



MABAS Divisions 4 & 5 SPECIALIZED RESPONSE TEAMS

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



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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.

2021 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)

Chris Williams, Division 5

(Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department)

A Message from Administrative Coordinator Christina Loomis

After the challenging year we faced in 2020, 2021 gave SRT an opportunity to refocus on the goals and objectives outlined in our Strategic Plan. First and foremost, at the beginning of the year, we restructured our Joint Administrative Council meetings to incorporate our team leaders/coordinators into every meeting. We also created an internal Training Committee to discuss ways to improve training for all our special teams – including looking for possibilities for cross-discipline training. SRT also continued our succession planning efforts, adding seven new team leaders/coordinators across four of our special teams.

One of SRT's most significant accomplishments in 2021 was the creation and production of two videos to promote SRT – one to market the organization and one to recruit new team members. The need for these videos was outlined in our Strategic Plan as the ideal way to educate the

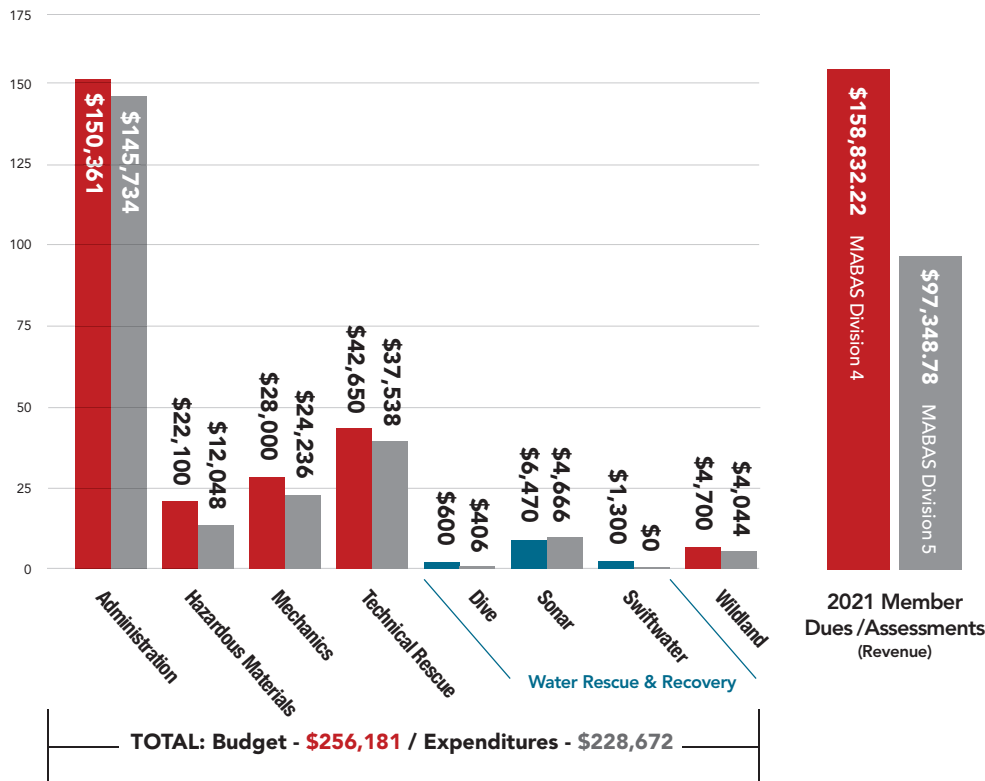


public, elected officials and individuals within our member fire departments about the purpose and cooperative structure of SRT. We are confident it will be a great tool for all our member agencies to use in the future.

Another important accomplishment was the creation of SRT's first, comprehensive 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Using the information from the team inventories completed in 2020, SRT drafted a CIP document covering all its special teams and the administration and presented it to both member MABAS divisions. The plan was approved unanimously by both MABAS Division 4 and MABAS Division 5. Moving forward, this document will be updated on an annual basis and incorporated into SRT's annual budget development process.

