

<b><i>MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM</i></b>		<b>TROY FIRE DEPT. TACTICAL PLAN 216.01</b>	
<i>Issue</i>	<i>01/11</i>	<i>Revised:</i>	<i>03/14</i>
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## **Mutual Aid Box Alarm System**

The Oakland County Fire Mutual Aid Association (OCFMAA), MABAS Division 3201, of which Troy is a member, has adopted MABAS for inter-department mutual aid. Each participating agency has developed MABAS response cards and obtained approval from assisting agencies for their response in the event mutual aid is needed. Each department has agreed to their participation as listed on another agency's MABAS card. Consideration has been given to the type and location of resources, and the order in which they will be called. Cards cover Box Alarm (1<sup>st</sup> Alarm) through 5<sup>th</sup> Alarm.

At a large incident requiring additional resources, instead of having to remember and decide who specifically to request for assistance, the IC will simply request the appropriate level of alarm to the dispatcher who will reference the MABAS card and make the appropriate notification to Oakland County Dispatch who will in turn notify the affected departments.

An Incident Commander still has the option to call for a single unit for a specific purpose, for example a ladder truck, when another alarm level is not needed. An IC, however, should not "piecemeal" another alarm by calling additional units one at a time. Better to upgrade to another alarm level and stage the resources until needed.

### Definitions

In order to avoid confusion and delay, standard terminology and procedures must be followed. (See OCFMAA's MABAS Resource Type Terminology document.) By using these terms and procedures routinely within our own department, they will come naturally at a MABAS incident. The following definitions have been assigned to the MABAS card:

- Still Alarm: Single unit response from a single station (1 Engine)
- Full Alarm: Multi-unit response from a single station (1 Engine & 1 Ladder)
- Box Alarm: Multi-unit response from two or more stations or departments
  - (In Troy, this is 2 Engines, 2 Ladders, 1 Rescue & 1 Air Tender)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Alarm: Additional Full response after the Box Alarm assignment
  - (OCFMAA recommends 2 Engines and 1 Ladder on mutual aid with 12 firefighters)
  - (In Troy, this is another station consisting of 1 Engine & 1 Ladder and all available firefighters)

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### Examples

- Still / Full Alarm:
  - “Station 1, respond to an activated fire alarm at 200 West Big Beaver Road...”
  - “Station 4, respond to a vehicle fire at 412 West Fourteen Mile Road...”
  - “Station 3, respond to a smoke investigation at 2751 Townhill...”
- Box Alarm:
  - “Station 2, Station 6, Rescue 4, and Air Tender 3, respond to a structure fire at 5500 Crooks...”
  - “Dispatch from Townhill Command, we have a working fire in the basement of a two story single family residence, upgrade this to a Box Alarm.”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm to 5<sup>th</sup> Alarm:
  - “Dispatch from Crooks Command, we have a working fire in a large mixed-use occupancy with exposures, dispatch a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm. Staging will be in the parking lot to the west of the incident.”

An adequate understanding of MABAS and proper interpretation of the MABAS cards will provide for a coordinated and efficient response to multiple alarm incidents in Troy and in other communities.

### **Troy MABAS Box Alarm Cards**

There are 24 MABAS Box Alarm cards for the City of Troy. Each of the six fire station districts has been subdivided into four geographic areas. Each card has a specific identification, or “Box number” for dispatch reference defined as 63 (Oakland County) – TRF (Troy Fire) – (Station number and district quarter geographic ID). For example, 63-TRF-11

The top portion of the card is the Local Dispatch information. This information is typically obtained from the CAD system and is used on a daily basis for dispatching runs in Troy.

The lower portion of the card is the County Dispatch information. This information will be referenced by both the Troy and County Dispatch centers when a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm or greater is requested by the incident commander.

Once notified, Oakland County Dispatch will, in-turn, notify other affected departments for all multiple alarm fires. Additionally, OCD must be contacted for specialized resources as listed on the MABAS card.

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Each alarm level in Troy is another station with one engine and one ladder truck assigned. All alarms have Troy apparatus assigned with outside mutual aid responding only on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Alarm to change quarters, unless Troy stations/apparatus are otherwise unavailable.

### **Apparatus Staffing**

Per OCFMAA / MABAS directive and TFD Policy, apparatus shall be staffed as follows:

- Engines will have (4) firefighters in turnout gear
  - (3) firefighters and (1) officer
- Ladder Trucks will have (4) firefighters in turnout gear
  - (3) firefighters and (1) officer
- Air Tenders will have (2) firefighters in turnout gear
- The Fire Chief and/or the Division Assistant Chief will respond on all MABAS requests.
  - The Duty Officer will respond in their absence
- No POVs are to respond

### **Station Coverage (Change Quarters)**

More emphasis will be placed on Change Quarters (fill-in) assignments in Troy. Change of quarters will occur at Station 1 and Station 2, beginning with 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm. In many cases, Station 1 or 2 will be staffed by Troy apparatus. In other cases, Station 1 or 2 will be staffed by outside apparatus. Access to the station(s) will be via the Knox Box. The objectives behind these fill-ins are as follows:

- Centralize coverage for the remainder of the city
- Bring the potential next-due apparatus and crew closer to the incident in case it escalates to another alarm level
- Cause the least amount of impact on neighboring departments

Any additional Troy personnel not involved in a fill-in will standby and staff the remaining apparatus at their respective station.

