



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Call to Order: 0830-1015

Date: April 21, 2021

Old minutes: Old minutes emailed out on May 02, 2021. Motion to accept old minutes and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance \$3414.94. ending Balance: \$3414.94. No activity. Motion to accept treasurers report and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed. Captain DeLaTorre advised he has 2021 dues invoices so please see him after the meeting to get yours.

Communications/Bills:

New Chief/Visitor:

Committee Report:

Sheriff: Things going good. Sheriff introduced Ashley Guether. She is new to Emergency Management. Her extension is: 4915. Jail had a few small COVID positive cases. Local area good after the verdict.

Red Cross: None

MITRT5: Moved up as Allen has another meeting to attend: Drill in St Joe City on April 15, 2021. SJCDPS and SJDPW along with MITRT5 held a drill on April 15, 2021. Drill went very well. Some communication issues. Drill dispatched at 1410. 1457 MITER trailer arrived from Niles. Members responded direct to the scene. 20 min after trailer arrival patient rescued. In person training back on schedule for 2021. 01 new member from North Berrien.

Great Lakes Drone: Added to agenda. Moved up as Matt had a class in the MABAS webinar to teach. See attached for detailed report. Call if needed.

Dispatch/911: Caitlin stated it is the Anniversary of losing one of their own due to cancer. Caitlin stated there are still 5 openings for dispatchers. New IS tech started Monday. Caitlin stated S.M.C.A.S and Medic-1 have concerns using 11E911 so a traffic load study will be conducted. Paging talkgroups will now be recorded. Caitlin stated with almost all department on 800 paging and broadcasting dispatched over 11F911 and BC Response on VHF dispatchers are having to wait for clear channel to page. Caitlin discussed the possibility of not broadcasting dispatches over 11F911/BC Response. Frank asked about adding a dispatch talkgroup that would only be outbound from dispatch to tie into 8000 dispatch pages. Frank advised there is no cost for adding talkgroup and suggested 11DISP. Similar to what ST Joe County in IN uses. Another suggestion was to monitor position 6 on pagers where neighboring/auto aid departments 800 paging talkgroups were placed. Discussion on mutual aid. Chief Chase discussed the new/old boxcard format for department to revert back to. This format makes it easier for dispatch to integrate boxcards into CAD. See attached. Adding M for MCI. Discussion on target hazards. Target hazards are alerts in the CAD. New/Old format will be emailed to all tomorrow. Please complete and return to Chief Chase and Chief Mattix by June BC Fire Chiefs meeting.

Caitlin reminded everyone that: **VHF simulcast system will end by December 31, 2021.**

Increased costs to operate VHF system. AT&T rates also going up. 5 departments still on VHF paging. ST Joe Twp. Is ready to move to 800 paging. Benton Twp. Is almost ready.

Caitlin presented the 800 signal enhancement options for south east county to the county commissioners.

Caitlin stated she received correspondence from Senator Peters office in regard to appropriation funding.

Caitlin will be following up with Senator Peters. Caitlin advised of the MPSCS used radio alert pertaining to system key on used radios. If used radio has a system key on it and it can not be removed MPSCS is unable to program it. Discussion on the MPSCS 800 fire radio template. Fill the home zone C. 2 positions were left open for departments to fill in what they feel is most needed in the home zone C.

Caitlin thanked everyone as we for their help and patience during this transition.

DNR: none

Funeral: Berrien Springs

Emergency Management: Captain Adams discussed updating the Emergency Operations plan. Discussion on the sharefile EM is offering to departments. Contact Captain Adams for information on how to sign up. All responders are eligible to sign up for sharefile. Changes will be coming to the listserv. Some of the issues they have found are full inboxes, possible settings issues in your emails. The listserv blocks thousands of spam emails. LEPC seminar on June 22 at 0900. The mitigation plan update has had their kickoff meeting. Ashley Guether is new to Emergency Management. Her title is EM Specialist. She will be handling public engagement.

EMS:

Medic-1: Still operating under COVID protocols. Discussed first responder hazard pay program. This program can help funding for EMS.

