

GOT YOUR BACK TALK

MABAS Illinois



Volume 25.1

From the President:

by Chief Don Davids

Greetings to all MABAS Members,

MABAS recently held our Command and Communications summit in Bloomington, and it was a great success, while it was cold, we had excellent turnout and some very good sessions. Preliminary figures indicate about 70 attendees over last year's summit and that is a great direction to be heading. We also had an increase in vendors and sponsors for both summits. I would like to thank all our staff for their hard work and the attendees for their participation.

MABAS committees met on Monday morning of the command summit and worked on their plans and funding requests for the future. While federal funding is somewhat uncertain currently, that does not mean we should not continue to make plans on how to continue to protect the residents of Illinois. The good news is that the State of Illinois has been supportive of MABAS in the past and that seems to be continuing as the federal funding has been paused.

MABAS held an executive board meeting on Tuesday afternoon of the summit, and we had a spectacular attendance. With the support of the divisions present, we were able to pass the By-Laws changes that were proposed. We also had an election for president, and I am proud to have been reelected and will work hard to keep MABAS the model for local and statewide mutual aid.

As I said in the last newsletter, I am sure most of you know that there has been a reduction in grant funded training, overtime and backfill. Please make sure you confirm an individual is eligible for a class prior to the date of the class, so there are no surprises along the way.

Our next executive board meeting is in Wheeling on June 11th. Information about time and remote sites will be sent out in advance of the meeting.

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

Respectfully,

Don Davids

President, MABAS-IL

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www.mabas-il.org

Next Executive Board Meeting
June 11, 2025

Prep Your Home for Summer With This Simple Checklist

These pro tips will help lower cooling costs and prevent hot-weather mishaps.

BY [DAN DICLERICO](#) PUBLISHED: JUN 7, 2021

Summer is a time to enjoy your home, not sweat over it. And you'll be able to do just that if you take care of preventative maintenance ahead of the hot, humid days to come.



To find out what upkeep should top your early summer to-do list, we checked in with the home experts at the Good Housekeeping Institute. "Between the soaring temperatures and uptick in extreme weather, your home might have to work a lot harder this summer," says Rachel Rothman, the institute's chief technologist. "Plus, you want to make sure all major systems are in order before heading off on any long holidays."

We also tapped industry experts at Trane Residential, which makes many top-rated cooling and heating products designed to maintain year-round comfort at home, on how to prepare for the hottest days of the year.

Take Care of Cooling Equipment



If you have central AC, "the number one thing you need to do is change the filter regularly," says Darcy Lee, senior product manager at Trane. Not only does a dirty filter send dust, dander and other pollutants into the home, it puts added stress on the unit, increasing the chances of it conking out on the hottest day of the year. Lee recommends replacing the filter at least every 90 days and more often during periods when there's a lot of pollen and mold in the air.

You should also consider upgrading your filter from the standard 1" thick variety to an advanced filter, sometimes referred to as a whole-house air filtration system. [Trane CleanEffects](#), for example, claims to be 100 times more effective than a typical reusable filter, thanks to its patented technology that traps 99.98% of airborne particles.

It's also important to have your [central AC system](#) professionally serviced at least once a year. A capable technician will do a range of maintenance tasks that are beyond the skill set of an average homeowner, like checking refrigerant levels and making sure the coil has enough charge. The annual tune-up will likely cost between \$100 and \$300, but it will maintain peak performance and efficiency while also extending the life of the equipment by several years or more.

Do you have window ACs in your home? They have filters, too. Remove and clean them with soapy water a couple times throughout the cooling season.



Check the Temperature

Switching to WiFi-connected devices can lower your cooling costs by as much as 10 percent.

If you haven't yet made the switch to a smart thermostat, now's the time to do it. By automatically adjusting your home's temperature when you're asleep or away, the WiFi-connected devices can lower your cooling costs by as much as 10 percent, according to the [U.S. Department of Energy](#).

The latest advanced thermostats, like Trane's [ComfortLink II XL1050](#), can even send real-time information to your service provider (with your permission, of course), allowing them to monitor the overall health of your equipment. For example, the technician might notice that your central AC is running longer than normal, which could be an early signal of an issue with its mechanics. In that scenario, a simple repair could avoid a sudden failure.

