These Video "Notes" have been developed to be a companion document for the MIMABAS Dispatch & Communications Video.

Dispatch & Communications

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MIMABAS ORGANIZATION

What is Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MIMABAS)?

- ❑ The only statewide mutual aid agreement for the Michigan Fire Service.
- ❑ A statewide communications plan for the Michigan Fire Service.
- ❑ Common resource terminology.
- ❑ A statewide plan to mobilize and move fire service resources.

How is MIMABAS Organized?

- ❑ Organized with Divisions and Regions.
- ❑ Divisions are local Fire Departments that are within the same geographic area and regularly provide automatic and mutual aid to each other.
- ❑ Regions are based on the Emergency Management Regions, 1-8
- ❑ Division identification
  - o Always starts with a "3" (for Michigan),
  - o Followed by the Emergency Management Region, 1-8
  - o Then the order that the Division joins MIMABAS, 01, 02, etc.
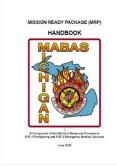
BOX CARDS

What are Box Cards?

Within the MABAS system each Fire Department creates a Box Card, for different types of emergency responses within their jurisdiction. These box cards pre-plan emergency responses to a variety of incidents including structure fires, commercial fires, rescues, non-hydranted area of the community, etc. Box Cards are written to utilize all resources within the jurisdiction first, and then identify specific mutual aid resources in other communities, under the MIMABAS agreement, to support the response.

DEPARTMENT NAME: Sample	BOX ALARM TYPE: STRUCTURE FIRE		EFFECTIVE DATE:	MABAS DIVISION: 3100
BOX ALARM #: 101.2	LOCATION OR AREA: NW – Non Hydranted		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	

LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:

ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TENDERS	TRUCKS	SQUADS	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (STA#)	NOTES
STILL	Twp 1	Twp 1	Twp 1		Twp 1			Still Only for Unconfirmed
AUTO AID	Twp 2	Twp 2						Confirmed

MABAS BOX ALARM:

ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TENDERS	TRUCKS	SQUADS	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (STA#)	NOTES
BOX		Twp 3, 4, 5			Twp 3			Utility - Electricity, Emergency Mgr., Air Trailer
2ND	City			City	City		Twp 6	Red Cross, UAS Team
3RD	Twp 6	Twp 6	Twp 6		Twp 6	Engine, Tender, Squad, Chief from Division 3300		Logistics Trailer, Command Post
4TH	Out of Division From 3300	Out of Division From 3300		Out of Division From 3300	Out of Division From 3300			
5TH								Engine Strike Team, Tender Taskforce

INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST	1ST CHOICE Division 3300	2ND CHOICE	3RD CHOICE
INFORMATION:			

Still Alarms are the City or Township FD

Auto aid are the resources from an adjoining FD that responds automatically.

Box is the 1st mutual aid request.

Resources are based on closest resource. If not available, the dispatcher drops to the next closest resource.

Change of Quarters is a request for a department to be notified to stage at fire station or move up to fill a closer fire station.

In this area special equipment or non-fire resources can be identified within the Box Alarm.

Each time the Incident Commander on the scene requests more resources, it is called an Alarm. The alarm describes specific mutual aid resources that the Incident Commander requires to mitigate the emergency. In this case the Incident Commander may ask for an alarm, the dispatcher would then look at the Box Card to see what pre-determined mutual aid resources need to be dispatched. The dispatcher would then follow the same process for each subsequent alarm request from the Incident Commander.

Within the Alarm there may be pre-designated Engines, Trucks, Squads, Chiefs, etc. that have been identified based on proximity to the incident. There also might be a designation for a utility company to shut of electricity. If one of these resources are not available, the dispatcher drops down to the next closest resource identified on the Box Card. MABAS recommends that local departments create Box Cards for up to 5 alarms.

(Examples of Box Cards can be found on the Michigan MABAS website.)

MISSION READY PACKAGES (MRP's)
What are MIMABAS Mission Ready Packages (MRP's)?

MABAS follows FEMA's National Incident Management System, or NIMS, Typing for each resource. Types of Michigan MABAS resources include Engines, Trucks, Squads, Rescues, Grass Trucks, Ambulances, Strike Teams, Taskforce, and Special

MISSION READY PACKAGE (MRP)
HANDBOOK

MABAS MICHIGAN

A Component of the National Response Framework
ESF 4 Firefighting and ESF 8 Emergency Medical Services

June 2020

Operations, such as Hazmat, Technical Rescue, Water Rescue, Drones, search and rescue and other special operations resources from Michigan Taskforce 1, Michigan's only FEMA Type III taskforce.

