



# MICHIGAN MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM

## Division Plan Coordinator Meeting

June 14, 2023

### MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Executive Director Atkins at 1:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call** – Attending members were noted.
3. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment. This item will be removed from future agendas.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – The April 12, 2023 minutes were received and filed.
5. **Communications and Correspondence** -None discussed. This item will be moved to the Executive Director report on future agendas.
6. **Old Business**
  - A. **EMS Contracts:** Director Atkins confirmed that he sent all members the private ambulance contracts for their review. There were no questions regarding the contracts.
  - B. **EMS Strike Teams:** Director Atkins discussed the possible ways to develop EMS Strike Teams with regard to typing and division box card development.
  - Mike Vogt (3305) discussed the dynamics of EMS services in Lapeer County and the inability to develop strike teams due to staffing issues. Director Atkins suggested that the development of a box card does not mean you will always be available, and perhaps combining with other counties would make a deployable team more feasible.
  - Jeff Friedenstab (3802) indicated they are moving forward with this and even considering if they can incorporate units from Wisconsin. Director Atkins indicated he is seeking a legal option about whether Michigan MABAS can have an agreement with private EMS agencies in Wisconsin.
  - Bill Parker (3701) indicated that they already have some in-division teams set up and just need to work on coordination for out-of-division response.
  - Derek Hillman (3208) asked for clarification on what a strike teams consist of.
  - Paul Strulchuk (3201) expressed concern with self-deployment issues and the possible benefits of having state ambulance ID numbers displayed on the units. Director Atkins

suggested bringing this up at the next Executive Board Meeting to determine what considerations there may be with using the State EMS numbering system for ambulance identification during statewide responses. Mike Vogt (3305) expressed concern over the logistics of this concept and how to incorporate MFR's. Mike Evans (3101) clarified that the "Alpha" number is not necessarily assigned to a particular vehicle, but rather is an available designation for any unit in the fleet. He added that while this may present some logistical issues, he feels consistency statewide would be beneficial. John Cieslik (3201) suggested that agencies could self-post their state identifier in the unit's window during statewide responses rather than permanently posting on the apparatus; he also noted that unit typing parameters need to be determined. Erik Youngblood (RED Center) noted the multiple issues with staffing, training, unit type and EMS availability during recent events. Director Atkins closed this topic by noting that discussion needs to continue and that a meeting with the private EMS agencies may need to take place. In the meantime, he will get together a list of all existing private EMS agency contracts and a list of current EMS strike teams that have developed box cards.

**C. Acts of Violence Incidents:** Director Atkins asked the group to voice their thoughts about drafting an AVI response proposal, with typing parameters, to take to the Executive Board for their discussion and approval.

- Paul Strulchuk (3201) indicated his support of this idea as it will provide more information about what resources are available for a given incident and it promotes the use of common terminology.
- Shadd Whitehead suggested that training requirements should be considered along with the typing parameters. Director Atkins noted that MABAS Leadership has been working with Jim Etzin regarding Active Assailant training.
- Mike Vogt (3305) noted that local assets would be more inclined to be in the hot zone and outside agencies may be more useful for triage and transport as the scene is likely secure by the time they arrive. This may indicate that first arriving units have a greater need for specialized protective equipment like bulletproof vests, helmets, etc.

Since there were no objections, Director Atkins will move forward with this for the Executive Board.

Director Atkins advised that MABAS is working to deliver Active Assailant Training online for fire departments to utilize and to provide an additional 8-hour training for command officers. Funding sources are being researched with the hope of making the training free.

**7. Executive Director Report**

- A. Director Atkins reminded members about the Box Card Development Course Video Training that is available on the MABAS website. He is planning a couple sessions in September. Dates will be forthcoming.

**8. New Business**

A. Erik Youngblood (RED Center) discussed the need for Planning Coordinators to get more involved in exercising with their divisions. This need has become evident during the MABAS 101 classes. The following exercise options were noted:

- Exercise with the RED Center calling division dispatch to deploy a strike team or task force to the POD. This can be a tabletop scenario.
- Exercise with the RED Center calling division dispatch to physically deploy a strike team to another county. In return, the division seeking help deploys a strike team to the sending county to test all the processes.

Planning Coordinators can reach out to Erik to schedule an exercise, and all are welcome to attend any MABAS 101 session.

9. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 pm.

10. **Next Meeting** - The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2023 at 1:00 pm.