Continued on Page 10



A Message from MABAS-Illinois

By: Chief Glenn Ericksen

March 2025 Newsletter Article

As April has arrived, we are entering a period of uncertainty regarding the continued funding of the ability of MABAS to provide specialized responses from Divisions, Special Teams and the USAR Team. The freeze of previously approved Homeland Security and Urban Area Security grant funds at the Federal level have placed our capabilities in jeopardy. As of this writing, we are still waiting on clarity from both the State and Federal levels regarding future funding. We have been working with IEMA and the Illinois Legislature in an effort to have the State pick up a larger share of the funding necessary to maintain MABAS operations as Federal funds may be less reliable in the future. House Bill 1271 is working its way through

the State House of Representatives which addresses our funding needs. However, the State is facing many new funding challenges which makes passage of this Bill uncertain. Your efforts in contacting your local Legislators and asking their support of HB 1271 will certainly be helpful. Hopefully we will have better news regarding funding later this Spring.

Thanks to the MABAS staff who staged



the 2025 MABAS Command and Communications Summit last February and thank you to all who attended. We very much

appreciate the support from our vendors and corporate sponsors whose support make the Summit possible. Attendance was up since the Summits resumed after the pandemic which is a great sign. We also would like to thank the MABAS members who volunteered to speak at the Summit and share their lessons learned from events that took place in their regions. By changing the day and time of the Executive Board meeting we had a larger number of Divisions represented which also meant we were able to approved the long-awaited Bylaws update with a 2/3rds majority vote.

Congratulations to Don Davids on his reelection as MABAS President which took place at the Executive Board meeting. Next February, the positions of Second Vice President and Treasurer will be up for election.

Thank you for your continued support and stay safe.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

JUNE 11, 2025

MABAS-IL Change-of-Quarters Knox-Box® System

Fire departments anticipating being tied up for a length of time on a multiple alarm fire or other large or complicated incident often (and should) include Change-of Quarter (COQ) companies on their MABAS Box Alarm Cards in order to have Mutual Aid departments move into their station(s) to provide response protection for other possible incidents in their village, municipality or district. In “the old days” the hosting department could simply leave their station unlocked so incoming companies could walk right in. But these days, fire stations are advised not to leave their stations open.



In early 2002 MABAS-IL, through the Knox Company, instituted a unique COQ Knox-Box® system to facilitate ease of entry by incoming COQ companies to an otherwise empty station. This a voluntary participation program available to all MABAS-member fire departments in Illinois.

Here’s how it works: Dealing with the MABAS-IL Knox-Box Program Coordinator, a member fire station purchases a small key safe for mounting on the exterior of their station. Once the box is securely mounted, they lock their station key/card/fob/entry code inside the key safe. Incoming COQ companies participating in the program then use their MABAS-IL key to open the key safe to get the key, etc. to

then access the station. The simplicity of the program is that participating fire departments have to carry just one statewide COQ program key on their outgoing COQ vehicles to gain access to any and all participating fire stations.

Want to know more about the program? Contact Chief (ret.) Harry Tallacksen via email at tallacksen@mabas-il.org or via phone at 815-262-4374.



CWMD Meets with Chicago Area BioWatch and STC Partners

Release Date: April 4, 2025



WASHINGTON – On March 27 - 28, the Assistant Secretary for the DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office (CWMD), David Richardson, traveled to Chicago, Illinois, to meet with state and local representatives for the BioWatch and Securing the Cities (STC) programs.

During the March 27 BioWatch meeting, A/S Richardson met with the Chicago area BioWatch program representatives to discuss the future of the program, its value, and what actions CWMD could take to strengthen this valuable program further.

The BioWatch program operates 24/7/365 in over 30 major metropolitan areas to provide an early indication of any potential airborne biological attack. DHS CWMD manages the program, supported by other federal agencies. The program is operated by a network of scientists and laboratory technicians, along with emergency managers, law enforcement officers, and public health officials across federal, state, and local levels of government.

On March 28, A/S Richardson met with the Chicago STC program leadership. The

purpose of the meeting was to discuss detection equipment needs, the program's status, and to see if there are any areas CWMD can improve upon in supporting the state and local team.

The STC Program was established in 2007 and included in the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2018. STC's mission is to prevent the illicit possession, movement, and use of radiological or nuclear materials and weapons in the United States by enhancing the nuclear detection capabilities of state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies. Through STC's coordinated



planning and operations, federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners work together in the STC regions to defend against the threat of radiological or nuclear terrorism.

CWMD provides radiological and nuclear detection equipment, training, exercise support, and operational and technical subject matter expertise to the STC regions through co-operative agreement grants.

CWMD supports STC implementations in broad areas centered on high-risk urban areas across the Nation. Urban areas

include New York City/Newark, Los Angeles/Long Beach, National Capital Region, Houston, Chicago, Atlanta, Miami, Denver, Phoenix/Maricopa County, San Francisco, Seattle, Boston, and New Orleans.

