



BERRIEN COUNTY
FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Call to Order: 0830-0924

Date: August 19, 2026

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

Agenda Changes:

Presentation: Midwest Mission. Dale Stover gave presentation on Midwest Mission. They accept outdated fire gear, SCBA, tools, etc.... and send to countries that need fire protection gear. If have old, outdated gear, SCBA, etc...**Contact Dale Stover: 269-930-4246: dale_s19@yahoo.com**

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

Bills: None. Money to deposit for challenge coins.

Communications: None

General Communications:

New Chief/Visitor: None

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

Dispatch/911: CAD is rolling out. There will be a CAD update in the fall. Capt. DeLaTorre asked if anyone has had issues with CAD mapping. GLR has had some CAD mapping issues. No one else has.

Communications Committee: Nothing

Guideline: Active assailant guideline now in place.

HAZMAT: Capt. Albers stated they helped in Cass County on a 13,500 fuel tanker leak. Chief Weich stated no movement on HAZMAT team. Agreement still with lawyer. Chief Weich stated has had very limited interest from county fire departments. HAZMAT team can't be run by just a couple departments. This is a county team. There is no requirement to have a county team. If we lose it departments will have to mitigate hazmat scenes on their own. Every agency has potential for hazmat situation.

BCFA: Gerry thanked all who have stepped up to help at the fire education center at the fair. 85% filled. Still need help. Check from car show given to BC sheriff department. Next meeting September 02, 2026, Niles Township.

Training: BHDPS academy will start in October. Big box class is coming up. Secured another blue card grant for 2027. Classes are coming up in Van Buren County.

Emergency Management: Civil Air Patrol put on a plan crass class at the Southwest Regional Airport on august 08, 2026. Had a fuselage to practice extrication from plane. Had 4 planes fly in for first responders to see and observe safety features.

Sheriff: None

MABAS: see attached

Other Comments: DD Kazmierzak requested removal of MABAS report from BCFCA meetings.

Old Business: Discussion on by-laws change for filling vacancies. Motion by Chief Weich to accept by-laws update. Seconded by Chief Jesswein. Motion passed. None opposed. CAD: If you have problems contact Berrien County IT and bring the issue to the group in case others have the same issue. If you self dispatch, dispatch request that you acknowledge with dispatch as they may miss it if just done over CAD.

REMINDER: first unit goes enroute over the radio. Additional units enroute per department policy, (CAD or radio) with the intention to keep radio traffic to a minimum. Most FD have completed CAD installations. There were a few that had equipment issues. Nothing new for FD until after PD install is complete. There was a request for the fire ground to be put into CAD. Dispatch working on it.



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Request to get the CAD training video. Capt. DeLaTorre stated he would add link to CAD training video to minutes:

<https://youtu.be/z5voZubdajk>

If you have issues with dispatch, please contact the on duty supervisor right away so they can look into the issue. We realize the new designators have only been in place for just over a month and most departments are doing a good job. We expect some errors/mistakes as this is new. Please remember to use the new designators. Please don't go back and forth between new and old designators. It creates confusion. Use the full designator. Don't use abbreviations. EX: Say Engine99 not E99. Chief Myers reminded all to please take the information we discuss here and share with your departments. We have had many discussions with multiple discussions on same topics at times, only to find out some have no idea what is going on. So **PLEASE** follow up these meetings with your departments and staff.

HIP- Some questioned the phone text/calls for HIP with the link in them. The link is to acknowledge receipt of the HIP notification. Departments DO NOT need to call into dispatch to state they are manned during HIP. Radio traffic needs to be kept to incident related traffic. Departments can acknowledge in service in CAD.

New Business: Cache radios. Some of the cache radios need battery replacement. Motion to spend up to \$2000.00 to replace cache radio batteries by Capt. DeLaTorre. Seconded by Chief Miller. Motion passed. None opposed.

Smoke detector program lost funding. BHDPS still has some so if you need some contact DD Kazmierzak. Discussion on BCFCA drafting up a letter to our local representatives in support of smoke detector funding to attempt to get funding back.

Next Meeting: 0830 on September 16, 2026, at the Berrien County Conference Center.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by: Chief Weich. Seconded by: Chief Knisely.

None opposed. Meeting adjourn: 0924.



