



## MABAS Divisions 4 & 5

Specialized Response Teams

## Annual Report 2019

Coordinating Fire Department Specialized  
Response Services Across Northeastern Illinois  
and Southeastern Wisconsin



The MABAS Divisions 4 & 5 Specialized Response Teams (SRT) is an intergovernmental cooperative organization responsible for the coordination of specialized response services for the fire departments and districts that belong to Divisions 4 and 5 of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). SRT coordinates training, qualifications, equipment and resources for its teams, which include Hazardous Materials, Mechanics, Technical Rescue, Water Rescue & Recovery (Dive, Sonar & Swiftwater) and Wildland.

## Organizational Leadership

### Joint Administrative Council

The Joint Administrative Council (JAC) is the governing body responsible for the oversight and management of the MABAS Divisions 4 & 5 SRT. It is comprised of three chiefs from each of the member MABAS Divisions. 2019 JAC members were:

Rich Carani, Chairman  
(Libertyville Fire Department)  
Steve Spraker, Vice-Chairman  
(McHenry Township Fire Protection District)  
Greg Formica, Secretary/Treasurer  
(Greater Round Lake Fire Protection District)  
Mike Hill  
(Woodstock Fire/Rescue District)  
Bob Kreher  
(Fox River Grove Fire Protection District)  
Jeff Steingart  
(Wauconda Fire Protection District)

### Administrative Coordinator

Christina Loomis

### Operations Chiefs

Kevin Cronin, Division 4  
(Lake Forest Fire Department)  
Albert W. Schlick III, Division 5  
(Huntley Fire Protection District)

## A Message from Administrative Coordinator Christina Loomis

In 2019, SRT shifted its focus to the future of the organization and, specifically, a needed update to our Strategic Plan. SRT's first Strategic Plan was developed in 2013 and helped guide several important decisions and changes including the leasing of dedicated office and garage space, the execution of a new governance model, the approval of standardized Standard Operating Guidelines and the development of a new, user-friendly website. After six years, however, the 2013 plan needed to be revisited to evaluate our accomplishments, define our core services, and develop a shared vision for the future.

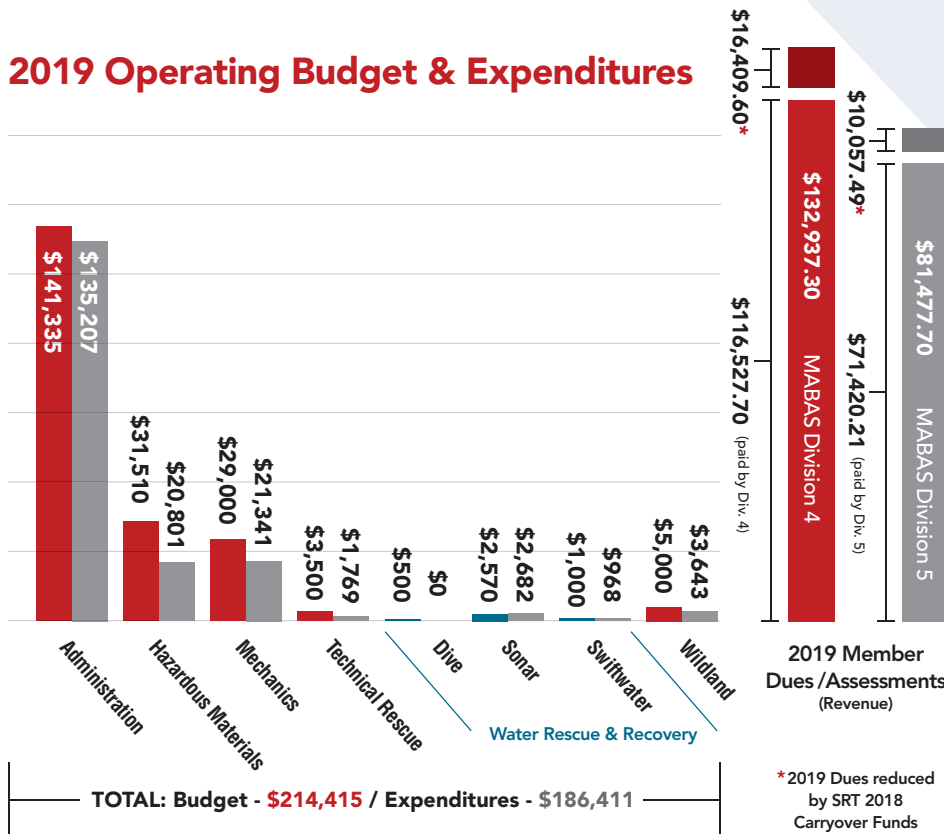
Months of planning and preparation culminated in a day-long strategic planning workshop in September that was facilitated by Dr. Lewis Bender, a Professor Emeritus at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, who provides consulting and training for public and non-profit organizations. Invited to attend the workshop were the members of SRT's Joint Administrative Council and both MABAS Division Boards, the Operations Chiefs, and the special team leaders/coordinators. The workshop began with an analysis of the challenges and strengths facing SRT as well as the development of a five-year shared vision for the organization. Strategic planning workshop attendees were then asked to identify major goal areas with supporting objectives and one-year tasks that would allow the organization to realize the shared vision. At the end of the workshop, five major goal areas emerged:

