

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



MABAS Divisions 4 & 5

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

SPECIALIZED RESPONSE TEAMS

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 the following:

Hazardous Materials Team

Mechanics Team

Technical Rescue Team

**Water Rescue & Recovery Team
(Dive, Sonar & Swiftwater)**

Wildland Task Force

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.

2020 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

What a year we experienced in 2020! Coming off of the November 2019 adoption of our Strategic Plan, SRT was poised in January to dive into the work outlined in this guiding document. It became quickly apparent, however, that 2020 would not be the year we were expecting. The COVID-19 pandemic had far reaching affects on SRT and required us to reimagine how to serve our member agencies in this new normal.

When state and local restrictions prevented us from providing in-person training in the spring, we pivoted to on-line training for all our teams. In June and July, we offered all teams members two on-demand training opportunities specific to their team and the

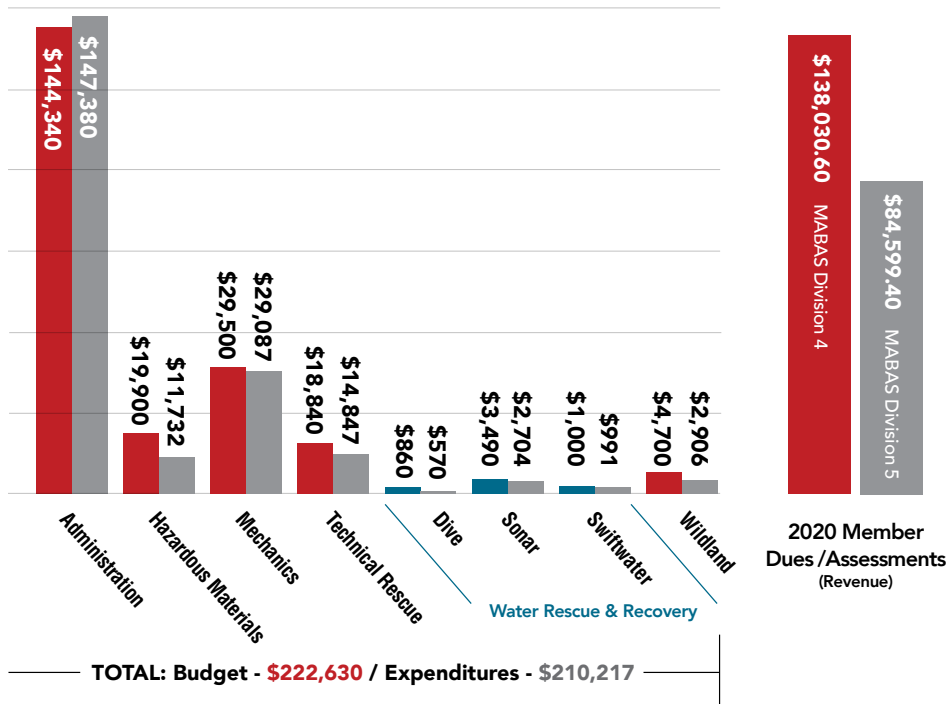


MABAS system. When COVID-19 numbers surged again in the fall, we provided training on Zoom, focusing on basic skills and team update information. We also took the extra time afforded us without regular training to make progress on a few administrative projects including launching a new website with added functionality and mobile compatibility and starting to inventory both paper and electronic records.

Despite the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, SRT did make significant progress on several objectives outlined in our Strategic Plan. We developed and disseminated a Risk Hazard Assessment Questionnaire to gather information about the possible hazards in each of the communities we serve, allowing us to better assess the readiness of our special teams. Our team leaders/coordinators spearheaded the effort to inventory all of SRT's assets – a first for many of our teams! We also appointed six team members to leadership positions within our Dive, Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue Teams as we continue to see the need for succession planning.

This pandemic tested our organization but has, ultimately, strengthened our leadership, increased our adaptability and proven our resilience. We are ready to face the challenges that 2021 may continue bring and to reinvigorate our work on the goals and objectives outlined in our Strategic Plan. We look forward to the hard work we know lies ahead in the new year!

