



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



Call to Order: 0830-0945

Date: February 17, 2021

Old minutes: Motion to accept old minutes with correction to Chief Myers name, and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning and ending balance \$3576.44. no changes. Motion to accept treasurer report and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

Communications/Bills:

New Chief/Visitor: Welcome new Benton Charter Township Fire Chief Rob Harper.

Committee Report:

Sheriff: None

Red Cross: None

Dispatch/911: 800 paging. Caitlin reminded everyone that dispatch would like the remaining departments on 800 paging by end of March 2021. By doing this it will free up the VHF radio equipment on the VHF paging side to be used to keep the VHF response side operational. For the departments that took advantage of Dispatches pager grant offering, invoices for the Unication 800 pagers will be sent out soon. Caitlin still waiting on information from Motorola on signal enhancements and tower location. Indiana radio ID's Meeting was held last week, the sharing of the 50 radio ID's is slowly moving forward. Chief Chase was at the meeting and said legalities and MOU's still to be worked out. Departments that add Indiana system to their radios will need to sign an Indiana user's agreement. The 50 radio ID's may have to be reallocated due to some being in play already and now MSP will be needing IN radio ID's. Discussion on creating a new fire radio MPSCS template. Make sure new templates have 11E911 for EMS agencies and 11FG5 for fire departments as well as the new zones. Captain DeLaTorre and SGT. Bush have had discussions on updated template. Captain DeLaTorre will be submitting a draft MPSCS fire radio template to communications committee to review. Caitlin read an email excerpt on an email exchange between SGT. Bush and Chris Kuhl at MPSCS. Even though some radios have been programed with paging talkgroups, MPSCS plans to halt adding paging talkgroups to radios at this time and will be evaluating adding them to station radios and 1-2 command portable radios in the future. Radios with paging talkgroups programed into them will not be able to scan the paging talkgroups. Some radios may not allow the paging talkgroups to be set to receive only. Captain DeLaTorre showed that the xts2500 radio he had is set to receive only for paging talkgrpup. Captain DeLaTorre explained the need for radios to have receive only paging talkgroups as an addition to pagers for areas paging signal is weak, for when pager batteries die, etc...

REMINDER: THE VHF SIMULCAST WILL BE ENDING ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2022.

DNR: None

Funeral: Berrien Springs

Emergency Management: Capt. Adams discussed the update to the county's hazard mitigation plan. Capt. Adams stated invitations went out to first responders and municipal leaders for representatives to fill 4 different groups. This update is expected to take 7-8 months to complete. Capt. Adams also stated request to municipal governments for a municipal liaison. In some instances, the fire chief representative in the EOC is also this liaison, but for other municipalities a liaison is needed. Capt Adams stated SGT. Bush has been involve in several radio/template issues and EOC will be requesting MPSCS contact the communications committee directly on future radio issues/question's, so that SGT. Bush can focus on his duties.

EMS:

Medic-1: None

S.M.C.A.S.: Most employees have first vaccine working on getting the second vaccines.

Med Flight: None

Med Control: Al DiBrito: Med control has created an administrative assistant. No salary for the position. Al and Dr Milligan have been filling the administrative assist role. Medical support team has been approved. Currently team is made up of Lakeland employees. The team is designed to assist Med Control at large scenes/incidents. Team may also be used to assist EMS at large events. If interested in joining the team contact Al DiBrito or DR Beyer. Lakeland will be holding two COVID vaccine clinics. Lakeland clinics are molded after the Health Department clinics. Lakeland has partnered with LMC to hold two clinics one at Mendel Center and one at Niles Campus. Vaccine clinics will be based on vaccine availability. Maryann Pater has retired, and Al DeBrito has taken over her role at Lakeland.

Al asked for clarification on the use of 11E911for EMS agencies. Caitlin stated that the plan is to move EMS onto the 11E911 so EMS agencies will not have to compete with fire agencies on 11F911. MFR fire departments will also be directed to 11E911 for medical calls. This move will also make it so dispatch will not have to monitor several EMS agencies proprietary talkgroups.

Al stated there are several openings for security at Lakeland. Both full time and part time positions open. Lakeland will let firefighters leave for working structures. Perfect for firefighters and police officers. If interested contact Al DiBrito.

If you have family members in the hospital and have trouble getting in to see them contact Al for assistance.

LEPC: None

BCFA: Continuing to meet by zoom. Initially did not have a quarm for February meeting but 15 minutes into it quarm established. Next zoom meeting March 03, 2021 at 1900hrs. Smoke detectors still available if need some.

Training: BHDPS will be hosting a fire officer 1 and 2 April-June. High School fire class is currently working on pre incident surveys. If you have a cadet in HS class have them present their survey to your department.

