



BERRIEN FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

Meeting called to order by Chief Davidson at 0834 hours
on 11-28-12.

ATTENDANCE: Lamb –NFD, Davidson-CTFD, Sexton-BC911, Agens-BC911, LaBambard-BC911, Long-STFD, Stiles-ECFD, Maynard-SJTTFD#1, DeLaTorre-SMCAS, Jones-WFD, Heyn-Lake, Bandsma-ARC, Burks-BCEM, Bailey-BCSD, Toliver-BCSD, Boyce-BCSD, Gillespi -Tel-Rad, Ruff-NBFR, Keobel-RTFD, deBest-Cook,

TREASURER'S REPORT – Lamb reported no change with a total in checking of \$923.34. Motion, Second with all in favor.

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

COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS – Southwest Fire Territory has an arson Dog available. Contact St Joe County Dispatch for deployment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

911 – Dave reported that we are still transitioning to the new system. So far 85% of departments have made the switch to the new simulcast system. Testing of the backup system will be conducted after everyone makes it to the new system. Dave is also still waiting for a tower agreement from AEP for the New Buffalo tower.

Several Chiefs requested that Dispatch go back to toning 2 times for each call. Apparently missed tones were a concern. Dave will rewrite it into the dispatch policies. Another concerned related to the “vigorousness of the tone.” Telrad will look into the issue. Gabe later reported that he had identified the issue and had a few issues that he would try to remedy the problem.

With everyone on the same frequency the group was reminded of the need for radio discipline with the new system. Remember to roll to fireground channels as soon as practical. Everyone expressed their appreciation to Dave Agens for his efforts to install the new simulcast system.

The need to revisit the need for a landing zone policy was discussed. Frank has developed one that will be included in the minutes for review. It reinforces the need for Medical Control to be contacted for Helicopter ordering. Uniform frequency selection with the Aircraft is also a concern. Dave will also present it at the upcoming Q&A meeting.

800 rebanding dates have changed. January 11@2100 Empire at the Dispatch Center as well as Monday and Tuesday 14th&15th for Motorola Equipment. They will also be in Niles at the Law Enforcement Complex at 1600 Silverbrook on January 16th and 17th.

DNR –.

Funeral Protocol – @ Berrien.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Director Burks discussed resource typing, TIC and CASM Databases. Email to Chiefs will be going out with the data currently on file for each agency. Please update it and return it to Corey. The Emergency Management and BC Firefighters Training Committee will be hosting a cert training course beginning in January on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9:30 pm. The program will last 4 weeks and be held at Berrien Springs Fire on Snow Road.

Corey also offered to present the REP 101 Class to departments after the first of the year. He could do the training on a meeting night. The program lasts 2 hours.

He also commented on the train derailment in Niles. Great response from all. He also commented on the Red Cross who assisted with the Hurricane Sandy response. Finally, he asked that we keep Retired Firefighter from Niles Township Gene Baker in our prayers as he is fighting serious health issues.

LEPC – Chief Lamb reported on the recent meeting. They discussed the recent Lakeland Drill which was held last month and simulated a train derailment. Ron Bush discussed the future Cook Drill. BCEM looking to use more CERT and other help at centers to free up Fire Service. BCEM will have to update the County EM plan to accommodate the new REP Program Changes. BC will be the first to have Hostile Action included in upcoming drills. Next year's graded will be June 4th. Noah's Wish is a group that will respond to help with animals in disasters. They understand NIMS and bring a computer animal ID system to help track animals. Contact EOC if you need their services.

Corey discussed BCEM's tabletop drills being offered to municipalities to attempt to bring together all of the players from municipalities that would participate in a disaster. This proved effective in Chikaming Twp when they had to respond to a tanker release. BCEM will be presenting a severe weather focused tabletop for St Joe Twp.

SHERIFF- Sheriff Bailey discussed a public meeting that will be held on December 4 that will be focused on a Police Services Millage in Benton Harbor. Without the funding the City would have to go into Bankruptcy. The Sheriff is hopeful that the problem will be resolved.

RED CROSS- The local chapter deployed 9 people for 2 weeks to perform ERV mobile feeding in the Long Island area. 300 people in all were dispatched from Michigan to the disaster. They are available for canteening when needed.

HAZ-MAT- None

BCFFA -. Next meeting is the White Elephant. Bring your gifts and cash.

BCYF – .

TRAINING –Nothing new. Buchanan City will be hosting an Officer 3 Series. Chief Ruff will send out a flyer. Practical Test will be April 20th.

MABAS-.Departments are urged to get their MEMAC paperwork to MSP if needed.

OLD BUSINESS -. None

NEW BUSINESS-. Chief Stiles discussed a recent bomb threat and his people being used for searching. Corey discussed the specifics to the call. There is a need to discuss

the approach to these incidents with responders as well as those in the facility relating to response and who does what.

Sheriff Bailey reintroduced Captain Toliver (269-208-6076) and Lieutenant Boyce (269-208-7063) to the group. They can bring to bear a wide assortment of resources, including the mobile command unit. Feel free to contact them for assistance.

The Chief's appointments to the 911 Operational Committee were as follows:

<u>TECH</u>	<u>OPS 911</u>	<u>ADVISORY</u>
Rich Knuth	Tom Stiles	Bruce Stover
Mike Davidson	Dan Jones	Rich Knuth
		Mike Davidson
		Jim Crow

Adjourned 940 hrs

Next Meeting January 16 @ 0830 hours at Lincoln Twp Fire.
RS Larry Lamb