MRP's are NIMS Type resources that include:

- ❑ Strike Teams (Engine, Grass Truck, Ambulances, etc), 5 of the same resources
- ❑ Taskforce (3 Eng, 1 Sq, 1 Truck, 1 ALS, 1 Chief)
- ❑ Hazmat
- ❑ Water Rescue
- ❑ Collapse Rescue
- ❑ Confined Space
- ❑ Logistics

(Other MRP's and NIMS Typed resource can be found at www.MABASMI.org)

COMMUNICATIONS

What does the MIMABAS Layers of Dispatch and Communications?

Because there are so many layers to mutual aid, Dispatch Centers within the MABAS system are broken down into three levels:

MICHIGAN MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM
COMMUNICATIONS AND DISPATCH PLAN

- ❑ Local Dispatch Center
  - o The primary dispatch center for that local emergency.
  - o The local dispatch center should have CAD or Box Cards that recommend resource response from the local jurisdiction and mutual aid based on the type, location, and complexity of the emergency.
  - o Outside of the Division requests go through the Divisional Dispatch Center
  - o Local dispatch center never relinquishes communications for the incident and continues to provide accountability for all on-scene communications.

- ❑ Division Dispatch Center
  - o May be only PSAP in Division
  - o Designated by Division as Division Dispatch Center

- o **Like the local dispatch centers, take the initial emergency call, and dispatch resources based on a pre-designated Box Card.**
- o **Unlike the local dispatch center, the division dispatch center is the hub for requesting out of division mutual aid and special operations resources. This resource management can usually be handled between the Divisional Dispatch Centers but occasional will need the assistance of the Michigan Red Center.**

- ❑ **Red Center**
  - o **Located in Ann Arbor Michigan at Huron Valley Ambulance**
  - o **Staffed 24/7**
  - o **Accessed by dialing the 7-digit Red Center direct line or by communicating on the MABAS Dispatch channel over the State of Michigan 800-megahertz system**
  - o **Communication Hub to support the Divisional Dispatch Centers resource needs**
  - o **Divisions requests MRP's from Red Center**
  - o **Provides communications access to Michigan MABAS Command and Tactical channels for resource deployment and on-scene communications.**

DISPATCHING A BOX CARD

Dispatch centers, when receiving an out of division request for mutual aid, should collect information on:

- ❑ **The incident location**
- ❑ **Staging areas**
- ❑ **Incident Commander name and contact information**
- ❑ **The resources being requested**
- ❑ **The assigned radio talk group**
- ❑ **Details on the situation**

If a MRP is requested, such as a Taskforce, Strike Team, or other special operations team:

1. **The request must go through the Michigan Red Center**
2. **The Red Center will then collect the incident information**
3. **Contact the appropriate division Dispatch Center where the resource resides**

4. Establish a conference call for the incident commander, dispatch centers, and the incoming Team Leader to discuss the situation assessment and to assure the Incident Commander is receiving the most accurate resources for their incident.

COMMON TERMINOLOGY

APPARATUS TERMINOLOGY / DEFINITIONS – RESOURCE TYPING

Station Response - Local alarm level, that involves one or more resources from the AHJ (authority having jurisdiction).

Still Alarm – Local Fire Resources

Automatic Aid – Resources from Fire Dept's within close proximity that respond with the initial response.

1st BOX alarm – An incident requiring multiple pieces of apparatus, stations, and/or personnel from a department to handle a situation.

> This is generally a statement from the commander on the scene of a Station response requesting the dispatch center to **"Balance out the BOX"** otherwise meaning to send the First BOX alarm.

2nd and additional BOX Alarms - The incident has progressed to a situation where multiple departments, apparatus, personnel, and officers are needed to handle the situation on various talk groups at the scene.

> These types of alarms are handled using the predetermined BOX cards.

Alarm / BOX - Synonymous terminology, used to identify an alarm level. If the Incident Commander on a Station Response states "Fill the BOX" they should receive the next alarm below the Station Response, they are currently working.

> This needs to be plain English and call it what it is. The incident commander should state the next level of response and not require the dispatcher to "interpret" the meaning.

> An Incident Commander who requests either "give me the second box" or requests a "second alarm" would indicate to the dispatcher to upgrade the alarm level to a second alarm / second box.

Dual Response - When there is an incident for an agency, the location could be closer to a neighboring agency's station.

