

BARRON COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29th 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
BARRON COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER (EOC)
1420 State Hwy 25 North, Barron, WI, 54812

AGENDA

- CALL MEETING TO ORDER
- PUBLIC NOTIFICATION*
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (OCTOBER 30th 2025)
- PUBLIC COMMENT
- SPILL REVIEWS
- RESPONSE REIMBURSEMENTS
- CHETEK DAM EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP) REVIEW
- ANNUAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT REVIEW
- LEPC MEMBER UPDATES
- COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS
- NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 30th IN THE EOC AT 0900 HRS
- 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



BARRON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

THURSDAY, October 30, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
 BARRON COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER (EOC)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON:

Louie Okey, Barron County Board. Mike Judy, Barron County Emergency Management. Jodi Kummet, Sheriff. Nate Dunston, Emergency Management – Medical Examiner. Michael Hover, Rice Lake Fire Chief. Melissa Miller, Mayo Clinic Health System. Jeff French, Barron County Administrator. Dave Paulson, McCain Foods Inc. Dillon Palmquist, Barron Fire Chief. Craig Turcott, Barron County Supervisor. Jamie McCready, Barron County Supervisor. Neil Shipley, Barron School District. Josh Miller, Saputo Cheese. Gabby Thompson, Mosaic Telecom. Matt Feeney, Cumberland EMS. Bob Zientara, Barron News Shield. Karla Potts-Shufelt, Barron County Health Officer. Tyler Gruetzmacher, Barron County Soil & Water. Sue Dau, Barron Electric Cooperative.

CALL TO ORDER

- Chair Louie Okey called the meeting to order at 09:00 am.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

- LEPC Secretary Nate Dunston read the Public Meeting Notification.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Jeff French asked the Committee to make the Bjorn Solar Emergency Response Plan Approval the first agenda item after public comment.
- Jamie McCready made the motion to move the Bjorn Solar Emergency Response Plan Approval and to approve the agenda, seconded by Craig Turcott, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF July 31, 2025.

- Craig Turcott made the motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Jamie McCready, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

BJORN SOLAR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN APPROVAL

- Jeff French and Mike Judy reviewed the Bjorn Solar Emergency Response Plan with the group.
- Craig Turcott made the motion to approve the Bjorn Solar Emergency Response Plan and have it sent to the Barron County Board of Supervisors, seconded by Jamie McCready, motion carried.

SPILL REVIEWS

- 8-9-2025: SENECA Foods, Green bean wastewater, unknown amount
- 8-26-2025: West of 10th St on County Hwy. B – Hydraulic Fluid, 2 gallons
- 9-30-2025: Kwik Trip – Barron, Diesel Fuel, 25 gallons
- 10-8-2025: SENECA Foods, Green bean wastewater, unknown amount

RESPONSE REIMBURSEMENTS

- Fuel Spill at Kwik Trip – Barron.

FEE SCHEDULE UPDATE FOR HAZMAT RESPONSE REIMBURSEMENTS

- Sue Dau made the motion to approve the updated fee schedule, seconded by Melissa Miller; the motion carried.



BARRON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



BYLAWS REVIEW / COMPLIANCE OFFICER

- Jamie McCready made the motion to approve the Barron County Local Emergency Planning Committee BYLAWS, which designate the State of Wisconsin as the Compliance Inspector Officer when needed, seconded by Craig Turcott, motion carried.

INTEGRATED PREPAREDNESS PLAN (IPP) REVIEW

Nate Dunston spoke to the group about the IPP background and process. Nate also reviewed the 2025-2028 Barron County IPP Preparedness Priorities, the initial IPP planning for 2026, and asked the group for planning ideas for the department.

LEPC MEMBER UPDATES

- Karla Potts-Shufelt – January 27, 2025, The Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition will be holding another regional exercise, which members from Barron County will be attending, at the Highway Shop. Health and Human Services are concluding the school flu shot clinics. On November 10, 2025, Karla begin her new role as Health Director.
- Jamie McCready – Cumberland Healthcare is planning to hold a cybersecurity drill in the near future with staff.
- Mike Judy – Barron County is waiting to find out if we will receive funding from the PSAP Grant. He is working on a \$50,000 radio grant.
- Josh Miller – Saputo will be holding a tabletop exercise in February.
- Mike Hover – Rice Lake Fire added another ambulance for a total of three. Flex staffing with paid on-call paramedics, and there are currently 19 members on the HAZMAT team.

COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Federal Funding
- Future exercise ideas for the summer.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, IN THE EOC AT 09:00.

ADJOURNMENT

- Chair Okey, 09:57, declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nate Dunston, LEPC Secretary

2025

Emergency Management 2025 Annual Report

Each year, the Barron County (WI) Sheriff's Department – Office of Emergency Management publishes an annual community report that outlines activities completed over the previous year, and identifies active initiatives that are planned for the upcoming year.

Barron County Emergency Management



DEPARTMENT FUNDING

GRANT FUNDING AWARDED

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

\$13,798	2025 Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Grant
\$12,759	2025 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant
\$7,457	2025 Computer & Hazmat Response Equipment Grant (CHREG)
\$237,539	2025 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Grant for the 911 Center
(On Hold)	2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) - Waiting on Federal Litigation to apply

Grant funding awarded (2025): \$271,553

GRANT FUNDING RECEIVED

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

\$40,258	2024 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
\$13,308	2024 Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Grant
\$7,987	2024 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant
\$7,510	2024 Computer & Hazmat Response Equipment Grant (CHREG)

Grant funding received (2025): \$69,063

CONTRACT REVIEW SAVINGS

Through a routine review of annual radio maintenance agreements, Emergency Management identified pricing inaccuracies within vendor calculations. These findings resulted in a corrective account credit for 2025 and a reduced maintenance quote for 2026, generating measurable cost savings for the county while ensuring accurate contract pricing moving forward.

