

“ Got Your Back Talk”

MABAS Illinois



Volume 25.1

From the President:

by Chief Don Davids

Greetings to all MABAS Members,

As we move into the second half of the year, I would like to thank all the divisions and departments that were able to assist other MABAS members in the severe weather and tornado out breaks earlier this year. It looks like extremely hot weather is making an appearance again, and we all know that can tax our firefighters and apparatus.

MABAS held a deployment and skills evaluation for the Cook County Hazmat teams in late May, and five of the six teams participated and performed very well. We will have an additional deployment and skills evaluation in October for six of the SHGP supported teams in Rockford.

If you are a recipient of an OSFM-MABAS issued 4 gas monitor, you should be calibrating the monitor at least once every six months. Please contact the nearest supported Hazmat team to calibrate your monitor. MABAS will have calibration available at any of our yearly meetings also. As a last resort, you may invite your Operations Branch Chief to a scheduled division meeting and they can arrange

calibration. Branch Chiefs should not be calibrating monitors at individual agencies unless they were there for other reasons.

The most recent MABAS executive board meeting was held on June 10, 2026, at the MABAS Readiness Center and three remote sites. We had good attendance at all sites and the technology worked very well. Thank you to everyone that participated. Our next executive board meeting is in Peoria on October 14. We are still working on the remote sites for that meeting and will push out the information about them when available.

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

Respectfully,

Don Davids

President, MABAS-IL

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Save The Date:
MABAS Executive Board Meeting
October 2026

www.mabas-il.org

How to stay hydrated over the summer

<https://diet.mayoclinic.org/us/blog/2022/how-to-stay-hydrated-over-the-summer/>

Staying hydrated during the warm summer months is an important part of enjoying the season. Whether your plans include more walks or bicycle rides, soaking up the sun, or taking that long-awaited vacation, make sure you drink enough water to stay hydrated. This is necessary as it will keep your body — and mind — functioning at its best. So, how do you know if you're drinking enough water? Let's tap into the facts and explore some of the best tips to keep you hydrated all summer long.

Why our bodies need water

Water is critical to overall health. Every cell, tissue and organ in the human body relies on it to function properly. According to the [Mayo Clinic](#), water makes up about 50 to 70 percent of body weight. So, how can losing just a fraction of water negatively affect your body and mind? It's all about dehydration; when your body doesn't have enough water to perform normal functions. Water is critical to your health, because it:

- Regulates body temperature
- Flushes waste from the body
- Supports a healthy immune system
- Lubricates and cushions joints
- Promotes healthy digestion
- Improves memory, alertness, mood, and sleep quality

How much water should you drink?

For the average healthy adult, the general recommendation for water intake is eight 8-ounce glasses of water per day — that's 64 ounces a day. Everyone's needs vary, however, depending on their activity level and even the climate in which they live. So, how much water do you actually need to drink in order to stay hydrated? Here are some general guidelines, according to

the [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine](#):

- For men, about 13 cups of total beverages, including water (100 ounces)
- For women, about 9 cups of total beverages, including water (74 ounces)

Other water-based beverages such as tea, milk and coffee contribute to this total beverages recommendation. Plain water is best and calorie-free so aim for most of you 9 to 13 cups to be water. Here are some factors that may increase your requirements to consider:

- **Activity level.** The general rule is if you break a sweat, be sure to replace what you lost. The key is to drink wa-

ter before, during, and after your workout. can cause severe dehydration — as do bladder infections and urinary tract infections (UTIs). Increasing your fluid intake is an important part of a successful recovery.

Tips for optimum hydration

Now you know how much water you need to drink for optimum hydration. But how do you hit the mark without falling short? Here are some quick tips to ensure you're getting your ounces in:

- Drink about 8 ounces of water upon waking and before bedtime. (Did you know your body loses water while you sleep?)

- Throughout the day, drink water to maintain a healthy balance. Don't wait until you are thirsty to start guzzling down your ounces. Were you aware that by the time you start to feel thirsty, you could have lost two or three cups of your total body water composition? Wow!

- Coffee and tea provide a significant amount of hydration. Opt for sugar-free and skip the cream.

- Infuse water with slices of fruit, vegetables, or herbs for a refreshing and tasty boost.
- Use a favorite water bottle. This is a fun way to show off your personality and enjoy every sip.
- Don't substitute alcohol for water. It is a diuretic that will cause you to become dehydrated. (And, no, the ice doesn't count!)

Continued on page 4



- **Climate.** If you live in a hot and humid climate, you're most likely to sweat more, which will cause you to dehydrate more quickly than in cooler places. And were you aware that being in a higher altitude — like in the mountains — can cause you to dehydrate? That goes for flying on an airplane, too. Be sure to keep plenty of water on hand wherever you may be.
- **Overall health.** While it is important to stay hydrated every day, it becomes even more critical when you're sick. Fevers, vomiting, and diarrhea



A Message from MABAS-Illinois

By: Chief Officer Bernie Lyons

The state's September 11 grant strengthened our deployable Technical Rescue Teams with much-needed rope and rescue equipment. The Preparedness and Response (PAR) grant, through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, enabled MABAS to maintain training and exercise schedules, support critical systems,

A stormy spring and summer capped a difficult state fiscal year (ending June 30) for MABAS grants. The historic 76-day Department of Homeland Security shutdown disrupted both current and upcoming MABAS grant processes. Although the shutdown concluded in April, its ripple effects delayed administration of the 2025 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHGP), which ordinarily takes effect on July 1. As of this writing, the 2025 SHGP awards have not been released.

Despite these interruptions and delays, MABAS has continued operations thanks largely to strong collaboration with state and county partners. The Office of the State Fire Marshal funded 4-gas monitors for nearly 400 fire departments statewide and equipped MABAS Mission Support Teams with advanced search-and-rescue cameras.

and repair, maintain, or replace equipment as required; it also funded generator/light towers, water rescue apparatus, wildland firefighting gear, and grain-bin rescue kits.

