Over the past several weeks there has been discussion related to how the Wisconsin Hazardous Material Response System (WHMRS) works with MABAS Wisconsin. In this article, I will explain how the two systems operate.

First let me state for the record that the WHMRS and MABAS-WI do not operate like our partners in Illinois. In Illinois, the hazardous material response assets (apparatus and equipment) are owned by MABAS Illinois. In Wisconsin, the assets are owned by local units of government. Now with that being said, please let me explain first how the WHMRS is designed and built out.

Many of you likely remember the hazardous material response system as level “A” and level “B” teams correct? Well that system no longer exists. The WHMRS was developed using federal guidance known as a Threat, Hazard, Identification, Response, Assessment (THIRA). In addition, other factors were taken into account as well such as local capability, regional capability and state capability.

A stakeholder group of local fire departments, representation from the MABAS in ACTION level “A” and level “B” haz mat teams, and private sector business was formed to determine how to best deliver hazardous material spill response to Wisconsin as a whole.

Using the data from the THIRA and the input from the stakeholders, it was determined to use the standardized format from the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for typing and classing of response assets. In this NIMS model there are 5-levels of response; the Type V Team would be that of the local jurisdiction.

A Type IV Team is your County Team (or former level “B” team). The Type III Team is an enhanced Type IV Team with additional training and validation of equipment and competencies.

A Type II Team would be similar to the old model level “A” Team whose personnel & equipment are also validated. Finally, the Type I Team which is capable of responding to WMD incidents including: chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) incidents.

The Type I, II and III Teams are under contract with the State of Wisconsin to provide response to stricken communities who have exhausted their local capability and their mutual aid (typically the Type IV Team capability).

There are 2-Type I Teams, 6-Type II Teams and 15-Type III Teams. These teams are strategically located around the State of Wisconsin with the intent of being able to put members of the WHMRS into the impacted community within 60 minutes, 95% of the time. One other feature of the WHMRS is their ability to aggregate resources (see Example Box next page). While I could spend much more time talking about the WHMRS I think it is time to tie this all into MABAS.

So the question is do/should you have a MABAS Box Card for hazardous material response? The answer is yes by all means. The Box Card should identify your local response in the Still Section of the Box Card. In the Working Still Section you identify your local mutual aid. Remember there are

(Continued on page 3)
This issue of MABAS-Wisconsin in Action focuses on events in Division 107 and also shares information regarding protocols and procedures for Haz-Mat responses in the state. We have received a number of questions regarding how Haz-Mat cards should be formatted. Keith Tveit provides an example and explains how that might work.

MABAS Wisconsin continues to address the growth of MABAS Divisions within our response communities. Included are divisions which have attained various stages of maturity; from new and developing to legacy divisions. We invest time in addressing the status of our policies and standard operating guidelines to ensure that the organization is both responsive and inclusive of “the entire fire department community.” We have also chosen to rewrite some of the policies and procedures as necessary to be responsive to the burdens we all face.

Imagine for a moment that you are tasked to participate in an engine strike team dispatched to a community in which large offensive fire ground operations are underway. Upon arrival, you discover there are no communications with I.C., no accountability systems in place, with no span of control or unity of command perspectives. How safe would you feel? Would you commit your companies to an interior operation or even a defensive for that matter? The goal of the MABAS policies is to help ensure standard practices which will drive standard outcomes.

The position of the executive board is one of inclusiveness; to bring communities and ultimately divisions aboard first and then work through the issues which a growing and diverse organization like ours faces. Overall, our inclusive philosophy has been successful. Counties have come aboard and become divisions, not necessarily following the “letter” of the policies but working diligently toward compliance in action. In the end, the reason for the MABAS policies and guidelines is to ensure that the stricken agency receives necessary resources, more importantly what they asked for.