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

ATTENDANCE SHEET

August 19, 2026

[illegible]



FIRE GEAR

No one should have to fight fires in jeans and a t-shirt, but in many places around the world, firefighters do not have the necessary gear to safely fight fires.

We collect emergency gear and equipment, such as fire gear, that is expired or no longer used. We send these items to countries where people need resources to safely respond to emergencies.

This firefighter in Guatemala is using the fire gear Midwest Mission sent to his department. These donations are from a fire department in the United States.

Typical Items Requested:

- Pumper fire trucks and ambulances in good, working condition
- Personal protective gear - coats, pants, gloves, boots, and helmets
- Breathing apparatus
- Exhaust fans
- Tools - axes, jaws of life, etc.

Know of a Fire Department with gear or equipment that is expired, or they no longer need?

Contact our office: office@midwestmission.org or 217-483-7911. We can work with you on pick-up or delivery at no cost to the fire department. Expired gear or equipment will only be sent outside of the United States. A liability and release form is available.



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

When someone's health is in jeopardy, everything else is.

At Midwest Mission, we strive to provide tools that assist with healing and continued mobility. Everyone deserves dignity and independence, which is why we accept donations of medical supplies and equipment from hospitals, nursing homes, and individuals. We also assemble health-related kits and handmade items. These are truly life-saving resources that many people are holding onto for someday, when someone needs them today.

What we collect:

- Walkers
- Wheelchairs
- Crutches
- Canes
- Home Care or Hospital Beds
- Other orthopedic supplies (walking boots, slings, braces, and knee scooters)

You can drop supplies off at Midwest Mission location or a Permanent Collection Site near you. Visit midwestmission.org/permanent-collection-sites to see available drop-off times and contact information.

Questions?

Call 217-483-7911 or email office@midwestmission.org



**DONATION AGREEMENT AND RELEASE AND WAIVER OF
LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT FOR RECEIPT OF
DONATED EQUIPMENT**

WHEREAS, _____ (hereinafter, "**the Donor**") desires to donate AS-IS WITHOUT WARRANTY AND WITH ALL FAULTS the equipment to Midwest Mission Distribution Center (hereinafter, "**Midwest Mission**").

WHEREAS, the Midwest Mission of the specific donated equipment listed below acknowledges that proper use of the equipment may require maintenance and extensive training;

WHEREAS, the Midwest Mission acknowledges that it remains responsible for obtaining any necessary maintenance and training in order to use the donated equipment;

WHEREAS, the Midwest Mission **acknowledges** that it holds all responsibility for proper operation of the donated equipment.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Midwest Mission **agrees** to the following waiver of liability and indemnity provisions:

1. **Receipt of Equipment.** The Midwest Mission **acknowledges** receipt of the following equipment donated by the Donor, ("Donated Equipment"): See "Exhibit A"
2. **No Warranties.** The Donor, including its officers, employees, and agents, make no representations whatsoever, extend no warranties of any kind, either express or implied, including but not limited to the implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, and assumes no responsibilities whatsoever with respect to design, development, manufacture, or use of the Donated Equipment.
3. **Waiver of Liability.** The Midwest Mission **does** hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damages for personal injury, death, property damage, any claim in tort, or any other claim, regardless of legal theory, that may hereafter accrue as a result of the use of the Donated Equipment. The entire risk as to the performance of the Donated Equipment is assumed by the Midwest Mission. In no event shall the Donor or its officers, employees or agents, be responsible or liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential damages, lost profits, or any other economic or physical loss or damage to any individual regardless of legal theory resulting from use of the Donated Equipment. The above limitations on liability apply even though the Donor may not have advised of the possibility of such damage.

4. **Indemnification.** The Midwest Mission **agrees** to indemnify and hold harmless the Donor, its officers, employees or agents, from any and all claims, liability and damages, arising from the use of the Donated Equipment

MIDWEST MISSION HAS CAREFULLY READ THIS WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT AND UNDERSTANDS ITS CONTENTS. MIDWEST MISSION IS AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LAIBILITY AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN DONOR AND MIDWEST MISSION.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, both Donor and Midwest Mission have caused this instrument to be executed on its behalf by officials duly authorized therefore.

Donor

Signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Fire Department: _____

Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Signature: Chantel Corrie

Printed name: Chantel Corrie, Executive Director

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, both Donor and Midwest Mission have caused this instrument to be executed on its behalf by officials duly authorized therefore.

