

BARRON COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 25, 2024 9:00 AM Meeting Minutes

Barron County Justice Center, Emergency Operations Center, 1420 State Hwy 25 North, Barron, WI 54812

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Members present: Louis Okey, Barron County Board. Mike Judy, Barron County Emergency Management Director. Chris Fitzgerald, Barron County Sheriff. Nate Dunston, Barron County Emergency Management. Chris Straight, West Central Regional Planning. Trent Kohel, Rice Lake Fire Department. Tyler Gruetzmacher, Barron County Soil & Water. Dale Hanson, Community Representative. Barry Kuenkel, Cumberland Fire Department. Melissa Miller, Mayo Clinic Health System Northland. Luong Huynh, Red Cross. Dave Paulson, McCain Foods Inc. Ben Cole, Barron Fire Department. Craig Turcott, Barron County Board. Gabby Thompson, Mosaic Telecom. Sue Dau, Barron Electric Cooperative.

Call to order by Louis Okey at 9:04 AM.

Public Notification: Read by Louis Okey.

Public Comment: None.

Approve Minutes from July 27, 2023 meeting.

Motion Made by Craig Turcott to approve minutes, Seconded by Tyler Gruetzmacher. Motion Carried (Unanimously).

Spill Review.

October 26, 2023 – Synergy Cooperative

October 27, 2023 – Chetek Dam

November 22, 2023 – Norswiss Farms

November 24, 2023 – Stella Jones

December 21, 2023 – Saputo

January 8, 2024 – Northern Natural Gas

Response Reimbursements:

None.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:

Chris Straight, West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning, gave an update on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Review was provided of the plan recommended preparedness actions. The Hazard Mitigation plan was reviewed and approved by Wisconsin Emergency

Management (WEM). A public comment period will be offered through West Central Regional Planning's website a plan of the draft will also be available at www.wcwrpc.org The plan will go before the Barron County Board for their approval and adoption. Two entities have already adopted the plan: Rice Lake School District and the Village of Almena.

Review Bylaws:

Bylaws in the packet and included in minutes. Motion made by Steve Roux to approve the bylaws as presented. Second by Melissa Miller. Motion Carried.

Emergency Management Annual Report:

Mike reviewed with the group the highlights of the 2023 Annual Report. Please see the attached for a copy of the report.

LEPC Member Updates:

Luong Huynh: Red Cross has responded to 6 calls for service in 2023. Informed the committee about installation of smoke alarms with a local partnership with Mosaic. Red Cross is open to new partnerships and will install smoke detectors free of charge. More information can be found on their website.

Trent Kohel: Rice Lake Fire hosted a Hazmat Technician course with the WI REACT Center and were able to add nine additional trained members to the hazmat team. The total trained team members is about 20.

Sue Dau: A reminder that Barron Electric Coop has a text feature for reporting power outages. In April the Cooperative will be starting a two year GPS inventory project.

Tyler Gruetzmacher: A new aerial photo will be done of the county in 2024. The committee should review the dam plans.

Future Agenda Items:

County Dam Plans

Next Meeting Date: April 25, 2024 at 9:00 in the Emergency Operations Center.

Adjourned Motion: (LO) to adjourn at 10:21 a.m. Carried.

Meeting minutes posted in draft form. Minutes not official until approved at the next committee meeting.

Severe Weather & Extreme Temperature Mitigation Strategies – Project Alternatives

The following strategies prevent or reduce the vulnerabilities associated with various aspects of severe/extreme weather and climate change including: **tornados, high winds, thunderstorms, winter storms, extreme temperatures, and drought.** They are combined here since some mitigation alternatives mitigate the impacts of multiple hazards.

2024 Plan Strategy Alternative	High Priority?	Timeframe	Lead Party(s)	Funding	Analysis
1. Pursue grant funding to make cost-sharing available for the installation of community safe rooms (storm shelters) at mobile home parks, private and public campgrounds, RV parks, and recreational properties where no existing shelter alternatives exist. Especially target safe room projects at mobile home parks and resort properties where landowners are strongly interested and supportive of such projects.	High	0-3 years, or as needed & opportunities arise	Landowner Communities and county may need to raise awareness of grant options.	FEMA BRIC or HMGP grant funding with local cost share by municipality and/or landowner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$\$-\$\$\$ • Increasing interest in safe room projects, including for some non-profit campgrounds. • Mobile home park residents often on fixed incomes and many are seniors; socially vulnerable population. • A safe room meeting FEMA standards provides near-absolute protection for occupants. • County recently completed a FEMA-funded safe room project at Prairie Lake Estates. • WCWRPC can provide direction & grant support with WEM assistance. • St. Croix Chippewa Tribe’s mitigation plan recommends community safe rooms and heating/cooling shelters in their communities. • Emergency power generator may be FEMA mitigation grant eligible as part of a safe room project. • If a community safe room will also serve as a heating/cooling shelter, HVAC and generator costs may be FEMA mitigation grant eligible.
2. Work with municipalities and businesses to explore grant funding for community safe rooms and hardening projects for community facilities, educational institutions, long-term care facilities, businesses, and manufacturers, especially if located in a slab-on-grade or large-span structure.		As needed	A partnership with a mitigation plan participant (eligible grant applicant) may be required in some cases.		
3. If funding opportunities become available, work with communities to pursue grant dollars for emergency power generators for critical facilities, shelters, and emergency operations centers in Barron County.	Medium-to High	As needed, but 0-3 years for some facilities	Facility or shelter operator	Limited grant opportunities, unless part of a larger or multi-use facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$\$ • While generator availability continues to improve, it continues to be a significant need. • USDA Rural Development may fund generators in rare cases.
4. Continue to work with local power providers to bury overhead electrical lines in areas prone to outages due to falling trees/limbs or high winds, when cost feasible. Pursue mitigation grant funding when needed and available.	High	0-3 years, or as needed; can change based on work plans, road projects, growth, etc.	Electric Provider	Electric Provider typically covers cost, though may be FEMA BRIC or HMGP grant eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$\$-\$\$\$ • Often buried for newer development or completed in conjunction with street improvement projects. • Cooperatives and municipal utilities may be eligible for FEMA BRIC or HMGP grant funding for projects in areas prone to outages. • Barron Electric Cooperative has used FEMA mitigation grant funding in past.

Severe Weather & Extreme Temperature Mitigation Strategies – Planning, Policy, & Outreach Alternatives					
2024 Plan Strategy Alternative	High Priority?	Timeframe	Lead Party(s)	Funding	Analysis
1. Explore County ordinance language requiring new or expanding campgrounds, RV parks, and resorts to construct or identify per formal agreement a storm shelter for visitors. Provide model language to cities and villages for consideration.	High	0-3 years	County Zoning & County Board	Existing County operational budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • Could potentially be handled as part of a conditional use requirement in zoned communities. • Explore if could be part of a Public Health or operational license.
2. Conduct a survey of campgrounds and resorts to determine the status of emergency plans, storm shelter availability, and related resource needs.	Medium-to-High	0-3 years	County Emergency Management	Existing County operational budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • Could be used to educate on safe room and other mitigation opportunities. • Identify strategies based on the survey results. • As an option, this could be included as part of the next hazard mitigation plan update.
3. Encourage farmers to allow installation of snow fencing or leave corn standing in areas prone to drifting. Along State and US Highways, make farmers aware of WisDOT Standing Corn Snow Fence Agreements and the potential for reimbursement. Explore opportunities to encourage the planting of trees along drift-prone highways.		As needed or opportunities allow	Highway Department and towns	WisDOT Standing Corn Snow Fence program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • Continuing, but low participation. • More feasible than large-scale hill cuts. • Increases traveler safety and emergency vehicle access. • Reduces snow removal expenses. • Will not work everywhere.
4. Inventory generator and emergency fuel availability among industry and major employers in the County. Explore the feasibility of joint bidding & purchasing, mutual agreements, and other options to address needs.	Medium-to-High	0-3 years	Industry Safety Group and/or Emergency Management	Existing staff and private-sector volunteers to initiate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ to evaluate; \$\$ to implement • Uncertain of possible solution, but identifies needs and engages in discussion.
5. Evaluate home oxygen sources, emergency oxygen availability, and potential demand during an extended power outage. Identify strategies to address any gaps.	High	0-3 years	County Public Health & Emgy Mgmt to initiate	Existing staff operational budgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ for evaluation/planning • Most are seniors or on fixed incomes; socially vulnerable population • County has some tanks available. • Uncertain of emergency availability. • May need to survey home O2 suppliers.

2024 Plan Strategy Alternative	High Priority?	Timeframe	Lead Party(s)	Funding	Analysis
6. Partner with interested communities to pursue mitigation grant dollars to distribute NOAA All Hazards (Weather) Radios, with a potential priority for seniors, mobile home residents, and/or critical facilities.		As needed, if there is interest by communities or entities	County Emergency Management; ADRC; communities	May be eligible for FEMA HMGP grant funding (i.e., a 5% project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • Interest has been waning as smart phones become more common; often more “accessible” for seniors • Could be implemented in conjunction with other natural hazard outreach and education initiatives.
7. Identify heating and cooling shelters with generators that are available for extended periods and power outages, if needed. Integrate such shelters into planned community safe room projects. Increase public awareness of shelter availability.	High	0-3 years	County Emgy Mgmt and/or Public Health would likely take lead	If part of a community safe room, generator and HVAC costs may be eligible for FEMA BRIC or HMGP funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$-\$\$ • Demand may be slowly increasing as extreme temperatures increase. • Heating/cooling shelters are recommended in the St. Croix Chippewa Tribe’s mitigation plan. • Some facilities used as shelters, like libraries, may only be available during limited hours. • Some currently identified shelters lack generators or may not be widely known; see previous generator-related mitigation strategy. • See related sheltering preparedness strategy.
Flood Mitigation Strategies - Project Alternatives					
1. Continue to monitor, study, and address stormwater and flash flooding hotspots in the county as identified in the flood assessment of the hazard mitigation plan. Potential projects include, but are not limited to creation/expansion of flood/stormwater storage areas, the installation or re-sizing of culverts, the creation or improvement of drainageways, and the protection of natural drainage and retention areas. Encourage nature-based solutions, low-impact development practices, and basin-level planning.		As needed. Implementation often occurs at the city, village, & town level, so timeframes and priorities will vary.	County Zoning or Soil & Water Conservation, County Emergency Management, County Highway, municipalities, landowners	Stormwater utilities, development impact fees, CIPs, and highway/road funding are traditional sources. CDBG-Public Facilities, TIF, FEMA Flood Mitigation Grants, & WI Municipal Flood Control Grants for larger projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$\$ to \$\$\$ • No priority projects identified, but grant funding could mitigate a reoccurring flooding threat/vulnerability. • Often impacts transportation (a community lifeline). • Solutions are typically feasible, if funding available • Localized approach that increases drainage can increase flooding downstream. • Poor culvert condition on many local roads. • Increase emphasis on nature-based solutions. • If significant damages, County Emergency Mgmt may provide support. • Potentially related to continued NFIP compliance.