2020 Operating Budget and Expenditures



Team Responses

There were 10 SRT incidents in 2020 and a total of 18 team responses (some incidents required a response by multiple teams). Out of those 10 incidents, one or more teams were cancelled enroute for one of them.

Hazardous Materials	1
Mechanics	7
Technical Rescue	1
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	3
Sonar	4
Swiftwater	1
Wildland	1
TOTAL	18

Team Membership 12/31/20

Hazardous Materials	78
Mechanics	21
Technical Rescue	76
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	100
Sonar	30
Swiftwater	44
Wildland	27
TOTAL	376

SRT Coordinated Trainings

Hazardous Materials	37
Mechanics	21
Technical Rescue	40
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	20
Sonar	10
Swiftwater	14
Wildland	13
TOTAL	155

Team Member Training Hours (SRT)**

Hazardous Materials	1,590
Mechanics	288
Technical Rescue	1,388
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	660
Sonar	250
Swiftwater	288
Wildland	327
TOTAL	4,791

** 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.

In Memory of...

OPERATIONS CHIEF Albert W. Schlick III

On January 5, 2021, SRT lost its Division 5 Operations Chief with the passing of Deputy Chief Albert W. Schlick III. Deputy Chief Schlick served as SRT's Division 5 Operations Chief from 2016 to 2021 and was, before that, the Division 4 Hazardous Materials Team Leader. Throughout all his promotions, he continued to be a valuable member of the SRT Hazardous Materials Team. His passion for the fire service, historical knowledge and sense of humor made him an extraordinary person to work with. He made innumerable contributions to SRT and will be greatly missed!



Hazardous Materials



Hazardous Materials Team

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

2020 Statistics

Team Members 78
SRT Coordinated Trainings 37
SRT Training Hours. 1,590

2020 Highlights

Cleaned out and reorganized equipment and consumable supplies stored at the SRT Office.

Conducted training on the new HazMat ID monitor provided to the team by MABAS-IL.



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.

2020 Statistics

Team Members21
SRT Coordinated Trainings21
SRT Training Hours.288

2020 Highlights

Completed the set-up, take down and cleaning of the Division 4 deployment tent for use at a COVID-19 testing site.

Assisted the Technical Rescue Team in streamlining and reorganizing the Division 4 TRT container.

Completed inventories of the Mechanics Truck, rolloff trucks and lumber container.



Mechanics



Technical Rescue Team

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

2020 Statistics

Team Members76
SRT Coordinated Trainings40
SRT Training Hours.1,388

2020 Highlights

Streamlined and reorganized the Division 4 TRT container.

Expanded the team's leadership group to include Discipline Support Leaders.

Replaced the air bottles and facepieces for the confined space escape packs for Divisions 4 & 5.



Water Rescue and 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).

2020 Statistics

Team Members	100
SRT Coordinated Trainings	20
SRT Training Hours	660

2020 Highlights

- Appointed a new Assistant Dive Coordinator for MABAS Division 4.
- Coordinated the annual maintenance of the surface supplied air equipment.

