



BERRIEN FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

Meeting 9-17-14

Called to order by Chief Brovold at 835 hours (Chief Davidson attending Cameo Training)

ATTENDANCE:

TREASURER'S REPORT – Chief Lamb reported the checking account is currently at \$2018.92. (\$200 still outstanding from the CISM donation.)

MINUTES – Minutes from the August meeting were read aloud by Chief Lamb. Written copy will be ready by the October meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS –.

PRESENTATION - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

911 – Dave reported that baseline VHF testing had been performed in the North and Mid County. 87 test spots were selected. Results were good with only a few spots that reported marginal. Pipestone Lake was one example. Dave and Roland discussed their route and the testing process. Gabe discusses the “decents.” This occurs when units are too close to one another, especially when using a 100 watt radio. Several Chiefs weighed in with the consensus being that “With the system performing far worse than when it was first put in service more work needs to be done.” Gabe will perform a more intensive test on the towers on the west side.

High Incident Protocol – PD would like Dave to come back to their Chiefs Assoc. to review changes. Active shooter still needs to be completed. Phone system in 911 centers will be getting an upgrade. VOIP type system.

Dave sent out protocol on the Helicopter Protocol. Call Landing Zones on V-Call 10, or LZ-1 or 2 on 800 MHz. Some discussed updating template on 800 to include LZ on their home zone. Template changes are allowed once a year.

DNR –none.

Funeral Protocol – Berrien Springs

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/LEPC – LEPC Canceled due to pipeline incident in Benton Township. ERG established quickly. Lesson learned that no mercaptain was entrained at that point in the system. Consider firing up detection equipment before leaving the station. The line was 750 psi, 22 inch line. Marathon was worried about their pipeline being damage from the event. They were very responsible in this incident. It is also recommended to integrate with the utility companies early on in the incident. 550 people were evacuated with 55 using the shelter location. The system wasn't safe until 6

pm. Another unrelated incident with NG occurred in Watervliet at a senior's apartment complex. The Red Cross sheltered several residents.

Rocky also reported on a crazy helicopter pilot that was buzzing neighborhoods.

Chief Brovold expressed concerns that he was not in the loop on the most recent Wolverine testing of their pipeline in Niles. Rocky attended a meeting with the pipeline companies however he was the one in attendance.

Chief Ruff discussed the need for a more systematic clearing house of street closings.

Flue and other infectious disease prevention were discussed briefly.

If you let Director Adams know he will add your special event into The National Weather Service Database and you will receive notices relating to your event of dangerous weather.

SHERIFF- none

RED CROSS- Susan reported on all the good work that our Red Cross Chapter has done this year. Then she discussed that the Red Cross will be contracting to one Region and 6 chapters statewide. This will remove all paid staffing from our Chapter. Please express your dissatisfaction with this change with the Red Cross. The Group thanked Susan for her hard work and willingness to help the fire service specifically. She thinks that the chapter will remain open initially with volunteer support but long term is uncertain. Rocky added that this would be a big strain on the Emergency Management functions of our County. Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo Chapters will remain in service.

HAZ-MAT- Rocky discussed the Health Department MDCH provided Chemical Weapons Training on September 25th 10-noon. Call 927-5636. pquinn@bchdmi.org.

Hazmat activation doing air monitoring on pipeline. Other incident was New Buffalo Fire had a basement fire.

BCFFA& BCYF -- Nothing New. Gerry Kabelman reported that the BCFFA reimbursed him \$500 for his out of pocket costs. Everyone was very pleased with the effort. Will promote high school education program next year. Hope to get Little Squirt out of mothballs. Other ideas are welcome. Please take a look at the web site for photos.

TRAINING -- Doug DeBest discussed the NFA Fire Chief 1 which will be held in Berrien County for the first time. AND IT'S FREE! Saturday October 18-19.

MABAS- Working on Mutual aid Net. Frank receives training on the deployment software. Frank will be updating it in the next few months to assure our Division is to date..

OLD BUSINESS -.None .

NEW BUSINESS -- .Serve Pro Smoke Detectors will again be distributed. They will deliver what you ordered last year. Gary discussed a flyer that his department uses with the program. Gary will send it out to the group.

Adjourned at 1030

Next Meeting 10-15-14 at 1830 hours Lincoln Twp Fire Station

RS Larry Lamb