

# 2024 Annual Report



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) in Lake & McHenry Counties (IL). 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

## 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. 2024 JAC members were:

### **Steve Spraker, Chairman**

(McHenry Township Fire Protection District)

### **Ron Echtenacher, Vice-Chairman**

(Countryside Fire Protection District)

### **Greg Formica, Secretary/Treasurer**

(Greater Round Lake Fire Protection District)

### **Paul Kllicker**

(Spring Grove Fire Protection District)

### **Bob Kreher**

(Fox River Grove Fire Protection District)

### **Steve Holtz**

(Libertyville Fire Department)

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Jeff Steingart

### **OPERATIONS CHIEFS**

#### **Chas Buschick, Division 4**

(Wauconda Fire Protection District)

#### **Chris Way, Division 5**

(Nunda Rural Fire Protection District)

## ***A Message from the Chairman...***

As we reflect on 2024, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the Fire Chiefs of MABAS Divisions 4 and 5 for their continued support of our Specialized Response Teams. Your leadership and collaboration are essential to our mission. Equally, I am grateful for the dedication of the firefighters who serve on our teams. Your expertise, training, and commitment ensure that we remain ready to respond whenever and wherever needed. Your contributions have made a measurable difference in the safety of our communities.

This year also marked a significant transition in our organization. After nine years of outstanding leadership, Christina Loomis concluded her service as our Administrative Coordinator. Christina's impact on SRT has been profound—her vision, organizational skill, and tireless work have shaped us into the strong, capable organization that we are today. In the interim, the Ops Chiefs and Team Leaders filled in the gap. We are also excited to welcome Jeff Steingart as our new Chief Administrative Officer. Jeff brings a wealth of experience and dedication, and I am confident that he will be an invaluable asset as we continue to grow and advance our mission.

I am proud of what we've accomplished together in 2024 and look forward to building on that momentum in 2025 as we continue to strengthen our teams, support our members, and serve our communities.



***Scan QR Code to Watch  
the SRT Story Video***



# 2024 Incidents

**16** TOTAL INCIDENTS  
**32** TEAM RESPONSES

**5** DIVE TEAM

**3** HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

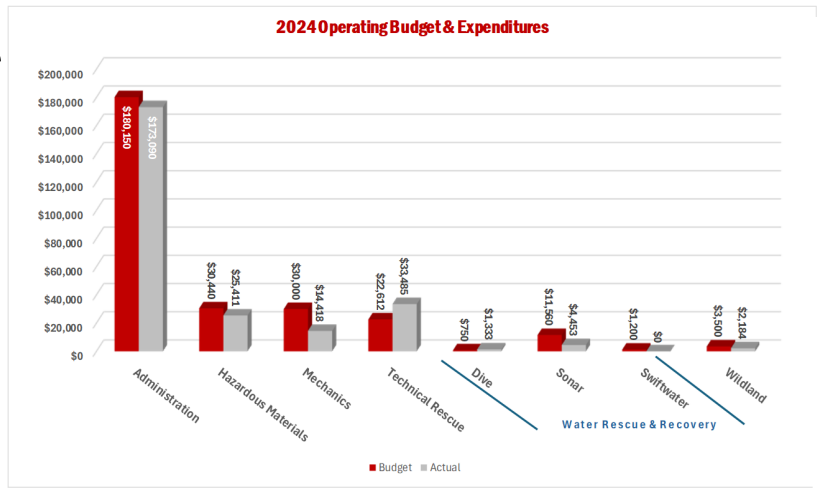
**17** MECHANICS TEAM\*

**6** SONAR TEAM

**0** SWIFTWATER TEAM

**3** TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

**3** WILDLAND FIRE TEAM



**\$173,731**  
MABAS Division 4

**\$106,480**  
MABAS Division 5

2024 Member  
Dues / Assessments  
(Revenue)

→ **TOTAL: Budget - \$280,211.54 / Expenditures - \$254,530.77** ←



\* The Mechanics Team Responds to most incidents to support the teams.





The MABAS Divisions 4 & 5 Specialized Response Teams responded to 16 incidents in 2024. Some incidents require the response of multiple teams. The mechanics team responds to most incidents to support operations.

The map below indicates where the various responses were located; most across Lake and McHenry Counties. However, two (2) incidents were interdivisional MABAS requests in Kenosha County, WI. for a brush fire and dive/sonar operation on Lake Michigan.