Cook County has continued to support county divisions and mobile support teams with equipment and training.



Our MABAS Mobile Support Teams are organized, trained, equipped, and ready. Our USAR team, Illinois Task Force 1, and our county Swiftwater team, Illinois Water Rescue 1, are equipped, experienced, and have been battle-tested in recent real-world deployments. Thanks to the efforts of our regional branch chiefs and divisional boards, MABAS remains highly connected.

We will continue to pursue secure, sustainable funding. In the meantime, despite pauses, interruptions, delays, and cutbacks, MABAS remains committed to its mission and continues to deliver on the "Got Your Back" ethos.



We would like to thank Senator Rachel Ventura for visiting and taking the time out of her busy schedule to learn the importance of what MABAS has to offer.

We encourage all political officials for local and state to take the time to visit and learn the importance of MABAS and see what we have to offer.

Chief Adam Kent, Senator Rachel Ventura, Chief Tim Littlefield

Continued from page 2

Fun fact: Approximately 20 percent of your fluid intake comes from food — with the remaining 80 percent from beverages. This is great news for those who love their fruits and veggies! Check out these foods that are delicious as well as hydrating:

- Cucumbers
- Celery
- Tomatoes
- Watermelon
- Strawberries
- Grapefruit
- Peppers
- Cauliflower
- Spinach
- Radishes
- Broccoli

What are the signs of dehydration?

Even with the best intentions and effort, dehydration can occur — especially while you're having fun in the summer sun. Here are some important signs to look for:

- Thirst
- Flushed skin
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Increased body temperature
- Weakness
- Dizziness
- Faster breathing and pulse rate
- Dry mouth
- Irritability
- Constipation
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Dark urine

What to do if you're experiencing dehydration

If you or someone you're with is experiencing signs of dehydration, the first thing to reach for is — you guessed it — a glass (or two) of water. Yes, water is the best when it comes to hydration. If your body is depleted of nutrients and electrolytes, however, you may want to try these other options that will have you replenished and hydrated in no time:

- Electrolyte-infused water
- Pedialyte
- Gatorade
- Coconut water
- Watermelon — as its name implies, it contains 92 percent water!

**Tips for staying cool**

When it comes to proper hydration, regulating a healthy body temperature goes hand in hand with drinking plenty of water throughout the day. Here are some great tips to help you stay cool — and look cool — this summer:

- Wear a wide-brimmed hat
- Opt for light-colored clothing
- Wear loose-fitting lightweight clothes in a breathable fabric
- Mist yourself with a spray bottle when you feel overheated

The Mayo Clinic Diet makes it easy to eat

healthy — and stay hydrated

Did you know you can eat an unlimited number of veggies on the Mayo Clinic Diet? As you learned from this blog, there is an abundance of vegetables that can help keep you hydrated as you eating healthy and nutritious meal and snacks. Now, that's a good reason to eat all your veggies — and then some!

The Mayo Clinic Diet's flexible meal plans not only fit into any lifestyle, but they are healthy and easy to plan for. With easy-to-find ingredients that are light on your wallet—combined with quick prep times—you'll be saving money and

eating delicious meals while losing weight. Plus, the New Mayo Clinic Diet features a food tracker, so you can document all your meals.

Our team of dietitians has developed eight different meal plans which allow you to find and follow an eating style that suits your taste and diet preferences. The meal plans encourage eating unlimited servings of fruits and

vegetables throughout the day. The sky's the limit on how you choose to snack on them!

Wondering what a "day on a plate" looks like? Have a look at a sample of the Simple Mayo Clinic Diet meal plan.

Mayo Clinic

<https://diet.mayoclinic.org/us/blog/2022/how-to-stay-hydrated-over-the-summer/>

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.



MABAS Generator Light Tower Maintenance and Safety

By: E.J. Mampe and Mike Forrest

Generator Light Towers (GLTs) are among the most valuable assets deployed during emergency incidents, disaster response operations, and extended field deployments. They provide critical lighting and power support for shelters, incident command posts, staging areas, and other emergency operations when communities and responders need them most.



Like any emergency response resource, reliability depends on proper maintenance, thorough inspections, and safe operation. A missed maintenance interval, an overlooked safety check, or an improperly coupled trailer can quickly turn a valuable asset into a costly problem—or worse, create a serious safety hazard.

The following five practices can help ensure MABAS Generator Light Towers remain mission-ready while protecting personnel and equipment.

1. Ensure the Trailer Is Properly Coupled Before Every Move

Before a Generator Light Tower ever arrives at an incident scene, it must first get there safely.

A trailer separation on the roadway can result in severe property damage, serious

injuries, or fatalities. Every operator should treat trailer hookup and towing inspections with the same attention to detail given to apparatus inspections.

Before moving a GLT, verify that:

The coupler is fully seated and locked on the correct two-inch hitch ball.

Safety chains are properly attached.

Trailer lighting and wiring are functioning correctly.



Outriggers, jacks, cables, and locking pins are secured.

Doors are latched and floodlights are positioned for transport.

Tires are properly inflated and wheel hardware is secure.

A thorough walk-around inspection takes only a few minutes but can prevent a catastrophic incident on the roadway.

2. Track Operating Hours and Stay Ahead of Maintenance

One of the simplest ways to improve reliability is to accurately track generator operating hours.

Beginning and ending hour meter read-

ings should be documented whenever a GLT is deployed. These records ensure routine maintenance is completed on schedule and help agencies plan for service before problems occur.

Generator Light Towers operate in demanding environments, often running continuously for days during major incidents. Preventive maintenance is critical to ensuring these units remain dependable when needed most.

Key maintenance intervals include:

Engine oil and filter changes every 100 operating hours

Air filter replacement every 200 operating hours

Valve lash inspection and adjustment every 1,000 operating hours

Coolant replacement every five years

A maintenance plan should be in place for extended deployments. Operators should record the hours of the last oil and filter service and ensure maintenance intervals are not exceeded. Waiting until equipment begins to fail often results in costly repairs, increased downtime, and reduced operational readiness.



