



**BERRIEN COUNTY**  
**FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION**  
**BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**



**Call to Order:** 0832-1022

**Date:** May 17, 2023

**Presentation:**

Presentation on the county CISM team by Harvey Burnett JR. from Buchanan City PD.

Please see attached flier.

The CISM team's main role is first responders. There has been an increase in suicide rates in first responders over the past several years. There are no charges for the services. Galien, Three Oaks, and North Berrien Fire have all used these services and has had a positive impact.

Contact information: Harvey Burnett: 269-591-0250 [harveyb@andrews.edu](mailto:harveyb@andrews.edu)

**Old minutes:** Old minutes emailed out. Motion to accept old minutes by Chief Mattix, and seconded by Chief Harper. Motion passed. None opposed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Starting Balance: \$6558.33. check 1101 for \$311.33 for dispatch appreciation food. Ending balance: \$6247.00 Check from BCFA for half of dispatch appreciation food. Motion to accept treasurers report by Chief Dwan, and seconded by Chief Harper. Motion passed. None opposed.

**Communications/Bills:** None

**New Chief/Visitor:** SGT Michael Troop with EM.

**Committee Report:**

**Red Cross:** None

**Great Lakes Drone/Rescue:** See attached. Sec/Treas. DeLaTorre read from the GLR attachment. Chief Weich had a question on a call in Three Oaks. GLD was requested as well as Chikaming Drone. GLD stated would not respond since a drone was already on scene. Frank stated he would inquire.

Berrien Springs used GLD on water recovery call and they did a prenominal job. Questions arose on an individual that was there with own boat. Looking to get questions answered. Chief Myers stated GLD provides an excellent service. Chief Myers planning a meeting with GLD/R.

**DNR:** None

**EMS:**

**Medic-1:** All going well. Have participated in several job fairs and career days. Education team assisted at VB VoTech center. Currently 20% overstaffed. Possible expansion in June 2023. Met with area agencies (S.M.C.A.S./VBEMS/SHAES/Covert) working to rebuild connections to work together.

**S.M.C.A.S.:** None

**Med Flight:** None

**Med Control:** None

**Funeral:** Three Oaks currently.

**Dispatch/911:** Use of 11E911 for medical calls will start at 0600 on June 01, 2023. MVA, unknown PI still use 11F911. Water rescue 11UIC group. Discussion on tower maintenance tomorrow morning. Towers into site trunking for about 20 minutes. Dispatch will be able to page from back up system and use active911. Discussion on active911 maps. Can a map just be shared with fire chiefs active 911 group? Discussion on sharing a link to google maps. Staffing still down. Still have 8 openings. Have had to reduce staffing per shift to allow time off. 205 slots (4hrs slots) of OT for month of June. FD assists to EMS will be directed to 11E911 as well. Sheriff asked all to please be patient with dispatch. If we know anyone looking for job please direct them to dispatch.



**BERRIEN COUNTY**  
**FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION**  
**BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**



]

**BCFA:** June meeting at Buchanan City June 07, 2023. May meeting was at Bridgman. EV program. Discussion on Eagle Technologies, has lots of EV batteries on hand. Eagle Technologies has several plants in the county, St Joe Twp., Bridgman, ST Joe City.

Car show coming up. Fliers and posters on table. Still looking for help and fire trucks. Will be working on updates to resource directory. If any new updates get then to Gerry by end of next week.

**Training:** Training surveys went out. Deadline extended to May 31, 2023. Please fill out. This determines state funding for training. Discussion on the BC Fire Chiefs Listserve. You must be on the list to send out emails. Capt. Adams stated if you manage 2-3-4 emails the email you want to use needs to be on the list. Capt. Adams sent out current fire chiefs listserv emails. Please review and update.

**HazMat:** Here if needed. Still looking for FD members to become part of the county team. Only have one so far. Training available.

**Emergency Management:** Finalizing DC cook drills. Had a lot of law enforcement participation this time. Next one in 2 years will be terrorist incident. EOC drill utilized all four EOC fire chiefs. Need more room in EOC as well. No feedback on the decon drill at Brandywine as of yet.

**LEPC:** Next meeting June 13, 2023

**Sheriff:** Thank you to all the fire departments that participated with the DC Cook drills. It is more than just that day of the drill. Commissioners are looking at more space. Costs keep going up. Working on the building in Buchanan for EOC and dispatch. Getting closer to being fully staffed. Several schools requesting resource officers. This adds to the need to hire more officers. Looking to send 2-4 more to next police academy. Chief Myers stated BSOFD working on active shooter policy. If you would like copy when completed let him know.

