



BERRIEN COUNTY
FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Call to Order: 0830-0924

Date: February 15, 2023

Old minutes: Old minutes emailed out. Motion to accept old minutes and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance: \$5373.94. Three dues deposits totaling \$1000.00. Ending balance: \$6373.94. Motion to accept treasurers report by Chief Harper. Seconded by Chief Steinke. Motion passed. None opposed.

Communications/Bills: None

New Chief/Visitor: None

Committee Report:

Red Cross: Gerry had Contact cards for first responders and for the public from Red Cross. Red cross will be at March meeting for presentation.

Great Lakes Drone: None

DNR: Ben discussed the surplus equipment DNR has to offer. He will be scheduling inspections with the departments that have been awarded equipment. If department interested in the DNR surplus equipment contact Ben at: osterlandb@michigan.gov. Gerry stated there is a link on the county website as well.

EMS:

Medic-1: All good. Director Wiley introduced new supervisor Jason Russell.

S.M.C.A.S.: None

Med Flight: None

Med Control: Al stated new name is Corewell Health South.

Funeral: At Berrien Springs.

Dispatch: Currently down 7 staff. Have 5 in training. Started using 11BCPAGE on February 01, 2023. Caitlin reminded everyone that to hear the dispatched over 11BCPAGE you need a radio set to 11BCPAGE. Frank inquired why that changed from the explanation in August 2021 meeting. Caitlin stated MPSCS does not view 11BCPAGE as a priority talkgroup. Moving MFR and EMS to 11E911 TBA. Fatal US-12 accident in Bertrand Twp. Discussed at the 911 QA. Good feedback and discussion on need for unified command post. Question on dogs out on ice. Currently there is no protocol for dogs out on ice. Do fire departments want to be dispatched to? Discussion was yes, as more than likely if dog out on ice you will have a human out there trying to rescue the dog.



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BCFA: February meeting was good. Next meeting March 01, 2023, at Berrien Springs. Presentation ME office. Car show coming back. Gerry has fliers and posters. Proceeds go to Berrien County Firefighters Association and the Berrien County Sheriffs Office. Looking for sponsors. See Gerry for additional information.

Training: BHDPS classes have been sent out. Reading Smoke coming in Eau Claire. New Buffalo Twp. Railcar class coming up.

LEPC: Met yesterday. Discussed US-12 crash. Discussed warming center workshop. TIER 2 continue to come in, and will be updated into the share file when completed.

HazMat: Training available. Lots of free training available as well. Amtrack has reached out so hopefully training in the future.

Emergency Management: DC Cook exercises. There will be 2 events: Brandywine HS with Niles Twp. Fire, and Berrien Springs HS with Berrien Springs Fire. With staffing what it is there will be challenges getting manpower for these events. Niles Twp. and Berrien Springs FD would very much appreciate any staffing help that departments can provide. Schedules were sent out. There will be three dates for practice and then evaluated exercise. Asking that you register for the trainings and exercises.

Sheriff: Not running again So this is his last term. Chief Boyce will be retiring end of March 2023. Gregory Sanders will be taking the Chief Deputy role here very soon.

MITRT5: None

MABAS: Plan coordinators meeting was this month. New positions: Executive Assistant and IMT/IST Coordinator. New divisions coming online. Most of the state is now MABAS. Discussed MRP. There are currently two MRP's one for the task force and one for us. Planning to combine them into one document. Implemented the new regional response coordinators and will be doing more training with them. There is dispatch training being offered now as well. Wildland firefighter's will be doing practical evaluation in March. Working to move our call outs to zoom vs phone calls. MIMABAS was actively involved in the MSU active shooter incident. Sent three regional response coordinators to the scene and assist the incident command post. We also had five EMS strike teams: Oakland CO, Western Wayne, HVA all in level 2 staging near MSU and Macomb had two EMS strike teams staged if needed. An EMS strike team is made up of five ambulances. So that was five EMS strike teams with five ambulance in each strike team.

Old Business: Bylaws amendment. Discussed the reason for the bylaws amendment. Frank read the bylaws amendment as follows: Article X: Adding the following section:

10.5



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If unable to hold nominations at the November meeting and/or elections at the December meeting due to lack of quorum, or for any other unforeseen circumstances, nominations and elections are to take place at the next regularly scheduled association meeting.

Chief Mattix made motion for bylaws amendment, Second by Gerry Kableman. Motion passed. None opposed.

Discussion on cache radios. There are 11 radios available for FD to use. Discussion on adding FD proprietary talkgroups to the radios so they will be available for department to use. Will be adding two zones for the proprietary talkgroups. Captain Adams stated may need MOU for the proprietary talkgroups.

Chief Knisley advised they still have three Kenwood NX5400 radios for sale. Tyler Knisley stated that the radios are programmed and can be used upon receipt.

Structure fire workgroup. Chief Myers thanked the group: Brandon Chairello; Jeremy Connell; Brian Kazmierzak; Jamie Flick; Doug Myers, Caitlin Sampsell. See attached for complete explanation of options, definitions, and new call types. Discussion on options, definitions and call types. Body decided to go with option A. Motion by Chief Myers to adopt structure fire classification option A. Seconded by chief Weich. Motion passed. None opposed. (See Attached). Dispatch has discretion based on circumstances and answers to callers' questions to adjust call type as needed, as well as the department AHJ has the discretion to have call type adjusted as they need. You have the ability to change this with in your boxcards. Some departments have loaded up the heavy on the boxcards in the first box. That is not the way the boxcards were designed, however some agencies need the help during the day and we get that. Boxcards were designed to have specific amount at each level and if you need to you can skip boxcard levels to get everything up to that box level. Chris also stated you have the ability to adjust as you need. You may only need your neighboring department and can request dispatch just send neighboring department instead of all your auto aid, as well as if your department receives a call and you want your auto aid to go, all you have to do is simply request your auto aid at that point. Discussion on No coverage call type. This opens up a call for dispatch as a notification for the dispatchers that there is no coverage. Can be utilized for EMS when out of units, FD that are having annual awards banquet/Christmas party, etc...

