

A quarterly newsletter of MABAS WISCONSIN incidents and activities that underscore its value to the community and to foster growth and improvement through the sharing of actual experience.

SUMMER 2021

MABAS TECHNICAL RESCUE FOR PLANE CRASH INTO DENSE FOREST IN DIV 103

BY JOE USELDING, ASSISTANT CHIEF, WHITEWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT

It was dark by **9:19pm, Saturday May 15, 2021**. A caller to the **Walworth County Sheriff's Office** heard a plane's engine cut out. That caller was located *south* of Whitewater Lake, a large body of water in northwest Walworth County. Then, **Milwaukee Air Traffic Control** contacted the Walworth County Sheriff's office to alert them of a plane suddenly lost from radar. Shortly thereafter, a 911 call was placed, **from the pilot**, reporting three souls on board, uninjured.

The single engine Cirrus SR22 aircraft, travelling from Sheboygan to Burlington, lost power and was forced to deploy an emergency parachute to provide for a soft landing into the treetops in the midst of the Kettle Moraine State Forest Southern Unit where trees can be as high as 50-100 feet.

The dispatch center was able to determine approximate GPS

coordinates, actually *northeast* of Whitewater Lake, about two miles from the first caller's report.

The call initially came in for the **Whitewater Fire Department** to stage at our station. After consulting with dispatch, we began staging resources in the area of the Kettle Moraine Forest.

We moved staging three times until we found the exact location and best entry point. Our entry point and staging was near **County Road P and the Ice Age Trail**, but the incident was about 1/4 of a mile west of that address into the forest.

From the time we were paged, until the time Sheriff's Deputies first made contact with the plane, was about 45 minutes. Dispatch connected the pilot's cell phone to us, and we contacted the pilot. We also had family members at our staging area who were in contact with the other occupants of the plane, relaying medical information, status, ages, etc.

Initial reports were that three people were hanging in the trees by parachutes. We did not know at this point if everyone had bailed out of the plane with parachutes or if it was the entire plane. However, being deep in the forest, with limited access, we felt that having extra resources to more easily reach the victims couldn't hurt.

Nobody had any experience with rescuing people from an aircraft stuck in a tree. One of our Technical Rescue Team (TRT) members mentioned they knew an arborist from Dudek Tree Service that could quickly scale trees. We felt it could be an asset for setting up anchor points and reaching victims, and called for the asset very early in the incident.

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Looking straight up 75 feet at the treetops was a plane illuminated by ground lights. (Photo by Whitewater Fire Dept.)



Density of the area as shown in daytime aerial photo by Bing Maps.

MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

KEVIN BIERCE STEPS DOWN; ROBERT GOPLIN ELEVATED AS MABAS PRESIDENT

BY GARY SCHMIDT

Due to work assignments with the City of Pewaukee Fire Department that requires his undivided attention, Chief Kevin Bierce has resigned as the MABAS Wisconsin President as of June 3, 2021.

Per MABAS bylaws, Vice President Rob Goplin became the fifth MABAS Wisconsin President.

Rob entered the fire service in 1993 and was hired by the Green Bay Metro Fire Department in 1997.

Rob is the Assistant Chief of Operations for the Green Bay Metro Fire Department, which serves the City of Green Bay, Village of Allouez, and Village of Bellevue.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY ROB GOPLIN, ASSISTANT CHIEF, GREEN BAY METRO FIRE DEPT, AND PRESIDENT, MABAS WISCONSIN

Change is inevitable, but how we respond to it is up to each of us.

On behalf of MABAS Wisconsin, I would like to thank Chief Kevin Bierce for his years of leadership and service to our great organization. Over the years, Kevin's guidance, dedication, and passion advanced the fire service in Wisconsin. In particular, his leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic provided a calm, grounded response while still addressing the nuances and challenges presented to all of us. Kevin, we thank you!

As we work through this change, it may be helpful if we all got to know each other a little better. So I'll start by telling you a bit about myself.

I have been in the Wisconsin fire service for 29 years, starting out with the Pigeon Falls Volunteer Fire Department in Trempealeau County. Some of my favorite memories are from those early days and the "newness" of it all.

I then went to the Fitchburg Fire Department while attending Madison Area Technical College. After that, I worked as a limited-term employee at the Fort McCoy Fire Department and as a 911 Dispatcher in La Crosse County before coming to the Green Bay Fire Department in 1997.

Green Bay has merged departments with the Villages of Allouez and Bellevue to form the Green Bay Metro Fire Department, where I am currently the Assistant Chief of Operations.

My involvement with MABAS goes back to the beginning of MABAS Division 112 in Brown County. The Fire Chiefs in Brown County saw the system's value and began to form the division in 2007.

Under the guidance of another long-serving and dedicated MABAS Wisconsin President, Ed Janke, I participated in those discussions early on and have been a proponent

of the system since. I served as Division 112 Vice President from 2010 to 2016 and Division 112 President since 2016.

In September of 2018, I was fortunate enough to be elected Secretary of MABAS Wisconsin and then as Vice President in September of 2020.

I believe the strength of any organization stems from the members of that organization. Within this vast state, we have an incredible amount of talent, knowledge, and skill.

The motto of our great state is "Forward." Working together with common goals and objectives, we strive to harness that talent, knowledge, and skill and continue to move Wisconsin's fire service ever forward.

I look forward to meeting all of you and getting to know you more soon, hopefully at the MABAS Wisconsin Conference in September!

MABAS WI 2021 CONFERENCE SPONSORS BY QUENTIN POPP, DEPUTY CHIEF, SAND CREEK FD, AND TREASURER, MABAS WI



We have secured two platinum level sponsors for the conference. This is the second highest level of sponsorship, just a step down from the Corporate level. We wish to thank Fire Services, Inc., a full-service E-One dealer in Lake Mills, WI and FirstNet, a communications provider that "never competes with commercial traffic during a disaster".



MABAS TECHNICAL RESCUE FOR PLANE CRASH INTO DENSE FOREST - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

The arborist had training on removing people and objects from trees, so we were very lucky to have him as an asset. In the end, it ended up being invaluable to getting the occupants down.

At 9:48pm, I had **MABAS Division 103** call for **Technical Rescue (Confined Space, High Angle) Box 12-14** to the box level.



We also made an extra request for an ATV from the Lauderdale LaGrange Fire Department to assist with carrying manpower and resources back and forth, the DNR for additional ATV's and chainsaws in case we needed to widen the path, as well as a special request for Madison Fire Department's HURT (Heavy Urban Rescue Team) to respond to the scene.

This was mainly so we had extra assets in case one of the rescuers got into trouble. We also contacted the Air Force Rescue Coordination center in case we required an air asset to assist in the rescue.

The plane was located about 50 feet off the Ice Age Trail, and approximately 75 feet up in a tree. There was a perfect V-shape in the tree, where the nose of the aircraft came to rest. The aircraft was leaning forwards at an approximately 45° angle.