S.M.C.A.S.: Captain DeLaTorre advised that this is his last meeting representing S.M.C.A.S. at the BC Fire Chiefs meeting. Captain DeLaTorre has accepted a position with Niles City Fire Department and Niles City Fire Department has allowed Frank to continue on as the Niles representative to the BC Fire Chiefs association. Frank stated he is willing to stay on as Sec/Treasurer and on the communications committee. Frank advised still willing to be here and help out as he has been just different agency affiliation. Frank advised he will still be the MABAS Division Plan Coordinator and that affiliation will transition to North Berrien and Niles as both are MABAS members.

Med Flight: Last week was National Telecommunicators Week. Had a flight to North Berrien last week. LZ classes are resuming and fly ins for first responders only no public offerings as of yet.

Med Control: None

LEPC:

BCFA: Zoom meeting will continue in May. Michigan COVID numbers climbing. June in person possibly. If in person will pick up where left off with New Buffalo City.

Training: FF1 and 2 testing will start May 20, 2021. Help will be needed with testing. Contact Corey Burks to help.

HazMat: Everything is all good.

MABAS: Captain DeLaTorre apologized for the late notice on the Brush Strike Team tabletop drill. Captain DeLaTorre stated with the transition to Niles City he forgot about the drill. Captain DeLaTorre advised Brush Strike Team tabletop drill went well. There was no response from Lincoln Twp. And Niles Twp. took a pass on the Chief with aid. If it was an actual deployment, we would of met the goal on the boxcard. Captain DeLaTorre advised that at the plan coordinators meeting last week discussion on creating a regional coordinator to assist with deployments. These are used in MABAs IL and MN. Developing a strike team worksheet to help in deployments. MABAS webinar is today. There are 2 EMS CE and 6 fire inspector CE for the webinar.

Old Business: No news on the radio grant. Awards to begin in Mid April. Chief Davidson advised all that Retired Chief Stovers brother Dale Stover son had passed away unexpectedly. Chief Davidson reminded all to keep up on NIFRS. Can contact Rhonda 517-712-7720 for help with errors and missing reports.

New Business: Discussion on issues with EMS on fire standbys. BHDPS stated they have not had EMS on structure fires. When EMS there asking if can be released. BHDPS stated EMS unit needs to be a dedicated unit. Other departments advised issues with some EMS agencies as well. Chief Davidson stated he will look to med control for additional input. Discussion on adding Great Lakes Drone to the association and agenda. Captain DeLaTorre made motion to add Great Lakes Drone to association and agenda. Seconded by Chief Jamie Flick. Motion passed. None opposed.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2021 at 0830.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1015hrs.

Berrien County Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

The Goal

Create a uniform Mutual aid request form that applies to MABAS departments as well as those not currently participating in MABAS. This will allow a more streamlined dispatch process resulting in reduced time and increased dispatch accuracy.

Each department shall complete Mutual Aid Box Cards appropriate for their communities. Participation in MABAS Division 3501 is not required.

Challenges Identified

- Not all departments are utilizing MABAS Box cards
- Not all departments are using the same language and description
- Not all departments are using the same box card format
- Not all departments are requesting alarms from dispatch in the same manner

Box Card Development and terminology

Initial Dispatch

This column will be utilized for all initial dispatch units including any automatic aid (Include EMS requests if they are desired based on type of response)

Mutual Aid Units Requested

All formatting shall consist of the Department Name and the type of unit request being requested (i.e. Galien Tanker or Three Oaks Engine). No unit numbers shall be used.

Box Card Name

Follow the naming process below based on the various incident types.

Code	Emergency Call Type
R	Residential Structure Fires
C	Commercial / Industrial Fires
G	Wildland / Vegetation Fires
V	Vehicle Extrication / Highway Incidents
H	High Occupancy (Hospital, School, Nursing Home)
W	Water Rescue
T	Train Derailment / Accident
M	Mass Casualty Incident
A	Active Violence / Bomb Threat
S	Water Shuttle / Tanker

Box Alarm Number

The numbering of the box cards should include the number of the box card followed by the call type based on the key above. To name your first or only residential box card you would use "1-R". If you have two or more, the subsequent numbering shall be 2-R, 3-R, 4-R, etc. If you also have two Commercial box cards, you will use the numbering 1-C and 2-C. Utilizing this format will allow for changes if you ever need to add or remove box cards for a specific type of incident. No reference to your department ID should be included.