Many divisions have proactively developed doctrine addressing practices in their specific communities. SOGs such as these may outline how departments function on the fire ground; single paging tones for MABAS events; comprehensive communication plans; division vehicles; division equipment; common IAPs; overhead teams; more inclusive accountability practices; mandatory safety officers, etc. These SOGs far exceed what MABAS policies and guidelines suggest. We also know that practices which are effective in one division may not be practical or successful in other divisions.

On a higher level, MABAS exists to ensure that resources crossing division boundaries are standardized to ensure standard outcomes. What matters most is that the stricken agency calling for assistance receives the resources they request and that every aspect of the event is as safe as we can make it.

We invite you to participate in the 6th Annual MABAS Wisconsin Command & Dispatch Conference. The event is scheduled for August 4th through August 6th at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center, 1001 Amber Avenue in Stevens Point. The conference agenda will be posted on the MABAS Wisconsin website for review soon.

MABAS List Serve – Visit: http://mailman.wsfca.com/mailman/listinfo/mabas Enter your name and email address, then click “subscribe”.

MABAS-WI Vehicle Decals and Apparel are available by following the links which are posted on the MABAS-WI Website at: www.mabaswisconsin.com
For any questions regarding marketing items, please contact the MABAS-WI Treasurer at: qhpfire@gmail.com
MABAS WISCONSIN & THE WISC HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE SYSTEM - CONT

(Continued from page 1)

many parts to a hazardous material response ranging from the initial assessment (remember up hill and up wind), incident stabilization, to the decontamination process which could require a significant amount of staff to accomplish all of the required steps.

You are now at the Box Alarm section of the card. In the Box line you would include the necessary Engine Company Support for the tasking(s), Trucks or Squads for specialized tools and equipment, EMS units not only for the public but for the responders as well (a haz mat response requires dedicated EMS units just for the haz mat responders), and Chiefs to assist with tasking assignments for the Incident Commander (IC).

In the Special Equipment Section you could list/request your County Type IV Team (list their contact info in the information section on the Box Card) and finally on Change Of Quarters you could backfill your station(s) because hazardous material incidents are typically time consuming and you do not want to leave your community unprotected.

Should the incident continue to escalate you then go to the second or greater alarm level depending on situational need.

Again you follow the same process in determining what resources are necessary to support the escalating incident. When you get to the Special Equipment Section you would request additional assistance from the State of Wisconsin (note: this step along with additional requests for State assets should be done in consultation with your Type IV Haz Mat Team Leader).

There are many moving parts to a haz mat incident, one that I have not spoken to is the cost piece.

The Type I, II and III Teams, as stated, are under contract with the State of Wisconsin and as such are reimbursed for their costs. This is why the WEM Duty Officer is involved in the process authorizing the activation/deployment of the 23 response teams. This does not preclude you from contacting one of the State Assets for questions or even giving them an early heads up that you have an escalating event.

Listed below is a sample Haz Mat Box Card. Please feel free to model your Box Cards from it. Thank you for your time and consideration of the information provided. If you have further questions, you may contact me at 715-209-6360 or email me at keithtveit@gmail.com

Example of Handling 2 Simultaneous Hazardous Releases in a Given Community or County

Let’s say there is a train derailment in Alma, WI where the La Crosse FD Haz Mat Team responded.

There is also a second derailment occurring in Stoddard, WI (which would also normally be in the La Crosse FD Haz Mat response area).

The WHMRS would send resources to Stoddard from Vernon County and from Columbia County because La Crosse has their resources committed in Alma.

It must be noted that the WHMRS resources are dispatched by the WEM Duty Officer. Should you need Haz Mat resources please call the WEM Duty Officer 1-800-943-0003.

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INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST

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INFORMATION: On the 3rd Alarm or for State Haz Mat assistance dial WEM Duty Officer: 1-800-943-0003

- Type V (Local Resource)
- Type IV (Local Resource)
- Type I, II, III (State Resource)
Approximately 10:45pm on Saturday October 24, 2015, a neighbor reported a fire at 6150 S Creekside Dr in Cudahy in an area of numerous H-shaped, 2 story condominium buildings. It was a mild night, with temperatures in the low-sixties and winds around 10 mph.