The arborist and Janesville TRT were deployed to the incident site, along with members of the Whitewater Fire Department and Lauderdale LaGrange Fire Departments.

The Arborist used a slingshot device to launch ropes into the trees to setup lines for him to scale various trees. From there, he setup a High-Point and a change of direction in another tree.

Eventually rescuers were sent up to the plane to assess the occupants, apply harnesses to each individually, and then bring them down one by one.

The Madison Hurt Team was deployed and assisted at the tail end of the incident by lowering the occupants to the ground and breaking down equipment. From the time we were paged, until the time the last victim was removed, took approximately 5 hours.

After Action Review.

Access to the crash site was initially an issue. The trail was not wide enough for ATV's from our initial staging point. When we worked on the other side of the incident, (County Highway P and the Ice Age Trail) we were able to get about 2/3 of the way to the site via ATV.

There was really very little that could be done to stabilize a plane 75' up in the canopy. Every time someone moved in the aircraft, rescuers watched to see if the plane shifted at all, as well as when weight was removed. Throughout the entire incident the plane was fairly stable.

MABAS did work for us in this incident. We really had no idea how large this incident would be, nor a good way to plan for it.

Who thinks they are going to respond to a plane that has crashed into the trees, stuck 75' in the air, and on top of it have zero injuries? It was a very challenging incident, but one that had an extraordinary outcome.



Top: A rescuer ascends to reach the plane. Bottom: Two of the three occupants are brought down.
(Photos by Whitewater Fire Dept.)

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MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

MABAS TECHNICAL RESCUE FOR PLANE CRASH INTO DENSE FOREST - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

There was a Fire Department asset on the Boxcard that no longer had trained personnel. We will be looking to swap that out for a different asset moving forward.

This was definitely a team effort. The fact that the plane had a parachute made sure the occupants had a soft landing. The plane could have landed differently, tumbled, and crashed to the ground. Any number of things could have gone very differently and lead to a much different outcome.

The fact that we recognized early on the need for additional resources, had enough resources staged, had the proper resources deployed and the knowledge to successfully conduct the rescue, really led to a successful outcome.

We are very fortunate that all the assets needed were available in reasonable proximity and that everyone worked extremely well together.



The arborist, TRT members, and Madison FD HURT plan the rescue. Note the portable lighting pointing straight up. (Photo by Whitewater Fire Department)

DEPARTMENT NAME: WHITWATER		BOX ALARM TYPE: TECHNICAL RESCUE Confined Space, High Angle				EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/1/2020		MABAS DIVISION: 103	
BOX ALARM # 12-14		LOCATION OR AREA: Entire Fire District				AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Mike Higgins			
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:									
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	TRS TEAMS	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)	
STILL	Whitewater	Whitewater	Whitewater	Whitewater		Whitewater			
MABAS BOX ALARM:									
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	TRS TEAMS	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)	
BOX	Jefferson	Elkhorn	LaGrange	Janesville		Elkhorn Jefferson	Janesville Tech Rescue Elkhorn Tech Rescue City of Beloit Tech Rescue Notify Division Duty Officer		
2ND	Edgerton	Fort Atkinson	Lake Mills	Johnson Creek		Edgerton Fort Atkinson	Lake Geneva Tech Rescue Mercy MD 1 Notify MABAS Reg Coordinator	Sullivan Chief & Engine	
3RD	Milton	City of Delavan	Troy Center	Mukwonago		City of Delavan Milton	Racine Tech Rescue Western Lakes Rehab Notify WEM/Badger Red		
4TH	Darien	Fontana	East Troy	City of Beloit		East Troy Fontana			
5TH	Clinton	Watertown	Eagle	Bloomfield		Watertown Janesville			
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST		1st Choice Division 106 Waukesha County	2nd Choice Division 115 Dane County	3rd Choice Division 105 Green County					
INFORMATION : Whitewater Fire Station - 312 W. Whitewater St. Fire Station Entry Knox Box located on west wall Dispatch - (262) 473 - 0555 x 4 Whitewater Dispatch Frequency 154.160 Fire Ground Frequency MABAS Red									

DIVISION 123 IN ACTION AT NURSING CENTER FIRE BY BRIAN HARBISON, CHIEF, FOX CROSSING FIRE DEPT

On **Thursday afternoon at 3:53pm, June 18, 2020**, the **Fox Crossing Fire Department** was called for a structure fire at the **Oakridge Gardens Nursing Center, a CBRF**, located at **1700 Midway Road**.



First arriving units completed scene size up and radio reported heavy smoke showing from the roof. Assistant Chief Todd Sweeney arrived and elevated **Winnebago County MABAS Division 123 Box card 10** to the Box level at **3:59pm**.



(Photos by Fox Crossing Officer Lt Graham)

I (Chief Harbison) arrived, assumed command, and set up Operations, C side Division, and Safety. An EMS branch was set up by a Gold Cross Ambulance supervisor and assisted the ongoing evacuation of 53 residents to the neighboring church by facility staff and off-duty staff and nurses called in.

It was confirmed all residents and staff were accounted for and safety evacuated from the building. The MABAS upgrade provided five additional fire departments.

Gold Cross ambulance brought in additional 2 ambulances to accommodate the EMS section.

Initial attempts at interior attack were not successful and a transition to an exterior defensive mode was utilized.

Two ladder companies provided water to the roof in conjunction with ground crews extinguishing hot spots.

