



MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM

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To: All Chicago Metro Area
MABAS Fire Agencies

From: James P. Reardon, Fire Chief (retired)
President & CEO
MABAS-Illinois

Re: Change of Quarters – Chicago Fire Department
MABAS Division 9 Information and Guidance

MABAS has installed change of quarters wall cabinets in all City of Chicago Fire Stations – MABAS Division 9. The change of quarters cabinets are located conspicuously inside the main entrance to each facility near the apparatus floor watch desk.

The cabinets are mounted on walls at eye level. The cabinets are black in color and have a large MABAS logo on the front door of the cabinet which is also labeled "Change of Quarters".

In addition to the installation of change of quarters cabinets in all operational fire stations, they have also been installed at:

- Quinn Fire Academy, 558 West Dekoven
- Chicago Fire Department Air Mask Services, 1044 North Orleans
- Helicopter Air Operations, Foreman Drive and the Lake Front
- Chicago Fire Department Warehouse, 31st and Honore Street
- Squad 7 Quarters, Main Terminal Access Road O'Hare IAP

The following operational guidance is provided regarding the change of quarters cabinets and their use by suburban Fire/EMS companies.

Each cabinet has the following inventory for access and use by suburban fire companies during their change of quarters assignment.

- (2) two – Chicago Fire Department – Division 9 MABAS map books
- (1) one – City of Chicago hydrant wrench (controlled and serialized item)
- (1) one – 4" to 5" Stortz adapter
- (1) one – 1 ½ male Chicago thread to 1 ½ female national standard thread
- (1) one – 1 ½ male national standard thread to 1 ½ female Chicago thread
- (1) one – 2 ½ male Chicago thread to 2 ½ female national standard thread

To access a Chicago Fire Department Firehouse – Every MABAS metro Chicago area suburban fire house has been issued (2) two Gamewell fire alarm box CFD keys by their respective division. The CFD Gamewell key will allow access to the fire alarm pull box station in front of or mounted on each CFD fire house. Inside the Gamewell fire alarm box/pull station mounted on, or in front of each CFD fire station is either;

- A key with "Do not use" etched on it –
- A key with "Gamewell" etched on it –
- A key with "Gamewell" etched on it – (Deleted for security reasons)

It is recommended that the Gamewell box keys be secured at the suburban fire station level, the same way the MABAS change of quarters Knox Box key is secured. (Gamewell keys issued to MABAS Divisions; (1-2-3-4-5-10-11-12-13-15-16-17-19-20-21-22-24-27).

Note: Before entering a Chicago Fire Department fire station determine if there is a mascot dog inside and whether the mascot is happy to see you – or not. Take actions as indicated appropriate.

Once inside the Chicago Fire Department change of quarters firehouse locate the MABAS change of quarters cabinet. The cabinet is secured with a MABAS unique padlock. The padlock can be opened by the universal MABAS change of quarters Knox box key every suburban fire agency should have.

Upon release from the change of quarters assignment – all equipment and map books must be returned to the MABAS change of quarters cabinet before returning to their suburban station. Companies who do not return the equipment will be accountable for replacement of missing items.

Chicago Fire Department Senior Chief Officers have been issued a suburban MABAS Knox box change of quarters access key for reciprocal operations. All CFD Battalion Chief cars have been issued a set of adapters as previously noted in this memo.