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3. Perform Daily Inspections and Fuel Management

During extended deployments, daily inspections should become part of the operational routine.

Operators should verify:

- Engine oil level
- Coolant level
- Fuel level
- Battery cable condition
- Air intake condition
- Trailer tires and wheel hardware
- Mast cables and winch systems
- Fluid leaks
- Unusual engine vibration or noise

Fuel management deserves special attention. The Generator Light Tower is equipped with a 40-gallon diesel fuel tank, but fuel consumption varies significantly depending on electrical demand.

When operating only the four light fixtures, a full tank will provide approximately 72 hours of run time. However, when the generator is supporting additional electrical loads and operating at near capacity, run time may decrease to approximately 24 hours.

Because fuel consumption is directly related to load, agencies should develop a fuel plan before deployment, particularly for incidents expected to last more than one operational period. Waiting until the fuel gauge is low can create unnecessary operational challenges and increase the risk of an unexpected shutdown.

Operators should document fuel usage during extended incidents and monitor consumption trends. This information helps predict refueling needs, supports logistical planning, and ensures the unit remains available throughout the deployment.

The few minutes spent inspecting the unit and monitoring fuel levels each day can prevent hours of downtime later.

The requesting agency should service and refuel the GLTs prior to demobilization to their home Division.

4. Follow Proper Startup and Shutdown Procedures

Many generator and lighting system problems can be traced back to improper operating practices.



Before starting the engine, ensure all lighting switches are in the OFF position. Once the generator reaches operating speed and is running smoothly, energize the lights one at a time.

When shutting down, place all lighting switches in the OFF position and allow the engine to run briefly without a load before turning the unit off. This procedure helps protect the generator and ballast systems from unnecessary wear and damage.

Operators should also remember that metal halide lighting systems require warm-up and cool-down periods. Attempting to immediately restart lights after shutdown can reduce equipment life and create operational issues.

5. Inspect Critical Components Before They Fail

Many equipment failures provide warning signs before a breakdown occurs. The key is identifying those signs during routine inspections.

Particular attention should be given to:

Frayed mast and winch cables

Damaged winches

Cracked trailer-frame welds

Damaged safety chains

Loose or missing locking pins

Tire condition and inflation

Light fixture mounting hardware

Winch operation and cable tension

Any damaged component should be repaired before the unit is returned to service.

Operators should also respect the equipment's operating limits. The mast should not be extended when wind speeds exceed 35 mph. Before raising the tower, personnel should evaluate current weather conditions and consider the potential for increasing winds during the operational period. If conditions deteriorate or high winds are forecast, the mast should be lowered to a safe position until conditions improve.

Personnel should remain clear of pinch points and never stand or position themselves under the mast when raising or lowering the tower. No one should ever be positioned beneath the mast or light fixtures during operation. These simple precautions can prevent serious injuries while extending the service life of the equipment.

MABAS Generator Light Tower Maintenance and Safety

By: E.J. Mampe and Mike Forrest

Quick Safety Reminder

Do not extend the light tower mast when winds exceed 35 mph.

High winds place significant stress on the mast, winches, cables, and trailer frame. Monitor weather conditions throughout the deployment and lower the mast if conditions become unsafe. Taking a few moments to assess weather conditions can prevent equipment damage and reduce the risk of injury to personnel.

Reliability Is Built Before the Incident

Generator Light Towers support critical emergency operations throughout the MABAS system. Their reliability is not determined when they arrive at an incident—it is determined by the inspections, maintenance, and safety practices performed before deployment.

By focusing on towing safety, maintenance tracking, fuel planning, daily inspections, proper operating procedures, and thorough equipment inspections, agencies can reduce breakdowns, prevent injuries, and ensure these valuable resources are ready when they are needed most.

The best emergency equipment is equipment that works every time. Preventive maintenance and safe operation remain the catalyst to making that happen.

New Generator Light Towers

MABAS has begun the process of replacing and updating the aging fleet of GLTs. The new GLTs are equipped with some nice upgrades but also have some additional maintenance procedural requirements. Here is a list of some key features of the new GLTs:

Model: Generac MLT4150MVLED

Engine: Mitsubishi 1.8L tier 4 four-cylinder

24 hp diesel engine, operational speed set at 1800 rpm

Generator: 15 Kw Marathon Electric
Electrical power: 120/240 volts, 3 phase, 60 Hz, 125 amps (120v) and 63 amps (240v).

Mast height: electric winch operated able to extend up to 23 feet and rotate 360 degrees

Lights: (4) 320 w LED floodlights producing 190,000 lumens (rated for up to 10 years)

Electrical outlets: (2) 240v CS6365 four prong 50 amp twist lock; (2) 240v L6-30 style 30 amp plug; and multiple 120v 20



amp receptacles

Fuel tanks: 57 gallons

GLTs dimensions:

Width during transportation: 70", outriggers extend 140"

Height: 102"

Length: 113"

Trailer has 4 leveling jacks for more stability and able to operate at 65 mph wind speed

GVRW: 3000 lbs

Tires: ST205/75r15, C rated, filled to 50 psi

These newer GLTs have the same maintenance

and operational procedures as the current GLTs, **EXCEPT**, the newer diesel requires a heavy load placed on them during operation. A heavy electrical load allows the engine to operate at optimal temperatures, which is required to prevent "Wet Stacking". Wet stacking is a condition when unburned diesel fuel collects in the exhaust system and clogs the exhaust systems causing damage to turbos and exhaust gas coolers. To prevent this the GLT must operate at 30% percent electrical load of the generator, which is 38 amps at 120 volts and 19 amps at 240 volts. The lighting system of the GLT only draws 7 amps when all 4 lights are operating, this is not enough to prevent it from Wet Stacking.

