



## **BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**

**Call to Order:** 0834-

**Date:** January 20, 2021

**Old minutes:** Motion to accept old minutes with corrections in 911 report, and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Beginning and ending balance: \$3576.44. Motion to accept treasurers report and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

**Communications/Bills:** Chief Davidson discussed the food for dispatch over the holidays. \$323.00 was spent for food for dispatch. We split the cost with the Firefighters association. Motion to reimburse Chief Davidson for half of cost \$\$161.50. Motion passed. None opposed.

**New Chief/Visitor:** Doug Meyers Berrien Springs. Steve Mullin Buchanan Twp. Assistant Chief. Brian Kazmierzak Benton Harbor Public Safety. Welcome New Members.

### **Committee Report:**

**Sheriff:** Working with Health Department and providing a deputy at the COVID clinics. Working to help educate people vs tickets. Grant to update mitigation report for the county. Has had 53 employees out due to COVID since October 2020. Chief Davidson stated Thank You to all of our law enforcement for everything they do.

**Red Cross:** None

**Dispatch/911:** Caitlin introduced dispatch QA supervisor Sarah Blurton. Caitlin stated she will be talking with the county commissioners Thursday on the radio system, to give a quick overview and get new commissioners up to speed. ASR site at Spectrum Lakeland Watervliet has been approved to move forward. Hoping to have the site up and running by April 2021. The Niles City console has been updated with 800 paging talkgroups. Niles has been doing 800 pager test on county all call now after Wednesday VHF tests. Dispatch would like all departments on 800 paging by the end of March. PrideCare has ordered 800 pagers but they have not come in yet. For departments that chose to divide up their half of 800 pager purchase, pager invoices will be sent out soon. Caitlin stated she is waiting to hear back from Motorola on options and costs and ASR vs mini site etc.... Caitlin stated she has done some inquiring and the MPSCS system is a phase 1 system MPSCS has no plans to move to a phase 2 system. IN radio ID's will be back in play. MPSCS RPU has a new manager and is now fully staffed. Staff working through the back log of programing. Caitlin was able to get a total on the credits Berrien has. Caitlin stated there are over \$400,000.00 in credits so should be no issue with fees when adding new radios. Caitlin requested 800 radio templates be sent to her and SGT Bush as well since they are paying activation fees with credits, they want to view templates as well. 11E911 is now on the consoles as well and Caitlin will be working to move EMS onto 11E911. Caitlin reminded everyone that the County Commissioners loan program is open and ready to accept requests. Contact Commissioner Brian Dissette: 269-983-7111 ex8601; [bdissette@berriencounty.org](mailto:bdissette@berriencounty.org)

Caitlin discussed caution when purchasing used 800 radios. Motorola stopped selling the XTS5000 in 2013 and stopped servicing it in 2018. For departments interested in 800 mobile repeaters get with Caitlin or SGT Bush. If having out of range issues with the Unication pager try a Motorola 800 antenna. The Motorola 800 antenna will fit the Unication pagers and are recommended to help with out of range issues. Caitlin discussed some options as we move into the next phase of field radio purchase process. 800 pagers were first as that was the need at the time. Now the need has turned to mobile radios. With 800 pagers and mobile radios departments will be able to be dispatch/mobilize/respond/command on 800 and departments will have option to continue with VHF on the fireground. Caitlin stated she has found several grant funding options in addition to the county loan program. These grant options will need to identify the immediate need. In the last grant there was a request for 149 mobile radios. Is that the immediate need? Caitlin asked for either the communications committee or another committee to work with on these additional grants. Thank You to Caitlin for all her hard work.

Dispatch supervisor Blurton discussed the possible phone issues/outage during the inauguration. If there is a phone outage affecting 911 today during the inauguration dispatch will follow internal plan. Dispatch may use HIP. If HIP used listen to the message and follow instructions in message. If 911 phone outage dispatch will request departments to man their stations and the public will be directed to local stations to report emergencies. Dispatch will use the VHF/800 county all call and CAD page to notify fire departments. Listen to the message and follow instruction in the dispatch.

Discussion on site trunking. If tower becomes disconnected from network departments will be paged on site trunking tower on 11PG911 and respond on G EVENT1. Again listen to the message that is sent out.

When HIP has ended dispatch will page out HIP has ended.

Caitlin again has requested that if you have not added dispatch to your department active911 to please do so. Being on departments active911 has proven to be helpful when there are problems as well as dispatch is able to see the information departments have entered into active911 and can help get that information to responding units.

