



BERRIEN COUNTY
FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Call to Order: 0830-0910

Date: September 16, 2026

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

Agenda Changes: None

Presentation: None

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept treasurers report by: Chief Miller. Seconded by: Chief Robinson. Motion passed. None opposed.

Bills: Gaggle bill for the email chain list. Motion by Chief Miller. Seconded by Chief Robinson. To pay the Gaggle bill for \$100.00. Motion passed. None opposed.

Communications:

General Communications: Boxcards: Discussion on having boxcards available for all agencies to view. Gerry can post them on the BCFA website but needs copies of all department boxcards. Dispatch can send copies to Gerry. Gerry to look into posting boxcards in the password protected area of the BCFA website.

New Chief/Visitor: None

EMS: (Great Lakes Drone:Medic-1:S.M.C.A.S.:Med Control:) None

Dispatch/911: None

Communications Committee: See attached.

CAD: Almost all fire agencies on board. Onle a few left that are waiting on equipment. If need help with CAD set up or features contact Chief Myers. Next month planning a CAD workshop after BCFA meeting and it will be open to all.

Guideline: None

HAZMAT: Was on standby for call in Hasting MI.

BCFA: Next meeting October 07, 2026 at north Berrien station-41. Updated website to new apparatus designators. Please check your department to make sure it is correct. Please contact Gerry for any corrections. Would like to create an email list of all firefighters in the county to help get information disseminated to firefighters. Gerry gave a Thank You to all who helped at the fire education center at the 2026 BCYF.



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Training: All Trainings Posted on BCFA website:

September 26: Grain bin dryer training station-39 at 1000.

Bluecard big box course still has openings.

Peer support class in October.

BHDPS academy starting November 2026.

Wide area search class in December.

Emergency Management: Added a part time EM support specialist. Capt. Albers back next week.

Sheriff: Nothing

MABAS:

Other Comments:

Old Business: Cache radio batteries ordered. And delivered at meeting. All MPSCS 800 radios need to be tuned and aligned. MPSCS recommendation is yearly. Need to have cache radios tuned and aligned. Motion by Capt- DeLaTorre to spend up to \$1200.00 to have cache radios tuned and aligned. Seconded by Chief Miller. Motion passed, None opposed. MDOT to hold traffic incident management class on October 22, 2026. This will be a train the trainer course. Need more fire department involvement. If your department has someone interested in this class contact: Jim Janes: janesej@michigan.gov.

New Business: Sandra Dija would like to use the BCFA 501c3 to get funding to put her OXFIT system in seven county fire departments. Discussion on tax implications if we go over the allotted \$50,000.00 threshold. Who pays the annual fees? Will other firefighters be allowed access to the station they will be located? Motion by Chief Jesswein to decline Sandra Dija the usage of BCFA 501c3 for the OXFIT system. Seconded by DD Kazmierzak. Motion passed. None opposed.

Next Meeting: October 21, 2026 at 0830, Berrien County Conference Center.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourn: 0906hrs.

[illegible]



Communications Committee

Discussion Topics

DATE: September 15, 2026

- Communicating Committee meeting notes:
- Reviewing, updating, and simplifying list of call types.
- Reminder: if do not have an AVI boxcard dispatch will use your agencies stricter fire boxcard for AVI.
- When going into HIP dispatch will send out active to BCFCA active and an everbridge message to the fire chiefs and designee.
The message will advise going into HIP and to man stations, You do not contact dispatch via the radio to advise station in service. With CAD you can now mark station in service in CAD. Instructions will be included the message.
- Discussion on CAD filtering. Agencies can set filters for calls. Working on a training to help departments with filters in CAD.

Frank DeLaTorre
Captain
North Berrien Fire



MABAS REPORT

September 16, 2026:

- MABAS-MI has lost state funding for FY 2026-2027. This funding supports MITF-1 and the MABAS-MI training throughout the state.
- MABAS-MI has asked members to send letters of support to local representatives.
- After the below listed training are completed MABAS-MI will be postponing trainings until a funding source is found.
- There was a strike team leader training on September 10, 2026 in Cadillac..
- The second Stillwater/flood rescue boat operators class will be September 14/15, 2026 at the MITF-1 MOB center in Holly MI
- There will be a workshop for development/guidance/management of water rescue team on September 17, 2026, at the MITF-1 MOB center in Holly MI starting at 0900.
- Working on a MABAS-MI private agreement with MMR. MMR provides ambulance service in 7 divisions. The private agreement will allow MMR to be MABAS members and participate in MABAS-MI in the 7 divisions they provide service.
- Continue to working on updating our division OOD box cards as well as department contacts and agreements. Remember there is NO requirement for agency to provide the resource on the OOD box card. The OOD box card works the same as our county box cards. They are a preplan of response if we are asked for resources from our county. If you are unable to send your resource, you pass just like on our county box cards.