IL-TF1 and IL-WR1 have tested the new GLTs during past training events. During testing they noted a quieter operating generator, more lumens and a whiter light, easier operation and more stable platform with the four outriggers. They were able to operate the GLT for approximately 72 hours with a lite electrical load without any problems. After the 72 hours, GLT must be operated with a heavy electrical load to burn off excess fuel in exhaust system. The GLT was able to support 3 Western Shelter HVAC systems in AC mode, 2 Western Shelter HVAC systems in heat mode (without GLT lights operating) and 1 Western Shelter HVAC systems in emergency heat mode. The GLT can also support a combination of a Western Shelter HVAC system with MSUs and other command tents or vehicles able to plug into GLT power grid system.

www.mabas-il.org



The Yard Foundation

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2021, The Yard Foundation provides grants to catastrophically injured or ill firefighters, long-term hospitalized children, as well as cancer research and treatment. In 4 years, we've given nearly **4 million dollars** to those in need.

WHY WE HELP

It feels good to do good. We have a large network of firefighters and other supporters willing to "pass the hat" for people in need.

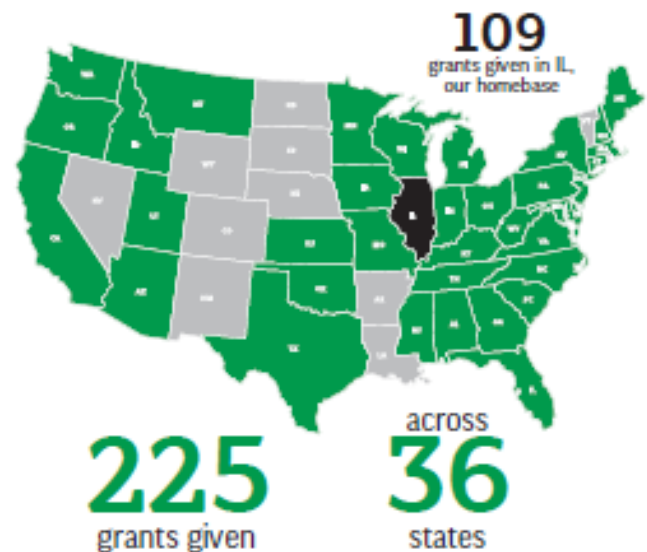
HOW WE DO IT

Fundraising Events
Online Fundraising
The Yard Card Membership
The Swag Shop

WHAT'S NEXT

We are developing relationships with larger donors and corporate sponsors to expand the Giving Tuesday program. Additionally, we are working with fire departments across the country to provide more financial assistance.

OUR 2025 IMPACT



TOTAL AMOUNT GIVEN

\$1,700,000

AVERAGE GRANT GIVEN

\$7,500

LARGEST GRANT GIVEN

\$150,000

WHO WE HELPED



Line-of-Duty
Related
Donations



Grants given
to support
Firefighters



Mayday
Campaigns

Learn more: theyardfoundation.org

MABAS-IL.ORG

EMAC Readiness: Preparing MABAS Resources for Interstate Deployment

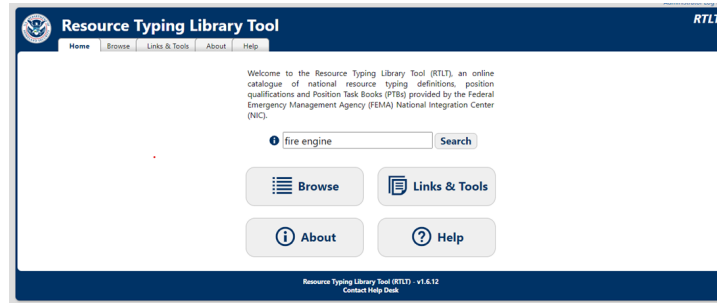
As the frequency of large-scale disasters across the nation continues to increase, interstate deployments have become more common for the Illinois fire service. Following the deployment of IL-TF 1 and Fire Engine Strike Teams to Louisiana for Hurricane Ida in 2021, IL-TF 1 and IL-WR 1 to North Carolina for Hurricane Helene followed by Fire Engine Strike Teams to Florida for Hurricane Milton in 2024, and IL-TF 1 to Texas in 2025, MABAS has continued to evaluate and improve its interstate deployment readiness. These deployments reinforce the importance of maintaining deployable resources that can rapidly integrate into another state's emergency response system using the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Resource Typing process.

Through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), states request assistance using standardized NIMS resource typing. Rather than simply requesting firefighters or fire engines, requesting states identify the specific resource type needed to accomplish the mission. FEMA's National Integration Center (NIC) maintains the National Resource Typing Library Tool (RTLTL), allowing agencies to search resource definitions, staffing requirements, equipment lists, and position qualifications. Division leaders are encouraged to become familiar

with the resource typing applicable to their deployable capabilities. The Resource Typing Library Tool is available at:

<https://rtltoolkit.fema.gov/Public>

Once in the Resource Typing Library Tool, users can search a resource description



(such as **Fire Engine Strike Team**) to view the applicable typing criteria and position qualifications. Personnel deploying out of state are expected to meet the qualifications identified for their assigned NIMS resource type. While Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal certifications are preferred, they are not required for interstate deployments. MABAS will continue working with the Office of the State Fire Marshal to verify personnel qualifications and training records for deployment rosters.

To support future EMAC requests, MABAS has developed an **EMAC Deployment Guidance** document for Division leadership outlining recommended pre-event planning, deployment considerations, and reimbursement expectations. The guidance encourages Divisions to periodically review their ability to assemble NIMS-typed Fire Engine Strike Teams, identify deployable apparatus and personnel, establish local deployment and reimbursement procedures, and ensure documentation requirements can be met before an incident occurs. Recent updates also incorporate the use of standardized EMAC reimbursement forms, improving documentation consistency and streamlining reimbursement following interstate deployments.