\$10,680	Credit applied from 2025 Annual Radio Maintenance Agreement following contract review
\$16,572	Cost reduction reflected in 2026 Annual Radio Maintenance Agreement following quote review

Contract Review Savings: \$27,252

2025 FUNDING TOTALS

\$271,553	Total Grant Funding Awarded (awaiting receipt)
\$69,063	Total Grant Funding Received
\$27,252	Contract Review Savings
\$2,075	Total Response Reimbursement Received
N/A	Total Disaster Reimbursement Received

Department funding totals (2025): \$369,943

2025 PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT (PSAP) GRANT

In 2025, Barron County applied and was awarded a PSAP Grant in the amount of \$237,539. This grant will standardize, streamline, and improve the accuracy of our 911 call handling processes through the installation of Pro-QA, electronic software that will replace the current Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) flip-charts. These funds will also allow Barron 911 to migrate from the legacy VESTA system to a SIP-based NextGen911 system to allow for voice, text, image, and video communications through ESiNet. In addition, these funds will upgrade dispatch computer screens in 2026. Lastly, grant funds will cover the cost of creating a backup 911 Center based upon portable platforms that can be quickly deployed and setup at an offsite location.

2025 INITIATIVES

TRAINING / CONTINUING EDUCATION

On April 3rd, Emergency Management partnered with the National Weather Service to host a Skywarn Weather Spotter class at the Barron County Government Center. Two classes were held that day (afternoon and evening) to accommodate varying work schedules. A total of 131 people attended the two classes.

On November 9th, the Emergency Management Director completed his CPR-Instructor Certification. The purpose of obtaining this certification is to hold future community CPR classes and to assist Sheriff's Department personnel with maintaining their CPR certification.

Within the past few months, fire training courses were sponsored in Hazardous Materials Operations Level & Technician Level, and Confined Space Operations Level & Technician Level. Through the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant, the Office of Emergency Management was approved for reimbursement funds in the amount of \$7,987, which covered the 264 students through 11 training courses.

In April, the Sheriff's Department also partnered with LifeLink Helicopter to provide a Landing Zone Safety Class for 40 local responders at the Justice Center. The classroom instruction occurred in the EOC, followed by a helicopter landing in the field on the south side of the building. Class topics included setting up a safe Landing Zone, establishing communications with the helicopter, relaying critical information to and from field crews, and more. A second class was held on May 22nd for an additional 22 local responders. Over the two classes, a total of 62 local responders were trained.



LifeLink landing at Justice Center for LZ Training Class

TRAINING / CONTINUING EDUCATION (Continued)



On Saturday, August 16th, local fire departments participated in High Angle Rescue Training exercises at the Almena Grain Facility.

This specialized training utilized the facility's elevated catwalks, positioned over 100 feet in the air, to simulate realistic rescue scenarios in complex, high-risk environments.

The primary objective of the exercise was to enhance responder proficiency in patient packaging, rope-based lowering systems, and technical coordination required for vertical rescues. During the training, responders worked through multiple scenarios involving the stabilization and transport of injured patients from elevated positions to a level accessible by aerial ladder trucks.

Participants had the opportunity to practice both basic and advanced rope rescue techniques under the supervision of experienced instructors. This training was essential for ensuring readiness in incidents involving grain bins, towers, silos, and other vertical structures commonly found in rural communities.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN UPDATES

Municipal Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) for 31 townships, cities, and villages within the county have 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 Barron County Emergency Management so it can be referenced during disasters and large-scale incidents such as floods, windstorms, tornadoes, hazmat incidents, etc.

Barron County is also updating the county emergency operations plan (EOP), 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 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.

OFF-SITE PLAN UPDATES

Emergency Off-Site Plans were updated for 10 of the 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 specific to each facility; 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.

PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO UPGRADE (SIMULCAST)

Barron County has completed the process of upgrading the countywide public safety radio network infrastructure by incorporating a Simulcast System, which has several benefits to our various responder agencies:

For law enforcement in Barron County, there are 4 towers that use 4 different radio frequencies. Prior to the upgrade, users manually selected the closest tower to hear dispatch. Years ago, the sheriff's department overcame this issue by purchasing new portable radios with a "vote scan" option.

For Fire/EMS in Barron County, there are 8 different towers that share a common frequency. Prior to the upgrade, users selected 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 on calls in different parts of the county, it is common that users are not able to hear others on the channel and users often talk on top of one another.

Under the new Simulcast, only 3 channels are programmed into radios:

DISPATCH: 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 now guarantees dispatch always has a path to immediately page departments.

OPS-1: Normal day-to-day response coordination. This frequency is 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.

OPS-2: Major incident coordination or pre-planned events. This frequency is 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 calls that involve multiple agencies requiring heavy logistics and coordination.

Most of our fire repeaters were several years past their end of life status and parts were no longer available for repair. The Simulcast upgrade brought our equipment into the modern era of radio communications without worrying about 20-year-old repeaters needing replaced.

Barron County also often received interference from Buffalo and Douglas County. Since the installation of Simulcast required all radios in the county to be reprogrammed, that gave us the opportunity to program our equipment to eliminate that interference. We haven't had any problems with interference since that implementation of the new platform.

Since the project's go-live date, we encountered several challenges related to coverage, reception, transmission, and other system functionalities. Those issues were fully expected when deploying a system of this size and complexity. Our team anticipated such scenarios and we actively monitored and addressed each concern. Radio Technicians diligently worked through every reported issue to determine root causes to implement resolutions. It took a little time to ensure the new system achieved optimal performance and met all of our operational requirements, but we are now running full speed with no issues or complications.

ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES

In addition to the projects listed above, emergency management staff coordinated the following initiatives:

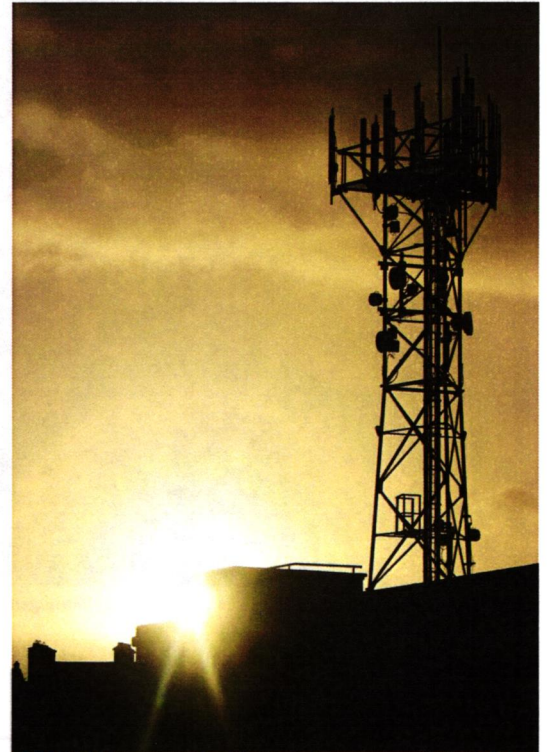
- Maintained countywide AED database for emergency management and dispatch
- Provided CPR training for all Sheriff's Department staff
- Provided maintenance to all radio tower sites, including utility fuel refills, generator maintenance, etc.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Emergency management staff participated in several community outreach projects throughout the year, including:

- Attendance of NW WI Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC) Meetings
- Attendance of Regional Trauma Advisory Council (RTAC) Meetings
- Attendance of local fire department meetings

Barron County Sheriff's Department – Office of Emergency Management



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR BUSINESSES



Mike Judy presenting on "The Role of Emergency Management During Disasters" at RISC Meeting

On July 17th, a training session was conducted at the Regional Indianhead Safety Council (RISC) meeting, hosted at the Northwood Technical Center.

