) at the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC). She has 10 years of experience in law enforcement and 11 years in intelligence. She served duty as a patrol officer with the Wichita (Kansas) Police Department and Intelligence Analyst in the Air National Guard. She is also currently the Operations Officer for Security Forces at the 175<sup>th</sup> Wing located in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Kevin Lyne, Deputy Operations Section Chief, MABAS-ILLINOIS,** has been in the fire service since 1985 and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Southern Illinois University. He is a retired Division Chief from the Naperville Fire Department, serving there for more than 28 years. Prior to his current appointment, he was the MABAS US&R Operations Branch Chief. He is a founding member of the Illinois Urban Search & Rescue Task Force, IL-TF1. He has been a member of various MABAS committees and has been part of the development of the National US&R Standards Committee and a Board member of the State Urban Search & Rescue (SUSAR) Alliance. He is a fire service and rescue instructor and has presented around the nation.

## **MABAS-ILLINOIS COMMAND SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**Darryl Dragoo, Division Chief for IEMA's Division of Operations**, has been employed with the state of Illinois for approximately 35 years, working in nuclear safety, emergency management and homeland security programs. He currently also holds the responsibilities of Manager of Strategic Operations and Preparedness and State Emergency Operations Center Manager. Throughout his tenure, he has participated in and served as a team leader on several working groups responsible for the development of the national and international standards on Emergency Management and Homeland Security. He is currently serving as the Chair of Urban Search and Rescue Standards Committee and Vice Chair of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program Technical Committee. He has served as a team leader and assessor for numerous national and international emergency management, disaster preparedness and homeland security program assessments, including those for federal programs. Most recently, he led the training and assessment preparation process for King Faisal Hospital and Research Center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

**Chuck Gros, Water Component Team Leader, Rescue Squad Officer for IL-TF1 USAR Team, currently a career Firefighter/Paramedic for the Naperville Fire Department.** With 23 years of experience in the fire service, there he functions as an Acting Company Officer, the Water Rescue Team Leader for the department and the Water Rescue Team Coordinator for MABAS Division 16. He also sits as an active member of the Illinois MABAS Water Committee. He is also an Instructor Trainer for Rescue 3 International specializing in teaching Swiftwater and Flood Response Operations. As one of the founding members of North Central Water Rescue, he has trained hundreds of individuals in Swiftwater Rescue throughout the Midwest and Southeast Regions of the country.

**Steve Camlin, Fire Chief, Riegelwood N.C. Fire/Rescue Department**

**Rev James Swarthout, M.Div., MSW, CAADC, CIP Director of Clergy and Alumni Relations, Rosecrance Health Network,** Fr. Jim has been involved in mental health and addiction counseling for more than 33 years. He has master's degrees in Divinity and Social Work and is a Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor and a Certified intervention Professional. His work is to align interdenominational awareness alumni support for long term recovery. Fr. Jim is also engaged working with Trauma issues within Rosecrance Behavioral Health Florian program for first responders/EMS where he supports the Trauma issues within the program. His resume includes Rotary International and founding board member of National Diaper Bank network and mental health and addictions support services. He is also the International Chaplain for the Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society: The "F.O.O.L.S." exemplify the true meaning of the Brotherhood by providing training opportunities to Brother and Sister Firefighters worldwide. Father Jim has recently been invited to participate in the Ted Talk fellowship application process. With this they have developed for him. [www.fatherjimtalks.com](http://www.fatherjimtalks.com).

## MABAS-ILLINOIS DISPATCHERS SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Mark Sikorski** is a Shift Coordinator for R.E.D Center/Division 3 in Northbrook, since 2007. He joined the fire service in 1987, and started his emergency communications career at Orland Central in 1997 and eventually worked his way up to Director of Communications, until leaving to join RED Center. He is a member of the Division 3 Box Alarm committee, and liaison to the MRC. Mark was involved in coordinating the first MABAS Dispatchers Conference, and, as part of a group supported by the MABAS TCD Committee, he travels across the state presenting the Regional Dispatch Seminars to other Tele-communicators and members of the fire service. He currently serves as a member of the MABAS Illinois Operations Committee.

**Johnathon Paholke**, is the MABAS-IL Branch Chief assigned to the Illinois State Police Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC). He serves as a fire service subject matter expert to the fusion center as well as educating and recruiting fire service personnel for the STIC public safety programs. Johnathon started his career in emergency services in 2000 working as a call taker for a private ambulance service. In 2004 he was hired as a 911 dispatcher for the City of Effingham where he spent much of his career teaching dispatchers about the Fire Service and MABAS. In 2006 Johnathon joined his local fire department rising through the ranks where he is currently a Battalion Chief. Johnathon is a state certified instructor and holds certifications in Arson Investigations, Haz-Mat, and Dive.

**William Neumann** is currently the Director for Orland Central Dispatch a fire/ems based center in Orland Park, since 2005. He started his interest in emergency communications while being a POC fire fighter until 2013. A Member of the MABAS TCD Committee, and he also responds to incident scenes as support dispatcher.

