

“  
Got Your  
  
Back Talk”

**MABAS Illinois**



VOLUME 20.2

# From the President:

By: Chief Don Davids

Greetings to all MABAS Members,

I don't need to tell any of you, that this has been one very unusual spring. COVID-19 has dominated the news and the fabric of most of our lives. MABAS has been working with our partner agencies to develop and put in place plans for several different scenarios. How the remainder of the spring and into summer will play out is certainly up in the air.

MABAS has followed the recommendations of the CDC and restricted access and events at the Readiness center. Staff is taking all of the required and suggested precautions. MABAS staff has been busy supporting multiple IEMA requests for assistance. This would be an excellent opportunity to review the MABAS Statewide Mutual Aid Response Flow plan and make sure you understand what may be requested of your division or what may be available should you require assistance.

The 2020 Command and Dispatcher training summits were very well attended and provided some very interesting topics.

The networking opportunities and vendor interactions seemed to be well attended and informative. I can only guess on what some of the topics will be for 2021, but COVID-19 is probably a sure bet

Illinois is headed into spring with a very high level of ground water saturated soils in parts of the state and rivers that are much fuller than average. Should we have much additional rainfall, parts of the state may well experience flooding issues again. Please review your equipment, training and manpower ahead of time so we can assist any divisions that may be impacted.

Someday, we will all look back at the spring/summer of 2020 and wonder how things changed so fast. In the meantime, please look after your community and department members, help others when you can and call for help when you need it.

*Respectfully,*  
**Don Davids**  
*President, MABAS-IL*  
[davids@mabas-il.org](mailto:davids@mabas-il.org)

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**MABAS**  
would like to  
thank all who  
attended the  
2020  
Training Summit

# Spring into Vehicle Maintenance with This Check list

By: [www.carcare.org](http://www.carcare.org)

Now that winter is just a memory, millions of Americans will take to the roads to enjoy the warmer weather. The Car Care Council reminds motorists that spring is the perfect time of year to make sure your vehicle is ready for the upcoming travel season.

Whether you're driving across the country or driving across town, the Car Care Council recommends checking the following vehicle components before embarking on your next trip:

## Exterior:

- Wiper blades play an extremely important role in increasing visibility. Replace every six months or when cracked, cut, torn, streaking or chattering.
- Check the tires. A simple test to check tire tread depth is to insert a penny into the tread of the tire. If the top of Lincoln's head sticks out, your tires are starting to show signs of wear and should be replaced. Also check the tire inflation and inspect the tread for uneven wear, which could indicate the need for a wheel alignment. Also look for bulges and bald spots.
- Give your car a good washing from top to bottom. Use a product specifically made for automobiles. Always clean the tires and wheels before washing the body, and don't use the same mitt for both.
- If you find minor paint damage, cover the paint chips as quickly as possible. For a quick fix until you can get some touchup supplies, dab a little clear nail polish on the scratch.
- Spring is an excellent time for waxing, which not only protects the finish but also makes subsequent washing easier.

Before proceeding, make sure there are no foreign particles on the paint

## Under the Hood:

- A good rule of thumb is that a change of season equals a change of oil. Changing your car's oil and filter every three months or 3,000 miles, whichever comes first, will ensure that your car operates at peak efficiency.
- Get a tune-up if necessary. As part of the 21st Century Tune-Up on today's modern vehicles, the following systems should be inspected: battery, charging and starting, engine mechanical, powertrain control (including onboard diagnostic checks), fuel, ignition and emissions.
- Check all fluids. There are several fluids that require attention, including engine oil, power steering fluid, brake and transmission fluids, windshield washer solvent and hoses and belts. A belt that fails can affect the electrical system, air conditioning and power steering, as well as the cooling system. Cooling system hoses may be deteriorating from within, so old hoses and clamps that appear to be in marginal condition may need to be replaced.
- antifreeze/coolant. The antifreeze/coolant should be refreshed every two years.
- Check hoses and belts. A belt that fails can affect the electrical system, air conditioning and power steering, as well as the cooling system. Cooling system hoses may be deteriorating from within, so old hoses and clamps that appear to be in marginal condition may need to be replaced.

