

GOT YOUR BACK TALK

MABAS Illinois



Volume 21.3

In This Issue

From the President:

by Chief Don Davids

Greetings to all MABAS Members,

Thank you to everyone that attended the MABAS Command and Dispatcher training summits in Bloomington/Normal in February, we had a very nice increase in attendees, excellent presentations and tremendous support from our vendors. At the beginning of the summit, our standing committee members met and worked on their plans and grant requests for the future. I hope if you attended you thought the summit was worth your time and if you did not attend, please consider attending in 2024.

At our last MABAS executive board meeting on February 22, a majority of member divisions were in attendance, and we had a productive meeting. We continued the discussion about the importance of completing the new MABAS

agreement and rostering team members in CIMS. If your division needs assistance with either of those topics, please reach out to your Operations Section Chief or MABAS staff.

We will host our next executive board meeting on Wednesday, June 14, in conjunction with the Illinois Fire Chiefs and districts at their combined conference in Peoria. .

Please stay safe and keep up the good work of protecting your communities.

Respectfully,

Don Davids

President, MABAS-IL

davids@mabas-il.org

Home ready for spring	2
Message from CEO	3
Training Salamander Live	4
Communication Training	5
New Lennox Safe Communication	6
MABAS Inventory	7
MABAS storm updates	8
Grain Bin Emergencies	9
MABAS wants your logo	10
ILTF-1 Canine Training	11
MABAS apparel	12
MABAS Trivia/map	13
Fire Dex PPE	14
MABAS Foundation	15

Thank you for attending our Training Summit See you next year!!

[Click here to Register for CIMS 3.0](#)

7 TIPS TO GET YOUR HOME READY FOR SPRING

PREPARE FOR WARMER WEATHER WITH THIS HOME MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

[HTTPS://WWW.CONSUMERAFFAIRS.COM/NEWS/7-TIPS-TO-GET-YOUR-HOME-READY-FOR-SPRING-030521.HTML](https://www.consumeraffairs.com/news/7-tips-to-get-your-home-ready-for-spring-030521.html)



Photo (c) hikesteron - Getty Images

With so much of the country getting hit with late-season winter weather, it's hard to believe spring is just around the corner. Spring brings (hopefully) warmer temperatures, and with those temperatures comes the need to prepare your home for increased air conditioning use, spring showers and warm-weather pests. Use our maintenance checklist below to kick off your spring house prep.

1. Clean out your gutters

April showers may bring May flowers, but they're also really hard on your gutters. Gutters can become clogged with leaves and debris during the winter months, so it's important to clean them out and check your downspouts before the rainy season hits to avoid flooding.

2. Tune up your A/C

Now is a good time to tune up your air conditioner to prepare for increasing temperatures. Have someone come out and do a once-over on the unit to make sure it's in proper working order and safe to use in the coming months. A tuneup generally consists of cleaning, calibrating, checking for leaks and ensuring your refriger-

ant levels are correct. If you have a home warranty, you may be eligible for discounted tuneups.

3. Keep allergens out

Allergy sufferers may be dreading the coming season and all the dust, mold and pollen it brings. You can keep indoor allergens at bay by decluttering your home, keeping it clean and replacing your air filters. A clogged filter cannot do its job efficiently. You should replace furnace air filters every three months.

4. Check your foundation

If your house has a crawl space, you'll have vents along the foundation that may need to be cleared of leaves and other debris. Cleaning these vents will help increase air circulation and prevent moisture that can cause mold. Keeping them in good condition also helps ensure pests aren't sneaking under your house. If you don't have a crawl space, it's still a good idea to walk around your property and check for any cracks or damage to your foundation. Once the snow and ice begin to thaw and you've raked leaves and debris away, you'll have a clearer view of your home to do this inspection.

5. Check your windows and screens

As with your foundation, you'll want to check the seals and screens on your [windows](#) for any damage. Reseal any cracks to keep your home energy-efficient and prevent cool air from escaping and unwanted

ed warm air from getting in. If you like keeping your windows open in spring for fresh air, you'll want to make sure those screens are in good condition to prevent any flying pests from sneaking into your home through rips and tears.

