



## **BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**

**Call to Order:** 0830-1030

**Date:** May 19, 2021

**Old minutes:** Old minutes emailed out on Monday May 24, 2021. Motion to accept old minutes and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

**Treasurer's Report:** No change: \$3414.94 for beginning and ending balance. Have 11 departments that have sent dues checks in so far. Reminder dues due by end of May 2021.

Motion to accept treasurers report and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

**Communications/Bills:** None

**New Chief/Visitor:** Chief Jeff Gual, Barada Fire Department

**Committee Report:**

**Sheriff:** Cory on behalf of Sheriff, Sheriff had another meeting this morning. Summer approaching be safe on the waterways.

**Red Cross:** None

**Great Lakes Drone:** See attached report. Will be hosting the state MABAS Public Safety UAS symposium at the Watervliet airport on August 14, 2021. Free to all public safety agencies. Online registration coming soon. GLD will be hosting training at New Buffalo City and Township Fire Departments on May 20, 2021 at 1900hrs. Contact GLD/Chief Huston/Chief Flick if interested in attending.

**Dispatch/911:** **REMINDER VHF WIL END BY DECEMBER 31, 2022.** AT&T have increased their rates to keep up the links. Fees increased \$75,000.00. The sooner departments can move to MPSCS 800 then county can drop the links with AT&T. ST Joe Twp. stations 1 and 2/Benton Township/Niles City and Niles Twp. all moved to 800 paging on Saturday May 08, 2021. Only departments left on VHF paging are:

S.M.C.A.S./PrideCare./Sodus Fire. **THE SOONER THESE DEPARTMENTS CAN MOVE TO 800 PAGING THE LESS CHANCE FOR MISTAKES AND DELAYS IN PAGING.** MPSCS state signal enhancement team still looking into coverage issues in south east county. Please report any signal issues/problems to /Caitlin and Jennifer. Still in discussions with Senator Peters office on possible appropriation funds. Reminder that no radio system is 100 percent coverage. Hired 2 new dispatchers. Still have 5 openings. New IS tech hired. Reminder to submit Mutual Aid response changes to Caitlin or Jenifer. Reminder that the new boxcard templates that Chief Chase, Chief Mattix, and ASST. Chief Kableman presented at April meeting need to be completed and approved by them and then submitted to dispatch by June meeting. Question on what needs to be done to stop the \$75,000.00 AT&T fees. Jenifer stated need to get S.M.C.A.S./PrideCare/Sodus onto 800 paging and all departments moved off VHF simulcast and onto 800 for mobilization/response/command. Then Dispatch can end VHF simulcast and discontinue the AT&T links.

**DNR:** None

**Funeral:** Berrien Springs One protestant bible given out.

**Emergency Management:** Hazard mitigation kick off. The Be Prepared survey has been pushed out.

**EMS:**

**Medic-1:** Bill Boyd followed up one the EMS and fire scene issues discussed at the April meeting. Bill stated there were two issues that were discovered. The predecessors of BHDPS and Benton Twp. Fire were not willing to assist EMS with COVID patient/responses. This lead to a riff between EMS and fire service. The issues have been discussed and believe to be worked out. Bill discussed the potential for EMS to all work together on one single channel. Medic will be offering a Paramedic Class starting in June 17, 2021. Fliers on table. Medic will also be offering First Responder and EMT classes in future.

**S.M.C.A.S.:** None. Chief Davidson asked Frank if S.M.C.A.S. had a replacement for him to represent S.M.C.A.S. Frank stated not at this time.

**Med Flight:** COVID slowly lifting. Mark stated this is EMS week and THANK YOU to our EMS partners. LZ classes being offered for first responders. Contact Mark to set up class. Chief Davidson reminded all as they update the boxcards the potential use of Med Flight and the need for at least a 1 mile safety zone for helicopter. Discussion on drone and helicopter use on same scene. Helicopter gets right away. Both helicopter and drone operators need to be advised of each other's presence on the scene. Mark stated he is looking for scene flight pictures for the 2022 calendar. If have any you wish to consider get them to him.

**Med Control:** None.

**LEPC:** Meetings to start in September 2021. Zoom meeting for June 2021.

**BCFA:** May meeting was via zoom. Looking to hold in person meeting for June 02, 2021 at the fairgrounds in the poultry barn as it is large open area. No meal will be offered so meeting will start at 1900 hrs. Will also have a zoom link for those who may not be comfortable attending in person. Use gate 1 to enter fairgrounds. Planning on July and August 2021 meeting at fairgrounds as well and September 2021 at New Buffalo Township. Get resource updates to Gerry. Gerry asked Great Lakes Drone for information to include in resource directory.