New Business: Frank discussed BCFCA has active911 and Frank requested agencies follow up with him to make sure those listed are still who you want listed for your department. Some have 1 and some have multiple. See attached for list of agencies and number of each per agency.

Next Meeting: March 15, 2023

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn and seconded. None opposed. Meeting adjourned at 0924hrs.



Dispatch Call Types & Structure Fire Classification



Call Types:

Alarm-Fire or CO

- Activation of a fire or carbon monoxide alarm within a structure. This may be called in by a first party caller (on site) or by an alarm company. A carbon monoxide detector is a device that detects the presence of carbon monoxide (CO) gas, in order to prevent CO poisoning.
 - Caller reporting smoke accompanying a fire alarm elevates the call type to FIRE-Structure.

Option A

FIRE-Structure **new definition*

- Report of an active fire (flames or smoke seen coming from specific location) within a building to include the walls, floors, ceiling, or any items on fire (**uncontained** flames seen) that is within the structure.
 - Examples: flames seen from the roof, fire on top of the stove, vehicle on fire within a garage

FIRE-Utility **new definition*

- An appliance or device that is smoking or has a contained fire.
 - Examples: fire contained in an oven; dryer, hot water heater, furnace, air conditioner smoking; **outlet smoking**; grill with flames out of control; dumpster fire.
 - Note: If the Agency Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) needs additional manpower or considers the situation a structure fire through their discernment, they can request Dispatch upgrade the call to a structure fire (FIRE-Structure) and send their auto aid.

Option B

FIRE-Structure **new definition*

- Report of an active fire (flames or smoke seen coming from specific location) within a building to include the walls, **outlets**, floors, ceiling, or any items on fire (flames seen) that is within or **impinging on** the structure.
 - Examples: **outlet smoking**, fire on top of the stove, **grill on attached deck with flames out of control**, vehicle on fire within a garage

FIRE-Utility **new definition*

- An appliance or device that is smoking or has a contained fire.
 - Examples: fire contained in an oven; dryer, hot water heater, furnace, air conditioner smoking; grill with flames out of control **away from the house**; dumpster fire.
 - Note: **If uncontained flames are seen and it is impinging on the structure, the call type elevates to FIRE-Structure.**

FIRE-Investigation **new call type*

- Smell of smoke or haze in the air within a structure with no source found and no alarm. Smoke investigation with an unknown source (outside). Burning complaint.
 - Situations that used to be classified as FIRE-Other.

FIRE-Hazard **new call type*

- Power lines, gas odors, propane, damaged gas lines, wire down calls; water/flooding emergencies.
 - Fire Department should be sent to investigate ANY line down calls, even if it may be cable or phone lines.
 - Situations that used to be classified as FIRE- Utility.

FIRE-Manpower

- Request for fire personnel for manpower.
 - Examples: EMS/MFR requests manpower for lift assist; requests for traffic assist, missing person search, standby, wash down.

**Dispatcher has discretion based on circumstances to tone Agency Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and inquire if they want their mutual aid. Examples: Small shed on fire, burnt food*

Other Available Call Types for Fire Departments:

- FIRE-Grass
 - FIRE-Jaws
 - FIRE-Vehicle
 - PDA-Rollover
 - PIA
 - Unknown Injury Accident
 - Water Rescue
 - Aircraft Accident
 - AVI
 - Bomb Threat
 - Marine
 - No Coverage
- + Medical Call Types available for MFRs.

Subscription Name
Agency: City of Niles FD
Agency: Chikaming TWP FD
Agency: St. Joseph Department of Public Safety
Agency: Berrien County MCA
Agency: Great Lakes Rescue
Agency: Dispatch
Agency: Bertrand Twp Fire
Agency: Watervliet FD
Agency: St. Joseph Twp Sta. #2
Agency: Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service
Agency: Berrien Springs Oronoko FD
Agency: New Buffalo City FD
Agency: City of Niles FD
Agency: Three Oaks FD
Agency: Berrien Springs Oronoko FD
Agency: Sodus Twp FD
Agency: North Berrien Fire Rescue/Niles City
Agency: St. Joseph Twp Sta. #1
Agency: Lake Twp Fire
Agency: New Buffalo TWP Fire
Agency: Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service
Agency: Bridgman FD
Agency: Royalton Twp FD
Agency: City of Niles FD
Agency: Bridgman FD
Agency: Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service
Agency: Niles Charter Twp FD
Agency: Baroda Fire
Agency: Great Lakes Rescue
Agency: Bertrand Twp Fire
Agency: Great Lakes Rescue
Agency: North Berrien
Agency: Pipestone, Berrien Twps. Eau Claire FD
Agency: Benton Charter Twp FD
Agency: St. Joseph Twp Sta. #1
Agency: Galien Twp FD
Agency: Weesaw Twp FD
Agency: Buchanan TWP FD/Niles Charter Twp.
Agency: Medic-1