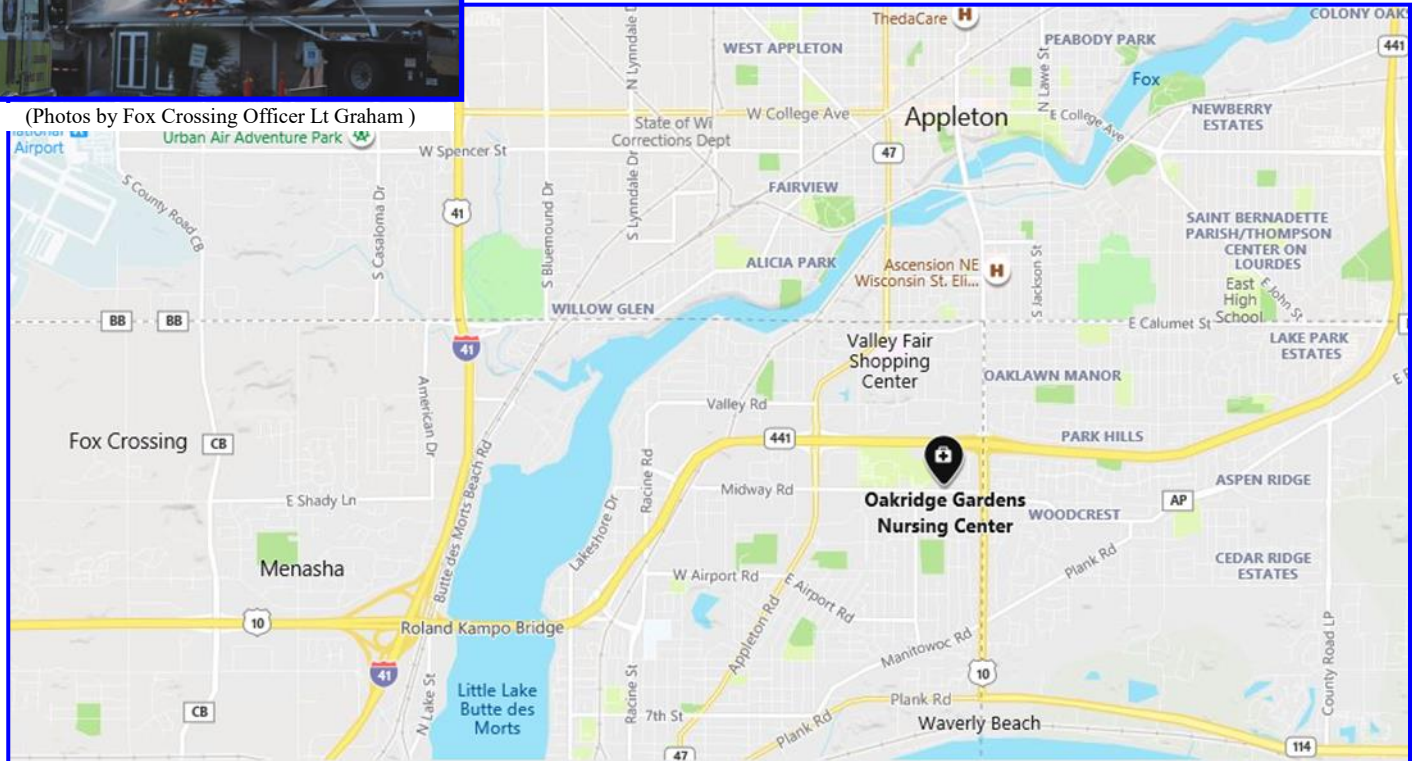
WE Energies arrived and secured power to the facility from the road.

The water department was notified to adjust the water main supply to accommodate the extra water flow.

Many units began clearing the scene after 9pm, although the monitoring of hot spots continued with the last engine leaving at 4:45am the next morning.

Red Cross, Salvation Army and Outagamie CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) were utilized for rehab, hydration and food supplies. Fire was extinguished, with partial roof collapse. A roofing crew, on scene prior to the fire, was questioned by investigators.

What is a CBRF?
A Community-Based Residential Facility (CBRF) is a facility where five or more unrelated people live together in a community setting. Services provided include room and board, supervision, support services, and may include up to 3 hours of nursing care per week.



MABAS-WISCONSIN IN ACTION

DIVISION 101 IN ACTION FOR MASS SHOOTING BY CARSON WILKINSON, CHIEF, SOMERS FIRE & RESCUE

The Somers House Tavern is a popular bar/restaurant located a few blocks from Carthage College in northeast Kenosha County (Somers is a village bordering the City of Kenosha). It was a typical weekend, a Saturday night. **At 12:44am, now actually Sunday morning April 18, 2021, Somers Fire & Rescue** was dispatched to "a person shot" at **1548 Sheridan Rd** (about 1 block from Lake Michigan).

As I read the dispatch text on my lamResponding app, the call description said, "at least 3 shot maybe more". Extra info when we got on radio said, "location of shooter unknown, number of shooters unknown".

Within 4 minutes, we upgraded our **Life Safety Division 101 Box Card 63-40** to the **working still level**. In hindsight, we should have called for our **RTF (Rescue Task Force) card, 63-41**. We upgraded to the **box alarm level at 12:54am**.

At the time of going to the box I knew we had three victims to transport and two more deceased. The area was still being searched and evacuated by Law Enforcement and the possible potential for people to be injured or having medical emergencies, as well as shooter location, was only verified to be out of the enclosed area of Somers House, not out of the area.

About 20 minutes into event, we were fairly sure all on scene that were treatable had been transported. There were reports that two victims left the scene before our Law Enforcement arrived.

Subsequently, one of the patients who left the scene on their own was located and we had a Kenosha ambulance from the box response sent to treat and transport that victim.

In addition, two patients were assessed for anxiety; one by a Pleasant Prairie ambulance crew and later one by my ambulance crews, but neither patients were transported.

We did have reports of another that self-transported, but that person never showed up at any hospitals in Kenosha, Pleasant Prairie or Racine.

We did have a crew personnel accompany Sheriff personnel to assess patients; it was an informal escort, not an RTF.

In a subsequent debrief, we determined that more training is needed.

Our ambulance crews do have plate carriers and ballistic helmets that are marked in white letter **RESCUE** (a **plate carrier** will stop a bullet, but it's not as breathable as a lighter tactical **vest**; **plate carriers** are ordinary fabric **vests** that are used in conjunction with **armor plates**).

We were able to turn some responders around before they arrived. We held an ambulance from *(Continued on page 7)*

DEPARTMENT NAME: Somers FD		BOX ALARM TYPE: Life Safety (EMS)		EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2020		MABAS DIVISION 101	
BOX ALARM # 63-40		LOCATION OR AREA: Entire Town		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Chief Wilkinson			
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
STILL	6311 6312	6331		6341 6342 6343	Somers		
WORKING STILL							Paris Engine (1) Pleasant Prairie EMS (1) Paris Chief (1)
MABAS BOX ALARM:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	Ambulances	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
BOX	Paris		Bristol	Kenosha South Shore Pleasant Prairie	Pleasant Prairie Kenosha South Shore		Randall - Eng Salem Lakes - Amb Paris Chief (1)
2ND	Randall	Racine	Twin Lakes	Salem Lakes Caledonia Winthrop Harbor	Bristol	Racine Fire Bells First Student Bus@ City of Kenosha Bus@	Kansasville - Eng Newport - Amb
3RD	Kansasville		Rochester	Raymond Newport Oak Creek	Racine Salem Lakes	Twin Lakes disaster trailer	Wheatland - Eng Antioch - Amb
4TH	Wheatland		Town of Burlington	S. Milwaukee Zion Antioch	Oak Creek Winthrop Harbor		City Burlington - Eng Gurnee - Amb
5TH	City of Burlington		Fox Lake	Beach Park St. Francis Gurnee	Gurnee City of Burlington		Lake Geneva - Eng Waukegan - Amb
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST	1st Choice 103	2nd Choice 5	3rd Choice 106				
INFORMATION @ - Ask if needed WEM Duty Officer 1-800-943-0003 Badger Red - 1-800-943-0003 Press 2							