1. Funding
2. Personnel Assessment / Needs  
Determination & Succession Planning
3. Vehicle / Equipment Assessment  
and Needs Determination
4. Community & Decision-Maker  
Education & Partnerships
5. Training

These goal areas served as a basis for the development of a concise, useable Strategic Plan to help guide our decision making over the next five years. The Joint Administrative Council approved the plan in November, and we adjusted our meeting agenda to include regular strategic planning discussions. We look forward to the many accomplishments to come as we begin working through the Strategic Plan in the year ahead!



## 2019 Operating Budget & Expenditures



## Team Responses

There were 25 SRT incidents in 2019 and a total of 36 team responses (some incidents required a response by multiple teams). Out of those 25 incidents, for two of them one or more teams were cancelled enroute.

Hazardous Materials	8
Mechanics	6
Technical Rescue	3
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	5
Sonar	14
Swiftwater	0
Wildland	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

## Team Membership 12/31/19

Hazardous Materials	77
Mechanics	19
Technical Rescue	80
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	98
Sonar	32
Swiftwater	41
Wildland	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>371</b>

## SRT Coordinated Trainings

Hazardous Materials	65
Mechanics	26
Technical Rescue	75
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	53
Sonar	26
Swiftwater	19
Wildland	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>283</b>

## Team Member Training Hours (SRT)\*\*

Hazardous Materials	2,204
Mechanics	345
Technical Rescue	1,767
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	858
Sonar	517
Swiftwater	270
Wildland	473
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,434</b>

\*\* Please note that these figures only include SRT coordinated training. Team members also complete elective/departments training throughout the year within their specialty, which is not reflected here.







## Hazardous Materials Team

Responsible for controlling and mitigating hazardous materials incidents, including identification, assessment, containment/ confinement and decontamination.

### 2019 Statistics

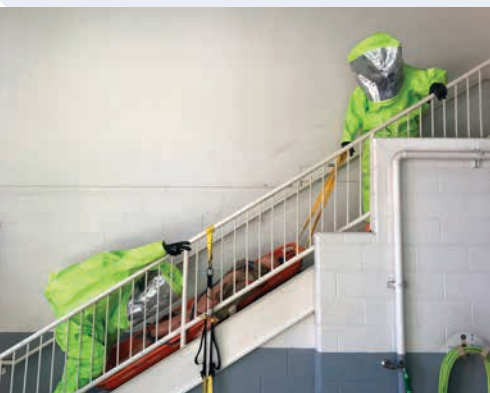
Team Members .....	77
SRT Coordinated Trainings .....	65
SRT Training Hours.....	2,204

### 2019 Highlights

Contracted with Emery & Associates, Inc. to provide three days of monitoring instrumentation and detection refresher training utilizing all of the team's monitors.

Responded to two large scale incidents in the spring, an anhydrous ammonia leak in Beach Park and a chemical reaction/ explosion in Waukegan, both of which included mass casualty box alarms.

Purchased and put into service a Midland Kit, used to control leaks of hazardous materials from rail cars.



## Mechanics Team

Responsible for supporting all other teams during both training and incidents, by ensuring all assets (vehicles and equipment) are operating properly and reliably on a day to day basis.

