



BERRIEN FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

Meeting 03-19-14

Called to order by Chief Davidson at 0834 hours

ATTENDANCE:

Berrien County Fire Chief's Association
Attendance Sheet
March 19, 2014

Print	Signature	Dept.
1. Mike Davidson	<i>Mike Davidson</i>	C.T.F.D.
2. Rich Kuff	<i>Rich Kuff</i>	B.F.D.
3. Darl De Rossi	<i>Darl De Rossi</i>	Weesaw
4. Ron Burkett	<i>Ron Burkett</i>	Linsalu Twp
5. Dan Pigeas	<i>Dan Pigeas</i>	Mona
6. Frank Delcambre	<i>Frank Delcambre</i>	S.M.C.A.S.
7. David Agens	<i>David Agens</i>	911
8. Rocky Adams	<i>Rocky Adams</i>	ECFED
9. Tom Niles	<i>Tom Niles</i>	ECFD
10. Dan Jones	<i>Dan Jones</i>	WFD
11. Bob Kuff	<i>Bob Kuff</i>	NBFR
12. Ken Nemis	<i>Ken Nemis</i>	MedFlight
13. Bruce Stovell	<i>Bruce Stovell</i>	BSOFD
14. Gary Bravold	<i>Gary Bravold</i>	NTFD
15. Jeremy Connel	<i>Jeremy Connel</i>	BHDPS
16. Harold Hays	<i>Harold Hays</i>	Lake Park
17.		
18.		

TREASURER'S REPORT- None

Chief Lamb Absent. \$22 Received from morning breakfast donations. Thank you Chief Burkett~!

MINUTES – Minutes from the February 19th meeting were approved with all in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS /BILLS – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SHERIFF- None Captain Adams advised Sheriff is out sick.

RED CROSS- None. No one in attendance.

911 – Director Agens discussed issues that are occurring with Chikaming Township and the two icons on the dispatcher's screen that should be corrected soon.

Chief Ruff addressed issues that he is having with low volume and scratchy transmissions. It appears that this is not just an issue in the North part of the county, but county wide. Director Agens will contact Tel-Rad and look into the problem. It was stated that it might be related to the new 911 equipment installed into the county dispatch center. Niles is still in the process of installing the new equipment, and is currently operating under the old system, and the radio traffic seems to be stronger from there.

He advised that New Buffalo Township was moving into their new Fire Station and radio equipment is in the beginning stages of being installed.

The Helicopter Plan still has not been approved by the State of Michigan. There was some discussion on the VHF Fire channel to be used for the Landing Zone (LZ) operation. Director Agens suggested the use of the VCall 10 frequency which is also the Mayday channel on our radios. This was suggested because it is the only Fire Ground frequency that dispatch can monitor. There was further discussion, and all in attendance agreed that we should look at just calling the Mayday channel what it really is, VCall 10. Director Agens will advise the dispatchers to refer to it as VCall 10/Mayday frequency for the time being. Ken Nemis from Med Flight, also attended the meeting and advised that our plan sounds good and that they will have the helicopter go directly with dispatch to verify LZ frequency.

Active Shooter protocol is moving forward and at this point the concentration is being centered on the 911 Dispatch Center handling of the large call volume expected during an incident.

Active 911 is still growing in the County. So far 18 departments in the county are using the system.

Chief Brovold asked if Niles Township/New Buffalo Township are the only departments that keep being dispatched to calls that are not theirs. It appears that happens to Benton Township/Benton Harbor, and two other departments also. Director Agens stated there are some things that they can do with color coding and multiple line identifying on the new icons that he will look into to.

DNR –Paul Rogers attended the meeting and provided information on the new MesoWest Wildfire Weather Forecasting that is now available to help predict hazardous burning conditions statewide. The system is not functioning fully due to the snow conditions still on the ground. The system is made up of sensors located throughout the state. The information on how to log into the site is attached to this email. Please double check the site after 2pm each day, for that is the time that the system will update.

Paul encouraged the Chief's committee to continue to apply for Federal Excess Property (Application Attached), and reminded everyone that in order to apply you must have a signed Mutual Aid Agreement with the DNR (Form Attached).