By 11:05pm, the Cudahy Fire Department upgraded to MABAS Div 107 Box 14-1. This is an 8-unit condo complex with 4 units on ground level and 4 above. All units had 2-car garages on the east (“B”) and west (“D”) side with entrances to the units on the north (“A”) and south (“C”) sides.

When I got on the scene and became the Alpha Side Chief, the first thing I noted was that this fire seemed identical to the Oak Creek fire of one week prior.

It appears the fire started on a second floor balcony of unit 8 (A-side) and traveled up into the soffit where it easily spread into the attic space. Time of day allowed the fire to go unchecked. Once in the attic the fire spread easily throughout the entire structure as there are no sprinklers or detection systems in the attic. There was just open lumber with a lot of air space to burn free. Many responders were released within 3 hours.

Issues Encountered.
The responding units had very good access from both the north and south as there were streets on both Alpha and Charlie sides along with large parking lots on the Bravo and Delta sides. The garages did not cause any issues.

Live ammunition going off did.

Commanders were alerted of the ammunition by fire personnel on scene. We did confirm this with the
OAK CREEK CONDO FIRE - CONT

(Continued from page 4)
cars prior to the arrival of the Fire Department.

The cul-de-sac allowed for only one way into the subdivision. Firefighters were staged over a block away around a curve during the first hour or so. We should have had a plan in place to use available personnel and shared that plan with those waiting (firefighters get anxious when they are not doing anything). The salvage/overhaul portion required mutual aid resources.

The initial placement of large diameter hose needs to be carefully evaluated. The 5" needed to be moved in order to accommodate aerial placement and did not want to prohibit additional apparatus placement.

The Dead-End Hydrant required water pressure to be monitored. MABAS communications were established and no problems were encountered. Due to the number of homeowners, there are a lot of insurance companies involved. The fire investigation is on-going due to such logistics.

(Cudahy Condo Fire - Cont)

(Continued from page 4)
occupant who was near the Command Post. Everyone was backed out of the structure until the ammo stopped firing. It seemed like about 10 minutes. The ammunition was on the second floor A-D area of the building located somewhat near the area of origin.

The occupant stated that some was in an Ammunition Box/Fire Box and some was sitting on a shelf in cardboard box. We were more concerned about the stuff not kept in an ammo box. The danger with these rounds is while they have less directional force, they still have velocity.

Think of it like a very small grenade. It is like shrapnel going off inside the unit with still plenty of force to injure someone. Upon investigation, the Ammo Box had fire impingement but it didn’t appear any rounds went off.

It looked like mini fireworks going off (about 5-10 feet high). We continued with defensive operations during this time. The exact cause of the fire was not determined, with numerous insurance companies looking into it.
THE MABAS WISCONSIN LIST SERVE COMMUNICATION TOOL  

By Ed Janke, President, MABAS Wisconsin

To improve email communication in MABAS Wisconsin, we have implemented a communication tool through the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs’ Association List Serve. The MABAS List Serve is provided as a member benefit to allow easy communication to MABAS Wisconsin members.

This is the official MABAS list serve to receive important MABAS Wisconsin information including announcements and meeting information.

If you would like to participate, please follow the instructions below to join the MABAS List Serve.

The MABAS list serve is for MABAS Wisconsin related communications and is INTERACTIVE. This means members on the list serve can send messages to the entire list. It is just like sending an email to one person – but it goes to the entire list. Once you send out your message, watch to see that it has indeed been received by you (and therefore everyone else on the list).

How do you send an important or official MABAS message on the list serve?