## Under the Vehicle:

- Spring is a good time to check the entire brake system, including brake linings, rotors and drums.
- Check the shocks or struts for signs of physical damage, such as leaking, rusting, or dents. Also be aware of the warning signs that you may need them replaced: vehicle rolls or sways on turns, front end dives when braking, rear end squats when accelerating, vehicle sits lower in the front or rear, a loss of directional control during sudden stops, and the vehicle bounces or slides sideways on a winding and rough road.
- If you notice any fluid puddles or stains under your vehicle, it is a good idea to have it inspected. There are several fluids that can leak from the vehicle including antifreeze/coolant, battery acid, brake fluid, clear water, diesel fuel, engine oil, gasoline, gear oil, power steering fluid, shock and strut fluid, transmission fluid and windshield washer fluid.

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers. To obtain a free service interval schedule, visit [www.carcare.org](http://www.carcare.org).

*Article recommended by Ed Gibis. Ed is responsible for maintaining all apparatus at MABAS readiness Center (MRC) as Logistics Branch*



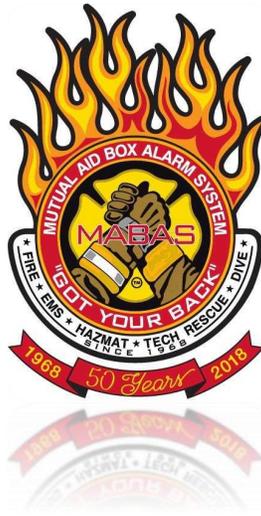
CEO Glenn Ericksen

I hope that you and your families are well and staying safe during this extraordinary health crisis. Once again MABAS, and the Illinois fire service, is facing a new challenge fighting the COVID-19 virus and its impact to everyone. To date, MABAS member departments have answered 138 separate mission taskings from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. 80 Western Shelters have been set-up at hospitals statewide to support their patient care efforts. 43 generator/light towers are also deployed in the field along with other MABAS assets. These are extraordinary numbers and would not be possible without the efforts of every Division. MABAS has maintained a continued presence at the State Emergency Operations Center and the Cook County EOC monitoring communications and providing input from the fire service perspective. The Operations Staff at the MABAS MRC, along with personnel

## A Message from MABAS-Illinois

By: Chief Glenn Ericksen

from the Regional Emergency Dispatch (RED) and Orland Dispatch, have managed these taskings from the MRC while maintaining a reduced staffing and distancing protocols.



All these assets were originally obtained to respond to completely different emergency situations than a pandemic. But it's a testament to the vision of the past leadership of MABAS and the Illinois Terrorism Task Force to put in place a system that can address all hazards such as the one we are facing today. But that brings us all back to the question of sustainability.

Once the COVID-19 crisis subsides, there certainly will be an evaluation of the readiness of all agencies to respond to future pandemic or other health related emergencies. One extremely critical area MABAS will be addressing is the availability of vital personal protective equipment early and throughout an emergency period. We will be actively engaged in a discussion with the State for funding support for the assets MABAS has put in place since 9/11 and the recognized needs to address future challenges.

We wanted to spend some time to thank everyone who attended the 2020 MABAS Command & Dispatchers Summit last February in Bloomington-Normal. We hope you found the experience beneficial and look forward to seeing everyone at the 2021 Summit. I would also like to thank those MABAS staff members who worked tirelessly in planning and staging the event and who are already instituting new ideas for 2021.

Thank you to everyone out there on the frontlines answering each and every call. Thanks to the medical providers and other essential workers helping to get us through this crisis.

Be well and take care.

## Contact Information Management System CIMS 2.0

By: Chief Littlefield

We are asking all departments in Illinois to login and create a profile for their personnel. To date we have over 5000 profiles completed and have a long way to go to reach our goal of having a profile for every firefighter in Illinois. We are asking for assistance to get the word out about CIMS 2.0. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your Branch Chief or Tim Littlefield @ 847-403-0511

To login and create a profile please go to <https://mabas.cims-il.org> We have instructions as well as video's to help create a profile.

If you are on a special team, please contact your team leader for assistance

# MABAS is looking to get your department logo!!!

MABAS would like for you to email your department logo to us. We are using department logos for Tier II cards.