**Jamie Fleisner** presently works for Elgin Emergency Communications which dispatches for the City of Elgin, Illinois Police and Fire Departments and the South Elgin FPD. She has been with Elgin for 16 years and is currently the Deputy Director. As a Tele-communicator she has worked in all facets of their communications center, including training, MABAS Division 2 Committee member and major projects.

**Joe McGrath** has been an emergency communications and fire service professional for 30 years. He is actively working as a MABAS Tele-communicator for over 20 years. He is currently serving as Training and EMD Coordinator for the Justice Police Department in addition to dispatching for the Orland Central Dispatch which is the primary dispatch center for MABAS Divisions 19.

**Andy Russell** is a lieutenant with the Buffalo Grove Fire Department and a Captain with the Peotone Fire Protection District. He has been in the fire service for 20 years and has always had an avid interest in radios, dispatch, and communications. Andy serves as the liaison to Northwest Central Dispatch for the Buffalo Grove Fire Department and sits on several committees as well as having been a member of the MABAS TCD committee for 7 years

## MABAS-ILLINOIS DISPATCHERS SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Tom Clifton** has 29 years experience in the fire service and is currently a full-time firefighter/paramedic with the Lockport Township FPD. He also has 28 years experience as a Tele-communicator, currently working part time with the Orland Fire District and WesCom (Plainfield) Dispatch Centers.

**Rachel Thompson** began her career as a 911 Telecommunicator for Bond County 911 and the Greenville Police Department in 2007 where she currently remains dispatching police, fire and EMS. She has worked at three different 911 centers and MABAS divisions in her 12 years of service. Rachel serves as the Fire Intelligence Liaison Officer, Secretary and Treasurer of Division 58, is an IL-TERT member and a Social Media Administrator for her department. She is the most recent addition to the MABAS TCD Committee, one of several instructors of the MABAS Regional Dispatch Seminars and newest MABAS Dispatch Summit Planning Committee member.

**Mike Toomey**... With his Sharp Delivery, quick wit, and unique style, Mike has been a favorite at comedy clubs and special events since 1982. Seen daily on The WGN Morning News in Chicago, Mike has appeared in concert with such names as Wayne Newton, Crosby, Stills & Nash, George Carlin, Reba McIntyre and may more. He has performed on numerous television programs including; HBO's U.S. comedy Arts Festival in Aspen Colorado; MTV's Half Hour Comedy Hour; and A&E's Comedy on the Road. The Chicago Tribune calls Mike, "One of the funniest and most talented performers to ever work in Chicago." For an evening of uncontrollable laughs, Mike Toomey is a sure choice!

**Mike Spiro** is a Lieutenant with the Buffalo Grove Fire Department as well as the IT Director for the Village of West Dundee. As IT Director, he manages information systems for 6 communities and Fire Districts serviced by QuadCom 911. He has been in the fire service for 25 years and has always had an interest in computers, dispatch, and communications. Mike serves as a liaison to Northwest Central Dispatch for Buffalo Grove Fire Department, as well as a technical resource for QuadCom's dispatch system.

**Matt Shronts** currently serves as the Deputy Fire Chief for the Grant Park Fire District as well as the Team Leader for the MABAS Division 7 Incident Management Team. Matt is currently in his 18th year in the fire service and serves on a variety of local and state level committees. Deputy Chief Shronts is a certified Chief Fire Officer and has background in medium and large scale incident and resource management. He resides in Grant Park, IL. with his wife Lisa and daughter, Cameryn.

**Jennifer Palacio** currently serves as a dispatcher with KanComm in Kankakee, IL. where she has been a dispatcher since August, 1999. Prior to starting her veteran career at KanComm she also served the Kankakee County Sheriff's Office as a Correctional Officer. She resides in Kankakee, IL. with her 2 children, Kaylee and Madison.

## MABAS-ILLINOIS DISPATCHERS SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Kent Adams, Fire Chief, Romeoville Fire Department**, has a Bachelor Degree from Governors State University, a Bachelor Degree from Southern Illinois University and an Associate Degree from Moraine Valley Community College. He started his fire service career as a volunteer Firefighter/Paramedic with the Palos Fire Protection District. Prior to becoming the Chief in Romeoville, he served 24 years with the Downers Grove Fire Department, rising through the ranks up to acting Deputy Chief. He serves on numerous standing committees for the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and MABAS-ILLINOIS. He continues to maintain his paramedic license and has experience as a Flight Paramedic through Loyola University Life Star Program. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the newly created Laraway Communications Center, which was created through the consolidation of four PSAP's.