Preparedness begins well before the next deployment request is received. Divisions are encouraged to evaluate their Fire Engine Strike Team readiness and become familiar with available EMAC resources.

The EMAC website (www.emacweb.org) provides valuable reference materials, online tutorials, and training related to interstate mutual aid, resource typing, and reimbursement. Additional information, including the

MABAS EMAC Deployment Guidance document, is available on the MABAS website www.mabas-il.org or through your Regional Operations Branch Chief.

EMAC READINESS
PREPARING MABAS RESOURCES FOR INTERSTATE DEPLOYMENT
 DIVISION READINESS TODAY ENSURES WE CAN HELP WHEN IT MATTERS MOST.

KEY AREAS FOR DIVISION FIRE ENGINE STRIKE TEAM PREPARATION

- 1. KNOW YOUR TYPED RESOURCES**
 - Understand NIMS resource typing for Fire Engine Strike Teams.
 - Use the National Resource Typing Library Tool (RTLTL).
- 2. IDENTIFY & MAINTAIN QUALIFIED PERSONNEL**
 - Ensure personnel meet position qualifications for the typed resource.
 - Training is required; OSM certification preferred, not required for EMAC deployments.
- 3. IDENTIFY DEPLOYABLE APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT**
 - Identify apparatus and equipment that meet NIMS typing requirements.
 - Keep equipment ready, serviceable, and documented.
- 4. PLAN & DOCUMENT YOUR DEPLOYMENT**
 - Establish local deployment procedures.
 - Ensure all required documentation can be completed before an incident occurs.
- 5. UNDERSTAND REIMBURSEMENT**
 - Use standardized EMAC reimbursement forms.
 - Accurate documentation ensures timely reimbursement.
- 6. REVIEW MABAS EMAC GUIDANCE**
 - Review the MABAS EMAC Deployment Guidance document.
 - Stay informed and keep your plans up to date.

MABAS DEPLOYMENTS REPRESENT CAREER, PART-TIME & VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS, FROM ACROSS ILLINOIS WORKING TOGETHER AND REPRESENTING THE TRUE MAKE-UP OF OUR STATE.

MABAS DIVISIONAL FIRE ENGINE STRIKE TEAM DEPLOYMENTS

- 2005**: HURRICANE KATRINA Deployed Fire Engine Strike Teams to Louisiana.
- 2008**: HURRICANES GUSTAV & IKE Deployed Fire Engine Strike Teams to Louisiana.
- 2021**: HURRICANE IDA Deployed Fire Engine Strike Teams to Louisiana.
- 2024**: HURRICANE MILTON Deployed Fire Engine Strike Teams to Florida.

RESOURCE TYPING LIBRARY TOOL (RTLTL)
 Search resource types, staffing, equipment, and position qualifications.
<https://rtltoolkit.fema.gov/Public>

EMAC WEBSITE
 Reference materials, tutorials, and training on interstate mutual aid, resource typing, and reimbursement.
www.emacweb.org

MABAS WEBSITE
 MABAS EMAC Deployment Guidance document and additional resources.
www.mabas-il.org

PREPARED DIVISIONS TODAY | ENABLE INTERSTATE RESPONSE TOMORROW | GOT YOUR BACK!

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

Prehospital Blood Transfusion: A Growing Opportunity for EMS

Hemorrhage remains the leading preventable cause of death following traumatic injury. Across the country, EMS agencies are changing that reality by bringing blood transfusions directly to the patient—often providing critical resuscitation long before arrival at a trauma center.

Once limited primarily to military medicine and helicopter EMS programs, **prehospital blood transfusion (PHBT)** is rapidly expanding into ground ambulance services nationwide. What was once considered a niche capability has become a growing national movement, with **more than 400 prehospital blood transfusion programs** now operating across the United States.

As interest in PHBT continues to grow, successful implementation requires much more than simply obtaining blood products. Programs around the country have demonstrated that thoughtful planning, strong partnerships, and physician leadership are essential for long-term success.

According to **Dr. Jon Krohmer**, Chair of the National Prehospital Blood Transfusion Coalition, agencies considering PHBT should keep several key principles in mind:

- **Build partnerships early.** Successful programs begin with collaboration among EMS agencies, medical directors, hospitals, blood suppliers, and regional stakeholders.
- **Consider all blood products.** While low-titer O whole blood has received significant attention, packed red blood cells, plasma, or combinations of blood components may be the most practical solution depending on local blood supplier capabilities.
- **Evaluate regional needs.** Not every EMS agency needs to independently carry blood. Agencies should assess local demand and consider multi-agency or mutual aid-based programs where appropriate.
- **Support the blood supply.** Blood products are a limited community resource. Agencies implementing PHBT should partner with their blood suppliers by promoting and participating in community blood drives.
- **Ensure active medical direction.** Engaged physician leadership is fundamental to developing, implementing, and sustaining a safe and effective PHBT program.

Illinois is among the states actively advancing PHBT. The **Illinois Department of Public Health** is supporting pilot programs and implementation efforts as EMS agencies, hospitals, blood suppliers, and physician leaders work together to expand access to this lifesaving capability.

The Illinois Prehospital Blood Transfusion Coalition provides a collaborative forum for sharing implementation strategies, best practices, and lessons learned. Agencies interested in learning more are encouraged to participate in the coalition's next meeting, which will be held via **Zoom** on **Monday, August 3, 2026, from 1:00–1:45 p.m. (CDT)**. To receive the Zoom meeting information, please contact **Dr. Nicholas Cozzi**.

