



City of Evanston

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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10/3/2025

Brian Heinrich
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Northwestern University
2020 Ridge Ave., Suite 240

RE: Evanston Fire Department Confined Space Capabilities

To Whom It May Concern:

Safety Specialist Lead Brian Heinrich requested a confined space rescue capabilities summary of the Evanston Fire Department (EFD). EFD maintains a respectable cache of rescue equipment and trained personnel. However, due to the amount of expensive equipment and the large number of trained personnel specialized rescues require, EFD shares resources with neighboring communities for complex incidents as outlined in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Illinois and MABAS Division 3 agreements. EFD and Skokie Fire Departments (SFD) assist each other during relatively simple rescues. EFD also operates within a regional system of mutually assisting fire/rescue departments called the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). EFD belongs to Illinois MABAS 3. MABAS 3's collective resources are capable of mitigating large, complex incidents.

This document outlines both the immediate confined space rescue capabilities of EFD/SFD and highlights potential rescue capabilities utilizing MABAS 3's technical rescue team (MABAS 3 TRT).

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Evanston Fire Department's response plan for a confined space rescue outlines that approximately 6 - 8 technical rescue trained personnel will arrive on scene within approximately 3 – 12 minutes from the time of dispatch. The variation of time is due to other concurrent emergencies occurring within Evanston and the arrival of SFD resources. Because of the potential hazards during confined space rescues, 2 – 3 EFD Hazardous Materials technicians are



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also dispatched to the incident. EFD now staffs a squad company (fire engine with rescue tools and personnel) at Station 21 (1332 Emerson) that has the equipment and trained personnel to begin confined space rescue operations immediately upon arrival. Additional EFD personnel will arrive as stated above.

The EFD/SFD apparatus assigned to a confined space rescue contains all equipment necessary to perform either a horizontal or vertical rescue where one access point is established with a small number of victims. This equipment allows for up to two entry teams with a back-up team (2 in/2 out maintained).

Evanston and Skokie Fire Departments *each* have similar con space rescue equipment. The following list is an example of EFD's con space equipment. Once SFD arrives, this equipment will approximately double.

Air Supply:

- Mobile air cart with total 1200' of air hose to supply air up to 300' for 4 rescuers during SABA required rescue incidents.
- 4 Confined Space harnesses with 15 minute SCBA escape packs
- Six Confined Space specific harness for rescuers / victims

Entry:

- Arizona Vortex - Portable AHD Multipod
- Harken Industrial - LokHead Winch
- SKEDCO EVAC Tripod
- Various lengths of Life Safety specific rope

Patient / Victim Removal:

- Yates Spec Pak - Patient Extrication System
- CMC / SKEDCO Drag-N-Lift Harness
- Sked Basic rescue System
- CMC Litter Basket (Stokes) with rescue harness

HazMat:

- Atmospheric monitoring equipment
- Level B HazMat suits for 4 rescuers with flash protection suits



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- Gross and formal decon equipment
- Various product abatement and lockout/tagout equipment

Various additional rope rescue / confined space tools and equipment for extraction / entanglement (e.g. several 300' life safety ropes, MPD's, Petzl Id's, torches, concrete chainsaw, rotary hammer drill, high and low pressure rescue airbags, etc.) will also arrive on EFD apparatus assigned to the rescue.

MABAS 3 TRT

If the rescue cannot be safely performed with EFD/SFD resources exclusively, MABAS 3 TRT will be requested. MABAS 3 TRT resources for a confined space rescue are comprised of several rescue squads from neighboring communities as well as IL MABAS assets. The total equipment and personnel complement can swell resources to approximately 25 - 50 trained personnel and enough equipment for several entry points, entry and back up teams, victim extrication and extraction teams, HazMat mitigation, formal decon corridors, and medical treatment and transport for many victims within approximately 20 - 60 minutes.

MABAS 3 resources available to respond to an incident are variable due to the nature of shared, regional resources and limited budgets. Factors such as concurrent emergencies, apparatus and equipment issues, and personnel availability may affect confined space rescue resources at any given incident. The resource and arrival time approximations included in this summary assume ideal conditions. Ranges are given to allow for apparatus travel from further communities, on-shift personnel becoming available to respond, and off-shift personnel arrival (MABAS 3 relies on off-shift personnel responding to reach the larger numbers of rescuers needed during complex rescues).

This summary letter simply provides a capabilities overview of the Evanston Fire Department's confined space rescue response plan. Please contact me directly with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

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