

“ Got Your Back Talk”

MABAS Illinois



Volume 25.1

From the President:

by Chief Don Davids

Greetings to all MABAS Members,

MABAS is closed!!!

Hopefully, that is not the message that I will have to send out anytime in the future, but with the pending reductions in grant funds and the current lack of a federal budget, it is not impossible. MABAS has currently canceled all exercises and optional activities.

Please contact your federal, state and local politicians and let them know that dependable and sustainable funding for both fire and law enforcement to provide mutual aid is critical to both of our agencies. MABAS has information on our website that you can provide legislators with to explain what a lack of funding may lead to.

MABAS has partnered with OSFM to provide atmospheric monitoring equipment to financially challenged fire department/districts. Please see the information on our website and fill out an application. The information has been available for less than two weeks and we already have 130 applications. We will contact applicants to let them know when and where training and distribution will be.

Our recent executive board meeting on October 15th in Peoria was extremely well attended, and I appreciate all the division members who stayed for the meeting. Information about the MABAS Command and Communications Summit in February will be going out soon.

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

Respectfully,

Don Davids

President, MABAS-IL

davids@mabas-il.org

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www.mabas-il.org

Safe The Date:
MABAS Training Summit
February 16-20, 2026



Strategies for a Healthy Fall

As the days get shorter and cooler and the seasons change, use these strategies to help prevent chronic diseases and maintain a healthy lifestyle.



Get Your COVID-19 and Flu Shots

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine and recommended boosters offers the best protection against serious illness and hospitalization.

CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.



Wash Your Hands

Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for 20 seconds.



Track COVID-19 Levels in Your Community

Check your COVID community levels and wear a mask indoors with substantial or high COVID-19 transmission.



Sleep

Aim to get at least 7 hours of sleep per night.



Move More, Sit Less

Adults need at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity every week, plus muscle-strengthening activities at least 2 days a week.



Get Your Screenings

Visit your doctor and dentist for preventive services and regular checkups.



Eat Healthy

Delicious fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean meats, and low-fat dairy products make healthy meals.



#VAXtheVALLEY

@naugatuckvalleyhd

Naugatuck Valley Health District
98 Bank Street, Seymour CT, 06484
(203) 881-3255



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
@CDCChronic | www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease



A Message from MABAS-Illinois

By: Chief Glenn Ericksen

funding bill in the next General Assembly. Your local legislators need to hear from you so they understand what will be lost if

points in this all-out effort.

Planning is well underway for the 2026 MABAS Command and Communications Summit in Bloomington/Normal February 16-20, 2026. The Illinois Chapter Governing Board meeting will take place Tuesday February 17, 2026 at 1600 hours at the Hotel. The election for the positions of MABAS 1st Vice-President and Treasurer will take place then. Please make the time to attend the Summit as it's a great opportunity to support MABAS and gain valuable insight.

Again, I would like to thank everyone for your support during my time as MABAS CEO and look forward to continuing to help out wherever needed. Take care, happy holidays and stay safe.



This will be my last article for the MABAS Newsletter. I will be stepping down as MABAS CEO December 19th. It has been my honor to work with the great staff here at MABAS and serve the member agencies throughout the state. Section Chief Bernie Lyons will be taking over as CEO and guide MABAS through these challenging times. I am confident MABAS is in good hands, and after 52-years in the fire service, it's time to move on.

I would like to echo Chief Davids article regarding the need to have the Illinois legislators support our proposed MABAS

the State does not step up and fill the funding gap that the Federal government is imposing. Please contact your local Operations Branch Chief or MABAS Headquarters if you need assistance or talking

MABAS

*Is preparing for the 2026 Training Summit in
Bloomington Normal.*

*If you know a company that would like to be a vendor
and build a relationship with MABAS please forward
their information to us or share the newsletter with
them.*

Contact us at: mabas-summit@mabas-il.org

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.



