



Introduction to Mutual Assistance Groups

MAG

Agenda

- What is a MAG?
- Questions to ask yourself
- Who should join a MAG?
- What is expected of me if I join?
- Summary
- What Would a MAG in Action Look Like?



What is a Mutual Assistance Group?



A MAG is:

- A Mutual Assistance Group (MAG) is a group of like-minded individuals who agree to help and assist each other during an emergency or crisis.
- Ideally, the members live in close proximity to one another. They pool their skills and resources together to make it easier for the members of the group to survive in times of disaster. We call this a **MAG Tribe**.
- These like-minded individuals commit to maintain organizational and operational security and not share information with others until others are vetted into the group.
- A MAG is based on mutual respect and trust.

A MAG is NOT:

- A MAG is not for recruitment to other organizations~ other orgs are your business. Focus on this MAG when at a MAG function. We want members who are loyal to MAG members first and foremost.
- A MAG is not for political discussions. Of course, the team members will have things like political views in common~ please discuss after or outside of meetings.
- A MAG is not for know-it-alls, posers, fakers, frauds, con artists, takers and those who are not teachable. Never stop learning because life never stops teaching. We learn from each other!
- A MAG is not about coercion, manipulation, or pleading for Leaders/Members. Please do not join if you have misgivings or doubts.

Operational security is imperative. Ensuring the safety of ALL members is non-negotiable. Any violations of this will prompt immediate dismissal from the group.



Operational Security

- 90 day Probation Period
- Standardized Vetting Process
- MAG By-laws
- MAG Code of Conduct
- Creating Proton email account within 30 days
- Using Secure Communication Apps
- Volunteers are needed to create, establish, enforce and maintain Operational Security

It Must be a Team Effort

- Others are going to depend on you if the time comes. *Participating and contributing regularly is essential* to build teamwork and confidence among the members.
- Non-performing members drag everyone else down. There is a 90 day probationary period that will help determine commitment.
- Mutual Assistance Groups can and do fall apart. The interest diminishes, conflicts of personality arise, and people just get busy with other things in life. The last thing anyone needs in the face of crisis is more drama. **Attempting to join a MAG after the SHTF may be too late.**

Considerations

A few good active members are far better than having a bunch of mediocre, unengaged folks in your tribe.



Questions to Ask Yourself and Potential MAG Members

Before forming or joining a mutual assistance group, there are some very important questions you must ask yourself – soul-search before giving a brutally honest answer.

1. Are all of my immediate family members on board with the formation of a MAG, or joining one?
2. Do I work well with others, especially when under stress?
3. What do I have to offer, by way of skills, to a mutual assistance group?
4. Will I be a good tribe leader/member or a poor follower?
- 5. Am I committed to meeting regularly with MAG members and engaging in survival training?**
6. Do I have a medical condition that would inhibit or hinder me from contributing to the tribe?

Who Should Join a Mutual Assistance Group?



Who should join?

- Medical professionals, paraprofessionals, former military medics, firefighters, medical and health field students, veterinarians, and individuals in the dental and optometry fields.
- Individuals with weapons training, either professionally or personally – veterans, active duty military, police officers, prison guards, law enforcement retirees, police officer trainees, ROTC students, gunsmiths, reloading professionals and hobbyists, hunters, and archers.
- Farmers, gardeners, homesteaders, agriculture professionals and students, and individuals with nutrition, food preparation, and preservation experience.
- Farriers, blacksmiths, trappers, and butchers
- Individuals with alternative energy experience, off grid livers, engineers, and mechanics
- Teachers – children in the MAG group will need to receive a basic education and vocational training during a long-term disaster.
- Anglers and individuals with aquaponics and water management and treatment.
- Electricians
- Plumbers

What is Expected of Me if I Join?

You are expected to be truly committed and capable of being active, prepared and helping the group.