Paul stated that if you have an incident that you need assistance with to remember that they have an hour drive time to the middle of our area and that they do not respond lights and sirens unless needed when they get close. He also asked us to remember that they need enough room on the scene to unload their dozer. It is basically coming in on a flatbed wrecker. If you have two or more departments on the scene and it appears to be a call that will last for an extended period, please call our dispatch center. They in turn will call Allegan dispatch, who will then notify Paul.

Paul covers Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, and Allegan Counties. His contact information is attached also.

FUNERAL PROTOCOL – Nothing new

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Captain Adams stated that there will be an ICS 400 class on April 1st and 2nd, sign up is through the MI-Train Website, and that his office will assist in signing up if needed.

He is working with Palisades for their Hostile Action Plan that we will be drilling on later this year. Dates are September 30th for the 1st drill, October 13th for the second drill, and October 30th for the graded exercise. He is also working on the 8 year drill plans for both DC Cook and Palisades.

They are currently working with 911 on the dispatch side of an active shooter. The State of Michigan has been put in charge of creating a state template plan for active shooter plans in schools. He stated that there is a reporting system for schools to report students with possible mental issues called "Ok to save".

LEPC – There have been 70 sites that have submitted their Tier II forms. This is down 40-50 from last year and Emergency Management will be looking into the reason for the decrease. This last meeting focused on the LEPC Awareness level.

Carmen Kucinich from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and did a presentation on the Federal Victim Assistance Program.

HAZ-MAT- Berrien County is in the process of allowing Local Department Firefighters, with the proper training, to join the County Hazmat Team. They are updating MOUs and Policies currently. You will need to be certified as a Hazmat II Tech to be on the team. Other requirements are 80% participation, and passing a physical that has been running about \$800. The County will provide face masks, but individuals are responsible for their Uniforms and cold weather gear. The average is between 1-2 calls a month.

BCFFA - Nothing new.

BCYF – None

TRAINING – Clandestine Drug Lab Training at Chikaming March 29th, seats still available, contact Chief Davidson or Chief Ruff for more information. Both MCOLES and EMS training credit available. (Flyer Attached). FFI/III class is at about 22 remaining for testing. Testing is set for April 17th for the written, and April 19th for the practical. Help will be needed for testing with personnel and equipment.

MABAS- Updated By Frank DeLaTorre. No MABAS meeting in March due to weather. MABAS Meeting 02-12-2014

Application was received from Montcalm County to join MABAS consisting of eight fire departments. No Divisional dispatch center selected yet. Jackson County is interested in MABAS. Jackson County has a county chiefs meeting on March 15 and would like a MABAS presentation. MABAS has formed an EMS committee trying to bring private EMS companies into MABAS. They have hit a few stumbling blocks and are trying to work them out.

Box Cards. Discussion on changing format of box cards within a division. Concern on what if any confusion it will cause with one department different than others on cards. Saginaw had similar issues with some departments not understanding difference in still/full alarms etc... With these being inter divisional cards it should not matter what we call the alarm levels just as long as everyone within a division are consistent.

Locally we discussed that we should meet as MABAS 3501 and look at these issues.

OLD BUSINESS -. None

NEW BUSINESS – Benefit for Niles Charter Township Firefighter Ken Laurita's wife Cyndi, on April 5th (Flyer Attached)

Request by Chief Burkett to have Chief Lamb send out dues invoices, to keep money coming into the organization, group present agreed.

Next Meeting May 21st, 0830 hours Lincoln Twp Fire Station

RS Gary Brovold



The Chickaming Twp. Fire Department is hosting the
Michigan Office of Firefighter Training Course:



CLANDESTINE DRUG LAB AWARENESS



DATE: Saturday, March 29, 2014
TIME: 1:30pm - 5:30pm
LOCATION: Chickaming Twp Fire Dept.
 13535 Red Arrow Hwy
 Harbert, MI 49115
COST: \$30 per student

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a State of Michigan Firefighter Training Council course. Students will receive a State Certificate. This course is also approved for EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS! Also, for PSO's or police officers, the course will also get you MCOLES CE's. The instructors will be Sgt. Brian Blomstrom of the Greenville Dept. of Public Safety and Deputy Clayton Thomas of the Montcalm County Sheriff's Dept. Both have extensive experience dealing with clan labs. Students should expect a combination of lecture and hands on training. See the chart below for a list of EMS CE's:

<u>CE Category</u>	<u>MFR</u>	<u>EMT</u>	<u>EMT-S</u>	<u>PARAMEDIC</u>
Environmental	1	1	1	1
EMS Systems Ops	1	1	1	1
Disaster Planning	1	1	1	1
HazMat	1	1	1	1
Totals	4	4	4	4

Your State of Michigan Certificate will serve as your CHIT sheet for EMS Credits.

The Course will discuss:

- *Common components of undercover drug labs
- *Understanding how methamphetamine is produced
- *Demonstrate fire hazards while producing meth
- *Components seen around methamphetamine labs
- *How methamphetamine affects the body
- *Legal issues in dealing with HazMat scenes

To register, visit www.FireSeminars.com and click the Register for Clan Lab Awareness link

Contact Bob Ruff at ruff@fireseminars.com or 269-591-1210 with any questions

REQUEST FOR FEDERAL EXCESS PROPERTY

*(Will be kept on file for a maximum of three years)***

PLEASE NOTE: Once VFD is offered equipment, contact with DNR's Rose Lake facility or Gaylord facility must be made within three weeks.					Date:
Fire Dept. Name:		County:		Fire Dept. I.D. No.:	
Fire Dept. Mailing Address, City:			Fire Dept. Street Address, City:		
Fire Dept. Phone No.:			Chief's Name: _____		
			Daytime Phone No.: _____		
Protection Area – List Twps., Villages, City and Total Square Miles:					
Type of Equipment Requested					
	Type	Your Priority (1, 2, 3 etc.)	New Unit	Replacement Unit	Comments
[]	S. 4x4 Engine (3/4 or Blazer)		[]	[]	
[]	L. 4x4 Engine (5/4 & larger)		[]	[]	
[]	6x6 Engine		[]	[]	
[]	Small Tanker 1-3000 Gal		[]	[]	
[]	Large Tanker 3000 Gal +		[]	[]	
[]	Generator – Facility		[]	[]	
[]	Generator – Truck		[]	[]	
[]	Air Compressor		[]	[]	
Other – Please list:					
Current available fire trucks at your Department: (Inventory of fire trucks including age, size and condition).					
** Upon acceptance or refusal of an offer of available equipment, this request will be made inactive. ___ Check if current Mutual Aid Agreement on file with DNR, Date last signed _____.					
The undersigned understands that a cooperative memorandum and agreement between the above fire unit and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will be consummated, if and when any of the above equipment is acquired.					
_____ City Manager, Township Supervisor, or other Official					
DNR USE ONLY					
Field Office: _____ / Unit Office: _____		Management Unit Priority: L M H (Circle One)			
Fire Officer Supervisor:			Date:		
Issue to Department:			Date:		



COOPERATIVE MUTUAL AID FIRE CONTROL AGREEMENT

This Agreement is authorized under Part 515 of Act 451 of 1994, as amended

This agreement is between the Forest Resources Division and:

_____ Name of Fire Organization	_____ Federal ID #
_____ Address	_____ Governing Unit or Board
_____ City, State and Zip Code	_____ Telephone
_____ County	_____ Fire Department No.

This Cooperative Agreement made this _____ day of _____ by and between _____ (Governing Agency Unit or Board), hereinafter referred to as the Cooperator; and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Forest Resources Division (FRD), hereinafter referred to as the DNR, is entered into for the purpose of:

- (1) Placing Federal Excess Personal Property for local fire department's use.
- (2) Placing Department of Defense (DoD) Firefighter Program Property for local fire department's use.
- (3) Providing the closest possible cooperation on mutual objectives.
- (4) Lending effective support when either organization is committed to or beyond its capacity.
- (5) Defining purposes and responsibilities of the respective organization.
- (6) Providing purchase authority through a Federal GSA Fire Equipment catalog.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS: The control of timber, grass, and wildland fires is essential to an effective wildland fire control program.

