

BARRON COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.
BARRON COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER (EOC)
1420 State Hwy 25 North, Barron, WI, 54812

AGENDA

- 1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER
- 2) PUBLIC NOTIFICATION*
- 3) PUBLIC COMMENT
- 4) APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (Jan 25 2024)
- 5) SPILL REVIEWS
- 6) RESPONSE REIMBURSEMENTS
- 7) HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE
- 8) MAYO HVA (Melissa Miller)
- 9) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT
- 10) LEPC MEMBER UPDATES
- 11) COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS
- 12) NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, JULY 25TH IN THE EOC AT 0900 HRS
- 13) ADJORNMENT

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

*I, _____, have complied with open meeting Public Notification Laws. Meeting notices are posted on the electronic meeting notice boards on the first and second floor of the Government Center and the main floor of the Justice Center. A hard copy is in the Public Meeting folder just inside the County Clerk's office window and I have verified the proper posting of the meeting as specified in the notice.

Any person who has a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible format, must contact the County Clerk's office at 715-537-6200 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so that arrangements may be made to accommodate your request.

PC: County Administrator, County Board Chair, Sheriff, Chief Deputy, Emergency Services Director, Highway Commissioner, Public Health Officer, Conservationist/Technician, Medical Examiner, Dispatch Lead, Public Health Specialist, Emergency Management Office Specialist, Webmaster, Four Public Postings



Michael Judy <michael.judy@co.barron.wi.us>

WI SPILL #20135 ID 20240213NO03-1 - MILK PRODUCTS [DAIRY PRODUCTS]

1 message

dnrlehotline@wisconsin.gov <dnrlehotline@wisconsin.gov>
To: michael.judy@co.barron.wi.us

Tue, Feb 13, 2024 at 11:13 AM

SERTS ID:
20240213NO03-1

Reported:
02/13/2024 10:51

Occurred:
02/13/2024 03:00

Substance:
MILK PRODUCTS [DAIRY PRODUCTS]
Released Amt: 150 Gal
Recovered Amt: UNKNOWN
(AMOUNTS ARE OFTEN ESTIMATED)

Reported by:
SHAWN GILBERT
PLANT MGR
SAPUTO USA
shawn.gilbert@saputo.com
(715) 214-1111

Location:
NO REGION
BARRON COUNTY
ALMENA, VILLAGE OF
CHEESE MANUFACTURING FACILITY
1052 6TH ST ALMENA WI 54805

Responsible Party:
SAPUTO USA
1052 6TH ST ALMENA WI 54805
ALMENA, WI
(715) 214-1111

Cause:
EQUIPMENT FAILURE

Cause Description:
POWER WENT OUT IN A BREAKER STATION WHICH ALLOWED WASTE MATERIAL TO RELEASE TO A STORM WATER CREEK THAT LEADS TO A RETENTIONS POND

Environmental Impact:
SOME A STORM CREEK AND THEN IT FROZE. NOTHING MADE IT TO THE POND.

Weather:
COLD

Cleanup:
EXCAVATING FROZEN MATERIAL FROM THE CREEK. CLEAN UP IS UNDERWAY.

Notified CALLED AND S/W JEFF PADDOCK by Phone



Michael Judy <michael.judy@co.barron.wi.us>

WI SPILL #20285 ID 20240329NO03-1 - FOOD WASTEWATER [FOOD PRODUCT]

1 message

jeffrey.paddock@wisconsin.gov <jeffrey.paddock@wisconsin.gov>

Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 4:03 PM

To: michael.judy@co.barron.wi.us

***** INJURY *****

SERTS ID:
20240329NO03-1

Reported:
03/29/2024 13:30

Occurred:
03/29/2024 13:00

Substance:
FOOD WASTEWATER [FOOD PRODUCT]
Released Amt: 4500 Gal
Recovered Amt: UNKNOWN
(AMOUNTS ARE OFTEN ESTIMATED)

Reported by:
JEFFREY PADDOCK
NOR SPILL COORDINATOR
DNR
jeffrey.paddock@wisconsin.gov
(715) 828-8544

Location:
NO REGION
BARRON COUNTY
ALMENA, TOWNSHIP OF
HIGHWAY 8
HIGHWAY 8 & 4TH AVENUE
SIDE OF HIGHWAY
LAT: 45.409822 LONG: -92.07296