**Training:** Firefighter 1/2 tests coming up. Written on Thursday May 20, 2021. There will be test in morning and evening. Practical test Saturday May 22, 2021 at fairgrounds. 33 students testing. 10 from Cass County. New trainings in SMOKE. New training requirements coming in 2022.

BHDPS will be hosting a firefighter 1 and 2 class. This will be a 10 week class with classroom portions online and hands on Tuesdays and Thursdays 1800-220 Saturdays 0800-1600. Class starts June 15, 2021 Contact Brian Kazmierzak if interested.

**HazMat:** Handful of calls since January 01, 2021. Remember we are a resource if needed. Do not hesitate to call. Adding 2 new team members. Will be allowing fire department members with Hazmat Operations level to join team. Currently working on MOU. Looking to add 5-8 fire department members. List of procedures/requirements for fire department members and the sponsoring department available soon. If you have department members that would be interested contact Corey Burks. Hazmat conference coming up. Dave Albers will get the information sent out.

**MITRT5:** Training will resume in fall 2021. Team will be using county All Call for activations. This will activate the MITRT5 team and let all departments in county know that the team has been activated.

**MABAS:** LT DeLaTorre discussed the Brush Strike Team POD Drill that took place on May 12, 2021. The drill went very well. Brush team mobilized at the North Berrien Hagar station. Communication went well. Worked/discussed paperwork at the POD. Discussed travel and had map of where being deployed to. Added to the personal equipment check list cash and credit card so departments can start planning on having cash and credit cards for deployments. Also had the individuals mark items they would be providing and items their department would be providing from the list as well. Again, this was to have departments and individuals start planning on having supplies ready to go for deployments. Question on how to get gear/supplies to POD with a two man cab brush truck. LT DeLaTorre stated that departments may have to bring 2 vehicles to POD in situation like that. We had out pick up truck planned as team command so supplies could be stored in bed of truck and department also has a trailer if it was needed.

**Old Business:** Chief Davidson discussed NIFRS problems. Chief Davidson stated it has been difficult getting in contact with Rhonda. Chief Davidson stated when he tried to run report yesterday was unable to. He called Rhonda and this morning was able to access and print report for our county. Discussion on county radio loan program. Chikaming is first department to take advantage of loan program. Working with county they have created a template so other departments will just need to fill in the blanks when applying for this loan. Chikaming was able to get 1.85 percent loan for 80 months to purchase 800 mobile radios. Chief Davidson is willing to let any department see his contract with the county radio loan program. Jurisdictional board approval will be needed. Contact Brian Dissette if interested in utilizing the county radio loan program.

**New Business:** Chief Harper is looking for a cost recovery ordinance. He stated the township gave him the go-ahead to look into cost recovery for the fire department. Please contact Chief Harper if willing to share cost recovery ordinances and fee schedules. Discussion on EOC positions. Ashley from EOC is requesting contact information on Fire Chiefs representatives to EOC. The Chiefs that accepted the EOC positions please get your information to Ashley.

Chief Jesswein stated Buchanan Twp. Fire utilized the bible for a member, Maurice May, that had recently passed away and a memorial service will be held tomorrow. Chief Jesswein also stated he lost his phone and everyone's contacts. His number stayed the same so please send him a text with your name and contact information so he can update all his contacts.

Chief Jesswein brought the new local rep from 5Alarm Fire to the meeting. Rep gave presentation and handed out business cards. Steve stated he is the Midwest region rep. He is not intending to replace any of your departments current suppliers but here to be an additional resource/option for your department.

**Next Meeting:** June 16, 2021 Here at Lincoln Twp. 0830.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn and seconded.  
Meeting adjourned 1030.