Additional information about the coalition and national PHBT resources is available at: <https://prehospitaltransfusion.org>
For additional information:

Dr. Nicholas Cozzi
Illinois PHBT Coalition
Email: nicholas.cozzi@cityofchicago.org

Dr. Jon Krohmer
Prehospital Blood Transfusion Coalition
Email: jrkrohmer@gmail.com

**A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
VENDORS FOR YOUR PAST SUPPORT
DURING OUR 2026 MABAS TRAINING SUMMIT!
LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN 2027**



Diamond level Sponsors



AT&T

ZOLL



FIRSTNET
Built with AT&T

Gold Level Sponsor



FROM SPEC TO
MISSION READY
ONE PARTNER

Executive Happy Hour Sponsor

stryker

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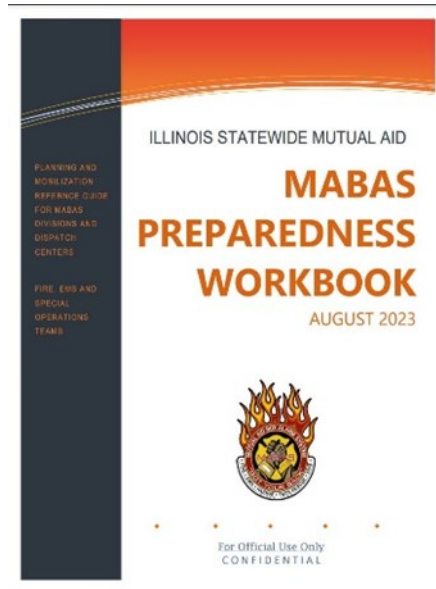
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FARRWEST



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



ILTF – 2nd Quarter Newsletter

IL-TF1 Participated in Training and Events

May ORE at Sparta, IL – May 4 to 6, 2026

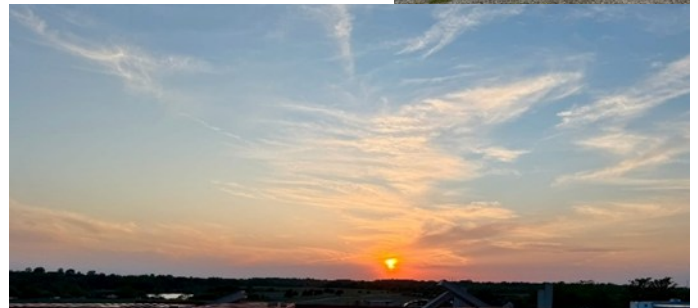
May Oglesby Water Exercise May 7, 2026

Canine Training at New York Task Force 1 – May 17 to 22

Water Training at Yorkville, IL – May 28 and 29



**May ORE at the
Illinois National
Guard Training
Center – Sparta, IL**



IL TF – 1 NEWS

IL-TF1 Canine and Swiftwater Team at the Oglesby Water / Search Exercise May 7, 2026



IL TF – 1 NEWS

Canine Training at NY-TF1 Training Center.

Training with NY-TF1, IN-TF1 and Canada-TF3 May 12 to 22, 2026



Thank you, Geoff Gardiner.

25 years of IL-TF1 Service

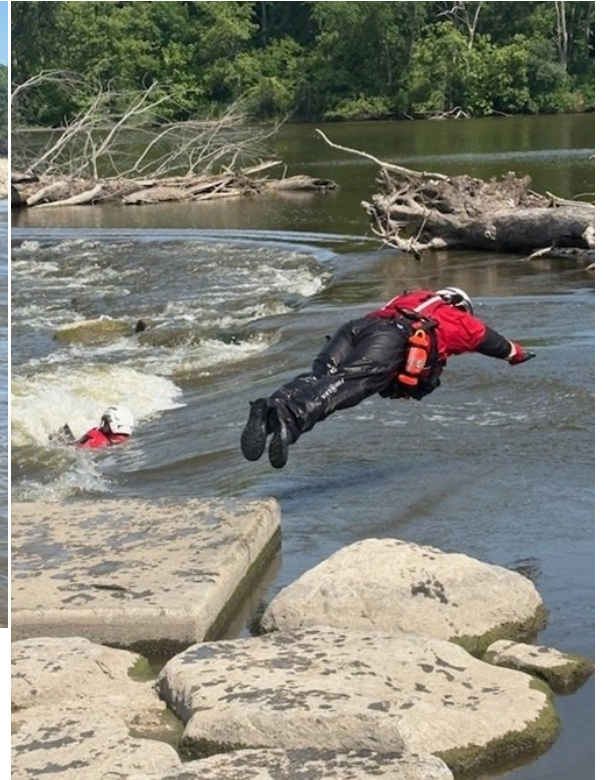
Canine Search Specialist. OG.



IL TF - 1 NEWS

Water Training at Yorkville, IL.