2024 Plan Strategy Alternative	High Priority?	Timeframe	Lead Party(s)	Funding	Analysis
2. When new public construction, subdivision development, and non-flood mitigation projects are being planned, such as community safe rooms, integrate nature-based solutions, if possible, to control stormwater runoff and mitigate flooding.		As needed.	Developer or land owner	Same as above. New development unlikely eligible for mitigation grants unless part of a mitigation project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ to \$\$\$ • Proactive. • If part of a mitigation grant project, may score additional points. • May not be political support to amend ordinances to require or incentivize. • May serve as a model; could use WDNR Health Lakes grant dollars in shoreland areas.
3. Pursue hazard mitigation grant funding to acquire, relocate, or floodproof structures and properties with a flood history, most at risk of flood damage, and/or following a flood event in which significant damage occurs if the landowner agrees to participate.		As needed; city & village sub-plans suggest some areas to consider	Landowner, County Zoning or municipalities	FEMA Flood Mitigation Grant & WI Municipal Flood Control Grant programs with landowner match contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$\$ to \$\$\$ • No critical/imminent projects identified. • Strong grant potential if a reoccurring or vulnerability. • May mitigate a reoccurring flooding threat/vulnerability. • Solutions are typically feasible, if funding is available and with the landowner's consent. • Potentially related to continued NFIP compliance.
Flood Mitigation Strategies - Planning, Policy, & Outreach Alternatives					
1. Continue to maintain dams and dam emergency operating plans. Discourage development in the hydraulic shadows (dam failure floodplains) of dams. Encourage residents and businesses within or near dam shadows to sign-up for Barron County's Code Red emergency notification system.	High	0-3 years & as needed; largely supports ongoing activities	varies by Dam Owner; Zoning staff for code enforcement	Funded by dam owners; WDNR Municipal Dam Grant; FEMA High Hazard Potential Dams Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ to \$\$\$ • Proactive; partly preparedness. • Actions often guided by dam inspection reports. • No major dam structural concerns or improvement needs identified. • While dam maintenance can be expensive, code enforcement and educational outreach may largely be accomplished with existing resources.
2. Continue to enforce County floodplain regulations to: discourage future floodplain development and the storage of hazardous materials in floodplains; require dry land access for structures; limit development in dam shadows; and maintain natural flood storage areas. Encourage low-impact development and nature-based stormwater solutions for new development projects.	High	0-3 years & as needed; largely supports ongoing activities	County Zoning and County Board	County annual operating budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • Proactive; strong mitigation strategy. • County has adopted the most recent WDNR floodplain ordinance model. • No additional costs expected unless enforcement/compliance issues arise. • Related to continued NFIP compliance.

2024 Plan Strategy Alternative	High Priority?	Timeframe	Lead Party(s)	Funding	Analysis
<p>3. Continue to educate the public and elected officials of flood risks, including awareness that typical homeowner's insurance does not cover flood damage, that many structures outside the 100-year floodplain are vulnerable to flooding, and the importance of well testing following flood events. Especially target those municipalities with the greatest assessed improvements in or near floodplain areas.</p>		<p>0-3 years & as needed; largely supports ongoing activities</p>	<p>County and local designated floodplain managers County Emergency Management</p>	<p>County and community operational budgets. FEMA mitigation grant funding could be used for an outreach initiative.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • Proactive mitigation strategy. • WDNR and WCWRPC may be able to help. • Insurance providers certified to sell flood insurance could be important partners. • No additional costs expected unless enforcement/compliance issues arise. • Related to continued NFIP compliance. • FEMA HMGP or FMA funding could be available.
<p>4. Continue to expand public and community educational efforts and partnerships regarding alternatives to mitigate stormwater and flash flooding run-off, while promote low-impact development and nature-based solutions, such as rain gardens, permeable pavement systems, bioswales, road salt management, etc.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>0-3 years & as needed; largely supports ongoing activities</p>	<p>County Land Conservation, WDNR, local communities</p>	<p>County and community operational budgets. Some grant funding available for larger educational initiatives, especially if linked to flood control or water quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • Could involve many partners, such as municipalities and lake groups. • Rain to Rivers of Western Wisconsin has some related educational materials. • Some overlap with other mitigation strategies. • Could include model projects, including using Healthy Lakes grant dollars near lakes. • Local governments could explore integrating such standards into site plan review or local ordinances.
<p>Wildfire Mitigation Strategies - Planning, Policy, & Outreach Alternatives</p>					
<p>Larger wildfire mitigation projects and community wildfire protection planning were considered, but the costs of such alternatives outweighed the overall risk, vulnerabilities, and anticipated benefits at this time within Barron County. Instead, it was recommended to continue smaller, often targeted, educational and outreach efforts.</p>					
<p>1. Continue education of residents and local officials in the mitigation of wildfire risks, with an emphasis on defensible spaces around homes and emergency vehicle access on driveways and private roads. Increase resident awareness of burning restrictions, warning signage, and permit contacts. Outreach should especially target areas of highest risk and determine town interest in additional Firewise-style programming</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>0-3 years and ongoing</p>	<p>Local Fire Depts & Wisconsin DNR Assistance from Town Boards, schools, & County Emgy Mgmt</p>	<p>Largely uses existing staff or volunteer support. Some WDNR resources available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$-\$\$ • Continuing educational outreach, but could expand into additional programming and planning in highest risk areas. • Could include installation of additional Fire condition warning signage. • While community wildfire protection planning is not suggested at this time, it could be recommended in the future if wildfire and wildland-urban interface risks increase.

2024 Plan Strategy Alternative	High Priority?	Timeframe	Lead Party(s)	Funding	Analysis
2. Perform driveway assessments and home ignition zone assessment in areas of higher wildfire risk. Educate landowners on Firewise mitigation options.		As needed	Local Fire Depts & Wisconsin DNR	Largely uses existing staff or volunteer support. Some WDNR resources available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$-\$\$ • Likely needs local fire department volunteer interest; WDNR can provide training and some Firewise resources. • Requires landowner interest & permission.
3. Pursue grant funds for dry hydrants for fire protection where other water sources are not readily available.	Medium	Varies by area/dept.	Local Fire Departments	WDNR Forest Fire Protection Grant program; developer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$-\$\$ • WDNR FFP Program could cover 50% of costs. • Not a widespread need.
4. In areas with large amounts of downed timber due to storms, provide landowners information on wildfire risks and appropriate ways to reduce fuels and vulnerabilities.	Medium	0-3 years, then as needed	Local Fire Depts, Town Boards, & Wisconsin DNR	Uses existing staff or volunteer support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • 2019 straight-line wind and tornado damage in the west/northwest part of the County has significantly elevated the wildfire risk • Request assistance from WDNR to create a handout or provide guidance that can be distributed locally. • Only recommends educational and outreach efforts; not projects.
5. Continue to maintain and implement the <i>Barron County 15-Year Comprehensive Forest Land Use Plan</i> and the <i>Barron County Land and Water Resources Conservation Plan</i> to include best management practices to reduce risks related to wildfire, drought, stormwater runoff, invasive species, and plant diseases.		Ongoing activities	Barron County Land & Water Conservation; landowners	Existing County operating budget covering staffing costs with some State support. Further funding sources vary by project type.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$-\$\$\$ • This strategy recognizes the importance of the various forest-management actions recommended within these plans to mitigating wildfire risks.
Other Mitigation Strategies					
The following are multi-hazard mitigation strategy alternatives or potential strategies to address non-natural hazards.					
1. MULTI-HAZARD – Integrate natural hazard risks, climate trends, and hazard mitigation into future updates of the Barron County Comprehensive Plan and other County plans.		complete as plans updated	County Zoning and Planning & Zoning Committee	As part of County operational/pro gram budget for plan update.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • Limited inclusion of mitigation in existing comprehensive plan.

2024 Plan Strategy Alternative	High Priority?	Timeframe	Lead Party(s)	Funding	Analysis
2. MULTI-HAZARD - Assess natural hazard-related vulnerabilities for ESL and immigrant populations and conduct a public educational outreach initiative that increases knowledge of natural hazard risks, notification systems, insurance programs, and available resources.	Medium-to-High	0-3 year and as needed	Public Health with partner support	Largely a collaboratively supported initiative, but some grant funding may be available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$-\$\$ • Targets a socially vulnerable population. • This could also be considered a preparedness activity, but should identify and emphasize reduction of vulnerabilities. • May be eligible for FEMA HMGP grant funding (i.e., a 5% project). • Churches and schools are key partners.
3. MULTI-HAZARD – Develop a mitigation and sheltering strategy for the County’s homeless.		0-3 years	Non-profits, perhaps with Public Health support	Largely a collaboratively supported initiative, but some grant funding may be available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • Targets a socially vulnerable population. • Increasing homelessness, which can fall through the cracks in rural areas. • Recommends special attention to this vulnerable population and available resources.
4. MULTI-HAZARD - Conduct a special workshop or outreach initiative that educates local communities on the relationships between local codes/code enforcement and potential hazard mitigation opportunities.		low support; as needed or 4+ years	WCWRPC and/or WI DSPS	May be eligible for FEMA HMGP grant funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • Minimal local familiarity with options; State rules limit some opportunities. • Could be a regional-level or web-based workshop series. • Should incorporate BCEGS; very low familiarity with this program.
5. MULTI-HAZARD – Promote regenerative agriculture and soil health best practices that can help reduce flash flooding and erosion while making cropland more resilient to drought as well as related crop insurance programs.		Ongoing activities	County Land Conservation, NRCS, Extension	Collaborative efforts with <u>many</u> different potential funding sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$-\$\$ • Supports continuing efforts; these best practices are typically promoted for water quality and economic reasons. • Can incorporate watershed-level planning and producer-led efforts.
6. HAZ MAT SPILLS - Continue to take action or consider alternatives to evaluate and prevent spill risks or reduce the impacts of potential hazardous materials spills.	Medium	As needed	Barron County Local Emergency Planning Cmte	No specific actions identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • Transportation-based spills on highways and by rail were a greater concern than fixed facilities. • The plan update Steering Committee felt that a commodity flow study based on placards was of limited value. • Though this is a relatively high priority, specific mitigation actions were not identified; the emphasis has largely been on facility planning, preparedness, and spill response.