DEPARTMENT NAME: Somers FD		BOX ALARM TYPE: Life Safety (RTF)		EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2020		MABAS DIVISION 101	
BOX ALARM # 63-41		LOCATION OR AREA: Entire Town		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Chief Wilkinson			
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
STILL	6311 6312 6314	6331		6341 6342 6343	Somers	6390	
WORKING STILL							
MABAS BOX ALARM:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	RTF	SQUADS	Ambulances	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
BOX	Newport	Pleasant Prairie Paris	Union Grove Rochester	Kenosha South Shore Racine	Kenosha South Shore Pleasant Prairie	Winthrop Harbor Engine & Chief to LZ KCSD Mobile Command Flight 4 life helicopters	C. Burlington Truck Paris Chief Caledonia Ambulance Randall Engine Zion Ambulance Oak Creek Ambulance
2ND	Wheatland	Bristol Salem Lakes Twin Lakes	T. Burlington	Oak Creek Caledonia Raymond	Bristol Salem Lakes	Twin Lakes MASS Casualty trailer Racine Fire Bells	
3RD	Kansasville		Waukegan	Zion Tichigan Antioch	Caledonia Oak Creek	Racine Fire Tactical Command Milwaukee FD TEMS unit	Beach Park Ambulance Cudahy Ambulance
4TH	South Milwaukee		Fox Lake	Beach Park Wind Lake Cudahy	Gurnee		Franklin Ambulance Gurnee Ambulance
5TH	Greenfield			Franklin Gurnee St. Francis	Franklin		Hales Corners Ambulance Waukegan Ambulance
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST	1st Choice 103	2nd Choice 5	3rd Choice 106				
INFORMATION @ - Ask if needed WEM Duty Officer 1-800-943-0003 Badger Red - 1-800-943-0003 Press 2							

"Top card was used. Bottom card is what we should have used" - Chief Wilkinson

DIVISION 101 IN ACTION FOR MASS SHOOTING - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 6)

Kenosha and from Pleasant Prairie on scene until mine returned to the scene as well as the change of quarters units.

I stayed on scene with an engine and an ambulance, with the engine providing lighting. The engine stayed after sunrise until they were needed for a traffic accident.

At approximately 6:30am, the last of the fire department personnel were cleared from the scene as they had been giving statements.

I was a Division Chief with Kenosha

Fire many years ago when a similar incident happened at a fast-food restaurant, but I was not on the response.

This incident was the first time for Somers and the first time the policy was implemented that Kenosha County Chiefs, Kenosha County Sheriff's Department and our Medical Director, Dr. Ben Feinzimer, worked out a few years ago establishing RTFs and active shooter procedures.

We plan to purchase some additional PPE, hope to assist law enforcement on the use of unified command, and will refresh our staff on procedures.

In less than 25 minutes from our first EMS staff entering the area, all three injured were transported to the hospital with appropriate ALS care. All are recovered or recovering.

Communication between Fire and EMS units was excellent due to MABAS.

MABAS allowed both Lt. Pisula and I to concentrate on what was happening at the scene.

We did not need to worry about where we were getting additional resources from as that discussion was done when we set up our box cards.

MABAS IN THE NEWS - SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN SUBMITTED BY GARY SCHMIDT

One of the local television stations in southeast Wisconsin played the MABAS tone-out along with a caption of the MABAS verbiage that was being announced. Note: as with a lot of "breaking news", there were some inaccuracies being reported at that juncture of the incident.



If you see MABAS described in your local community news, please let us know at:

mabaswinews@gmail.com

Q A LOOK AT ACTIVE THREAT RESPONSES: RESCUE IN THE WARM ZONE

BY JOE PULVERMACHER, CHIEF, FITCHBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

To address the best practices associated with an active shooter/threat response, the **continuum of care** (see below) must be understood and response variables must be identified.

Expect difficulties in response (confusion, frustration, fear, stress, etc.) and NEVER call the scene safe. No community will be able to approach tactical response exactly the same – that is why policy and procedure need to adapt to available resources and infrastructure. A systematic approach begins with preparation and buy-in.

The Effective Response

In an effort to address the problem-solving aspect of a dynamic

The Continuum of Care

In 2013, just a few months after the active shooter disaster on December 14, 2012, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) met with medical community and representatives from the federal government, the National Security Council, the U.S. military, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and governmental and nongovernmental emergency medical response organizations. This brought together senior leaders from the medical, law enforcement, fire/rescue, and emergency medical services (EMS) communities to produce a document that stimulated discussion and ultimately led to strategies to improve survival for the victims.

At a day-long conference on April 2 in Hartford, CT, the Hartford Consensus was written to address the critical actions of an active shooter incident. Response priorities were outlined in the acronym **THREAT**:

Threat suppression
Hemorrhage control
Rapid Extrication to safety
Assessment by medical providers
Transport to definitive care

This was the beginning of a nationwide plan to deal with active shooter incidents.

environment, it is important to state that responders **should expect chaos and confusion**. Responders should anticipate that not everything is going to go as planned.

The success of the incident will not be immediately determined by the things that go well (that is expected); incident success will be determined by how well responders adapt to (and readdress) the things that go wrong (the unpredictable). Remember this is NOT a safe environment; this is a less-than-safe environment (with mitigated risk). The following dilemmas need to be addressed ahead of time:

The Initiating Care Dilemma

Although most active shooter incidents are perpetrated by a single shooter, case studies prove that multiple shooters are reported in a majority of incidents - adding confusion to response and incident priorities. Public Safety Communicators (dispatchers) share details as they receive information from callers (at different stages of the incident). Dispatchers are immediately inundated with information that cannot be vetted during the initial stages of the incident. Further, off-duty/undercover law enforcement officers (and concealed carry holders) can be confused as offenders. *How do emergency responders initiate care in a less-than-safe environment and what is needed to reduce the risk of emergency response in warm-zone environments?*

The Staging Dilemma

Historically, the concept of staging is not a shared skill between police, fire, and EMS. Police officers traditionally respond directly to the incident (with limited direction). It is not uncommon for hundreds of police assets to arrive on scene (unable to immediately communicate on a shared radio frequency). Whereas, fire and EMS arrive on scene and receive an assignment from the incident



The Staging of Responders Dilemma: a myriad of vehicles respond to active shooting scenes. (Photos by Chuck Liedtke.)

commander. If fire and EMS do not receive an assignment, those resources will stage at a communicated location until directed to move up. *What can we do to better stage available resources (regardless of discipline)?*

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A LOOK AT ACTIVE THREAT RESPONSES: RESCUE IN THE WARM ZONE - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 8)

The Unified Command Dilemma

Immediate face-to-face unified command is not always realistic. With the exception of a few larger municipalities that have command staff available during the initial stages of the incident, face-to-face unified command within the first 20 to 30 minutes of the incident should not be expected. *What is needed in order to positively influence communications between all disciplines (even if Unified Command is not formally established)?*

The Communication Dilemma

Terminology is not always shared between disciplines. Further, the use of 10-codes can confuse those that do not use them regularly. Some fire departments have introduced confusion through terminology – implementing terms and procedures that are specific to an active shooter event (instead of using terms and procedures that they use every day). *How do we best understand the mindset of other responders and encourage predictable results?*

The Patient Care Dilemma

The concepts of traditional patient care can negatively impact incident outcomes in tactical, less-than-safe environments. Typical patient assessments and treatment methods do not work well in the warm-zone environment.

