



BERRIEN COUNTY
FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Call to Order: 0830-1026

Date: July 15, 2026

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

Agenda Changes: None

Presentation: Sandra Dyja presentation on OXFIT. www.oxfit.com. Will be a lunch and learn and a dinner and learn at SJDPS later this month.

If you need to renew your first responder benefits: www.firstrespondertaskforce.com

Treasurer's Report: Beginning and ending balance: \$8469.64. Nothing in or out. Motion to accept treasurers report by: Chief Robinson. Seconded by: Chief Steinke. Motion passed. None opposed.

Bills:

Communications:

General Communications:

New Chief/Visitor:

EMS: (Great Lakes Drone:Medic-1:S.M.C.A.S.:Med Control:)

Dispatch/911: Discussion on radio traffic from July 03, 2026 storm. 1530-1630 Dispatch answered 231 911 calls. 1630-1730 answered 76 911 calls. 84 admin calls. Total of 413 calls averaging one call every 57 seconds. Played two short snippet of radio traffic from the storm to show how crazy radio traffic was. First one was 20 min into incident. Second was two hours into incident. Question raised...How do we fix this?

CAD still can go down. Can email dispatch supervisor at: 911supervisor@berriencounty.org.

AEP number: 1-888-237-2221. MUST use proper radio etiquette at all times. Not necessary to use phrases like: "Be advised"....."At this time".....Remember the acronym DIMWIT: "Does It Matter What I am Transmitting".

The new radio designators have the department built into it so do not need to preface radio traffic with department name.

Communications Committee: See attached.

CAD: CAD rolling out this week. Mike Adams michael.e.adams@tylertech.com was here to provide training on mobile CAD.

Guideline:

HAZMAT: No calls. County wide training on August 23, 2026, from 0900-1300. More information to come.

BCFA:

Training: See attachments.

Emergency Management: Kevin Higgs new coordinator.

Sheriff: Busy fourth of July weekend.

MABAS: Nothing



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Other Comments:

North Berrien hosting a pancake breakfast August 01, and 02, 2026.

And an open house for Station-41 (Coloma) 125th Anniversary celebration on August 15, 2026. See attached fliers.

Old Business: By-Laws update. Article 8 filling vacancies and resignations. Chief Weich will be sending out draft with updates for review.

Reminder boxcard updates due July 31, 2026.

AVI/MCI Boxcards. 0discussed 1 card for fire/PD/EMS, just not feasible. Each agency needs to create AVI/MCI boxcard. If you do not create AVI/MCI boxcard dispatch will use structure fire boxcard. AVI/MCI boxcard initial response needs to follow structure fire boxcard.

Peer support. Still looking into it. Most present felt it was a good idea to move forward with it. If you have someone that would be interested in being on a peer support team from your department send contact info to Chief Flick.

New Business: None

Next Meeting: 0830 August 16, 2026, at the BCYF grounds.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourn: 1026



**BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
ATTENDANCE SHEET**

July 15, 2026

NAME	SIGNATURE	DEPARTMENT
Frank DeLaTorre		North Berrien/Niles
Dale MYERS		BSO FD
Dave Flice		TOFD
ZAC BARNARD		RTRD
EVERETT & Teinke		STFD
Allen Weich		Chikaming FD
Sarah Blurton		BCU
Jamie Fliche		NBTFD / WBCFD
Tyler Kinisley		Beaumont
Barnard C		Lake / Lincoln
Bill Withney		Waterliet
Jeremy Wornell		Nile City
Brian KAZMERZAK		Benton Harbor
Ted Nitz		Warsaw
BRANT MILLER Jesse Rosenbluth		Challen
Chuck Hest		Sheriff
Tim Jesswein		Niles Twp / Buchanan Twp
Jim Roberson		SJCTFD #1
Brian Dwan		SJCTFD #2
JIM JAMES		BRIDGMAN
Kevin Higgs		BCSO - EMHSD
David Albers		BCSO
Mike Adams		Buchanan City



Please go to mi-bcfa.org web site for the latest [Announcements](#) and [Trainings](#) being offered in Berrien County.