Please send your logo to [falco@mabas-il.org](mailto:falco@mabas-il.org)



## All Hazard Operations Support Team (AHOST)

By: Chief Cluchey

In January of this year, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) approached MABAS to prepare for the upcoming flood season. During last year's flooding, IEMA utilized MABAS personnel and members to assist them in addressing the floods. Due to the success of these efforts and the concerns for a potentially worse season this year, IEMA asked if MABAS would be able to provide assistance again.

During the MABAS-IL Summit in Bloomington in February, members from the MABAS Operations Committee and MABAS Incident Support Committee (MIST) gathered to discuss how these committees could assist.



The committee representatives present agreed that the two committees would combine into one group with a unified mission of coordinating, training, and providing MABAS support members during large-scale emergencies or planned events.

This new All Hazards Operation Support Team (AHOST) committee immediately started planning on how we could provide the framework to be in a position to assist by the spring flood season.

As the committee was preparing to ramp up our efforts in identifying MABAS Subject Matter Experts (SME) or persons who possess ICS position specific certifications who would be willing to assist if called upon to help – the COVID-19 Pandemic was upon us. Our committee leadership had to shift their focus on taking care of our local needs first and then preparing to assist MABAS-IL during this crisis.

*Continued on next page*



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AHOST>



# All Hazard Operations Support Team (AHOST)

By: Chief Cluchey

## *Continued from previous page*

Today we find ourselves dealing with a Pandemic in every region within the state. This Pandemic is unlike any other disaster that we have faced because it is not contained within a single region or two. As a result, MABAS and its members have been stretched out to extremes. A concern is that the COVID response and recovery will remain "labor intensive" while we are heading into the season of spring storms and flooding potential. To help bolster a pool of qualified candidates that may be able to help during these incidents, the AHOST committee is preparing to assemble a list of individual MABAS members who are willing to POTENTIALLY aid in support, liaison, or position-specific roles during upcoming events.

Below is the link to our survey for people who would be interested in learning more about serving as a MABAS Liaison / Support representative. Here's the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AHOST>

The survey is the first step in creating a "resource listing" or "AHOST box card" that we may be able to draw upon when individual human resources are needed (as opposed to Divisional teams, existing IMAT teams, etc.). The survey will also help act as a "needs assessment" for us to find training opportunities, present classes, and continue to build resilience within the MABAS cadre of subject matter experts.

On behalf of Co-Chair Steve DeJong, Secretary Lisa Alfaro, myself, and the entire AHOST Committee, we hope that many of you will consider completing the survey in a prompt manner.

Agreeing to completing the survey does not commit you in any way. It is simply a "starting point". Upon receiving and tallying responses, we will begin the process of vetting candidates. As always, a member is not compelled to accept an assignment if they are not available and we will not issue a tasking without concurrence from your "sponsoring" organization.

To learn more about AHOST or ask any questions, please feel free to contact me via email: [Cluchey\\_J@ecfpd.com](mailto:Cluchey_J@ecfpd.com).

Joe Cluchey – Co-Chair MABAS-IL AHOST

Fire Chief, Elburn & Countryside Fire Protection District

**Please complete survey at:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AHOST>



Chief Kevin Lyne

## Welcome our new Operations Section Chief

Kevin is a founding member of the Illinois Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Team, Illinois Task Force 1. In 2015, he retired from Naperville after more than 28 years of service for the MABAS US&R Operations Branch Chief position. He was appointed as MABAS' Deputy Operations Section Chief in 2018. He is member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) US&R Committee, the State Urban Search and Rescue Alliance (SUSAR) Board of Directors and the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) Commission.

**Would you like to visit the MABAS Readiness Center?? We encourage our members and affiliates to visit us and take a tour of our facility.**