CWMD serves as the Department of Homeland Security's focal point for countering weapons of mass destruction efforts. By supporting operational partners across federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels, CWMD coordinates DHS efforts to safeguard the United States against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear



MABAS FUEL “PUPS”

By: Edwin Mampe



Did you know that MABAS maintains fuel transport and delivery trailers? Probably not, but MABAS has two such trailers. In 2008, MABAS purchased its first fuel Pup, a 2009 Davis and Sons 1200-gallon diesel tanker with a fuel dispensing pump and side compartments for gas and DEF containers. This trailer has gone on multiple training exercises and deployments with Illinois Task Force 1.

Its sole purpose was to fuel the vehicles of a convoy during deployment and to be staged at the base of operations for fueling vehicles during the deployment in stricken areas that fuel would be limited. In recent years the fuel “Pup” has been used at large fires where fire apparatus is operating for extended periods of time and running low on fuel. Being able to be brought to the scene and fuel apparatus without the loss of operational needs of switching out apparatus during an incident has proven the need for the fuel “pup”. As with everything there are some limitations with the first fuel Pup. One being the size of the tank requires an operator to have a CDL license

with a Haz Mat endorsement and the second is the trailer requires a tow vehicle with air brakes which most fire departments do not have. So MABAS has kept the fuel Pup in Wheeling due to the fact that there are vehicles and operators that can use it.



In 2022, MABAS realized a need for a second more versatile fuel Pup that can be deployed and used by more fire departments. This assignment was given to the Logistics and Fleet Resource Management Committee and in 2023 a new fuel Pup was pur-

chased. The new fuel Pup is a 2023 Thunder Creek MTT920 multi-tank trailer that can be towed by a 1-ton pick-up with an electric brake controller installed. This trailer has eight 115-gallon fuel tanks and a 100-gallon DEF tank. Each tank is a DOT compliant, non-bulk, diesel fuel tank without joining walls or piping. The tanks are only joined at a manifold that leads to a common pump allowing for complete isolation from the other tanks. This manifold has an electric valve that automatically closes the manifold to ensure DOT compliance without operator intervention. Without the need for a Haz Mat endorsed CDL license and electric brakes,

instead of air brakes, allows this trailer to be more versatile for state wide use.

MABAS will be determining the best location for the new fuel pup, probably in the lower half of the state. Training will be provided once a home is determined.

MABAS ILLINOIS

NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

MABAS utilizes three different types of systems to notify Dispatch Agencies, Divisional Executive Boards, and members for situational awareness and escalating events. These systems are redundant to reduce failures in sending out notifications. Please see below of a description of each.



Constant Contact is used for general non-emergent notifications for MABAS Illinois and the MABAS Foundation.



OnSolve is used for deployment and operational messaging for MABAS Illinois



Regroup is used for deployment and operational messaging for MABAS Illinois

MABAS will be implementing notification testing starting in April 2025.

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VENDORS FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING OUR 2025 MABAS TRAINING SUMMIT!



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Gold Level Sponsor



Executive Happy Hour Sponsor



**A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
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Copper level Sponsors



Silver Level Sponsor



**A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
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2025 MABAS TRAINING SUMMIT!**



Brass level Sponsors



Continued from page 2**Be Prepared for Extreme Weather**

Whether you live in hurricane country or tornado alley, summer is high time for storms. Backup power is essential since extreme weather is often followed by blackouts. Installing a backup generator, whether standby or portable, is the best defense against prolonged outages.

It's also important to check that your home's gutter system is in good working order so it can properly channel heavy rains away from the house. Inspect gutters for clogs and signs of rust or corrosion, as well as places where they're pulling away from the house.



Finally, since storms can strike unexpectedly, [FEMA](#) advises that every home should have an emergency kit with 72 hours' worth of supplies. The kit should include water (3 gallons per person), non-perishable food, a battery-powered or hand crank radio, a flashlight with extra batteries, a first-aid kit, dust masks, a whistle to signal for help, and a wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.

**Be on the Lookout for Pests**

Summer is *the* season for termites and carpenter ants. Both love moist soil, which is another reason to keep your gutters in working order. The pests are also attracted to rotting wood, so be sure to keep

mulch, firewood, and dense shrubbery away from your home's foundation.

One way to keep ticks at bay? Mow the lawn regularly.

If you think the pests might have already found their way inside, look for piles of sawdust along baseboards—a telltale sign of carpenter ants. Termites, meanwhile, like to shed their wings along windowsills, walls, and other entry points.

Last but not least: mosquitoes and ticks. In both cases, the key is to eliminate the insects' preferred breeding grounds. Mosquitoes need standing water, so watch out for birdbaths, empty gardening pots, and the like. Ticks thrive in tall grass, so mow the lawn regularly, especially in shady parts of the yard. Then kick back and enjoy a lazy summer afternoon, knowing all is right at home.