The presentation focused on the role of emergency management during both disaster events and periods of routine operations. Participants engaged in discussions regarding the four phases of Emergency Management - mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

The session also included a focused dialogue on terrorism and its impact on modern-day preparedness efforts across communities and industries.

2026 INITIATIVES

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Barron County Emergency Management is partnering with Wisconsin Health & Human Services in an attempt to relocate a Chempack from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) into Barron County as a resource for the northwest region. A Chempack is a federally supplied cache of nerve agent antidotes and supplies that can quickly be accessed by first responders to be used to treat chemical nerve agents in a terrorist attack. There are two different types of Chempack containers:

1. **EMS Chempack**: containers hold enough supplies for approximately 450 treatments and have a higher percentage of pre-load medications (auto-injectors).
2. **Hospital Chempack**: containers hold enough supplies for approximately 1,000 treatments and have a higher percentage of multi-dose vials.

Time is a critical factor when treating individuals exposed to nerve agents; ideally, antidote administration should occur within one hour of exposure. While the federal Chempack program is designed to treat large-scale incidents involving hundreds of patients, the assets can also be deployed for a single patient when medically justified. By relocating a Chempack to Barron County, response times for exposure incidents in the northwest region will be significantly reduced, ensuring faster access to life-saving medications.

One of the interesting aspects of this medication is that it's primarily used to treat exposure to chemical nerve agents in a terrorist attack. Thankfully Barron County is not highly ranked on the terrorism interest map, however this medication can also be used to treat exposures to certain organophosphate pesticide exposures seen in rural farming operations and transportation accidents. With Barron County being a highly ranked farming community, this medication can be essential to saving lives if needed in certain situations.

Formal approval has not yet been received for the reassignment of a Chempack to Barron County, however we are expecting to receive final approval within the next few weeks.

DRILLS & EXERCISES

On January 27th, emergency management will be participating in the Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Coalition 2026 Regional Exercise. The scenario will involve multiple overlapping challenges, including extreme heat, air quality issues, vector-borne illnesses, etc. Multiple local, regional, and state agencies will be participating.

Emergency Management has also partnered with Saputo Cheese to hold a tabletop exercise on February 24th. The scenario will encompass a hazardous materials leak that involves a large-scale response from multiple mutual aid partners at the local, state, and regional levels. This exercise will assist in reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of off-site response plans.

COMMUNICATIONS / ZELLO

To enhance local communication efforts, Emergency Management is moving forward with onboarding all response personnel into Zello, a new communications app designed for smartphones. The platform enables responders to communicate (receive and transmit) over our existing radio channels through the use of cellular networks and without the need for a portable radio. To streamline the process, emergency management is pre-registering all departments and creating a private talk group for each department. Access to Zello is by invitation only and each police, fire, and EMS agency has received an invite, asking them to register their members into the new platform.

Predetermined communication channels have already been created within the Zello app, including:

- PD, FD, EMS (all to have their own department channel)
- FIRE OPS 1 & FIRE OPS 2
- SPECIAL EVENT CHANNELS 1 through 5
- ERT
- RTF
- EOC

Additional channels can be created in the field as identified by incident needs

ESINET PROJECT OVERVIEW and NEXTGEN 911

The ESINet (Emergency Services IP Network) is a critical component of the NextGen911 system, connecting the Barron County 911 Center to the State of Wisconsin via AT&T-managed hardware and software. ESINet serves as the technological backbone, enabling the 911 center to transition fully to NextGen911 and receive text-to-911 calls, and eventually video-to-911 calls. The current project status is as follows:

- Equipment has been installed and the text-to-911 system is partially operational.
- A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed with AT&T, however MOUs are currently being coordinated with the other wireless service providers such as Verizon, Sprint, etc.
- If a 911 caller uses text-to-911 from an AT&T mobile phone, the system will work as designed. Other service providers (Verizon, Sprint, etc) will work as soon as their testing is completed and their respective MOUs are signed.

Next Steps: Text-to-911 and Beyond

Once the Text-to-911 capability is fully operational with all service providers, the focus will shift to exploring future services, including Video-to-911. While Video-to-911 is not yet completely developed within the industry, it represents a key area for growth and advancement in emergency communications.

This significant initiative has been made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs / Office of Emergency Communications, AT&T, and local agencies. The ESINet grant totals \$69,273, with \$55,418 contributed by the state and a \$13,854 match from Barron County. A previous grant in the amount of \$127,015 was used to upgrade the Airbus 911 call-handling system with the Vesta 911 call handling platform, which supports NextGen911.

The project is on course for timely completion, ensuring the 911 Center is equipped to provide critical NextGen911 services to the community.



BACKUP 911 CENTER

Barron County is taking a proactive step in enhancing emergency preparedness capabilities by establishing a new mobile backup 911 center. Leveraging today's advanced technology, this mobile platform will have the capability of being set up anywhere that has a reliable internet connection, providing flexibility and resilience during emergencies. A mobile backup center ensures continuity of operations if the primary 911 center is compromised due to natural disasters, long term power outages, or other unforeseen events.

This capability allows dispatchers to maintain communication with first responders and the public without interruption, safeguarding critical response times. Additionally, a mobile backup center can be deployed to major events or incidents, serving as an on-site command post to improve coordination. By creating this resource, Barron County demonstrates its commitment to public safety, ensuring reliable and effective emergency dispatch services under any circumstances.

"I AM RESPONDING" BETA TESTING

Under present-day technology, when responders are dispatched to emergency calls, they only receive the CAD information at the time of their initial dispatch. There's no way to receive any information that changes after their initial dispatch has been sent.