People that are truly committed and capable of being prepared will:

Become a MAG Tribe Leader or an active member of a MAG Tribe

- Communication
- Security/Intel/Scouting
- Preparedness/Gap Assessment
- Medical/First Aid/Health Maintenance
- Logistics
- Recruitment/Welcome/Personnel
- Facilities/Meeting/Training Places
- Food cultivation/preservation
- Livestock
- Armory and reloading
- Hunting, fishing, and foraging
- Water Harvesting and Collection
- Sanitation
- Childcare
- Soap/Candle making

Top individual duties/roles suggested for a MAG

- Tribe Leaders
- Security
- Comms
- Medical
- Firearms expert
- Hunter
- Food/cook
- Farmer/Gardener
- Teacher / homeschooler
- Plumber
- Electrician
- Logistics
- Mechanic

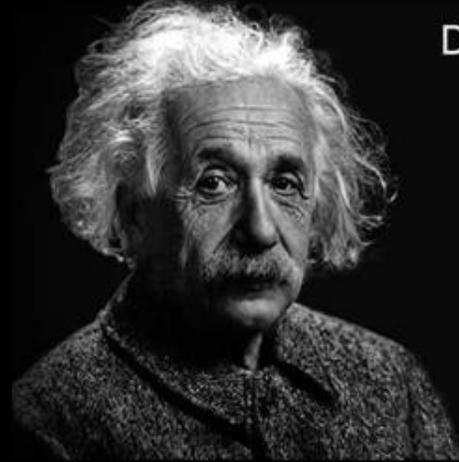
All roles should be double layered in case someone does not or cannot show up for a disaster situation activation.

This is the same reason one person should not assume more than one role- it could represent a catastrophic loss to the group if that one person cannot continue in the group.

Summary

- Typically, mutual assistance group members live in close proximity to one another, allowing regularly scheduled meetings and training sessions.
- The two most important aspects to remember, regardless of the size of the group, are **organization and operational security**.
- Potential members **MUST** be vetted. Conducting a full background check on each member, at their expense, is highly recommended.
- Members must be fully capable physically without inhibitory medical conditions.
- Keep in mind that the other members are going to depend on you if the time comes. You will need to participate and contribute regularly to build teamwork and confidence among the members.

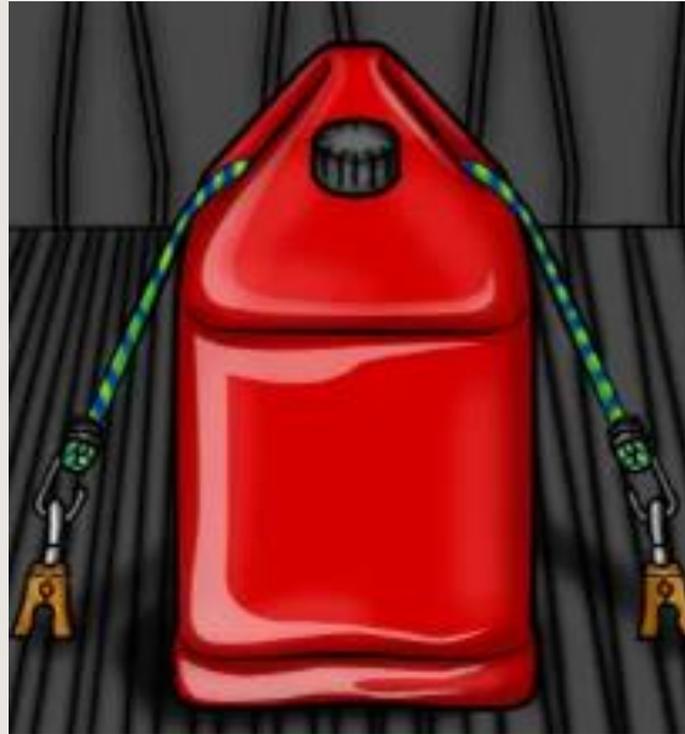
DavidAvocadoWolfe



**"The world will not be
destroyed by those
who do evil, but by those
who watch them without
doing anything."**

- Albert Einstein

What would a MAG in Action Look Like?



Natural Disaster Scenario

Severe storms, hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and earthquakes can all wreak havoc on communities and individuals.