HazMat: Ne member added to the team. Has CBRNE experience from military.

MITRT5: Allen Weich: MITRT funding comes from region 5 grants. Working on following training: grain bin/Trench opps level/confined space opps level. @ calls in November 2020. Both were trench collapse. Working to add new members to the team. If interested in joining th MITR-5 team contact Allen Weich.

MABAS: Capt. DeLaTorre advise this month was the Plan Coordinators meeting. Discussion on the updated MABAS website. MABAS currently has 2 UAS validated teams in Michigan. Drone resource guide on MABAS website. Updated division map. New divisions Berry and Berry. Allegan not at 04 departments yet but working on it. NIMS typing updated on MABAS web site. The state EMS office accepts the MABAS agreement as mutual aid agreement for EMS agencies. Updated

MRP and documents on the MABAS website. MABAS department PLEASE download and print out the updated MRP for your departments. Updated MABAS policy and procedures on MABAS website. There will be a MABAS webinar 0800-1600 on April 21, 2021. More information to come. MABAS working with the DNR for wildland firefighter certification. In members section working on adding division member agreements. Request that Dispatch centers please have members on both the monthly dispatch phone/radio drill as well as when MABAS response request when they go out. Some dispatch centers were not aware of MABAS call outs due to not having representative on the phone calls. Communications committee leader Erick is still trying to get dispatch training for dispatch centers. Tabletop and POD drills continuing in 2021. Dave Albers stated there is now a state plume mapping that is now available to all hazmat teams so if incident is going on neighboring team can assist with mapping freeing up local team members to mitigate the incident.

Old Business: None

New Business: FEMA grant has been submitted. Grant based on \$18,000.00 per station. This will allow departments to choose vender when ordering portable 800 radios. Retired Chief Stover feels very good about chances with this grant. Reminder of the county loan program to purchase your mobile radios. Caitlin working with local agencies on securing local grant funding. Communications committee assisting Caitlin. Discussion on MPSCS requesting a read of your radio with every template request. Question on if a copy of the grant request available. Chief Myers stated he has been added to grant as well. Chief Davidson said he would talk to Retired Chief Stover as well.

Caitlin discussed the community foundations she is working with to assist in getting radios. Caitlin stated it may not be a county wide local grant, each individual department may have to submit a grant application. Caitlin stated there is a desire from these local foundations to help the fire departments.

Capt. Adams stated the vaccine clinics are currently full and the Health department will only schedule clinics if they have both the first and second dose available to each person scheduled for the clinics. Chief Davidson thanked the health department and fire departments that provided drive through clinics for COVID vaccines.

Chief Davidson reminded all to please keep up on NIFRS reporting now that grant is submitted.

Question on Rhonda's contact information for NIFRS issues/errors.

Rhonda Howard contact info:

517-712-7720

howard2@michigan.org

Next Meeting: 0830 on March 17, 2021 Lincoln Twp.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn and seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 0945

Communications committee meeting to follow in 15 minutes.

**Berrien County Fire Chief's Association
Attendance Sheet
February 17th, 2021**

	Print	Signature	Temp	Dept.
1.	MIKE Davidson	Mike Davidson	98.1	CTFD
2.	Gerry Kabelman	Gerry Kabelman	97.2	S.J.C.T.F.D. 1
3.	Matt Kenwo	Matt Kenwo	97.1	Bertrand
4.	JENNIFER Flick	Jennifer Flick	97.0	BCPSCC-911
5.	Dennis Sexton	Dennis Sexton	97.2	BCPSCC-911
6.	Brian P. Kazmierzak	Brian P. Kazmierzak	97.2	BHDPS
7.	Al DiPrato	Al DiPrato	97.2	MCA + LAKEVIEW
8.	Brendan Chiardi	Brendan Chiardi	98.1	LTFD
9.	Doug M 9025	Doug M 9025	97.2	BSO/FD
10.	Amanda Bronson	Amanda Bronson	98.2	WTFD
11.	ROBERT HARPER	Robert Harper	96.8	BCTFD
12.	Ted Chase	Ted Chase	97.2	GTFD
13.	JAMIE FLICK	Jamie Flick	97.1	NBTFD
14.	Donnie Johnson II	Donnie Johnson II	97.5	WTFD
15.	Fronzo Melara	Fronzo Melara	98.2	S.M.C.A.S.
16.	Tim Jessward	Tim Jessward	98.4	Niles Twp/Duck Twp.
17.	Caitlin Sampsell	Caitlin Sampsell	97.4	BC 911
18.	Allen Weich	Allen Weich	96.5	Lake/ME-TRT-5
19.	MIKE MATTIE	Mike Mattie	96.9	NBFR
20.	Jeremy Connell	Jeremy Connell	97.3	SJDPS
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