6. Invest in a smart thermostat

If you're searching for ways to cut down your energy bill, a smart thermostat can help. With a programmable thermostat, you can keep the A/C down while you're away from home and schedule it to turn back on automatically before you arrive so your house is cool when you walk in. Many [security systems](#) now include smart thermostats in their equipment options. You can also buy smart thermostats from major retailers, including Amazon.

7. Get your lawn and garden ready

It's not too early to begin to prep your yard for spring. In fact, early in the season — or even before the season — can be a great time to get your lawn ready. Consider cleaning up winter debris, adding fertilizer, getting your trees trimmed, pruning shrubs and doing other landscaping. You can do this yourself or hire a [lawn care company](#) to do the heavy lifting.

<https://www.consumeraffairs.com/news/7-tips-to-get-your-home-ready-for-spring-030521.html>



A Message from MABAS-Illinois

By: Chief Glenn Ericksen

The MABAS Staff would like to express our appreciation to everyone who attended the MABAS Command and Dispatch Summit last month. Work is already beginning on next years Summit which will begin February 19, 2024 in Bloomington/Normal. One of the successes of the last Summit were the many speakers from MABAS Departments/Divisions who spoke on real-world situations they faced and the lessons learned from each of them. If you have such an event, or would like to share a best practice your Division has found, please consider presenting at the 2024 Summit. Watch for the formal "Call for Speakers" notice to be sent out later this year or contact your local Operations Branch Chief at any time.

Congratulations go out to Chief Dave Hayward who was re-elected as MABAS 2nd

Vice President and Deputy Chief Steve DeJong who was elected MABAS Treasurer/Comptroller at the Summit. Chief Sean

Maloy was presented an appreciation award for his many years of service as the previous MABAS Treasurer.

It's that time of year again where agencies



such as MABAS in Illinois compete for Federal and State grant funding to support their operations. We already know that the Illinois share of the Federal Homeland Security Grant for Federal Fiscal Year 2023 will remain flat while the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant has been reduced by

over \$1 million. There is the possibility that the State Fiscal Year 2024 Budget will include additional funding in the Preparedness and Response Grant and funding for Capital Equipment Replacement. We hope to be able to report on our requests at the June Executive Board meeting.

Now is the time to approve and send in your new signed MABAS Agreement before the January 1, 2024 deadline. After January 1, 2024 any older MABAS Agreement will terminate. Please don't wait till the last moment. Your local Operations Branch Chief is available should you have any questions or need assistance. At the time of this writing, we have received just over 330 signed documents which equals 27% of the membership.

Thank you for your support, stay safe and enjoy Spring

IN MEMORY



IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART WE ANNOUNCE THE PASSING OF RETIRED ASSISTANT CHIEF ED MURPHY. ED STARTED WITH THE ROBERTS PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT IN 1974 AND RETIRED IN 2015, SERVING THE DISTRICT FOR 41 YEARS. ED STARTED WITH MABAS JULY 2012 AS SPECIAL PROJECTS/COORDINATOR-CREDENTIALING AND RETIRED JANUARY 2022.

REST IN PEACE ED

SALAMANDER LIVE UPDATE TRAINING

By: Mark Sikorski



Thursday morning, March 23rd, MABAS-Illinois hosted an on-line training to review and explain entering members into CIMS (Contact Information Management). Updates to CIMS 3.0 took affect that morning to streamline the method for members to enter their information into the MABAS software, as well as discuss the new changes that will help anyone to avoid errors and missing important, necessary information.

Members who log in now, will find that they can no longer skip crucial information that MABAS and IEMA need in order for a member to be considered for deployments.