WHEREAS: The Cooperator is actively engaged in the prevention and suppression of all fires.

WHEREAS: It has been determined to be advantageous to the DNR, in the proper discharge of its responsibilities, to make certain equipment available to the Cooperator for rural fire control.

PART I – FEDERAL EXCESS PERSONNEL PROPERTY

NOW THEREFORE, the parties to this Agreement do hereby agree as follows:

THE DNR AGREES:

- (1) To assist the Cooperator in providing reasonable basic protection from uncontrolled fires occurring in natural cover fuels and to conduct a prevention program to reduce the number of such fires.
- (2) Upon request from the Cooperator will dispatch equipment to fires when available.
- (3) Having knowledge of same, will immediately advise the Cooperator of any burning or threatened structure within the area.
- (4) The title of all accessories, tools, equipment, and sirens provided by the Cooperator which are added to the equipment will remain with the Cooperator and the Cooperator may remove same prior to returning the equipment to the DNR.
- (5) Extend benefits of the Federal-State "Cooperative Fire Control Agreement" to enable the Cooperator to purchase fire fighting equipment and supplies through the GSA Fire Equipment Catalog.

THE COOPERATOR AGREES:

- (1) When available, will dispatch a crew with equipment to any fire within their protection area.
- (2) Be responsible for all purchasing and payment of invoices for equipment ordered through GSA. The DNR may require the Cooperator to send a copy of purchase orders for audit purposes.
- (3) The Cooperator, having equipment under the Federal Excess Personnel Property Program, must provide **personal liability and property damage insurance covering vehicles on loan to the Cooperator (required under the agreement with the federal government)**. Insurance coverage by the Cooperator will begin on the date the vehicle is received by the Cooperator. A copy of the current insurance certificate must be kept in the vehicle for inspection purposes. The Cooperator must notify the DNR immediately of all damages, vandalism or theft of the federal excess property vehicle on loan under this agreement. The Cooperator must also report stolen federal excess property upon discovery to the DNR and to local Law Enforcement authorities. If the Cooperator does not provide insurance on the vehicle, the vehicle **MUST** be returned to the DNR within thirty (30) days.

- (4) To make the equipment available for inspection, when requested, by a representative of the DNR.
- (5) The Cooperator cannot remove parts without written permission from the DNR.
- (6) The equipment may not be sold, junked, traded, or otherwise disposed of, but must be returned BY THE COOPERATOR to one of the DNR, FRD Repair Shops (Marquette in the Upper Peninsula, Gaylord in the Northern Lower Peninsula, or Rose Lake in the Southern Lower Peninsula), when a vehicle becomes surplus to the fire department's needs. Written notice is to be given to the local forest fire officer before the vehicle is returned.
- (7) Any vehicle provided will not be loaded beyond the manufacturer's recommended load capacity, and comply with the Michigan vehicle code.
- (8) All vehicles provided will be equipped and operated in compliance with the Michigan Vehicle Code and Occupational Standards applicable to their use.
- (9) All vehicles provided will be housed and under the direct control of the fire department, and used for rural and wildland fire protection.
- (10) The Cooperator will notify the DNR immediately in the event of an accident or death involving a vehicle on loan to the Cooperator.
- (11) A State of Michigan license plate will continue to be used on the equipment requiring a license.
- (12) The equipment will be painted DNR red or to correspond with the Cooperator's fire equipment and marked with both the Cooperator's identifying decals, and a decal furnished by the DNR.
- (13) The equipment must be converted for use for fire control and placed in fire service within twelve (12) months from date of issue to the Cooperator.
- (14) To train their personnel in proper operation of any equipment provided.

