



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



Called to order: 0830-1030

Date: May 20, 2020

Old Minutes: Motion to accept Old minutes and seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report: March Starting : \$3838.29. Deposit \$50.00; Ending \$3888.29

April Starting: \$3888.29; Ending: \$3888.29.

Motion to accept treasurers report and seconded. Motion passed.

Communications/Bills: Flier from Great Lakes Drone Company; 888-816-9625 ext 3 (see attached)

New Chief/Visitor: Congratulations to Caitlin Sampsel on new 911 Director.

Committee Reports:

Sheriff; Not Present

Red Cross: Not Present

Dispatch/911: Caitlin advised all that Dave Agens retired and she is now new director of 911.

Discussion on helicopter activation's": When helicopter is requested from dispatch, dispatch will reach out to appropriate helicopter service. If that service is not available the helicopter service will get another service responding and let dispatch know who that helicopter service is that will be responding.

EMD: Caitlin discussed the pandemic COVID-19 response card 36. Caitlin stated several EMD cards will guide dispatchers to the pandemic response card 36. So just because you see the COVID-19 pandemic response card information it does not necessarily mean pt is screened COVID-19 or is COVID-19 positive. Caitlin advised to read through the CAD and active911 narratives to see the responses to the questions from the caller and that will let you know if possible COVID-19 or not. Dispatch working on adding the drone requests into CAD for North Berrien and Watervliet fire departments. Work continues on Lakeland Watervliet hospital micro site. Parts are delivered and should be operational by years end. Still in discussion and working on critical connect across state line with Indiana. Most pagers have been delivered to departments. Only one department did not order the new Unication 800 pagers. Dispatch can start doing pager testing with department that indicated they wanted to move to 800 paging right away as only those departments paging talk groups are programmed in the dispatch consoles as of now. T hoes departments are: Baroda/Berrien Springs/Bridgman/Chikaming/Eau Claire/Lake/Lincoln/North Berrien/Royalton/Three Oaks FD/Watervliet/Weesaw/Three Oaks EMS. Any departments not listed that want to move to 800 paging now need to contact Caitlin so she can have your department paging talkmgroups programmed into dispatch consoles. Denny stated any of those department listed that want to start test pages contact him to set up paging dates and times. It is preferred that mutual/auto aid departments move together to 800 paging as this will make it easier for the dispatchers to dispatch out the calls.

Lengthy discussion with some frustrated, on how the move to 800 paging will take place/coverage issues in south county from Niles to New Buffalo along US-12. Discussion on moving all at one time or doing in in segments.

Caitlin advised the plan is to be off the VHF system by December 31, 2022. Discussion on additional tower sites like possible Lakeland Hospital Niles as they are doing with Lakeland hospital Watervliet. Captain DeLaTorre again brought up the possibility of the 190 foot tower at S.M.C.A.S. as well to help increase

coverage along US-12 in south county. Discussion on how we have 2 broken systems with the VHF issues and the coverage issues on the MPSCS system. Discussion on the fact there is a difference between mobile/portable 800 coverage and 800 pager coverage. Question raised on if the state wants public safety on the state MPSCS system why are they not providing money/towers to improve the needed 800 pager coverage. Chief Davidson stated now may be a good time for department chiefs, municipal leaders to contact local state representatives and request funding help to improve 800 paging coverage. Caitlin stated that if mutual/auto aide departments can not move to 800 paging at the same time paging can still be done but it will have to be done on both systems and not simultaneously. This will add to the mobilization time but can be done. Caitlin stated dispatch is hiring dispatchers so if interested or know anyone interested contact her.

DNR: No one present

Funeral: In Berrien Springs

Emergency Management: No one present. EM continues to be busy with the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

EMS:

Medic-1: Bill Boyd advised Medic personnel are performing daily health checks at start of the shift, and at the end of the shift. Currently no Medic-1 employees affected by COVID-19.