**Berrien County Fire Chief's Association  
Attendance Sheet  
May 19th, 2021**

	Print	Signature	Temp	Dept.
1.	Mike Davidson			CTFD
2.	Dennis Sexta			BC 911
3.	Frank DeLatorre			Miles / North Berrien
4.	Dale MYERS			BSO/FD
5.	Mike Mattix			NBFR
6.	Amanda Bronson	Amanda Bronson		Weesaw
7.	MARK BERGER			Med Flight
8.	JENNIFER FLICK			BCPSCC-911
9.	Shley MURSON			GLDC
10.	Matt Deemo			Bertrand
11.	Stormi Napier			GLDC
12.	Rob Haeppe			BCTFD
13.	William Boyd, Jr			Medic 1
14.	Dannie Johnson II			Weesaw
15.	Brenda Chiodi			LTFD
16.	David Albers			BCSO / BSO/FD
17.	Brian Kozmierski			BHDPS
18.	Georgy Kabelman			S.J.C.I.T.F.O. 1
19.	Ted Chase			GALLEN
20.	Jamie Flick			NBTFD
21.	Allen Weich			Lake / MI - TRT-5
22.	Jeffrey Gane			BXRDDA FD
23.	Tim Jessman			Buchanan Twp / Miles Twp
24.	COREY BURKS			BCSO-HAZMAT
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# GREAT LAKES DRONE COMPANY, LLC

## UAS REPORT

EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION

### MAY 2021

#### Call Volume Report

- Total Calls 2021: 41
- Calls Since Last Meeting to Date: 8
- Calls in Berrien County 2021 to Date: 16

#### Breakdown of Type of Calls 2021 to Date

- Missing Persons - 13
- LEO Assists - 8
- Structure Fires - 15
- Water/Dive Rescue - 4

#### Updates

- New FAA Regulations are now in effect, Ops over people under certain circumstances and night flight is now approved without additional authorizations
- We are currently hiring for our On Call Public Safety Division, Part 107 and emergency services background preferred, but we will train the right people. Apply at our facebook page.
- Hosting the State MABAS Public Safety UAS Symposium at Watervliet Airport on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, it is free to public safety agencies, registration online is forthcoming
- Equipment update:
  - 4580 is our new unit, will be in Coloma. 4581 to Kalamazoo and 4582 to remain in Stevensville
  - Responder Cast is now active, we will live stream to your cell, tablet, or computer via link
  - 3 New Thermal Drones are ordered, will be in service by end of the month
  - We have increased our payload drop capacities and implemented new water rescue and dive recovery protocols based on evidence-based research from the past 30 call review over the past 3 years. Expect different procedures from our team upon arrival that what you have seen. (Examples target dropping current weights, aerial buoy drops, etc)
  - Reminder, early activation makes everything easier on all of us, we would rather disregard then be behind possible opportunities to intervene at the right timeline

#### Training Update

- New Buffalo City and Twp Fire on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

**2618 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville, MI 49127**  
**888-816-9625 - [info@greatlakesdronecompany.com](mailto:info@greatlakesdronecompany.com)**

# BENTON HARBOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

## HYBRID FIREFIGHTER I/II – HMO COURSE

### COURSE DATES:

TUESDAY JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – SATURDAY AUGUST 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

LECTURE & ASSIGNMENTS ALL COMPLETED ONLINE – ALL CLASS DAYS ARE HANDS ON SKILL DAYS!

COURSE DOES INVOLVE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK!

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY AND ABSENCES ARE HIGHLY DISCOURAGED! ANY MISSED SKILL SESSIONS MUST BE MADE UP – NO EXCEPTIONS!

STUDENTS MUST BE SPONSORED BY AN AREA FD & SUPPLY FULL NFPA COMPLIANT PPE & SCBA  
ABSOLUTELY NO FACIAL HAIR ALLOWED & MUST HAVE OSHA RESPIRATOR CLEARANCE PHYSICAL

### COURSE TIMES:

Weekday Skill Sessions - 1800-2200 - Saturday Skill Sessions – 0800-1400

### COURSE LOCATION:

Benton Harbor DPS Firehouse – 200 E. Wall, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

### COURSE COST:

\$500 per firefighter – ***DOES NOT*** include J&B FF I/II Textbook with Premier Navigate Access

### FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT

Brian Kazmierzak – 269-443-1027 or [bkazmierzak@bhcity.us](mailto:bkazmierzak@bhcity.us)





**Steve Shuksta**  
Field Sales Representative  
[sshuksta@5alarm.com](mailto:sshuksta@5alarm.com)  
Cell: 616.401.4309



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**FIRE AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT, LLC.**

350 Austin Circle  
Delafield, WI 53018-2171  
800.615.6789 or 262.646.5911  
Fax 262.646.5912  
[www.5alarm.com](http://www.5alarm.com)

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