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/a36450902/prepare-your-home-for-summer-with-this-simple-checklist/>

“Why do I have to switch to IFERN?”

There has been a recent issue and numerous complaints of Incident Commanders not properly utilizing IFERN or the MABAS Fire-ground frequencies on their extra alarms.

Now, as we know, utilizing these frequencies is only a MABAS guideline.

HOWEVER, when your Dispatch Centers and Company Officers, especially auto and mutual aid assistance, are taught to do so, it can cause many issues, some of which can be very dangerous.

The use of these standardized frequencies is to free up your main frequency from tactical operations, and in the case of IFERN, it is a common frequency so all parties involved can hear and track companies that are responding. This includes Command, Staging, your assisting Chiefs and most importantly, the MABAS Dispatch Centers.

Not utilizing them can also cause confusion to those that are properly trained. And in some cases, it could be dangerous when an inbound company officer or Chief cannot reach Command because they are not on the expected frequency. And NOBODY should be “searching” for Incident Command while responding.

And if the alarm escalates to the point that resources responding from another Division, there is a good possibility that they may not have the frequency you have chosen to operate on.

Lastly, but also very important, the MABAS Dispatch Centers are trained and expected to track companies. If they cannot hear or track these resources, it can be dangerous. If nothing else, this can cause issues if it extends to the point of reimbursements. If the resource's response isn't documented, there may be challenges in obtaining reimbursement.



TRAINING REIMBURSEMENT REMINDERS

For Class Reimbursements:

Students must be on their MABAS Divisions related Specialty Team Training Roster in CIMS 3.0 at least six (6) weeks prior to the start of class. **Be sure to your Deployable and Training Roster eligible members are entered into CIMS 3.0!**

Reimbursement requests **MUST BE submitted to MABAS within 30 days after completion of the course.**

The request must include a coversheet on **Department Letterhead**, signed by the Chief of Department, with a listing of the **student and backfill personnel's standard and overtime pay rates.**

The **Reimbursement Request for Overtime/Backfill** form must be included and filled out including the student and any backfill personnel;

The maximum rate per hour for reimbursement is **\$58.00**

Only the number of hours spent in class is reimbursable. This includes the **total hours** paid out to the student and/or back fill personnel.

MABAS does not reimburse course tuition.

Lodging reimbursement is based on double occupancy, and the class must be **more than 50 miles** from the sponsoring department. **A Hotel receipt must be included** in the submission packet. **Reservation documents are not acceptable.** The

reimbursement rate for lodging is available on the Illinois Department of Central Management Services website under 'Preferred Hotel Listing' <https://cms.illinois.gov/employees/travel/preferredhotel.html>

NOTE: 'AirBRB style' lodging is NOT reimbursable!

The student **must pass** the course to be eligible for reimbursement.

The student is eligible for a re-test twice within a year of course completion.

Please email any questions or **Class reimbursements** to overtimereimbursement@mabas-il.org
Exercise reimbursements should be emailed to Michael Graves at graves@mabas-il.org

Deployment reimbursements should be mailed to deployment@mabas-il.org

Updated February 10, 2025



AFFF-PFAS FOAM DISPOSAL

Fight Against Fire

In the fight against fire, AFFF (Aqueous Film Forming Foam) has been a crucial tool. However, the presence of PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) in AFFF raises significant environmental and health concerns. PFAS is a group of manufactured chemicals that persist in the environment and the human body, potentially leading to adverse health effects.

E-Environmental Solutions

Your Solution to Hazmat Mitigation

Call Us: 844-95-SPILL

Email : info@e-enviro.com



Dangers In PFAS

PFAS chemicals are not only persistent, but they also accumulate over time. They have been linked to a range of health issues, including cancer, liver damage, and immune system disruptions. Due to their dangerous nature and persistence, PFAS disposal is heavily regulated federally.



Federal Regulations

The U.S. is tightening regulations around PFAS, including its use in firefighting foams. These regulations make it increasingly difficult and expensive to dispose of AFFF, as specific procedures must be followed to limit environmental impact and protect public health.



Why Choose Us?

Choosing E-Environmental Solutions means opting for a partner who understands the complexities of hazardous waste regulations and is dedicated to limiting your liability. By entrusting us with your AFFF disposal needs, you ensure that your operations remain within regulatory bounds and are handled with the utmost safety and environmental responsibility.



