

Berrien County Fire Chiefs Association

Meeting Minutes 8/20/2025

Meeting called to order at 0830 hrs.

Approved by Chikaming, seconded by Niles

Corrections – Added a letter regarding Indiana talk groups

No treasurer's report

No bills

General Communications:

- 9-11 dinner at Berrien Center Bible Church, information on the website. You need tickets ahead of time
- EMS protocol came out by Dr. Byers on rehab
- Chief Myers wants to open a new Texcom for the county to help firefighters get information. Some departments are not talking to their staff about decisions made at the Chiefs meeting.

DNR:

- Stop by the meeting to check in
 - Will be doing an audit for departments that have DNR equipment
 - The last week of September there will be a 22A class
 - 22A is a wildland/Urban interface class
 - Please update your MOU with DNR

Dispatch:

- New dispatchers and call takers
- Trying to get approval from IS for HIEBA
- Auto paging program is delayed till 2026
- If you are having communication issues since the simulcast, please email NCC and CC dispatch. They require the radio ID and location of the issue.

Communication Committee:

- Nothing new on CAD
- Niles City is back on F911, FG4 will be open for assignment if needed
- There are still 20 Indiana licenses open. It has been discussed to give departments along the border one last chance at using the 20.

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- HEI wireless has templates for Indiana sites

CAD Committee:

- Nothing to report, still waiting on funding

Policy Committee:

- HIP (High Incident Protocol), policy to be determined

Berrien County Firefighter Association:

- Next meeting is at Bertrand September 3rd
- Good fair turnout, 87% of the slots were filled at the education center

Training:

- Check your email from Brian, several trainings coming up
- Have everyone get into SMOKE by October 1st. The State has changed how everyone logs in. It's a process, make your members prove they can get in, don't take their word.

EOC:

- All exercises are complete for Cook and Palisades. No finding for either site.
- The sheriff has asked the Chiefs Association to think about the Hazmat trailer; they are looking at turning it over to Berrien County Fire Departments.

Other Communications:

- North Berrien is celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Hager station

Old Business:

- RTF classes are coming up. There needs to be participation from fire department members. This is an important class. It's not a "IF", it's a "WHEN" it happens. We need to know what to do.

New Business:

- It was asked how many departments have Grain Bin rescue kits. There was talk about someone wanting to donate money for the kits.

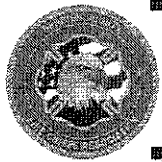
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- Gaggle Email needs to be upgraded. It will cost \$10.00 a month, or \$100.00 if we pay for the year.
 - Motion North Berrien and Seconded by Bertrand
- The letter referencing the Indiana IDs was discussed. Departments wanting the Indiana talk groups have until September 30th. After the 30th, the left-over IDs will go back into a “pool” for department to use
 - Motion by Niles, and Seconded by St. Joe City
- Baroda asked how departments get reimbursed for extended calls, they were advised to investigate a cost recovery ordinance.

Next meeting September 17th, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 0920 hrs.



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

BERRIEN COUNTY, MI



BCFCA MEETING ROSTER

NAME	SIGNATURE	DEPARTMENT
Doug MYERS		BSOFD
Dennic Johnson		Baroda
Jamie Flick		NBTFD
Rob Harper		BCTFA
Chuck Heit		Sheriff
Dave Flick		TUFD
Allen Weich		Chikaming
EVERETT STONKE		STFD
David Albers		PCSO
Nike Phalga		SSOPS
Caitlin Sampson		BC911
Brian Kazmierzak		Bertrand
Gerry Kehelman		S.J.C.T.F.D. 1
Tyler Knisch		Bertrand
Ben Osterland		MI DNR
Frank Delatore		NBFR/MIES
Mike Mattice		NBFR
Tim Jessman		Rich Tap/Niles Tap
Ted Chase		GALLEN