

## Berrien Fire Chief's Association

Meeting called to order by Chief Davidson at 1833 hours on 8-22-12.

**ATTENDANCE:** Lamb –NFD, LaBaumBard-BC911, Agens-BC911, Davidson-CTFD, Sexton-BC911, Stiles-ECFD, Maynard-SJT#1, DeLaTorre-SMCAS, Twp, Knuth-Bridgman, Burkett-Lincoln, Stover-BSOFD, Koebel-RTFD, Kennedy-NBCFD, Lyeuski-NBTFD, Hush-NBCFD, Adams-BCFD, Woodward-NBFR, Young-TOFD, Flick-TOFD, Brandsma-Red Cross, Burks- BTFD, Knisely-BTFD, Burks-BCEM, Bailey-BCSD,

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Lamb reported no change with a total in checking of 1,173.34. A \$250 check was issued to Bridgman Fire at the meeting for the Edith Trailer leaving the balance at 923.34. Motion, Second with all in favor.

**MINUTES** – Minutes from the July 18, 2012 meeting were approved. Motion & Second with all in favor.

**COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS** –

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**911** –Dave discussed testing of the simulcast channels. 3 groups canvassed the county performing various outside building testing. Good performance with some issues in the New Buffalo and Watervliet areas. Dave is still working to secure permission to put a tower site/receive/voter at the AEP tower in New Buffalo which would help with the coverage there. The Grand Beach tower is plan B. In Watervliet Telrad will be working to readjust the signals from that other towers to gain better coverage. The simulcast requires tower sites to be adjusted perfectly to avoid distortions. The testing groups traveled into neighboring counties as well with decent mobile and acceptable portable coverage. If any departments would like to get a pager and radio reprogrammed now so that they can test their areas for themselves contact Telrad. Dave would like to have the new radio protocol, transition plan finalized by September with an area by area transfer as Telrad reprograms equipment. Chief Lamb raised the issue of installing a time out feature on portables so that they cut out on longer transmission to avoid a stuck mic locking down the channel for an extended period of time. Niles has been using this feature for some time with no issues. At 30 seconds the radio will beep and all the speaker would have to do is re-key the mic and continue speaking. A motion was made, seconded with all in favor to request that this feature be installed on fire portables to avoid problems with stuck mics. Dave will contact Telrad. The Buchanan area especially Bertrand and Buchanan may need to be one of the first to transfer as the coverage of their western area from the temporary Niles Tower has not been reliable. A possible solution of switching to Primary 3/1 for a few weeks was discussed. Larry Lamb thanked Dave for all the hard work he and his staff have put in to make this communication improvement a reality. Dave also touched on St Joe City's transition to County dispatch coming at the same time as the Simulcast transition. Our new communication improvements are just in time as Dave reported that St. Joe County intends to strengthen their 154.250 signal soon.

**DNR** –..None

**Funeral Protocol** – @ Berrien.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** – Corey discussed the importance of special events plans for larger community activities and festivals. There have been several examples where the plans have paid off lately. Contact Corey for templates if you need them.

Corey updated the chiefs on the upcoming Palisades Drill. Public Reception will be at Berrien Springs with Watervliet taking Emergency Worker Decon duty. Many agencies are contributing including CERT, Fire, Victim Services, Ham's, and the Adventist Response Group. He also discussed the HAB (Hostile Action Based) which is the new addition to the training requirements for all plants. In addition to all of the requirements currently practiced during these drills we will now have to also show that we can respond to the plant as if there were bad guys who were there doing bad things. Corey will provide Rep-101 class to any department interested. The Palisades

exercises open on September 26<sup>th</sup> with the EOC exercise being held on October 30. Chief Adams also highlighted the need for firefighter training regarding the plant.

**LEPC** –. Tom Mefford an analyst from FEMA region 5 spoke regarding Emergency Planning. It was a very informative lecture.

**SHERIFF**- The Sheriff reported that the Fair went well. Budget time at the County in full swing. Has been having a lot of activity relating to Meth production. Firefighters need to be aware of the components so that they can recognize the dangers. Lt. Jami Zehn is available to present a short class on the topic at your meeting or training night. Call him at 983-7141x4712 is interested. Only minor issues so far at the seasonal farm worker camps.

The Sheriff also shared his pleasure with Dispatch during a Tactical Call out in Benton Twp.

**HAZ-MAT**- None

**BCFFA** -. Walked through new live burn training trailer.

**RED CROSS**-. Susan Brandsma, the Chapter Support Specialist and Readiness and Response Coordinator asked for support from the Chiefs relating to her fund drive for the placement of the World Trade Center Beam. She will be approaching several philanthropic organizations to gain the funding. A motion and Second with all in favor to have Larry write the letter.

**BCYF** –. Training Trailer

**TRAINING** –. Corey let the Chiefs know that they had received 32 applications for 35 spots in the upcoming FF1&2 courses. Those having issues with the State Program should get in touch with Mike Grice.

**MABAS**-. Larry discussed Frank DeLaTorre, and Dave Agens will be participating with subcommittees at that State level. Several Departments still have paperwork needed. Working on completing contact information in the new software. Cook Plant and Life Care will be able to join MABAS.

**OLD BUSINESS** -. Mike Davidson thanked everyone who participated in the Trailer Demo at Meijer. The event was well attended including Vicky Hansen and Don Mobley, from FEMA, and Congressmen Upton. Denny let us know that a few dispatch supervisors that he knew stopped in and were impressed by the display.

**NEW BUSINESS**-. Chief Jones and Chief Woodward discussed the recent VanBuren move up. Communications were discussed especially relating to our new changes. Dave has made some contact with the other counties but it would also be smart if individual Chiefs should consult with their mutual aid partners.

Bridgman will be hosting a Positive Pressure Attack Class to be held on September 21, 22, and 23. You must attend the class on the 21<sup>st</sup> to participate in the live burn on the 22<sup>nd</sup> or the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Adjourned

Next Meeting September 19th at 0830 hours at Lincoln Twp Fire.  
RS Larry Lamb