

Stephenson County Fire Chiefs Association Inc.

MABAS Division 17

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Minutes from May 6, 2026

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

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

Committees

- **Training:**
 - Local classes were listed.
- **Communications/Dispatch:**
 - The April calls were submitted:
 - 23 total calls.
 - 15 EMS & 3 Fire within the Division
 - 4 EMS & 1 Fire from outside the Division
 - Central Square has an App called “Field Ops”. This App can give access to Dispatching details, notes, times and response mapping. Any Department that is interested, can notify Robyn Stovall for the link.
 - There have been some changes made at the County Dispatch to eliminate the repeated dispatch alerts through “I Am Responding”. These extra alerts were disruptive and added to Departments receiving additional IAR charges. If you are still getting un-needed repeat alerts, contact Lt Backus at the Sheriff’s Department.
- **Maintenance:**
 - Has the UTV been serviced lately?
- **EMA:**
 - The County is asking the State for a Disaster Declaration for the recent storms. The EMA is also working to secure some Small Business Loans to help damaged businesses.

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

Old Business

- The Annual Firefighter Stag was discussed. Davis Fire is planning to host in the fall.
- A summary of the February MABAS Executive Board Meeting was given.

New Business

- The Pearl City & Lena storms were discussed.
 - The Pearl City storm on April 14 was reviewed by Sheriff Stovall. There were 2 areas of significant damage, The intersection of Rt 73 & Pearl City Rd. There was a large tree down blocking Rt 73 & Pearl City Rd. The other area damage was north of town along Rt 73. There was a long stretch of 27 electric poles that took out the power to the town. The Fire Department and Public Works were able to handle the damage on their own.
 - The tornado in Lena on April 17 caused much more damage. The storm hit the north and east sides of the town, including the school buildings, Grove St and Parkside areas. There were about 13 homes totally damaged, a large number of trees and power lines down all over the town, blocking most of the streets. There were no reported injuries during the storm or clean up. Over the next couple days, hundreds of people donated time and materials to help clean up storm debris. The Sheriff's Department shut down all traffic into town during the cleanup.
 - The Lena Fire Department wants to thank everyone for the huge response initially and during the cleanup.
 - Some points noted for the future:
 - The Sheriff Reserve trailer can run more efficiently if it has access to a 220V/50amp power source.
 - Restricting movement into and within the affected area greatly reduces the chance of injuries and allows for movement by responders.
 - Coordination and communication are key during large scale events.
 - Management of volunteers and donations is a must.
 - A scaled response needs to be implemented to be able to sustain a long duration event.
 - Know your area resources & have multiple contacts.
- Orangeville & Rock City are currently having issues with their radio systems but expect resolution in the next week.

The next meeting will be June 3 @ Lena Fire.

The meeting was adjourned at 2010hr.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Korte, Secretary

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