Responsible Party:
NORTHERN LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT
5510 1/2
C;LAYTON, WI
(715) 357-3066

RP Contact:
TIM PEASTER
OWNER
(715) 641-0197

Cause:
TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENT, LOAD SPILL

Cause Description:
SEMI TANKER WENT INTO DITCH AND RELEASED WW. WAS BEING TRANSFERRED FROM VIRESKO TO RICE LAKE TREATMENT PLANT. WATER INFILTRATED INTO GROUND, SURFACE WATER BODY NEARBY, WATER DID NOT REACH SURFACE WATER.

Environmental Impact:

WW SAMPLES WERE GENERALLY TOTAL PHOSPHOROUS 210PPM, CHLORIDE 1000PPM, TSS 200 PPM, AND TKN 40-50 PPM. WILL GET UP TO DATE RESULTS FROM BARRY FROM VIRESKO.

Injuries:
1 PERSON(S)
DRIVER

Weather:
SUNNY

Cleanup:
CLEAN-UP PROGRESS UNKNOWN OR CLEAN-UP NOT STARTED.

Submitted by:
JEFFREY PADDOCK
(715) 828-8544
jeffrey.paddock@wisconsin.gov

Sent to:
aleshia_kenney@fws.gov
amanda.koch@dhs.wisconsin.gov
anita.smith@wisconsin.gov
bart.sponseller@wisconsin.gov
bbyrne@glifwc.org
bradleya.johnson@wisconsin.gov
brownfields@badriver-nsn.gov
carl.stenbol@widma.gov
caroline.rice@wisconsin.gov
christine.haag@wisconsin.gov
christopher.saari@wisconsin.gov
claire.oconnell@wisconsin.gov
cliffordb@stcroixojibwe-nsn.gov
codyw.heinze@wisconsin.gov
connor.mulcahy@wisconsin.gov
curtis.hedman@dhs.wisconsin.gov
danielle.wincentzen@wisconsin.gov
david.neste@wisconsin.gov
dee.allen@ldftribe.com
dmawemdutyofficer@wisconsin.gov
dmawhoprs@widma.gov
dnrledo@wisconsin.gov
dnrlehotline@wisconsin.gov
echapman@ldftribe.com
eric.struck@wisconsin.gov
falon.french@wisconsin.gov
grieve.malcolm@epa.gov
issac.ross@wisconsin.gov
james.williams@widma.gov
jane.pfeiffer@wisconsin.gov
jayson.schrank@wisconsin.gov
jeffrey.paddock@wisconsin.gov
john.sager@wisconsin.gov
john_nelson@ios.doi.gov
josie.hanrahan@wisconsin.gov
khanson@ldftribe.com
kondreck.robert@epa.gov
ldfthpo@ldftribe.com
linda.nguyen@redcliff-nsn.gov
luke.reuteman@wisconsin.gov
maizie.reif@wisconsin.gov
margaret.thelen@wisconsin.gov
matthewa.thompson@wisconsin.gov
michael.judy@co.barron.wi.us
natashak.gwidt@wisconsin.gov

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.

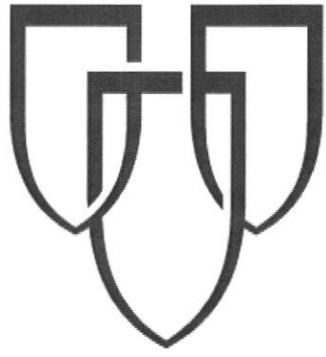
Future Agenda Items:

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.



MAYO CLINIC

HEALTH SYSTEM

Northland

*Hazard
Vulnerability
Analysis*

February 20, 2024

2024 HAZARD VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS SUMMARY

NWWI MCHS Northland

Mayo Clinic Health System (MCHS) in Barron, MCHS-Northland Environmental Safety Committee members gathered in the beginning of 2024 to review internal and external hazards that would have an impact on the Northland Campuses. The Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) was finished, and the committee feels confident that a thorough assessment was completed. This group extensively reviewed the possible event that could impact MCHS-Northland sites and will continue to review all hazards and update the HVA as situations arise.

