

# Stephenson County Fire Chiefs Association Inc.

## MABAS Division 17

**Loren Ludeking**  
Rock City Fire  
President  
815-541-3585  
rcfd3581@yahoo.com

**Brad Strong**  
Lena Fire  
Treasurer  
815-275-5933  
lenafire@hotmail.com



**Eric Bruning**  
German Valley Fire  
Vice President  
815-238-7596  
ebruning@gvfpd.com

**Tom Korte**  
Freeport Fire  
Secretary  
815-541-8667  
tmkjlk@comcast.net

### Minutes from March 4, 2026

The monthly meeting of MABAS Division 17 was called to order by President Ludeking at 1930hrs @ The Winslow Community Building.

A motion to accept the Minutes from the February meeting was approved. A motion to accept the Treasures report was also approved.

#### Committees

- **Training:**
  - Local classes were listed.
    - April 2-4, 11-12 & 18-19 Heavy Vehicle Rescue class at North Park Fire is full.
- **Communications/Dispatch:**
  - The February calls were submitted:
    - 19 total calls.
      - 5 EMS & 3 Fire within the Division
      - 9 EMS & 2 Fire from outside the Division
- **TRT:**
  - Training is scheduled for March 10 with Division 8, Wide Area Search @ Levings Lake.
- **Hazmat:**
  - Tanker Truck training with Stephenson FS, March 10 @ FS FastStop and CN Railroad Training, April 14 @ Wallace Yards.
- **Equipment Replacement:**
  - Hazmat & TRT radio batteries were delivered and placed in service.
- **Maintenance:**
  - The Hazmat & TRT SCBA units will have Annual Flow Testing done March 16-17.
  - 6 Hazmat cylinders were hydrotested. 1 TRT cylinder needs to be done.

#### **Represented Departments**

Cedarville Fire  
Dakota Fire  
Davis Fire  
Freeport Fire

Freeport Rural Fire  
German Valley Fire  
Lena Fire

Orangeville Fire  
Pearl City Fire  
Rock City Fire  
Winslow Fire

- **EMA:**

- The EMA has a 100kw mobile generator that they are servicing. It will then be used as backup at the Courthouse and available to any other agency that needs it. If you have specific connection needs, contact them so that it can be completed in advance.
- The National Weather Service is not hosting a Storm Spotter Class in the County this year. No one will lose their certification. A class is being held in Winnebago County.
- The area Red Cross has been reorganized. The Contact Office is now in the Quad Cities. They still have personnel in the area, but the calls get routed through the QC office.
- The EMA Office is researching Weather Radio prices. They are planning on offering Midland radios for about \$35.
- Winnebago & Ogle Counties are looking into alternative methods for weather warnings and discontinuing their Storm Sirens due to maintenance and replacement costs.

### **Old Business**

- The Active Shooter/School Safety class went very well. The class consisted of explaining some of the tactics and terminology. Multiple scenarios were acted out over the 2 days with School personnel conducting student re-unification scenarios.
- There have only been a few updates to the Asset, Resource and Contact list so far. It will be sent out again this month for final updates.
- The calibration requirements for the new MABAS 4-gas monitors was discussed. The Departments can notify the local MABAS Op's Chief for free calibration or the Division can assist in the purchase of Cal gas and the Hazmat Coordinator will complete the calibration as needed. The group voted to purchase the Cal gas and have Hazmat do the Calibrations.

### **New Business**

- The MABAS Summit was discussed. Secretary Korte had to return to Freeport Tuesday afternoon for a meeting, so he missed the Executive Board meeting. He is expecting to get some notes from the meeting to pass along.
  - Dispatcher Ashley Deutsch had a list of questions for the group.
    - MABAS is requesting that along with the monthly reporting of Box Alarms, they also want Divisions to report on the use of all the MABAS issued assets whether they are involved in a response or used for routine events. **We need to do a better job of reporting.**
    - Do we have Inter-Divisional or Out Going Strike Team/Task Force Box Cards? **Yes, we do but they need to be reviewed.**
    - Does the Division Board get notified by Red Center if there is a large tasking? **Yes, all the Executive Board members get notified and then we try to determine if the Division can fulfil the request. Many times, we only have 10-30 min to provide a response.**

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- Do any Departments have a Public Information Officer? The PIO duties are part of the Fire Marshal position at Freeport Fire. Most of the other Departments rely on their Fire Chief. The County EMA is also trained in providing the PIO duties.
- Do any of the Departments have a MayDay procedure? Many do, but Dispatch usually cannot hear the Fireground traffic.
- Is there anything the Division would like Dispatch to do different? Dispatch was reminded to use the “Countywide Page” for Mutual Aid/Box Alarms so that the other Departments know something is going on and they may be able to anticipate being called. Departments were also reminded to use IFERN to respond to Box Alarms and Mutual Aid calls.
- Some of the City and County dispatchers would like to visit the RED Center dispatch. Secretary Korte will work on setting that up.
- The annual Firefighter Stag was discussed. Davis Fire might be hosting this year.

### Announcements

- March 7, German Valley Soup Supper
- March 21, Browntown Fire Chief Dave Plath retirement
- March 28, Cedarville Pancake Breakfast
- March 28, Orangeville Steak Fry and Feather Party
- May 2, Davis Fire Spaghetti Supper and Gun Raffle

The next meeting will be April 1 @ Pearl City Fire. This will be a Dinner Meeting.  
 Rib Eye steak or 2 Chicken Breasts with fixin's, \$20  
 Please RSVP to Chief Pickard by March 26 at 815-821-2403 or [pickard29@yahoo.com](mailto:pickard29@yahoo.com)

The meeting was adjourned at 2015hr.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Tom Korte, Secretary

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