

## Fire Mutual Aid Committee

### Purpose Statement



The mission of MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) is to provide emergency rapid response and sustained operations when an area is stricken by a locally overwhelming event that is generated by man-made, technological, or environmental threats. In response, MABAS will deploy fire, emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous materials, technical rescue, dive, urban search and rescue (USAR) and incident management teams (IMTs) to prevent the loss of life, human suffering and further damage to property. MABAS is prepared to respond within and outside Illinois upon the authorized direction of local or state agencies.

### 2008 Key Activities

- MABAS maintained its intrastate activity level with approximately 800 annual activations for daily routine extra alarm events. MABAS provided resources in support of Illinois declarations of disaster for flooding in various locations. Numerous MABAS-ITTF personnel decontamination vehicles supported flood-stricken communities and deployed Illinois National Guard Units.
- The MABAS system augmented first response of fire and EMS paramedic units to the NIU campus shooting tragedy. In less than 30 minutes the MABAS system provided 25 additional EMS units to the scene in DeKalb, Illinois, MABAS Division Six.
- MABAS deployed approximately 150 firefighters and paramedics and 35 fire apparatus in response to an EMAC interstate deployment for hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Illinois MABAS units served for a two-week deployment, providing basic backfill and emergency services support to numerous parishes throughout Southwest Louisiana.
- MABAS resources were asked to support the city of Chicago Fire Department during a number of planned events, including the air and water show, the baseball post-season playoffs, the marathon run and the presidential election night speech in Grant Park. Notable assistance included MABAS Command Officers at Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications Joint Operations Center and Field Command Posts.
- MABAS special operations teams processed through various operational readiness and validation exercises. Numerous technical rescue teams and Illinois MABAS Task Force One—Urban Search and Rescue deployed to Southern Illinois as part of the "I-Quake" earthquake preparation experience. As required for statewide response plan involvement, 10 Hazmat Teams and 10 Technical Rescue Teams participated in tri-annual team validation for response readiness validations. Validation is sponsored through the efforts of the Illinois



Fire Service Institute (IFSI), where special operations teams from throughout MABAS are deployed, merged, tasked and challenged for a continuous 72-hour period.

- MABAS as an organization continues to develop in response to ITTF and DHS expectations. MABAS had two audits in 2008, one of which was a DHS congressionally mandated Inspector General's office requirement. The audit was fully programmatic by design and took nearly three months to complete. The auditing contractor reported observations, all minor in nature, and cited MABAS for two benchmark practices – the SAV (Staff Assistance Visit) Program and special operations teams tri-annual deployment and validation requirement.

- MABAS completed the multi-year effort to deploy personnel decontamination vehicles throughout Illinois. During 2008, eight additional decontamination vehicles were received, equipped, trained on and deployed throughout Illinois. This effort is now complete, with 25 vehicles comprehensively deployed statewide. Cook County's UASI contributed with three of the 25 units.



- All seven of the 53-foot semi-truck mobile warehouses are now deployed throughout Illinois. The warehouses contain an inventory of items identified as on-hand shortfalls for emergency services in the first 72 hours of the Utica Tornado and Hurricane Katrina deployments. Through a private–public partnership with United Parcel Service (UPS) and MABAS, many units are stored at UPS terminals, and arrangements have been secured whereas UPS tractors and drivers will transport the mobile warehouses within one hour of direction to the scenes of crisis events and disasters. Cook County UASI participated in the project by providing two of the five warehouses.
- MABAS has deployed 65 electrical generator light tower trailer units, 20 kw each, throughout the state. Each generator trailer has a 35-foot, 5,000 watt scene lighting tower, and each unit is interoperable with the recently acquired mobile tent city system. Cook County UASI plans to add 12 additional units to the MABAS-ITTF inventory.
- MABAS designed and acquired nine maximum capacity compressor-cascade vehicles, which have been deployed throughout Illinois. The compressor-cascade units are totally interoperable with all known breathing and compressed air needs for all disciplines and all functions. The units are also designed to remotely fill self-contained breathing bottles at distances 300 feet from the vehicle and an additional 500 feet (800 feet total) for eight tethered, continuous flow face masks for outside decontamination lines or confined space operations within contaminated environments.
- Acquisition of the second, 220 person, self-contained tent city semi-trailer occurred this year. The self-contained system is equipped to house 220 individuals with full infrastructure



capabilities, including electric power, heating, cooling, and lighting. The system is equipped with cots but is designed to suit multiple requirements as may be needed.

