

# **PREFACE**

The Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) is the designated coordination and authorizing entity for the Wisconsin Statewide Emergency Response Plan, through statute. Additionally, WEM in conjunction with the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association (WSFCA) has been placed in charge of domestic terrorism planning and response coordination. The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System-Wisconsin (MABAS-WI) serves as the operational agency of the Wisconsin fire services for resource deployment. MABAS-WI has established a goal of statewide mutual aid for fire, emergency medical services (EMS) and associated special operational services.

Accordingly, a key response and operational consideration in dealing with a domestic terrorism event is to ensure adequate hazardous materials, special rescue, fire and EMS capabilities for providing sustained, seamless and standardized operations. MABAS-WI and non-MABAS-WI fire departments have collaborated to achieve this goal. MABAS-WI created the Mutual Aid Response Flow Plan to provide for the systematic mobilization, deployment, organization, and management of fire service resources to assist local agencies in a major fire, disaster or other major emergency. The release of this document is also in response to domestic terrorism events and statewide non-discriminatory fire/EMS.

The Plan is applicable when invoked by WEM through a state declaration of disaster. WEM may also authorize special activation of the Plan without a declaration of disaster through a voluntary request for assistance as coordinated by WEM, the Wisconsin Department of Public Health (WDPH) or MABAS-WI. It must be noted that this procedure does not apply, direct or influence MABAS-WI operations or agreements as utilized on a daily basis by member agencies.

## **CONCEPT AND DESIGN**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Wisconsin Fire Service Emergency Response Plan (hereafter known as the Plan) is to provide local fire chiefs with easy access to large quantities of fire service resources that may be needed in a major fire, disaster or other major emergency. The Plan is based on a series of observed occurrences and shared experiences during recent disasters and major emergencies in the State of Wisconsin. It is also an evolution of our past experiences in dealing with the day-to-day incidents that continually challenge our resources and competencies. Most importantly, it is a practical approach to provide fire service resources in quantities beyond the means of any single fire department.

The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System-Wisconsin (MABAS-WI) created the Emergency Response Plan to provide for the systematic mobilization, deployment, organization, and management of fire service resources to assist local agencies in a major fire, disaster or other major emergency. This systemic plan can be utilized from the smallest incident to

regional incidents up to and including catastrophic incidents, following the six principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The local fire service agency is the first tier of defense in responding to the ravages of a disaster. It is understood that no community has sufficient resources to cope with all emergencies.

## **Scope**

The State of Wisconsin is susceptible to natural and man-made disasters, therefore accentuating the need for this level of coordination and preparation. The effective management of emergency response personnel during the incipient stage of any major incident and throughout its extended operations will by far, have the most significant impact on life loss and the severity of injuries to the affected population. WEM, through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and its authorized agents, shall utilize this Plan to coordinate and initiate all fire related resources throughout the State of Wisconsin. The Plan provides for the activation and sustained response of aid to a community in the event of a localized disaster. These events can include a major fire, train derailments, hazardous materials incidents, wildland fires, domestic terrorism and other events that may overwhelm the local fire department serving the community and its normal mutual aid resources.

This Plan serves as the mechanism to commit local fire, EMS, and special resources to emergencies beyond the scope of their normal mutual aid systems. It is important to understand that the control of an incident will remain in the hands of the local jurisdiction. Any and all assistance that is requested will assist the local jurisdiction.