Through a multi-year partnership with "I am Responding", Barron County Emergency Management has been selected to beta test their new platform that allows responders to receive information that is added to the CAD after responders have been dispatched, and throughout the rest of the call. Such information could include address changes, crew/responder safety information, patient condition changes, additional call notes, and much more. This allows for a continuous flow of information, keeping field responders in the loop regarding incident updates and changing situations.

NOTIFICATION GROUP FOR MAJOR INCIDENTS

To improve situational awareness, a notification group was created through the "I am Responding" mobile app. This group consists of approximately 60 individuals throughout Barron County; including county government department heads, hospital personnel, emergency response agency chiefs and directors, business owners, and key individuals with strong community involvement in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

The purpose of the Major Incident Notification Group is twofold:

- 1) Enhance situational awareness by providing community stakeholders with early notification of significant incidents.
- 2) Mitigate misinformation and provide rumor control during critical events by disseminating verified updates.

When a disaster or major incident occurs—or is anticipated—emergency management can issue alerts via the "I am Responding" app to the designated members of the Major Incident Notification group. These alerts are informational only, and recipients are not required to take any direct action. However, due to their roles within the community, group members may begin making preparations or activating resources proactively if the situation escalates.

Example Scenario

In the event of a large-scale incident, such as the tornado that struck Prairie Lake Estates along Hwy SS between Cameron and Chetek in May 2017, the Major Incident Notification would immediately inform group members about the incident. Although initial information may be limited, subsequent updates would be provided as new details emerge. These early notifications could enable key stakeholders to act quickly behind the scenes:

- EMS agencies can call-in field crews to staff additional ambulances
- Hospitals can clear ER beds and mobilize additional staff, including nurses, physicians, surgeons, and support staff
- Public Health and Human Services could prepare to activate the local Emergency Operations Center if necessary
- County officials receive advanced notice, preparing them for media inquiries and making public announcements

Participation in the Major Incident Notification Group is by invitation only, ensuring that notifications are sent to the appropriate individuals with relevant roles & responsibilities. This approach will streamline communication and enhance community readiness efforts during emergencies. Sign-ups for this program are mostly completed, with a significant number of key stakeholders already registered to receive major incident notifications.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH THROUGH PREPAREDNESS EDUCATION

Every month, emergency management publishes an article in The Barron County Review to help our community stay informed about emergency preparedness and disaster readiness. With approximately 4,500 copies distributed throughout the county, along with posts on our social media platforms, we aim to reach as many residents as possible.

Throughout 2024, our articles have covered a variety of important topics, including “Preparing for Spring Weather,” “Understanding Severe Weather,” “Tornado Preparedness,” “Emergency Preparedness for Seniors with Mobility Issues,” and “Preparing for the Upcoming Winter Season.” These publications are written with the well-being of our community in mind, offering practical advice and relevant information to help individuals and families be better prepared for emergencies.

Each topic is selected, carefully researched, and written to address the specific challenges our residents might face. Whether it’s preparing for seasonal weather or supporting neighbors with mobility issues, our goal is to empower everyone with the knowledge and tools they need to protect themselves and those they care about. By sharing this information, we hope to increase our community’s overall preparedness, fostering a safer and more resilient Barron County. Together, we can be ready for whatever challenges come our way.

CERT (COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM)

This spring, the Office of Emergency Management will be launching a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to strengthen our county’s ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. A CERT is a trained group of community civilian volunteers who support first responders during major incidents by performing critical, non-hazardous tasks such as light search and rescue, basic extrication, fire suppression, urban/wilderness/disaster first aid, CPR, damage assessment, and welfare checks when emergency services are overwhelmed or delayed.

CERT members receive standardized, nationally recognized training that emphasizes personal safety, incident command, disaster triage, fire suppression basics, and effective team operations, ensuring they are capable, disciplined, and mission-focused. Once trained, the CERT will be formally integrated into the county’s Emergency Operations Plan, operating under the Incident Command System and deploying when requested, allowing professional responders to remain focused on life-saving and high-risk operations while expanding the county’s overall response capacity in a controlled, accountable, and effective manner. More information will be published as we get closer to spring.

EMERGENCY RESOURCE LIST

To enhance awareness of available local resources, emergency management will be compiling an inventory of assets that can be mobilized during specific emergencies. This inventory will encompass specialized equipment such as:

- Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs)
- Rehabilitation Trailers
- Drones
- Heavy Machinery

In addition to equipment lists, supplementary lists will be developed to catalog personnel with specialized skills, such as:

- Grain Bin Rescue
- Cold Water Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue
- Technical Rescue
- Farm Equipment Entrapment

These resource lists will ensure that the appropriate equipment and expert personnel can be quickly identified and deployed during emergencies, optimizing response efforts and enhancing community safety.

RESCUE TASK FORCE (RTF)

Over the coming months, the Rescue Task Force (RTF) will be expanding its team and opening the roster to interested Barron County fire, EMS, and first responders. Newly selected members will complete entry-level RTF training, followed by additional joint training with surrounding law enforcement agencies to enhance interoperability, operational familiarity, and coordinated response.

With respect to ballistic response equipment, the team currently maintains 12 gear bags and plans to add two additional bags annually as the team continues to grow. To reduce deployment times, this equipment is strategically distributed rather than centralized. Gear bags are staged on fire apparatus at Cumberland Fire and Barron Fire Departments, as well as in the Emergency Manager’s vehicle. In the event of an RTF activation, apparatus from Cumberland Fire, Barron Fire, and Emergency Management would be dispatched to the scene, ensuring rapid delivery of equipment and minimizing delays.

BARRON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY REGISTRY

The Barron County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) has partnered with the Barron County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Management, to introduce the Barron County Public Safety Registry to our community. This initiative provides a method for residents to communicate vital information to first responders ahead of emergencies and disasters.

Enrollment in the registry is completely voluntary and offered at no cost at all to residents of Barron County. It is particularly valuable for those who may require additional assistance during emergencies involving the police, fire services, or medical personnel. This includes individuals with medical conditions like dementia, autism, Alzheimer's disease, those undergoing dialysis, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, those with visual impairments, individuals reliant on electricity or home-oxygen, people with developmental or mobility challenges, and others with specific access or functional needs, such as those who use wheelchairs, are bedridden, and much more. The registry also contains a Security Section, enabling residents to share information about the location of a spare key or garage code with emergency personnel, ensuring they can gain entry when the resident is unable to let them in, for instance, if they are unconscious or have conditions like epilepsy.

