

Analysis prepared by the Division of Emergency Management

Proposed WEM 8

The Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, through its Division of Emergency Management, proposes an order to create WEM 8 relating to the establishment of standards for the adoption of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, also known as MABAS, that may be used for deploying fire, rescue and emergency medical services personnel and equipment in a multi-jurisdictional or multi-agency emergency response.

Statutory Authority: ss. 166.03 (2) (a) 3., 227.11 (2) (a), Stats.

Statutes Interpreted: s. 166.03 (2) (a) 3, Stats.

Explanation of Agency Authority: The Department of Military Affairs, through its Division of Emergency Management, is required under s. 166.03 (2) (a) 3., Stats. (created by 2005 Wisconsin Act 257) to promulgate and adopt rules establishing the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System as a standard for deploying fire, rescue and emergency medical services personnel and equipment in the event of a multi-jurisdictional or multi-agency emergency response.

Related Rule of Statute: There are no other related statutes or rules other than those listed above.

Plain language analysis: Chapter WEM 8 establishes standards adopting the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System as a mechanism for the systematic deployment of fire, rescue and emergency medical services personnel and equipment during multi-jurisdictional or multi-agency emergency response to crises, natural disasters and manmade catastrophes. This administrative rule delineates the various levels of response and provides a procedure and systematic plan for the provision of mutual aid as resources are exhausted at the various levels of response. The rule establishes uniform compliance requirements for the types and classes of emergency response equipment and apparatus as well as minimum training requirements for emergency response personnel. Participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System by local units of government is strictly voluntary. Equipment, personnel and services provided are at no cost to the stricken unit of government but may be recoverable from third parties and responsible parties. Fire, rescue and emergency medical services personnel providing mutual aid remain the employees of the aiding unit of government.

Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal regulations: The Department is unaware of any proposed or existing federal regulation that is covered by the proposed rule.

Comparison with rules in adjacent states: The State of Illinois has utilized the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System since the late 1960's as an effective mechanism for providing mutual aid among municipalities and fire departments. This system was formally

adopted by the State of Illinois and enacted under the “Intergovernmental Cooperation Act” at 5 ILCS 220/1 *et. seq.*

Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies: There were no factual data or analytical methodologies used to develop the proposed rules.

Effect of small business: The proposed rules will have no significant effect on small business, as defined in s. 227.114 (1), Stats. There were no supporting documents used to determine the effect on small business and an economic impact report was not prepared.

Fiscal Estimate: These rules implement the standards adopting the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System as enacted by 2005 Wisconsin Act 257. These rules do not appear to have any impact on local government costs.

Agency contact person: Keith Tveit, Fire Services Coordinator, Wisconsin Emergency Management; 2400 Wright Street, Room 213, P.O. Box 7865, Madison, WI 53708-7865. Telephone: (608) 220-6049. Email: keith.tveit@dma.state.wi.us.

Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission: Comments may be submitted to Keith Tveit, Fire Services Coordinator, Wisconsin Emergency Management; 2400 Wright Street, Room 213, P.O. Box 7865, Madison, WI 53708-7865. Telephone: (608) 220-6049. Email: keith.tveit@dma.state.wi.us. Comments must be received on or before August 17, 2006 to be included in the record of rule-making proceedings.