Immediately the MAG Tribe Leaders would:

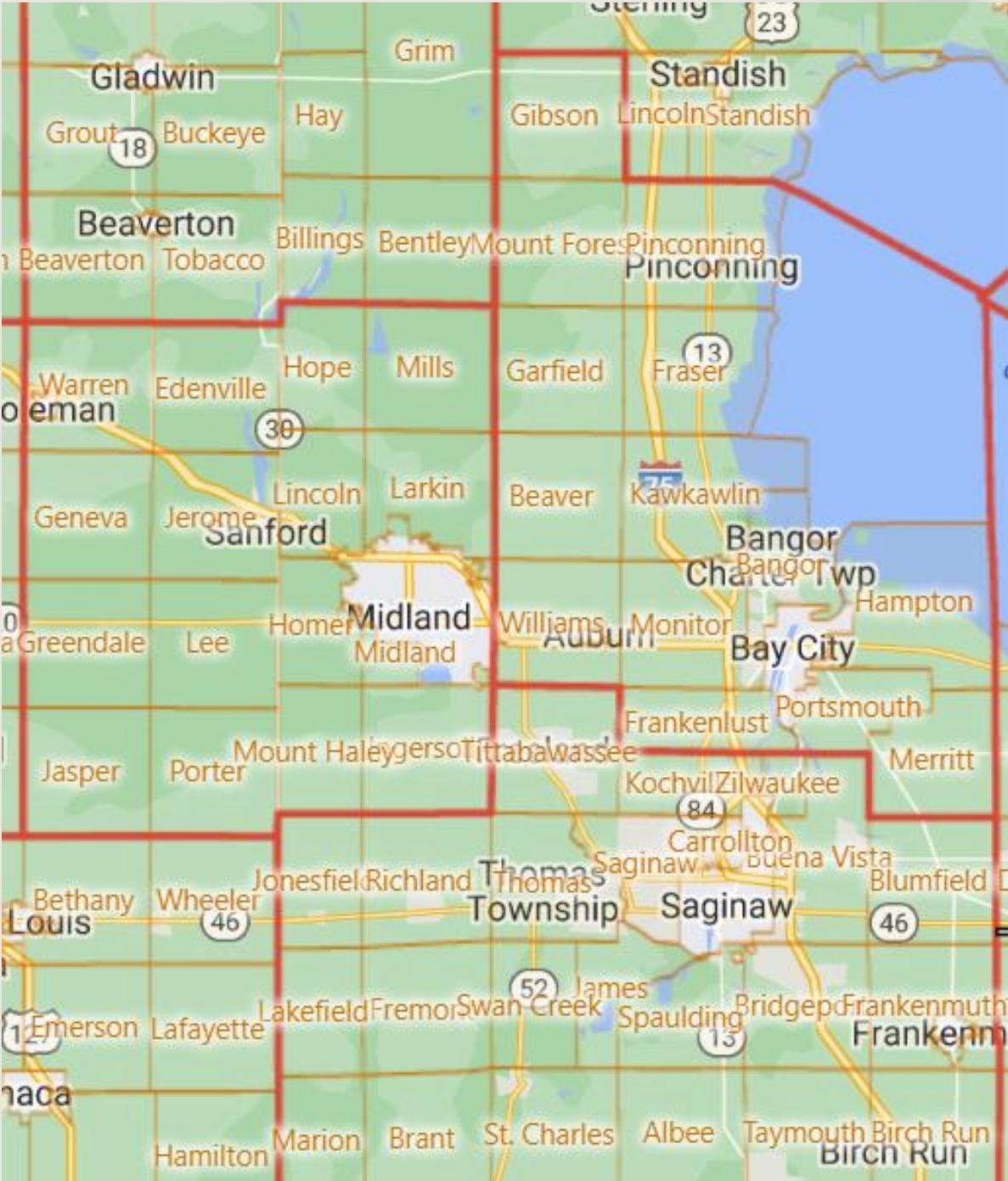
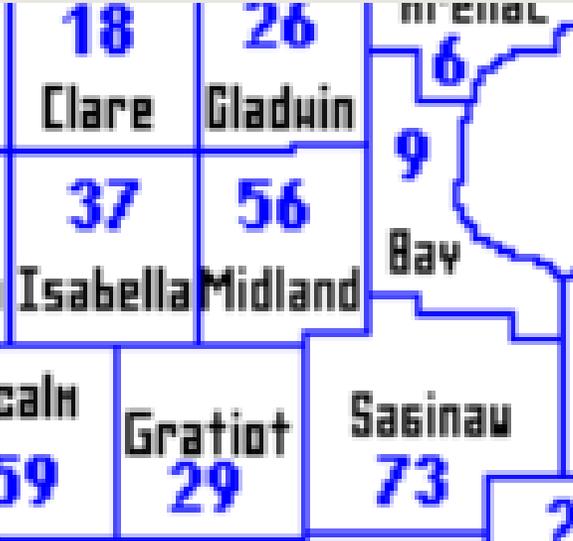
- Start trying to raise one another or check in according to pre-arranged plans.
- Start sharing information about damage, needs, and resources.
- Tribe Leaders begins directing efforts according to highest and best purposes – prioritize.
 - Coordinate with responding emergency services and agencies, i.e. FEMA, DHS, DOE, etc.
- Sets up distribution center for group food and supplies (including medical), as well as details to verify the safety and whereabouts of any members unaccounted for.
- Clear trees and other debris from roads that would impede access and transportation.