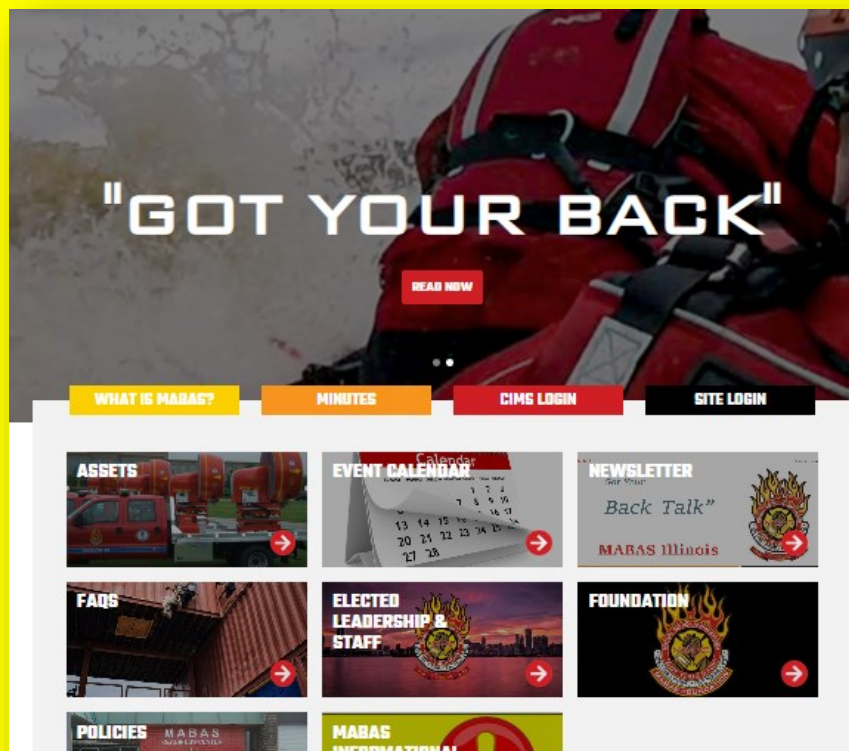
The training was repeated multiple times over the course of 4 hours by Salamander Live staff, assisted by MABAS staff, with over 40 Fire Service Personnel in attendance at various times throughout the morning.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Suriw3ASPO>

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

www.mabas-il.org

Hey, while you're visiting, Click on CIMS Login and create a profile!!





Attention **ALL**
First Responders!
You are invited to attend!

A MABAS **Regional Training Seminar**

Hello everyone!

The MABAS Communications training group is returning to your area to offer a wide variety of MABAS related topics, to assist you in preparing for daily to worst-case responses.

ALL First Responders are encouraged to attend....

[Email tcd@redcenter.org to register!](mailto:tcd@redcenter.org)

We hope to see you there!

HIGHLIGHTS

- MABAS Overview
- Box Cards
- Communications Tool Box
- From Rural to Large Responses and Deployments
- Box Alarm Simulator
- An Outside Asset Display and More....

Monday, May 1st, 2023

This seminar will take place at the
Effingham Events Center
1501 W Fayette Ave, Effingham IL 62401

To register, email the attendee's name, agency and MABAS Division#, and their individual email address to tcd@redcenter.org

Time: 08:30-4:30 Lunch will be Provide

Class limited to 40 participants!

Backfill / OT reimbursement available!

A NIGHT OF SAFETY AND WELLNESS!



Mark Sikorski & Pat Hardin



On the night of Thursday, March 30th, MABAS-Illinois was well represented at the New Lenox Safe Communities Coalition's Health and Wellness/ Touch-a-Truck/ Weather Safety Seminar.

The first part of the evening was for organizations from across the area to display their capabilities and services at tables in the jam-packed halls of Lincoln Way West High School. At the same time, out in the parking lot, numerous agencies showed off their vehicles, for all ages to walk through, ask questions, and enjoy.