The registry application will be entered into a secure database in the Barron County 911 Center. When an emergency call originates from a registered address, 911 dispatchers access the shared information from the database. This information is then conveyed to the emergency responders, equipping them with essential knowledge about the resident's condition before they arrive at the scene. This process helps maintain the resident's privacy by not broadcasting their information over radio frequencies.

For those who may find it challenging to complete the online registration form, the Barron County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) offers phone registration by calling 715-537-6225. An ADRC representative will guide the resident through the questionnaire and submit their information via telephone. Additionally, if a resident cannot submit their information personally, an authorized representative may do so on their behalf. Documentation proving the representative's authority (such as Power of Attorney or guardianship papers) may be required at the time of registration.

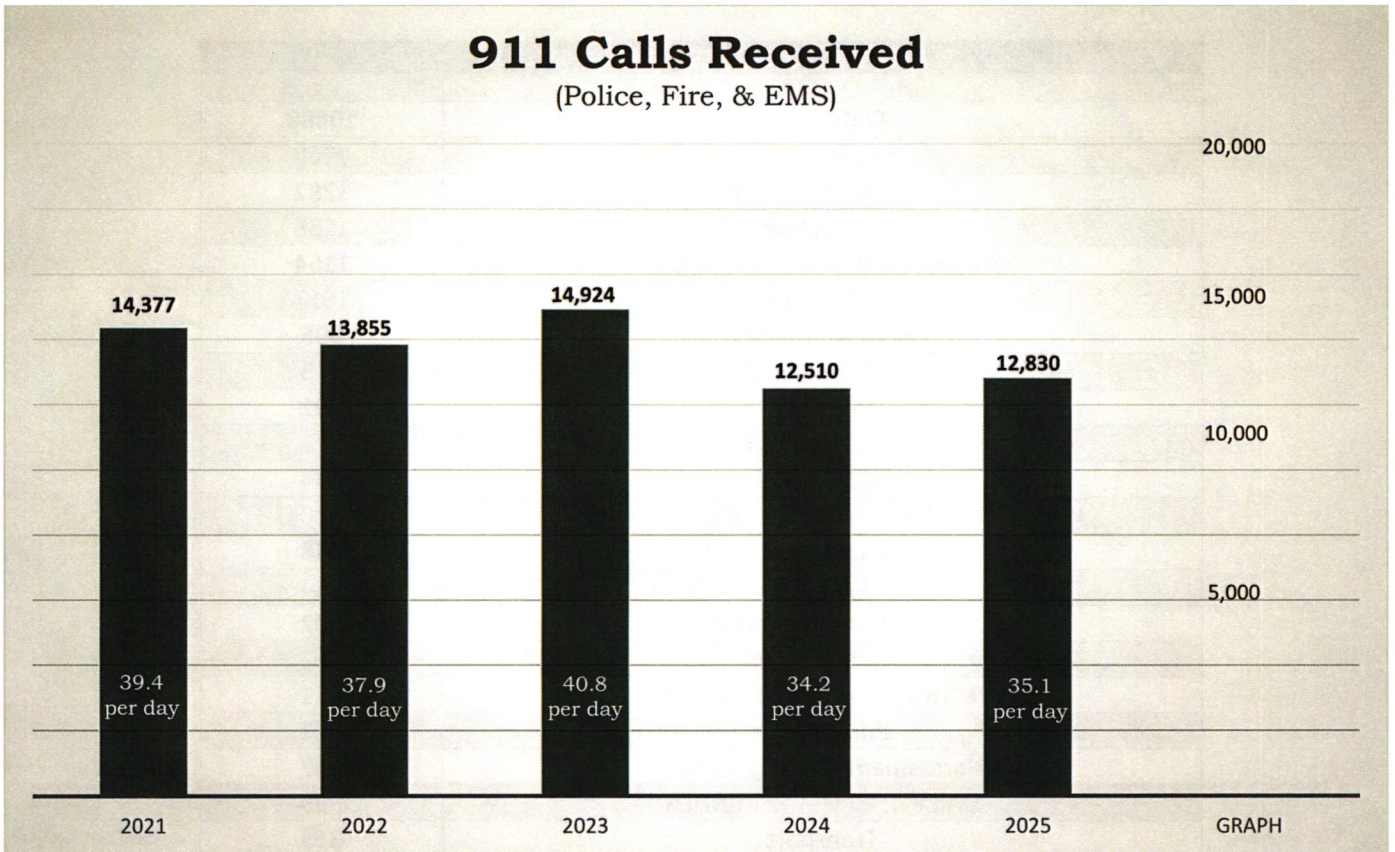
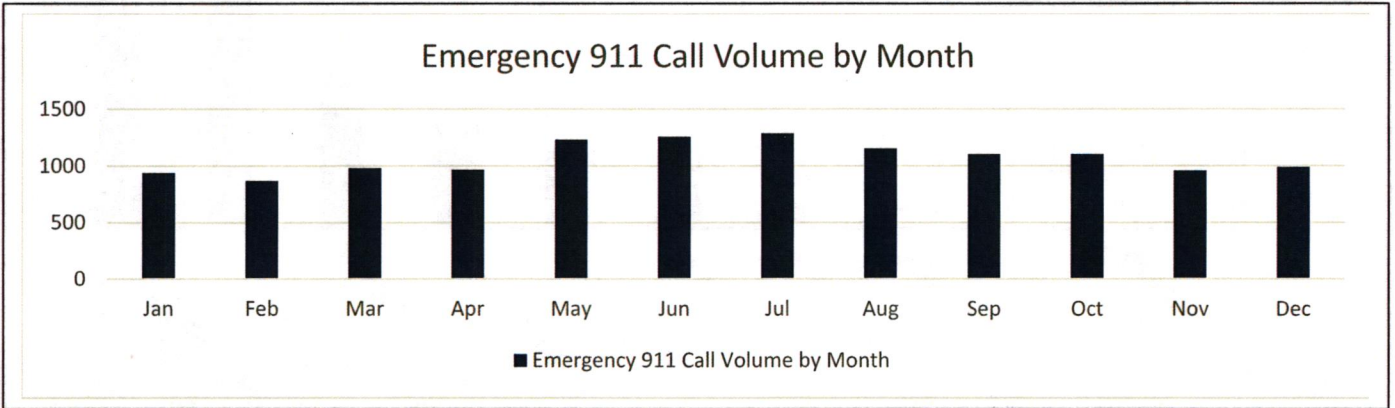
UPCOMING TRAINING