**DNR:** None

**Funeral:** Berrien Springs

**Emergency Management:** Captain Adams stated they have no creditable information on local protest, but reminded all of the events in Nashville and how that took out several AT&T key phone connections. If the right infrastructure tower is compromised that can take out a whole city/state/multiple state 911 communications. A successful attach is not known until it happens. The last siren test was performed this month. IPAWS will take over. County has B-Warn available as well. There is also NOAA weather radios and Marine CH 16 for mariners. Reminder that Fire holds a seat in the EOC and have Retired Chiefs Lamb/Stover/Phelps been replaced yet. Currently Chief Davidson/Mattix/Durham/Connell. Retired Chief Stover stated he would continue until replacements are found. SGT Bush Discussed the obsolete XTS5000 radios. Stated BCSD still have several in use and even though they are not supported by Motorola now they can still be used on the MPSCS system but use caution as they can fail at any time, and there can be additional costs to make used radios work on MPSCS system. Remember you are allowed 1 template update a year. County has worked to get MOU for P911-F911-E911 from neighboring counties for interoperability. Critical connect moving forward. Working on issues with auto and manual roaming. SGT. Bush needs to have the serial numbers of the radios that will be getting the IN 800 radio ID's. 2 per FD/3-5 per EMS. Must update your MPSCS template with MPSCS before getting IN system. Questions contact SGT Bush.

**EMS:**

**Medic-1:** Still operating under COVID protocols. Has a few staff out with COVID. Good on PPE. They now have in house COVID testing.

**S.M.C.A.S.:** Also still operating with COVID protocols. Currently have 1 out due to COVID. No employees infected with COVID from a patient contact.

**Med Flight:** Can fly COVID patients.

**Med Control:** None

Discussion that all first responders should have had the opportunity to get the COVID vaccine by now.

**LEPC:** Bylaws forbid meeting virtually.

**BCFA:** Continue to meet via ZOOM. Had a good turnout last month. Have had quarm last 2 months.

Encourage a representative from each department. CO/smoke detectors still available. Working on data for the next grants to be available soon for departments to review and give 2019 information.

**Training:** 26 in adult FF1-2 class. 8 in HS FF1-2 class. Still have openings for the Ice Rescue 2 classes on February 12 and 13. Both classes 1300-2000. Only need to attend one. Register in SMOKE. Students have all of their skills sheets. Chiefs/training officers/firefighter please help students. Due to COVID hands on portions of class have suffered. Covert Interim chief Jed Wild has sent information on the following classes: Instructor 1/VFIS Drivers training/EMT-B/VFIS instructor class. See attached for information.

**HazMat:** Had a couple small calls. Getting a new pickup truck.

**MITRT5:** No calls. Planning to get back to training in march. Question on grain bin tubes. Allen stated there are some on the trailers.

**MABAS:** Captain DeLaTorre announced the following drills:

Q1: EMS strike Team: January 13 boxcard tabletop. February 10 POD activation. We are not able to participate in the EMS strike team as only 2 EMS agencies in county participate in MABS and difficult to get 5 ambulance from 2 agencies.

Q2: Brush Strike Team: April 14 Boxcard tabletop. May 12 POD activation

Q3: Crew Transport: July 14 boxcard tabletop. August 11 POD activation.

Q4: Tanker/Tender Task Force: October 13 boxcard tabletop. November 10 POD activation.

Would like to have a full scale exercise where divisions move to staging location with in the state.

Comms/disp workgroup working on in person division dispatch center meetings.

December 11 2020 there was a executive/plan coordinators training via ZOOM.

Divisions 3107/3601/3701 have had new department join with in the divisions.later this month.

Special OPPS coordinator Chris Martin working with special opps teams with in the state. Tech rescue meeting via ZOOM planed for later this month. Will be reaching out to hazmat soon. Gerry advised on firefighters

association website if yu click on MABAS logo boxcards are located there, also a link to the MABAS website.

Remember to sign up for MABAS membership to access members section of website.

**Old Business:** We did not get the AFG grant again. We had good grants just amount was to high.

AFG Grant opened on January 04, 2021. Communications committee met on January 06, 2021to discuss on

getting grant dollar amount down to increase our chances of getting grant. Committee decided on the

following: There are 31 stations in the county including EMS. Set dollar amount of \$18,000.00 per station for portable radio purchase. 12% grant match. The grant information sheets that Gerry Kableman will be sending out will need to be filled out and returned ASAP.