The evening concluded with meteorologists from the National Weather Service, out of Romeoville, to present a Severe Weather Seminar and Spotter Training to approximately 75 people in the LWW Auditorium. By: Mark Sikorski



It's time to Register with CIMS 3.0

cims.mabas-il.org



MABAS VEHICLE INVENTORY UPDATE



Towards the end of 2022, MABAS completed the tire replacement project on the divisional generator light towers (GLT's) and the expedient (Western) shelter trailers. During this process, MABAS received photo documentation from the vendor that included an image of each trailer, the VIN plate or sticker, and the rear of the vehicle showing the license plate. This documentation was entered into MABAS inventory system. As the various photos were coming in, MABAS noticed some discrepancies from the older excel databases that contained vehicle information. In some cases, the VIN in the older data base had a "6" instead of an "8" or some other numerical transcribing error.

In an effort to maintain an accurate data base, MABAS is looking for your assistance. We are looking for legible images of the side, VIN plate or sticker, and rear of the vehicle that clearly shows the license plate. Below are some examples.

We are in need of images of the division IMAT trailers, UTV's, Decon Trucks, Air Trucks and MVU's. Please forward this information to Bob Bush at bush@mabas-il.org



MABAS STORM UPDATE

Severe Storms

On March 31 and again on April 4 & 5, Illinois was impacted by severe storm activity. In each case, the National Weather Service (NWS) had forecasted severe weather for most of the state. Many communities were impacted by these storms and for some, recovery will take some time.

For each of these storms, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated. Like other state agencies, MABAS was activated to virtually staff the SEOC's various information sharing, situational assessment and common operating platforms.

The following is a listing of MABAS resources that responded during these storms:

- 3 - Operations Branch Chiefs
- 3 - Technical Rescue Teams
- 9 - Generator Light Towers (GLT's)
- 4 - Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV's)
- 1 - Mission Support Unit (MSU)

RED Center and MABAS Operations Staff provided resource coordination and support to statewide response efforts. Divisions are encourage to keep their box cards updated for disaster responses. Please contact your regional Operations Branch Chief or Operations Section Chief Kevin Lyne at lyne@mabas-il.org with any questions.



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\$500,000.00

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GRAIN HANDLING SAFETY COALITION PARTICIPANTS

Carle Hospital Center for Rural Health & Farm Safety
 Carroll County Farm Bureau
 Community Health Partnerships of Illinois
 COUNTRY Financial
 Evergreen FS, Inc.
 Family Members/Private Citizens/Farmers
 Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
 Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (University of Iowa)
 GROWMARK, INC.
 The GSI Group, LLC
 Illinois Department of Agriculture
 Illinois Corn Growers Association
 Illinois Farm Bureau
 Illinois Fire Service Institute
 Illinois Association FFA
 Illinois State University Department of Health Sciences
 National Children's Center for Rural & Agricultural Health & Safety
 Precision Planting, Inc.
 Purdue University
 Region V OSHA
 University of Illinois Extension
 University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES)
 University of Illinois – Chicago Environmental & Occupational Health & Safety Education & Research Center
 USDA Farm Service Agency of Illinois
 US Department of Labor – Wage and Hour Division
 Western Grain Marketing



Grain Handling Safety Coalition CONTACT US:

Phone calls and correspondence are received by the Grain and Feed Association of Illinois.

Grain Handling Safety Coalition (GHSC)
 c/o Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
 3521 Hollis Drive
 Springfield, IL 62711
 Call us at: 217-787-2417 (GFAI)
 Fax: 217-787-8671 (GFAI)
 www.grainsafety.org
 Email contact: info@grainsafety.org

OUR INSPIRATION TO SAVE LIVES:

On July 28, 2010, in the small town of Mt. Carroll, IL, 14-year old Wyatt Whitebread and 19-year old Alex Pacas were killed working in a grain bin. Will Piper, 20, was trapped for several hours before being rescued. Chris Lawton, 15, was able to escape and call for help.



Wyatt Whitebread



Alex Pacas

Alex Pacas' aunt, Catherine Rylatt, realized a true need existed to educate and train those working in the industry. Catherine reached out to Dr. Robert Aherin, Agricultural Safety and Health Program Leader at the University of Illinois. Together, they sought out individuals, organizations, and agencies with connections to the grain and/or agricultural industries. It did not take long for everyone to realize that in working together we could achieve greater success in the mission to deliver community-based grain safety awareness and education across the entire industry.

