

# Mutual Aid Box Alarm System – Illinois Policy – Practices – Guidelines Manual

Index #: B-03-01

Adopted: 2/15/2008

Revised:

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Subject: MABAS-IL Incident Timing Benchmarks  
Functional Area: Communications  
Category: Guideline  
Approved By: MABAS Telecommunications, Communications  
& Dispatch Committee



## PURPOSE

To establish a guideline for MABAS Division Dispatch Centers and Incident Commanders to set incident time benchmarks for the purpose of planning, progress reporting, and firefighter safety during an extra alarm incident.

## RESPONSIBILITY

This guideline applies to all incidents at the Box Alarm level and higher.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Enforcement of this guideline rest solely within the MABAS Division, if they so choose to adopt the guideline.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENT

There is no routine reporting requirement for this guideline.

## BACKGROUND

Because during an emergency time seems to slip away, it is recommended that timing benchmarks be given to Incident Commanders by the MABAS Dispatchers. These benchmarks will remind incident command as to how far along the incident has progresses so incident command may assess and plan the operation. The Incident Commander should also provide a progress report to dispatch, at the established benchmarks, so the communications center may also plan their operations. These benchmarks will also help incident command track personnel safety, i.e. time worked and rehab needed.

## GUIDELINES

The MABAS Telecommunications, Communications and Dispatch Committee hereby establishes the following guideline.

1. The MABAS Dispatch Center should give the Incident Commander timing benchmarks at 10, 20, and 30 minutes into the Box Alarm and every 30 minutes there after until the Incident Commander states the incident is under control, i.e. fire knocked, hazards mitigated, etc.
2. The Incident Commander should provide the MABAS Dispatch Center with a progress report at each of the timing benchmarks.

## CONCLUSION

This Guideline provides direction to MABAS Divisions for establishing incident timing benchmarks to assist incident command and dispatch in the planning of an extra alarm incident and also provides another tool for the incident commander to oversee and manage firefighter safety.