Chief Mattix discussed the used radio equipment he has purchased from an online vender. Looking at XTL2500 mobiles and XTS2500 version 2 portables radio. Chief Mattix stated used radios need the following

minimum flashcode: 500008-000480-0. Also XTS2500 serial number needs to end in BN. The AN serial

number does not have enough memory. Memory equal number of talkgroups. \$350.00 mobile cost.

Concern was raised with buying used. Department budgets may find it necessary to purchased used to move into 800. Wesaw has purchased used/refurbished with no issues. North Berrien has purchased used mobiles

with no issues at all. Departments will need to decide what is best for them.

**New Business:** Chief Davidson discussed NIFRS reporting. Keep up on reports. If having problems contact Rhonda. New Benton Twp. Chief announced last night. Rob Harper was promoted to Benton Twp. Fire Chief. Dan Durham will work with Rob for next few months.

EOC: Currently Chief Davidson/Mattix/Connell/Stover. New Chief Meyers/Jamie Flick/Davis Flick will consider and would like more information.

**Next Meeting:** February 17, 2021 at 0830.

**Adjourn:** motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 1100

**Berrien County Fire Chief's Association**  
**Attendance Sheet**  
**January 20th, 2021**

	Print	Signature	Temp	Dept.
1.	Gerry Kabelman			S.I.C.T.F.D. 1
2.	Harold Hawn			Lake Park
3.	JAMIE FLICK			WBTFD
4.	Amanda Bronson			WTFD
5.	DAVE MERTS			BSO/FD
6.	Paul Baile			BCSO
7.	William Boyd, Jr			MEDIC 1
8.	David Albers		102°	BSO
9.	Dennis Sester		OK	BC 911
10.	Sarah Blunton			911
11.	Ronald Busch			BCSO/EMT/1st
12.	Brian Kazmierak			BHDPS
13.	Brandon Clark			LTFD
14.	JENNIFER FLICK			911
15.	BRUCE A STOVCK			
16.	Ed Chase			GACIEN
17.	Matt Remond			Bertrand
18.	Tim Miller			Niles
19.	Allen Weich			Lake/MI-TAT 5
20.	Caitlin Sampsell			BC 911
21.	MARK BERGER			Med Flight
22.	Tim Jesswein			Buchanan Twp.
23.	Steve Stovmulla			Buchanan Twp
24.	Jeremy Connell			SJDPS
25.	Mike Mattix			NRFR
26.	Frank Pelotore			S.M.C.A.S.
27.	Mike Davidson			CTFD
28.				
29.				
30.				
31.				
32.				
33.				



Berrien County Fire Chiefs  
Meeting Dates and Times  
2021

All meetings will continue to be held at Lincoln Township Fire department

01/20	08:30	
02/17	08:30	
03/17	08:30	
04/21	08:30	
05/19	08:30	
06/16	08:30	
07/21	08:30	
08/18	08:30	
09/15	08:30	
10/20	08:30	
11/00	Skip	Hunting season
12/15	08:30	



## **Van Buren County Firefighter Training Committee**

In cooperation with the

**Covert Township Fire Department**

is proud to host the

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-BASIC**

Start date February 4th, 2021

End date of July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Course will meet every Thursday 1800-2200 as well as the following  
Saturdays: 2/20, 3/06, 3/20, 4/10, 5/22 & 7/10 2021

This course will consist of 168 hours of instruction presented in both lecture and hands on. There will also be 36 hours of clinical time as well. This course will be delivered by experienced Van Buren County professionals that work in both EMS and the fire service.

Instructor to student ratio will not exceed 1:5 in the practical sessions.

This course is partially funded by BFS Fireworks funds and can be found on  
SMOKE #2021-2-80-Q69C-0298

COST: \$1,200.00/Student

We must have 15 students registered to run this course

For more information or to register email:

[Covertfiretraining@gmail.com](mailto:Covertfiretraining@gmail.com)



## **Van Buren County Firefighter Training Committee**

In cooperation with the

### **Bangor Community Fire Department**

is proud to host the

### **VFIS**

### **DRIVERS TRAINING**

Saturday March 20, 2021 0800-1700

This course will be held at:

Bangor Community Fire Department

417 West Arlington St

Bangor, Michigan 49056

**INSTRUCTOR: Steve Lowder**

This course is fully funded by BFS Fireworks funds and can be found on

SMOKE #2021-2-80-B05D-0351

**COST: Free to firefighters**

For more information or to register email:

[Covertfiretraining@gmail.com](mailto:Covertfiretraining@gmail.com)