As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, providing special team training did continue to be a challenge in 2021. When COVID-19 case numbers rose throughout the year, SRT leveraged Zoom to provide targeted on-line/classroom training or team updates for many of our special teams. As part of our annual review of SRT's Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs), we also incorporated greater flexibility into the annual training requirements to ensure our team members can stay current on all their essential knowledge and skills. We remain hopeful that 2022 will be another productive year – and that we will continue to improve as an organization as we take on new goals and objectives from our Strategic Plan.

2021 Operating Budget and Expenditures



Team Responses

There were 18 SRT incidents in 2021 and a total of 30 team responses (some incidents required a response by multiple teams). Out of those 18 incidents, teams were cancelled enroute for five of them.

Hazardous Materials	3
Mechanics	6
Technical Rescue	0
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	6
Sonar	10
Swiftwater	0
Wildland	5
TOTAL	30

Team Membership 12/31/21

Hazardous Materials	78
Mechanics	20
Technical Rescue	75
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	102
Sonar	37
Swiftwater	45
Wildland	22
TOTAL	379

SRT Coordinated Trainings

Hazardous Materials	47
Mechanics	22
Technical Rescue	78
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	36
Sonar	16
Swiftwater	22
Wildland	16
TOTAL	237

Team Member Training Hours (SRT)**

Hazardous Materials	2,119
Mechanics	270
Technical Rescue	1,764
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	831
Sonar	436
Swiftwater	258
Wildland	363
TOTAL	6,041

** 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.



Scan QR Code
to Watch the
SRT Story Video



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



Hazardous Materials Team

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

2021 Statistics

Team Members 78
SRT Coordinated Trainings 47
SRT Training Hours. 2,119

2021 Highlights

Appointed four team members to leadership positions across both MABAS divisions.

Created new, easier to use inventory sheets for HazMat 4 and HazMat 5.

Inventoried and streamlined Decon 4 to make it easier to deploy for training and incidents.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



TECHNICAL RESCUE

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.

2021 Statistics

Team Members	20
SRT Coordinated Trainings	22
SRT Training Hours.	270

2021 Highlights

Modified the exterior of HazMat 4 with new lettering/stripping/logos to match the rest of SRT's assets.

Repainted and modified the Division 5 TRT container.



Completed the set-up, take down and cleaning of the Division 4 deployment tent for use at a COVID-19 vaccination clinic in Gurnee.



MECHANICS



Technical Rescue Team

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

2021 Statistics

Team Members	75
SRT Coordinated Trainings	78
SRT Training Hours.	1,764

2021 Highlights

Replaced the team's rope rescue equipment in both MABAS divisions.

Replaced most of the team's trench shoring equipment to improve safety (single manufacturer).

Appointed a new Trench Discipline Support Leader.



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).

2021 Statistics

Team Members	102
SRT Coordinated Trainings	36
SRT Training Hours	831

2021 Highlights

Appointed a new Dive Coordinator for MABAS Division 5.

Participated in a large-scale terrorism exercise in Chicago with teams from other MABAS divisions.

Sonar

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

2021 Statistics

Team Members	37
SRT Coordinated Trainings	16
SRT Training Hours	436

2021 Highlights

Appointed a new Assistant Sonar Coordinator for MABAS Division 5.

Trained 14 new team members in the spring.

Purchased a new computer and two new monitors for the sonar boat.



DIVE



SONAR



Swiftwater

Responsible for incidents involving swift moving or flood water.

2021 Statistics

Team Members	45
SRT Coordinated Trainings	22
SRT Training Hours	258

2021 Highlights

Utilized on-line Zoom training to present a review of swiftwater basic skills.

Participated in a large-scale terrorism exercise in Chicago with teams from other MABAS divisions.

WILDLAND



Wildland Task Force

Responsible for mitigating fires in the wildland urban interface, especially forest preserves, heavily wooded areas and/or open spaces.

2021 Statistics

Team Members	22
SRT Coordinated Trainings	16
SRT Training Hours	363

2021 Highlights

Responded to the Rockton chemical plant fire to assist in mitigating brush fires.

Placed new equipment into service including two portable pumps and forestry hose packs.



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 (WI)
- 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



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