AN EVERYDAY HEALTH INFOGRAM

AUTUMN



SHORTER DAYS, LESS SUNLIGHT

What less sun exposure means for your health

Vitamin D, good for bones and immunity, decreases

Seasonal affective disorder causes depression

4

FACTS

Catch early morning rays to prep melatonin for better sleep.

Serotonin, the happiness hormone, decreases

Sources: Harvard School of Public Health, National Institutes of Health, Sleep Disorders Center at Northwestern University, Psychology Today

everyday HEALTH



**Change your clocks.
Check your batteries.**



MABAS

Next executive board meeting

February 17, 2026

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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Brass level Sponsors





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.

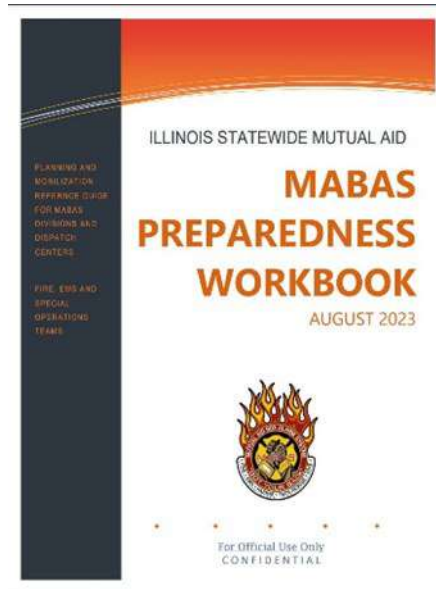
The student is eligible for a re-test twice within a year of course completion.

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

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!

IL TF-1 NEWS

THIRD QUARTER REVIEW:

IL-TF1 Participated in Training – August, September, and October 2025. Learning from the deployment to Texas.

August – Cache Updates from Texas

September – Cook County DEMRS Disaster Preparedness Fair
Rope Skill

October – HazMat/Confined Space
Haz Mat Validations / IAT



August Drill—Base Camp & Cache updates



IL-TF1 at Cook County with USAR 6 Medical and USAR 10 (Search)



IL TF-1 NEWS



IL-TF1 IAT Rope
and Haz Mat /
Confined Space
Drills @ Orland
Training Center
September and
October



IL-TF1 IAT at Haz Mat Validation
—@Bloomington
Fire Department



MABAS Trivia

The picture below is of a MABAS
"Trailer"

What is its MABAS given name?

- A. House on wheels
- B. Utility trailer
- C. Tent City Trailer

The answer will be in the January's News-letter!

Answer for Julys newsletter is on the following page.