Thus, *the Grain Handling Safety Coalition (GHSC) was established.*

GHSC's Mission:

To prevent and reduce accidents, injuries, and fatalities across the grain industry spectrum through safety education, prevention and outreach.



Produced under grant # SH2288SH1 from OSHA, US DOL and does not necessarily reflect DOL's views or policies or imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

We can't afford to lose another life.

Grain Handling Safety Coalition

LEARN & LIVE

WHAT'S THE COST?

Consider the staggering cost of a life, the stunning cost of care and treatment of the injured, the shattering cost to families, businesses, farms, and communities.

WHO CARES? WE DO...

We are the GRAIN HANDLING SAFETY COALITION (GHSC) and YOUR SAFETY and the SAFETY of everyone who works with you — on the farm or at the elevator — is our goal.

The GHSC is dedicated to helping you Learn & Live. "Live & Learn" does not apply to handling grain. In 2010, more than half of the reported grain handling accidents involved fatalities. Learn to make safety a routine for life, so at the end of each day, you can go home to your family and friends.

A volunteer group, the Grain Handling Safety Coalition is a team from industry-related associations, agencies, and individuals with a shared dedication to preventing accidents, injuries and fatalities in grain handling operations on the farm and at the elevator. Our diverse team has two interests in common: *GRAIN and SAFETY.*



LEARN & LIVE

Safety doesn't have to be expensive or complicated—it just needs to be DONE. Making you aware and teaching you how to handle grain safely is the dedicated function of the GHSC. We want to help you make SAFETY your standard operating procedure.



Our Mission:

To prevent and reduce accidents, injuries, and fatalities across the grain industry spectrum through safety education, prevention and outreach.

The GHSC is here to educate and instill positive changes in the world of grain handling. Our funding is committed to:

- Develop and distribute education and training materials.
- Offer online resources with self-tutorial training.
- Establish a one-source resource for education information for Grain Handling Safety.
- Provide public out-reach to increase awareness of the critical need for Grain Handling Safety in our industry.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can help the GHSC with your time, active participation and monetary support. The Grain Handling Safety Coalition operates on gifts and grants. If you'd like to make a contribution, contact:

Dr. Robert Aherin: 217-333-9417 raherin@illinois.edu
 OR
 Jeff Adkisson: 217-787-2417 jeffa@gtai.org

HAZARDS & PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Invest in Safety—Accidents are preventable. Identifying and fixing hazards immediately is the first step to ensure a safe work environment.

Establish Safety Practices—Make sure all family members and/or employees are trained and follow safety procedures.

Engulfment/Entrapment—Follow proper bin entry procedures. Don't walk or knock down grain. Use a secured lifeline & safety harness. Never enter alone!

Electrocution—Make sure all electrical wires and equipment are in good repair, properly grounded, and follow lock out/tag out procedures. Never work on equipment with a live power source.

Entanglement—Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry, ensure machines are properly guarded, follow lock out tag out procedures, don't by-pass or dismantle guards.

Being Struck By an Object or Vehicle—Wear hard hats and safety glasses, be aware of hazards in the environment, station observers around vehicles & other moving machinery.

Falls—Make sure ladders are in good repair, follow ladder safety/other height procedures, wear fall protection.

Dust Explosions—Follow good housekeeping procedures to prevent the accumulation of combustible dust.

Make sure *everyone* is properly trained for their job and understands the hazards. Develop a SAFETY PLAN and make sure everyone follows it. If an accident does occur, the seconds saved by knowing what to do may be the seconds that save lives!



MABAS ATTENDS THE 100 CLUB FRONTLINE CONVENTION



Spencer Kimura



On March 27 and 28, 2023, MABAS shared its resources and distributed MABAS materials to over 150 first responders at the 100 Club of Illinois Frontline Convention at the Hilton Chicago Oak Brook Hills Resort. MABAS staff shared their knowledge, resources and services with attendees as the convention featured wellness education and networking opportunities for first responders.