Your paramedics may not be the best asset in the warm-zone. It is counter-intuitive to think that the highest trained medical provider is not immediately needed in the tactical environment. *What kind of care is needed and who is best positioned to be able to provide that care?*

Incident Assessment

In order to mitigate and address the risk associated with an active threat response, the following questions should be answered:

- Are injuries reported? If yes, then rescue personnel should don ballistic PPE.

- Is there a warm-zone? Identifying that police have been through the building and have identified the threat.
- Is protection available? Protection Element? Protected Entry Corridor?
- Where is the Link-Up location? The warm zone may be ¼ mile away... what transportation is available?

The Initiating Care Solution

Emergency responders must be prepared to reduce the risk of response by donning protective equipment and conducting purposeful (multi-disciplinary) team movements.

One method of initiating immediate patient care is by implementing the **rescue task force (RTF)** concept. RTF incorporates a “rescue element” into a “protection element” – police and fire/EMS work together to provide hemorrhage control into the warm-zone. As the rescue element applies bandages, the protection element provides protection from secondary threats.

The Staging Solution

During an active threat, police officers will typically respond directly to the area of concern. This technique should be limited to those officers that have direct radio contact with each other.

The scalability of response may dictate that smaller police departments are required to respond with neighboring agencies for support; however, those departments are used to talking with each other and typically have a communications plan in place.

Officers that do not have a shared radio frequency and who do not regularly work with the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) should report to a staging area to better understand their assignment and situation status.

Fire and EMS providers are used to the staging concept. During the active

(Continued on page 10)



The Staging of Responders Dilemma: a variety of personnel respond.
(Photos by Chuck Liedtke.)

A LOOK AT ACTIVE THREAT RESPONSES: RESCUE IN THE WARM ZONE - CONTINUED

(Continued from page 9)

threat situation, it is encouraged that all responders co-locate.

Staging can be segregated by discipline; however, the co-location of personnel and equipment allows the staging area to be protected (by law enforcement) - staging is a resource rich environment that should be protected by any potential suspect(s) at large.

Staging also provides a natural link-up location for the rescue task force. When resources are needed at the scene, those leaving staging should know the following information:

- What is my assignment? (What am I doing? Where am I going?)
- What is my radio frequency/channel?
- Who am I reporting to?

The Unified Command Solution

Although the need for Unified Command is understood, command staff personnel are not always immediately available.

Unified communication may be the best you can do during the initial stages of the incident – the initiation of your response should not hinge on the establishment of a face-to-face unified command.

Fire/EMS should be able to monitor and transmit on law enforcement frequencies until formal Unified Command can be established. This option should only be used by fire officials that need to coordinate response with law enforcement – the other fire and EMS personnel should communicate on their normal tactical frequency.

Municipalities of all sizes should understand realistic response expectations and make sure that they practice to those variables.

The Communication Solution

Predictability in response is based on muscle memory and practiced

outcomes. No single element of this response can train alone (within their own discipline). All disciplines should train together (at least annually) and use “Plain Language” on the radio.

They must share terminology, response concepts, and equipment specifications. Using procedures and equipment that are available for daily operations (not just active shooter) provides the most predictable outcome when focus, recall, and fine motor skills are negatively affected by high-stress conditions.

The Patient Care Solution

The tools and techniques associated with tactical emergency casualty care (TECC) should be practiced-regardless of discipline.

Hemorrhage control, airway management, hypothermia prevention, and rapid movement are the immediate concerns (that do not require the skills of advanced life support).

Warm-zone medicine requires responders to control as much bleeding (on as many patients) as possible – hemorrhage control must be prioritized over patient movement.

Further, typical triage is not effective in a tactical, mass-casualty incident. When patients are not all located in the same area, it is not practical to treat the most severely injured patient first. Tactical emergency medicine requires the application of bleeding control as patients present.



JOE PULVERMACHER, holds his master’s degree in Homeland Defense and Security from the Naval Postgraduate School and is an Executive Fire Officer through the National Fire Academy.

Joe is credentialed in Tactical Emergency Medical Support through the State of Wisconsin and was a charter member of the Oak Creek TEMS Unit.

Joe was also a Battalion Chief with the Oak Creek Fire Department before becoming Chief of the Fitchburg Fire Department in Dane County.

Joe (pictured above) responded with the Oak Creek (WI) Police Department Emergency Response Unit (similar to SWAT) to the Sikh Temple active shooter incident in 2012. (Photo by Chuck Liedtke.)

TEMS = Tactical Emergency Medical Support

- Usually attached with a law enforcement tactical unit (SWAT).
- Primary focus of TEMS is to serve the team by “keeping SWAT operators in the game” and/or treating traumatic injury.
- Most SWAT & TEMS teams in Wisconsin require a callback (not staffed 24 hours); it can take SWAT/TEMS 30 – 60 minutes to arrive on scene.
- TEMS Operators typically have an add’l endorsement on EMT or Paramedic license.

RTF = Rescue Task Force

- On-duty law enforcement (protection element) and on-duty emergency medical providers (rescue element) link up to form a task force.
- Deployed in warm zone environments that have been cleared but not secured.
- Can provide casualty care during the initial stages of the incident (without waiting for SWAT). No additional endorsement is required.

WHY ATTEND THE MABAS WISCONSIN SEPTEMBER 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BY PETER O'LEARY, CHIEF, FOND DU LAC FIRE/RESCUE, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO), MABAS WISCONSIN

If you have attended any or all of our previous MABAS conferences I can promise you this year's conference will be something you won't want to miss. We have a lineup that will inform and engage attendees of all ranks, and levels of experience.

You don't need to be an officer in your division to be part of the conference, in fact, we encourage member agencies to send anyone who is interested in improving their knowledge by engaging with experts in the fields of fire, EMS, and dispatch - we have them all!

The costs of the conference are kept low thanks to our sponsors. We hope each division will be represented and represented well! I hope to see you in Point!

MABAS WI 2021 CONFERENCE LINEUP

BY GARY SCHNIDT, EDITOR, MABAS WISCONSIN NEWSLETTER

The Training and Conference Planning Committee is headed up by the Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) Fire Services Coordinator, Timothy Haas, and consists of dispatchers, emergency managers, fire service chiefs and officers, and retired members of MABAS.

This year's conference will be an eclectic mix of speakers, breakout sessions, and networking. General Session speakers will provide national, regional, and local perspectives of actual events and the reasons why MABAS exists, how it operates, and how it fits into the big picture.