Dangers In PFAS

E-Environmental Solutions offers a comprehensive AFFF foam disposal service to ensure your department remains compliant with the latest EPA standards and state regulations. We provide:

- Pickup Services:** We will pick up AFFF foam directly from fire departments or our designated drop off locations throughout the U.S. We are now providing these services across the U.S.
- Compliance Reporting:** After disposal, we will generate a compliance report for your department, confirming that your foam has been properly disposed of and documenting your adherence to regulations.



Contact Us Today

To schedule your AFFF foam pickup or to get more information about our disposal services, please contact us at 844-95-SPILL. Let us help you manage your PFAS risks effectively and keep your department EPA compliant.

ILTF – 1 TRAINING



ILTF – 1 Medical Manager
Dr. Bernie Heilicser's
presentation Reflections
on the Earthquake in Haiti
"The Real Reality"

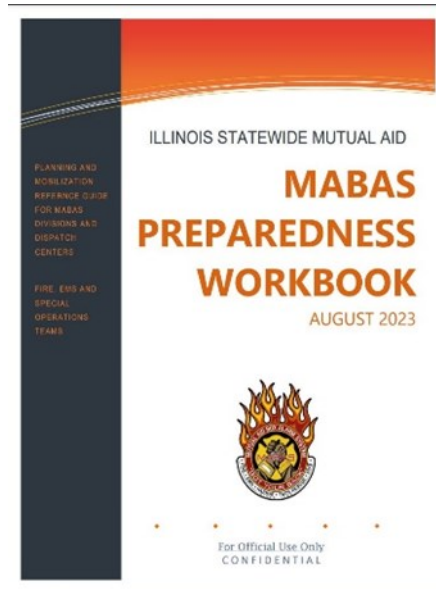
ILTF – 1 Medical Manager

Dr. Nick Cozzi

Host's ITLS Certification Class
at Rush University Medical
Center for ILTF – 1 Medical
Specialists



Does your Dispatch Center have the updated Preparedness Workbook?
(Dated August 2023)



**Go to www.mabas-il.org, and click on the
'MABAS INFORMATIONAL UPDATES'
tab on the main page;**



Select the '2023 Preparedness Workbook' to download!

Contact your Operations Branch Chief with any questions!

MABAS Trivia

The picture below is of a MABAS
“tent”

What is its MABAS given name?

- A. MASH tent
- B. Divisional Expedient Shelter
- C. The Dog House

The answer will be in the July Newsletter!

Answer for January newsletter is on the



A Generator Light Tower is
required to power the “MABAS tent!”