The scoring system weighs the probability against the impact and what mitigation has been done to lessen the impact. Each site was scored separately. The scoring is based on past and as well as current events that have or could happen and assumes each event occurs at the worst possible time.

The Hazard Vulnerability Analysis provides a systematic approach to recognizing and discussing events that could impact the hospital and outpatient services which may need to be curtailed until the emergency is over. The HVA also serves as a need assessment tool for the Emergency Management program to determine what areas need to be exercised or what addition preparedness work is needed. The Joint Commission uses the HVA top score to evaluate how MCHS-Northland prepares and exercises these top events. The information from this HVA is also shared with Barron County Public Health, Barron County Emergency Management, and other local hospital facilities to help with county wide emergency preparedness.

The scoring looks at the 3 categories/types of events and breaks them down into type based on the inputs from the committee in accordance with the tool. The following categories are:

- Natural Events – Weather related or Public Health event.
- Technological Events – Facility or Information/Communication Systems
- Human Events – An event that is created/driven by a person action.

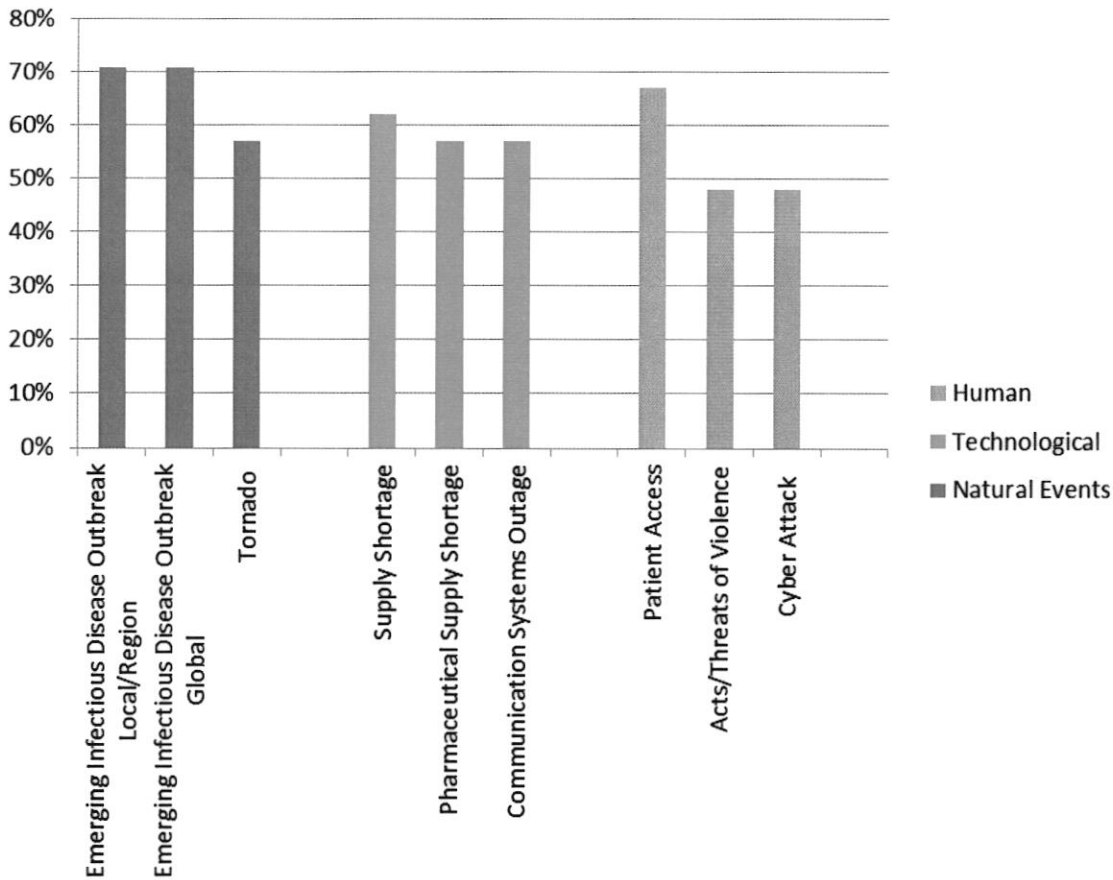
Each category has a variety of events that are scored based on the likelihood of that event happening, as well as how prepared we are to handle this type of event.