The next page describes presenter backgrounds.

WEMA 2021 CONFERENCE PLANS

BY BOBBI HICKEN, DIRECTOR, FOND DU LAC EMER MANAGEMENT

In 2019, the annual Wisconsin Emergency Management Association (WEMA) conference was held immediately prior to the MABAS WI conference at the same venue, which was beneficial to both organizations.



With 2020 conferences being cancelled, and 2021 planning so tentative, we were unable to co-schedule the events. The 2021 WEMA conference will be held **October 20-21, 2021**. Contact WEMA President with questions at: keith.hulbert@iowacounty.org

**Division Presidents
Fire Chiefs
Company Officers
Dispatch Administrators**



**Firefighters
Dispatchers
Emergency Managers
EMS Providers**

We are excited to bring the 10th annual MABAS-WI conference to the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in centrally located Stevens Point. The training opportunities for this year's conference will prove to be beneficial to all. If this is your first MABAS conference, or you're a seasoned veteran, there is no better place to learn alongside fire service personnel, emergency managers and 911 emergency dispatchers.

The Conference registration cost is only \$125.00 (which includes 2 lunches and the Friday evening picnic).

To make room reservations online, use the left side column of links on the main page of <https://mabas-wi.org> or by calling (715)-344-0200 and using the Block Code of "ABA" for the Group Name "Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Assn-MABAS".

Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, 1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54482
State Rate: \$82.00 Single Occupancy • \$109.00 Double Occupancy

Division Presidents Meeting Thursday Evening, September 23, 2021
General Conference Begins 8am Friday September 24, 2021

THE 2021 MABAS WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

The National Perspective - Dr. Denis Onieal

The underlying reason for MABAS is to provide for an effective approach to mutual aid. At this year's annual conference, MABAS WI is honored to have Dr. Denis Onieal, who led the United States Fire Administration's team at the World Trade Center, working behind the scenes to help the New York City Fire Department re-establish their systems of command, control and on-site communications in September, 2001.

Then, in 2005, he was sent to Atlanta, Georgia, to lead the in-processing, training and dispatch of 4,000 firefighters to assist in the response to Hurricane Katrina. Those two events were the pinnacle of mutual aid responses.

Dr. Onieal has served in leadership roles in almost every national disaster and was responsible for the day-to-day operation of the United States Fire Administration (USFA) - the annual training of over 140,000 first responders at and through the National Fire Academy; the National Fire Incident Reporting System, which documents and analyzes 28 million fire department emergency responses a year; the USFA's fire prevention, public information and public education programs; and the 26 campus buildings and the grounds of the historic National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The Regional Perspective - Christopher A. Lienhardt, CPE, ENP

Chris is the Executive Director of the Regional Emergency Dispatch (R.E.D.) Center in Northbrook, Illinois and has been involved in public safety for 31 years. Chris started out as a Community Service Officer in his hometown in June of 1990 and joined his local Volunteer Fire Department in October 1990; where he progressed through the ranks serving in multiple roles, including a member of the dive team, Fire Prevention and Investigation Bureau, Public Education Coordinator, and Public Information Officer (PIO). In addition to serving as PIO, Chris was promoted to Assistant Chief of Administration and for the last six years served as Deputy Chief as the Fire Department.

In addition to his career in the Fire Service, Chris has worked the last 24 years at the Regional Emergency Dispatch Center; the last four years as Executive Director. R.E.D. Center provides Fire/EMS dispatch for 14 MABAS-IL Division 3 agencies as well as numerous regional and Statewide Response plans. Under his leadership R.E.D. Center deployed a entirely new Computer Aided Dispatch System using AVL/GIS data for responses, deployed automated fire station alerting for all 28 stations, implemented the integration of EMD/EFD/PRO-QA as part of CAD, and a new NG911 phone system.

The Local Perspective - Lt. Horace Staples

Lt. Staples has a Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree and presently serves as Director of Kenosha County Emergency Management. Prior to that role, Lt. Staples was a twenty-six-year veteran at the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department, with duties consisting of countywide mitigation, prevention, protection, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts in public and private sectors of Kenosha County and serving as a sworn law enforcement officer. This includes twenty years on the Kenosha Sheriff's Tactical Response Team (i.e., SWAT) as Hostage Negotiator, Assistant Commander and retired at the rank of Executive Officer.

The Big Picture Perspective - Marty MacPhee

Marty MacPhee and Pete O'Leary grew up in the same neighborhood in Wheaton, Illinois where they attended the same high school. Marty got a job right out of college working at the Dolphin Show at Brookfield Zoo (IL.). While training dolphins and putting on daily shows Marty excelled in her wheelhouse of animal training. Not surprising to anyone who knew her, she was discovered and hired to help open up Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando. Marty has worked extensively training zoo keepers, curators and staff members on the "guest experience" and her work has made her a well sought after lecturer in the zoological industry throughout the country.

After a 40-year disconnect, MABAS WI PIO O'Leary was able to connect with Marty when preparing for his 40th high school reunion (that never happened due to Covid). It was then that they began to talk about their careers and began to see so many parallels of her work and ours - Emergency Services.

Marty presented a daylong workshop at the Wisconsin Fire Chiefs' Education Association earlier this year where her presentations were very well received. Marty's background and life experiences are incredible and anyone who attends her workshop will be in for a treat.

Incident Reporting Is Very Important

This newsletter issue is focused on the largest MABAS deployments to date, however, MABAS is used every day to prevent local incidents from becoming large, thereby saving lives and saving money by minimizing property loss. The value of MABAS cannot be understated, yet it is difficult to communicate that message across the State without an effective method to track the MABAS success story.

Incidents Entered January 1, 2021 thru February 28, 2021

Date & Time	Location	Community	Div.
2021 01-01 00:00	W3932 Kropp Road	Black Creek	127
2021 01-18 18:31	759 Aldro Lane	Town of Hudson	143
2021 01-20 18:26	416 Locust Street	City of Hudson	143
2021 01-30 13:53	8445 Richfield Drive	Town of Richfield	116
2021 02-02 12:03	1333 Holzhueter Rd	Town of Deerfield	115
2021 02-06 00:00	4200 Cty Trk U	Hartford	111
2021 02-06 12:55	21795 Doral Rd	Town of Brookfield	106
2021 02-08 19:14	931 Highway 12	Town of Warren	143
2021 02-09 00:00	N6660 Hardwood Lane	Town of Lake	144
2021 02-10 18:21	634 Canal Rd	Village of Marshall	115
2021 02-12 17:12	N2230 220th St.	Elmwood	117
2021 02-13 17:29	5305 Meadowood Dr	City of Fitchburg	115
2021 02-15 02:00	N2573 State Highway 15	Ellington	127
2021 02-15 10:52	4870 Town Hall Dr	Town of Sun Prairie	115
2021 02-15 14:43	W256 S5041 Oakdale Dr	Village of Waukesha	106
2021 02-15 14:53	1979 110th Avenue	Town of Hammond WI	143
2021 02-17 00:00	12 S Main	Fountain City WI	148
2021 02-17 23:43	10594 W Erbe Rd	Town of Blue Mounds	115
2021 02-22 06:54	9568 Sandpit Rd	Winchester	123
2021 02-24 21:08	205 N. Maple Street	Black Creek	127
2021 02-24 21:18	205 N. Maple Street	Black Creek	127
2021 02-26 14:41	500 Old Hwy 35	Alma	148
2021 02-28 17:50	S2935 Retriever Trail	Town of Milton	148

Tell Us About Your MABAS Experiences !

