

Stephenson County Fire Chiefs Association Inc.

MABAS Division 17

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Minutes from October 2, 2024

The monthly meeting of MABAS Division 17 was called to order by President Bruning at 1930hrs @ Dakota Fire.

A motion to accept the Minutes from the September meeting was approved. The Treasurer report for September was also approved.

Committees

- **Training:**
 - Local classes were listed.
 - Fireground Management for Small Career and Volunteer Departments @ Davis Fire on Oct 12. Registration through IFSI.
 - Fire Service Ladders Class @ Freeport Rural, Oct 26
- **Communications/Dispatch:**
 - September call numbers
 - 24 calls total.
 - 17 EMS & 1 Fire calls in the Division
 - 3 EMS & 3 Fire calls outside the Division
- **TRT:**
 - Training with Div 8 has been going well. Next date – Oct 22.
 - The inoperable generator was discussed. Dave Bordner offered to take a look at it and advise.
- **HAZMAT:**
 - Their Deployable Roster numbers dropped to 19 but they have added 2 new members that will start training next year.

Represented Departments

Cedarville Fire
Dakota Fire
Davis Fire
Freeport Fire

Freeport Rural Fire
German Valley Fire
Lena Fire

Orangeville Fire
Pearl City Fire
Rock City Fire
Winslow Fire

- **EMS:**
 - Davis Fire is hosting an EMR class. They expect it to start in February and be taught by Tri-District personnel.
 - Freeport Rural has hired personnel to work Mon, Wed & Fri 0600-1800. The rest of the time may be covered by volunteers. Rural Amb Chief Butch Broughton has resigned and been replaced by Brandon Leiber.
- **Maintenance:**
 - Batteries were replaced in 4142 in Sept. The batteries in 4141 will also be replaced yet this fall.
 - The tires on the UTV trailer need to be replaced.
- **Sheriff:**
 - The Sheriff announced a DEA Drug Take Back Day to be held at the Lena Fire Station, Oct 26 from 1000-1400.
 - The Sheriff's Department will be hosting a "Trunk or Treat", Oct 29 at the Cedarville Fire Station lot from 1730-1930hr. All are welcome.
 - There was an issue in September when all of the County Deputies were involved in a vehicle chase at the South end of the County and the traffic lights went out at Bypass 20 & Rt 26 North of Freeport. No one from the County or City were available to direct traffic and the State Police didn't respond so Freeport Rural Fire responded to assist. Afterward, Freeport Rural asked if they should have done something different. The Sheriff stated, "legally it is not Fire's responsibility to maintain traffic control especially when there is no accident or life threat". He recommended that if it happened again and no Law Enforcement is available, that Firefighters should park near the intersection with emergency lights on to warn/slow traffic but not to get out of the truck and put yourself in danger.

Old Business

- The Air Show was brought up. A few that attended said things went well again this year.

New Business

- Secretary Korte gave an overview of the MABAS-IL Executive Board Meeting held Sept. 18.
 - The MABAS Attorney advised that some Dispatch Centers had received FOIA requests for Box Cards. It is his opinion that our Box Cards are exempt from FOIA requests and should not be given out. He further recommended that Box Cards not be posted on open websites. Our group requested that our Box Cards be left up until we make that section of our website password protected.
 - Our Divisions MABAS-IL dues have been paid for 2024.
 - All of the State Special Teams are required to be Deployable by the end of the year. Currently there are 18 TRT teams Deployable, 10 TRT teams not Deployable and 1 team suspended from participation. There are also 30 Hazmat teams Deployable with 1 team not deployable, ours.
 - After the updated MABAS Agreement, there are only 35 Fire Departments in the state that are not members of MABAS.
 - The 2025 MABAS Summit will be held at the Bloomington/Normal Marriott on Feb 17-21. They are planning more joint sessions with Command & Dispatch.

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- The Executive Board meeting held during the Summit will be held Tuesday afternoon, Feb 18 @ 1600hrs.
- We have had a request from a Department outside of Div 17 to use the Smokehouse. They had used it under the previous owner. It was discussed that a usage fee would be appropriate. \$250 was recommended and approved by the group.
- Dispatch has asked that we update our Apparatus call sign list. It has been sent out to all Departments. Please respond with any changes.
- Northwest Fire and North Park Fire, both Div 8 Departments, have changed their operating frequencies. Those new frequencies are: RX 154.43000 TX 153.95000 PL 74.4.

Announcements

- Division 8 Rescue Taskforce Exercise, Oct 6 @ Cherry Vale Mall
- Monroe Fire has received their new Tower and it will be in service in a few weeks. It is very similar to Freeport's.
- Dakota is having problems with their water tower. They have a limited supply of water and do not know when the issue will be resolved.
- Orangeville & Freeport Rural have reported fire issues with local Solar Farms. Orangeville found 600 volts of DC power at a fire that burnt through an electrical box and Rural was advised to not enter any Solar facility that may be burning and just protect exposures. Do not go anywhere near these facilities unless the facility personnel are on site.

Our next scheduled meeting will be held November 6 @ Freeport Rural Fire, Station 3.

The meeting was adjourned @ 2015hr.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Korte, Secretary

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