

Berrien Fire Chief's Association

9-21-11

Meeting called to order by Chief Davidson at 08:35 hours.

- Departments Don't Forget the "FILL THE HELMET PROGRAM" October 14-16th, 2011, Countywide to raise money for the New Firefighters Burn Training Trailer.

ATTENDANCE: Davidson-CFD, Stiles-ECFD, Secton-B911, Agens-B911, LaBaBard-B911, DeLaTorre – SMCAS, Adams – BCFD, Maynard – SJTFD#1, Koebel-RTFD, Burks-BCEMD, Klug-BCEMD, Spiegel-NBFR, Burkett-LTFD, Jesswien-BTFD, Heyn-LTFD, Knuth-BFD, Stover-BSOFD, Lamb-NFD, Debest-BFD.

TREASURER'S REPORT -\$2482.17 with \$75 in Checks yet to be deposited from Dues Payments. Grand total of \$2557.17.

MINUTES – Minutes from the July meeting were approved as presented. Motion & Second with all in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS – Chiefs were reminded to respond to the Regions survey on Tactical Rescue. The information was emailed to area Chiefs. If you need a copy of the survey please call Bill McAllister at 683-0160.

Buchanan Twp is hosting a Fish Fry at their station on October 15th. From 4-8 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

911 – Dave reported that the simulcast grant is still waiting on frequency allocation. He has heard less and less from the coordinator. He will set up a meeting to attempt to move things along. Discussion related to pushing the project through by appealing to our political representatives was also discussed.

Storm Dispatching protocols were discussed. More specifically was the decision to place departments in the line of the storm on standby to help to streamline dispatching. This would eliminate the need for dispatchers to have to drop tones for every call received. After discussion on the same topic during 911 committee meetings it was determined that the decision to standby at the stations should rest with the local agency. Another option could simply be to request that all county pagers remain open so calls can be more easily transferred from Dispatch to the Field. It was also pointed out that as new equipment comes on line our options in this area will improve. Several Chief expressed concerns about asking our people to come in or lay awake at 2 am with their pager open for every storm. Another item that was discussed as a successful method to handle increase load during these type evens was the use of an 800 MHz talk group. Departments that get inundated can request a channel from dispatch which will allow ongoing 2 way transmissions with dispatch. If an area command was established this channel could be used to relay calls from dispatch to the command staff. Dave wanted to make sure everyone was aware that all 10 consoles in the dispatch center were staffed during the storm. More discussion on the issue will follow. With so many calls coming in at once a system to better manage the dissemination of calls during this type of event is a necessity.

Jim Spiegel will replace Tim Jesswien on the Berrien County Public Safety Communication Center Operation Committee.

DNR –.NONE

Funeral Protocol – Tom Stiles discussed the need to establish clear guidelines with funeral protocol to help support a local Chief's position of differentiation between a funeral of a retired, active but not line of duty, and line of duty death. It was consensus that the decision on what and how to honor the individual rested with the local but a guide would help.

Chief Stover requested we purchase up to 24 white gloves for the kit not to exceed \$275.00. All in favor.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT –

Ron Bush will be teaching a weekend IS 300-400 class the weekend of October 15-16 & Oct 29-Nov 5th. Call EM to register. Corey discussed the regional weather radio program for the schools. They will be narrow band and will be portable so that janitors/coaches can move throughout the campus. With 126 school buildings in Berrien County the 100 units will only get us started.

Karen Marrow was introduced as the newest member of the emergency management team.

LEPC –. Wolverine Pipeline representatives spoke about their safety program. After action review was conducted on the Tanker Truck Implosion in Chikaming. Great reports on the response credited partially with the preparations and agreements that were put in place prior to the emergency. Great Job guys. Corey also reported that Chief Grimes will be putting on additional response to animal emergencies classes. Contact Animal Control for scheduling. Finally Severe Weather Table Tops are still available. This great tool help in the planning process for the Chikaming event. Call emergency management for more information.

Corey wanted to remind everyone that there will be a National Emergency Alert System Test on November 9th at 2pm. There will be a media information release coming but phone lines may see an increase during the event.

SHERIFF- The Sheriff has forwarded a letter of support to Congressman Upton in support of the D-Block proposal. This would reserve a piece of spectrum in the 700 MHz spectrum that would be used to develop a national emergency services network. The International Assoc. of Fire Chief supports this proposal. Thanks Sheriff.

HAZ-MAT- None

BCFFA - Denny reported push for donations with the Burn Trailer Project. Chief Davidson thanked the group for their very appreciated \$10,000 donation.

The Chief's association offered up an additional \$1,000 donation from our limited treasury. Motion and second with all in favor.

BCYF –. none

TRAINING – Bridgman Fire is putting together a PPV training simulator. They will be offering classes on October 7-9. This will help to better coordinate PPV during initial attack, its risks and benefits. There will be some costs to offset the costs for drywall. NFPA 1403 will be followed during all burns.

The Career Pathways program is looking for help. North Berrien recently donated some hose for their use. The daytime class has its highest numbers in some time and evening FF1&2 Class is full.

MABAS- Larry discussed the effort to pass HB 4838 which would allow responders from other states to perform work under their states licensure. This is a bill that has already passed in Indiana and will go a long way to correcting issues with State to State Mutual Aid. Secondly, Larry thanked all the departments that participated in the State of Michigan fire mobilization exercise in Coloma this year. We all represented our state and division very well. In total 7 task forces were organized and mobilized for the first time in our State. Great Job!

OLD BUSINESS -.. Chief Davidson reminded everyone to reach out to local business to help to offset the costs for the burn trailer project. Mike and the committee will help to write letters or to attend meetings if helpful. Simply let them know. Our county has the chance of a lifetime to take advantage of this grant. **Don't Forget the "FILL THE HELMET PROGRAM"** - We are running out of time and extensions are limited so we really need to get to work. In order to raise money and increase awareness with the project, the group authorized a fill the helmet campaign to take place on the weekend of October 14-16th. The Chiefs are asking all Berrien Fire Departments to select the time that works best for them and hit the streets to raise money for the new Burn Trailer. For more information call Chief Davidson. Other fundraising opportunities were discussed including raffles.

NEW BUSINESS-

Larry recently held a Bed Bug Prevention Class at his station. He suggested that all Chiefs look into this issue so that they are prepared. Much information is available on line or contact Chief Lamb.

Denny reported that St. Joe City will likely hire a consultant to pursue Public Safety at their next meeting.

A Little Squirt Meeting will follow. The unit will be moved to Benton Twp Fire for storage. Fundraising might take a back seat in the near term so as not to deter for the Burn Trailer Campaign, however it will need to become a focus following to maintain the program.

Next Meeting was changed to Wednesday November 9th at 0830 to keep avoid conflict generating from Deer Season.

Adjourned

RS Larry Lamb