Donor

Signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Fire Department: _____

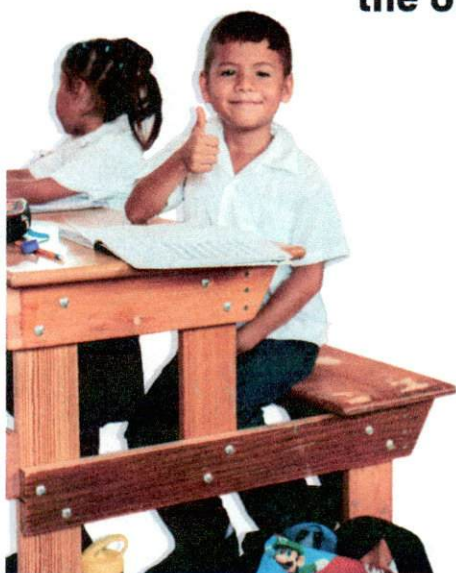
Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Signature: Chantel Corrie

Printed name: Chantel Corrie, Executive Director

BLEACHER WOOD

Midwest Mission transforms reclaimed bleacher wood from high schools across the United States into durable Student Desks.



Though these bleachers have retired from game days, the wood still has plenty of life left in it. These strong, reliable desks can seat up to four young students and have been sent to classrooms around the world—providing children with a comfortable, dependable place to learn.

If you know of a school that will be tearing out their bleachers, please email office@midwestmission.org or call 217-483-7911. Learn more about this project at midwestmission.org!

The Process:

1. **Donation** - Bleacher wood is disassembled and donated by partners and volunteers
2. **Preparation** - Volunteers remove gum and metal before planing, sanding, and cutting the wood to size
3. **Assembly** - Prepared pieces are assembled, quality-checked, labeled, and polyurethaned before being disassembled for shipping
4. **Distribution** - The Desks are delivered to students worldwide, providing them with a clean, reliable workspace for their education





MABAS REPORT

August 19, 2026:

- There are 5 counties pending membership.
- 18 counties that are not members yet.
- Rest of the counties in the state have MABAS membership.
- 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.
- There will be a strike team leader training on September 10, 2026 in Cadillac. Division members interested in attending please let me know.
- The second Stillwater/flood rescue boat operators class will be September 14/15, 2026 at the MITF-1 MOB center in Holly MI. Niles Fire is planning to attend. Division members with boats that are interested please let me know
- 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. Division members that are interested let me know.
- 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.
- Working on updating our division OOD boxcards as well as department contacts and agreements. Remember there is NO requirement for agency to provide the resource on the OOD boxcard. The OOD boxcard works the same as our county boxcards. They are a preplan of response if we are asked for resources from our county. If you are unable to send that resource you pass just like on our county boxcards. As for the agreements, MABAS-MI needs copies of our signed 2016 agreements. Retired Chief Lamb and I got all agencies to sign the updated 2016 agreements and sent them to MABAS-MI. MABAS-MI acknowledged in our planning meeting, that due to rapid growth, changes in leadership over the years many division 2016 updated agreements have been lost/missed place. They are requesting copies of the signed 2016 agreements if you have them, or to resign the agreement if unable to find them. If you are able to find your signed 2016 updated agreement please get a copy to me.

Good Afternoon,

During the Zoom Meeting we held on May 13, 2026, regarding the direction of validating water rescue resources in Michigan, we were asked to develop some training/guidance for Team Leaders the development and management of a water rescue team.

We have decided to hold that workshop on Thursday September 17 starting at 0900 at the MI-TF1 MOB Center in Holly.

Please contact me if you are interested, or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Martin

Task Force Leader/Special Operations Chief

Michigan Task Force 1 / MI-MABAS

Cell (586) 994-8613

cmartin@michiganmabas.us



Good Afternoon,

We will be holding the second Stillwater/Flood Rescue Boat Operator Class on Mon/Tues Sept 14/15 at the MI-TF1 MOB Center. Ideally we will have groups of 3 or 4 from 4 different teams, each bring one Inflatable Rescue Boat with a motor.

Please email me at cmartin@michiganmabas.us to register or if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Chris Martin

Task Force Leader/Special Operations Chief

Michigan Task Force 1 / MI-MABAS

Cell [\(586\) 994-8613](tel:5869948613)

cmartin@michiganmabas.us

