

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



MABAS Divisions 4 & 5 SPECIALIZED RESPONSE TEAMS

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 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.

2022 JAC members were:

Steve Spraker, Chairman
(McHenry Township Fire Protection District)

Jeff Steingart, Vice-Chairman
(Wauconda Fire Protection District)

Greg Formica, Secretary/Treasurer
(Greater Round Lake Fire Protection District)

Ron Echtenacher
(Countryside Fire Protection District)

Mike Hill
(Woodstock Fire/Rescue District)

Bob Kreher
(Fox River Grove Fire Protection District)

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
Christina Loomis

OPERATIONS CHIEFS

Chas Buschick, Division 4
(Wauconda Fire Protection District)

Chris Williams, Division 5
(Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department)

A Message from Administrative Coordinator Christina Loomis

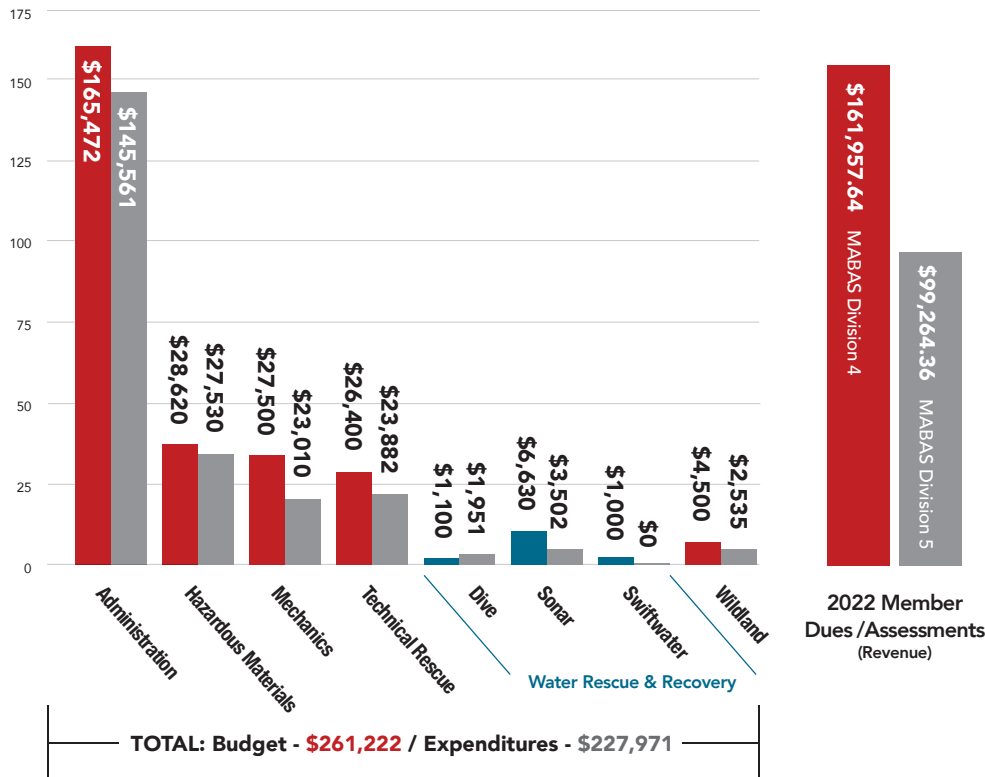
In 2022, SRT spent much of the year refocusing on its strategic planning efforts. In May, SRT held a strategic planning workshop to evaluate, discuss and update its 2020 strategic plan. Members of SRT's Joint Administrative Council and both MABAS Division Boards, the Operations Chiefs, and the special team leaders/coordinators attended this workshop which began by reviewing the progress made over the past two and a half years in each of the five goal areas. Attendees were amazed to see the number of administrative and operational accomplishments achieved since the plan was adopted – and spent most of the day updating and outlining new tasks to continue moving SRT forward in each of its goal areas. In August, SRT adopted an updated strategic plan that will guide the efforts of the organization for the next few years.

One of SRT's most important accomplishments in 2022 was implementing the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan, which was approved by both MABAS Division 4 and MABAS Division 5 in 2021. This included incorporating the program into the annual budget review process for the first time so that both the operating and capital budgets are presented together each year. This change allows SRT to consider both the small and large needs of its teams every year and better prepare for future projects in a comprehensive manner. It also provided opportunities for the MABAS divisions to recognize projects that could receive outside funding or identify ways to collaborate to share resources more efficiently.

As the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal began rolling out recertification requirements for firefighters, SRT worked with the training officers from MABAS Division 4 and MABAS Division 5 in 2022 to begin tracking training objectives for special team related certifications. SRT updated its training sign-in sheets for the SRT Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue Teams and centralized data entry of training objectives for these teams into an enterprise training site for all members to access.