Top 3 Events for Northland (Barron Campus)

Barron		Natural Events	Technological	Human
Natural Events	Emerging Infectious Disease Outbreak Local/Region	71%		
	Emerging Infectious Disease Outbreak Global	71%		
	Tornado	57%		
Technological	Supply Shortage		62%	
	Pharmaceutical Supply Shortage		57%	
	Communication Systems Outage		57%	
Human	Patient Access			67%
	Acts/Threats of Violence			48%
	Cyber Attack			48%

The chart below represents the top 3 events for each hazard category for the Barron Campus.

Barron

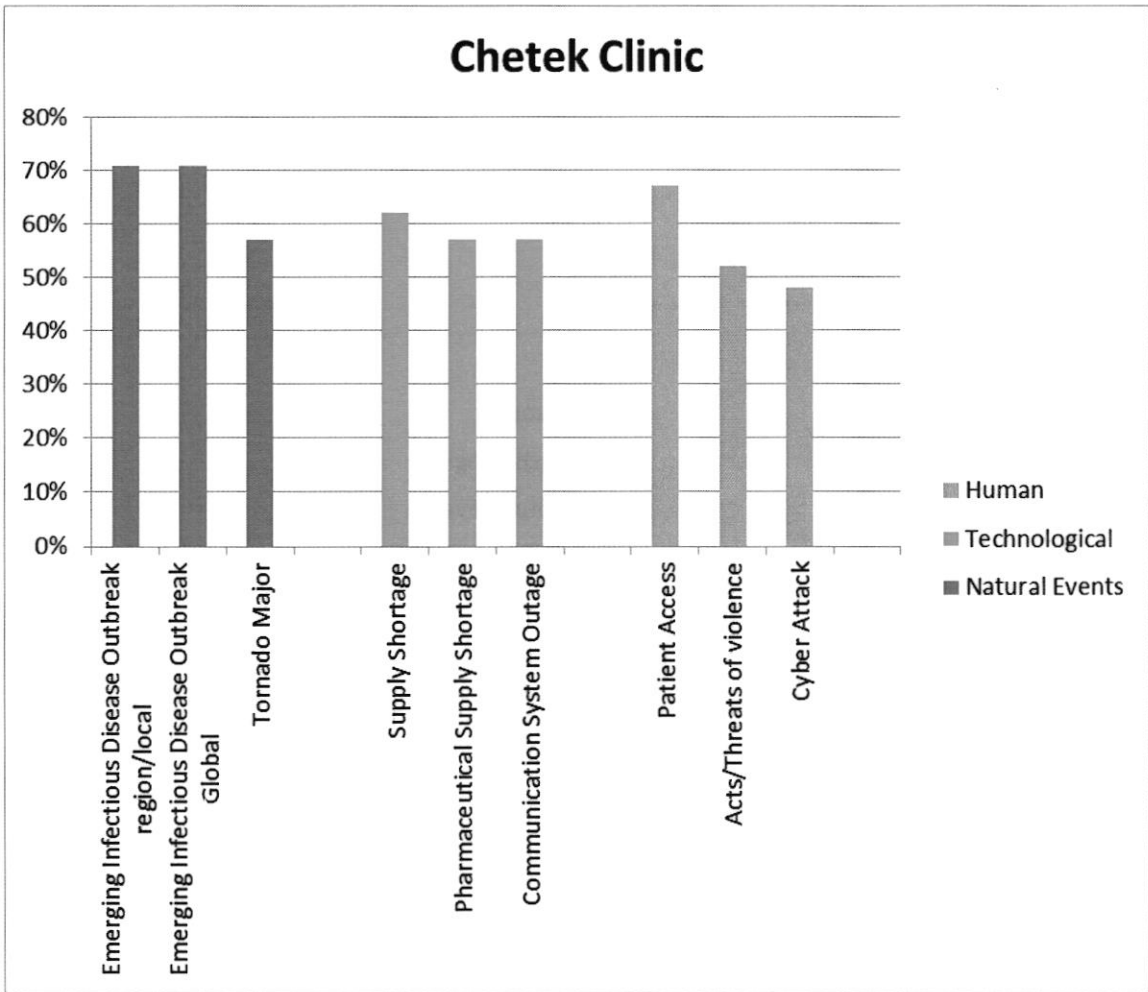


Acts or Threats of Violence continues to be a vulnerable risk for Northland locations. This risk has been a high priority for Mayo Clinic’s Global Security department. Several staff have taken De-escalation training both online and face-to-face. We will continue to work on Acts or Threats of Violence through subcommittees and work groups to mitigate the risks. Workplace violence issues are still on the rise even though efforts are being made to reduce the