## LAKE COUNTY

Square Miles  
443.6

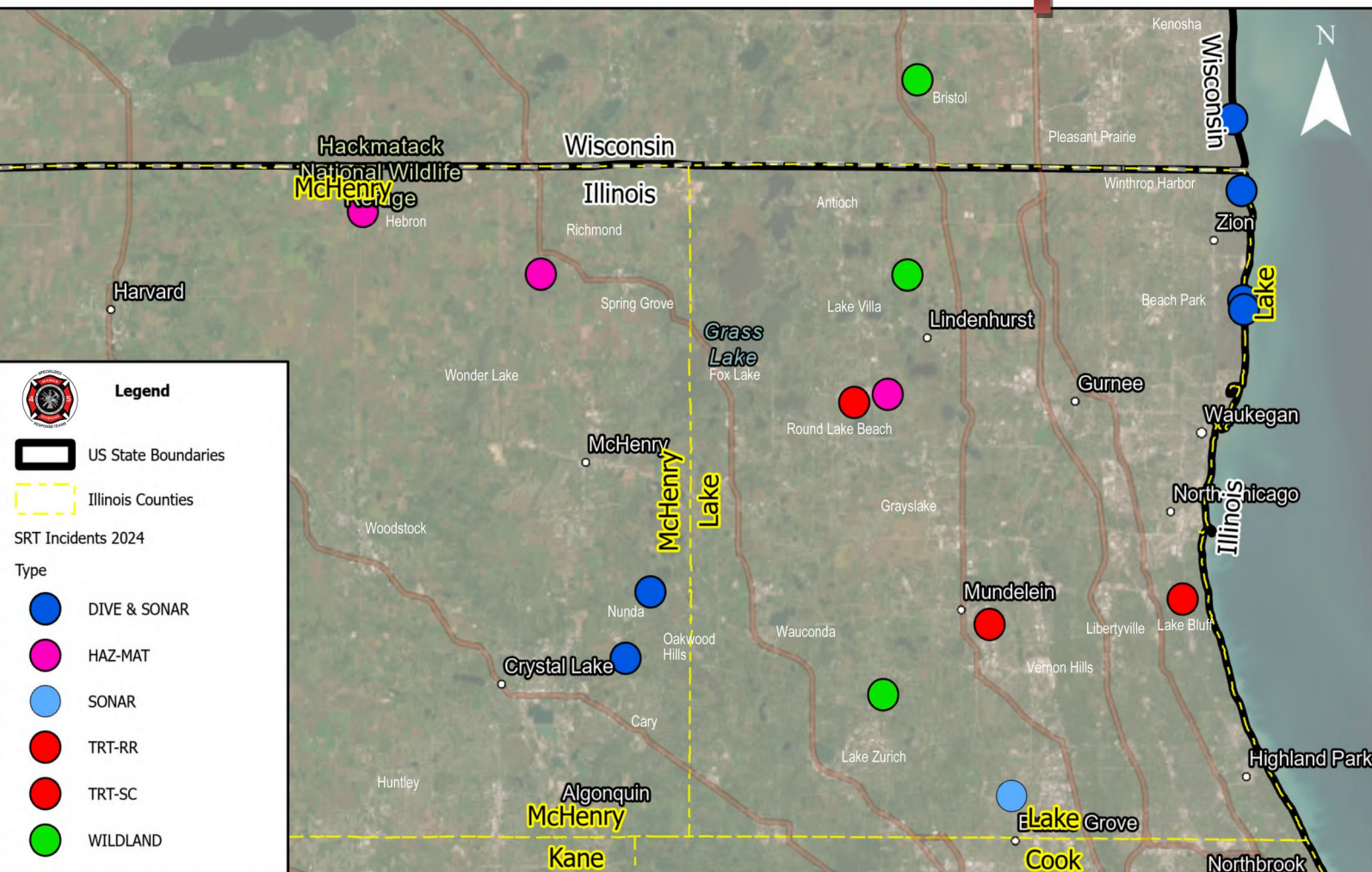
Population  
708,760

## McHENRY COUNTY

Square Miles  
603.4

Population  
312,800

# SRT Incident Location Map - 2024





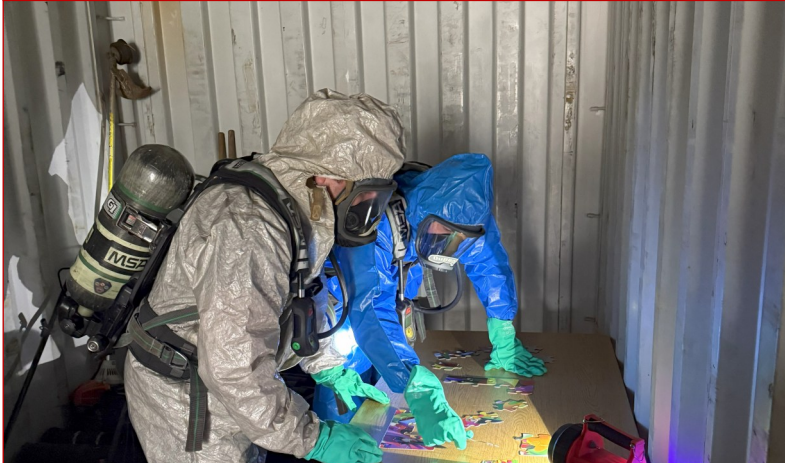


**Team Members - 410**  
(Technicians)

**SRT Training Sessions - 214**

**SRT Training Hours\* - 6,038**

\*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.





# 2024 Specialized Response Teams

## WATER RESCUE & RECOVERY TEAM

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

### DIVE

Rescue and/or recovery of drowning victims (often also assists with investigations and evidence recovery).

Incidents .....	5
Team Members .....	115
SRT Trainings .....	42
SRT Training Hours .....	942

### SONAR

Searches bodies of water for victims and/or evidence using side and sector scan equipment.



Incidents .....	6
Team Members .....	46
SRT Trainings .....	15
SRT Training Hours .....	665

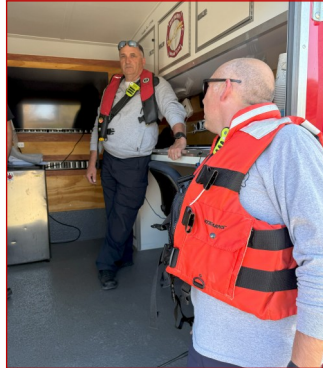
### SWIFTWATER

Responsible for incidents involving fast moving and flood water rescues.

Incidents .....	0
Team Members .....	46
SRT Trainings .....	25
SRT Training Hours .....	414

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Swiftwater Team Leader and founder, Jimmy Pellitteri retired
- Secured funding for replacement of side-scan sonar unit and remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV)
- Dive & Sonar teams responded to Wisconsin to assist with search Wisconsin for missing scuba diver in 100'+ deep water, 5 miles from shore



## TECHNICAL RESCUE

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

Incidents .....	3
Team Members .....	72
SRT Trainings .....	56
SRT Training Hours .....	1,713

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Purchased updated equipment; confined space air-packs, rope & rope hardware
- Conducted two, six hour long drills





# Statistics & Highlights

## M A B A S SRT DIVISIONS 4 & 5

DIVE · HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
MECHANICS · SONAR · SWIFTWATER  
