



BERRIEN COUNTY
FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Call to Order: 0830-1003

Date: September 18, 2024

PRERSENTATION: None

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

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance: \$7377.49; Check \$275.00 for 501C3; Ending balance: \$7102.49. Motion to accept treasurers report by: Chief Weich. Seconded by: Chief Flick TOFD. Motion passed. None opposed.

Bills: None

Communications: Discussion on Senate Bill 328 smoke alarm battery act. See attached. Gerry directed smoke alarm request to state program.

General Communications: Pancake breakfast Berrien Springs, October 13, 2024 ; Spaghetti dinner next Saturday, Weesaw:

NFIRS: If not current on NFIRS and anyone from your department attends a state sponsored class you will have to pay for the class. Un sure on how you will be billed. You have to get the email with the txt file as your receipt that NFIRS was accepted. Download and keep the txt file. **Even if no calls you must submit NFIRS and check the no activity box.**

New Chief/Visitor: None

Great Lakes Drone: None

EMS: None

Med Control: None

Dispatch/911: New tower and simulcast planned for November 2024. **All pagers must be updated with temporary and new tower sites by November 01, 2024.** Caitlin stated on her project call she got news that move to simulcast looking more like end of this year to 2025. Trying to hold them to November 2024. Boxcard question on agreements. Dispatch needs copy of signed auto agreements. Discussion on boxcard acknowledgement signatures. Caitlin stated she only need signed auto aid agreement. Agencies still need to let departments know what they are requesting from agencies in the boxcards and make sure they are ok with your request. Gerry has room to post boxcards on BCFA website. Please get him copy of your boxcards. This is a good location for departments to look up boxcards. CAD- still no date set for rescheduled meeting. AHJ- Medical control had question on who is IC? Dispatch working to ask who IC is. Further discussion at 911 operations committee, where all disciplines are present. Three calls have been requested for review. Dispatch working on script for assigning FG and be able to track and quality check it. Working on fire alerting software in new budget.



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Communications Committee: Met September 17, discussed letter and guidelines for reviewing calls. Working on changes. Discussed AHJ, and that will be discussed at the 911 operations committee. Discussed radio operations with one department already, and how we will move forward with our guidelines, for coaching and guidance to keep radio traffic limited and professional. Chief Myers discussed how we need to keep AHJ discussion in a friendly environment and work together so it does not blow up. Chief Flick TOFD, has questions on pager reprogramming. Frank shared his file with some already. DD Kazmierzak brought up abuse of 11FG. There have been departments using 11FG for traffic control, smoke/co alarm calls.... Departments should be using proprietary talkgroups for these. Concern that proprietary talkgroups are not recorded. Do you need traffic control, smoke/co alarm calls recorded? This had been discussed prior. Reminder that 11FG should be used for structure fires, and multijurisdictional calls.

CAD Committee: Who are the members of the CAD committee? Chief Myers, DD Kazmierzak, DC Gowen,

Guideline Committee: Mass Casualty guideline on hold, EMS agencies have not gotten back with committee. Chief Myers to follow up with Director Wiley. Question on EMS, waiting on ambulance services or fire departments that provide EMS as well? Committee waiting on response from ambulance services. Fire departments will be needed for RTF response. Chief Myers requested all command vehicles carry CAT tourniquets and/or mass casualty bags. Never know when out driving around and may be able to help in another jurisdiction. DD Kazmierzak will share link to mass casualty kits BHDPS uses. Chief Myers discussed the need to work together with incident command and develop RTF. Reminder of the EMS strike force that was created about six years ago. Comment was made, everyone toned out, and everyone goes in POV to the scene and acts like idiot. Caitlin advised, all MFR agencies get an ALLCALL tone and MFR agencies respond to mass casualty incident. Discussion on who oversees the strikeforce. Chief Weich and LT DeLaTorre, stated they believe it is under med control. Capt. Adams stated it was created by BCFCA. Capt. Adams stated DR Beyer is against it. Motion by Chief Chairello to disband the EMS strike force, seconded by Chief Florey. Motion passed. One opposed.