**For a tour please call or e-mail [littlefield@mabas-il.org](mailto:littlefield@mabas-il.org) or call 847-403-0502**

# Covid-19 Response

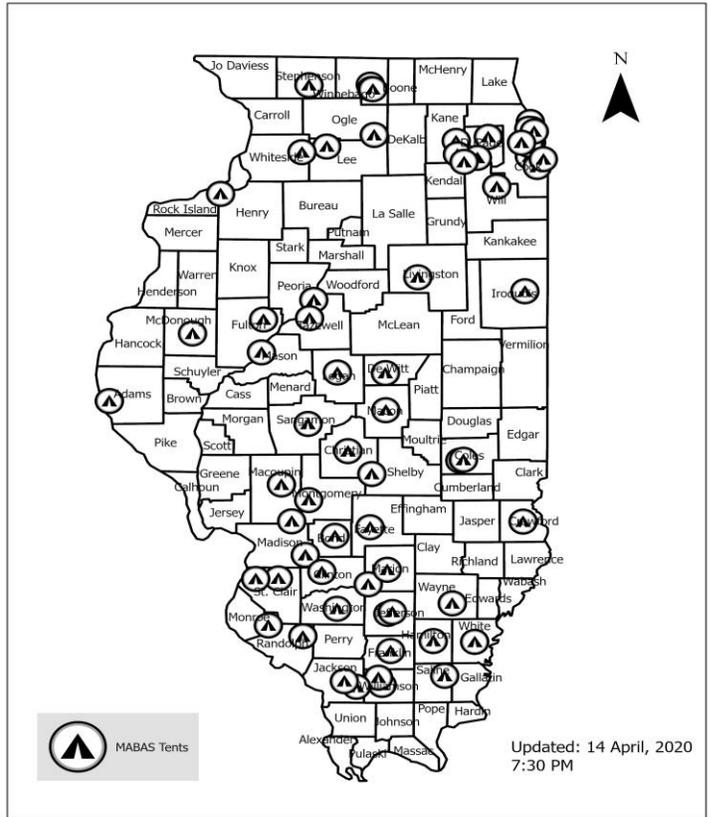
By: Chief Lyne

Since the start of the COVID-19 response efforts, MABAS has deployed 80 Western Shelter Tent Systems and 43 Generator Light Towers (GLT's) to hospitals and testing sites around Illinois. The effort to set-up these tent systems is greatly appreciated. Although no one knows when this support effort will be completed, MABAS is working with IEMA on a disengagement and recovery plan for deployed MABAS resources. With the number of tents, HVAC systems and GLT's in use, MABAS is developing bid specifications with IEMA so statewide service contracts can be awarded for the maintenance and repair to these resources.

A contract has already been awarded for service on the GLT's. The contractor is now providing regular scheduled service. As the COVID-19 response efforts continue, please consider the following:

- Generator Light Tower demobilization – Divisions should contact their Branch Chief prior to demobilizing a GLT. Service is needed on all deployed GLT's before they leave the hospital.
- Western Shelter demobilization – Divisions should contact their Branch Chief before taking down and demobilizing any tent system. Inspection of the tents and HVAC service is needed before they can be placed back in service. Arrangements for these actions are being made in conjunction with IEMA.

A detailed demobilization guide for MABAS resources involved in the COVID-19 response is being developed and will be distributed soon. Thanks for your efforts to support the MABAS Statewide Response.



## Romeoville Fire Department MABAS Division 10

For Questions Contact: Brad Olson — Marine Unit Team Leader

### Romeoville Fire Department LMTV

46" Military tires giving the capability to tread through most ground scenarios and wade through high water

- Allowing approach/departure angles of up to 40 degrees
- Fold-down seating in back to facilitate rescue
- 500-gallon water tank paired with a 450gpm water pump
- (4) ground fog nozzles with remote activation switches in-cab
- Allowing pump and driving operations
- 200' booster line and (2) 1" attack lines



- Twin 150 hp Honda outboard motors
- 2 dive doors, front hydraulic operated ramp
- 500 gpm 8hp fire pump
- Manual winch
- Person and Cargo Capacity 3500 lbs.
- On board radios ability to communicate to all divisions
- Lowrance HDS10, GPS, Sonar, Chart plotting, Structure Scan SONAR AND RADAR
- 18" Lowrance Broadband 3G Radar.
- LOWRANCE HDS5x for engine monitoring
- FLIR 625L Thermal Camera with Joystick controller
- 52" hydraulically operated bow door
- 72" swimmer rails on each side of boat to aid divers