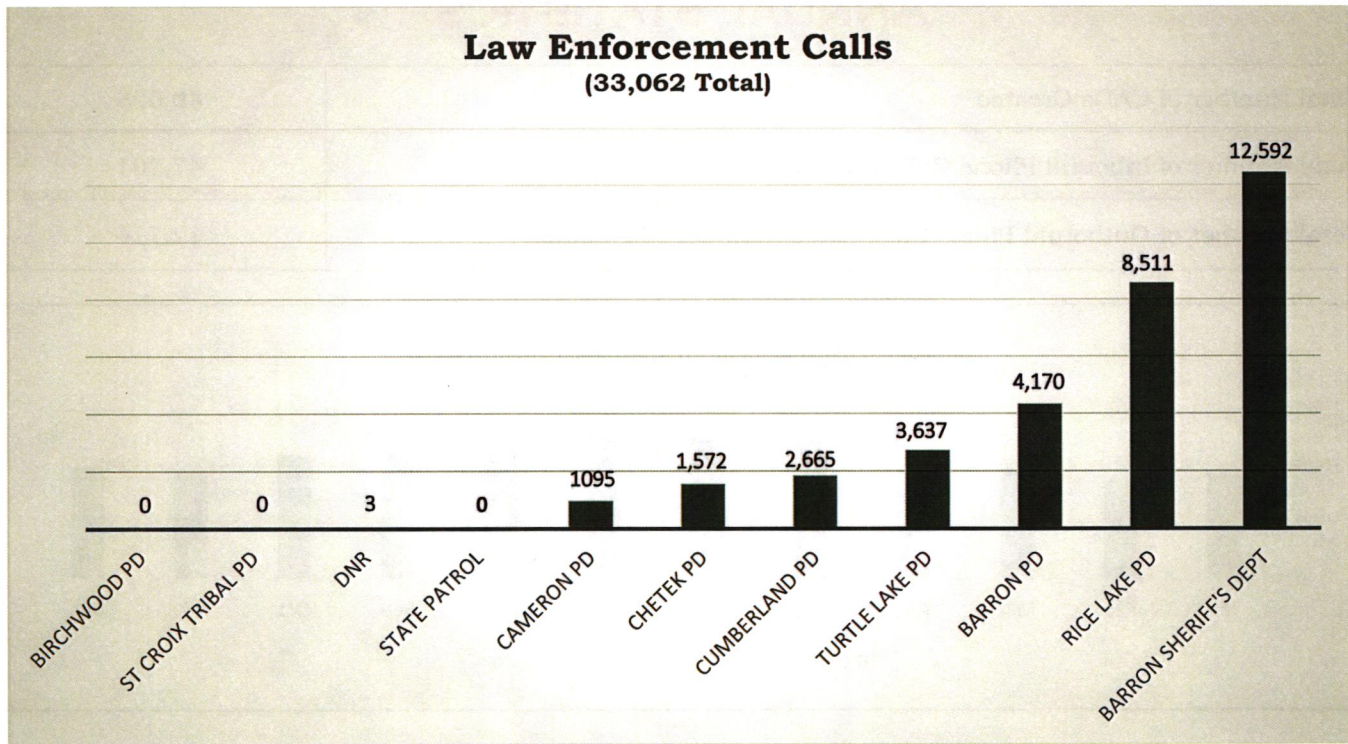
CPR/AED (COMMUNITY-BASED CPR/AED CLASSES)

As part of our ongoing commitment to strengthening community resilience and lifesaving capability, the emergency manager recently obtained his CPR Instructor certification. This certification allows the Emergency Management Office to deliver standardized CPR training directly to the public, rather than relying solely on outside providers. Throughout 2026, the department plans to host a series of community-based CPR/AED classes designed to increase bystander response, reduce preventable fatalities, and empower residents with critical skills they may need before first responders arrive. Expanding access to this training is a proactive investment in public safety and reinforces our focus on preparedness at the household and community level.

ANNUAL STATISTICS

Total Number of CADs Created	40,628
Total Number of Inbound Phone Calls Received	47,201
Total Number of Outbound Phone Calls made from the 911 Center	12,714





LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS	
Traffic Stop	10880
911 Hang-Up	1368
Traffic Complaint	1282
Paper Service	1186
Suspicious/Wanted Psn,Veh,Cir	1154
Call for Service	1017
MVA Non-Injury	996
Motorist Assist	958
Dog Case	791
Welfare Check	713
911 Misdial	644
Disorderly Conduct	588
MVA Auto vs Animal	548
Lockout	514
911 Non-Emergency	502
Traffic Hazard	462
Mental Disorder / Behavior	411
Information	401
Harassment/Stalking/Threat	367
DAILY DEER LIST REMINDER	365
Transport	353
Warrant	344
Animal Complaint	336