- Arrange transportation for group members/entire MAG that need relocation.
- Evacuation routes and rendezvous points will be determined, and transportation scheduled using available vehicles.
- Complete work details, clean up, demolition, search and rescue and other tasks as needed enlisting outside resources if needed.
- The MAG group continues to maintain communication and keep everyone updated on available resources and recovery efforts. How far the group will go when it comes to “non-essential” efforts like restoration work is variable.
- MAGs can provide essential “aftermath” services like food, water, and shelter; and connect members with resources.
- In some cases, MAGs even coordinate the efforts of multiple groups to provide more comprehensive support to affected members.

The Vision

Counties/Townships “Touch”

- Bay County- 14 Townships
- Midland County – 16 Townships
- Saginaw County - 27 Townships



Help Create Alternate MAG Tribes and Services:

- MAG Comms Team
- MAG Medical Team
- MAG Intel/Security
- MAG Food Security

Prepare NOW ~We Need to Build
Circles of Trust NOW



Proposed Future Training/Education

1. Gap Assessment Presentation
2. Assembling an IFAK (Individual First Aid Kits)
3. Radio/Comms Class – two parts
 - Radio Class
 - Comms Class with field practice
4. Other Resources:
 - <https://www.meetup.com/greatlakesselfreliance/>
 - <https://americansurvivor.org/>

Thank you!

Resources:

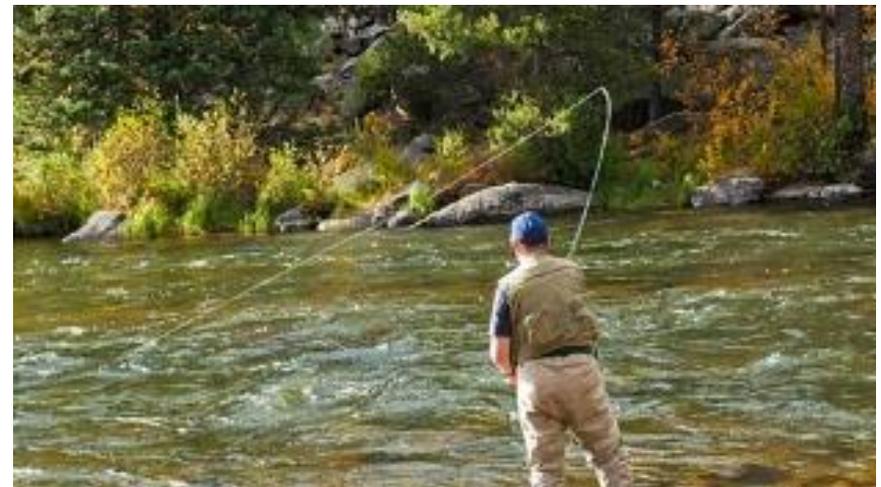
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**The youth who do
not feel the love of
the village will burn it
down to feel its
warmth.**

African Proverb

Questions?



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