BCFA: Next meeting October 02, 2024, at SJDPS. Sister Lakes in November; ST Joe Twp. December; Sodus in January 2025. Will be releasing resource directory update soon.

Training: Apparatus purchasing class October 24. BHDPS recruit class will be starting soon.

Emergency Management: Will be offering ICS training soon. The RTF class cancelled due to low enrollment. Hostel action tabletop with EOC activation coming up Tuesday. LEPC meeting November 05, 2024. Palisades is planning to restart in October 2025. Multiple drills needed before reopening. County has an ERIL trailer. Training will be coming soon for interested departments. Chief Myers reminded all to rely on members of your community that work with these animals as they can be very helpful.

MABAS: Nothing to report



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Other Comments: Fish fry at Buchana township fire on October 05, Come early as ran out last time; Lake Twp. Fire open house October 05, noon-1500. Question from recent EV class, can dispatch relay on vehicle fires if vehicle is an EV, hybrid, or gas vehicle. Caitlin stated if they know they can. Questions on burn bans. Chief Myers to post link for burn bans in texcom. September 20 will be hazmat operations training. Thank you to Berrien springs and SJDPS for recent members to the hazmat team.

There was a first responder appreciation dinner held in Berrien Center. Attendance from first responders was low. Reminder to please try to attend functions like these. A speaker was brought in from New York. Chief Jonatzke will be starting a firefighters for christ chapter here in Berrien County if interested. Reminder motorcycle ride meeting tonight.

Old Business: Discussion on more relative training in the county. Chief Weich asked why we are hosting a wildland interface awareness class, when we need classes to teach firefighters how to draft and draw a prime. Discussion lead to the surveys the training committee sends out. Trainings are planned from responses to the surveys. Discussion on concerns of the training committee. If you have issues with the training committee attend the meetings and voice your concerns. Next training committee meeting is September 27. If unhappy with the direction of the training committee, run for a training committee position.

New Business: AHJ- as stated in communications committee report, this to be discussed at the 911 QA meeting. DC Gowen stated there seems to be a disconnect between PD and FD. DC Gowen asked who is going to be talking to the other committees? DC Gowen stated he had a call where a BCSD in the hot zone of a vehicle into a building telling the fire department to slow down but PD still running hot to the call. Need to have the properly trained personnel making these decisions. Chief Myers stated having a sit down with FD, PD, med control, and try to work out something, maybe something like our radio video.

List serve will be going away. BCFCA will need to be looking into another way to send out communications. Chief Weich suggested a fire chiefs website that covers all aspects like listserve, texcom, is access controlled. Chief Weich to look into it.

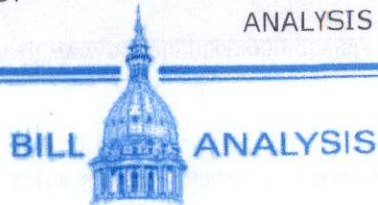
Kazmierzak has access to constant contact through firefighter close calls as well.

Next Meeting: October 16, 2024, Lake Township, 0830hrs.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Chief Weich, and seconded by Chief Flick, TOFD. None opposed. Meeting adjourn: 1005hrs.



Senate Fiscal Agency
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Telephone: (517) 373-5383
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Senate Bill 328 (Substitute S-2 as passed by the Senate)
Sponsor: Senator Kevin Hertel
Committee: Regulatory Affairs

(enrolled version)

Date Completed: 4-19-24

RATIONALE

Three out of five home fire deaths are caused by fires on properties with no smoke alarms or inoperative smoke alarms.¹ According to testimony before the Senate Committee on Regulatory Affairs, missing batteries are a common reason why smoke alarms are inoperative. By requiring the sale of smoke alarm devices that were tamperproof and that would have to be fully replaced every 10 years, the number of people who tamper with the batteries in their smoke alarm devices would decrease. This requirement would ensure that more smoke alarms in the State are operational and so reduce home fire deaths.