MABAS WANTS YOUR 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 sikorski@mabas-il.org



Follow us on Facebook



ILTF-1 K-9 TRAINING CANINE



The most senior member of our canine team, Geoff Gardiner, will soon be retiring his current partner, Molson, after 10 years of dedicated service to IL-TF1. His new partner, Whiskey, a 3 yr. Old female Belgian Malinois comes from North River K9 in Beery , AL.



Over the last several months, MABAS Illinois Task Force 1 Urban Search & Rescue Team welcomed on four new 4-legged team members! Three currently rostered canine handlers received new K9 partners, and we welcomed one new handler and his K9 partner. All teams have started their individual and team train-

Mike Vitale with Lincolnshire Riverwoods FPD recently retired medically retired his partner Irie, after 4 yrs. of dedicated service and a long battle with kidney disease. She received full department honors before crossing the rainbow bridge. In February, Mike welcomed Koda, a male German Shepherd from Warknohaus German Shepherd in State College, PA



Our new handler, William Murray, works for Romeoville Fire District and received his dog from Logan Haus Kennels in Lewisburg, WV. Roy is a Male Labrador retriever that was born in the summer of 2022.

Rami ElShareif with Lemont Fire District retired his partner Magnus this past August, after 2 years of dedicated service. He picked up his new partner, Zuul, in January from Jen Brown of Florida USAR TF-2 in Tampa, FL. Zuul is a Male Labrador retriever.



For information about IL-TF1 Canine program and resources contact US&R Operations Branch Pat Hardin at 224-935-2728 or

hardin@mabas-il.org

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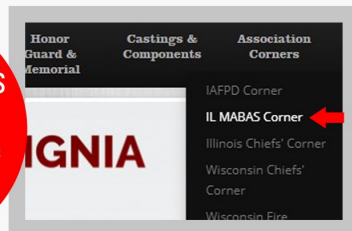
apparel@eagle-engraving.com
630-377-1056

IL MABAS MERCHANDISE

Proudly display your MABAS IL membership with our wide selection of engraved gifts and accessories. Personalization is also available for these products.



Visit our IL MABAS corner on our website for more exclusive items!



MABAS Trivia

How many Mobile Ventilation Units (MVU) does MABAS have?