May 28 and 29, 2026



Fun Facts

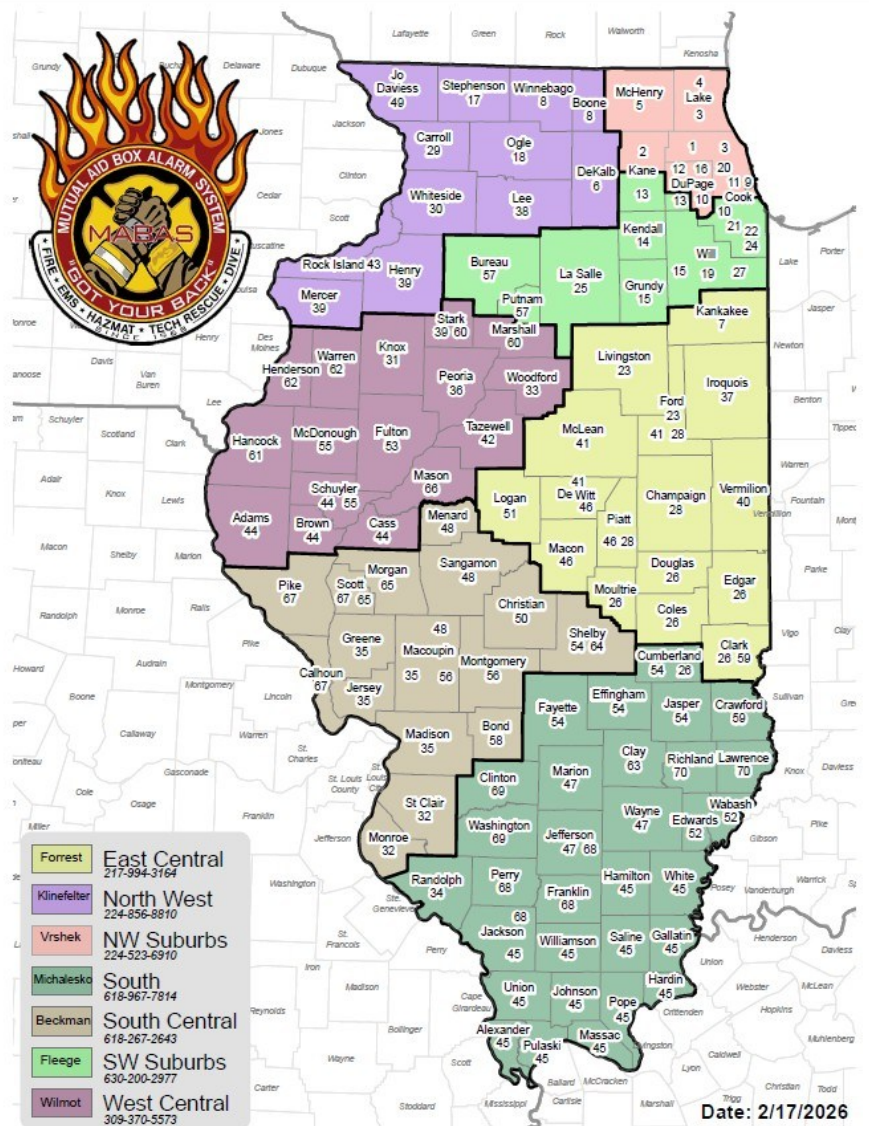


Fact: The world's oldest wooden wheel has been around for more than 5,000 years

Talk about one [old tourist attraction!](#)

This wheel was found in 2002, approximately 12 miles south of Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, and is now housed in the city's museum. Radiocarbon dating was used to determine the wheel's age, which is somewhere between 5,100 and 5,350 years old.

MABAS Division Map With Operation 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, 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

Built for Connection When It Matters Most



By Eileen Mitchell
AT&T Illinois President



When firefighters head into collapsed infrastructure, rising floodwaters, and communities cut off from help, they don't get to wait for perfect conditions. They run to the fire. They move toward danger. And increasingly, their ability to save lives depends on something many of us take for granted until it is gone: connectivity.

That is why FirstNet matters.

FirstNet, Built with AT&T, stands as one of America's most successful public-private partnerships. Created by Congress in 2012, the First Responder Network Authority—an independent federal agency—was established to help bring public safety a highly secure, resilient nationwide communications platform dedicated to the mission of first responders. It was a visionary decision rooted in a simple truth: when emergencies strike, police officers, firefighters and EMS cannot afford communications failures.

Today, that vision is proving its value every day in Illinois and across the country. The FirstNet Authority's authorization is set to sunset in February 2027 unless Congress acts, public safety leaders are urging lawmakers to reauthorize it now.

No one knows better what is at stake than public safety and first responders, because they have seen firsthand what dedicated connectivity means when lives are on the line.

Just ask Cody Riggan.

Riggan is a full-time firefighter with the Wilmette Fire Department, serving communities across Chicago's North Shore. He also serves as a communications specialist and team member with the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, or MABAS, Illinois Wa-

ter Rescue that role, large-scale response deployment through-and being a deployment to North Carolina during Hurricane Helene.



His description of the work is direct and powerful. "As a first responder I am responsible for coming up with unique solutions to complex problems," he said. "I

1 Team. In he supports emergency and disaster events out Illinois yond, includ-

a mayday, if incident command cannot track crews, if rescuers cannot relay the location of victims, the consequences can be devastating. In a disaster, communications are not secondary to the mission. They are central to it.

And disasters are precisely when traditional systems are most likely to fail.

During fast-moving events like hurricanes and floods, local utilities and commercial providers are often racing to assess damage, mobilize repair crews and restore access to destroyed infrastructure. First responders arriving on scene may have to operate independently for days or even weeks. Riggan knows that challenge well. "Initiating a rescue mission during a hurricane is dangerous as is," he said, "but not having communications during that time really makes the situation that much worse."

For Riggan's swiftwater rescue team, FirstNet provides a critical layer of operational resilience. The team carries 10 dedicated deployment FirstNet iPhones whenever they mobilize. Those devices are used for field data collection, marking victim locations, identifying damaged structures, documenting hazards and tracking personnel in the field for accountability. They also serve as a vital connection to incident command and partner agencies when local public safety radio systems are offline.

The devices support medical coordination too, allowing specialists in the field to contact physicians at their resource hospital for guidance on difficult patient situations.



Cody Riggan

take pride in the fact that I am part of an aggressive rescue team that does not end the operational period until the job is done."

That determination is inspiring. But even the most skilled rescue team cannot do its job without the ability to communicate.

Riggan put it plainly: "If we lose connectivity, we lose accountability."

That isn't a slogan. It's a life-or-death reality. If a firefighter in the field cannot call in

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Riggan says the team can even run its basecamp command center off the phones' Wi-Fi hotspot capability. And if terrestrial networks are disrupted by widespread power outages, satellite-based SOS capability provides yet another layer of backup.

That redundancy matters. In public safety, backup plans save lives.

As Riggan put it, "FirstNet provides this level of redundancy, and gives us the confidence to venture into the unknown."

That confidence was put to the test in 2024, when Illinois Water Rescue 1 deployed to western North Carolina in response to Hurricane Helene. Conditions were extraordinarily difficult. Public safety radio and cell networks were largely offline due to widespread power outages. Roads were blocked by fallen trees and downed power lines. Yet the mission could not wait.