**MITRT5:** None

**MABAS:** MABAS meeting was May 10, 2023. Plan coordinators currently working on Out of Division EMS strike teams. Working on developing active shooter/violence training. Have received copies of MABAS IL active violence plans as a guideline. Wildland firefighter training has been completed in division 3701. Have about 35 firefighters validated as wildland firefighters. Working on updating the MI-MABAS website.

Working with state EOC and EMHSD on final procedures, roles, and responsibilities in the stated EOC.

Training: State EOC training in August. Active violence training latter in 2023. MABAS has had meeting/presentations with following: UP, Sanilac Chiefs, Marquette Chiefs, Schoolcraft Chiefs, and Alpena Chiefs. MABAS has been activated for the Monroe tornado. Several building in downtown were damaged.

Regional response Coordinator, MITF1 engineer resources, canine and tech search were sent. AVI at Great Lakes Mall. Turned out to be false. MI-MABAS will be at following conferences: GLHLS conference, Wisconsin Conference, MEMA conference. MITF1 has received delivery of new mobile command unit and logistical support trailers that have tents and HVAC on them. Presented at hazmat conference in April.

Advance rescue boat operations class with South Carolina TF-6 was completed in April. Have completed 4 MABAS 101 classes for dispatch centers. Working on guidelines for a back up RED center. Two new divisions: Hillsdale County division 3109. City of Detroit division 3208.

**Other Communications:** Chief Jesswein thanked all who came to the Buchanan Twp. fish fry. 420 people, Sold out in 3.5 hrs. October 21, 2023 next fish fry. Chief Myers thanked BCSD marine division, and dive team, for their help out on the river. Had MPS out there as well. Thank you to the GLD company and BCSD, CCSD dog. Dogs did a great job.

MPSCS Encryption: Discussion on MPSCS encryption. When adding a new radio to the system, MPSCS is requesting to have the following encryption in them to keep interoperability. (see attached). Chief Jesswein asked about lead time for programing. Frank stated last set of radios for Niles City took three months.



---

**BERRIEN COUNTY**  
**FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION**  
**BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

---



Sheriff reminded all that all police officers are recording, so remember that when talking to officers. The recordings are FOIA-able. Jen, tower update. Moving forward on current site behind Buchanan Twp. Fire station. Ground study just done yesterday and now waiting on report. Chief Harper question on auto aid boundaries inputted into program. Jen stated that is a GIS request and they now have a GIS person there. Get with Jen on issue.

Benton Charter Twp. accepting applications May 22, 2023 to June 02, 2023 for part time firefighter. Full time is hired from the part time list.

**Old Business:** Nothing new on HART. If anyone has any ideas please get in touch with Chief Myers. Red Cross is more victim oriented now.

Thank you to Chief Chase for compiling the information. This is not a popularity contest. This list is not what we are going to change. There will be stuff you will not agree with. The Executive board will meet and discuss the items. Chief Chase stated list is in no particular order, some items are cleaned up. If you think of something after reading the list you may email the three executive board members, or Chief Chase. Remember we are made up of full time and paid on call departments and will work to bridge those gaps.

Radio Cache: Discussion on cache radio ownership. Best if radios are owned by BSOFD. With MOU from BCFCFA to cover costs of maintenance, batteries, antennas, damage, etc..... Chief Mattix made motion for MOU between BCFCFA and BSOFD on file for both agencies. Seconded by Sec/Treas DeLaTorre. Motion passed. None opposed.

**New Business:** Discussion by Chief Weich on issue with a call yesterday where he was using proprietary talkgroup and missed dispatch calling him on 11F911 for another call. What can be done to work best for all agencies? Some request 11FG right away some wait, some still run fire on 11F911. Looking to bring discussion on what will work for all agencies. Chief J. Flick asked Jen if now that we are all on 800 is now the time to start assigning FG's as originally planned. Extensive discussion on 800 FG's. Some departments want an 11FG right away, some do not need 11FG unless a structure fire. 90% of calls can be handled with proprietary talkgroup. If dispatch assign them at dispatch they can then be listed in active911. We have got to make this simple. These are firefighters that are not in a car all shift. Discuss coming up with a short term and long term fix.

Short term fix if want an 11FG ask for it, except for the FD's that have already preset with dispatch to assign 11FG for every call. Communications committee will meet to discuss options.

Chief Myers discussed the use of iPad in trucks. Chief Myers will email out information on a grant opportunity for iPad. He has taken advantage of the grant twice.

Discuss radio etiquette with firefighters: Listen before you talk. Pull microphone out of your mouth. Should not be able to hear you breath. Just because it is loud in your environment it is not loud in ours. Remember hold mic 4-6 inches from mouth and speak in normal tone of voice.

**Next Meeting:** June 21, 2023

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn and seconded. None opposed. Meeting adjourn: 1022hrs.