The answer to all of our questions can
be found at

www.mabas-il.org

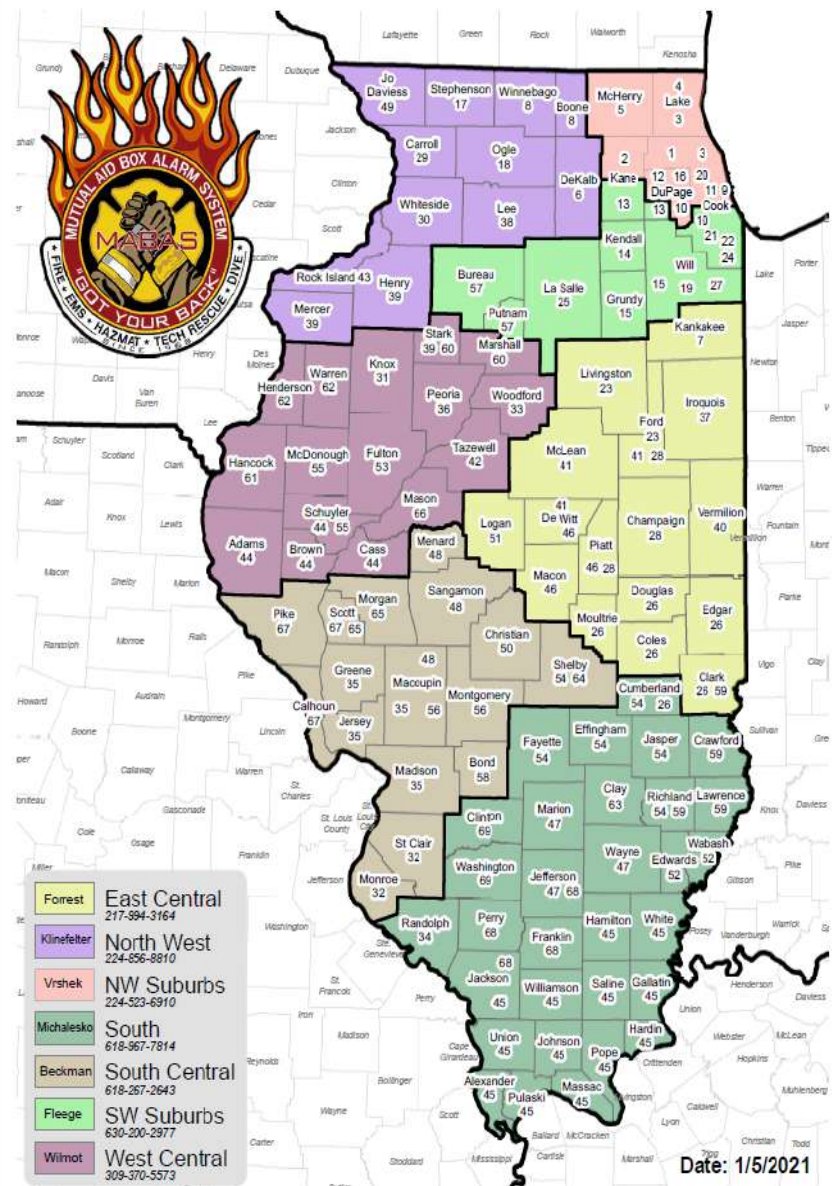
For More Information

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 July Trivia question....

MISSION SUPPORT UNIT (MSU)



Capabilities

The MABAS Mission Support Units (MSU) are completely self-contained credentialing units that can also be used to support command and control functions and provide meeting space Mission Support Unit (MSU) 6.25.2024

Division Locations

- North (Division 1 at the MRC),
- Northwest (Division 29),
- Central (Division 36),
- South (Division 45)

MABAS Communications Seminar Updates

By Mark Sikorski



On September 15th , The MABAS Communications Committee held another regional Communications Seminar at the National Guard Armory in Effingham. The session was very well attended to the point of having a full house, with great participation and discussions. The outside Asset and Apparatus display was full of equipment thanks to everyone sending out a variety of assets. A special thanks to E-Environmental Solutions for sponsoring lunch!



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**

ILWR1 MOBEX

On Monday October 20, 2025, Illinois Water Rescue 1 (IL-WR 1) and Illinois Task Force 1 (IL-TF 1) participated in a mobilization exercise (MOBEX) along the Illinois River near Morris, IL. This exercise evaluated the activation and deployment of MABAS swiftwater teams for a simulated in-state catastrophic water incident. In 2024, both IL-TF 1 and IL-WR 1 deployed to North Carolina as part of the Hurricane



Helene rescue effort. For this exercise, they incorporated lessons learned from the North Carolina deployment and applied them for an in-state “deployment”. Noteworthy was the integration of the Search and Rescue Common Operating Picture (SARCOP) for real-time documenting



and sharing of search efforts, night operations and the involvement of fire department based unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones to assist in the search efforts.

**THANKS TO RED CENTER FOR COORDINATION
COMMUNICATIONS FOR THIS MOBEX DRILL.**

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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!



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STATE OF ILLINOIS
PRELIMINARY EXPOSURE REDUCTION PROJECT



**FREE DECON EQUIPMENT
AVAILABLE TO ILLINOIS FIRE DEPARTMENTS**



***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 bmampe@mabas-il.org



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.



MABAS ILLINOIS

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