



Fire Department • 307 S. Randolph St • Champaign IL 61820 • (217) 403-7200 • fax (217) 403-7213 • www.ci.champaign.il.us

Date: January 19, 2012 Contact: Dena Schumacher, *Public Information* Phone: (217) 403-7212

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Champaign Fire Headquarters

307 S. Randolph St.

Basement Training Room

January 24, 2012

Start time: 2:30 PM

End time: 2:45 PM



Local Fire Agencies Say Thanks To State Representative Naomi Jakobsson and Senator Michael Frerichs for Disaster Preparedness Support

Champaign, Illinois -- On Tuesday, January 24 at 2:30 PM local area fire chiefs and participating members of the statewide Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 28 will gather to present appreciation plaques to State Representative Jakobsson and Senator Frerichs for ongoing support of disaster preparedness through mutual aid.

Local area fire chiefs from MABAS Division 28 are part of an intergovernmental cooperative called MABAS, which includes 68 divisions of nearly 1,100 fire agencies and 38,000 firefighter/EMTs whose mission is to share resources through a coordinated statewide plan in support of stricken member cities, towns and villages.

Deputy Chief Eric Mitchell of Champaign Fire Department and MABAS Division 28 said, "If it wasn't for the cooperative nature of Illinois' fire service and the support of state officials including Representative Jakobsson and Senator Frerichs, MABAS would not be the premier statewide mutual aid and disaster response system that it is." MABAS has been recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, FEMA, and DHS as one of the national leaders of local mutual aid systems, producing one of the most prepared, practiced and comprehensive capabilities for cooperative coordinated disaster response throughout the United States.

Deputy Chief Mitchell noted, "MABAS works closely with our state agency partners including Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the State Fire Marshal, Department of Public Health, and more through the Illinois Terrorism Task Force. Representative Jakobsson and Senator Frerichs have effectively opened the door for real partnerships in disaster response with our colleagues from the State of Illinois. Illinois Fire Service has become a national benchmark in mutual aid through MABAS."