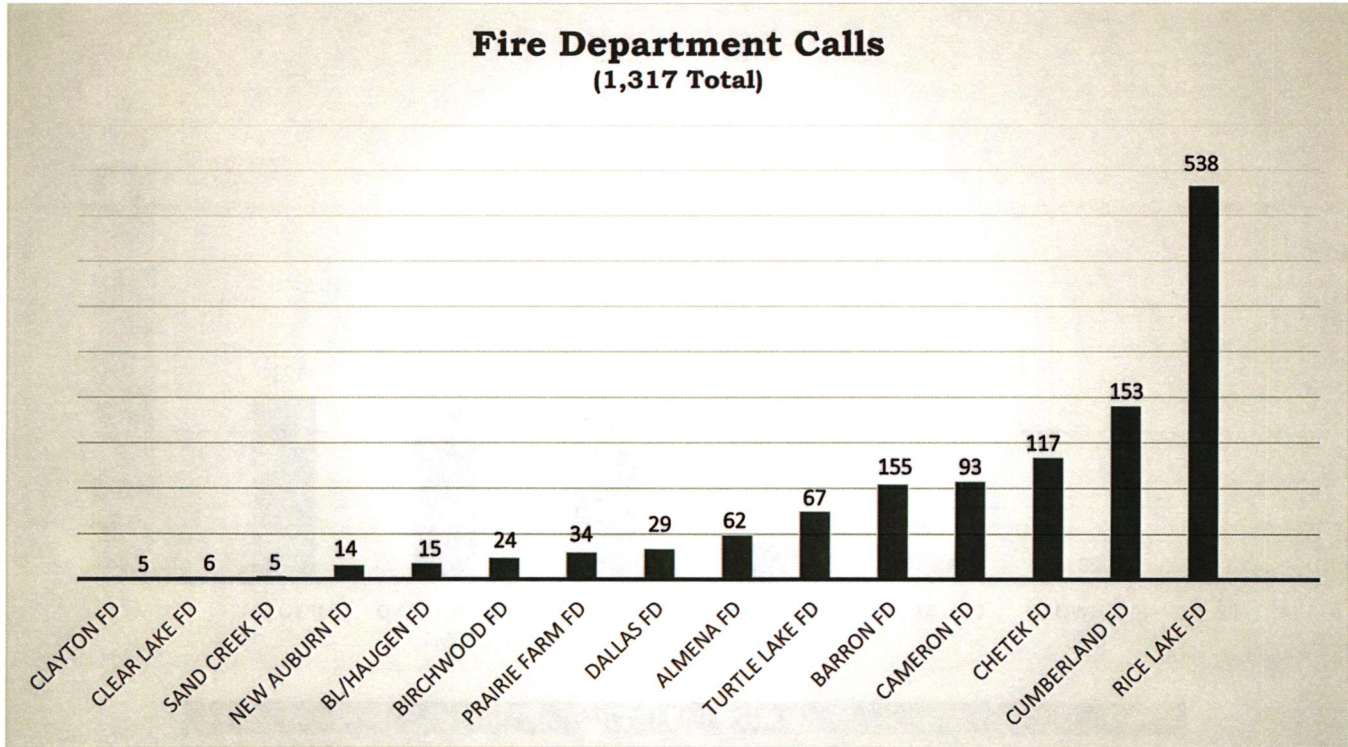
ANNUAL REPORT

Commercial Burglary Alarm	296
OWI	285
Theft Complaint	282
Assist Other Agency	274
Fraud/Deception	259
Trespassing / Unwanted	236
Domestic Disturbance	228
Damage / Vandalism	216
Lost and Found	212
Attempt to Locate	189
Traffic Stop Rec	178
Ordinance Violation	172
Drug Complaint	169
Violation Order	127
Livestock on Highway	120
Hit and Run	117
Civil Complaint	116
Noise Complaint	116
Property Dispute/Exchange	104
Protection Papers	100
Missing Person	96
Road Blocked	96
Child Custody	95
Suicidal Person	91
Intoxicated Person	83
Open Door	82
Runaway/Found Person	82
Sexual Assault	82
Residential Burglary Alarm	80
DNR Complaint	80
Abuse/Abandonment/Neglect	76
Repossession	71
Assault/Battery	63
Duress Alarm	55
Shoplifting	54
Gas Drive Off	53
Indecency	49
Animal Bite/Attack	47
Funeral Assist	46
Wrong Way Driver	46
Stolen Vehicle	45
Littering	41
Barking Dog	39
Fireworks Complaint	38
Burglary/Home Invasion	35
Fight in Progress	32
Utility Complaint	32
Extra Patrol	31
ATV/Boat/Snowmobile Complaint	28

ANNUAL REPORT

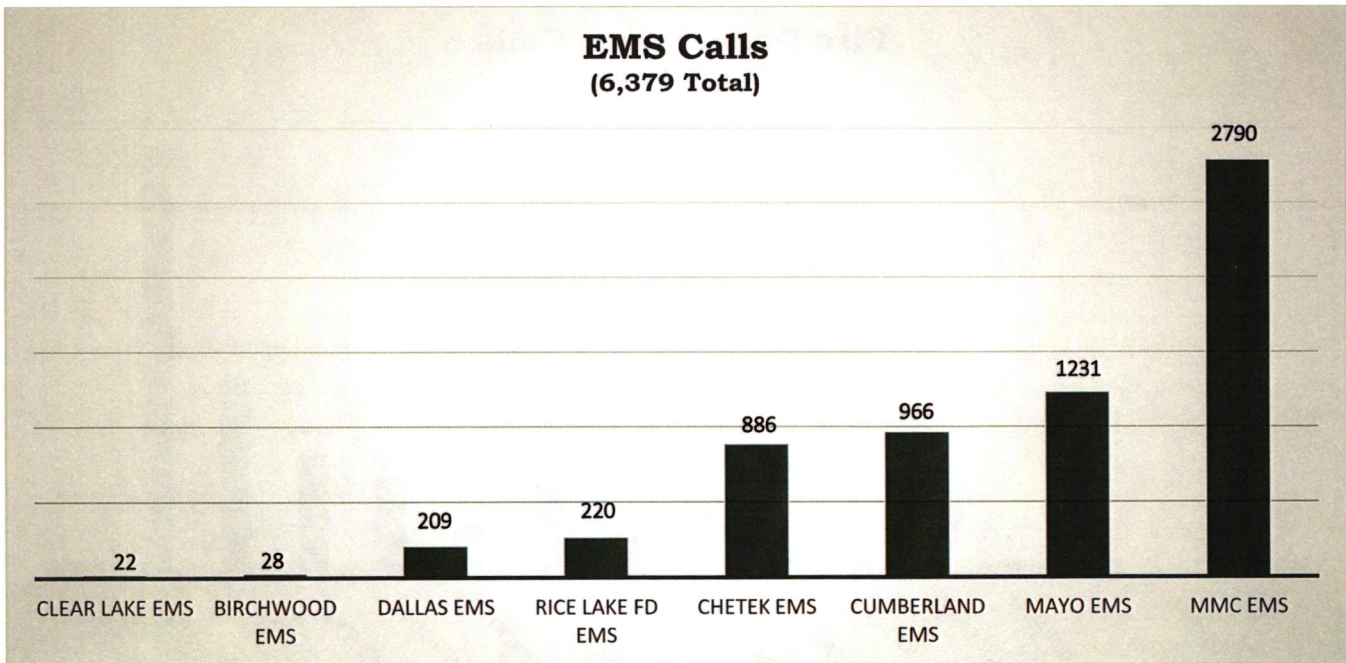
Gunshots Complaint	28
Underage Drinking	24
Human Services	19
Outside Fire	16
Wrecker Needed	16
Public Assist	13
Chase/Pursuit	13
Search Warrant	13
Deceased Person	12
Landlord/Tenant Dispute	12
Probation	12
Emergency Message	10
Recovery of Stolen Property	8
Suspicious Package	8
Test Call	8
Public Assist	7
Unknown Problem	7
Worthless Check	7
Severe Weather Alert	6
Electrical Hazard	5
K9 Assist	5
MVA with Injuries	5
Controlled Burn	4
Structure Fire	3
Commercial Fire Alarm	2
Bomb Threat	2
Choking	2
Explosion	2
Gunshot Wound	2
MVA Boat/ATV/Snow/UTV	2
Non-Emergency	2
MONTHLY SIREN TEST	2
Smoke Investigation Outside	2
Traumatic Injuries	2
Business Check	1
Cardiac Arrest	1
Fall	1
Commercial Vehicle Fire	1
Passenger Vehicle Fire	1
Forgery	1
Inmate Information/Violation	1
Liquor / Open Container	1
Man with a Gun	1
MVA Auto vs Pedestrian	1
Odor Investigation	1
Party Complaint	1
Animal Rescue	1
Water Rescue	1

