



## **BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**

**Call to Order:** 0830

**Date:** August 18, 2021

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Starting balance \$4564.94. Check to twin city for \$100.00. Ending balance \$4464.94. Frank advised he completed a spreadsheet on departments that have paid 2121 dues. Only 5 or 6 that have not yet paid. Reminder of past due emails were sent out. Motion to accept treasurers report and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

**Communications/Bills:** None

**New Chief/Visitor:** None

**Committee Report:**

**Sheriff:** Everything is good. County working with health department. A lot of debate on mask wearing. Sherriff reminded all of the funeral at Western Auditorium for the Kalamzoo County Deputy that died in the line of duty on Saturday.

Chief Davidson held a moment of silence for Deputy Ryan Proxmire from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff Department that was shot and died in line of duty.

**Red Cross:** None

**Great Lakes Drone:** See attached from GLD. Changes to GLD report: Total Calls: 82

Call since last meeting: 16; Calls to Berrien County to date: 39.

**Dispatch/911:** **REMINDER VHF SIMULCAST WILL END BY DECEMBER 31, 2022.** Sodus siren is on 800 paging. Sodus Fire is the only fire department still on VHF paging. S.M.C.A.S. and PrideCare are still on vhf paging. These three agencies still on VHF paging continues to cause delays in dispatching. PrideCare very close to moving to 800 paging. PrideCare did 800 paging testing today and it went very well. Dispatch has requested a new talkgroup to help with getting 800 paging transmissions out. The talkgroup will be 11BCPAGE. Caitlin stated she has requested MPSCS-RPU to have this talkgroup added to the county 800 radio templates. This talkgroup will allow uninterrupted 800 paging dispatches to be sent out and not interfere with the 800 response talkgroups. Caitlin stated she has requested that the talkgroup be transmit and receive talkgroup so that it can be placed into scan list, thus allowing fire/EMS to monitor the talkgroup without having a radio set to the talkgroup. It will be used as an outgoing talkgroup from dispatch just as BC2 used to be. RPU will be changing to an online portal soon for template and radio programing. You will nolonger be able to send RPU an email to update and program 800 radios. Dispatch is requesting a list of departments 800 radio ID's. Dispatch can put radio aliases into console and keeps the ID lists to look up if needed. Please get your boxcards to dispatch. Staffing, has lost one dispatcher. Still training four. Still has seven opening for dispatchers. Caitlin introduced dispatches new IS dept. technician Sean Bearden. He will be taking over retired Denny Sextons responsibilities and more.

Chief Myers stated if major incident at the Berrien County Youth Fair, staging is at the Berrien Springs Orokno station. Eau Claire will be handling staging.

Question on tower status for south east corner of county. Caitlin advised she is waiting on proposal from Motorola on new tower. Have a proposed site and MPSCS is performing computerized testing on location. MPSCS suggests stand alone tower due to potential issues of changes in tower ownerships in the future. Caitlin stated she has requested appropriation funding through Senator Peters office, and Representative LaSatta has also showed support. Trying to rush the proposal due to the coverage issues. Once approved it will still take 18-24 months to build the tower and get it operational. Mobiles will still provide the best coverage for now. Remember the county low interest loan program for mobile 800 radio purchases.

**DNR:** None

**Funeral:** Berrien Springs

**Emergency Management:** All good. DC Cook practice drill next Tuesday. EOC was partially activated for the flooding and power outages due to the storms.

**EMS:**

**Medic-1:** None

**S.M.C.A.S.:** We will be participating in the grant and getting 10 new portables. We are also taking advantage of the Kenwood pricing and will be purchasing 6 new mobiles. With all this and the cooperation of the county we will be ready to possibly start transitioning to 800 MHz. but we need to also address the coverage issues at the stations and the hospital.

**Med Flight:** All good. Still available for trainings.

**Med Control:** Al Dibrito stated Some First Responder concerns on refusals. Al Stated DR Beyer will be emailing first responder agencies.

**LEPC:** None

**BCFA:** Gerry welcomed everyone to the Fire Education Center, and thanked Dennis for all his help and hard work. There are still a lot of open shifts for the

Fire Education Center. If every department would send one person to help all the shifts would be covered.

Volunteers need please help.

**Training:** Corey reminded all to please fill out the surveys and get them back by the end of the week. He only has 7 or 8 surveys. These surveys help provide funding for classes here locally.

**HazMat:** All Good

**MITRT5:** No calls recently. Allen advised confined space training going on at Niles City fire. Any questions contact Allen Weich.

**MABAS:** Due to severe weather across the state on August 11, the crew transport POD drill was cancelled.

The next drill is October 13 and it is a tanker task force. We currently do not have a tanker task force out of division boxcard. A tanker task force boxcard is made up of 5 tanker/tenders, 2 engines, and a chief with an aid.