As has become an annual practice, SRT reviewed and updated all eight of its Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) and associated forms in 2022. We also continued our efforts in succession planning by expanding the team leadership groups for several teams and appointing team members to fill vacated spots. SRT's website also received several significant updates. The website was updated to include both video and podcast capabilities and content – and now includes educational, marketing, and recruitment focused content. All these projects, both big and small, continue to improve SRT and ensure that the organization meets the needs of its member organizations. While a great deal has been accomplished over the past few years, the updated strategic plan demonstrates the many areas that require continued improvement in 2023 and beyond.

2022 Operating Budget and Expenditures



Team Responses

There were six SRT incidents in 2022 and a total of nine team responses (some incidents required a response by multiple teams).

Hazardous Materials	1
Mechanics	1
Technical Rescue	1
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	1
Sonar	4
Swiftwater	0
Wildland	1
TOTAL	9

Team Membership 12/31/22

Hazardous Materials	68
Mechanics	14
Technical Rescue	68
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	100
Sonar	32
Swiftwater	37
Wildland	23
TOTAL	342

SRT Coordinated Trainings

Hazardous Materials	43
Mechanics	15
Technical Rescue	58
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	44
Sonar	17
Swiftwater	18
Wildland	15
TOTAL	210

Team Member Training Hours (SRT)**

Hazardous Materials	2,062
Mechanics	174
Technical Rescue	1,611
Water Rescue & Recovery	
Dive	888
Sonar	378
Swiftwater	363
Wildland	319
TOTAL	5,795

** Please note that these figures only include SRT coordinated training. Team members also complete elective/department 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.

2022 Statistics

Team Members 68
SRT Coordinated Trainings 43
SRT Training Hours 2,062

2022 Highlights

Coordinated a county-wide drill utilizing the Union Pacific Railroad's training cars.

Responded to Spring Grove for an incident involving recalled chlorine tablets. Distributed a safety notice to the team on the incident, including recommended safety procedures, given the widespread nature of the issue.

Hired three outside instructors to provide targeted team training in areas such as RIT (rapid intervention team) and decontamination.



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.

2022 Statistics

Team Members 14
SRT Coordinated Trainings 15
SRT Training Hours 174

2022 Highlights

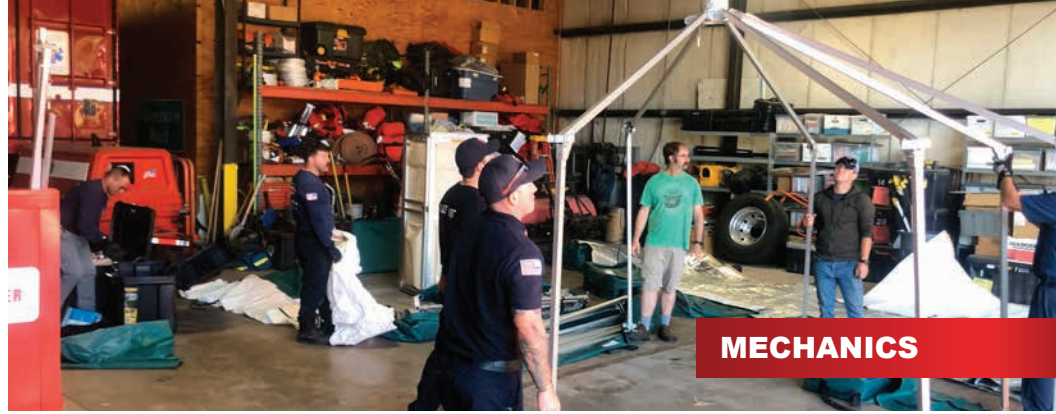
Outfitted Wildland Trailer 5 with emergency lights and new lettering/stripping/logos.

Modified the exterior of HazMat 5 with new lettering/stripping/logos to match the rest of SRT's assets.

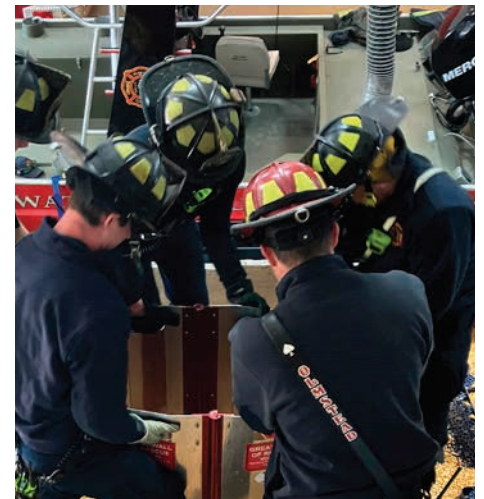


Repainted and added new lettering/stripping/logos to HazMat Support 4.

Appointed a new Division 5 Assistant Mechanics Team Leader.