Sonar

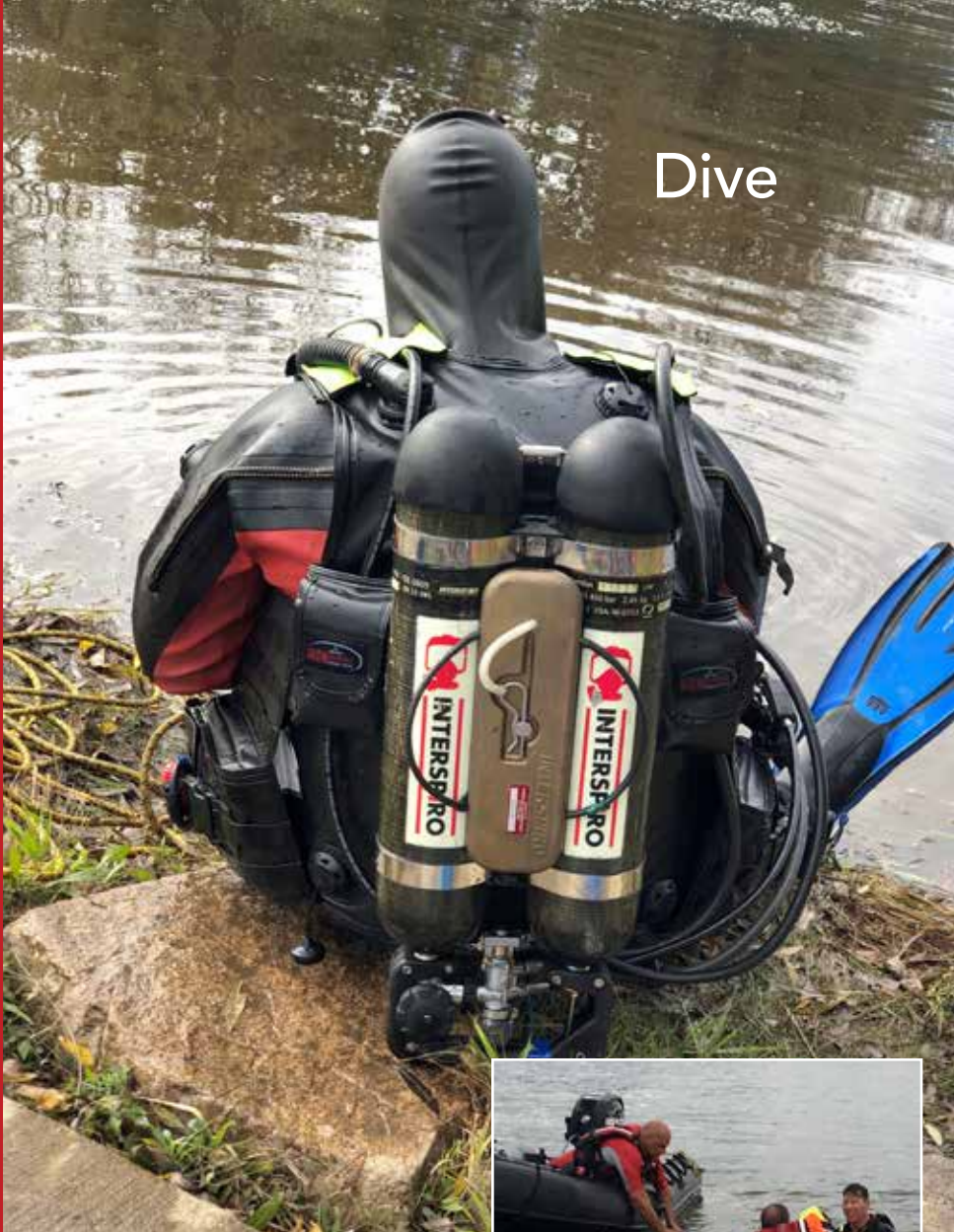
Responsible for searching bodies of water for victims and/or evidence using both side and sector scan equipment.

2020 Statistics

Team Members	30
SRT Coordinated Trainings	10
SRT Training Hours	250

2020 Highlights

- Installed side scan sonar equipment on the sonar boat to improve response capabilities.
- Purchased and put into service new safety equipment including anchors, rope, lighted marker buoys and life jackets.



Dive



Sonar

Swiftwater

Responsible for incidents involving swift moving or flood water.

2020 Statistics

Team Members	44
SRT Coordinated Trainings	14
SRT Training Hours	288

2020 Highlights

- Purchased and put into service a new rope bag, replacement rescue rope and line gun supplies.
- Responded to Wonder Lake to search, secure and help remove an SUV found partially submerged in Thompson Creek.

Wildland



Wildland Task Force

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

2020 Statistics

Team Members 27
SRT Coordinated Trainings 13
SRT Training Hours. 327

2020 Highlights

Conducted a classroom and field exercise training at the College of Lake County in conjunction with the Illinois Fire Service Institute.

Responded to and helped mitigate a brush fire in Lake Forest.



Swiftwater



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

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"Gone but not Forgotten"



Deputy Chief Albert W. Schlick III