



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



Call to Order:

Date: November 16, 2022

NO QUORUM DUE TO WEATHER

Old minutes:

Treasurer's Report:

Communications/Bills:

New Chief/Visitor:

Committee Report:

Sheriff:

Red Cross:

Great Lakes Drone:

Dispatch/911: **REMINDER VHF SIMULCAST WILL BE DISCOMMISSIONED END OF THIS YEAR.**

DNR:

Funeral: Berrien Springs

Emergency Management:

EMS:

Medic-1:

S.M.C.A.S.:

Med Flight:

Med Control:

LEPC:

BCFA:

Training:

HazMat:

MITRT5:

MABAS:

Old Business:

New Business:

Next Meeting:

Adjourn:



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
ATTENDANCE SHEET

DATE: November 16, 2022

NAME	SIGNATURE	DEPARTMENT
Frank DeLatorre		Niles
Leo Rodalguer		RTFD
JAMIE FLICK		NBTFD
JENNIFER FLICK		911 BC BSCE
EVERETT STEINKA		STFD
Brandon Chicelle		Lincoln Twp
Gerry Kabelma		S. J. C. T. F. D. #1
Jeremy Connell		ST DPS
MARK BERGER		Med Flight



Use the free what3words app to tell 911 exactly where help is needed

Call the emergency services and follow these steps:

1. Open the app

Wait a few seconds for the blue dot to settle in one place.

2. Locate yourself

Tap  on iPhone or  on Android. The 3 words for your location will display at the top of the screen.

3. Give the 3 words

Read the what3words location over the phone.

 what3words

SAFETY ADVISORY

The Importance of Understanding and Training on the Portable Radio Emergency Alert Button (EAB) during a Mayday.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program (FFFIPP) recommends fire departments and municipalities ensure all firefighters and dispatchers:

- ❑ Understand what the EAB is and how it functions when activated
- ❑ Know the specific EAB functions present on their portable radio and their communication system capabilities
- ❑ Know that the EAB prioritizes transmissions for the portable radio when activated
- ❑ Are proficient in Mayday standard operating procedures, guidelines, and training that involve the EAB function



EAB (orange buttons) on a radio and remote speaker microphone. Photo by Chief Barakey, Suffolk VA Fire & Rescue.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS on page 2

FFFIPP INVESTIGATION

On August 11, 2021, a captain responded to a fire in a large residential structure in Maryland. While extinguishing the fire, he fell through the first floor into the basement. The captain initially survived and transmitted numerous times on his portable radio. A review of radio rejection logs from the captain's portable radio indicated his transmissions were rejected 17 times by other transmissions on the fire ground. He did not activate his EAB button on his portable radio prior to calling his Mayday, nor was he prompted to do so by command or dispatch. Crews worked to rescue the captain from the first floor and basement level. The rapid intervention team located and removed the captain from the basement; however, he had exhausted his breathing air and was unconscious. The captain was in cardiac arrest when he was removed and received advanced life support measures at the scene. He was flown to a hospital trauma center where he was pronounced dead.

The Importance of Understanding and Training on the Portable Radio Emergency Alert Button (EAB) during a Mayday

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What are your communications center system features and portable radio EAB capabilities?

Ensure that when your EAB is activated, your radio's ability to transmit over others is prioritized in the radio system and the user will receive highest transmitting priority over other users. Training with your communications division will also help firefighters understand their specific communications system features and portable radio EAB capabilities. Radios operating on a trunked radio system will receive priority access when the EAB is activated as a system design feature. Radios operating on a conventional or simplex channel may only receive priority access if the other users on the channel recognize the EAB activation and maintain strict radio discipline.

How is the EAB activated?

The EAB is activated by pressing either button for at least 1 second but no more than 3 seconds. Once activated, information is transmitted in priority mode until the EAB is reset.

What can fire departments do to ensure firefighters understand the proper use of the EAB and how it interacts with the communications center?

Fire departments should conduct routine training in full personal protective equipment, so all users are proficient with their radios and Mayday procedures. Departments should partner with their communications center when conducting training to understand each other's role during a Mayday.

Can a portable radio's EAB be activated remotely in the event a firefighter cannot activate their EAB?

Some communication centers may be able to remotely activate an EAB from the dispatch console or from a command center/post in the event a firefighter cannot reach or activate their EAB. Firefighters and communication centers should understand this capability and use it as needed.

Did you know that your portable radio may have additional features?

Certain radios can be remotely "pinged" to emit a sound that may provide a general location of a trapped firefighter. Some EAB options include a hot mic feature that provides open mic for a pre-programmed amount of time and a trapped firefighter could speak without using their hands. Certain radios may also be able to emit an audible sound (similar to PASS device) to assist in locating a trapped or lost firefighter.

Where can fire departments find information on the features of portable radios and communications center systems?

The manufacturer's instruction manual provides information on the specific capabilities of the system. NFPA 1802, 2021 edition, includes information on portable radios. NFPA 1225, *Standard for Emergency Services Communications*, 2022 edition, includes information on radio system features.

Find NIOSH products and get answers to workplace safety and health questions:
1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-888-232-6348
CDC/NIOSH INFO: [cdc.gov/cdc-info](https://www.cdc.gov/cdc-info) | [cdc.gov/niosh](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh)
FFFIPP: [cdc.gov/niosh/fire/](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/)


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Scan here for more information on FFFIPP



VHF

Jennifer Flick <jflick2@berriencounty.org>

11/22/2022 8:58 AM 

To delatorre-01@comcast.net **Copy** Caitlin Sampsell

Reply [Forward](#) Delete 

Frank,

For the fire chiefs notes:

December 31, 2022 is the last day the Berrien County VHF system will be supported and maintained by Berrien County 911. Beginning the first quarter of 2023, the system will begin to be dismantled as we are partnering with the State of Michigan during the maintenance cycle of the various locations. Berrien County 911 will continue to renew the VHF licenses to allow the use for fire grounds.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Jennifer A. Flick
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Berrien County Public Safety Communication Center
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269-983-3060, Ext. 4958

OAKLAND COUNTY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM TRAINING NOTICE



PREREQUISITES:

Completion of ICS-100, ICS-200, and ICS-300 level courses.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

- Fire
- Search and Rescue
- Law Enforcement
- Public Works
- Public Health
- Environmental
- HAZMAT
- EMS
- Emergency Management
- Mass Care

Emergency, disaster, and major special event response command / supervisory personnel, technical specialists, and current or future Type 3 or 4 IMT members.

COURSE:

O-305 AHIMT

DATE / TIME:

**January 16-20, 2023
0800-1700**

LOCATION:

Rochester Fire Department

277 E. Second Street Rochester, MI

Cost: \$800 per student
All Payments to City of Rochester

Use the following link to register:

<https://forms.gle/hVWLnYVHMa5ZXrs69>

POINT OF CONTACT:

Andrew D. Zaccagnini, PEM
Rochester Fire/Oakland County IMT
248-520-6640
azaccagnini@rochestermi.org



U.S. Fire
Administration



The Response Group
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