Your contributions to the various columns make this newsletter a success. Let us know about your MABAS response activity or training events at

mabaswinews@gmail.com

MABAS WISCONSIN IN ACTION STAFF

Content Editor...Gary Schmidt (Milwaukee Fire Bell Club)
 Format Editor.....Terry Schmidt (Milwaukee Fire Bell Club)
 ContributorDrew Spielman (Green Bay Fire Dept)
 ContributorMatt Gerber (Green Bay Fire Dept)
 ContributorChuck Liedtke (Milwaukee Fire Bell Club)
 ContributorTim Snopek (Waukesha County)
 ContributorJeff Rudolph (Kenosha/Racine Counties)

Incident Reporting Is Important & Easy To Do

MABAS Wisconsin has a tool in place to log the use of MABAS. The **Incident Entry Portal** can be accessed via <http://incident.mabaswisconsin.org> or through <http://www.mabaswisconsin.org> using the DBMS Login drop down box.

To enter an incident, login with a UserID of *mabas* and a password of *wisconsin*. After the initial entry, the individual who entered the record or the Division President can alter or update the incident information at a later date. Departments should contact their Division President for the login information

Incidents Entered March 1, 2021 thru May 31, 2021			
Date & Time	Location	Community	Div.
2021 03-02 00:00	21 Windsor Wood Path	Hudson WI	143
2021 03-06 21:59	882 Bradley Drive	Town of Hudson	143
2021 03-09 11:22	S106 W16105 Loomis Dr	City of Muskego	106
2021 03-17 10:35	5707 Oak Lane	Town of Vienna	115
2021 03-17 17:21	1828 Sand Hill Road	Town of Dunn	115
2021 03-18 14:06	1878 Highway 12	Hammond	143
2021 03-18 16:09	N6413 906th St.	Elk Mound	117
2021 03-21 13:10	2838 County Hwy L	Nokomis	114
2021 03-21 13:17	W360 N9541 Brown St	Town of Oconomowoc	106
2021 03-29 16:12	1163 Sun Prairie Rd	Town of York	115
2021 03-31 08:35	224 Millington Ln	Village of Hartland	106
2021 04-02 13:39	Marcy Rd/Union Pacific RR Tracks	Village of Menomonee Falls	106
2021 04-02 15:00	9411 Jenny Lake RD	Nokomis	114
2021 04-03 07:18	S31 W2401 Sunset Dr	Village of Waukesha	106
2021 04-04 13:56	2725 Coffeytown Rd	Town of Cottage Grove	115
2021 04-04 17:56	816 County Highway N	Town of Dunkirk	115
2021 04-13 00:00	N6504 STH 73	Princeton	141
2021 04-17 21:42	5356 Lacy Rd	City of Fitchburg	115
2021 04-29 14:50	1512 State Highway 92	Town of Primrose	115
2021 05-01 00:00	143771 Packer Drive	Town of Marathon & Stettin	130
2021 05-01 16:00	4548 Dons Road	Town of Dunn	115
2021 05-04 14:09	Pewaukee Rd/ I94	City of Pewaukee	106
2021 05-15 21:19	Ice Age Trail/County Road P	City of Whitewater	103
2021 05-16 14:00	W11719 Columbus St	Town of Portland	118
2021 05-18 13:30	3031 Gates St	Village of Mount Pleasant	102
2021 05-20 09:07	8553 Horizon Dr	Town of Burlington	102
2021 05-21 09:02	12031 N Granville Rd	City of Mequon	119
2021 05-31 14:12	3258 Highway O	Town of Saukville	119

Standardization is Key to MABAS Success

MABAS is a regional solution to a local emergency, in use in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, with Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, and Missouri moving towards implementation.

To make this work - being both functional and effective - standardization is mandatory.

WHAT IS MABAS (MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM)? BY GARY SCHMIDT

Using MABAS, when your Fire Department responds to an incident, they respond with a preplanned set of resources/vehicles appropriate for the situation. This may be augmented further upon confirmation of a working incident.

This first alarm set of resources is described in the **Local Dispatch Area** of the response card.

When conditions require another “set of resources” or alarm, the Incident Commander (IC) will use **MABAS Box Alarms** to get help from other departments (“mutual aid”) by simply asking Dispatch for another alarm.

By using MABAS, the IC is assured of:

- √ A specific minimum number of firefighters per unit type
- √ A specific level of training/certification of responders
- √ The other departments will have the same radio frequencies
- √ The other departments will use the same terminology
- √ All costs and liabilities are borne by the outside departments coming to the stricken community
- √ Other departments will cover the community having the incident
- √ As many additional “sets” (alarms) as needed can be called for

This allows the IC to focus on the emergency at hand and the tactics to be deployed.

The inherent standardization by all MABAS departments enables a fast, efficient response to an escalating emergency situation.

This saves lives, minimizes property damage, and can prevent economic devastation to the local community.

In 2009, a meatpacking plant fire in Cudahy WI, had **16 additional alarm sets called for, involving 64 Fire Departments.**

DEPARTMENT NAME: Grafton		BOX ALARM TYPE: Structure Fire			EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/1/2020		MABAS DIVISION 119
BOX ALARM # 8-11		LOCATION OR AREA: Village			AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: <i>William Q. Rice</i>		
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
Still	863 865 864	860		851 852	Grafton		
Full Still	Cedarburg	Port Washington			Cedarburg Port Washington	WE Energies	
MABAS BOX ALARM:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
BOX	Mequon Fredonia	Thiensville	Saukville		Mequon North Shore		North Shore Engine Thiensville Chief Mequon ALS
2ND	North Shore Waubeka	Jackson		Mequon	Thiensville Jackson	Milwaukee Fire Bell Oz. County Command Post	Belgium Engine West Bend Chief West Bend ALS
3RD	Belgium Newburg	Germantown	Slinger		Waubeka West Bend		Milwaukee Engine Belgium Chief
4TH	Milwaukee Richfield	West Bend		West Bend	Belgium Saukville		Richfield Engine Germantown Chief Wauwatosa ALS
5TH	Menomonee Falls Greendale	West Allis	Port Washington		Milwaukee Germantown		Milwaukee Truck West Allis Chief
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST		1st Choice 107	2nd Choice 111	3rd Choice 106			
INFORMATION Notify WEM of any incident that reaches a third alarm at 1-800-943-0003 Press 3 Grafton Fire Station 1431 13th. Avenue 53024							

Shown above is the MABAS Box Alarm Card format that lists the preplanned resources. The Change of Quarters column ensures that resources are backfilling the stricken community’s firehouses for other calls that may occur during the MABAS incident. Generally, only one or two resources are used from each neighboring department so that they also do not get depleted. Each alarm level requests departments from a greater distance out.