### 2019 Statistics

Team Members .....	19
SRT Coordinated Trainings .....	26
SRT Training Hours: .....	345

### 2019 Highlights

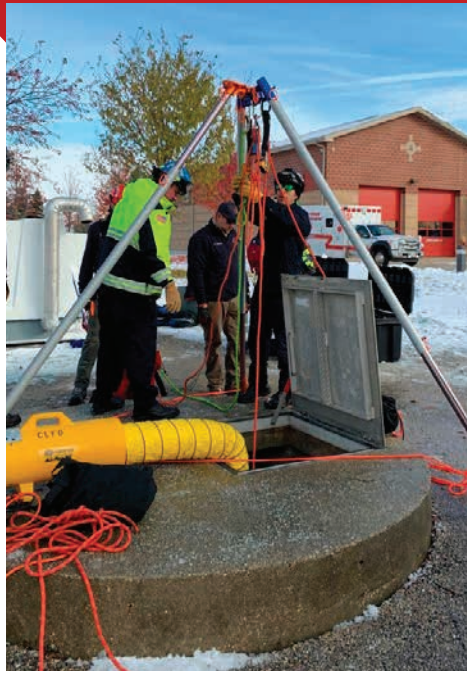
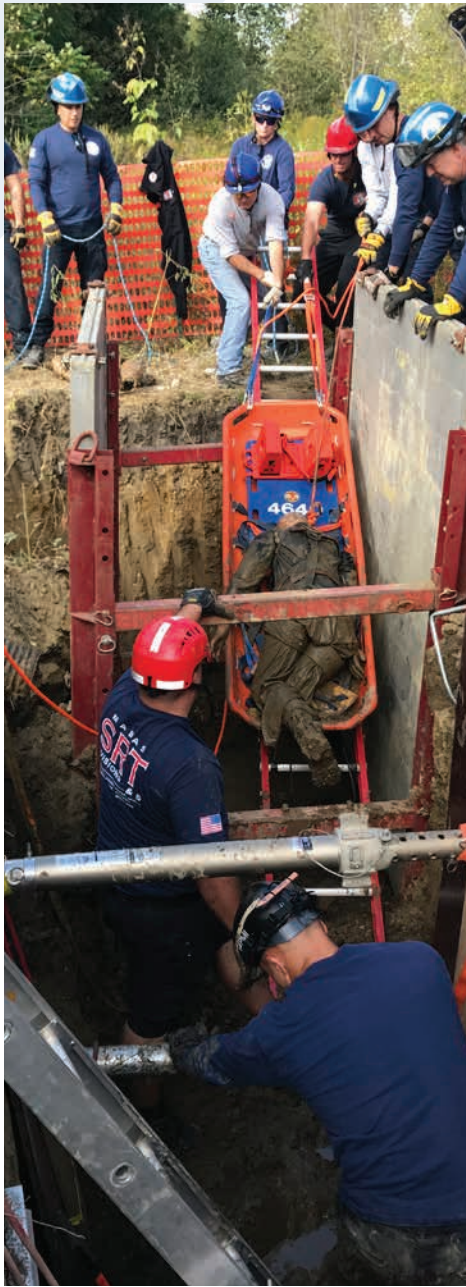
Finished outfitting and put a replacement Mechanics Truck into service.

Outfitted the Sonar Trailer with emergency lights & chevron striping.

Completed an inventory and reorganization of the Lumber Container.







## Technical Rescue Team

Responsible for managing special rescue situations in the areas of rope rescue, confined space, structural collapse and trench rescue.

### 2019 Statistics

Team Members ..... 80  
SRT Coordinated Trainings ..... 75  
SRT Training Hours ..... 1,767

### 2019 Highlights

Selected individuals for Technical Rescue Team leadership roles.

Installed new shelving in the Division 5 TRT Container to improve equipment organization.



## Wildland Task Force

Responsible for mitigating fires in areas challenging for firefighters equipped with standard gear, especially heavily wooded areas or open spaces.

### 2019 Statistics

Team Members ..... 24  
SRT Coordinated Trainings ..... 19  
SRT Training Hours ..... 473

### 2019 Highlights

Provided standby services for the Waukegan Air Show as a team training exercise.

Purchased and put into service new forestry hose, a chainsaw, a backpack blower and a pole chainsaw.





# Water Rescue & Recovery Team

Responsible for all incidents involving bodies of water and includes three disciplines: dive, sonar and swiftwater.



## Dive

Responsible for the rescue and/or recovery of drowning victims (often also assists with evidence recovery).