Frank proposed the question to MABAS members, do we want to participate in the tanker task force drill or not. I know some departments have stated they are having staffing issues, so Frank is leaving the decision up to MABAS members on whether to participate or not.

The Regional Response Coordinator position is now taking applications. Any MABAS department member may apply for the Regional Response Coordinator. Information has been emailed. See attached.

There will be a strike team/task force leader training on September 09 in Holly MI and available via zoom. All MABAS department chiefs and officers are encouraged to attend the training. Information has been emailed out. See attached.

There was a recently a mill fire in Carney MI in the UP. Recently new division in Menominee County was able to use MABAS and MABAS resources and it worked very well. They were able to get 175 firefighters, engine strike teams, and ladder trucks from Dickerson/Iron/and Wisconsin MABAS. This showed how important and valuable the MABAS system is.

**Old Business:** Chief Davidson reminded all how important it is to keep up on NIFRS reporting now with the grant. Rhonda is still the state contact and is available to help with problems.

**New Business:** Sandra Dyja has had health issues and has not been able to make our meetings. She has requested a list of fire chiefs contact information to contact departments. Chief Davidson made motion to forward chiefs contact information to Sandra. Seconded by Amanda Bronson. Motion passed. None opposed. Questions on Grant. Match is only the seven percent of your grant amount. If you go over your department must pay the overage. Thank you to everyone for your cooperation.

Reminder grant is for portable radios and portable radio accessories only.

If need mobiles need to use the county low interest loan program.

Discussion on the American Response Plan. Wording is very vague, and rules still being developed. Question to Chief Buist would he be able to bring in the grant speaker for a discussion at a chiefs meeting?

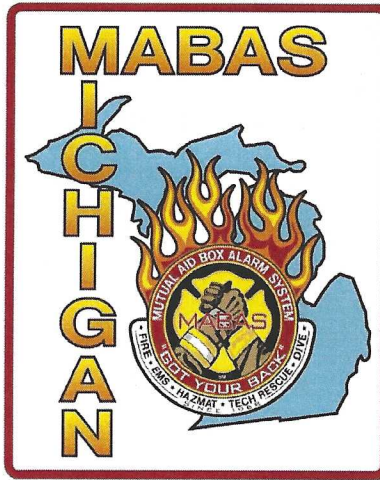
**Next Meeting:** September 15, 2021 at 0830 Lincoln Twp. station.

**Adjourn:** 0932









Good Morning,

MIMABAS is opening applications for Regional Response Coordinators. This is an unfunded position that is required to attend the six-hour training on September 9<sup>th</sup> at the MOB in Holly Michigan. Those selected will become the MIMABAS Liaison to an Incident Commander during an emergency or disaster that is overwhelming their Divisions resources. If your interested please review the position description attached and complete the application at the link below.

<https://forms.gle/SyakuVTC1Z54Tgba8>

If you have any questions, please feel to reach out to me.

Thank you for your interest and continued support of Michigan MABAS.

**Trent Atkins, MBA, EFO, PEM**

**Executive Director**

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**MIMABAS RESPONSE COORDINATOR  
(REGIONAL)**

*DRAFT*

Date

**Position Overview:**

- Knowledge and experience of MIMABAS structure and operating systems.
- Knowledge and understanding of special operations team systems.
- Knowledge and understanding of MIMABAS box card system, Statewide Plan, and MABAS Policies, Procedures and Guidelines.
- Substantial experience in fire service operations.
- Ability to provide consulting services and has coaching skills.
- Has general knowledge of MIMABAS division dispatch and RED Center operations.
- Has some training experience and ability to develop, execute, and debrief field exercises.
- ICS 100, 200, 700, 800 – ICS 300/400 Preferred.

**Essential Job Responsibilities:**

- Reports to MIMABAS Executive Director.
- Coordinates field operational resource management between MABAS Divisions and Red Center.
- Supports MIMABAS Exercises and Training.
- Serve as field liaison and consultant to assigned MABAS Region.
- Prepares a monthly and annual report regarding the operational status of assigned MIMABAS Region.

**Additional Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Recommends modifications to MIMABAS response system and statewide plan based on scenarios that incorporate response and recovery activities that incorporate the full range of prevention, protection, response, and recovery.
- Provide feedback to Executive Director on field resources readiness capability and vulnerability of fire/EMS/special operations.
- Maintain activities that directly support the identification of specific catastrophic incident priority response and recovery projected needs across disciplines but primarily fire/EMS/special operations dimensions of service capability, capacity, and sustainment.
- Support Division Development in assigned Region.