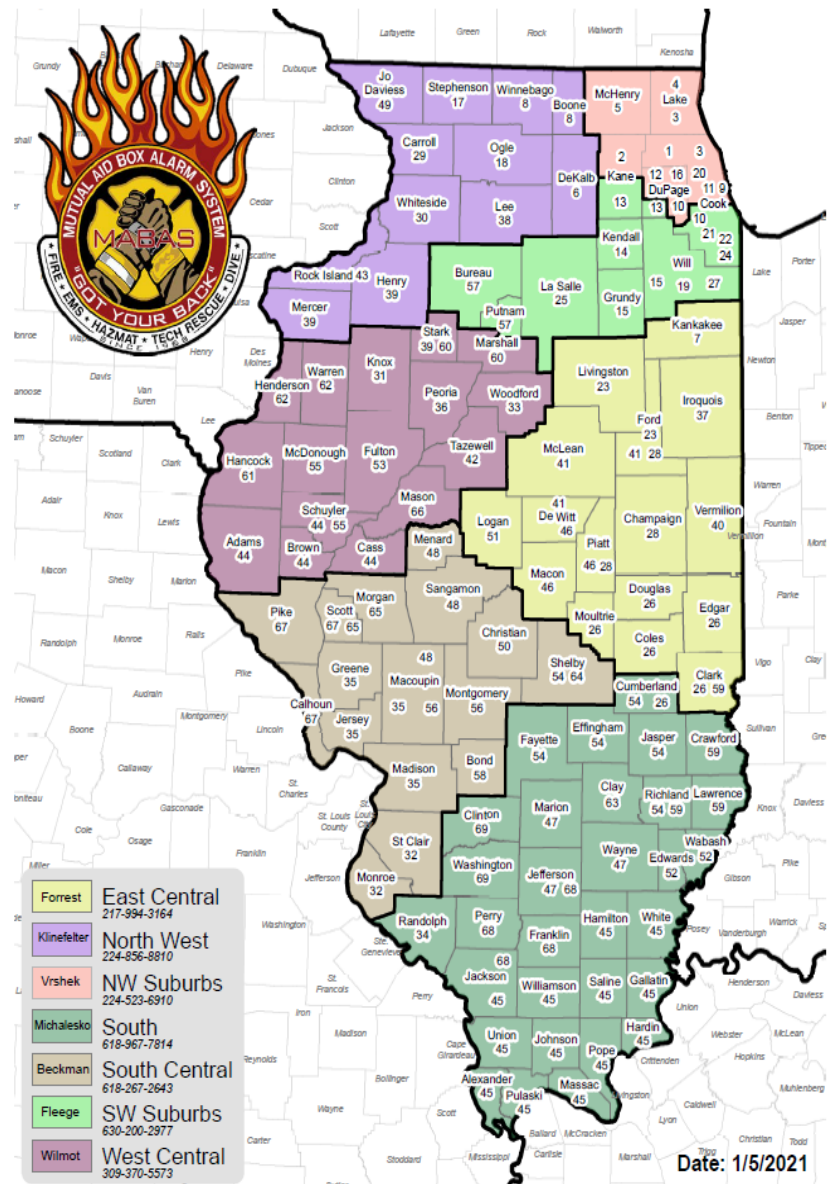
For More Information

MABAS, Illinois

847-403-0500



MABAS Division Map With Operation Branch Chiefs



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, 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

Answer to the January Trivia question....

“GLT” stands for the Generator Light Tower!

Each MABAS Division has been issued one of these resources, with Cook County MABAS Divisions having a second unit which was purchased by Cook County. These, along with the units assigned to Illinois Urban Search Rescue (IL-TF1), and WR-1, gives us a total of 82 units available for deployment.

Key Features of the GLT are:

- 20 kilowatt generator**
- 4 1000 watt Telescoping Mercury Vapor Lights**
- Available by Interdivisional Request**



CONTACT INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

CIMS 3.0

As you may have heard, Salamander is migrating from SalamanderLive V.2 to SalamanderLive V.3 in the near future. As a result, you will soon need to begin using SalamanderLive V.3 to complete self-registration approvals. The link to SalamanderLive V.3 is provided at the bottom of this email, but please be sure to read this entire email before moving forward.

While your username for SalamanderLive V.3 will be the same as your current username for SalamanderLive V.2, new security standards for SalamanderLive V.3 will require you to update your password the first time you log in to SalamanderLive V.3. Please note: *changing your password in SalamanderLive V.3 will not change your password for SalamanderLive V.2, should you attempt to log in to SalamanderLive V.2 in the future.*

To help you migrate your user from SalamanderLive V.2 to SalamanderLive V.3, we are providing you with a couple of MABAS-specific resources.

On the next two pages there is a step-by-step guide on how to manage your user migration from SalamanderLive V.2 to SalamanderLive V.3.

Second, from 9 AM – noon on both January 29th and January 30th, Lia will provide numerous 30-minute demonstrations on how to migrate your user to SalamanderLive V.3. Feel free to join either or both of those training sessions at a time that best fits your schedule. Again, the trainings only last 30 minutes, and you can join at any time during the two training opportunities. If you are a user of Salamander Live you will receive an email with the meeting links for this training as well as the link to watch the training video.

Third: Salamander is developing a video tutorial that will walk through the user migration process from SalamanderLive V.2 to SalamanderLive V.3. There is a chance this will be made available prior to the live training sessions, but we'd encourage you to still join either or both of the live training sessions if you have any questions.

Sincerely

MABAS Staff



**Version 3**

Important Login Information

For SalamanderLive v3 users logging in for the first time, we suggest you carefully read through the Login Procedures below. SalamanderLive v3 and the mobile applications (TAG APP, TRACK APP, INVENTORY APP, and RAPID TAG) utilize two separate authentication processes. This means users will need to manage both a v2 password and a v3 password. After the first log in to v3 it is recommended that users update their v2 password to align with their new v3 password.

Users with an Existing SalamanderLive v2 Credential

SalamanderLive v3 Login Procedures:

Follow the below steps when first logging in to SalamanderLive v3:

1. Navigate to SalamanderLive v3 (<https://app.salamanderlive.com/v3>).
2. Login to SalamanderLive v3 using your current SalamanderLive v2 username and password.
3. Update your SalamanderLive v3 password to meet the SalamanderLive v3 security requirements.
 - a. Minimum 12 characters, (one (1) uppercase and one (1) lowercase
 - b. Minimum of one (1) number
 - c. Minimum of one (1) special character (e.g. !@#\$%)

Example:

v2 Username: TestUser
v2 Password: P@ssword123

Once I log into v3 for the first time with my above credential and change my password (required), my credentials will look like below:

v2 Username: TestUser
v2 Password: P@ssword123
(Used for v2, TAG APP, TRACK APP, INVENTORY APP, and RAPID TAG)

v3 Username: TestUser
v3 Password: Password123456!
(Used for v3 only)

Updating your SalamanderLive v3 password DOES NOT change your SalamanderLive v2 password, or the password you use to login to any of your Salamander apps (TAG APP, TRACK APP, INVENTORY APP, and RAPID TAG). To login to SalamanderLive v2 or the Salamander apps, you will need to use your old SalamanderLive v2 password, not the new password created for SalamanderLive v3.