2024 Plan Strategy Alternative	High Priority?	Timeframe	Lead Party(s)	Funding	Analysis
7. ACTIVE THREATS - Continue to conduct active shooter/active threat building assessment, training, and reunification planning for government facilities, area businesses, community lifeline facilities, and other gathering places. Encourage annual exercises at schools as part of their mandatory drills.	High	0-3 years; ongoing activities	Facility owner County Emgy Mgmt Law Enforcement	County Emgy Mgmt available to provide classes or exercises upon request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ (\$\$-\$\$\$; if security hardening) • Continuing, but greater regularity for some facilities recommended. • May reduce vulnerability through recommended security hardening or improved procedures. • Encourage sharing of after-action reports from exercises among law enforcement.
8. PANDEMIC/AG DISEASE – Encourage the State of Wisconsin and Federal government to conduct a regional event discussing Avian Flu threats, response procedures, and mitigation options.	Medium	As needed and opportunities allow	WI DATCP and/or USDA	Federally funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • Avian Flu is a significant threat to the County’s agricultural economy and is a zoonotic disease. • Outbreaks are largely handled by the State & Federal government; there is limited local government engagement on the issue, which leads to questions and uncertainty. • Include policies, procedures, and best practices related to bio-security, disease monitoring/reporting, quarantine, workforce practices, and proper disposal. • More insight into options to mitigate or prevent the spread would be valuable. • County Building Threat Team to determine need to disseminate information.
9. PANDEMIC - Encourage residents to report sick or dead animals for which the cause may be a disease (e.g., West Nile, Avian Flu) and related practices to prevent the exposure or spread of such diseases.		As needed; ongoing activity	County Public Health and partners	Uses existing staff or volunteer support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • Supports Public Health’s current activities and implementation of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plan • Special messaging may target farm workers (livestock), households with bird feeders, hunters, etc.
10. CYBERATTACK – Continue efforts to educate the public, businesses, and local governments on cybersecurity practices to reduce vulnerabilities. For organizations, including related resources and continuity planning (e.g., back-up, restoration).	High	0-3 years	Establish a special team? ADRC for seniors	Uses existing staff or volunteer support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ • ADRC provides related outreach to seniors (socially vulnerable population) via its newsletter. • Local ISPs may be good partners. • Promote availability of CISA and State Cyber Response team resources. • Perhaps a regional effort spearheaded by the West Central WI Broadband Alliance.

D. RECOMMENDED PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS

While this mitigation plan focuses on long-term solutions and preventative actions that will reduce disaster vulnerabilities (losses), it is only natural that potential preparedness strategies are also identified during the mitigation planning process. Preparedness (vs. mitigation) is focused more on shorter-term effects and responses, which can include:

- planning (e.g., emergency action plans, continuity plans, evacuation plans)
- monitoring, communication systems, & crisis communications
- training, drills, & exercises
- education & awareness programs
- emergency response/recovery tools, supplies, equipment, & resources

There is not a “bright line” between mitigation and preparedness, and preparedness activities can also help to save lives or mitigate losses. As such, the plan update Steering Committee determined that it was important to include the following recommended preparedness activities within this mitigation plan, which can serve as a guide for programming and integrated preparedness planning. However, since preparedness activities are not required to be included in a mitigation plan, additional implementation details are not provided for each; a variety of organizations and collaborative partnerships would have roles.

It is also very important to note that **the following list of preparedness strategies is not comprehensive and, generally, does not include current plans, programs, and initiatives.** These are potential recommendations in addition to existing County plans and programs, such as the County’s *Emergency Operations Plan* and the *Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plan* as well as the preparedness activities of many other public, private, and nonprofit partners.

Preparedness Strategy Alternatives	Priority
Planning	
1. Develop a continuity of government (CoG) plan for Barron County’s essential services and business functions. Identify what services/staff are essential during recovery and a long-term pandemic.	Medium-to-High
2. Conduct County-level planning and training/exercises for patient care during mass casualty incidents (e.g., pre-hospital care of patients impacted by a disaster). Address any specific gaps in triage, treatment, and patient movement.	High
3. Encourage local businesses and organizations to create preparedness and continuity of operations plans, including efforts to encourage employee preparedness at home.	Medium
4. Assess and inventory equipment, facilities, and critical resources needed to stabilize an emergency situation (e.g., Haz Mat spill, active shooter, tornado).	Very High
5. Explore opportunities to utilize GIS for post-disaster damage reporting. As needed, develop related procedures and conduct related training with County GIS staff.	Medium-to-Low
6. Continue to coordinate with the St. Croix Chippewa Band on emergency planning and hazard mitigation efforts, including the involvement of Tribal representatives and facilities in exercises. Maintain up-to-date mutual aid agreements is a recommendation in the Tribe’s hazard mitigation plan.	Medium

Communications	
1. Create pre-made templates and public messaging strategies for crisis communications by public information officer use.	Medium-to-High
2. Establish internal emergency notification for Emergency Management partners (e.g., EOC group, Major Incident Group).	Very High
3. Establish an emergency notification group among schools and educational institutions. May include the expanded use of the <i>I Am Responding</i> notification system.	Very High
3. NextGen-911 ("Text to 9-1-1") upgrade.	High
4. Identify and plan for a backup Dispatch Center.	Very High
5. Maintain and enhance mass notification systems (e.g., Code Red, I Am Responding).	High
6. Public safety radio upgrade to Simulcast.	Medium
7. Establish an approach for large-scale public information sharing (i.e., how will County, local responders, etc. provide non-emergency information to the general public?).	Medium-to-Low
8. Explore opportunities to strengthen communications and resource sharing with private-sector businesses during a disaster event, perhaps including a liaison within the County's EOC/ICS structure.	Medium
9. Provide technical or coordinating support to towns, camps, and lake groups that are interested in the installation of weather/emergency warning sirens. Explore grant opportunities.	Medium
Education & Outreach	
1. Increase CodeRed subscriptions.	High
2. Educate communities and partners on the availability of the CodeRed system for emergency notification and how to request use of this system. Establish related policies as necessary, including the role of County GIS staff.	High
3. Increase awareness of and participation in Wisconsin 211.	Medium
4. Continue or enhance educational efforts to the general public on severe weather warning systems, sirens, Code Red/related smart phone apps, safe room/storm shelter availability, where to access power outage information, and other preparedness actions. Conduct outreach in conjunction with Severe Weather Awareness Month, National Preparedness Month, and community events. During the winter, include education on winter-related risks and driver safety. Provide an "outreach kit" with materials for use by municipalities, schools, and major employers.	Very High
5. Working with major employers, schools, and communities, increase public awareness of emergency- or disaster-related volunteer needs (e.g., firefighters, EMS, Red Cross Disaster Action Team).	Medium
6. In collaboration with Extension, establish an educational outreach program focused hazard awareness, preparedness, and mitigation for the agricultural community.	Medium-to-Low
7. Encourage large employers to consider becoming a member of the Wisconsin Business Emergency Operations Center (WI BEOC).	Medium-to-Low
8. Conduct an educational initiative to increase the preparedness of campgrounds, RV parks, and resorts to severe weather and wildfire, including promoting use of weather radios, the identification of storm shelters/safe rooms, and making visitors aware of risks and warning systems.	High
9. Encourage households with persons having special needs that may be uniquely at risk during a power outage or disaster (e.g., oxygen, dialysis, seniors living alone) to develop an emergency contact plan. Encourage these households to sign-up for Code Red and to notify their electric provider.	Very High
10. Encourage municipalities to adopt road and driveway design standards with local fire department input.	Low
11. Barron County Emergency Management will continue to provide bi-annual presentation(s) to the Towns' Association on available resources and hazard event reporting and offer elected officials training every 2-4 years on NIMS/ICS, responsibilities, reporting, lessons learned, etc.	Medium

Training & Exercises	
1. Increase awareness of incident command system and public information officer training opportunities for local government officials and school districts, including the relationship of such training to local emergency plans.	Medium-to-High
2. Continue to provide training to cities, villages, and towns on emergency action planning, emergency declarations, and post-disaster procedures. Consider regular meetings (every 1-2 years) where municipalities can share lessons learned. Include education on volunteer management and existing plans for critical facilities as well as clarifying relationships with VOADs and other support agencies.	Medium
3. Conduct a robust long-term power outage tabletop covering key logistical and critical needs, such as road clean-up, mutual aid and lodging for ROPE crews, public messaging, impacts to communications systems, oxygen-dependent populations, shelter activation, and emergency fuel/generator availability. Prepare an after-action report with strategic priorities.	Very High
Patient Care, Mass Care, & Sheltering	
1. Update, maintain, and share emergency shelter lists, with available basic resources (e.g., power generators, cots, kitchen, AEDs) and operational information (e.g., availability limitations, responsibilities, contacts) for warming and cooling shelters. (see <i>related mitigation strategies</i>)	Medium-to-High
2. Update, maintain, and share emergency shelter lists, with available basic resources (e.g., power generators, cots, kitchen, AEDs) and operational information (e.g., availability limitations, responsibilities, contacts) for short-term and long-term shelters.	Medium-to-High
3. Engage in a discussion with school districts to explore opportunities for increasing the availability of social workers.	Medium-to-Low
4. Increase public awareness of the shortage of health care workers and related training/job opportunities.	Medium-to-Low
Other Threat-Specific Preparedness Actions	
1. Active Threats – Initiate a “see-something, say something” campaign that offers systems to report active threat concerns and increases public and private awareness and comfort in reporting such concerns.	High
2. Fuel Shortage - Assess needs, logistics, and supply chains regarding the availability of emergency fuel supply for essential services during regional fuel shortages. (see <i>related mitigation strategy</i>)	Medium-to-High
3. Power Outage - Assess needs, logistics, and supply chains regarding the availability of generators/alternative power supply for essential services during a long-term power outage. (see <i>related mitigation strategy</i>)	Medium-to-High
4. Wildfire - Barron County, municipalities, and fire departments in the Intensive Fire Protection areas should continue to advocate for and participate in WDNR wildland training exercises.	Medium
5. HazMat - Continue Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Emergency Preparedness training for fire departments, businesses, and other response agencies. Regularly rotate HazMat exercises and training throughout Barron County with a particular focus on those chemicals commonly transported by rail or highways or at fixed facilities within the local host community. Continue the practice of having EHS facilities give presentations on their hazardous materials, facilities, and plans at Fire Chiefs' meetings. Increase responder awareness of common agricultural chemicals.	High
6. HazMat - Work with local communities to increase public awareness of available "Clean Sweep" programs and other methods for the proper disposal of hazardous waste. Encourage State legislators to provide additional funding support for such programming. Work toward establishing a continuously available drop-off site.	Medium-to-Low
7. HazMat – Conduct community education on PFAs and water quality.	Medium

