



BERRIEN FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

Meeting 01-16-13

Called to order by Chief Davidson at 837 hours

ATTENDANCE: Davidson-CTFD, Sexton-BC911, Agens-BC911, LaBambard-BC911, Stiles-ECFD, Maynard-SJTFD#1, DeLaTorre-SMCAS, Jones-WFD, Heyn-Lake, Bandsma-ARC, Burks-BCEM, Bailey-BCSD, Krajecki -Tel-Rad, Ruff-NBFR, Keobel-RTFD, deBest-Cook, Crow-SJFD, Stover-BSOFD, Knuth-BFD, Burkett-LTFD, Jesswein-BTFD, Brovold-NTFD

TREASURER'S REPORT – No update given due to Chief Lamb's absence.

MINUTES – Minutes from the November meeting were approved. Motion by Chief Burkett and seconded by Chief Stiles with all in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

911 – Discussion was held on the issue of Chikaming and North Berrien not getting enough of an alert tone on dispatch, prior to the voice transmissions. Gabe from Telrad advised that he would check into the length of the tone pairs to see if anything could be done to improve the situation. He will check the tone pairs on all departments.

Director Dave Agens advised everyone that the New Buffalo receive/backup site on the AEP tower had to be re-applied for. He also talked about the MABAS protocol for Helicopter requests and issues that they had on a call in Lake Twp.

Director Agens advised that over 600 Motorola 800 MHz radios have been re-banded and more to be done in the next couple of days in Niles. The Kenwood 800 MHz radios will be done in Berrien Springs on Wednesday the 23rd.

Chief Davidson discussed that the high radio traffic use during the storms, prior to the holidays, showed the new radio system can be effective. Chief Stover reminded everyone to move their traffic off primary as soon as possible to fire ground frequency.

DNR –.No Report

Funeral Protocol – Chief Davidson advised everyone that he used the kit for a recent funeral and had a lot of good comments from the public.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Captain Burks discussed resource typing, TIC and CASM Databases. Chiefs were given data currently on file for each agency for the CASM Database to be reviewed and returned to his office.

LEPC –.No LEPC meeting this month due to conflicts and re-banding of radios.

SHERIFF- Sheriff Bailey advised that the re-banding of the 800m MHz radios were going good, and that there is a \$50 credit being received by the county for every radio re-banded. Sheriff Bailey also advised that the County Administration Committee has recommended hiring an architect to look into a design remodel project for the jail intake area. The request now goes to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. John Hinkleman has been appointed as the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

RED CROSS- Susan Bandsma will be making appointments with area Fire Chief's to see what can be done to make better use of the Canteen truck that they have at the Berrien Chapter. Discussion were on including it in MABAS cards, adding a tag on the command boards, and possibly asking dispatch to prompt IC on large events. Susan's concerns are that if the vehicle is not used more it may be taken away from the Berrien Chapter. (Flyer attached on facts from Superstorm Sandy)

HAZ-MAT- None

BCFFA - Denny Sexton advised that the organization is in the process of updating the bylaws. He also advised that there is concern about the low numbers of participation in the organization by department members. They have been looking at trying to get more programs with value, and trying to get that information out to the members of each department.

BCYF – None

TRAINING – There are still 37 students in the FFI/FFII class. The instructors are requesting help from each department for the days that they are doing practicals. (See attached sheet). Doug deBest advised that a class on Introduction to Fire Inspections is being offered at Baroda Fire Department, information is available on the State Fire Training Site. There will be an Auto Extrication Competition July 20th at the Berrien Springs Fair Grounds. (Flyer Attached)

MABAS-MABAS departments are urged to get their MEMAC paperwork to MSP if needed. Chief Lamb has emailed out a suggested protocol for Helicopter Landing, please review and return any comments/suggestions to Chief Lamb.