MECHANICS



Technical Rescue Team

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

2022 Statistics

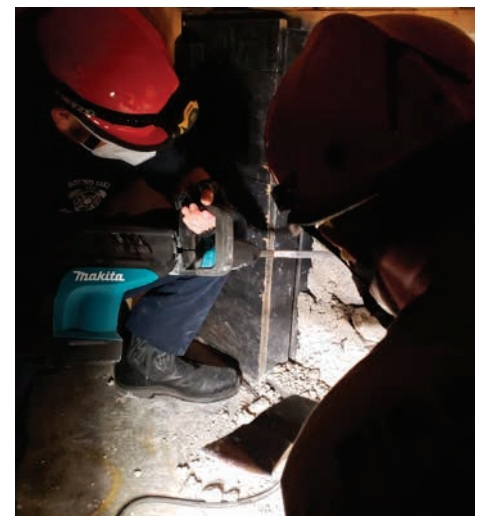
Team Members 68
SRT Coordinated Trainings 58
SRT Training Hours 1,611

2022 Highlights

Inventoried and put into service new 11 mm rope on both the Division 4 and Division 5 TRT containers.

Purchased a new rotary concrete saw for the Division 5 TRT container and new trench shoring for the Division 5 Trench container.

Participated in a joint training on highlines with the SRT Swiftwater Team at the McHenry Dam.



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).

2022 Statistics

Team Members	100
SRT Coordinated Trainings	44
SRT Training Hours	888

2022 Highlights

- Appointed an Assistant Dive Coordinator for MABAS Division 5.
- Ordered and put into service a drowning victim recovery bag.
- 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.

2022 Statistics

Team Members	32
SRT Coordinated Trainings	17
SRT Training Hours	378

2022 Highlights

- Successfully lobbied MABAS-IL to provide the team a new multi-frequency, high resolution sector scan sonar head.
- Collaborated with the Greater Round Lake Fire Protection District to provide for a boat intergovernmental sharing arrangement. This arrangement allows the Sonar Team to use the fire district's new boat as their team boat.
- Purchased new LiveScope sonar equipment and installed a new computer and two new monitors on the sonar boat.



Swiftwater

Responsible for incidents involving swift moving or flood water.

2022 Statistics

Team Members	37
SRT Coordinated Trainings	18
SRT Training Hours	363

2022 Highlights

- Created specifications for, and ordered, a replacement trailer to better meet the team's needs.
- Instructed Swiftwater I & II new member classes in the spring through the McHenry Township Fire Protection District.

WILDLAND



Wildland Task Force

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

2022 Statistics

Team Members	23
SRT Coordinated Trainings	15
SRT Training Hours	319

2022 Highlights

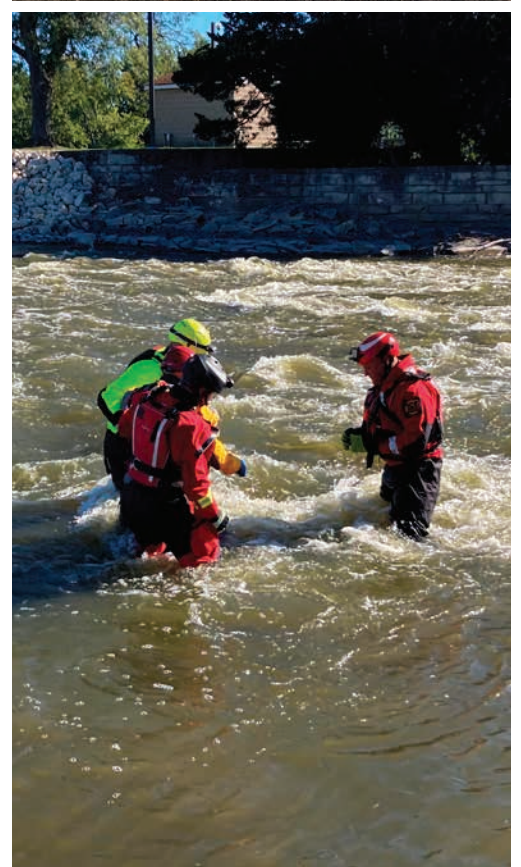
Appointed a new team Training Coordinator.

Participated in an IFSI Field Day training in McHenry, focusing on ignition operations.

Purchased a new generator for Wildland Trailer 5.



SWIFTWATER



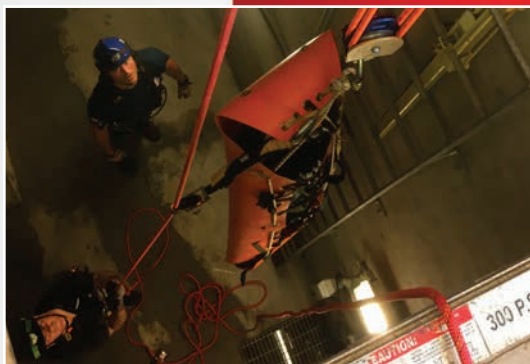
MEMBER AGENCIES

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



MABAS Divisions 4 & 5 SRT

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