



BERRIEN FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

Meeting 2-17-16

Called to order by Chief Davidson at 1833 hours

ATTENDANCE: Included in Packet

TREASURER'S REPORT – Chief Lamb reported a balance of 2012.58. \$16 was donated from Breakfast at the January Meeting. Chief Lamb also handed out Dues Invoices for the organization at the meeting. He will email out invoices to those departments that were not in attendance. Lincoln Twp.'s Invoice was marked paid for their generous hosting of Chief's meetings over the years. Motion, second, with all in favor.

MINUTES – Minutes from the Jan 20-16 meeting were approved.

COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS - None

PRESENTATION - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

911 – Director Agens discussed Monday's radio issues. As was emailed out this was the State of Michigan's update of the Microwave links on the towers. Engineers assure us that the backup sites would operate when they took the system down on the VHF system. What they didn't predict was that when the system went down it would fail in a "keyed up" way that drowned out the back up transmitters that were operating on the same channels. Additionally, we were told that we would be able to operate the bulk of our 800 system in a site trucking configuration. The State Engineers instructed our 911 Staff improperly to switch off in a way the illuminated this option as well.

A lengthy discussion ranged from this has happened that last time when we took the system down and we should have predicted this reoccurrence to our pagers limitations that keep us from moving our backup system to one of our fire ground channels to assure our eggs aren't in the same basket in the future. Chief's also asked that more notice be given by dispatch prior to taking the system down and again when the system is restored. Multiple pages will go out to everyone in the future. Using the Everbridge system was also given as a possibility. In fairness emails did go out to departments but in some cases they weren't opened by everyone prior to the event. Additionally, discussion relating to staffing up stations during these events were recommended but are up to the individual agency to carry out. It was also mentioned that Departments must keep their contact information up to Date with Gerry Kabelman as it is the data used by the County Emergency Management as well as 911. In the end Dave said that the system has been programed now to fail in a way that doesn't key up the system.

Dave did add that the Active 911 system was a lifesaver in this case and acted as a very good backup. Dave reported that the system is still being dialed in to complete the project.

On other business Dave reported the New 911 CAD fixed and Rip and Run should be up and running. He also shared “Train Cards” that were developed by Buchanan Fire. He recommended that other departments consider their use possibly developing a county template of sorts that would standardize these responses. Other ideas like Niles EMS card for Mass Casualty were also brought up. MABAS is no longer requiring signing on to the MEMAC so it’s easier than ever to sign on to the system.

The last issue discussed was the EMS response protocol beta test where EMS responders are being redirected to 800 talk groups. Some issues were discussed however it was left that the approach remains to be a work in progress and will need to be tweaked and dialed in.

DNR – None

Funeral Protocol – Berrien

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/LEPC – EM Adams announced the upcoming 3-9-16 Weather Spotter Training to be held at Andrews. This is an interesting and interactive event put on by the NWS and is even more important here due to gaps in radar coverage because of the lake.

He also discussed upcoming ICS 300, 400 classes. June 21-23 and July 19-20 Respectfully. Register for each event on mytrain or call Rocky.

EOC – for Palisades will be on March 30 and April 26. Chiefs are welcomed to visit the EOC during the event to see the capability of the EOC and understand what it could do for their next disaster response.

Rockey’s staff have also been in talks with AEP dispatch to improve coordination and communication better. Expectations are low due to the large number of jurisdictions they must deal with. He said their management level must now weigh in on proposals. Standardization remains a very important issue for all those reasons.

He discussed work progressing on updated plans with Long Term Care Facilities. This work was initiated by Chief Keobel and has greatly improved the diversity of transportation planning options as one example discussed. 18 of 28 facilities have already signed on to the new MOU.

Victims Advocate from the FBI discussed active shooter events at the last LEPC meeting. Planning is very important between agencies to improve the chances of a positive unified response for multiple agencies and disciplines. Chief Davidson asked that Director Adams bring the video for presentation to the group in the future. Discussions to approach the Police Chiefs to hold a joint discussion was also thrown out.

EMS- Medic 1 - Talk group changes still a work in progress.

SMCAS- Captain DeLaTorre reminded everyone that the two EMS Disaster Trailers are maintained at SMCAS in the South and Medic 1 in the North. He recommended that they be considered in disaster plans like the train cards.

SHERIFF-.None

RED CROSS-None.

HAZ-MAT- None

BCFFA- Dispatcher Recognition event to be co-sponsored was discussed. \$300 from the Chief's will join \$300 from the Firefighters to fund event. Chief Stover will coordinate.

BCYF -- None

TRAINING - Captain Burks is asking departments for helmet ear flaps. Several of the helmets used by the high school program are missing them. (Carns, Bullard) He also asked that if department had gear that they would like to donate that they call him. Please don't drop it off at their station. He will come to you. He needs larger sized boots, too.