S.M.C.A.S.; Captain DeLaTorre stated S.M.C.A.S. employees also performing daily health checks at start of shift and at the half way mark of the shift. S.M.C.A.S. has one employee out due to COVID-19 related issues but was not affected from a COVID-19 patient. There for due to the precautions and appropriate PPE being warn by S.M.C.A.S. employees we are doing everything possible to keep employees safe. S.M.C.A.S. also has a UV light to assist in decontamination process.

Med Flight: No one present

Med Control: Al Debrito inquired about doing EMS strike team test dispatch drills. Al asked if it would be possible to set up and do dispatched test drills/exercises like MABAS has currently been doing. Most felt like that would be a good idea and Caitlin advised dispatch would be able to work with the EMS strike team to assist the test drills/exercises. Al to get with Captain DeLaTorre to set up some test drills.
Letter from Dr Beyer on helicopter responses. (See attached)

LEPC: None. No meetings.

BCFA: No meetings for past two months. No physical June meeting, Considering a zoom meeting for June Meeting. More information to follow. Gerry has been working on getting estimates to remodel front of the Fire Education Building at the fair. Approximate costs \$2-3 thousand dollars. Fair board gave ok to remodel front of building. Youth Fair is questionable at this time. Chief Stover stated decision deadline fast approaching. The pager operations power point is posted on the county website. Department VHF two tones have also been posted to the website below each department station picture. These can be downloaded and put into the Unication G4/5 pagers as custom tones so that you can program you neighbor/mutual/auto aid departments VHF two tones as custom tones to assist in department recognition of tones. Captain DeLaTorre thanked Gerry for his time on the pager power point and time in creating and posting the department paging tones. Gerry stated he has several Serve-Pro swag for departments. Please see him to pick up yours.

Training: FF 1 and 2 classes only had hazmat and sprinklers left to complete. Classes resuming May 30, 2020.
Practical review will be on June 06 at 0800, June 13 at 0800, June 21 at 0900
Written test on June 25 at 1800 Berrien Springs station.
Practical Test on June 27 at 0800 Berrien County Fair Grounds.

There will be changes in practical testing format due to social distancing. Looking into options like times frames where 10 students at a time come in and test, then another group of students come in and so on. Tom working with HS class as well.

HazMat;No one present

MITRT5: No one present.

MABAS: Chief Mattix discussed the flooding in Midland MI. Chief Mattix advised MABAS has been requested to assist and MITF-1 has deployed the water rescue team. Additionally MABAS MI has requested any divisions that have AHJ water rescue teams that can be deployed to assist to please let Director Adkins know and a list will be compiled and kept at the Red Center if needed. Division 3501 currently had three AHJ water rescue teams on standby; Chikaming/Niles City/Watervliet. These teams if activated would be operational for potentially 1-2 operational periods. Captain DeLaTorre discussed the task force drill that was done on April 09, 2020. Only four division in the state were able to provide a task force; Divisions : 3101/3501/3502/3701/ Captain DeLaTorre thanked all who participated in the drill and was happy to say division 3501 would have been able to provide a task force if one was needed. The June drill, if allowed to have one, will be to move the task force to a POD.

Old Business: Radio Grant, Chief Stover stated Awarding was to be done after SAFER grant completed but SAFER grant was extended so still waiting. Captain DeLaTorre stated the Unication pager training went well. Departments that were present at the training got the updated pager code plug with department paging talkgroup IDs.

Captain DeLaTorre showed proto type of a pager case that Chief Brovold had made. Case is approximately \$12.00 If interested in the case contact Chief Brovold.

New Business: Chief Davidson reminded all to keep NIFRS reporting up to date. All but four departments were up to date for April 2020.

Chief Davidson asked all present if any had any special plans/guidelines moving forward in reopening. Most stated they are continuing with the “New Normal” and social distancing.

Jeremy Connell brought in department PPE rations that are still coming in from first PPE requests. Please sign for your departments PPE rations.

Thank You to Jeremy Connell and Larry Lamb for working g on the PPE rations.

Chief Davidson reminded all to document hazmat in PEAS as this information is tied to training funding.

Chief Davidson reminded all that BioCare starting to schedule in our area and to share BioCare schedules.

Most jurisdictions advised fireworks and summer events are canceled.

REMINDER; Wash hands/do not touch face/eyes/mouth, and keep phones clean.