## Minimum Subscriber Radio Encryption Recommendations

### Encryption algorithms

- ARC4 (ADP)
- DES-OFB (Hardware-based only)
- AES-256 (Hardware-based only)

*Note: Software-based encryption is not supported for DES-OFB and AES-256 algorithms on MPSCS, even though some manufacturers offer this as an option. It is recommended that only hardware-based encryption options be considered when selecting subscriber radio equipment.*

As of 2022, **ARC4 (ADP)** is **NO LONGER INCLUDED BY DEFAULT** when ordering new subscriber radio equipment and cannot be purchased separately when utilizing any DHS grant-based funding without also including the AES-256 option as the primary encryption algorithm. When purchasing subscriber radio equipment, it is imperative that you ensure your vendor is requesting ARC4 (ADP) alongside of the additional DES-OFB and AES-256 formats to ensure your equipment maintains interoperability across MPSCS.

### Multikey Operation

This option allows for several encryption keys to be loaded into a single radio and is necessary for complete interoperability across MPSCS.

For example, with this option, the following encryption keys can be loaded into the same radio:

MPSCS ADP (CKR 169)

MPSCS DES (CKR 152) = used on I-Events & J-Events

MPSCS AES (CKR 212) = used on L-Events

MPSCS Patch (CKR 796) = future AES-256 systemwide Patch/Failsoft/Private Call

*Note: without this option, only a single encryption key can be loaded into a radio, which does not support interoperability across MPSCS.*

### OTAR w/Multikey Operation *\*Enhanced Security Option\**

This option would replace the standard "Multikey Operation" noted above and allows for "Over-the-Air Rekeying" exchange of encryption keys. This is an enhanced security option, which allows for frequent encryption key changes and "one time provisioning" of subscriber radios, which allows for dynamic field updates without physically touching the subscriber radio to address security concerns. This option is ideal for covert operations and tactical units to ensure high levels of security.





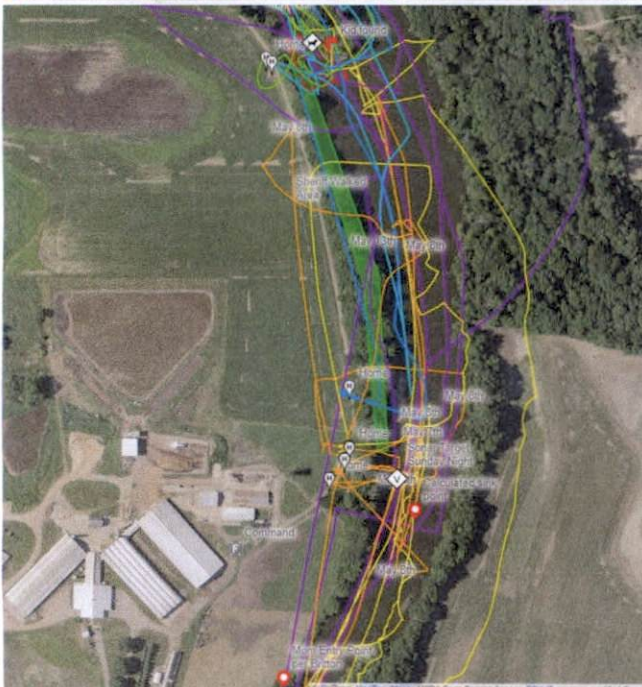
# Great Lakes Rescue

## May 2023 Report

## Response Review

## UPDATES

Behind The Scenes of a Search with GLR



1. Total calls in Berrien County 2023: 42
2. Total Calls in 2023 to Date: 126
3. We assisted BSOFD with there water rescue/recovery over the past week. Total of nearly 30 hours deployed.
4. Assisted SJPS with over watch for the Blossomtime Parade.
5. Hagar Twp reviewing running Medical First Responders we are on the agenda for next months meeting.
6. Participated in several demonstrations and educational scenarios.
7. If your agency has any training events or PR events you want us to participate in, please let us know to get on our 2023 calendar.
8. Reminder we have 3 State licensed Medical First Response units, one is always staffed 24/7 within the county.
9. **Remember early activation is key, we can always be disregarded enroute.**
10. Now respond in Berrien, Van Buren, Allegan, Barry, Kalamazoo, Calhoun & St. Joseph Counties for UAS.

Employment Opportunities Available

Lifeguard/Water Rescue—Full Time and Part Time Seasonal Positions—Starting Pay \$15/Hr—Paid Training

Medical First Response—On-Call Positions - Coloma Area

UAS Response Team—On-Call—Berrien, Van Buren, Allegan, Barry, Kalamazoo, Calhoun & St. Joseph Counties