CONTENT

The bill would enact the "Smoke Alarm Battery Standard Act" to do the following:

- **Prohibit a person from distributing, selling, offering for sale, or importing a smoke alarm device powered by a replaceable or removeable battery.**
- **Require, beginning 18 months after the Act's effective date, a smoke alarm device that was distributed, sold, offered for sale, or imported to be powered for at least 10 years by a nonremovable and nonreplaceable battery or another power source that used new technology.**
- **Specify that a person that violated the Act would be responsible for a State civil infraction and could be ordered to pay a **maximum fine of \$500** and require the fine to be deposited into the Christopher R. Slezak First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund.**
- **Specify that the battery and power source requirements would not apply to devices specified in the Act.**

Except as otherwise provided below, the Act would prohibit a person from distributing, selling, offering for sale, **or importing a smoke alarm** device powered by a replaceable or removable battery. Beginning 18 months after the Act's effective date, a smoke alarm device that was distributed, sold, offered for sale, or imported would have to be powered for at least 10 years by a nonremovable and nonreplaceable battery or another power source that used new technology. ("Person" would mean an individual, estate, business or nonprofit entity, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or other legal entity.)

Under the Act, a person that distributed, sold, offered for sale, or imported a smoke alarm device powered by a replaceable or removable battery would be responsible for a maximum civil fine of \$500. Additionally, the prosecutor of the county in which the violation occurred or the Attorney General could bring an action to collect the fine. The fine would have to be deposited in the Christopher R. Slezak First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund.

¹ Ahrens, M., National Fire Protection Association, "Smoke Alarms in US Home Fires", February 2021.

The Act's battery and power source requirements would not apply to any of the following devices:

- A fire alarm, smoke detector, or smoke alarm that received power from a building's electrical system or was connected electronically as part of a centrally monitored or supervised alarm system.
- A fire alarm, smoke detector, or smoke alarm with an ancillary component that received power from a building's electrical system or was connected electronically as part of a centrally monitored or supervised alarm system.

In addition, the Act's battery and power source requirements would not apply to a fire alarm, smoke detector, or smoke alarm with an ancillary component that used a low-power radio frequency wireless communication signal or wi-fi or other wireless local area networking capability to send and receive notifications to and from the internet.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

(This section does not provide a comprehensive account of previous legislative efforts on this subject matter.)

The bill is similar to House Bill 4382 of the 2021-2022 Legislative Session, which was reported out of the Senate Committee on Economic and Small Business Development but received no further action.

ARGUMENTS

(Please note: The arguments contained in this analysis originate from sources outside the Senate Fiscal Agency. The Senate Fiscal Agency neither supports nor opposes legislation.)

Supporting Argument

According to testimony before the Senate Committee on Regulatory Affairs, a standard smoke alarm device with replaceable batteries costs about \$10 at a local retailer. By contrast, a tamperproof smoke alarm device with a permanent 10-year batteries costs about \$20 at a local retailer. Both smoke alarm devices have the same 10-year lifespan before the entire device must be replaced. When the cost of battery replacement is included for smoke alarm devices with replaceable batteries, tamperproof smoke alarm devices are the more cost-effective devices over the 10-year lifespan of each product. The bill would require Michigan residents to purchase more cost-effective smoke alarm devices, saving them money.

Legislative Analyst: Eleni Lionas

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill could have a positive fiscal impact on the State. The bill would impose a civil fine of up to \$500. Revenue collected from civil fines would be deposited in the Christopher R. Slezak First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund. Monies from the Fund are used to pay workers compensation claims for first responders. The amount of revenue to the Fund is indeterminate and would depend on the actual number of violations.

It is possible that additional costs related to inspections could be incurred to ensure compliance with the bill, but most activity likely would be covered by existing appropriations to the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

Fiscal Analysts: Joe Carrasco, Jr.
Nathan Leaman

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.