Support: 877-430-5171 | support@salamanderlive.com

Important Mobile App Login Information



Important Administrator Note:

Mobile apps (TAG APP, TRACK APP, INVENTORY APP, and / or RAPID TAG) utilize the SalamanderLive v2 password. Users who have never logged into SalamanderLive v2 will need an Administrator to create a SalamanderLive v2 password for them. Below are the steps to create the v2 password as well as the recommended steps for users to take when logging into the mobile apps for the best user experience.

Users without an Existing SalamanderLive v2 Credential

Creating a SalamanderLive v2 Password:

Follow the below steps to create a SalamanderLive v2 password:

1. Navigate to SalamanderLive v3 (<https://app.salamanderlive.com/v3>) and log in.
2. Access the Security User's profile.
3. Click Edit.
4. Click 'Caution: V2 / APP Password Reset Only.
5. Click 'Yes, Reset It'.
6. Click the 'Copy' button.
7. Paste the information into an email to send to the user.
8. The user will need to log into SalamanderLive v2 with their temporary password and set a permanent one.

Mobile App Login Procedures:

Follow the below steps when first logging in to the mobile applications:

1. Navigate to SalamanderLive v2 (<https://app.salamanderlive.com>).
2. Login to SalamanderLive v2 using your current SalamanderLive v2 username and password.
3. Update your SalamanderLive v2 password to match your SalamanderLive v3 password.
4. Use your username and SalamanderLive v2 / SalamanderLive v3 password to login to the mobile application (TAG APP, TRACK APP, INVENTORY APP, and RAPID TAG).

Web Browser Bookmark Note:

When saving the link as a bookmark within your browser, make sure to review / edit the link within your saved bookmarks. The link will need to be updated to only show as: <https://app.salamanderlive.com/v3>.

Support: 877-430-5171 | support@salamanderlive.com

We are over 120 chapters and growing!


Is your department a Chapter member?



**WHAT IS
PROJECT
FIRE
BUDDIES?**

We are firefighters who offer support and give back to children fighting critical illnesses. We all go above and beyond for our Fire Buddies!

Every critical illness a child is battling, is a fight we will give our all to.
We strive to ensure that each child we reach will stand with
the support of our firefighters and our community

A  child should never fight their battle alone.
Your Support Makes a Difference

Do you know a child who is struggling with a critical illness and needs a reason to smile? Project Fire Buddies wants to hear from you.
Email our Executive board at **contact@projectfirebuddies.org**

For more information on **PROJECT FIRE BUDDIES**, what we do,
or how to **DONATE**, visit our website: **projectfirebuddies.org**

Follow us on **FACEBOOK** and **INSTAGRAM** @projectfirebuddies

**Has your Dispatch Center gone through a
consolidation.....**

**Have you had personnel changes in
management....**

**Is your Dispatch Center information
Up to Date?**

**Go to www.mabas-il.org, and click on the
'MABAS INFORMATIONAL UPDATES'
tab on the main page;**



**Select the 'Primary and Secondary Dispatch Centers' document
to review your centers information.**

**Please notify your Operations Branch Chief, or send updates to
Linda Cruz at cruz@mabas-il.org**

Responding to the EV Era

Protecting Illinois

Firefighters in the Face of Evolving Technology

By: Johnathon Paholke, E-Environmental Solutions,
in collaboration with the Energy Security Agency (ESA)

The rising prevalence of electric vehicles (EVs), hybrids, and energy storage systems (ESS) is reshaping the transportation and energy landscape—and posing unique, complex challenges for fire services across Illinois. With EVs projected to make up over 25% of passenger vehicle sales by 2025, Illinois fire departments must adapt quickly to remain safe, effective, and capable during emergency responses.

Evolving Risks on the Fireground

Unlike traditional vehicles, EVs and hybrids introduce new hazards that firefighters must be prepared to handle:

Thermal Runaway: A failure in a lithium-ion battery cell can lead to a chain reaction that creates extreme heat, toxic gases, and the potential for repeated reignition—even hours after the fire appears to be out. These incidents require prolonged suppression and extended monitoring.

