

**Mutual Aid Box Alarm  
System MABAS Division-1  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



<b>President</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Chief Michael Meyer	Chief Alan Wax	Chief William Gabrenya	Chief Pete Sutter
Streamwood F.D.	Hoffman Estates F.D.	Bartlett F.P.D.	Rolling Meadows F.D.
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**A. MABAS Division-1  
Membership**

The following individuals were present at this meeting:

Arlington Heights FD	Lance Harris Ross Chapman	Northwest Central	
Barrington FD	John Christian	Palatine FD	Scott Mackeben Anthony LaVacchi Rob Kluzek Matt Buzzard
Barrington-Countryside FPD	Scott Motisi	Rolling Meadows FD	Pete Sutter
Bartlett FPD	William Gabrenya	Schaumburg FD	Fabio Puccini
Buffalo Grove FD	Lawrence Kane	Streamwood FD	Mike Meyer
Des Plaines FD		Wheeling FD	Scott Salela
Elk Grove Village FD	Richard Mikel	Special Guests	
Hoffman Estates FD	Brian Raymond	Northwest Community EMS System	
Inverness FPD		MABAS-Illinois	
Mount Prospect FD	Tom Wang Bill Eckert		

**I. CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT Meyer**

Arlington Heights Fire Station 2

1332 hours – May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

President Meyer declared there to be a quorum present

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by President Meyer**

**III. RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS – None**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT or PRESENTATION**

**Battalion Board Up** – Kim Kolbusz, Jen Kleinheinz, John Killman, and John Ortlund provided a presentation on their services which includes: After fire care for the owner/occupant, security of the scene, assistance with fire scene investigation, and restoration.

**V. GUESTS – No outside guest present**

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Meyer presented the minutes from the March 11<sup>th</sup> 2026 meeting. A motion to approve the minutes from the March 11<sup>th</sup> 2026 meeting was made by Barrington and seconded by Buffalo Grove. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote (13-0).

**VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Gabrenya**

**Financial Report**

- A.** As of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the checking account balance was \$9,019.56 and the money market balance was \$234,441.68 - for a total balance in accounts of \$243,461.24.
- B.** For January 1 through May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, on an accrual basis, Total Revenues & Credits were \$1,305.36 and Total Expenditures were \$11,935.74, for a total balance of -\$10,630.38.
- C.** A motion to approve the Financial Report was made by Elk Grove Village and seconded by Schaumburg. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote (13-0).
- D.** The 2025 CBRN cartridge purchase refund from Toner Quest was not successful. Complaints were filed with the proper authorities.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. MABAS Division 1 Executive Board - President Meyer.**

- A.** ASU Air-1 will be located in Palatine while renovations are being completed on their fire station.
- B.** MABAS Division 1 will continue to provide water rescue training exclusively to its own members until MABAS-Illinois issues guidance or authorization regarding participation by personnel from outside divisions.

**2. MABAS Illinois Executive Board –**

- A.** Hazmat Team deployment and skills evaluation exercise May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Division 1 & 11 to participate.
- B.** Next MABAS – IL Executive Board meeting June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ multiple locations.
- C.** Grant funding still an issue. House Bill 4144 will need support to keep the States mutual aid protection better funded. Bill was re-referred to Rules Committee.

**3. Fire Investigations Team – Bill Eckert**

- A. Incidents** – The Matterport camera is getting plenty of use with fire investigations, building pre-plans, and special projects.
- B. Training** – The OSFM will be hosting the 1st annual Northern area fire investigation conference in the fall. This will be a two-day conference free of charge. More information to follow when the dates are confirmed.
- C. FF Critical Injury/LODD fire investigation project to develop procedural guide** has started with guidance from the OSFM and ATF. This project also includes fire investigation team leadership from MABAS Divisions 3,4, and 5.

**4. Communications / Box Alarms –**

NWCD requested clarification regarding the activation of canteen services during box alarms or large-scale incidents. The group discussed the location and availability of the Salvation Army canteen. Members confirmed that the canteen is available and may be requested as needed.

**5. Training Committee – Div/C Rob Kluzek**

- A. Leadership Seminar** – Well attended with 90 participants, with 18 from other divisions. Hoevelmann presented 2 sections, leadership-based and science/data-based characteristics.
- B. Retirement Announcement** - Tom Zito from Hoffman Estates is retiring, BC Kraig Olsen is stepping into the position.