1. Open your email browser (Outlook, Entourage, Yahoo, etc) and put the list serve email address in the “TO” field. The list serve email is: MABAS@mailman.wsfca.com
2. Type the subject with the topic of your message (Example: Training Announcement)
3. Place the message inside the body of the email and be sure to include contact information.
4. Attach any corresponding material to the email. However, there is a limit to the attachment’s size. Combined all attachments must be less than 1MB. If you send the message with attachments larger than that, your message will be forwarded back to you with an error message.

Who do I contact if I have trouble with the list serve or the attachments?

If you have any trouble sending a list serve message or have questions please contact the WSFCA Business Office at 800-375-5886 or send an email to: info@wsfca.com.

We are happy to help figure out the error and answer questions.

To become part of the MABAS List Serve - Visit: http://mailman.wsfca.com/mailman/listinfo/mabas

1. Enter your email address,
2. Enter your name,
3. click subscribe.

Let us know when you have a circumstance where you found yourself “thinking outside the MABAS Box card”!

How to Contact Us

Your contributions to the various columns will make this newsletter a success. Let us know about your MABAS response activity at garyschmidt@wi.rr.com. In particular, pictures of activity are needed.

MABAS WISCONSIN IN ACTION STAFF

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Contributor …..Drew Spielman (Green Bay Fire Dept)
Contributor …..Matt Gerber (Green Bay Fire Dept)
Contributor …..Chuck Liedtke (Milwaukee Fire Bell Club)
Contributor …..Tim Snopek (Waukesha County)
Contributor …..Asher Heimermann (Sheboygan County)
WHAT IS MABAS (MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM)?  BY GARY SCHMIDT

Using MABAS, when your Fire Department responds to an incident, they respond with a preplanned set of resources/vehicles appropriate for the situation. This may be augmented further upon confirmation of a working incident.

This first alarm set of resources is often referred to as a Working Still.

When conditions require another “set of resources” or alarm, the Incident Commander (IC) will use MABAS to request resources from other departments (“mutual aid”).

By using MABAS, the IC is assured of:
√ A specific minimum number of firefighters per unit type
√ A specific level of training/certification of responders
√ The other departments will have the same radio frequencies
√ The other departments will use the same terminology
√ All costs and liabilities are borne by the outside departments coming to the stricken community
√ Other departments will cover the community having the incident
√ As many additional “sets” (alarms) as needed can be called for

This allows the IC to focus on the emergency at hand and the tactics to be deployed.

The inherent standardization by all MABAS departments enables a fast, efficient response to an escalating emergency situation.

This saves lives, minimizes property damage, and can prevent economic devastation to the local community.

In 2009, a meatpacking plant fire in Cudahy WI, had 16 additional alarm sets called for, involving 64 Fire Departments.

At left is the MABAS Box Alarm Card format that lists the preplanned resources.

MABAS is used in Wisconsin, Illinois, and other neighboring States, providing for a regional solution to a local problem.

Since all departments in all States using MABAS listen to the same radio frequency, one transmission will notify numerous departments. Such interoperability is key to the success of MABAS.

Mission

MABAS Wisconsin is the organization that promotes the development, implementation, and sustainment of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) within the state of Wisconsin.
MABAS – Wisconsin

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System
Organized 2004

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Red Center -
WEM Duty Officer
Ph. 800-943-0003 (Press 3)

Fire Service Coordinator
vacant
Ph. (608) 220-6049

.swift@ci.beloit.wi.us

MABAS OPERATING FREQUENCIES

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Divisions

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- Green County
- Waukesha County
- Milwaukee County
- Grant County
- Portage County
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- Juneau County
- Oconto County
- Jackson County
- Trempealeau County
- Green Lake County
- Waupaca County
- Monroe County
- Florence County
- Langlade County
- Kewaunee County
- Door County
- Washington County
- Wisconsin Homeland Security Council

Vacant

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Inter-Divisional Responses
Contact with Wisconsin Red Center
Regional Coordinators - WEM Coordination*