



MICHIGAN MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM

Division and Regional Coordinator Meeting

February 11, 2026

MINUTES

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Call to Order: 1343 hours

Roll Call (completed via Zoom) Gabie Keeling completed roll call.

Approval of the December 10, 2025 Minutes as mailed per Chief Pat Parker.

Public Comment - None.

Old Business

- Amended Agreement Update - Chief Erik Youngblood provided an overview on Phase 1 of the audit. Region 1 is complete and division letters have been sent out.
 - Phase 1 - Division Documents Reconciliation - Completed.
 - Phase 2 - Letters emailed to division reps.

Fire Operations Chief – (Chief Pat Parker pparker@michiganmabas.us)

- Update on New Divisions
 - New Divisions in Alger & Gogebic. Copper Country (Keweenaw, Baraga, Ontonagon, & Houghton to form). Still waiting on Allegan. Future meeting with Charlevoix. Hopeful for an Emmet/Cheboygan/Charlevoix Division.
- OOD Box Card 360*
 - Give attendees a 360* tour of the website showcasing the procedure/activation plans/Erik's review/my signing of the cards/subsequent return back to the Divisions including now the RC's.
- Go Bags - Discussion on best practices
 - Some divisions purchased Go Bags or Kits years ago and they sit not being used. Is there a possibility that MABAS could absorb these in their Logistics Support Trailer. The biggest items taking up space are sleeping bags. Toiletries probably are outdated and should be individually brought by team members.
 - Andrew Z mentioned Oakland Co has a logistics trailer for 24 people sustainable for 72 hours.

Special Operations Chief – (Chief Chris Martin cmartin@michiganmabas.us)

- No report

Communications Chief – (Chief Erik Youngblood redcenter@michiganmabas.us)

- Exercises/Drills Scheduled
 - February 24th - Wexford County

- March 19th - Jackson County
- April 16th TBD - Macomb County
- May - Bay County
- June - Livingston County

If there is anyone that would like to test their division's ability to mobilize, we would like to help with testing your processes and streamline those processes used.

- MABAS newsletters
 - Over the last few quarters, we've distributed two MABAS newsletters. I wanted to check whether anyone has heard feedback from agencies on their usefulness or content. When we sent them out broadly to all agencies, the feedback we received was to stop mass distribution largely due to inbox fatigue. We're sensitive to that and don't want to add to the volume of emails agencies are already receiving.
 - Going forward, the newsletters will be posted on the MABAS Facebook and the MABAS website. The MABAS website will have an option for members to voluntarily subscribe to continue to receive the newsletter using a work or personal email. This lets us keep the information available without pushing it into everyone's inbox. Less harassing.
- MABAS in 30
 - Gabie is going to send you all a poll to your email as I start talking about this topic.
 - We're proposing a new monthly Zoom session starting in May called **MABAS in 30**. It's a 30-minute, no-pressure discussion designed to give members a clearer understanding of how MABAS works in practice. Each session will focus on one specific topic, titles like *How MABAS Actually Works During an Incident* or *Box Cards: Design, Use, and Common Problems*.
 - The format is simple: a short overview to set the stage, followed by open discussion and Q&A. This isn't formal training or policy review; it's meant to be practical, conversational, and driven by member questions.
 - To avoid inbox fatigue, we won't push mass emails. Instead, sessions will be posted on the MABAS website with a Zoom link and calendar details. Anyone can join live, listen in, or ask questions as they choose. We'll also promote upcoming sessions through the website, optional email subscriptions, and division leadership so information flows through existing channels.
 - The goal is to create a consistent, low-time-commitment way for departments across the state to stay informed, ask questions, and learn from real-world MABAS experiences.
- Emails going out to Division Leaders
 - Over the past few years, MI-MABAS has been working division by division to address items identified during a comprehensive legal audit. As part of that process, we discovered that a number of documents required for division participation in MABAS are either missing, incomplete, or cannot be located, often dating back to before documents were routinely stored electronically.
 - We are sending emails to Division leadership about these missing documents. We recognize that this creates additional work for our divisions, and we want to acknowledge that upfront. In some cases, these documents were never fully completed during the original application process; in others, they existed at one time but were not retained in a way that allows us to retrieve them today.

Regardless, it is important that both MI-MABAS and your agency have complete, accessible copies on file.

- Recent incidents have reinforced why this matters. These documents are not just administrative purposes but they directly support legal protections, clarify authority, and help ensure the safety of personnel operating under MI-MABAS during a large-scale or statewide response.
- Our goal is not to place blame, but to work together to correct these gaps and move forward with a complete electronic record for every division. We understand this will take time, but it is important that we can demonstrate progress and a shared commitment to compliance and responder safety.
- Please coordinate with Gabie as we work through the outstanding items. MI-MABAS is committed to supporting you through this process, and we appreciate your partnership in strengthening the system for future responses.

Program Manager Updates – (Shadd Whitehead programmanager@michiganmabas.us)

- New MABAS Private Partner Agreements update
 - Based on the legal review provided, pursuant to PA 7 of 1967, the Urban Cooperation Act, only government entities can sign the current MABAS agreement. After review and discussion, a new MABAS Private Partner agreement was created to replace existing MOUs that had been signed previously and are not valid under the statute. We hope to begin communicating with each Division who has an NGO Private Partner and execute the new agreement.
- FY26 focus - Testing System Processes
 - We will continue to focus on evaluating and exercising our OOD processes with our network of Divisions that have created OOD MRPs. This is crucial in identifying gaps and weaknesses in the notification, communication, and coordination of deploying and moving needed resources to a jurisdiction in need. We hope that through these small table-top exercises to assist our Divisions with identifying and improving areas in order to create increased efficiency in deploying resources system-wide.

New Business

- New or revalidated special operations teams
- Task Force/Strike Team Leader Training (Gaylord - 2/24)(Washtenaw County in April)
- Division Report Outs (Activations, Drills, Exercises, Meetings)
 - Region 1 - M.Vogt credit to Genesee, updating their OOD. Saginaw updated cards just waiting on dispatch.
 - Region 2 - None
 - Region 3 - None
 - Region 5 - None
 - Region 6 - None
 - Region 7 - None
 - Region 8 - None

Next Meeting - The next meeting is scheduled for **April 8, 2026 at 1330 hours.**

Adjournment - 1425 hours

GK