



Hamburg Township Public Safety Department

PO BOX 157 · HAMBURG, MICHIGAN 48139
PHONE: (810) 231-9391 · FAX: (810) 231-9401

EMAIL: HATP@hamburg.mi.us

RICHARD DUFFANY, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY



PRESS RELEASE

January 23, 2024

Hamburg Township Public Safety Drone Team Obtains Special Designation

On January 23, 2024, the Hamburg Township Public Safety Drone Team received official notification that the team had earned *Unmanned Aircraft Systems* validation status from the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) following FEMA Type 1 requirements. Michigan MABAS is a statewide mutual aid plan, under the direction of a Board of Directors in Lansing, which coordinates and mobilizes Fire, EMS and special operations resources throughout the state to assist in addressing emergencies and disasters. Participating agencies are organized into regions as well as designated response teams.

Hamburg Township's Drone Team is only the fourth team in the entire state of Michigan to receive this designation as a MABAS Drone Company and the first team comprising of members from a single agency.

Team members spent the past year preparing for the validation process to ensure that they met the strict MABAS standards which include stringent requirements for FAA licensing, emergency management training, department policies, team operational procedures, activation/mobilization plans and aircraft proficiency. The process included an on-site assessment conducted by MABAS assessors on November 28, 2023. The assessors reviewed the team's aircraft and equipment and gauged the operational proficiency of the team members through scenario-based practical demonstrations. The process culminated with a test activation of the team on January 18, 2024.

The Hamburg Township Public Safety Drone Team began in 2021 and is comprised of 8 members of the Hamburg Township Public Safety Department, 4 firefighters and 4 police officers.

Public Safety Director Rick Duffany commended the team for their hard work in obtaining this designation, stating "This is an excellent accomplishment for our Drone Team. All our team members put in an enormous amount of time and effort to make this happen and I'm proud that we can provide this invaluable resource at a recognized high level not only to our own community on a daily basis but to others in need during significant emergencies or disasters."



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Accompanying this press release is a copy of the validation letter from MABAS.

For additional information, please contact Director of Public Safety Rick Duffany at 810-222-1171 or via email at rduffany@hamburg.mi.us.