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED:

- (1) **Suppression.** When both agencies are represented at the same fire, the over-all supervisory responsibility shall lie with the agency concerned most directly with the object **actually on fire**. If both types of objects, i.e., structures and vegetation, are on fire simultaneously, each agency shall attend its normal responsibility, and/or play a supporting role to the other, based on a judgment decision as to the values involved or threatened. If immediate action is required, neither agency shall be limited because of the type of object which is burning.
- (2) **Training.** Each agency agrees to attend/participate/assist/etc. in those portions of the other agency's training programs which have a bearing on the individual agency's efficiency.
- (3) **Personal Protection.** DNR employees are not trained nor certified to wear self-contained breathing apparatus. DNR personnel must be advised by the Cooperator when atmospheric conditions are unsafe. DNR employees may work in support of the Cooperator under restricted conditions such as, but not limited to, up wind from the incident or in supply and transport.
- (4) DNR tractors are not intended to be used other than on Wildland fires.
- (5) **Other.** Each agency agrees to lend its support to programs of the other agency which will increase the public awareness of the hazard and destruction of fire and/or make the objectives of this Agreement possible.

Failure to comply with any part of the Agreement will result in the forfeiture of said equipment.

This Agreement is authorized under Part 515 of Act 451 of 1994, as amended; the Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978; and the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949.

PART II – DEPARTMENT of DEFENSE FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM PROPERTY

NOW THEREFORE, the parties to this agreement, in reference to DEPARTMENT of DEFENSE FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM PROPERTY TRANSFERRED UNDER 10U.S.C 2576b, ADMINISTERED BY THE USDA FOREST SERVICE.

THE COOPERATOR AGREES TO:

- (1) Request for transfer only DoD firefighting property that can effectively be made usable and put into service for fire fighting or emergency services.
- (2) Convert the equipment into acceptable fire control or emergency response unit within twelve (12) months from the time of acquisition.
- (3) Use the aforementioned equipment only for the suppression of wildfire and/or for other emergencies which threaten the loss of life or property.
- (4) Provide adequate storage and maintenance for the equipment and responsible for all operational cost and repairs.
- (5) Provide access to and the right to examine all records, books papers, or documents relating to the DoD Firefighting Property to the Forest Service, DoD Office of Inspector General, the Comptroller General of the United States, or his authorized representative, and the USDA, including its Office of Inspector General, or authorized representatives.

- (6) Maintain the equipment in the Cooperator's inventory, as well as maintain property records on the equipment for a minimum of five (5) years after acquisition of said property (i.e. registration, insurance, final disposal). Written permission from the DNR is required to dispose of property retained for less than five (5) years.
- (7) Make available the said equipment for periodic inspection by a duly authorized representative of the DNR until title has been transferred to the Cooperator.
- (8) Maintain the equipment in full readiness at all times.
- (9) Have liability insurance coverage for any vehicles in this agreement.
- (10) The equipment will be painted DNR Red, or to correspond with the Cooperator's fire equipment, and will have all of the Cooperator's identifying decals.
- (11) All vehicles must comply with all State and Federal regulations, as well as vehicle manufacturers loading restrictions.
- (12) Owners of Firefighter Program property will cooperate with Federal and State parties to ensure compliance in State and Federal regulations and program and property management requirements.
- (13) Accept title of said property in the Agency name, not an individual member of the agency.
- (14) Properly register the vehicle to the Cooperator, and provide appropriate license plate, once title has been transferred to the Cooperator.

THE DNR AGREES TO:

- (15) The State of Michigan will provide the Cooperator with documentation to transfer title of the above equipment to the Cooperator, upon completion of conversion, with proof that the equipment has been placed into emergency service, and is properly insured.

This Agreement will be effective from the date of execution by the DNR – FRD designee, and will continue in force unless terminated by either party by thirty days (30) written notice to the other, provided, however, all of the provisions herein are complied with.

This agreement replaces all previous agreements.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties by and through their duly qualified and acting officials have hereunto set their hands.

 Cooperator – Governing Unit

 By Date

 Official Title

 Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 Forest Resources Division

 By Date

 Official Title

Cyndi Laurita Cancer Benefit

"Nobody Fights Cancer Alone"



We are reaching out to the Niles Community to help us as this family of 7 begins a fight against cancer for the mother they love.

Cyndi is a native of Niles, a 1991 Graduate of Niles High, attended Southwestern Michigan College and has worked at 5/3 Bank in Niles since 1990.

Cyndi was diagnosed with Stage 3 Cancer just after her 40th birthday. She is a fighter and we want to help them with the burden of out-of-pocket expenses. Please join us and show her your support.

Donations can be made to any 5/3 Bank in Niles to the Cyndi Laurita Benefit Fund.