number of incidents; we are also trying to educate staff the importance of reporting incidents. Natural disasters are weather based, and we can’t control it. Barron County is a relative “hotspot” for tornadoes; only five other counties in Wisconsin experienced more tornadoes between 1950 and 2005. Prior to the May 2017 tornado, the last time a tornado resulted in a death in the County was likely in April 1929 when six residents were killed. It is expected that a tornado will continue to be reported for Barron County once every 1.5 years. We continue with staff awareness. These events will be reviewed and tested during tabletop and functional exercises in 2023.

Our Chetek and Rice Lake clinics have completed HVAs.

Chetek Clinic

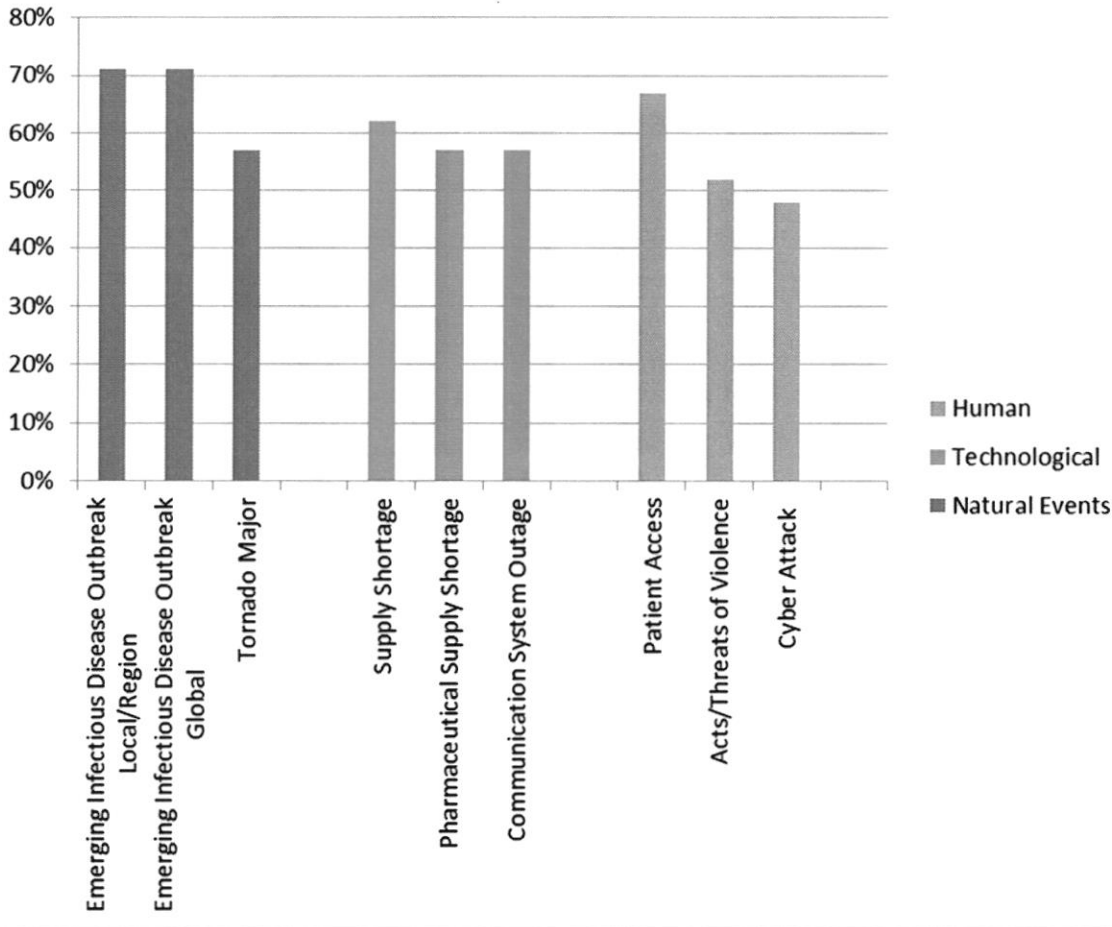
		Natural Events	Technological	Human
Chetek	Natural Events	Emerging Infectious Disease Outbreak region/local		
		Emerging Infectious Disease Outbreak Global		
		Tornado Major		
Technological			62%	
			57%	
			57%	
Human				67%
				52%



