

## Fire Mutual Aid Committee

### Purpose Statement:



The mission of MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) is to provide emergency rapid response and sustained operations when an area is stricken by a locally overwhelming event that is generated by manmade, technological, or environmental threats. In response, MABAS will deploy fire, emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous materials, technical rescue, SCUBA dive, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMATs) to prevent the loss of life, human suffering and further damage to property. MABAS is prepared to respond within and outside Illinois upon the authorized direction of local or state agencies.

### 2007 Key Activities:

- MABAS had a number of significant responses with approximately 800 extra alarm incidents. Responses to the City of Chicago included the EMS mass casualty experienced during the marathon run (40 suburban ambulances with chief officers) and the Amtrak freight train crash involving 188 passengers (20 suburban ambulances with chief officers).
- During the DeKalb area storm where power was lost, ITTF/DHS-acquired MABAS Decontamination Vehicles provided days of sanitation support to the community. An interstate MABAS response also assisted a Dyer, Indiana, hospital evacuation due to flooding. Numerous MABAS-Illinois ambulances and rescue boats assisted in the evacuation.
- MABAS-Illinois began its restructuring effort by expanding full and part-time staff. The restructure now provides dedicated resources for leadership, guidance and field staff operations.
- MABAS-Illinois made steady progress in the multi-year effort to acquire, accept and deploy mobile decontamination vehicles. By the end of the year, 17 of the 25 units were placed in service.
- Acquisition, training and deployment of standardized EMS patient triage and tracking tags. The software based system is the first phase of a multi-year project coordinated with the state's POD hospitals and field EMS units.



- Acquisition, training and deployment of 1,500 radiation detection units to every fire agency in Illinois. The process included the deployment and coordination of a standardized field operational protocol with the state's nuclear regulatory agency.



- Distribution of 1,000 custom designed emergency resource guidebooks for City of Chicago responses. The books allow easy identification and locating of Chicago firehouses, approved receiving hospitals, refueling sites, police stations and the like for mutual aid resources.
- The acquisition of a fleet repair and refueling vehicle for statewide mobilization of fire and EMS units. The acquisition was identified as a need from the deployment experiences of Utica Tornado and Hurricane Katrina.
- Trailer mounted generator and lighting towers have been ordered for every MABAS-Illinois division. Once operational, nearly 70 units will be deployed statewide and capable of mobilization to incident scenes.
- In support of CBRNE operations, eight super air compressor/cascade units have been ordered and will be deployed statewide. The units will support the uses of high pressure PPE breathing apparatus for Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement and Underwater Operations. Each unit is designed to provide a sustained, tethered air capability for personnel decontamination lines and confined space operations.
- Acquisition of the first phase of a deployable 1,000 person tent city housing package. In 2007, two semi-trailer packaged units with load planning systems were ordered. The two units will bring an in-state capability for 400 individuals. Grant funds are available from the 2006 and 2007 project plans to achieve the 1,000 person self sustained ability.
- Having established an acceptable level of readiness for most special operations teams, MABAS began to focus on formalizing Incident Management Teams and Underwater/Swift Water Rescue and Recovery elements of the system. Initial surveys indicate a number of water rescue teams, totaling approximately 800 individuals throughout MABAS-Illinois. Efforts will be made to formalize standards and statewide response capabilities for both special operations components.
- Acquisition and deployment of more than 30 portable water purification units will assist field sustained operations. The units are deployed on decontamination and mobile warehouse vehicles. They will assist with potable water and prevent environmental damage when dealing with various contaminants.

- MABAS-Illinois began discussions with private ambulance providers to develop an improved coordination and mutual support plan for EMS evacuations and deployments. It is hoped a Concept of Operations Plan will be provided in 2008.
- MABAS-Illinois is joined with MABAS-Indiana in the MAMA-C (Mid-America Mutual Aid Consortium) effort. Indiana committed funds with Illinois towards the effort which will bolster inter-state mutual aid efforts between all Great Lakes, FEMA Region V states.
- MABAS-Illinois continued its coordination efforts with Cook County's UASI effort. A cooperative agreement between MABAS-Illinois and Cook County UASI allowed for the acquisition of three decontamination vehicles, two mobile warehouses, 12 IMAT trailers and 12 fit test units sponsored by the Cook County UASI and deployed by MABAS.



- The annual validation exercises occurred for 10 Technical Rescue Teams and six Hazardous Materials Teams. The validation cycle targets a 36-month recurring process where special operations teams deploy, are tasked and must meet standards to retain a statewide response capacity.
- An annual ORE (Operational Readiness Exercise) was conducted for MABAS-Illinois USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) Team. The three-day deployment occurred at IFSI in Champaign. Lessons learned from the event will be used by MABAS-Illinois to guide future preparedness activities of the team.

- In February 2007 MABAS sponsored its Annual Command Officer and MABAS Dispatchers Educational Conference. More than 500 attendees attended the Peoria-based event which received high marks.

## 2008 Initiatives

- Seven mobile warehouse semi-trailers have been ordered and will be deployed in 2008. The seven semi-trailers will be deployed statewide and are the result of lessons learned from the Utica Tornado and Hurricane Katrina response. The mobile warehouses will be transported by commercial carriers and will substantially improve our state's sustainable capabilities especially for the first 72 hours following the onset of an incident.



- Illinois will secure an agreement that will remove barriers from conducting day-to-day mutual aid for Fire, EMS and Special Operations across Midwest America Mutual Aid Consortium (MAMA-C) state lines.
- MABAS will work with the STIC to increase staffing levels to include discipline-specific analysts. In addition to MABAS, the following organizations will be contacted by the STIC to assign staff as analysts: Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS), Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and the private sector through the Illinois Terrorism Task Force Private Sector Committee.
- MABAS-Illinois will maintain the capability to deploy 42 level A hazardous materials response teams. These fire service teams are prepared to work in a "hot zone" to perform offensive actions in response to a hazardous materials or WMD incident.
- MABAS-Illinois will maintain the capability to deploy 39 Technical Rescue Teams, which have been established throughout the state and consist of firefighters with extensive training and equipment to perform high-angle, collapsed trench, and confined space rescue operations.
- MABAS-Illinois will maintain the capability to deploy the Illinois Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team. The team is prepared to locate, rescue (extrication), and provide initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces.
- In coordination with the MABAS-Illinois Divisions, have at least one of each of the following resources to support first responder sheltering response and recovery capability: mobile tent city capabilities, mobile generated power, mobile generated lighting units, mobile latrine and field sanitation trailers.