### **Kevin Fosso, Assistant Operations Manager, Dane County (Wisconsin) Dispatch**

**Allen C. Holtsford** enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1993 and began his career serving in the submarine force which includes the commissioning of the USS Tucson (SSN 770), prior to serving as military police. Throughout the course of his 20 years of service he led Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and Airmen with distinction. While on active duty he was selected as 3-time Sailor of the year and served as the leader of three security departments, which included both police forces and dispatching centers, on two continents. Allen was Camp Supervisor at Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay and worked as the Anti-Terrorism Officer for the Naval Base in South Korea. At the U.S. European Command Headquarters, he served in the Anti-Terrorism Office and was selected as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Joint Operations Center. Prior to his retirement in 2013, he served as the HR Director for Naval personnel at Marine Corps Security Force Battalion Kings Bay where he oversaw the careers of more than 470 security personnel responsible for the safeguarding of nuclear weapons.

**Letha Lofton, Fire Communications Supervisor at the ACE accredited Combined Communications Center (CCC) in Las Vegas, NV.** The CCC is a secondary PSAP for fire and medical services in the Las Vegas valley serving Clark County Fire Department, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue, North Las Vegas Fire Department and the Mt. Charleston Fire Protection District. As an EMD-Q, she also evaluates medical calls in addition to her daily oversight of nearly 50 Communications Specialists. Letha's 18+ years of experience was an invaluable asset during the October 1/Route 91 active shooter incident. Her participation and perspective aided in designing new communications policy moving forward after the event. She has spoken of her experiences at the IAED Navigator 2018, National APCO 2018 and Kentucky APCO 2018 conferences.

## **MABAS-ILLINOIS DISPATCHERS SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**Matt Grogan, Communications Specialist and Acting Supervisor with the Combined Communications Center in Las Vegas, NV.** He has over 13 years of public safety communications experience. He started his career in Illinois with DuPage County Public Safety Communications, which serves as the dispatch center for MABAS-ILLINOIS Divisions 12 and 16, working his way up to Operator-in-charge. He holds numerous certifications from NENA, APCO, FEMA, The Center for Domestic Preparedness, Illinois Fire Service Institute. On the state level, Matt serves as the first Vice President of Nevada APCO and is the state coordinator or the Nevada TERT team. He also serves on the national level for APCO Pro-CHRT committee and his is a committee board member for joint TERT.

**Melanie Straeter, Communications Specialist at the Combined Communications Center in Las Vegas, NV.** She has over 12 years' experience at the Center. She began her career in the public safety communications field, starting with the Metropolitan Police Department in Las Vegas. She worked for Metro Comm for 5 ½ years as a Communication Specialist and trainer for the department. She recently trained as an E-Tips first responder and completed the EMD-Q certification. Melanie was not at work the night of October 1, 2017, because she was attending the Route 91 concert for her third year in a row. Her experiences as an attendee and survivor of the worst mass shooting in U.S. history has impacted her personal and work lives. Sharing her experience with others has helped her heal from this event.

**Sarah Gura, M.A., L.C.P.C Master of Arts, Counseling Psychology, The Self Care Path LLC.** Is a master's level licensed clinical professional counselor. She began working in the helping field in 2003; and provides individual couples, group and family counseling services. She specializes in treating firefighters and paramedics; and is a grant writer, author and director of Firefighter Psychological Support. She also created the training material for the Illinois Firefighter Peer Support team and trained their first 100+ firefighter peers. She teaches HSO and CFO firefighter behavioral health classes; and is adjunct instructor in the psychology department at Lewis University. She also provides other academic and professional presentations independently, for the Fire Service, throughout Illinois.

**Glenn Ericksen, Fire Chief (ret.), Chief Executive Officer, MABAS-ILLINOIS,** coordinating 1,100-member agencies in support of large scale incidents, disaster responses and terrorist attacks, has served in various capacities of Fire and Emergency Services since he began his career in 1974 with the Village of Arlington Heights, Illinois, where he served 39 years, retiring as Fire Chief. Prior to being selected as MABAS CEO, he served in the capacity of MABAS Finance Administration Section Chief.

**Chip Wilmot, MABAS-ILLINOIS Operations Branch Chief, West Central Illinois and currently serving as Fire Chief of the Germantown Hills Fire Protection District.** He serves as the Liaison to the Telecommunications Committee and Dispatchers Centers Committee. He has an interest in radio communications systems and is one of the MABAS Liaisons to the State Emergency Operations Center. He has been active in the fire service for more than 35 years

## MABAS-ILLINOIS DISPATCHERS SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Dave Caulk** began his career in the fire service in 1982. He is currently the Assistant Chief of the Shoal Creek Fire Protection District. Dave has also been a paid industrial firefighter for 24 years, holds a degree in Fire Science from Lincolnland Community College, and has numerous state certifications including but not limited to EMT, HazMat Tech, Apparatus Engineer and Confined Space/High Angle Tech. He is the former President of MABAS Division 58 and has held several different positions, recently retiring from Olin Brass Fire Department of Alton, IL as Captain. He in addition to remaining Assistant Chief of Shoal Creek Fire Prot. Dist. has begun a new career at the U.S. Steel Fire Department of Granite City, IL.