FOR MORE INFORMATION 847-403-0502

## MABAS Division Map With Branch Chiefs



Division 14 Western Shelter set up at Copley-Rush Hospital

### DID YOU KNOW??

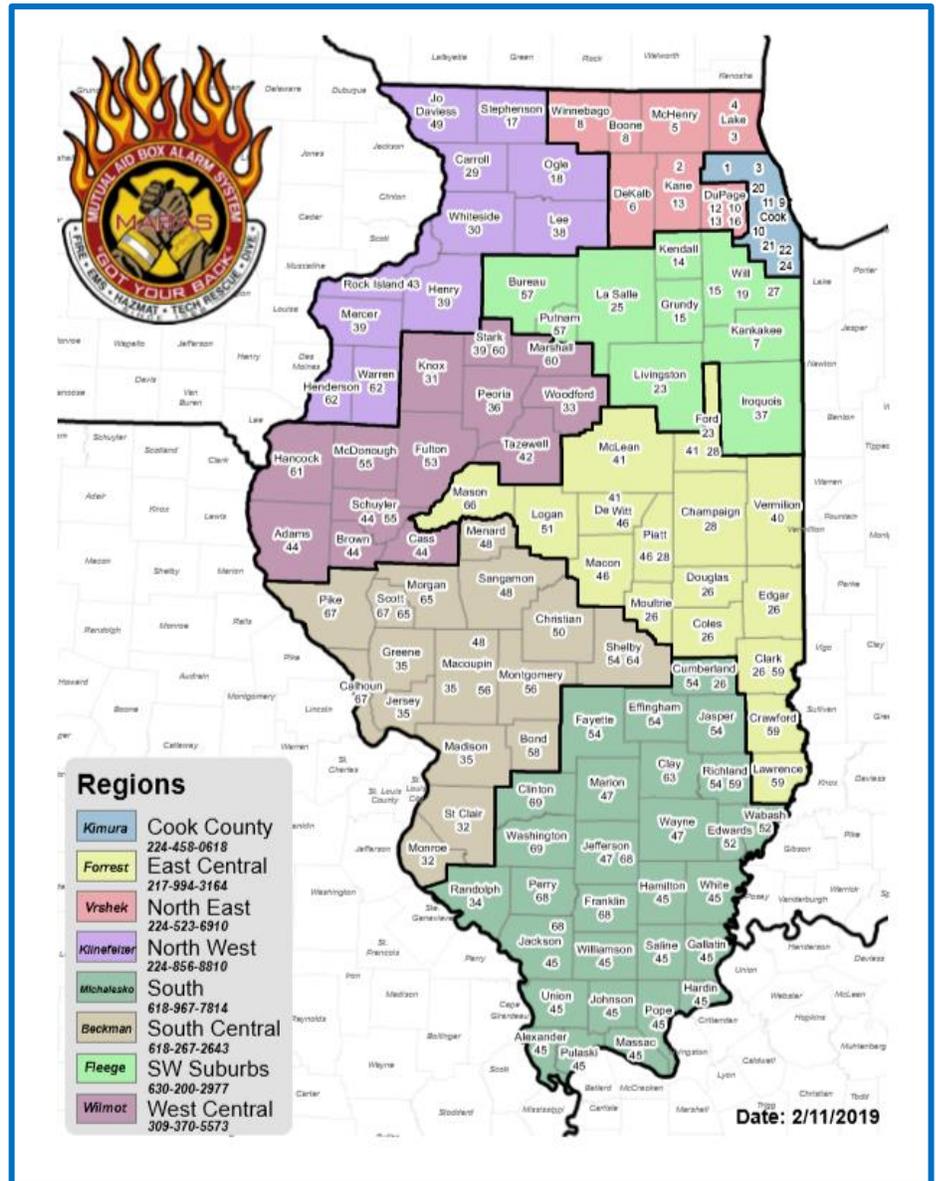
The most lethal health epidemic in the last 500 years was the worldwide flu outbreak that occurred in the fall of 1918 that killed 50 million people globally, including 675,000 Americans. 195,000 Americans died in October 1918, the deadliest month in our nation's history. (BTN Research, Center for Disease Control)

The population of the United States is currently **329 million**. The population first reached **200 million** in 1967 and **300 million** in 2006, 39 years later. (BTN Research, Census Bureau)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

MABAS, Illinois

847-403-0500



## 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) 847-403-0511