**6. Water Rescue Team - D/C Joe Markowski**

- A. Training** – Buffalo Grove hosted dive training at the CAFT. The event was well attended. Swift water rescue training occurred last month on the Fox River. 5 deployable personnel attended a Swift Water Boat Operations class in Louisville, KY. This was a MABAS recommendation for all water teams moving forward. An upcoming State deployment drill will be at Busse Woods on 5/13 to test the team's operational readiness.
- B. Incidents** – None to report
- C. Equipment** – The team purchased a laptop computer for the Sonar equipment. It has been delivered and members will have the unit up and running soon.

**7. Technical Rescue Team – B/C Chapman**

- A. Incidents** – There were 3 requests for the team to respond to incidents throughout the division.
- B. Personnel** - Roster updates continue. Currently there are 37 deployable members and 8 members in training.
- C. Equipment** – Team is working to update more equipment, details will follow.

**D. Training** – Upcoming training will be held at Elk Grove’s tower with Rolling Meadows hosting.

**E. Budget** - \$7,500 for 2026 with no funds allocated yet.

**8. Hazardous Materials Team – B/C Matt Buzzard**

**A. Notable Incidents** - None

**B. Administration** –

1. The May Coordinator meeting was held virtually due to the availability of space.
2. Mike Murphy has stepped down from the Training Committee Chair role and has been replaced by Ben Rittenhouse from Hoffman Estates.

**C. Equipment** -

1. The team is having an issue with the purchase of CBRN canisters from 2025. Items were charged and paid for but not received. The team has run out of options to be reimbursed. Official complaint has been filed with NY State Attorney General.
2. Level A suits are being purchased as a part of the 2026 budgeted items. The account is set up using MABAS debit card.

**D. Training** –

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter drills covering Hazmat RIT are ongoing, hosted by Buffalo Grove and Schaumburg.
2. TransCare has provided Railcar training at the CN yard in Bartlett. 60 Members attended this training.
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter drill will cover transportation-related “Response Drills”.

**E. MABAS** – Division 1 team to take part in a deployment/skills evaluation in Calumet City on 5/28/26. Radiological ID, sampling, unknown ID, and leak mitigation will be covered.

**9. MABAS Division 1 Logistics – Chief Scott Mackeben**

No report

**10. Health & Safety Committee – B/C Cassidy**

**A.** LODD Rockfalls incident training. Lessons learned from the investigation.

**B.** The committee is looking into the need for particulate masks during theater smoke training events. A discussion on what level of mask would be needed and what are the dangers of the theater smoke long term.

**C.** Lithium Ion battery – concerns about them burning and toxicants given off.

**D.** Anti-Safety social media talk discussion. Not allowing it to change positive attitudes in the fire service.

**11. Operational Guidelines / Policy Statements – D/C Anthony LaVacchi**

- A. OGPS #305 – MABAS Passports** – D/C LaVacchi presented the final version of OGPS #305 for approval. After a brief discussion, a motion to approve OGPS #305, as presented, was made by Palatine and seconded by Arlington Heights. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote (13-0).
- B. OGPS # – MABAS 5-year Review - None**

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Inter-Divisional Box Alarm Cards** – Box cards have been updated. A motion to approve the cards was made by Elk Grove and seconded by Schaumburg. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote (13-0).
- 2. Squad 55A** – A discussion ensued over the 5 years of no payment to Schaumburg as stated in the signed IGA. Members discussed several options to repaying the amount owed, with Elk Grove making a motion to approve \$50,000 for back payment. Streamwood seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote (13-0).

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**Communication failures on Fire Alarm System** – A discussion was raised if we still want a PD response to all comm. failures after the issue is believed to be resolved. Members wanted to discuss further at NWCD meeting where PD is present to have input.

**XI. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- 1. Next Chiefs' Breakfast Meeting – Wednesday, June 3, at 7:30 am.**  
Located in Schaumburg at Wildberry Cafe.
- 2. Illinois Fire Services Home Day – Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.** This will be located at the NIPSTA training facility.

**XII. NEXT MEETING** - Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at Arlington Hts. Fire Station #2 – 13:30 hours

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barrington and seconded by Schaumburg. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote (13-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 14:56 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pete Sutter*

Secretary Pete Sutter