Rice Lake Clinic

Rice Lake		Natural Events	Technological	Human
Natural Events	Emerging Infectious Disease Outbreak Local/Region	71%		
	Emerging Infectious Disease Outbreak Global	71%		
	Tornado Major	57%		
Technological	Supply Shortage		62%	
	Pharmaceutical Supply Shortage		57%	
	Communication System Outage		57%	
Human	Patient Access			67%
	Acts/Threats of Violence			52%
	Cyber Attack			48%

Rice Lake Clinic



HVA Scoring with Community Partners

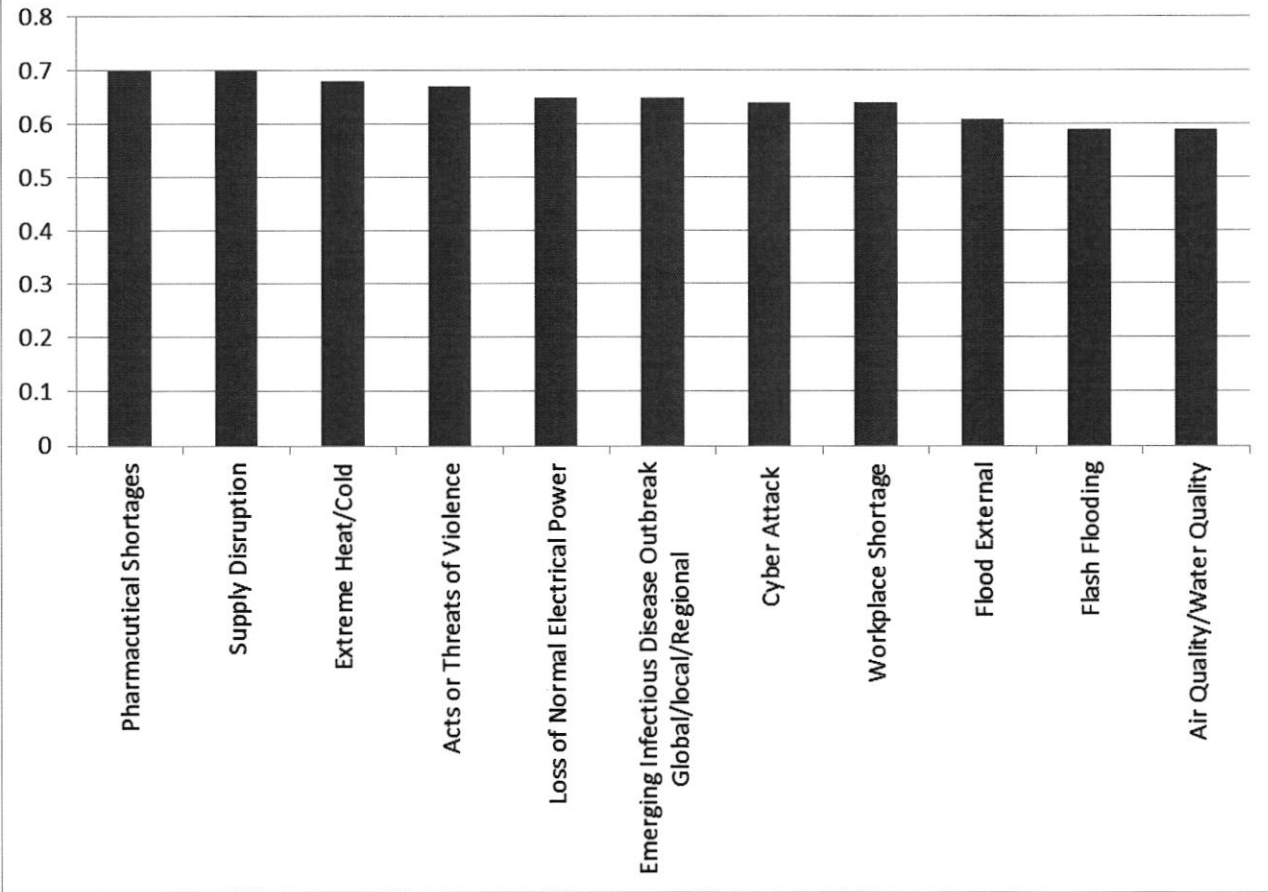
Hazard Vulnerability scoring is completed annually for community emergency preparedness programs and every 3 years for Public Health. Air and Water Quality due to wildfires and Severe Winds are still a hazard for our region.