2023

Emergency Services 2023 Annual Report

Barron County Emergency Management



GRANT FUNDING RECEIVED

Emergency Management has applied and received the following grants this year:

\$64,599	FY22 Emergency Management Performance Grant Closeout (EMPG)
\$12,341	FY22 Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA) Grant
\$3,937	FY22 Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) Grant
\$7,517	FY22 Computer & Hazmat Response and Equipment (CHREG) Grant

Grant funding received (2023): \$88,394

GRANT FUNDING AWARDED

Emergency Management has applied and been awarded the following grants this year (pending receipt):

\$44,739	FY22 Emergency Management Performance Grant Closeout (EMPG)
\$12,954	FY22 Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA) Grant
\$7,234	FY22 Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) Grant

Grant funding awarded (2023): \$20,188

2023 FUNDING OVERVIEW

Totals from previous sections above:

\$81,821	Total Grant Funding Received
\$64,971	Total Grant Funding Awarded (awaiting receipt)
\$0.00	Total Response Reimbursement Received
\$0.00	Total Disaster Reimbursement Received

Grant funding throughout 2023: \$108,582

2023 GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION

To offset the cost of upgrading our radio network to a Simulcast System, Emergency Management has applied for a Non-State Grant in the amount of \$1,395,985. If awarded, the grant requires a 50% local match in the amount of \$697,992. Meaning that Barron County would pay \$697,992 and the grant would award the same amount. Grant results should be released within the next 60 days.

PREVIOUS INITIATIVES

OFF-SITE PLAN UPDATES

Emergency Off-Site Plans were updated for the 18 chemical facilities in Barron County. These plans play a crucial role in accordance with the provisions of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). They encompass vital information such as chemical identification, hazard exposure profiles, and release management practices. These comprehensive plans serve as a valuable resource for both facility personnel and local emergency responders in the event of a chemical spill or release.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN UPDATES

Municipal Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) for 31 townships, cities, and villages within the county have also been updated. These plans are designed to effectively guide local government and elected officials throughout the response and recovery phases of disasters and large-scale incidents that directly impact their respective communities. Once the municipal board updates their plan, a copy is kept at the municipal level and with Emergency Management so it can be referenced during disasters and large-scale incidents such as floods, windstorms, tornadoes, hazardous materials incidents, etc.

(continued on next page...)

Barron County Sheriff's Department – Office of Emergency Services

(continued from previous page...)

Barron County is also updating the county emergency operations plan, through a review and sign-off from multiple department heads and several external support agencies and organizations. Similar to emergency plans at the municipal level, the county plan identifies how disasters and large-scale incidents will be managed, resources that are available at the local, state, and federal level; and emergency contacts to support local operations.

This also includes the update and maintenance of the Barron County Strategic Plan. This plan consists of the county's vision, mission, values, and strategic outcomes that expand into goals and metrics for those outcomes. The plan basically serves as a community's roadmap and is used to prioritize initiatives, resources, goals, and department operations planned over the next 5 years.

Once the draft plan is created, it is provided to county administration and area stakeholders for input and overall approval. It is then incorporated into many day-to-day planning initiatives throughout the coming years.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS

Emergency Management participated in multiple community outreach projects in 2023, including:

- National Weather Service Annual Storm Spotter Training (open to Public) with approx. 80 in attendance
- Cumberland Police Dept - CPR/AED, First Aid Training
- Haugen School Safety Meeting with Site Walk-Through
- Attended Barron County Fair for 5 Days
- Attended all NW WI HERC Meetings
- Attended multiple Fire Department Business Meetings
- Attended National Night Out
- Tornado Planning with Chetek Clergy Association

- Survival Presentation with Pastor Cody Kargus at Cumberland High School
 - School Walk-Through and Survival Presentation

- Survival Presentation with Pastor Cody Kargus at Cameron High School
 - School Walk-Through and Survival Presentation



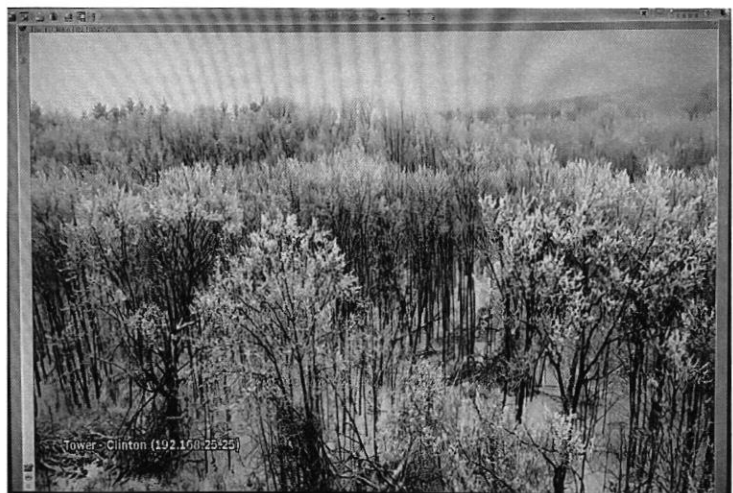
Kid's Safety Day sponsored by Mayo Hospital at Anderson Park

COMMUNICATIONS

Wireless cameras and weather stations were installed at the Clinton Radio Tower to enhance site security and provide situational awareness, specific to approaching severe weather, monitored in dispatch.

Mounted above the tree-line, the high-definition infrared camera allows 911 dispatchers to quickly adjust (pan/tilt/zoom) the positioning to view and assess current severe weather conditions and approaching storms.

Additional weather stations and cameras will be installed at other radio tower sites in Dallas, Turtle Lake, Cumberland, etc as crews climb the towers to install the new Simulcast network upgrade.



Clinton Tower Camera View

AED REPLACEMENTS

At the start of 2023, Barron County received notification that the existing stock of AEDs, specifically the HeartStart FR2 and FR2+, had reached end-of-life status, rendering them ineligible for repair, spare parts, or maintenance. Replacement became the only viable option. Our inventory revealed that Barron County had 35 FR2 and FR2+ AEDs that were considered end-of-life. After a prolonged backorder period, the new Zoll Plus AEDs arrived and replaced the FR2/+. Additional AEDs were procured to ensure that each patrol vehicle had an assigned AED for every shift. A strategic decision was also made to transition from HeartStart FR2/+ to Zoll Plus AEDs to align with local EMS compatibility. This transition eliminates the need for EMS to remove and replace the electrodes from the patient's chest upon arrival, as they can now seamlessly connect our electrodes to their heart monitors, thanks to the newfound compatibility with Zoll Plus AEDs.

TRAINING

In 2023, Barron County offered two training courses below that were open to the public. Department-specific training is identified elsewhere in this packet.

- Emergency Management partnered with UW-Wisconsin Madison Extension to host a Planning for Emergency Livestock Transport and Response (PELT-R) course on October 27 2023 in the EOC. This course was designed for responders who have the potential of responding to transportation crashes involving the release, injury, or entrapment of livestock/animals. Topics included: Animal handling, movement, and containment; biosecurity, extrication of animals from trailers, and euthanasia decision-making process. Approximately 15 responders attended the course.
- National Weather Service Annual Storm Spotter Training (open to Public) on April 5th in the Barron County Government Center Auditorium with approximately 80 people in attendance from Barron and surrounding counties.

The previous section outlined projects completed within the last 3 months.
The following section identifies initiatives in-progress over the next 3 months.

ACTIVE INITIATIVES

COMMUNICATIONS

- LUMEN (CENTURY LINK) to AT&T
- NEXT-GEN TEXT-TO-911 & ESI-NET

In 2019, the Barron County Sheriff's Department 911 Center operated an Airbus call handling system supported by CenturyLink. At the time, the Airbus phone system, including all workstations and backroom networking equipment had passed its end-of-life status and could no longer be repaired or replaced. Barron County applied for, and was awarded, a grant in the amount of \$127,015 from the Wisconsin Office of Emergency Communications, Department of Military Affairs to begin our upgrade toward NextGen911 compliance. This consisted of upgrading the Airbus Call Handling System to a Vesta Platform, which is NextGen911 compliant.

In October 2022, the 911 Center applied and was awarded a second grant from the WI Office of Emergency Communications, Department of Military Affairs in the amount of \$69,273. This project funding provided the interface, firewalls, and ORT testing that were needed to connect Barron County to the statewide NG911 ESINet/SMS system.

Throughout the remainder of 2024, Barron County will be installing the Phase 2 equipment provided by this grant. We will also complete an onsite state assessment to ensure we are prepared to begin the final Phase 3. Once signed-off for Phase 3, we will begin signing agreements with our area phone service providers to route NextGen911 information from the field into our 911 Center through text messaging. Which is also called "Text-to-911" service.