Following a perceived sequence of events, when a Troy incident reaches a 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm level (four stations committed), change quarters will occur from the closest available engine, with appropriate staffing, be it from Troy and/or another department.

### **Response Procedure**

When a Troy station is dispatched to respond to assist another department, the appropriate apparatus will respond accordingly – either to the incident scene, to staging, or to change quarters to a specific station for coverage. Therefore, it is important to listen to the dispatch

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message for the proper assignment and accompanying radio talk group. As with our own Troy fill-ins, apparatus must be properly staffed before leaving. It is important, therefore, for members to respond to the station quickly, but safely.

When properly staffed, Troy FD members will:

- Listen for assignment and corresponding talk group
- Ensure all personnel on-board are fully bunkered in turn-out gear and ready for assignment upon arrival, unless responding to change quarters
- Call enroute and arrival with Troy Dispatch on TRF\_FD1 talk group
- If dispatched to the scene, the officer on-board will contact the incident commander on the assigned talk group (FD\_CMDx) upon arrival and carry out the assignment
- If dispatched to the staging area, contact the staging area manager on the assigned talk group (STAGE\_x), stage appropriately, and prepare for an assignment
- If dispatched to change quarters, contact the local dispatch center on the assigned talk group (FILL\_x) once at the station, make entry into the station, obtain necessary materials such as mapping, and maintain a radio watch on that talk group for any dispatched incidents.
  - Per OCFMAA / MABAS directive, the station being covered should have the following:
    - A means to access the station (key in Knox Box)
    - MABAS resource kit consisting of necessary items for use and any directions for reference

### **MABAS Incident Profiles**

MABAS Incident Profiles are a block of talk groups assigned by Oakland County Dispatch. When a department requests a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm, Oakland County Dispatch will assign one of four Incident Profiles. Each profile provides interoperability and allows for four simultaneous multiple alarm incidents throughout the County.

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<u>Incident 1 Profile</u>	<u>Incident 2 Profile</u>	<u>Common Use</u>	<u>Incident 3 profile</u>	<u>Incident 4 Profile</u>
TRF_FD1	TRF_FD1	Troy FD 1	TRF_FD1	TRF_FD1
TRF_FD2	TRF_FD2	Troy FD 2	TRF_FD2	TRF_FD2
TRF_FD3	TRF_FD3	Troy FD 3	TRF_FD3	TRF_FD3
FD_CMD1	FD_CMD2	Incident Commander	FD_CMD3	FD_CMD4
MABAS 11	MABAS 21	Tactical	MABAS 31	MABAS 42
MABAS 12	MABAS 22	Tactical	MABAS 32	MABAS 42
MABAS 13	MABAS 23	Tactical	MABAS 33	MABAS 43
MABAS 14	MABAS 24	Tactical	MABAS 34	MABAS 44
STAGE_1	STAGE_2	Staging	STAGE_3	STAGE_4
CWF_FD1	CWF_FD2	Countywide Fire	CWF_FD3	CWF_FD4
CW_EMS1	CW_EMS2	Countywide EMS	CW_EMS3	CW_EMS4
CW_POL1	CW_POL2	Countywide Police	CW_POL3	CW_POL4
FILL_1	FILL_2	Change Quarters	FILL_3	FILL_4
MABAS_D	MABAS_D	MABAS Dispatch	MABAS_D	MABAS_D
ALLDISP	ALLDISP	All Dispatch	ALLDISP	ALLDISP
TRF_EMG	TRF_EMG	Troy FD Emergency	TRF_EMG	TRF_EMG

### Receiving Mutual Aid from Other Departments

Mutual aid response to Troy will primarily be for change quarters on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Alarm. If, for some reason, mutual aid resources respond to the scene, the IC must ensure radio talk-group commonality through use of the assigned MABAS Profile.

### MABAS Request Procedures – IC Calling Dispatch

The IC must recognize the need for additional resources early in his/her on-going size-up and request additional help as demonstrated previously.

Upon the receipt of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm or greater request from the IC, the dispatcher will dispatch the next due Troy station, refer to the applicable MABAS card for any additional resources appropriate for the current alarm level, and notify Oakland County Dispatch.

### Holding The Alarm

When the IC determines additional resources will not be needed, he/she will inform the dispatcher that the incident is under control and will hold it to the current alarm level. The dispatcher will acknowledge the report and inform Oakland County on MABAS\_D that the incident is under control and will be held to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm, etc. OCD will acknowledge the report and inform all area dispatch centers of the same.