Comparing HVA results from the Northwest Wisconsin Healthcare Coalition (NW WI HERC), the region goes from Osseo to Bayfield and west to the boarder and includes 15 counties, 25 hospitals, EMS, Long Term Facilities, WEM, Public Health, and RTAC. Below are the results from the information supplied by all the hospitals in our region.

These results are compiled annually for the region and then compared with the 6 other regions in the State of Wisconsin.

The top identified hazards/vulnerabilities for our Region are:

HERC



Workplace shortage was added to the HERC's HVA this year due to HSHS closing. This impacted Northland to add Patient Access to our HVA as with the closing of HSHS, this will make it more difficult at Mayo locations for patient access. It was decided as a region to add Patient Access to the Human Category on the HVA. This is a valid concern and a common issue that doesn't seem to have a fix in for months to come.

This report was created by Melissa Miller, Regional Safety Coordinator, Mayo Clinic Health System-Northland

2024

EMERGENCY SERVICES QUARTERLY REPORT

JANUARY 1 2024 TO MARCH 31 2024

Each quarter, the Barron County (WI) Sheriff's Department - Office of Emergency Services publishes a quarterly community report that outlines activities completed over the previous three months, and identifies active initiatives planned over the next three months.

Barron County Emergency Management, Office of Emergency Services



GRANTS & FINANCES

GRANT FUNDING RECEIVED

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

\$7,234	FY23 Computer & Hazmat Response and Equipment (CHREG) Grant
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Grant funding received: \$7,234

GRANT FUNDING AWARDED

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

\$44,739	FY23 Emergency Management Performance Grant Closeout (EMPG)
\$12,954	FY23 Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA) Grant

Grant funding awarded: \$57,693

2023 FUNDING OVERVIEW

Totals from sections above:

\$7,234	Total Grant Funding Received
\$57,693	Total Grant Funding Awarded (awaiting receipt)
\$0.00	Total Response Reimbursement Received
\$0.00	Total Disaster Reimbursement Received

Grant funding throughout 2023: \$64,927

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (EMPG)

In early 2024, Congress voted to reduce funding nationwide for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) by 10%, pursuant to the 2024 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. This will reduce Barron County's annual amount of \$44,739 to an updated amount of \$40,265. This is a reduction of \$4,473.

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 \$697,992. On March, we received a letter advising application reviews are taking longer than expected so grant award announcements will be delayed. An expected date was not provided.

GRANT CLOSE-OUTS

Emergency management is currently in the process of closing out our Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant, our 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), and our Emergency Preparedness and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Grant. These grants were applied, awarded, implemented, and tracked throughout the grants life-cycle. We are in the process of closing them out and preparing to apply for the next round of grants in 2024.

PREVIOUS INITIATIVES

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS

Emergency Management participated in several community outreach projects this quarter, including:

- Attended NW WI HERC Meetings
- Attended multiple Fire Department Business Meetings
- CPR Refresher class for all Sheriff's Department personnel
- Survival Presentation with Pastor Cody Kargus at Cameron High School
 - School Walk-Through and Survival Presentation

CRITICAL INCIDENT NOTIFICATION GROUP FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

A Critical Incident Notification Group has been created for Barron County School Administrators, Principals, and other staff members designated by the school as critical personnel. 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.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS

Each year, emergency management reviews each section of the Barron County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), and confirms accuracy through the signature of various department heads that are identified as having roles and responsibilities within specific sections of the EOP.