Next meeting June 17, 2020 at 0830.

Motion to adjourn, seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1030

**Berrien County Fire Chief's Association
Attendance Sheet
May 20th, 2020**

	Print	Signature	Dept.
1.	Harold Howell	<i>[Signature]</i>	Lake Top
2.	Mike Mattix	<i>[Signature]</i>	NBFR
3.	Fredd Blatone	<i>[Signature]</i>	S.M.C.B.S.I
4.	Larry Lamb	<i>[Signature]</i>	Miles City
5.	Matt Remond	<i>[Signature]</i>	Bertrand
6.	Roberts Adams	<i>[Signature]</i>	Buchanan City
7.	BRUCE STOEK	<i>[Signature]</i>	BSOTFD
8.	Dennis Sexton	<i>[Signature]</i>	BC 911
9.	Jim Jonatke	<i>[Signature]</i>	RTFD
10.	Brandon Chant	<i>[Signature]</i>	CTFD
11.	Al D. BIRD	<i>[Signature]</i>	LAKELAND
12.	BILL BIRD, Jr	<i>[Signature]</i>	MEBIC 1
13.	LARRY KING	<i>[Signature]</i>	BARODA
14.	George Koblman	<i>[Signature]</i>	S.J.C.F.D.1
15.	DAVE FLICK	<i>[Signature]</i>	TOTD
16.	Dannie Johnson II	<i>[Signature]</i>	Weesaw Twp.
17.	DAN JONES	<i>[Signature]</i>	WFD
18.	JAMIE FLICK	<i>[Signature]</i>	NBTFD
19.	MIKE DAVIDSON	<i>[Signature]</i>	CTFD
20.	MIKE BLIPPS	<i>[Signature]</i>	BHDPG
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Chief,

I was hoping to pass a message to the Fire Chiefs meeting through you for this month. My schedule does not allow me to attend in person.

Berrien county has had a couple of helicopter scene flights this month. While they have generally gone off pretty well I wanted to emphasize a few things to the fire personnel about how they are dispatched to help clarify some minor points.

In Berrien county when a unit asks for a helicopter, county 911 determines which service to call (Aircare or Medflight) based on the GPS location of the call. Almost all of Berrien county, with the exception of parts of north county (Watervliet, Coloma, Hagar) are a first call to Medflight. Once dispatch makes contact with the helicopter service they will tell dispatch if that unit is available, if they don't have a unit, that helicopter service will find the next geographically closest available helicopter unit and send it. The responders on scene and dispatch do not have to do anything else.

Going forward I would like responders to get into the habit of simply requesting "a helicopter" from dispatch. You don't have to ask for a particular unit (Aircare, Medflight, Aeromed), since first due is GPS determined and a covering unit is found without further input from us.

The helicopter units have worked very hard over the last few years to build this mutual aide system which I think greatly simplifies the job of responders and dispatch.

Thank you for passing this along, please direct any questions to myself or Dr Milligan.

Jonathan Beyer D.O. FAEMS
EMS Medical Director
Berrien County Medical Control Authority
Cell: (717) 585-1562
jbeyer@lakelandhealth.org

GREAT LAKES

GL

DRONE COMPANY

Public Safety Activation

INFORMATION

888-816-9625 EXT 3
24 HOUR ACTIVATION LINE

30 MINUTE AVG. DEPLOYMENT TIME

WEATHER MINIMUMS 3NM VISIBILITY / 700FT CEILING
WHEN ACTIVATING PROVIDE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

LOCATION OF SEARCH

COMMAND CONTACT INFORMATION

QUICK SUMMARY OF PURPOSE AND TIMELINE

WHAT RESOURCES ARE BEING REQUESTED

RESOURCES

COMMAND TRAILER

AERIAL UAS - ZOOM, THERMAL, VISUAL, DROP, SPEAKER

UNDERWATER DRONES - SONAR & VISUAL

AERIAL LIGHTING SYSTEMS - SPOT, AREA LIGHTING

GROUND LIGHTING SYSTEMS

AERIAL COMMUNICATION RELAYS