Riggan contacted FirstNet and requested a Compact Rapid Deployable, or CRD. Within 24 hours, it was delivered and operational at the team's base of operations.

That kind of response is remarkable under any circumstances. In a disaster zone with major access challenges, it is extraordinary.

With the cell and Wi-Fi capabilities the CRD provided, Riggan's team was able to coordinate rescue operations and track personnel. The local fire department where the team was based also regained the ability to coordinate response to 911



calls. Just as importantly, firefighters who had been working for days without knowing whether their own families or homes were safe could finally contact loved ones.

That is the human side of connectivity in a disaster. It supports command decisions, operational awareness and rescue coordination. It also gives exhausted first responders a desperately needed connection home.

Riggan is unequivocal about what purpose

-built communications tools mean from a firefighter's perspective: peace of mind. "It's a major confidence boost going into the mission knowing we have the best phones running on the best network – period," he said.

That confidence is not accidental. It is built through experience, preparation and training. Riggan emphasized that his team's success depends on training often with realistic rescue scenarios and preparing for virtually every possible communications failure—from loss of device power to outages across cellular or radio networks. His message is one every leader should hear: know your equipment, and train with it often.

Illinois first responders live that commitment every day. They prepare relentlessly so they can respond decisively. They deserve tools designed for their mission and a network built to stand with them when conditions are at their worst.

Congress had the foresight to create the FirstNet Authority in 2012. Now it must act again. Reauthorizing the FirstNet Authority before the 2027 sunset is essential to preserving the momentum, innovation and partnership that public safety depends on.

Our first responders do not quit until the job is done. We must show the same resolve in supporting them.



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APRIL'S TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER

ALL-TERRAIN UTILITY VEHICLES (ATV)



QUANTITY

70

CAPABILITIES

6 X 6 POLARIS RANGER ON TRAILER. CAN TOW ITS
OWN TRAILER. EQUIPMENT ON EACH UNIT VARIES, AS CHOSEN BY DIVISION

DIVISION LOCATIONS

EACH DIVISION, ILTF-1 (2, INCLUDING 1 FOR MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION), ILWR-1.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

**American
Red Cross**

Disaster Action Team

Emergency Response Guide to Working with the American Red Cross

For Red Cross Disaster Assistance 24/7/365, please call 833.583.3111.

Why call the Red Cross?

When individuals experience a disaster, they face many new unknowns. We can help with the immediate disaster-caused needs of individuals, families and communities. You should call us when those impacted by disasters are in need of:

- A safe place to stay
- Food and clothing replacement
- Assistance with lost eyeglasses, medications and medical equipment
- Mental health and/or spiritual care support

Red Cross services can be helpful for anyone who has experienced a home fire; the home doesn't have to be a complete loss. We will quickly respond to assess their immediate needs and provide help. This includes facilitating access to community resources and financial assistance when eligible, and stepping in as an advocate for families/individuals on their road to recovery.

What to Expect

Red Cross Disaster Action Teams are available 24/7/365, in person or virtually. Please call us *any time* a family/individual has a home fire. We will dispatch the closest available Red Cross Disaster Action Team to meet with them and assess their immediate needs. The following information will help us expedite our assistance:

- Household information: address; household members (including adults, children, pets); names
- Current status: information regarding injuries or fatalities; extent of damage to the home; whether or not they have a safe place to go
- Contact information: phone number for member of household; contact info for on-scene responder

Red Cross services are free and available to everyone who has experienced a disaster including a home fire. As part of our humanitarian mission, we provide support regardless of race, religion or citizenship status.



OUR MISSION

We are firefighters who offer support to children fighting critical illnesses. Their battle will not be fought alone!

Project Fire Buddies is a beacon of hope for every family we have the honor to serve.

HELP US CREATE GOOD DAYS.



OUR STORY

In 2016, Project Fire Buddies was initiated based on Kurt DeGroot's vision while serving at a fire department in the south suburbs of Chicago. With the collaboration of Ryan Ballard, steadfast support from his wife and children, and the dedication of other team members, the organization's influence has expanded significantly, driving its ambitious goals.

WHAT WE DO

Project Fire Buddies brings joy to kids struggling with critical illnesses. We believe that no child should fight their battle alone. Since its inception PFB has been steadily growing and expanding.

Project Fire Buddies ranks in the top 4% of non-profit organizations worldwide. Each day, new chapters are joining our mission, helping to spread joy to even more children.

OUR CHAPTERS

Our chapters prioritize cultivating connections with their Fire Buddies. Members of PFB pay visits to Fire Buddies at their homes, often times arriving in a parade of fire vehicles with flashing lights and blaring sirens. They bring presents for birthdays and holidays, engage in games, offer tickets to concerts and special occasions, and participate in significant events in the children's lives. PFB has also assisted families in obtaining essential medical equipment and supplies. Fire Buddies even drop by the firehouse occasionally for meals with the crew, station tours, and to see the rigs.



Do you know a child who is struggling with a critical illness and in need of a reason to smile? Project Fire Buddies is here to help. While healthcare privacy laws are crucial, they can make it challenging for us to reach the children who require our support.

Visit our website today to complete our contact form and help us make a positive impact on a child in your life.

GET INVOLVED

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Project Fire Buddies has expanded to include more than 140 chapters across 12 states. To find out if a fire department in your area is connected with Project Fire Buddies, please visit our website at projectfirebuddies.org.



Follow Us!



Project Fire Buddies is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on the support of kind donors. We gladly accept cash and check donations all year long, and you can also contribute through our website.

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

**Is your Dispatch Center information
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**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**

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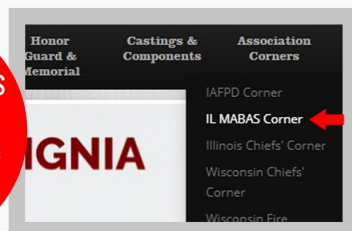
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The latest video can be found here <https://darley.com/about/entry/inside-darley-october-2020>

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