Agreements have been reached to send both agencies simultaneously to the incident and mitigate the situation until the primary agency arrives.

Mutual Aid - When a primary agency responds to or is on the scene of an incident, requests a specific piece of apparatus or another department to respond to the incident.

Move Up / Change of Quarters – For the purposes of covering vacant Fire stations without a response to the scene by mutual aid companies, the Incident Commander may instruct dispatch to begin a move-up to cover vacant Fire stations.

The dispatcher shall then locate what geographical area the incident is in and call the departments listed under "change of quarters" section and request that they either stand-by at their respective stations if that is the direction, or fill-in at the designated requesting department's stations with the equipment specified.

Next Due –When an incident is calling for a single station response only and the crew or apparatus is not available to respond, the officer is requesting the next closest station to respond with "Next Due".

Special Call – This method is used to summon a particular piece of equipment to an incident that is not identified within the Box Card.

Ie... "Central from 23 Command, special call Pittsfield Fire with an engine".
Ie... "Central from 23 Command, special call Pittsfield Fire for their jaws and extrication equipment".

Station Response - Local alarm level, that involves one or more resources from the AHJ (authority having jurisdiction).

APPARATUS TERMINOLOGY / DEFINITIONS – RESOURCE TYPING

Air Ambulance – Airplane or helicopter used to carry sick and injured to hospitals.

Ambulance - An ambulance for patient transport

      Alpha - Advanced Life Support
      Bravo - Basic Life Support
      Lima - Limited Advanced Life Support
      Echo - Advanced Life Support Non-Transporting
      Tango - Basic Life Support Non-Transporting
      Hotel - Helicopter Ambulance

<u>Air Supply</u> – A vehicle designed and operated to provide a quantity of purified breathing air, as defined by NIOSH / MIOSHA. This classification includes those vehicles with mobile cascade systems having a minimum of 4 bottles of 4500 psi or greater and/or mobile units having mobile compressors.

<u>ATV / Snowmobile (GATOR, MULE, POLARIS)</u> – A small, open motor vehicle having one or two seats and three or more wheels fitted with large tires or tracks, which are designed for use over rugged terrain. May be configured for brush / field fires or EMS uses, or both.

<u>Boat</u> – A water vessel, which may or may not be motorized with a hull length less than 20'.

<u>Brush / Grass Unit</u> – A vehicle having a pumping capacity of 150 GPM, or greater, and a water tank capacity of at least 200 gallons.
      Unit could be foam capable or not.

<u>Cache Radios</u> – A supply of standby radios with charging units that can be deployed to support incidents.

> ❑ **Spare radio(s) used as operational replacement for day-to-day use are not cache radios.**
> ❑ **Cache radios allow all responders to use common, compatible equipment during an incident and typically contain a minimum of 12 radios.**

<u>Command Staff</u> – A command officer trained and capable of performing in any of the command staff or general staff positions within the incident command system.

<u>Engine</u> – A combination vehicle having a pumping capacity of 1000 GPM or greater, a water tank capacity of at least 250 gallons and hose and equipment like NFPA 1901.

Marine – A motorized water vessel with a hull length greater than 20'.

Mobile Command Unit (MCU) - A mobile command unit refers to any vehicular asset that can be deployed to provide or supplement Incident Command Operations with associated communications capabilities in an incident area.

Rescue / Squad– A unit specifically equipped for rescue functions. (Non-transporting) The unit should be equipped for multiple type incidents, such as MVA with extrication, water type rescue.

Truck – A vehicle with a powered aerial ladder or bucket capable of reaching a minimum height of 50 feet. This unit shall have hose and equipment and may or may not include a pump and booster tank.

Tanker / Tender – A water-transporting vehicle having a minimum capacity of 1000 gallons. The unit shall have hose and equipment like that recommended by NFPA 1901.

ACTIVATION TERMINOLOGY

Scramble – An immediate request for a strike team or task force within 30 minutes for a deployment lasting 3 hours to 24 hours.

Standard – A request for a strike team or task force within 3 hours for a deployment lasting 3 days or less.

EMAC (Emergency Management Assistance Compact) – A request of a strike team or task force within 24 hours for a deployment lasting up to 14 days.

FINAL NOTE

It is important for each MABAS Fire Department and Dispatch Center to understand how the Michigan MABAS system works, including how to develop and utilize a Box Card, how the statewide mutual aid activation and communications work. The Michigan MABAS comms plan can be found on our website, along with Box Card templates, resource typing definitions, Mission Ready Package information for special operations, and much more.