Any Donation of Door Prizes or Raffle Prizes can be made by calling Sue @ (574) 876-0731. or Ken Laurita @ (574)250-3552

Spaghetti Dinner

April 5, 2014

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Eagles Lodge

34 Sycamore St

Niles, MI

Adults \$8.00

Children \$4.00

Bands begin at 7:00 pm

Rebel Pride Band

Terra Firma Band

and more

MesoWest Wildfire Weather Forecasting

- 1) Log into system using link: <http://glffc.utah.edu/cgi-bin/gl.cgi>
Quick use
- 2) Use toggles to move over and focus in on your geographic area
- 3) Open drop-down box in upper left corner "Station Value"-change to "FDR-grass"
- 4) Open "date/time" drop box to pick specific day-remember each station value is not updated until 1400hrs

Current Conditions/past history

- 1) Double left click on closest weather station
- 2) Bottom of pop-up shows current and forecast conditions
- 3) Upper buttons allow change for graph-solid lines are actual observations and dotted show forecasted predictions

Weather stations are "turned off" and website is not actively being maintained when it is not fire season, temperature, wind-speed and direction are still recorded however no precipitation is being measured. As conditions allow weather stations are on from south to north.

MIDNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management
ADJECTIVE CLASS MATRIX
 May 19, 2004

SPRINGTIME ADJECTIVE RATINGS

Begin with Table 1. Using Fine Fuel Moisture Code (FFMC) and Initial Spread Index (ISI) calculated for today, find the appropriate adjective class. If instructed to use Table 2, determine the adjective rating using the Fire Weather Index (FWI) and Fine Fuel Moisture Code (FFMC).

TABLE 1	ISI = 0.0 to 1.9	ISI = 2.0 to 3.9	ISI = 4.0 to 7.9	ISI = 8.0+
FFMC = 0.0 to 74.9	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	SEE TABLE 2
FFMC = 75.0 to 84.9	MODERATE	MODERATE	HIGH	SEE TABLE 2
FFMC = 85.0+		HIGH	HIGH	SEE TABLE 2

TABLE 2	FFMC < 92	FFMC = 92+
FWI Less Than 30.0	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH
FWI = 30.0+	VERY HIGH	EXTREME

SUMMERTIME ADJECTIVE RATINGS

Generally, begin using the summer criteria on June 1. Begin with Table 3. Using Buildup Index (BUI) and Initial Spread Index (ISI), find the appropriate adjective class. If instructed to use Table 4, determine adjective class using the Fire Weather Index (FWI) and Fine Fuel Moisture Code (FFMC).

TABLE 3	ISI 0.0 to 1.9	ISI 2 to 2.9	ISI 3 to 3.9	ISI 4.0 to 5.9	ISI 6.0 to 7.9	ISI 8.0 to 9.9	ISI 10.0+
BUI=0.0 to 44.9	LOW			MODERATE		HIGH	
BUI=45.0 69.9	LOW		MODERATE		HIGH		VERY HIGH
BUI=70.0 to 99.9	LOW	MODERATE		HIGH		SEE TABLE 4	
BUI=100.0+	USE SPRING CRITERIA						

TABLE 4	FFMC < 92	FFMC = 92+
FWI Less Than 35.0	VERY HIGH	VERY HIGH
FWI = 35.0+	VERY HIGH	EXTREME

RULES OF THUMB - FWI

FFMC -	75	Surface fire - spreads some
	80	Surface fire - spreads more continuous
	90	High probability of spot fires
	91	Onset of extreme FB
DMC -	20	DUFF available for ignition
	30	Fires moderately intense
	50	Extreme FB
	150	Loss of most available moisture
DC -	15	Deep organics near saturation
	300	Onset of smoldering combustion
	500	Sustained deep smoldering
ISI -	0	No spread
	10	Threshold for crowning
	20	Extreme FB
	50	Rarely exceeds this value
BUI -	30	Deeper, heavier fuels start to become involved
	60	Potential for increased mop up, safety concerns
	90	Many fires have potential to escape IA
FWI -	3	Fire spreads
	25	Onset of potentially extreme FB
	50+	Disaster fires