## 2019 Statistics

Team Members	98
SRT Coordinated Trainings	53
SRT Training Hours	858



## 2019 Highlights

Responded to Round Lake Park in October to assist in searching a portion of Round Lake (including the beach area) for a weapon.

Updated and revised the team's Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG).







## Sonar

Responsible for searching bodies of water for victims and/or evidence using both side and sector scan equipment.

### 2019 Statistics

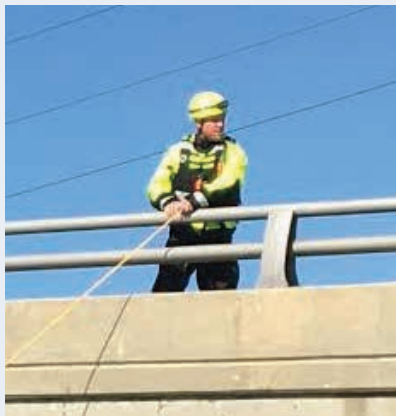
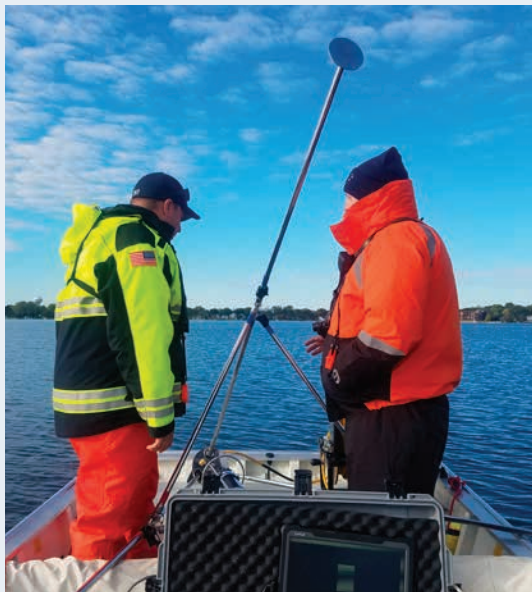
Team Members .....	32
SRT Coordinated Trainings .....	26
SRT Training Hours.....	517

### 2019 Highlights

Developed step by step start-up procedures for all of the team's sonar equipment.

Trained three new team members in the fall.

Purchased and put into service a new underwater camera.



## Swiftwater

Responsible for incidents involving swift moving or flood water.

### 2019 Statistics

Team Members .....	41
SRT Coordinated Trainings .....	19
SRT Training Hours.....	270

### 2019 Highlights

Purchased and put into service replacement rope and webbing.

Completed a full inventory of the Swiftwater Trailer.





## Member Agencies

### MABAS Division 4

- Abbott Fire Department
- AbbVie Industrial Fire Department
- Antioch Fire Department
- Barrington Fire Department
- Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District
- Beach Park Fire Protection District
- Buffalo Grove Fire Department
- Countryside Fire Protection District
- Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District
- Fox Lake Fire Protection District
- Grayslake Fire Protection District
- Great Lakes Naval Fire Department
- Greater Round Lake Fire Protection District
- Gurnee Fire Department
- Lake Bluff Fire Department
- Lake Forest Fire Department
- Lake Villa Fire Protection District
- Lake Zurich Fire/Rescue Department
- Libertyville Fire Department
- Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District
- Long Grove Fire Protection District
- Mundelein Fire Department
- Newport Township Fire Protection District
- North Chicago Fire Department
- Pleasant Prairie Fire & Rescue Department
- Wauconda Fire Protection District
- Waukegan Fire Department
- Wheeling Fire Department
- Winthrop Harbor Fire Department
- Zion Fire & Rescue Department

### MABAS Division 5

- Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Fire Protection District
- Cary Fire Protection District
- Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department
- Fox River Grove Fire Protection District
- Harvard Fire Protection District
- Hebron-Alden-Greenwood Fire Protection District
- Huntley Fire Protection District
- Marengo Fire Protection District
- McHenry Township Fire Protection District
- Nunda Rural Fire Protection District
- Richmond Township Fire Protection District
- Spring Grove Fire Protection District
- Union Fire Protection District
- Wonder Lake Fire Protection District
- Woodstock Fire/Rescue District



### MABAS Divisions 4 & 5 SRT

20 W. North Street  
Hainesville, Illinois 60030  
847.587.8012  
cloomis@srillinois.org  
[srillinois.org](http://srillinois.org)