OLD BUSINESS -. A discussion was held on the different committees for 911 Ops, Advisory, and Technical Committees, and which Chiefs are currently on each Committee. Director Dave Agens will check the County Administration Office to see which Chiefs are on the committees currently and he will bring the information back to the Chief's meeting so we can relook at the assignment of Chiefs. The Chiefs recommendation are voted on by the County Commissioner and approved to serve on those committees.

NEW BUSINESS – Chief Koebel advised that there is now a House Bill (4726?) that has passed into law. The bill allows an unemployed volunteer firefighter the ability to not claim up to \$10,000 of volunteer pay that would otherwise drastically affect their unemployment benefits. Chief Koebel is dealing with this first hand and maybe able to assist with more information.

Discussion was held on the new Step Potential Trailer that AEP has available. The AEP contact is Mark Wendt 269-876-0871 for information on scheduling the trailer for training meetings.

Chief Koebel discussed the new V watch device that he has seen from AEP that clips onto a firefighter and will alert the firefighter if they get close to live power lines. Chief Koebel is going to contact AEP on behalf of the Chiefs Association to see if they would be willing to purchase one device for each department, if we would purchase another one ourselves, since we respond to so many down power lines on their behalf.

The Burn Trailer Committee is working on protocols for the use of the trailer, and the cost per firefighter for training with the trailer. They will forward out the information after their next committee meeting.

Motions made by Chief Stiles, seconded by Doug deBest to return to the Chiefs meeting being held every other month in the morning at 8:30, motion carried all in favor.

Next Meeting March 20th, 0830 hours Lincoln Twp Fire Station
Submitted Chief Brovold

(3) Attachments



**American
Red Cross**

The ABCs of Superstorm Sandy

The following are some facts about Sandy that help to explain the magnitude of the disaster. This was compiled from various sources in November 2012

- **Area Affected:** Sandy affected 24 states in the United States, as well as 5 countries in the Caribbean.
- **Barometric pressure:** Sandy produced the lowest barometric air pressure reading ever recorded in the Northeast- 940 millibars.
- **Cost:** Sandy is the second costliest known Atlantic hurricane, only behind Katrina. (This is personal and business storm damage, not Red Cross cost.)
- **Death Toll:** Approximately 200 people lost their lives to Sandy, including approximately 120 in the United States.
- **Expanse:** Sandy was the largest hurricane ever observed in the Northern Atlantic Ocean, with a wind span diameter of 1,100 miles, approximately twice the size of Texas. If Sandy were a country, it would have been the 20th largest in the world.
- **Flights:** Approximately 20,000 flights were cancelled due to Sandy, which affected flight travel all around the world.
- **Gas:** New Jersey and New York experienced their worst fuel shortages since the 1973-1974 oil crisis.
- **Hail and Snow:** Although the immediate coastal states received tropical conditions, "Superstorm" Sandy dumped at least a foot of snow on six states.
- **Ice Caps:** Meteorologists are linking the size and strength of Sandy to global warming and the melting ice caps.
- **Jet stream:** Usually Atlantic hurricanes skirt along the East Coast and do not come inland. An unusual jet stream is what pulled Sandy into New Jersey, which had only been hit by one Hurricane before- the "Vagabond Hurricane" in 1903. Meteorologists had been commenting on this unusual jet stream for weeks before Sandy appeared.
- **Kinks and Loops:** The kinks and loops of the jet stream are what made the jet stream powerful enough to pull in a hurricane.
- **Late Landfall:** Although Hurricane Season is from June 1 to November 30, the most hurricanes and the strongest hurricanes tend to occur at the height of the season, in August and September. Sandy made an unusual landfall in late October.
- **Markets:** US stock markets were closed for two consecutive days for the first time since the Blizzard of 1888. The last time there had been a single day closure was on 9/11.
- **Nor'easter:** A week after Sandy, a Nor'easter further impacted the communities hardest hit by Sandy with even more rain, storm surge, flooding and power outages.
- **Outages:** More than 8 million customers lost power.
- **"Perfect Storm":** Hurricane Sandy intersected with a cold front and a strong dip in the jet stream, which gave it many names in the media, including "Frankenstorm" and "Superstorm." Throughout the nearly half of the US states, people experienced all sorts of weather: high winds, rain, waves, storm surge, tornadoes and blizzards.
- **Quantitative Precipitation:** The highest quantitative precipitation from Sandy was in the Chesapeake area, which had 11.41 inches.
- **Rainfall:** Sandy produced approximately 300 trillion gallons of rain over the US alone, which is the same amount of water that goes over Niagara Falls every 10 years.
- **Storm Surge:** The surge level from Sandy at Battery Park in New York was at 13.88 feet, which is nearly 3 feet higher than the previous record from Hurricane Donna in 1960.
- **Tide:** Making this even more so the "perfect storm," Sandy hit during a full moon, which makes high tides 20% higher than normal. This amplified the storm surge and flooding.
- **Unpredictable landfall:** No one was sure where Sandy would make a direct hit until about 24 hours before landfall. People from North Carolina to Maine were preparing for a potential direct hit.
- **Voting:** Sandy made landfall one week before the 2012 Presidential Election. Early voting was closed on many days in the affected regions. Some areas of New Jersey ended up being allowed to email or fax in their votes, which is the first time that has ever been allowed.
- **Waves:** Sandy produced waves of 32.5 feet in New York Harbor, beating the previously held record by many feet.
- **Xerotic:** One of the few positive effects of Sandy was that it helped to end a xerotic-period (also known as a drought) in the Delmarva region and western New York.
- **Years:** Many expect that it could take years to fully recover and rebuild after Sandy.
- **Zone A:** Many coastal areas were under mandatory evacuations orders, including the well-known "Zone A" in New York City, which includes the southern tip of Manhattan, the Rockaways and the low-lying areas of Queens. These areas were among the most impacted by Sandy.

