



MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM

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August 10, 2022

NEWS RELEASE

Highest Honor for Emergency Management Awarded to MABAS Illinois Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force 1

Congratulations to MABAS Illinois Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1 (IL-TF 1) having earned certification by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP.) IL-TF 1 has joined the elite leaders in emergency management as certified to the National US&R Standard as a Type 1 US&R team. Through their commitment and leadership, they have proven to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the communities in Illinois that their program is sustainable and that they continue to focus on their State's best interests.

Providing US&R programs the opportunity to be evaluated and recognized for compliance with standards certified by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) and recognized by the State Urban Search and Rescue Alliance (SUSAR) complies with the EMAP's mission to build safer communities through credible standards of excellence. MABAS IL-TF 1 has demonstrated accountability and focused attention on areas and issues where resources are needed to heighten their preparedness for deployment to any technical or natural disaster that may affect the State of Illinois and the United States. Of the some 41 State sponsored USAR team in the U.S., only 6 have accomplished the accreditation elite status.

IL-TF 1 is composed of 10 components from 85 Fire department and Fire Districts, 6 Hospitals, 4 Joint Agencies and Local 150 Crane Operators from throughout the State and two long time members from Bettendorf, Iowa. US&R components include Rescue, Medical, Haz-Mat, Communications, Logistics, K-9 Search, Planning, Structural Engineers, Safety and Technical Search. IL-TF 1 is made up from the elite in the rescue business through appointment and sponsorship from their home agency after a through interview process.

MABAS-IL TF 1 is largely funded through Cook County Homeland Security's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and through the State of Illinois Homeland Security Grant Program (SHGP.)

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