He reported that Tommy Hall is doing a great job with the High School Program consistently dialing the program in. He has several improvements planned for next year and has received positive comments from school counselors who have visited. It is the time to reach out to your schools to assure they are aware of the program. A poster is included in the packet. Chief Lamb discussed a project that the SMCAS area fire departments are partnering on that will put a recruitment video in the Wonderland Cinema in the next few months. They expect to get inquiries from folks outside their response area. These folks would be referred to local Chiefs if too far outside their response areas.

Corey also expressed a need trained firefighters, trucks, and equipment from departments for upcoming practical's. The main practical (April 30 @ 7am) will again be held at the Fairgrounds with reviews at their station on Saturdays (March 12, April 16). The schedule is available on the website.

Corey is in talks to bring a Driver's Training "train the trainer" class to our area. He is in talks with Chief Purchase to present the class. You must be a Certified Fire Instructor to present the class. Additionally, he is looking at also bringing a Rapid Intervention Techniques "train the trainer" class in the future.

MABAS- Several of the MABAS Department Chiefs met prior to the meeting to discuss the development of out of division box cards. Those Chiefs not in attendance will be contacted by Chief Lamb to inquire their ability to contribute to Engine and Tanker Strike Teams as well as a Task Force. Care will be maintained to assure a balanced approach to staffing these groups. Chiefs were also brought up to speed on the future need to update their state agreements to include changes to specialized teams. Larry will let everyone know when we will need to take this action. Finally, our Plan Coordinator Frank DeLaTorre needs to update everyone's contact information in the Mutual Aid Net Software. Those in attendance were updated however Frank may be calling in the future to get your info.

Finally, the MABAS group ties us into a great network of departments statewide. We participate with monthly tests with the other 17 divisions on 800 MHz as well as phone to assure we are up to date on mobilization requests. The group would love to see more Berrien County Agencies jump on board. Call Frank (269-208-6761) or Larry (269-591-0913) with additional questions.

OLD BUSINESS -.

Chief Lamb discussed his response to concerns relating to emails. He has been using a new program called Mail Chimp to push our emails. Please let him know if you want to be on the list and are not currently getting emails.

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NEW BUSINESS –

Royalton recently purchased an Insulation Vacuum if anyone is interested in its use. It has been added to the Resource Directory.

Chief Stover reminded everyone that SAFER will be opening soon. His department has benefited from this program providing everything it takes to put on new on-call/volunteer members. Not just for full time staff. Many other recruitment and retention grant ideas out there. No match and can be pushed out over 4 years. Additionally, AFG will be back in August and Fire Prevention in April. Dale will be busy. Contact Chief Stover if you need any assistance.

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Next meeting March 16 at 0830
Adjournment 2000 hrs.

RS Larry Lamb

**Berrien County Fire Chief's Association
Attendance Sheet
February 17th, 2016**

	Print	Signature	Dept.
1.	RICH MORIN	<i>[Signature]</i>	BRIDGMAN
2.	Todd Biele	<i>[Signature]</i>	North Berrien Fire
3.	RON BURKETT	<i>[Signature]</i>	Lincoln Twp
4.	MIKE DAVIDSON	<i>[Signature]</i>	CTFD
5.	FRANK DELAUNE	<i>[Signature]</i>	S.M.C.A.S.
6.	Dennis Sexton	<i>[Signature]</i>	BE 911
7.	DAVID AGENS	<i>[Signature]</i>	BE 11
8.	Bill Boyd	<i>[Signature]</i>	MEDIC 1
9.	Cam BURKS	<i>[Signature]</i>	BCAFTC
10.	Harold Kern	<i>[Signature]</i>	Kalam
11.	Dan Jones	<i>[Signature]</i>	WFD
12.	ELMER STOVER	<i>[Signature]</i>	BSOFD
13.	Bill Long	<i>[Signature]</i>	STFD
14.	Doug deBeest	<i>[Signature]</i>	Cook
15.	LARRY KING	<i>[Signature]</i>	BARCOPA
16.	Rocky Adams	<i>[Signature]</i>	Berrien Co. EMS/SPD
17.	Bin Knisely	<i>[Signature]</i>	BERTRAND TWP.
18.	Dan Dorkson	<i>[Signature]</i>	Roston Twp
19.	Gerry Kebabian	<i>[Signature]</i>	S.J.T.F.D. #1
20.	Gary Maynard	<i>[Signature]</i>	" " #1
21.	LARRY LATHY	<i>[Signature]</i>	NFD
22.	Paul Koebel	<i>[Signature]</i>	RTFD
23.			

Chikaming Township Fire Department

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Berrien County Fire Chiefs Meeting Dates and Times 2016

01/20	08:30
02/17	18:30
03/16	08:30
04/20	18:30
05/18	08:30
06/15	18:30
07/20	08:30
08/17	18:30
09/21	08:30
10/19	18:30
11/09	08:30
12/21	

Thank you

Chief: Mike Davidson
Chikaming Township Fire Department