EXERCISES

Emergency Management recently conducted a tabletop exercise at the Barron County EOC involving Barron County Department Heads. The simulated scenario involved an EF-3 Tornado hitting the City of Barron and causing substantial damage to critical infrastructure, public facilities, and private residences. Exercise participants (Department Heads) discussed emergency preparedness, response, and recovery tactics and how they can be integrated into this type of incident. Each department head also discussed their continuity of operations plan based upon short-term and long-term needs.

The exercise identified operational gaps which will create additional projects and programs for the group to assess over the next few months. These lessons learned will be identified in future exercises to ensure the operational gaps were successfully covered.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

The draft plan is complete and was approved by the Barron County Board of Supervisors. The plan will now be 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 returned their approval, local adoption will be finalized. The Village of Alma, 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 provided through work-hour-match.

ACTIVE INITIATIVES

COMMUNICATIONS

The NextGen 911 project is also on-time and on-budget. Networking equipment is currently being installed by vendor technicians. Once the remaining equipment is installed, site testing will begin. Upon verification that all systems are functioning properly, we will begin signing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with service providers such as AT&T, Verizon, etc. These MOUs will allow Text-to-911 calls to be routed into the Barron County 911 Center when initiated from cellular phones within Barron County.

PROJECT HISTORY

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.

Barron County is currently installing the Phase 2 equipment provided by this grant. We will also be completing 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.

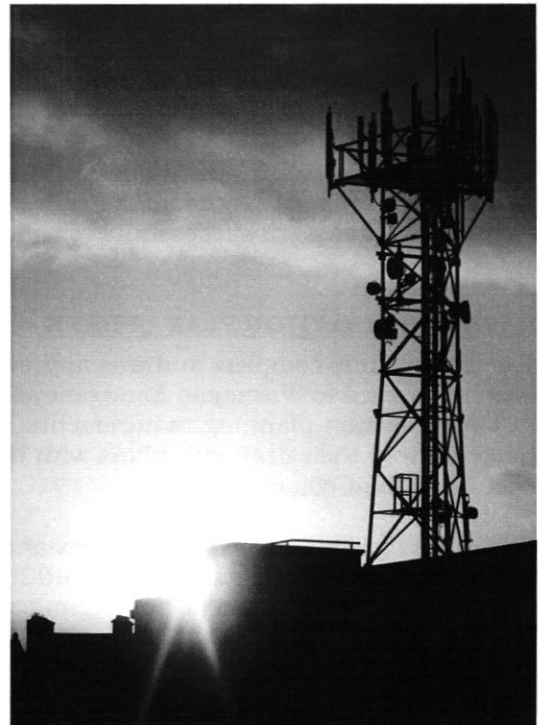
In 2023, Lumen (CenturyLink) announced that it will be pulling all operations out of Wisconsin and will not renew any of its annual agreements with 911 Centers. This left Barron County in a unique position as Lumen had already provided equipment bids that were used to secure future project funding through 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
- 1st 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



PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO UPGRADE (SIMULCAST)

The radio system upgrade to Simulcast is on-time and on-budget. The contract has been signed with GenCom and the Main Project Planning Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 8th. This meeting will outline all aspects of the upgrade and create a project map of what will be completed and in what order. The project is still scheduled to be completed in 2024.

Once completed, all countywide radios will need to be reprogrammed. This will be coordinated to streamline the process as much as possible. More information will be released after the Project Planning Meeting.

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.

VIDEO-TO-911

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.

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 designed for selected administrative personnel within each school. This alert includes 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. This notification group has already been created.

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.

AUTOMATED HAZMAT RESPONSE PLAN

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 development of the plan is underway, and once the draft is finalized, it will be shared with stakeholders.

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 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

SkyWarn Storm Spotter - National Weather Service Annual Storm Spotter Training (open to Public) is scheduled to be held on April 30th in the Barron County Government Center Auditorium. Two classes will be held on April 30th to accommodate varying work schedules. To sign up, attendees must register by clicking here: <https://StormSpotter2024.eventbrite.com>



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.

END OF REPORT



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