



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Call to Order: 0844-1030

Date: June 17, 2020

Old minutes: Motion to accept old minutes and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed

Treasurer's Report: \$3888.29. No changes. Motion to accept treasurers report and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

Communications/Bills: None

New Chief/Visitor: None

Committee Report:

Sheriff: Busy in Jail dealing with COVID-19. Had 3 inmates positive. Worked with BCHD to quarantine. Tested 95 inmates with only 3 positive. Tested 22 employees. All negative. Currently on COVID-19 positive inmates in the jail. Hired a cleaning company to come in everyday to clean/disinfect. Purchased a UV light machine. Masks worn in jail at all times by inmates and employees. Currently 145 inmates in jail Cancelled outside crews. Covering protests. Only issuing appearance tickets if possible. Working with judges for PR bonds to keep inmate population down. EM submitting for COVID-19 reimbursement. The county set aside funds for COVID-19 and using those funds for COVID-19 related issues/items. The Sheriff reminded all to let the judicial system do its job. County buildings are open. Need an appointment. CPL/finger printing contact 269-983-7141 ex7247

Red Cross: None

Dispatch/911: Caitlin introduced the new 911 assistant director Jenny Flick. She took over Daves extension 4958. 10 agencies moved to 800 paging on June 13, 2020 after the county pager tests. So far no 800 paging/VHF response issues reported. Still in building 800 signal issues on pagers. Reminder to keep the 800 pagers charged. Critical connect update. IPSC and MPSCS working on testing state to state currently. If this comes together as expected it will be the first in the nation to link two state 800 systems together. IN and MI currently working at the state level with testing. If goes well then there will be county to county testing. Still working on security issues CISA assisting with security issues. INTER OP Board still working on allowing fire departments to set off 800 paging talkgroups. Buchanan City signed MOU for pagers. Only department left to sign MOU for pagers is PrideCare. Discussed Bertrand VHF tower s where VHF radio at tower kept keying up. Lakeland Watervliet micro site still moving forward. Planning for fall 2020. Discussed why county went into HIP on June 10, 2020. Storms in Ottawa county caused BC 911 to receive exceptional high call volume. Also had local network go down so CAD was down as well. When in HIP departments that staff department do not need to call into dispatch advising station manned. This causes unnecessary radio traffic. In HIP dispatch will attempt to contact department vis radio first for calls in your area. If no response, then dispatch will set off department tones. Please do not call into dispatch when in HIP. Again this causes unnecessary traffic into dispatch. PD departments had more issues with the HIP then fire departments did. Reminder when in HIP departments need to keep own times when responding to calls.

DNR: None

Funeral: Still in Berrien Springs

Emergency Management: SGT. Bush discussed the email regarding the importance of completing the hot wash information. Please fill out. EOC was not designed for working remotely with no contact for 3 months. Known issues working remotely and the EOP will be updated accordingly. Discussion on tracking all time spent trying to get PPE/Tracking PPE/Tracking PPE expenditures so when that information is needed for reimbursement you will have it. Chief Lamb did a great job with his department.

Remember FEMA PPE costs may be a 25 percent match. There are still issues in getting gowns. Jeremy Connell did a great job tracking PPE issued to departments. Chief Davidson stated the EOC has done a great job during all this.

EMS:

Medic-1: Discussed departments COVID-19 procedures. Stated seeing a rise in COVID positive patients. To date no Medic-1 employees have been p[ositive for COVID-19.

S.M.C.A.S.: Mentioned they have a facility with the highest COVID-19 positive patients around in area. Only one employee COVID-19 but was not from contact with a patient Continue to follow appropriate PPE precautions on calls.

Med Flight: Mark Berger....Good to be back. Currently flying in back up aircraft. Working on resuming LZ classes. If interested in LZ class contact contact Mark and will try to accommodate.

Med Control: None

LEPC: Has not met. All 302 sites have been submitted and added to the sharefile. Unknown if LEPC will be meeting this month as the Health department is using the conference room as their EOC.

BCFA: Had a zoom meeting for June. Attendance was very low. Will be doing a zoom meeting for July as well. Will be using MedFlight zoom account for the meeting. Got approval to spend \$3000.00 to upgrade the front of the fire education building at the fair grounds. As of now the fair is still a go. If cancelled there will be more time for construction on the fire education building.

Training: Fire Classes are finishing up. Practical review on June 06-13-21. Written on June 25 at Berrien Springs station 1800hrs. Practical on June 25 at the Berrien County Fair Grounds starting 0800hrs.

HazMat: None

MITRT5: Allen-Quartly training was vis video due to COVID. Continued County training on hold for now. There was a building collapse in Hartford but no team response was needed. Added a new member from North Berrien.

MABAS: Captain DeLaTorre discussed the POD exercise from June 10, 2020. Discussed the reason why back up apparatus/personnel are needed to respond to the POD as well. Back up apparatus/personnel are needed to respond so that if a department passes or does not show up the back up apparatus/personel are ready to go at the POD. For the POD exercise back up apparatus and back up personnel were needed. Attached is a breakdown of the Task Force POD exercise.