- MABAS received and distributed an additional 1,000 city of Chicago tactical map books listing locations of fire stations, police stations, hospital emergency rooms, and refueling sites. All MABAS divisions throughout Illinois have been issued the map books. Additionally, MABAS has installed change of quarters cabinets in over 100 Chicago Fire Department stations and support centers for use by suburban fire units who are called upon to backfill fire stations in the city of Chicago. Each cabinet has pre-deployed map books, hose fitting adapters and city of Chicago unique fire hydrant wrenches.
- Completion of the multi-year effort to establish a fleet maintenance and refueling capability for deployments was achieved in 2008. The fleet maintenance and repair unit is self-contained with a field drop box to set up a deployed repair facility. The refueling capability is provided with a 2,000 gallon trailer pup, which is towed by the mobile field maintenance and repair unit.
- Statewide distribution of the standardized and computerized patient triage tag system was completed in 2008. All public and private ambulance providers were issued triage tags, command board and patient management backpack system for mass casualty situations. All emergency room hospital facilities have either converted or are in the process of converting to the standardized triage tag system.
- MABAS continues working with private ambulance providers in Illinois in the creation of their mutual aid system called PPERS—Private Provider Emergency Response System. The system, once operational, will become part of the MABAS statewide mutual aid response flow plan for EMS events of large or unique proportions.



- MABAS efforts in organizing the underwater and swiftwater rescue capabilities at the division level continue. Numerous SCUBA and swiftwater teams exist within MABAS, and this effort includes standard setting, team definition and capability typing activities.
- MABAS improved the logistical resupply of deployed forces capability with the purchase of two response vehicles. The

Urban Search and Rescue Team acquired a 14-foot stake truck for on-scene tactical resupply and manpower movement. MABAS also acquired a 24-foot box truck, which will be pre-loaded with basic expendables and supplies for sustainment of field forces deployed over large geographic areas.



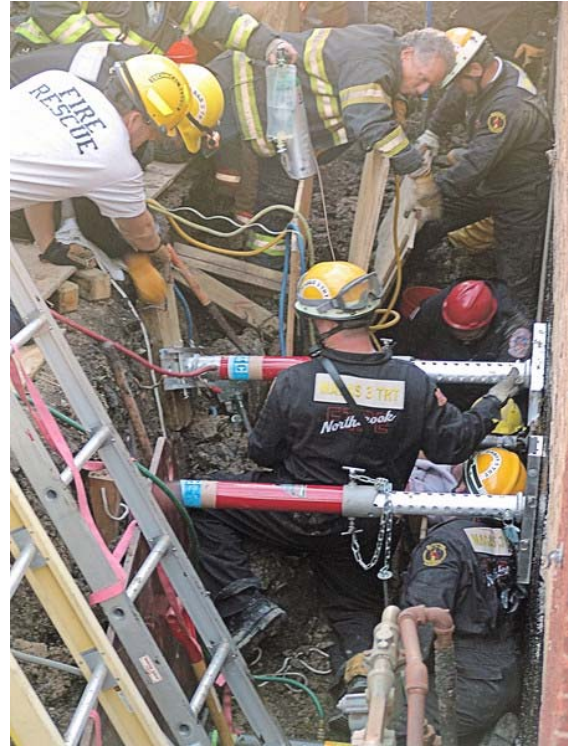
- MABAS' Annual Conference for chiefs, command officers and dispatch center telecommunicators again drew over 500 attendees. Numerous contemporary topics were covered in general sessions, and workshops provided targeted, just-in-time information. Large scale disasters and EMAC activations were reviewed, including topics like the California brush fires, Minnesota I-35 bridge collapse, the Virginia Tech and NIU campus shootings and more.

## 2009 Initiatives

- Pursue, in a cooperative effort, the replacement of field based atropine auto injectors in all MABAS divisions and applicable special operations teams in cooperation and coordination with IDPH hospital prepositioned chem paks.
- Acquire and deploy all terrain vehicles multi-use transport trailers to each MABAS division and US&R team for general and special operations team use for off-road rescues, transport and hot zone uses.
- Continue installing and expanding standardized software use with portable hardware applicable to EMS triage tags, inventory system, credentialing and accountability components.
- Implement one-stop web-based support system for all databases and deployment/mobility taskings through multiple conduits of information flow. Assure interoperability with ILEAS, EMnet and the like in redundant designs.
- Begin mass credentialing of MABAS personnel qualified for deployments through ITTF Smart Card and MABAS Dumb Card systems.
- Define underwater and swiftwater MABAS teams through standards adoption and rank capability for statewide response. Based on rationalized special operations development plan, begin acquiring equipment and technology to better support the mission.
- Acquire vehicles that will provide a field operations platform for bare base tactical operations control and support services.
- Identify appropriate global positioning hardware and software to establish a statewide database and capability to easily navigate to locations of critical infrastructure. Equip every Illinois fire/EMS agency with this capability.
- Equip all Hazardous Materials Teams with stand-alone weather monitoring and analysis equipment.



- Equip all Technical Rescue Teams with additional cutting and extrication tools for victim entrapment and extrication activities.
- Acquire a number of mobile ventilation units (MVUs) for contaminated atmosphere extraction and control of vaporous mixtures that create dangerous environments. Augment the capacity of decontamination systems through contaminated vapor control.
- Continue to build on interoperable radio communication systems, both VHF and UHF, in concert with the State of Illinois Communications Plan.
- Maintain current special operations capabilities and components and teams in a statewide state of readiness.
- Update and release MABAS statewide, all hazards, all risks mutual aid resource flow plan.



- Improve overall MABAS readiness, training and stability by improving operational facility longevity and capacity.

