

## **Success Story: Wisconsin Fire Chiefs Activate Newly Approved Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS)**

Two weeks after the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association approved their newly developed Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS), the Wisconsin Fire Service Emergency Response Plan (WFSERP) was put to the test and encounter great success. The City of Cudahy (pop. 18,000) Fire Department, a suburban community south of Milwaukee, battled a large industrial facility fire at the Patrick Cudahy Meat Processing Plant for more than three days. The size of the facility and the intensity of the fire required the first activation of the recently approved Wisconsin Fire Service Emergency Response Plan.

The Cudahy Fire Department is a participating member of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System of Wisconsin (MABAS-WI). The 25 member career department responded to the fire at 10 pm on July 5, 2009 and immediately elevated the response to a box and second alarm through their local MABAS agreement. Three additional subsequent alarms were requested resulting in 16 engines, 9 ladders and 10 Chiefs on the scene.



On July 6 at 9:23 am the Wisconsin Fire Service Emergency Response Plan was activated to bring additional fire resources to the scene over the next three days. The state plan, using the MABAS-WI Interdivisional Box assignments provided: seven Task Forces, two Strike Teams (Ladders and Tenders) and a number of special equipment including the City of Milwaukee HazMat, Airport Rescue, Rehab Unit, and Utility Units (Lights). In total the WFSERP sent to the scene and/or held on deck for relief assignments: 25 Engines, 15 Ladders, 5 Heavy Rescues, 23 Chiefs, and 6 Tenders. There were about 150 firefighters on the scene at the peak of the firefight. Fire crews remained on the scene for about a week.

The coordination of resource management and communication was handled by the MABAS Division 107 Dispatch Center at Wauwatosa Fire/Police Dispatch Center. They followed the plan and did an outstanding job of finding the appropriate resources, and tracking these resources during and after the deployment as requested by the Incident Management Team (IMT).

The Wisconsin Fire Service Emergency Response Plan was developed to provide an Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS) to efficiently move fire service resources throughout the state of Wisconsin. This plan was created through cooperative efforts and leadership of the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association (WSFCA), the Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System – Wisconsin (MABAS-WI) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

For more information about the Wisconsin mutual aid plan, please visit [www.mabaswisconsin.org](http://www.mabaswisconsin.org). For more information about the IAFC's Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS) program, please visit [www.iafc.org/mutualaid](http://www.iafc.org/mutualaid).