MABAS is used in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, providing for a **regional solution to a local problem**. Since all departments in all States using MABAS listen to the same radio frequency, one transmission will notify numerous departments. Such interoperability is key to the success of MABAS.



MABAS - Wisconsin

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

Organized 2004

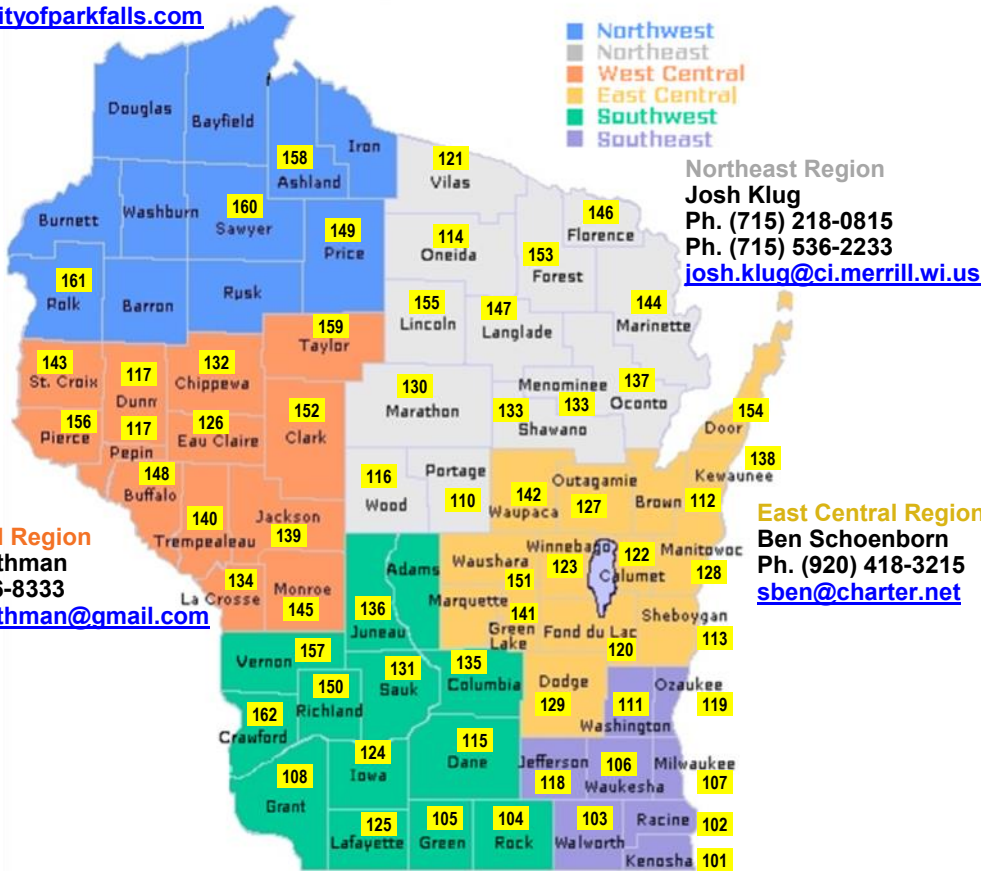
MABAS Wisconsin Regional Coordinators

Northwest Region

Phil Bochler

Ph. (715) 492-7235

assessor@cityofparkfalls.com



West Central Region

Thomas Barthman

Ph. (651) 246-8333

mabaswibarthman@gmail.com

Northeast Region

Josh Klug

Ph. (715) 218-0815

Ph. (715) 536-2233

josh.klug@ci.merrill.wi.us

East Central Region

Ben Schoenborn

Ph. (920) 418-3215

sben@charter.net

Southwest Region

Bruce Hedrington

Ph. (608) 449-9000

Ph. (815) 289-1092

brucehedrington@gmail.com

Southeast Region

Bill Rice

Ph. (414) 333-3626

Ph. (262) 375-5314

wrice@graffon.village.wi.us

Red Center -

WEM Duty Officer

Ph. 800-943-0003 (Press 3)

Fire Service Coordinator

Tim Haas

Ph. (608) 220-6049

Wisconsin Homeland Security Council

Kevin Bierce

Ph. (262) 691-5610

MABAS OPERATING FREQUENCIES

IFERN	MABAS Alerting & Intra-Divisional Responses
IFERN2	Alternate Intra-Divisional Responses
MABAS1 (WISCOM)	Inter-Divisional Responses
	Contact with Wisconsin Red Center
MABAS2 (WISCOM)	Regional Coordinators - WEM Coordination

MABAS WI Divisions

- 101 – Kenosha County
- 102 – Racine County
- 103 – Walworth County
- 104 – Rock County
- 105 – Green County
- 106 – Waukesha County
- 107 – Milwaukee County
- 108 – Grant County
- 110 – Portage County
- 111 – Washington County
- 112 – Brown County
- 113 – Sheboygan County
- 114 – Oneida County
- 115 – Dane County
- 116 – Wood County
- 117 – Dunn/Pepin County
- 118 – Jefferson County
- 119 – Ozaukee County
- 120 – Fond du Lac County
- 121 – Vilas County
- 122 – Calumet County
- 123 – Winnebago County
- 124 – Iowa County
- 125 – Lafayette County
- 126 – Eau Claire County
- 127 – Outagamie County
- 128 – Manitowoc County
- 129 – Dodge County
- 130 – Marathon County
- 131 – Sauk County
- 132 – Chippewa County
- 133 – Shawano/Menominee Cnty
- 134 – La Crosse County
- 135 – Columbia County
- 136 – Juneau County
- 137 – Oconto County
- 138 – Kewaunee County
- 139 – Jackson County
- 140 – Trempealeau County
- 141 – Green Lake County
- 142 – Waupaca County
- 143 – St. Croix County
- 144 – Marinette County
- 145 – Monroe County
- 146 – Florence County
- 147 – Langlade County
- 148 – Buffalo County
- 149 – Price County
- 150 – Richland County
- 151 – Waushara County
- 152 – Clark County
- 153 – Forest County
- 154 – Door County
- 155 – Lincoln County
- 156 – Pierce County
- 157 – Vernon County
- 158 – Ashland County
- 159 – Taylor County
- 160 – Sawyer County
- 161 – Polk County
- 162 – Crawford County