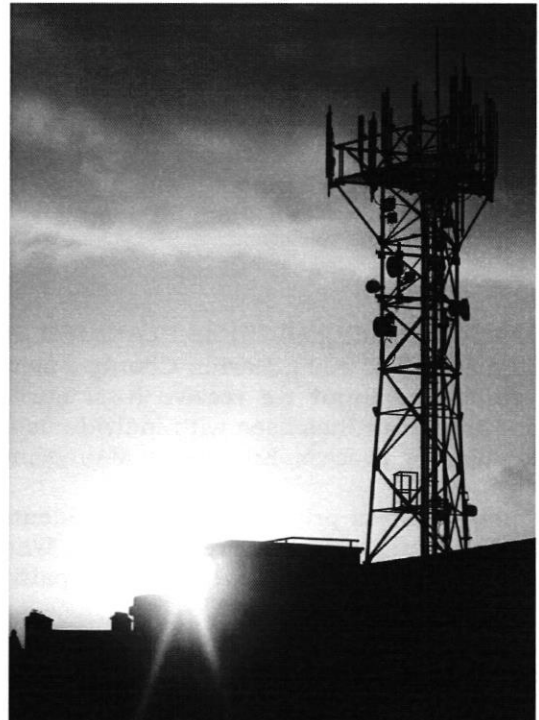
In 2023, Lumen (CenturyLink) announced that it will be pulling all operations out of Wisconsin and will not renew any of its annual agreements with 911 Centers. This left Barron County in a unique position as Lumen had already provided equipment bids that were used to secure future project funding through state grants.

Due to this abrupt change, Barron County has signed-on with AT&T as the new provider of 911 services. This also includes signing agreements with AT&T to replace Lumen as the provider partner of NextGen services. New service and equipment bids have been received and the project timeline has been re-established. Although the change in vendors created a setback, the project completion goal of July 2024 should still be met.

NextGen911 has a component named ESINet, which connects the Barron County 911 Center with the State of Wisconsin through hardware and software. ESINet is managed by AT&T and the current status of the project in the Dispatch Center is outlined below. This project is the equipment backbone that will allow the Barron County 911 Center to transition to Next-Gen 911 and receive text-to-911 calls.

The current project status is as follows:

- AVPN circuits are currently pending completion
- Motorola is waiting for a Project Manager to be assigned on the Motorola side of the initiative
- Site Survey was completed on January 10th (passed)
- AT&T Router Installation – pending the completion of the AVPN circuits
- The 1st GIS training was completed on January 8th 2024



Once the text-to-911 capability is installed later this year and fully operational, we will be looking ahead at "video-to-911" capability. This service has not been fully built-out in our industry so there's still some time and growth that needs to occur before this capability is available at the agency level.

EXERCISES

Emergency Management recently organized a tabletop simulation at the Barron County EOC involving staff from the Boy Scout (Camp Phillips) in Haugen. The simulated scenario revolved substantial windstorm causing a significant tree blowdown on the property, preventing responders from accessing injured campers. The participants included Camp Phillips Staff, Bear Lake/Haugen Fire, DNR/Fire Wardens, Rice Lake Fire, and Emergency Management staff.

Following the exercise, the collective decision was made to approach the Barron County Property Committee with a proposal to allocate a small section of Barron County Forest Trail (located on the south side of Camp Phillips, Map: C-10) for the Boy Scouts' use. Camp Phillips has committed to widening the trail to accommodate emergency vehicles and ensuring its continual maintenance for emergency vehicle ingress/egress. Emergency Management will be presenting this concept to the Barron County Property Committee for consideration in the near future.

RADIO MAINTENANCE

To maintain Barron County's extensive public safety radio network infrastructure, an annual maintenance agreement has been secured each year with a local communication vendor. Due to the high cost of this service, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was released for 2023, soliciting bids from our area communication vendors. "GenCom" from Eau Claire won the bid and will be providing annual maintenance for Barron County's public safety radio network from this point forward. This move saved several thousand dollars per year.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

The draft plan is complete and has been submitted to Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) for preliminary review to ensure consistency with FEMA mitigation planning requirements. All cities, villages, and participating public educational institutions have received their draft sub-plans with threat and capabilities assessments and mitigation recommendations specific to their community.

Once WEM has completed their review and any plan changes made, local adoption will begin. The Village of Almena, which is pursuing FEMA BRIC grant funding for a community safe room, may adopt sooner with the caveat that they will accept any technical plan changes in response to WEM's review. The grant amount is \$47,250 with \$36,000 from FEMA, and \$11,250 local match. Once the final plan is approved, it will be distributed to local stakeholders for adoption.

INTEGRATED PREPAREDNESS PLANNING (IPP)

Over the course of 2023, Barron County Emergency Management has been working on developing a strategic plan guided by input we receive from our stakeholders. Discussions of this plan, called an Integrated Preparedness Plan, has been with individuals and organizations throughout Barron County. At the conclusion of this planning process, Emergency Management will focus on these priorities over the next three years.

Once preparedness priorities have been identified by the county stakeholders, Emergency Management will conduct an "Integrated Preparedness Plan Workshop". During this workshop, the stakeholders will work with Emergency Management to formulate the path forward to address the top five priorities.

PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO UPGRADE (SIMULCAST)

JANUARY UPDATE

Barron County is in the process of upgrading its countywide radio network infrastructure by incorporating a Simulcast System, which has several benefits to the various responder agencies:

ORIGINAL INFORMATION

Barron County is in the process of upgrading its countywide radio network infrastructure by incorporating a Simulcast System, which has several benefits to the various response agencies:

For law enforcement in Barron County, there are 4 towers that use 4 different radio frequencies. A user needs to manually select the closest tower to hear dispatch. The sheriff's dept. overcame this by purchasing new portable radios with a "multicast scan" option. Not all radios have this capability and it is an additional cost for those that have capable radios.

A simulcast system would provide better coverage overall and we would be able to add lower power transmitters at sites such as Prairie Farm or Dallas that would improve coverage in the southwest corner of the county. The Sheriff's department radios have 4 zones that are used depending on the area of the county an officer is in. A simulcast would bring that number to 1.

For Fire/EMS, there are 8 different towers that share a common frequency. Users need to select the closest tower to effectively communicate with dispatch. This requires 8 different channels to be programmed in a user's radio. If there are multiple departments out in different parts of the county, it is common that users are not able to hear others on the channel in different parts of the county and users often talk on top of one another. With a simulcast system, ideally only 3 channels would need to be programmed. An example includes:

Channel 1: Dispatch outbound only. It is not uncommon that dispatch has to wait to page responders to an emergency because the channel is in use by responders that are onscene and coordinating other incidents. This outbound-only frequency would guarantee the dispatch always has a path to immediately page departments.

Channel 2: Normal day-to-day response coordination. This frequency would be used by all departments that are assigned to less-critical calls such as a car accident with minor injuries, a small outside fire, etc. These are the common low-level calls that can be stacked on one frequency.

Channel 3: Major incident coordination or pre-planned events. This frequency would be reserved for disasters and major incidents such as tornadoes, wind storms, multi-agency fires, mass casualty incidents, major hazmat, search & rescue, etc. These are the high-acuity incidents that involve multiple agencies requiring heavy coordination.

Most of our fire repeaters are several years past their end of life status and parts are no longer available for repair. Radio service providers have been keeping parts from equipment that is replaced to repair other equipment. Equipment should be replaced with modern equipment that has parts available and is capable of simulcast.

Barron County also often receives interference from Buffalo and Douglas County. Since the installation of Simulcast would require all radios in the county to be reprogrammed. This would be a good time to program our equipment to eliminate that interference.

Automated Hazmat Response Plan Jennie-O Turkey Store

Because of the close proximity of Jennie-O to Barron's City Center and the nature and quantity of chemicals present in the facility, Emergency Management collaborated with designated emergency response agencies to develop an automated emergency response strategy.

This preliminary plan aims to enhance the efficiency of response actions and advocate for an automated approach to initial response decision-making. The ongoing development of the plan is underway, and once the draft is finalized, it will be shared with stakeholders.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

A critical incident is an event or situation that poses a significant threat to life, health, property, or the environment, and requires immediate attention and response. Examples include tornadoes, windstorms, chemical leaks/spills, severe weather, active shooter, facility evacuations, etc. Being notified when a critical incident occurs, even if it doesn't directly impact you, can have several benefits:

Information Flow: In times of crisis, accurate information is crucial. Being notified allows you to access reliable information from official sources, reducing the spread of misinformation and ensuring that you make well-informed decisions.

Community Awareness: Critical incidents often have community-wide implications. Being informed allows you to stay aware of events that might affect your local area or the broader community.

Preparedness: Knowledge of critical incidents enables individuals to be better prepared for potential consequences. This could include taking preventive measures, having emergency supplies on hand, or knowing evacuation routes in case the situation escalates.

Psychological Preparedness: Knowing about critical incidents in advance helps individuals mentally prepare for potential disruptions. This psychological preparedness can reduce stress and anxiety during uncertain times.

In order to enhance situational awareness, the emergency management team is actively developing a Critical Incident notification group within the IamResponding platform. This group is envisioned to include designated local government officials and community stakeholders who recognize that incident notification serves the purpose of keeping individuals informed about critical incidents rather than solely indicating the need for evacuation. The aim is to provide situational awareness and facilitate emergency planning. As this initiative progresses, the team will reach out to the specified personnel identified to be included in the contact list.

School Administration: This notification is being designed for selected administrative personnel within each school. This alert will include all schools so that wide area notifications can be made quickly. For example; if an active threat is occurring at one school, an alert can be sent to this group, which would notify all schools in Barron County of what is occurring so they can initiate an immediate lockdown.

EOC Activation Alert: This notification will be assigned to personnel specifically responsible for staffing and operating the Barron County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during an emergency incident. This would save time over using a call-down tree and would provide everyone on the team with the same information at the same time.

Major Incident Alert: This notification will be reserved for specific individuals that will benefit from having a heads-up that a disaster or major incident is imminent or actively occurring. Recipients would include administration, transportation, highway, public health, certain department heads, and others. This would be a "heads-up" notification only and would not warrant a physical response unless indicated.

Additional lists may be created in the near future as needs are identified.

