



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Call to Order: 0830-0950

Date: October 21, 2020

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

Treasurer's Report: Balance \$3876.44. No checks written. Motion to accept Treasurers report and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

Communications/Bills: None

New Chief/Visitor: None

Committee Report:

Sheriff: None

Red Cross: Gerry Kabelman announcing The Red Cross First Responder Direct Disaster Number: 833-583-3111. See attached flier.

Dispatch/911: Discussion on Bertrand tower. The FCC put a hold on 4.9 GHZ licensing needed to fix Bertrand tower. There is a potential fix but will cost \$10,000.00 more and additional licensing fees. The Coloma VHF tower has been having power issues. Problems on BC Primary 2 due to the power issues. There has been no work on the county's 800 radio grant. The critical connect test that was scheduled for September was cancelled due to a fiber optic line that was cut. Test rescheduled for October 27, 2020. There was an issue with rip/runs not going out. Discussion on the VHF fire ground licensing. VHF FG1 was recently renewed and FG 2-3-4-5 are good until October 2025. Galien fire has moved to 800 paging. County still working with MPSCS RPU to get the county 800 paging talkgroups on Niles City console. Galien fire stated they have noticed pagere going in/out of range since moving to 800 paging. S.M.C.A.S has had issues of not receiving 8000 test pages when pagers are connected to tower the CASS tower 3-44. SGT Bush suggested taking tower 3-44 out and see if that changes anything. The critical connect test that was scheduled for September was cancelled due to a fiber optic line that was cut. Test rescheduled for October 27, 2020. The test will focus on auto roaming/manual roaming/emergency alert notifications, will radio ID be seen in both dispatches. Encryption, and LTE to mobile radios. IPSC has put a hold on the radio ID's for Michigan as IPSC is counting on critical connect to solve the cross boarder issues. Discussion on what can be done to continue to move forward with the Indiana radio ID's as there still needs to be communications when responding across the state line. Discussion on how long it is taking to get radios programmed from MPSCS. SGT Bush stated MPSCS has hired 7-8 new programmers.

DNR: None

Funeral: Berrien Springs SJTWP2 used.

Emergency Management: Due to FEMA travel restrictions Palisades exercise moved to 2021. Request to do virtually was denied by FEMA. IPAWS- Berrien County has been using IPAWS since 2012. IPAWS is the medium to send emergency messages to radio and TV. Currently message can only be sent with in the county. Berrien County is working with Van Buren to be the back up for our county IPAWS notifications.

EMS:

Medic-1: Continuing to operate under the COVID guidelines.

S.M.C.A.S.: Capt. DeLaTorre discussed the tone/no voice issues. Cass County dispatch believes the figured out the issue. If they wait for 2 seconds before speaking after dispatching it seems to not lose the voice.

Med Flight: Nothing new.

Med Control: None

LEPC: Virtual meeting in November as the November meeting is the membership evaluation.

BCFA: Zoom meeting again for October. Quorum was not met. Please encourage members from each department to attend as need to conduct business. November will again be a zoom meeting. Zoom information will be sent out. Pictures of fire education center posted on web. December meeting will be elections and need a nominations committee. The smoke/CO detectors from ServPro have been delivered to the departments.

Training: FF1 and 2 has started. 25 students in adult class. Cass county has sent students to Berrien county class as well since Cass is not holding a class this year. High School class has eight students. Chief Mattix stated he will be hosting and EVOC at North Berrien in January 2021. More information to come.

HazMat: Nothing new.

MITRT5: Alan Weich discussed the call at the Buchanan waste water treatment plant. Stated things went well. Reminded all to call early as it takes time to mobilize. Discussed a call in Benton Harbor that the team gave advisement on.

MABAS: Captain DeLaTorre discussed the MABAS POD drill from October 14, 2020. The POD drill was a tanker/tender to the PPOD. We used Niles Twp. South station for the POD. The drill went well and only one department took a pass on the drill. Captain DeLaTorre stated we would have been able to meet the tanker/tender request had our resources been needed. The tanker/tender POD drill was the last drill for 2020. Discussion on continuing quarterly POD drill in 2021 and possible moving a team to a staging point in the state for a 2021 drill.

Old Business: Radio Grant. No news at all. No declined notification either. Last grant awarded was on September 23, 2020. Discussion on changing grant request in next grant cycle? Look into mini/ASR site equipment for south east county 800 issues?

New Business: All but 4 departments are NIFRS compliant this month. NIFRS changing to ENIFRS. ENIFRS training is very difficult to obtain.

Next Meeting: December 16, 2020 at 0830. No November meeting.

Adjourn: 0950hrs

**Berrien County Fire Chief's Association
Attendance Sheet
October 21st, 2020**

	Print	Signature	Dept.
1.	JENNIFER Flick	Jennifer Flick	BCPSCC
2.	Gary Kabelema	Gary Kabelema	S.J.C.T.F.D. 4
3.	Garrett Frost	Garrett Frost	BCSD 16m150
4.	Donnie Johnson II	Donnie Johnson II	Weesaw
5.	Paul Boney	Paul Boney	BCS
6.	Donna Sester	Donna Sester	BC911
7.	William Bond	William Bond	Medic 1
8.	HAROLD HEIN	Harold Hein	Lakeview
9.	Mark Berger	Mark Berger	Med Flight
10.	Amie Flick	Amie Flick	NBFRD
11.	Alan Weich	Alan Weich	Lake/MI-TRT-5
12.	Caitlin Sampson	Caitlin Sampson	BC911
13.			

Frank DeLaTorre	Frank DeLaTorre	SMCCAS
Miller Mattix	Miller Mattix	NBFR
Ted Chase	Ted Chase	GALLEN
Math Remo	Math Remo	Bertrand
JENNIFER FLICK	Jennifer Flick	



**American
Red Cross**

First Responder Direct Disaster Number

To request assistance for a home fire or other disaster call the American Red Cross National Dispatch Center:

833-583-3111



This shortcut phone number circumvents the 1-800-REDCROSS phone tree designed for clients and routes directly to National Dispatch. Please note that this phone number is only for first responders and should not be shared with the general public.