TECHNICAL RESCUE · WILDLAND



## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Control and mitigation of hazardous materials incidents; including identification, assessment, containment/confinement and decontamination.

Incidents .....	3
Team Members .....	87
SRT Trainings .....	45
SRT Training Hours .....	1,752

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosted a Haz-Mat Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) training course
- Implemented hybrid decontamination system



## MECHANICS

Support all the teams during both training and incidents, by ensuring all assets (vehicles and equipment) are operating properly and reliably on a day-to-day basis.

Incidents .....	12
Team Members .....	17
SRT Trainings .....	17
SRT Training Hours .....	192

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Worked with Wildland Team to configure new Wildland 4 Trailer
- Evaluated and developed spec for new mechanics truck
- Performed general maintenance on SRT vehicles, tools & equipment
- Reconfigured inside of containers

## WILDLAND FIRE

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

Incidents .....	3
Team Members .....	27
SRT Trainings .....	14
SRT Training Hours .....	360

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Purchased and outfitted new wildland trailer that is housed at Lake Zurich Fire Sta. #2
- Responded to large wildland fire in Bristol, WI





## Member Agencies

### MABAS Division 4 (Lake County)

- 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 Department
- Libertyville Fire Department
- Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District
- Long Grove Fire Protection District
- Mundelein Fire Department
- Newport Twp. Fire Protection District
- North Chicago Fire Department
- Wauconda Fire Protection District
- Waukegan Fire Department
- Wheeling Fire Department
- Winthrop Harbor Fire Department
- Zion Fire & Rescue Department

### MABAS Division 5 (McHenry County)

- 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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