## **Van Buren County Firefighter Training Committee**

In cooperation with the

**Mattawan Fire Department**

is proud to host the

**VFIS**

**DRIVERS TRAINING**

Saturday April 17, 2021 0800-1700

This course will be held at:

Mattawan Fire Department

55697 North Main Street

Mattawan, Michigan 49071

**INSTRUCTOR: Steve Lowder**

This course is fully funded by BFS Fireworks funds and can be found on  
SMOKE #2021-2-80-B05D-0352

**COST: Free to firefighters**

For more information or to register email:

[Covertfiretraining@gmail.com](mailto:Covertfiretraining@gmail.com)



# Van Buren County Training Committee

## Michigan Fire Instructor One

This course is designed to meet the NFPA 1041 (2019) Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications, Instructor 1 Level. This course includes instructor and student lectures throughout the course covering the Jones and Bartlett Fire and Emergency Services Instructor 3rd edition textbook. Significant student preparation and homework completion is required before the first day of class. Prior to the start date, you will need to read the required chapters.

- Must be a current member, or have been a member within the last five years of an organized Michigan fire department
- Must possess a Fire Fighter I and II certification
- Must have completed an FFTD Instructor Orientation and is built into day four
- Must have a minimum of five (5) years firefighting experience at the time of application

The textbook for this class is the Jones and Bartlett Fire and Emergency Services Instructor 3rd edition (ISBN 978-1-284-17233-1) which can be purchased from the Michigan State Fireman's Association (810) 635-9513.

Class Cost: The course is funded by Fireworks Funds

Class Size: Limited to the first 16 registered applicants

Class Location: 33805 M-140, Covert, MI 49043 [Click For Map](#)

Class Date: March 12<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> 2021

Class Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm with one-hour lunch

Contact: Justin Holmes @ [Brassalarms@gmail.com](mailto:Brassalarms@gmail.com) or 269-998-2391

Justin Steeby @ [Justin.steeby@yahoo.com](mailto:Justin.steeby@yahoo.com) or 269-506-4651

Course Instructors: **Justin Holmes and Justin Steeby**

Please register for this course at the SMOKE Website. Link provided below

Course Code 2021-2-80-H07C-0296

<https://smoke.apps.lara.state.mi.us/Account/Login>

**Registration is limited to 16 students Registration Deadline is**

**Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

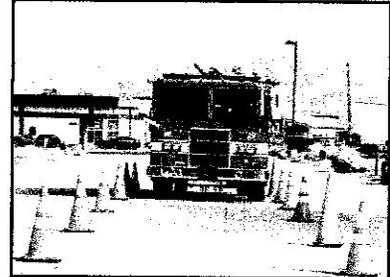




Emergency Vehicle Driver Training and the Van Buren Co. Training Committee  
 Invites you to attend the following Emergency Service Training Program

# Emergency Vehicle Driver Training Instructor Level

This course is approved to teach the instructional methodology to potential and existing MFFTC instructors needed to deliver the following program. The operator of emergency vehicles in today's society carries a heavy responsibility. The penalty for not adequately training your operators also carries legal consequences. Emergency vehicle operators and the entities they represent have been held both criminally and civilly responsible for their actions. This program was developed to teach the emergency vehicle operator (EVO) proper driving technique, the mental as well as the physical aspects of the driving task. The program points out the long-term impact of an accident involving an emergency vehicle on the operator, the emergency service organization and the community in which they serve. The MFFTC has authorized the following Instructor Levels to teach this course: Instructor I & II, previous Certified Instructors



## September 24th & 25th

Day 1: 6:00pm - 10:00pm / Day 2: 8:00am - 4:00pm

**LOCATION:**

**Mattawan Fire Department  
 55697 N. Main St.  
 Mattawan, MI 49071**



**COST**

**All VFIS Insured**  
 1st Registration \$0  
 Additional Registrations \$75 each  
**Non-VFIS Insured**  
 Registration \$75

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SMOKE Pin: \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment**      **Total Due:**

VFIS Insured

Non-VFIS Client or additional insured

PO # \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed

Contact FMA LLC for Credit Card Payment  
 231-206-5372

**How to Register:** Submit completed Registration Form and payment to:

Fire Mark Advantage LLC, 3096 Country Club Dr., Muskegon, MI 49441 or  
 Email form to firemarkadvantage@msn.com .

**Payment:** Make checks payable to FMA LLC, call for credit card processing, or if billing is required

**SMOKE System:** Locate and register for the course on the MFFTC SMOKE training system - Course County— Van Buren