



BERRIEN FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

Meeting 6-18-2014

Called to order by Chief Davidson at 1836 hours

ATTENDANCE:

TREASURER’S REPORT – Chief Lamb reported Checking Acct began at \$1,205.83. Check for \$383.91 went out \$44 was deposited from breakfasts. \$400 was deposited from dues (Royalton, Oronoko, Buchanan City, Benton Twp, North Berrien, Niles Twp, Bridgman, and Pipestone – Berrien Twp). \$200 check written to CISM. Grand total of \$1063.92 in the Checking Account. Motion and second with all in favor.

Print	Signature	Dept.
M. Ke Davidson	<i>M. Ke Davidson</i>	CTFD
Walter Lyles	<i>Walter Lyles</i>	NFD
Chris Rice	<i>Chris Rice</i>	PII
Thomas Watson	<i>Thomas Watson</i>	HC 911
Gary Gray	<i>Gary Gray</i>	SSC 911
David Little	<i>David Little</i>	BC 911
Deanna Rice	<i>Deanna Rice</i>	LC 911
Paula Carl	<i>Paula Carl</i>	CTFD
Chris DeCorture	<i>Chris DeCorture</i>	SM 911
Chris Huston	<i>Chris Huston</i>	W 911
Ernie Schaefer	<i>Ernie Schaefer</i>	BS 911
Leslie Schaefer	<i>Leslie Schaefer</i>	R 911
Leslie Kautzman	<i>Leslie Kautzman</i>	W 911
Paul Hesse	<i>Paul Hesse</i>	BC 911
Bob Ruff	<i>Bob Ruff</i>	N 911

MINUTES – Minutes from the May 21st meeting were approved with all in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS –.

PRESENTATION - None

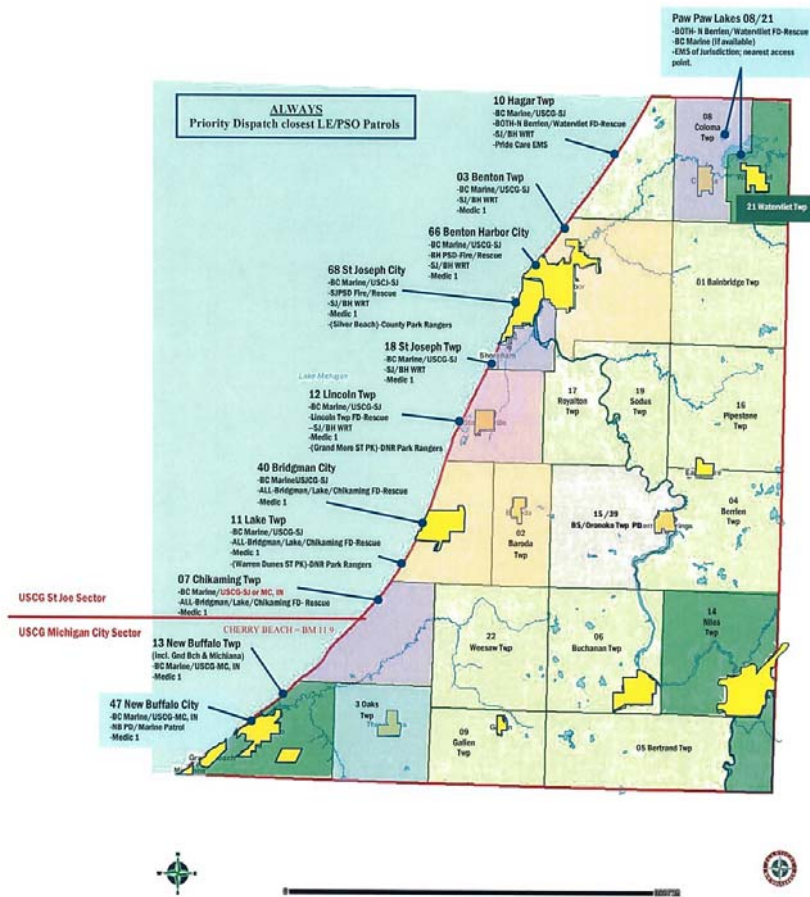
COMMITTEE REPORTS

911 – Director Agens reported on progress in New Buffalo, the 6th paging site was installed Friday. The T-1 line appears to be stable. This will be the only link on a T-1 as all of the other towers are on Microwave links. Dave went into detail on the issues that can develop with T-1 lines.

Many of the Chiefs were still reporting issues relating to the performance of the VHF system. Several expressed some confidence issues relating to the vender and the systems continual tuning. Some asked if there were outside experts from Motorola that could come over and evaluate the issues. Specific questions were asked relating to the process used to in evaluating the performance of the system including spot checking locations. Dave said that this was just done a few weeks back with no noted performance issues noted. Many Chief's reported that the system performed much better when first installed with reductions in performance specifically near the Lincoln Twp Fire department and North Berrien Area, Niles, St Joe and Bridgman areas all specifically noted. Most of the reports related to scratchy weak signals with limited portable coverage areas. It doesn't appear to be a static problem as one time the system will get out and other times portables are not able to reach the repeater or if they do the signal it is distorted or unreadable. The Chief of New Buffalo has been waiting for the T-1 line on his tower to go in and will begin to report issues and performance of the system to Dave. He noted that the backup transmitter has far better performance currently than he is getting from the primary system. Dave will contact TelRad and see if they can determine any issues that can be corrected.

Dave reported that the Backup sites at New Buffalo and Berrien are up and running but issues remain with the St Joe and Niles sites.