Fire Department Calls
(1,317 Total)



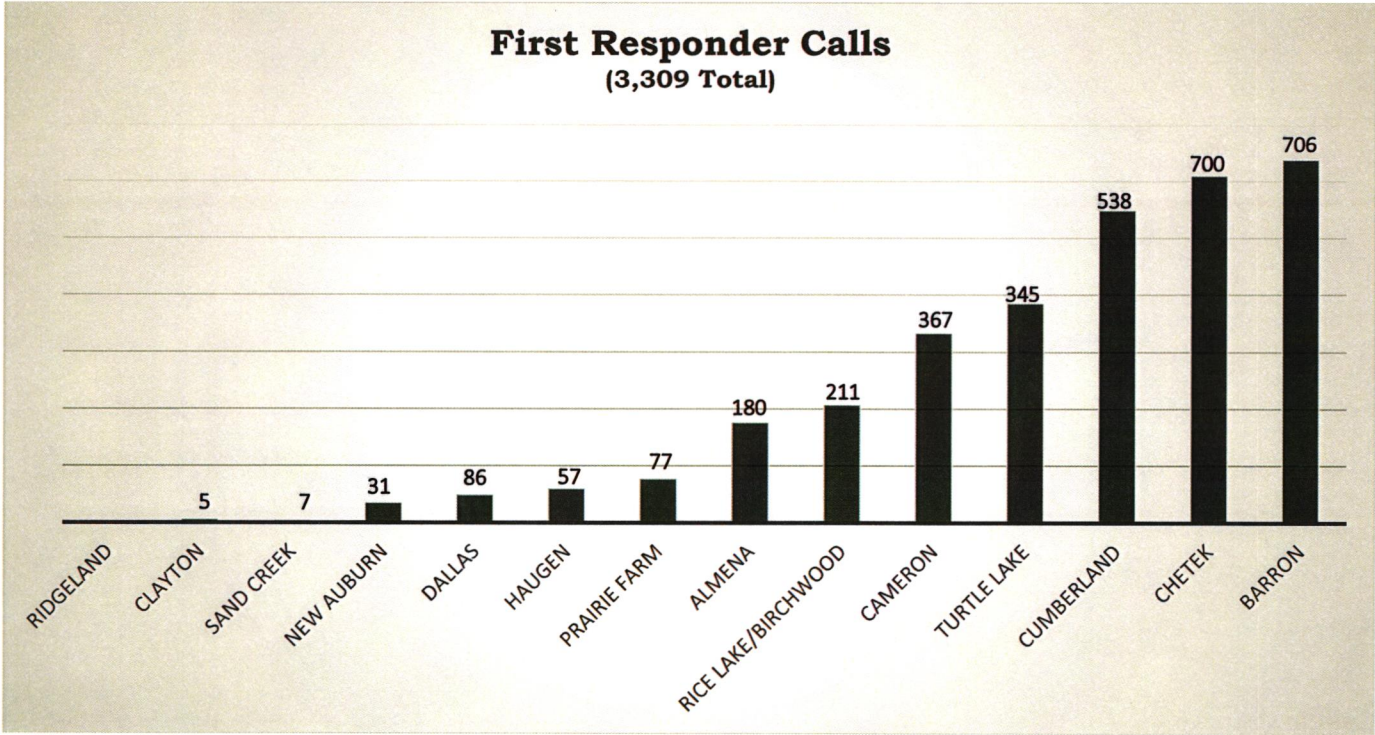
FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS	
Commercial Fire Alarm	208
Non-Emergency	134
Residential Fire Alarm	66
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	59
Odor Investigation	51
Outside Fire	47
Grass/Brush Fire	35
Gas Leak	20
Smoke Investigation Outside	20
Electrical Hazard	15
Utility Complaint	12
Structure Fire	10
Elevator Rescue	9
Call for Service	7
Passenger Vehicle Fire	5
Controlled Burn	4
Lockout	3
Animal Complaint	1
Fall	1
Commercial Vehicle Fire	1
Lightning Strike Investigation	1
Animal Rescue	1
Search and Rescue	1

EMS Calls
(6,379 Total)



EMS STATISTICS

Sick Person	1125
Fall	1027
Breathing Problems	404
Chest Pain	232
Unconscious/Fainting	178
Seizures	128
Medical Alarm	123
Abdominal Pain	118
Heart Problems	96
Hemorrhage	95
Stroke	90
Diabetic	73
Back Pain	71
Traumatic Injuries	42
Allergies/Envenomations	36
Headache	15
Pregnancy/Childbirth	15
MVA with Injuries	12
Overdose Poisoning	8
Heat/Cold Exposure	5
Animal Bite/Attack	4
Cardiac Arrest	4
Choking	2
Eye Injury	2
Assault/Battery	1
Burns	1
Gunshot Wound	1



FIRST RESPONDER STATISTICS	
Clayton	5
Sand Creek	7
New Auburn	31
Dallas	86
Haugen	57
Prairie Farm	76
Almena	180
Rice Lake/Birchwood	211
Cameron	367
Turtle Lake	345
Cumberland	538
Chetek	700
Barron	706

END OF REPORT



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