



BERRIEN COUNTY
FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Call to Order: 0830-0935

Date: July 19, 2023

Presentation: Jeanine Lewis gave presentation on victim services unit. Folders with information on the victim services unit were passed out to everyone. If you would like a folder please contact Chief Jamie Flick. Victim services unit is a service of the Berrien County Sheriff's Office. Agency request must go through BC Dispatch. Response time approximately 30 minutes. Respond in teams of two. Staff will have identification on ID lanyard. The VSU is available for victims, families of victims, as well as first responders. VSU will be attending National Night out and be at the Berrien County Youth Fair. The Under Sheriff advised the VSU is a great resource and thanked them for their service.

John Godush of Macqueen Emergency products (previously Apollo) gave a short presentation and handouts. Contact info: 269-757-2334; john.godush@macqueengroup.com.

Old minutes: Old minutes emailed out. Motion to accept old minutes by Chief Weich. Seconded by Chief Steinke. Motion passed. None opposed.

Treasurer's Report: Starting Balance: \$6247.00. No changes. Ending balance: \$6247.00. Motion to accept treasurers report by Chief Weich. Seconded by Chief Whitney. Motion passed. None opposed.

Communications/Bills: None

New Chief/Visitor: Sec./Treas. DeLaTorre introduced Deputy Chief Nick Gowen from Niles Fire Department.

Committee Report:

Red Cross: None

Great Lakes Drone: See attached report

DNR: None

EMS:

Medic-1: Chief Weich discussed the expansion of Medic-1 in the north county due to PrideCare no longer operating in Berrien County. Medic-1 was overstaffed now under staffed. Looking to add two additional 24hr staffed units, with possibility of a third.

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

Med Flight: Mark stated Med Flight has moved to Elkhart airport as of June 01, 2023. Move will add 10 minutes to responses. LZ classes available.

Med Control: Al discussed the no bag policy that has started at Corwell. Have a metal detector in the ER. Asked EMS services to advise patients and families to leave bags/purses at home or in vehicles. Construction continues.

Funeral Protocol: Berrien Springs.

Dispatch: Tower moving forward. Still waiting on ground study. Have 1 dispatcher in training, and 3 call takers in training. Still have 4 openings. Completed radio training with SJCDPS reserves. Received fire dispatch training at 911 conference. Will be attending the MI-MABAS 101 training in future. Discussed training on MADAY and requested MADAY policy. Discussed the use of 11PG911 for dispatching multiple departments. BC Dispatch has a couple departments that have 5 agencies on initial dispatch. Use of 11PG911 and initial dispatch moved to communications committee. Discussion on radio traffic. Still many departments having most if not all apparatus announce to dispatch they are enroute/on scene, etc.....BC dispatch needs to know the following: Agency clear the call; first unit enroute; first unit on scene; when clear the scene. All other unit radio traffic should be with agency/scene command.

BC dispatch willing to have agencies come to dispatch and see how dispatch works. BC Dispatch held a training with SJT station 1. Went very well. BC Dispatch willing to come to FD for training.



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BCFA: Gerry thanked everyone that helped with the car show. Car show brought in just under \$10000.00. Funds split between BCFA and BCSD. Thank you to the BC Sheriff Posse for their assistance at car show. BCYF around the corner. Have fire education center sign up available. Currently 28% filled. Discussed the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive. See attached fliers. BCFA will be hosting a waterball tournament during national night out. The September 2023 BCFA meeting will feature a training. Step Up and Lead Workshop. Short meeting followed by training. Mission BBQ serving dinner. Next meeting August 02, 2023 at the BCYF grounds.

Training: BHDPS graduation is on Friday. 14 will be graduating.

HazMat: Got called out.

Emergency Management: None

LEPC: none

SHERIFF: 1 in academy. 2 more in August. Follow up discussion Battle of the Badges Blood Drive. In need of blood donors. All three disciplines Fire/EMS/Police encouraged to participate. See the attached fliers.

MITRT5: None

MABAS: Will be hosting a Legislative Day on August 18, at the MOB, in Holy MI. The focus will be MI-MABAS vision, purpose, capabilities and recent responses with demonstrations. Michigan MABAS will be taking over the ordering, receiving and dissemination of the Emergency Response Guideline. Plan Coordinators Meeting - on-going discussion of EMS boxcards and AVI response. The Region 3 Technical Response Team, Divisions 3301 and 3302, was validated in Confined Space and Rope Rescue Technician Level in May. Also, the newly formed Grand Traverse and Otsego Hazmat Company, Division 3701, was validated as a Type II in June. MI-TF1 has started the process of developing an internal UAS Capability. MITF1 has sent a swift water rescue team to Vermont for the flooding.

Old Business: Discussion on the BCFA meeting time survey that was sent out. Due to the clos numbers VP Flick tabling it until executive board can meet to discuss. 16 for morning meeting. 11 for evening meeting. Remember new bylaws allow for agency to delegate an authorized representative if Chief unable to make BCFA meetings.

New Business: Discussion on holding the August BCFA meeting at the BCYF. We have been holding the August meeting there for some time now so continue having August meeting at the BCYF. Discussion on creating a committee to create a MADAY procedure for the county. Question on this discussed previously. Sec./Treas. DeLaTorre discussed MI-MABAS had created a MAYDAY policy at the request of our and many other divisions that were in same predicament we are, with no MADAY policy or needing an updated one. BCFA formed a committee in January 2022 of MABAS department to review the MI-MABAS draft MAYDAY policy/procedure. Approved MI-MABAS MAYDAY policy/procedure was brought back to the body at the May 2022 meeting. Committee of: Chief Weich, Chief Chairello, Chief Whitney, Capt. Kniesly, and Caitlin to look at MI-MABAS MAYDAY policy/procedure and work on MAYDAY policy/procedure for our county.

Justin turner brought BCYF fire coverage. Has schedule with him if interested.

Chief Weich mentioned good job to New Buffalo City Fire on calling out hydrant location for structure fire this morning.

Next Meeting: **August 16, 2023 at the Berrien County Youth Fair, 0830hrs.**

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Asst. Chief Kableman, seconded by Chief Jesswein. Meeting adjourned 0935.