Electrical Hazards: High-voltage systems in EVs often exceed 400 volts. Improper handling or unintentional contact with damaged electrical components can cause severe injury or death. Firefighters must be trained to recognize and isolate these hazards safely.

Structural Complexity: Many EVs feature reinforced materials and unconventional internal layouts, making extrication and rescue more difficult. Cutting into the wrong area can compromise battery integrity or expose responders to electric shock.

Focused Training and Awareness Are Essential

Illinois firefighters must remain proactive in recognizing and managing these dangers. Key areas of focus include:

- **Vehicle Recognition:** Rapidly identifying EVs or hybrids by their badging, dashboard displays, instrumentation, or visible orange high-voltage cables is crucial to formulating a safe and informed action plan.
- **Fire Suppression Tactics:** Conventional tactics may be ineffective. EV battery fires often require a sustained cooling strategy using copious amounts of water directly on the battery compartment. Even after the fire is out, batteries must be monitored for re-ignition due to residual internal heat.
- **Rescue and Extrication:** Knowing where battery packs and high-voltage components are located can prevent accidental breaches and improve crew safety. Updated extrication plans and the use of specialized tools are necessary in many EV incidents.

Real-Time Support When It Matters Most
E-Environmental Solutions, in partnership with the Energy Security Agency (ESA), offers real-time incident support through a dedicated 24-hour hotline:

☎ **1-844-957-7455**

This service connects Illinois first responders directly with EV specialists who can provide:

- Immediate risk assessments for EV, hybrid, or ESS incidents

- Vehicle-specific hazard information and manufacturer data
 - Step-by-step guidance to isolate and neutralize high-voltage systems
- Access to up-to-date Emergency Response Guides (ERGs)

For firefighters operating in dynamic, high-pressure situations, this expert support helps reduce uncertainty and prevent injury.

Support for Departments Across Illinois

As Illinois continues to adopt EV and battery technologies, departments of all sizes—urban, suburban, and rural—must prepare for increased encounters with these systems. Firefighter safety depends on understanding the science, the technology, and the tools available to support them in real-time.

E-Environmental Solutions is not only your trusted chemical hazmat partner, but also your go-to resource for navigating the complex and evolving challenges of EV and ESS incidents. Make E-Environmental Solutions your first call to help ensure your team remains protected and informed when facing the unique hazards these technologies present.

To learn more or connect with EV safety experts, contact us at:

☎ **1-844-957-7455**

E-Environmental Solutions – Serving Illinois Fire Services with Confidence and Commitment



Emergency Response Protocol

In the event of a lithium-ion battery incident:

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Equip responders with appropriate PPE, including flame-resistant clothing, gloves, goggles, and respiratory protection.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure the area is well-ventilated to disperse harmful gases.
- **Emergency De-Energizing:** Safely disconnect batteries from power sources.
- **Disassembly:** Follow strict protocols for safe battery disassembly, focusing on containment of hazardous materials.



Laws and Certifications

To ensure safe practices in handling lithium-ion batteries:

- **OSHA Regulations:** Adhere to OSHA standards for hazardous materials and battery safety.
- **Environmental Regulations:** Follow local, state, and federal environmental laws regarding hazardous waste handling.
- **Required Certifications:**
 - **HAZMAT Certification:** For personnel handling hazardous materials.
 - **HAZWOPER Certification:** For workers involved in hazardous waste operations and emergency response.
 - **Battery Recycling Certifications:** May be required based on state regulations.

Containment and Transportation

- **Proper Containment:** Use UN-approved containers for transporting damaged EV batteries.
- **USDOT Transport Regulations:**
 - **Classification:** Damaged batteries are classified as Class 9 hazardous materials.
 - **Labeling and Marking:** Containers must display appropriate UN numbers and hazard labels.
 - **Manifest Requirements:** A hazardous waste manifest is required for transport.
 - **Training:** Personnel must complete training per 49 CFR 172.704.

Proper Procedures for Re-Energizing and Dismantling Traction Packs

- Follow strict protocols for re-energizing traction packs, ensuring batteries are in safe condition and repairs are performed by trained personnel.
- Utilize appropriate PPE and safety measures during the process to prevent accidents.
- Implement best practices for dismantling lithium-ion batteries, including proper isolation and safe disassembly to minimize hazardous exposure.



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For expert battery mitigation management and emergency response solutions, contact E-Environmental Solutions. For prompt, certified and safety to manage and limit your highest Risk

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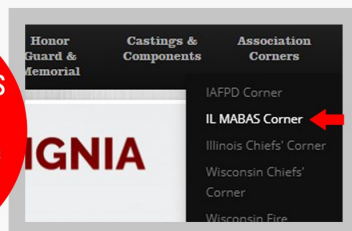
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