

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
tmkjl@comcast.net

Minutes from September 2, 2026

The monthly meeting of MABAS Division 17 was called to order by President Ludeking at 1930hrs @ German Valley Fire.

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

Committees

- **Training:**
 - Local classes were listed.
- **Communications/Dispatch:**
 - The August calls were submitted:
 - 20 total calls.
 - 16 EMS & 2 Fire within the Division
 - 1 EMS & 1 Fire from outside the Division
 - Departments are reminded to use IFERN on Mutual Aid calls until a fire ground frequency is announced.
 - When possible, use the dispatch centers 9 digit phone numbers for non-emergency information.
- **TRT:**
 - The team held training with Division 8 on Sept 1.
- **Hazmat:**
 - The Hazmat team is planning for their Validation Exercise on Oct 7. They have a couple training dates in preparation for that.
- **EMS:**
 - Freeport Fire has had issues with contacting Forrester Fire during ALS Upgrade calls. The Ogle County Dispatch doesn't want them to use IFERN. A request is being forwarded to see if it is ok with them to use IREACH.

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

- ***Maintenance:***

- The UTV trailer is having the tires replaced and bearings greased.

Old Business

- German Valley Fire has offered to house the Tent trailer and Smokehouse. There are no updates on locations for the HazMat & TRT trailers yet.
- There are no new details about the Freeport Airshow. The usual pre-show training is expected to be held Friday night. More details will be coming.

New Business

- A meeting was held with ComEd, Stephenson County EMA, Stephenson County Sheriff's personnel and Freeport Fire personnel about a project along the Pecatonica Prairie Bike Path.
 - ComEd has started replacing wooden electric poles with metal ones. The work consists of drilling large holes and constructing large concrete bases for the new poles. The project will go through the winter and take up to 2 years to complete. This path goes through Freeport City, Freeport Rural, German Valley and Pecatonica Fire districts. The contractors are placing large wooden pads along the bike path for construction access. These pads are not intended for our emergency access. Our only access will be restricted to grass trucks and UTV's.
 - The primary concern is any medical issue or a Technical Rescue response.
 - The Sheriff's department is planning to stage their UTV along the route and asked if we could also stage the MABAS UTV along the route also. The actual locations are not yet confirmed.
 - More details as they become available.

Announcements

- Rock City Fire Fish Boil, Sept 19
- Cedarville Fire Feather Party, Sept 26
- Lena Fire Feather Party, Oct 3
- Firefighter Stag, Oct 17 @ Davis Fire
- FFD is planning to use the Smokehouse for Fire Prevention this year. Any other Departments that want to use it this year contact Fire Marshal Cox for scheduling.

Our next meeting will be on October 7 @ Dakota Fire.

The meeting was adjourned at 1950hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Korte, Secretary

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