- A. 69
- B. 10
- C. 8
- D. 12

Answer will be in the July Newsletter
January Trivia's answer C. 69

Fun Fact



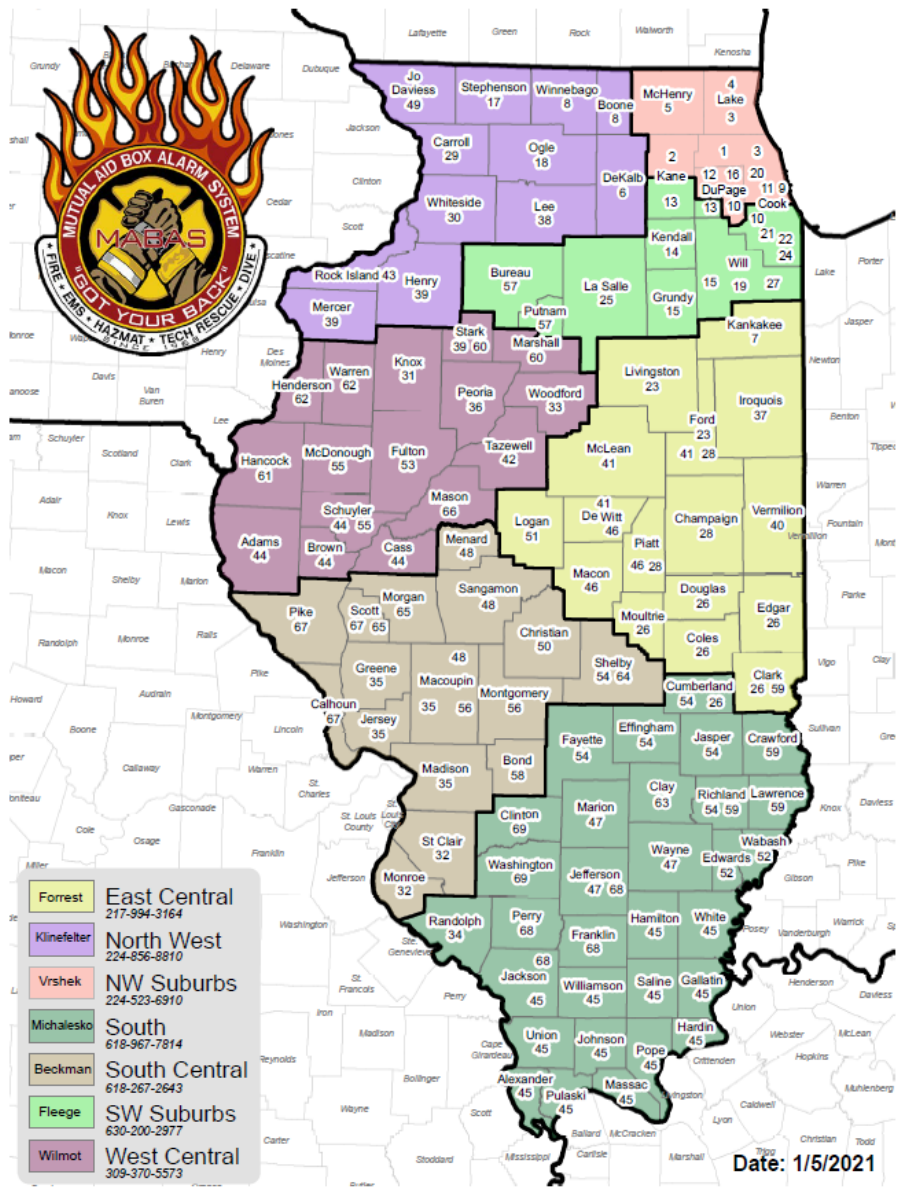
When humans take a breath, they replace only 15% of the air in their lungs with fresh air. When dolphins take a breath, they replace 90% of the air in their lungs with fresh air.

Fun Fact

The term "astronaut" comes from Greek words that mean "star" and "sailor."

<https://www.factretriever.com/fun-facts>

**MABAS Division Map
With Branch Chiefs**



For More Information

MABAS, Illinois
847-403-0500



Questions/Comments

If your Department or Division has responded to a call or had a big event and you would like MABAS to add it to this newsletter, or you have any questions or comments about the newsletters? If so, please feel free to email or call us. We look forward to any and all suggestions or comments.

Email—Littlefield@mabas-il.org

Phone—847-403-0511

FIRE DEX DONATED PPE TO ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE

Fire Dex PPE was donated to University of Illinois Fire Service Institute. MABAS – Illinois is assisting with distributing PPE to Illinois Fire Service members.

1 box available for distribution, 60 gowns in each box.

Please email the following information to;