Preliminary Guide - Jurisdictional Rescue Responders - Primary Water Bodies



May 9, 2014

Dave presented everyone a copy of the Guide his people are using to dispatch the appropriate resource to Lake Michigan water rescues. It brings to light the challenges that our dispatchers face and how difficult their jobs can be. Chief Ruff also shared how impressed he was of a dispatcher that parroted him on a recent call. We are all a team and we are all reliant on the other to be effective.

Dave discussed a recent event where 2 separate responses to the Lake were underway that the same time. Some issues with relaying information to local USCG crews from Milwaukee were noted. We followed prescribe notification protocol. Locally, one

incident was primarily on VHF and the other used 800. The big challenge remains Unified Incident Command as well as the use of Tactical Channels to assure main contact with dispatch is not overwhelmed. The later is currently being considered with the Active Shooter Responses. Even with the tactical changes underway to use a more aggressive offensive approach to these incidents they remain a mass casualty event that requires exterior command and control. This command/UIC should have communication with tactical units as well as direct communication with Dispatch simultaneously so that the coordination of additional resources, establishment of perimeter, triage, transportation and treatment can be stood up, and the security as well as the investigative aspects required to process the scene do not walk on the officers while sweeping the building. Additional discussions and eventual drilling will be required to properly prepare for this type of event.

Dave also asked that if issues develop relating to issues like the active911 not being used that you let Roland or him know the time and issue and he will take care of the issue. Though dispatching fire with all the variations can be challenging the protocols are pretty clear. With what Denny has installed in the CAD the information is available for dispatchers if the protocols are followed.

The High Incident Protocol was discussed. Dave hoped to have things finalized at the upcoming 911 Tech Committee. Developing the criteria that triggers the plan will be established. Dave is working on a training sheet for the roll out. It is basically a plan where all departments are toned out and asked to monitor the main. Tones would not be dropped. Dispatch would simply call out addresses allowing each agency to respond to calls how they deemed fit. This would allow all departments to get their calls much more quickly and efficiently avoiding the obvious time it would take for dispatch to tone each call effectively.

Finally, Dave discussed the helicopter protocol. He pointed out that already this year we have called helicopters 4 times since adoption of the new plan which happens to be twice as much as a normal year. Chief need to make sure their people understand the protocol and understand the location of the MAYDAY Channel or VCALL-10 (Same thing) is on their radios as that is the go to landing zone communication channel.

DNR –none.

Funeral Protocol – Berrien Springs

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Our EM Rockey Adams is out getting his PEM on.

LEPC –. A Cow Call ok maybe Cow Rescue was discussed that occurred in Saint Joe Twp. Gerry discussed the challenges that they faced dealing with the removal and security of the livestock. Lisa Marsh-McCarty reported that they have permission to buy 10 sections of live stock fencing that can be available quickly. Gerry also praised Berrien County Animal Control for their response. Once notified they had several local farmers at the scene early on to help. Lincoln Twp was also influential as they assisted in cutting the trailer to free the trapped livestock.

SHERIFF- Na

RED CROSS- They continue to look for ways to help us on incidents. They are looking for ideas relating to quicker notification and or automatic reminders that they are available.

HAZ-MAT- None

BCFA& BCYF – Discussions to the Use of the Old Station at the fair for Prevention activities. Gerry is still looking for ideas and help. Denny would like to use the old phone line to activate a fire bell when called. Gear Displays, old departmental photos, fun photo cut outs that the kids put their head into to look like a firefighter, department equipment ranging from communication to air packs were all discussed. Gerry is putting together a coloring book of all the Fire Stations and Chief Stover agreed to put together a cost estimate to train a firefighter. If you have any ideas or time contact Gerry Kabelman.

Though Chief Stover wanted to make sure that fire crews were ready to respond to emergencies on the grounds some questioned if it would be possible to have a few guys rotate through the Station while working at the fair during their shift. More discussion to follow.

TRAINING –. Chief Stover reported that the Career Pathways Program will have some new changes in the fall. The EMT program will move from the Fair to the Fire Station. Consolidating both programs at the Fire Station will help the Fire Program, too. The School will also be contracting with the Training Committee to provide instructional

services for the fire program. This will allow for the diversity of instructors that the evening program has enjoyed. There are already 13 kids signed up for the fire program so the class is a go. Adult Class is planned to begin in the last week in September

Bruce also reported that the trailer is back and ready to roll. Several upcoming free weekend training sessions are being planned with dates out very soon.

Chief Ruff reported that he will be.....bla...bla....bla....doing some class in Eau Claire this fall. I think its Fire Officer 1&2. Kidding Bob. Bob does a great job and keeps the students motivated with a high energy and media savvy presentation style. He will be sending out a flyer.

Farm Medic still has a few spots available.

MABAS-.. Tactical Rescue Team is working on developing notification system.

OLD BUSINESS -. Chief Lamb presented the spray can stickers for the marking cans. Will send out the information that can be simply printed to a sticker sheet and placed on a marker can to help firefighters if we ever need to mark. This could be a result of a large multi-vehicle accident, tornado, etc.

NEW BUSINESS – Chief Burkett discussed his department's involvement in Auto Extrication and what a great benefit their participation in Extrication Competitions has been. They originally got involved in Roscommon but recently were able to bring the competition here to Berrien County at the Fair Grounds. This brings with it equipment demos, swap meet, and venders. If the turnout is good we won't lose the event. Ron's department has received a lot of benefits by participating with these events and he is hopeful more area departments will participate. Call Ron for any questions. Gerry has made information available on the County Website.

Adjourned at 2000

Next Meeting July 16 at 830 hours Lincoln Twp Fire Station

RS Larry Lamb