Critical Incident Group in IaR to inform Barron County School Administration of critical events

Like the previously discussed idea, this category would include Barron County School Administrators, Principals, and other staff members designated by the school as essential to the mission. The objective of creating this notification group is to promptly inform all schools in Barron County when one of them faces an active threat. This notification allows other facilities to initiate lockdown procedures until the situation is under control and there are no further threats to the community. This notification group has already been created and is fully functional at this time.

COUNTYWIDE FIRST RESPONDERS

Emergency Services of Barron County (ESBC) currently rosters 8 personnel to provide administrative, planning, and logistical support. The first responder roster currently consist of 35 countywide first responders equipped with a fully-stocked response gear bag with medications such as Albuterol, Narcan, Epinephrine, and Glucose. Responders are also provided with liability insurance and workers compensation coverage. The Rescue Task Force (RTF) Team consists of an additional 24 trained members with separate response gear.

Mutual Aid Agreements have also been signed with Rusk County and agreements are in discussions with Polk County. In 2024, there will be a focus on training, gear & supplies, and increasing the number of team member responses. To continue team growth, 5 more first responders will be added to the countywide roster in February.

The ESBC Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/ESBarronCounty) has 5,900 followers and the website (www.EmergencyServicesBC.org) has been viewed by 18,467 visitors.



RESCUE TASK FORCE (RTF)

In May 2019, a Committee was formed to facilitate the creation of a Rescue Task Force (RTF) Team under the Medical Branch of Emergency Services of Barron County (ESBC).

This team is responsible for responding into the warm zone of active shooter incidents (under the protection of law enforcement officers) to extract injured patients and relocate them to an interior Casualty Collection Point (CCP). Firefighters then meet the patients at the CCP entrance and relocate them to an awaiting medical triage area outside of the facility. The nationwide RTF Initiative has proven to be the most effective method of saving the lives of patients with gunshot wounds.



The nationwide RTF Initiative has proven to be the most effective method of saving the lives of patients with gunshot wounds.

The Rescue Task Force (RTF) team currently consists of approximately 30 volunteers from Barron County Fire Departments that have completed First Aid, CPR, and the Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) Course, which was provided to all members. For physical protection, RTF members are escorted by armed law enforcement officers anytime they are operating in a hazardous environment. Additionally, the team has invested in ballistic gear bags which contain bulletproof vests, ballistic helmets, patient evacuation equipment, and medical supplies. These gear bags are staged throughout Barron County to they can be brought to the incident by various responders instead of relying on a selected few. Additional gear bags will be purchased over the coming years as funds become available.

The next step is training, as the department will be scheduling hands-on training sessions with municipal police departments so team members can become familiar with each other. Additional information will be published as the team is further developed.

MISSING PERSON SEARCH TEAM

To supplement local response efforts in locating missing persons, Emergency Services of Barron County (ESBC) is planning to expand its operational capability to include a Search & Rescue (S&R) Branch. Participation on this team will be open to current Barron County responders only. There will not be a membership capacity, however applicants will be required to pass a background investigation before formally being accepted onto the team.

This type of team will provide many response benefits including a full planning group and highly-trained search members. Once initial training has been completed, specialty teams will be created; such as a snowmobile search group, ATV/UTV search group,



Drone search group, and ground search personnel. These groups will be designed for rapid deployment and will be provided with training such as basic & advanced search techniques, missing person actions & expectations, wilderness rescue, and medical training. Each year, members will also complete 4 hours of continuing education and participate in an annual full scale exercise.

Once established, the team will serve as a regional response resource for surrounding counties upon request. Additional information on this group will also be released as the team is assembled.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Farmedic – With agriculture being one of the most dangerous industries in America, significant injuries and deaths occur to farmers, family members, and rescue personnel each year. These types of emergencies require specialized knowledge of farm machinery, chemicals, and specific rescue techniques. The National Farmedic Program allows responders to participate in hands-on field training involving tractor rollovers, PTO entanglements, pesticide exposures, common farming chemicals, silo fires, and dealing with livestock. A training flyer will be published when training dates are confirmed.



First On The Scene

(this training is geared toward the general public) Considering the hazards surrounding the farming industry, traumatic injuries occur on a frequent basis. In these types of incidents, critical decisions and actions need to be made and implemented in a logical order. If not, risk of further injury or death to the victim is increased.

“First On The Scene” is a program that teaches farm family members, farm employees and the general community how to make important decisions at the scene of a farm emergency prior to the arrival of emergency responders.

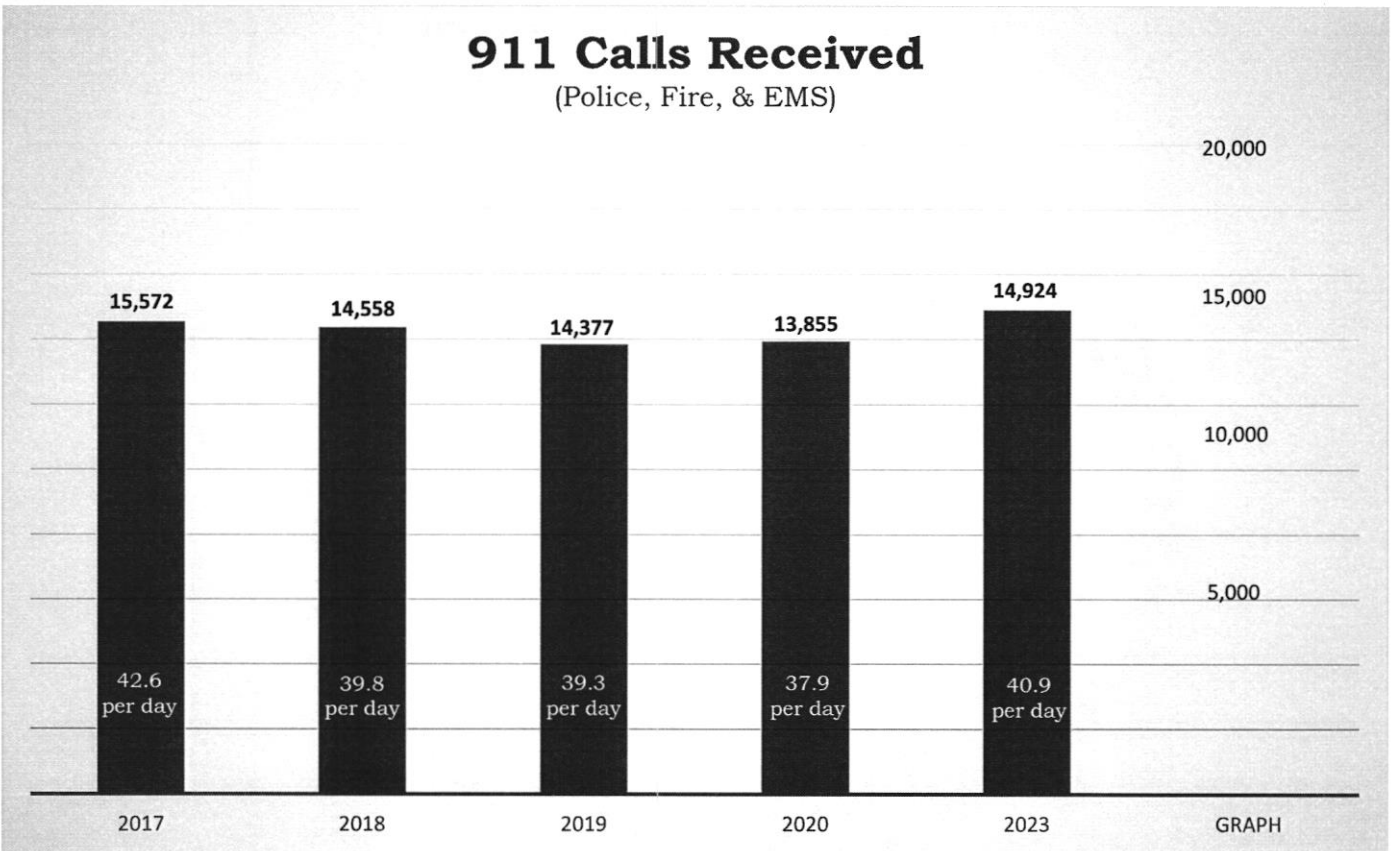
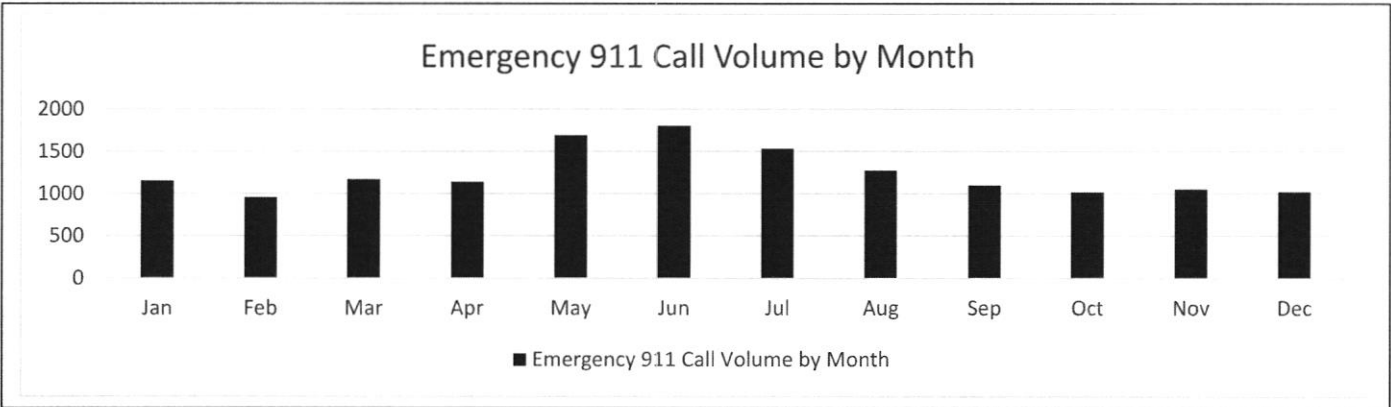
The program is designed to lead participants through various scenarios that will force them to think about typical injury incidents and make proper decisions and reactions. Topics include tractor overturns, machinery entanglements, grain bin emergencies, silo emergencies, chemical emergencies, and electrical emergencies.