US&R Operations Branch Chief

Patrick Hardin

hardin@mabas-il.org

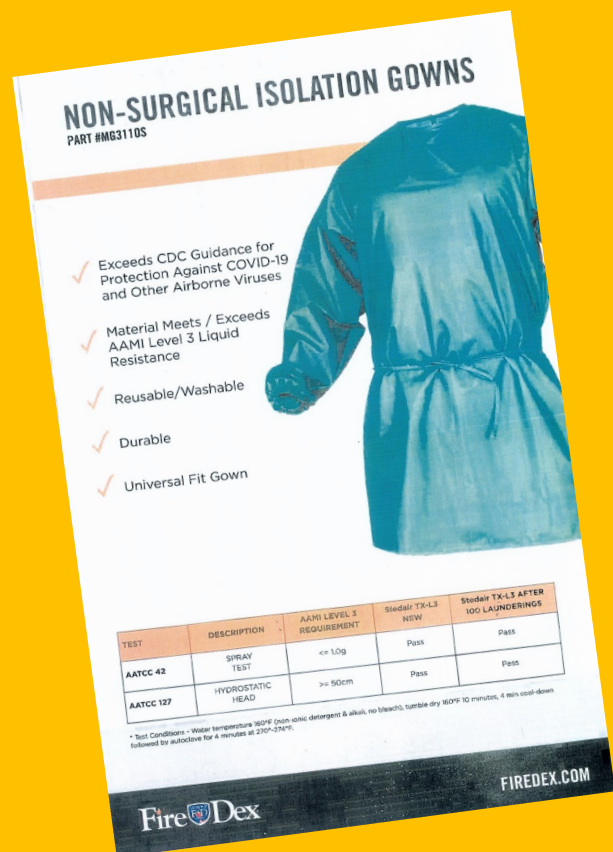
Responsible Party _____

Responsible Party email address _____

Division _____ County _____

Department _____

Number of Boxes (60 gowns) 1



First round of distribution – Mid April 2023

If you have any questions, please call Branch Chief Patrick Hardin at 224.935.2728

MABAS



FOUNDATION

WWW.MABASFOUNDATION-IL.ORG

Thank you (again!) to the Union Pacific Foundation. Union Pacific has recently given the MABAS Foundation a \$31,500 grant so that MABAS may fortify its cache of Hazardous Materials Personal Protective Equipment. This grant is in addition to grants of; \$11,000, \$94,000, and \$30,000, all given by the Union Pacific Foundation to MABAS (through the MABAS Foundation) since 2020.

MABAS appreciates Union Pacific's partnership and its continued commitment to the Illinois Fire Service.

MABAS MONEY

QUEEN OF HEARTS!



VISIT OR CLICK TO PLAY:

www.mabasmoney.com



ALL NET PROCEEDS OF THE RAFFLE WILL BENEFIT MABAS LOCAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RESPONSE CAPABILITIES, EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, AND MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS OF LOCAL FIRE/EMS AGENCIES IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

NEW GAME EVERY FRIDAY/MINIMUM GRAND PRIZE \$1,000.00 MAXIMUM \$500,000.00

MABAS Foundation Partners



Each month on 'Inside Darley' Paul Darley highlights industry trends, new products, best practices, thought leadership and more. The videos typically last about 4 minutes and are supplemented with insightful articles and resources. We invite the MABAS community to watch our October series here and if you want even more content, we hope you'll subscribe.

The latest video can be found here <https://darley.com/about/entry/inside-darley-october-2020>

People can sign up for newsletters here: <https://darley.com/about/newsletter-signup>



**AIR ONE
EQUIPMENT, INC.**

Founded in 1990, Air One Equipment, Inc. is a family owned and operated full-line fire and safety equipment distributor. Our sales and service staff work out of a modern 8,000 square foot facility located in South Elgin, Illinois. Our second location is operated out of a 3,500 square foot facility in Menomonee Falls, WI. In both locations, we have a warehouse full of best in class products available for our first responders.

At Air One Equipment, Inc., "You know us by the company we keep". We offer our customers quality equipment at competitive prices from the leading manufacturers in the industry. We pride ourselves in continuing to provide exceptional service after sale, both on the products we sell and the way we treat our customers. With over 400 years of combined experience in the fire service industry, our sales consultants and factory trained service staff are able to assist you in choosing and maintaining the equipment you need to safely perform your job. Contact "The House That Service Built!" to see how we can serve you in the future. 888-247-1204



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Union Pacific Railroad Company is the principal operating company of Union Pacific Corporation (NYSE: UNP). We are one of America's most recognized companies, with a heritage of building the country and a vision to keep doing so.

Our rail network connects 23 states in the western two-thirds of the country, providing a critical link in the global supply chain. Over the last 10 years, from 2009 to 2018, Union Pacific invested \$34 billion in our network and operations, supporting America's transportation infrastructure and enabling economic growth.



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MABAS ILLINOIS

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Wheeling, IL 60090

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