The following departments responded:

North Berrien back up rescue pumper and 4 personnel.

Royalton and 4 personnel

Bertrand with engine and 2 personnel

Watervliet with back up ladder and 2 personnel

New Buffalo with back up engine and 2 personnel

Niles Twp with ladder and 2 personnel

Chikaming with rescue and 2 personnel

Chikaming with chief and assistant

Bridgeman with chief

Niles City with 2 personnel

S.M.C.A.S. with ambulance and 2 paramedics

The following departments passed on the boxcard:

Buchanan City with 2 personnel

Niles City with a chief

The following departments had no response for the boxcard:

Lincoln Twp with an engine and 2 personnel

Galien with 2 personnel

Eau Claire with 2 personnel

Lake with 2 personnel and a chief

Medic-1 with an ambulance and 2 paramedics

Captain DeLaTorre discussed the task force boxcard stating this was the first out of division boxcard created for the exercise to Tinley Park IL several years ago. In newer boxcards the chief brings assistant from their department. If everyone ok with it I would like to change that on the task force boxcard as well. No one objected to it suggested to remove Niles Chief as he is retiring this year.

Discussion on getting more departments in the county involved. MABAS is now the state EOC method of fire department mobilization and we need everyones help. Discussed the flooding in Midland county and how we had three surface warter rescue teams ready to deploy if needed. Discussed how MABAS deployed IMP teams

to both the flooding in Midland county and in Detroit area during COVID crisis for tent receiving hospitals. Departments that have taken MABAS agreements please work on signing them and getting them back to Chief Mattix or myself as we need all departments in the county signed onto MABAS. Captain DeLaTorre discussed the mission ready packet and advised all MABAS departments to print out the MRP handbook and have it ready at your departments. Captain DeLaTorre asked for money to build 2 more POD kits for the Chikaming POD and the Niles Twp. POD. Motion to spend not more then \$200.00 to purchase equipment to build 2 POD kits and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

Old Business: No report on grant status. Keep up with NIFERS reporting. Check to make sure NIFERS report go through. SGT. Bush talked about how IN and MI agreed on 50 800 radio ID's for each county. This gives 2 radio Ids to each fire department across IN MI state line. 5 to S.M.C.A.S.. 3 to Medic-1. 2 to Three Oaks Ambulance. Departments need to send an updated template to MPSCS holding a zone for the IN 800 system. once MPSCS approves updated template then template has to be sent to 800 radio venders in IN to have radio programmed with IN system and talkgroups. This is a lengthy process, so departments need to start on this now. Unknown on costs associated with adding IN 800 system to radios. Unknown costs if program radio now and then move IN 800 system to new radio from the grant.

New Business: SGT. Bush reminded everyone that the MPSCS system in Berrien County is on a spur line. Meaning we get our signal coming into the county from Jones MI. Working to see if the micro site at Lakland Watervliet can be linked from Van Buren so we have another way to bring the MPSCS 800 system into the county as well. Last of the PPE from the EOC is here. Please sign for your PPE when you take it.

Captain DeLaTorre asked if any departments have come up with a way to track/GPS locate the new pagers to keep them from walking away or to track if member lost it. Chief Flick stated he had a tracking chip attached to his department pagers but it only works in short distance. Chief Flick to share the information with Captain DeLaTorre. www.thetileapp.com/en-us/

Next Meeting: July 15, 2020 0830hrs

Adjourn: 1030

**Berrien County Fire Chief's Association
Attendance Sheet
June 17th, 2020**

	Print	Signature	Dept.
1.	Mike Davidson	<i>Mike Davidson</i>	CTFD
2.	Dannie Johnson II	<i>Danni II</i>	Weesaw
3.	Ron Bunt	<i>Ron Bunt</i>	BCSO/EMTSO
4.	Gerry Kabelman	<i>Gerry Kabelman</i>	S.J.C.T.F.D.1
5.	JENNIFER FICK	<i>Jennifer Fick</i>	BCPSCC
6.	Caitlin Sampson	<i>Caitlin Sampson</i>	BC911
7.	Dennis Sesta	<i>Dennis Sesta</i>	BC911
8.	Mike Plump	<i>Mike Plump</i>	BHDF
9.	Mike Mattie	<i>Mike Mattie</i>	NBFR
10.	Lanie Flick	<i>Lanie Flick</i>	NBTFD
11.	Mark L Berger	<i>Mark L Berger</i>	MedFlight
12.	Frank Delatorre	<i>Frank Delatorre</i>	S.M.C.A.S.
13.	Ruel Seibley	<i>Ruel Seibley</i>	SCSO
14.	Bill Berg, Jr	<i>Bill Berg, Jr</i>	MEDIC 1
15.	Brandon Chisholm	<i>Brandon Chisholm</i>	LTFD
16.	Allen Weich	<i>Allen Weich</i>	Lake TFD
17.	DAN JONES	<i>Dan Jones</i>	WFD
18.			