The training is intended for all farm groups such as farm managers, employees, spouses, 4-H and FFA groups, etc. Participation as a family or as a farm work group is encouraged. A training flyer will be published when training dates are confirmed.

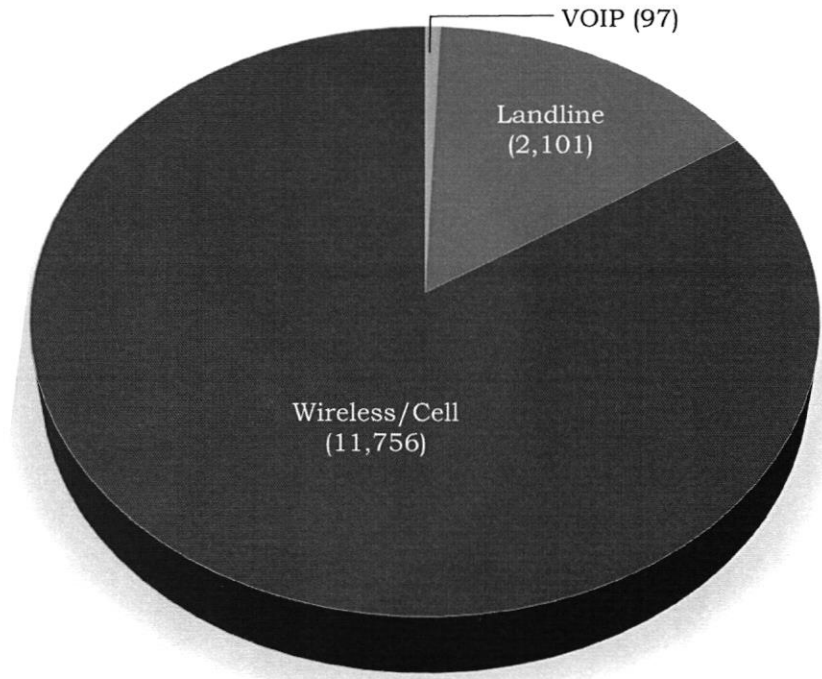
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ANNUAL STATISTICS

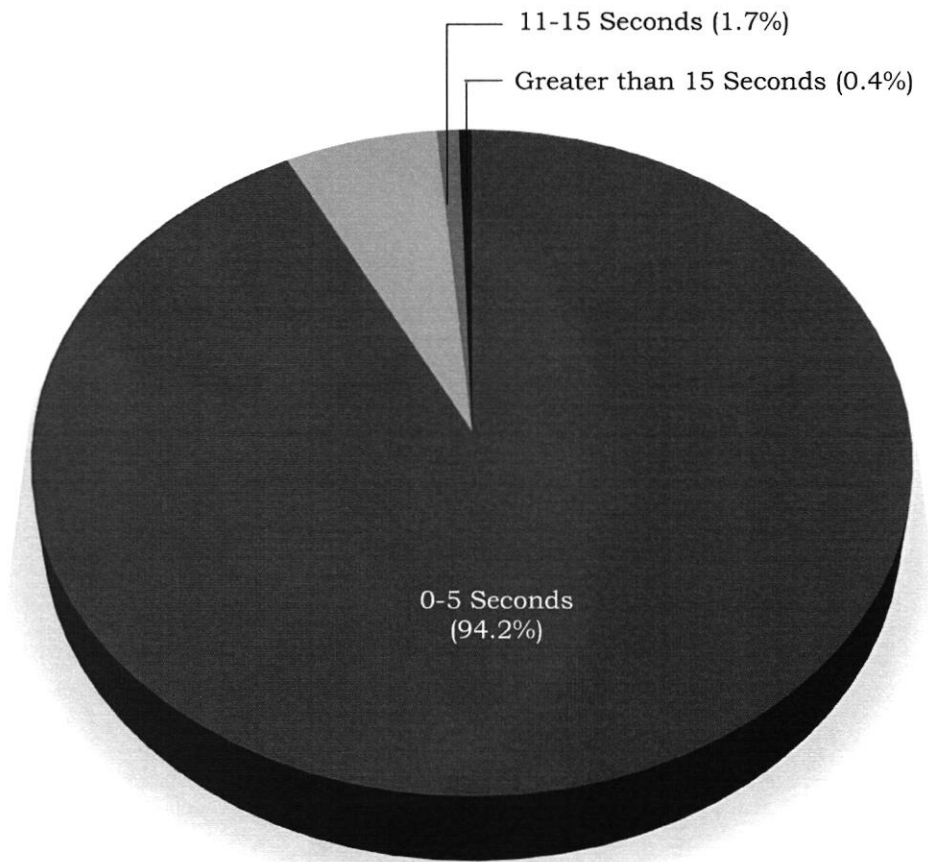
Total Number of CADs Created	38,511
Total Number of Inbound Phone Calls Received	52,147 (14,924 Emergency Calls) (37,223 Non-Emergency Calls)
Total Number of Outbound Phone Calls made from the 911 Center	16,641



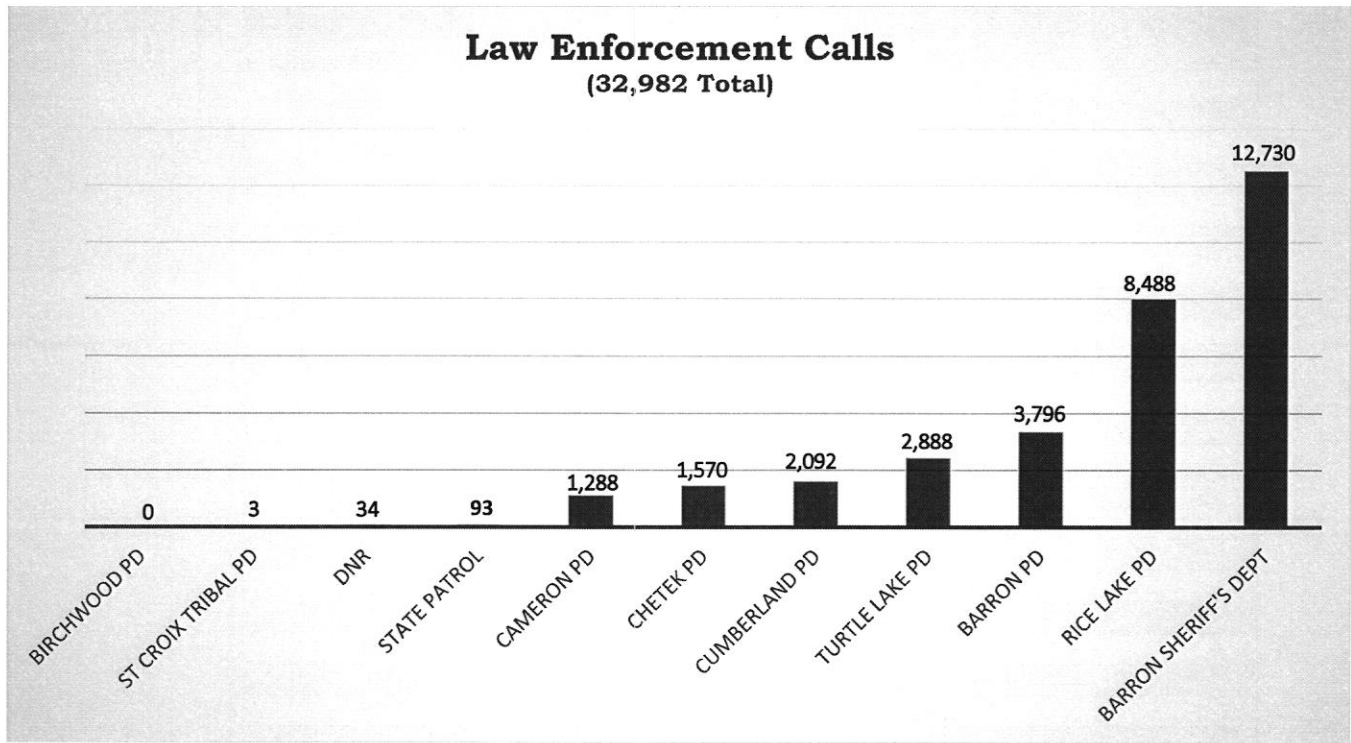
Total Number of Inbound 911 Phone Calls into the 911 Center: **13,954**



Average 911 Ring-To-Answer Time (3 Seconds or less)



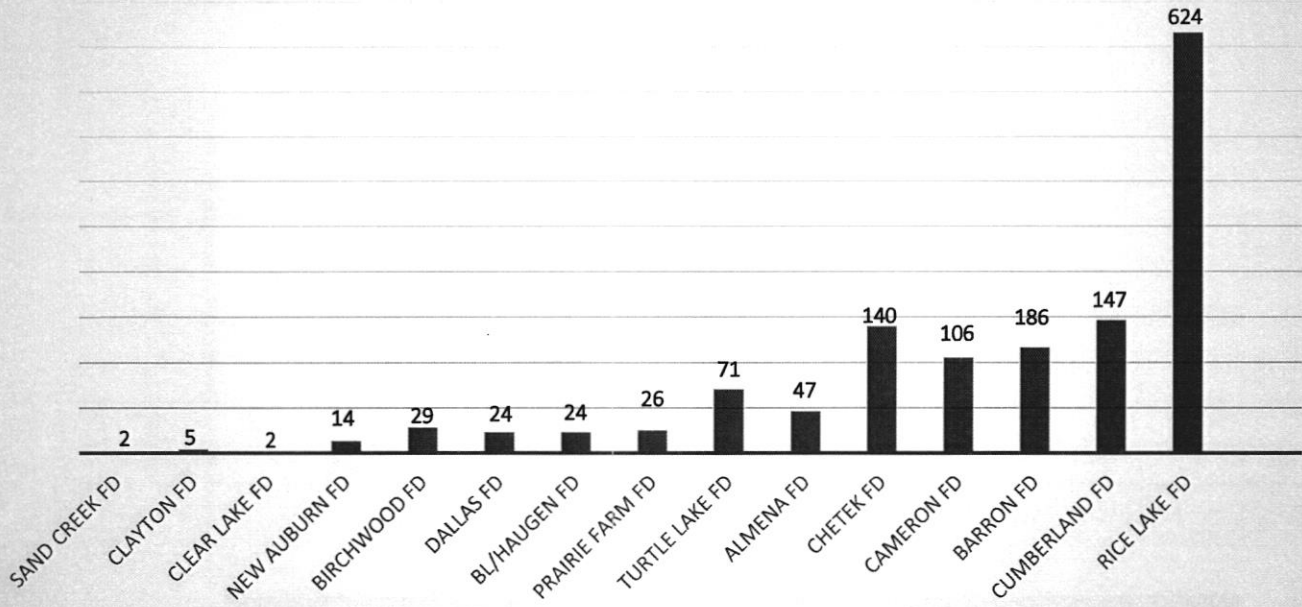
Law Enforcement Calls (32,982 Total)



LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS	
Traffic Stop	7236
911 Hang-Up	2892
Suspicious/Wanted Psn,Veh,Cir	1357
911 Misdial	1262
Traffic Complaint	1210
Motorist Assist	1012
Call for Service	959
MVA Non-Injury	942
Dog Case	883
Welfare Check	757
Disorderly Conduct	740
Paper Service	558
Lockout	473
Information	448
MVA Auto vs Animal	434
911 Non-Emergency	428
Traffic Hazard	420
Theft Complaint	393
Animal Complaint	363
Warrant	355
Mental Disorder / Behavior	343
Harassment/Stalking/Threat	324
Drug Complaint	304
Commercial Burglary Alarm	301
Transport	286
Damage / Vandalism	282
OWI	246
Attempt to Locate	243
Domestic Disturbance	241
Lost and Found	222
Fraud/Deception	220

LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS (Continued)	
Traffic Stop Rec	158
Civil Complaint	152
Noise Complaint	152
Residential Burglary Alarm	140
Protection Papers	138
DNR Complaint	134
Hit and Run	128
Missing Person	127
Shoplifting	125
Stolen Vehicle	125
Gas Drive Off	122
Livestock on Highway	108
Intoxicated Person	106
Property Dispute/Exchange	104
Suicidal Person	104
Ordinance Violation	98
Burglary/Home Invasion	85
Sexual Assault	73
Extra Patrol	70
Fight in Progress	58
Fireworks Complaint	58
Open Door	56
Repossession	55
Assault/Battery	53
Road Blocked	53
Littering	50
Search Warrant	50
Abuse/Abandonment/Neglect	47
ATV/Boat/Snowmobile Complaint	46
Barking Dog	42
Duress Alarm	41
Animal Bite/Attack	41
Gunshots Complaint	35
Underage Drinking	33
Outside Fire	32
Funeral Assist	29
Landlord/Tenant Dispute	27
Runaway/Found Person	26
Unknown Problem	26
Worthless Check	25
Utility Complaint	24
Man with a Gun	23
Paper Service	22
Probation	21
Indecency	16
Recovery of Stolen Property	15
Chase / Pursuit	14
K9 Assist	12
Suspicious Package	11
Severe Weather Alert	8
MVA Auto vs Pedestrian	6
Robbery / Car Jacking	3
Abduction / Kidnapping	2
ERT Callouts	5

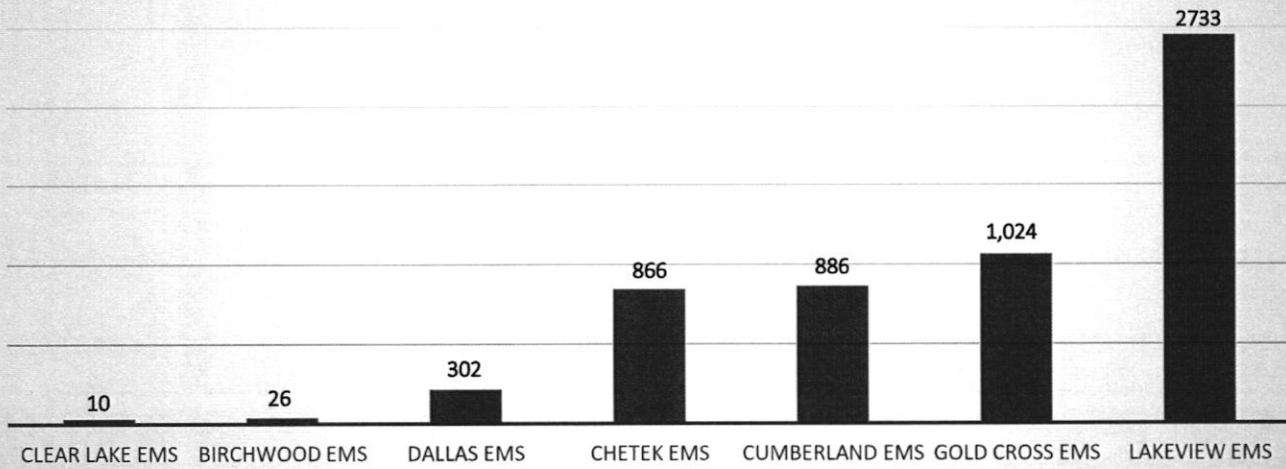
Fire Department Calls (3,319 Total)



FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS	
Commercial Fire Alarm	150
Outside Fire	59
Residential Fire Alarm	57
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	46
Staffing Page	45
Odor Investigation	41
Gas Leak	24
Grass/Brush Fire	16
Electrical Hazard	13
Call for Service	12
Structure Fire	10
Road Blocked	9
Smoke Investigation Outside	9
Public Assist	8
Passenger Vehicle Fire	5
Man with a Gun	5
Public Assist	3
Search Warrant	3
Utility Complaint	3
Controlled Burn	2
Commercial Vehicle Fire	2
Elevator Rescue	2
Unknown Problem	2
Duress Alarm	1
Assist Other Agency	1
ATV/Boat/Snowmobile Complaint	1
Chase/Pursuit	1

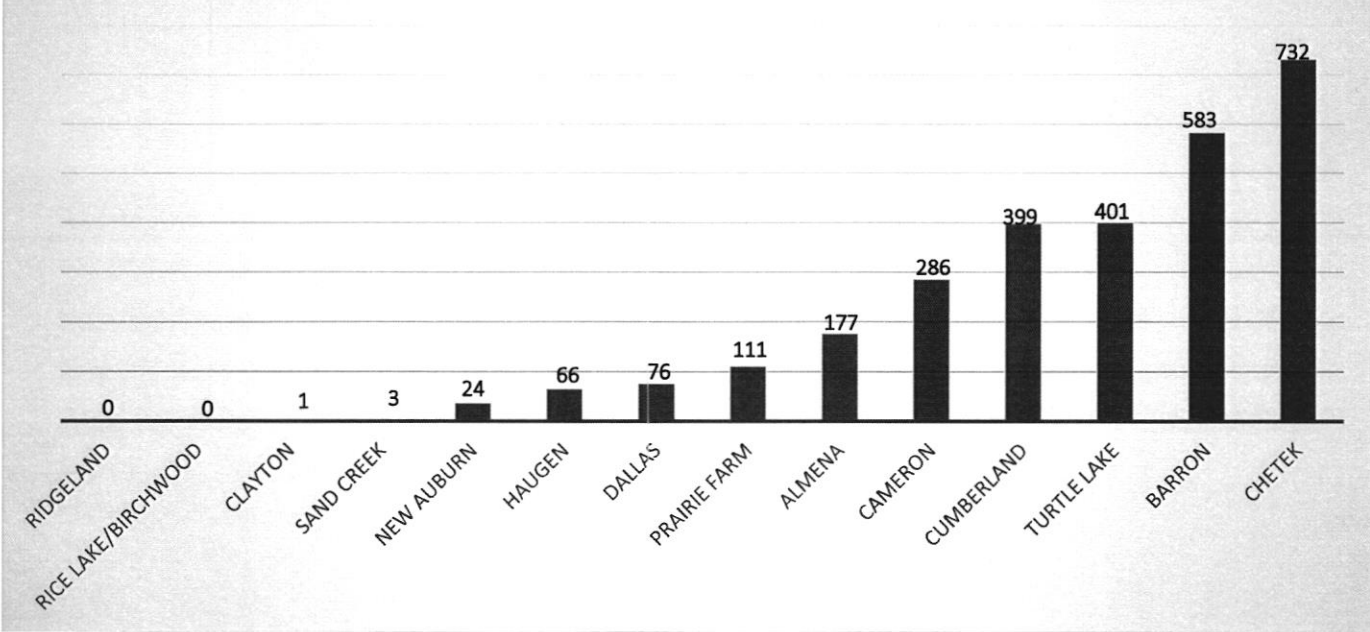
Statistics do not include mutual aid requests

EMS Calls (5,544 Total)



EMS STATISTICS	
Sick Person	1176
Fall	964
Breathing Problems	431
Chest Pain	218
Medical Alarm	144
Unconscious/Fainting	132
Seizures	107
Abdominal Pain	106
Unknown Problem	92
Hemorrhage	89
Stroke	86
Diabetic	85
Heart Problems	74
Back Pain	63
Traumatic Injuries	42
Allergies/Envenomations	33
MVA with Injuries	18
Call for Service	10
Pregnancy/Childbirth	9
Headache	8
Non-Emergency	6
Overdose Poisoning	6
Choking	5
Test Call	5
Structure Fire	4
Intoxicated Person	4
Mental Disorder / Behavior	4
Public Assist	3
Transfer/Interfacility (EMS)	3
MVA Boat/ATV/Snow/UTV	3
Psychiatric / Abnml Behavior	3
Burns	2
Cardiac Arrest	2
Outside Fire	2
Suicidal Person	2
Transport	2

First Responder Calls (2,840 Total)



FIRST RESPONDER STATISTICS

Sand Creek	3
Clayton	1
New Auburn	37
Dallas	24
Bear Lake/Haugen	96
Prairie Farm	129
Almena	244
Rice Lake/Birchwood	0
Cameron	282
Turtle Lake	401
Cumberland	399
Chetek	610
Barron	602
Ridgeland	0

END OF REPORT



Mike Judy, Director of Emergency Services
Barron County Sheriff's Department
Michael.Judy@co.barron.wi.us