Firefighter 1 & 2 2012-2013 Class
Practical Help Needed Rev 07/01/2012

Date	Start Time	End Time	Description	Chapter	Instructor	Location
October 6, 2012	12:30	17:00	Safety, Personal Protective Equipment and Rehab	2, 19	Hall	BSOFD
October 14, 2012	12:30	17:00	Ladders	12	Fister	BSOFD
November 4, 2012	12:30	17:00	SCBA	2	Leo/Hall	BSOFD
November 18, 2012	Noon	17:00	Laying, Carrying, & Advancing Hose	16	Munson	BSOFD
November 27, 2012	19:00	22:00	Ropes and Knots	9	Wise	BSOFD
December 1, 2012	12:30	17:00	Forcible Entry / Ventilation Practical	11,14	Hall	BSOFD
December 4, 2012	19:00	22:00	Ropes and Knots	9	Wise	BSOFD
December 16, 2012	9:30	17:00	Practical Review	2,13,9	ALL	BSOFD
January 5, 2013	12:30	18:00	Fire Fighter Survival - Practical	17	Hall	NILES
February 24, 2013	12:30	17:00	Salvage/Overhaul	18	Hall/Chris	BSOFD
March 9, 2013	8:00	17:00	Practical Review		ALL	BSOFD
March 16, 2013	10:30	12:00	Wildland and Ground Fires Practical	20	Hall	BSOFD
March 16, 2013	12:30	17:00	Fire Suppression/Nozzles/Water/Foam Fire Streams Practical	16,21	Burks	BSOFD
March 24, 2013	8:00	12:00	Snow Day Makeup / Practical Review	TBD	TBD	BSOFD
March 24, 2013	13:00	17:00	Snow Day Makeup / Practical Review	TBD	TBD	BSOFD
April 6, 2013	12:30	17:00	Portable Extinguishers	7	Adams	Cook
April 13, 2013	8:00	17:00	CPR		Rich/Leo	BSOFD
April 14, 2013	8:00	13:00	Practical Review		ALL	BSOFD
April 20, 2013	8:00	TBD	Practical Test		ALL	Fairground

All Helpers Only Need to be Firefighter 2 Certified.
 More Details and are Job Sheets are Coming Soon.