

2019

Emergency Services 2019 Annual Report

Barron County Sheriff's Department



Each year, the Barron County (WI) Sheriff's Department – Office of Emergency Services publishes an annual community report that outlines most of the projects completed over the previous year, and provides an overview of active initiatives for the following year.

Barron County Emergency Services 2019 Annual Report

Community Outreach

- 90 community preparedness articles were published on social media, reaching **1,219,541** viewers. Articles were also included in the “Barron County Review” and Meals-on-Wheels, reaching an additional 15,000 residents. Topics included emergency preparedness, disaster preparedness, home safety, crime prevention, severe weather, etc. A total of 33 Severe Weather announcements were also published to keep residents informed and prepared.
- Active Shooter Community Preparedness presentations were delivered to 40 churches, hospitals, in-county businesses, government facilities, and schools; instructing over 500 attendees.

These presentations follow the national A.L.I.C.E. model, and several training classes concluded with live fire “simunion” training exercised to reinforce training topics reviewed during the presentation.



- “Disaster Preparedness and Business Continuity Planning” presentations were provided to a group of 50 local business representatives and to a group of 20 Barron County Youth Coalition members. Topics included business/residential/individual preparedness, local/state/federal resources, the progression of disasters, and review of local hazards specific to Barron County.
- On June 14th, 911 Dispatch Dvorak attended Mayo Hospital’s Kids Safety Camp at Anderson Park in Barron and instructed youth campers on how to call 911, what questions would be asked by 911 dispatchers, information to know when calling 911, and completed a test 911 call over the speaker system as a demonstration for students. Her presentation was followed by Hands-Only-CPR, which was instructed by Marlene Dirkes from Mayo EMS.



- To maintain strong working relations, the Emergency Services Director attended the following 141 coordination meetings:
 - 63 Local fire department monthly business meetings
 - 28 Emergency Planning meetings
 - 10 Regional emergency managers meetings
 - 9 Countywide police chiefs meetings
 - 4 Countywide fire chiefs meetings
 - 4 EMS agency directors meetings
 - 6 Traffic safety meetings
 - 4 Regional Trauma Advisory Council
 - 5 Healthcare Coalition meetings
 - 4 Oversight Committee meetings
 - 2 Towns Association meetings
 - 2 Rescue Task Force (RTF) meetings
- In early 2018, the “Barron County Weather Network” Facebook page was created to promote information sharing surrounding severe weather. Posts include approaching storm forecasts, rain/snow totals, and storm damage photos. As of the end of 2019, the group has grown to a total of 1,489 members.



Emergency Preparedness

- In May, the Barron County Board of Supervisors approved moving forward with a federal grant that was awarded to Barron County, to facilitate the construction of a storm shelter at Prairie Lake Estates. The building will be designed as a storm shelter with 988 square feet for 138 persons. The shelter will be designed, constructed, and maintained to FEMA standards for the protection of life safety, with an estimated start date in the spring of 2020.

FEMAs Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grants are designed to assist local communities in implementing a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program. The goal is to reduce overall risk to the population and structures from future hazards, while also reducing reliance on Federal funding in future disasters. PDM grants are funded annually by Congressional appropriations and are awarded on a nationally competitive basis.



EF-3 Barron/Rusk Tornado on May 16th 2017



Storm Shelter Example

- To enhance onscene radio communications, a mobile repeater was installed in the Emergency Services squad. Once responders reprogram their department radios, they can switch to the repeated channel anytime the vehicle is onscene and connect to the mobile repeater which is linked to the countywide fire frequency. This device will help reduce dead spots throughout Barron County in areas such as Haugen, Reeve, Dallas, Prairie Farm, and Chetek.
- The July 15th Windstorm caused extensive tree damage throughout Barron County. Due to the heavy fuel load on the forest floor, there's a significant concern of brush fires with the upcoming fire season. Due to the increased hazard, the Barron County 911 Center will automatically page the closest three (3) fire departments to all confirmed brush fires, beginning in the spring of 2020. This new dispatch procedure will be in-place for several years until the fuel load has decreased.



This will allow the primary department to focus on access and control, the second department to focus on preventing spread into higher fuel loads, and the third department to focus on structure protection. The DNR is also planning to take a proactive stance regarding brush fires by deploying heavy equipment to non-DNR areas and staging aerial suppression resources in closer proximity to Barron County. Additional information regarding these upcoming changes will be published prior to the 2020 Brush Fire Season.

- A countywide agreement was created for the Emergency Services Director to auto-request a Mobile Rehab Trailer to respond on all confirmed structure fires when the temperature is colder than 10 degrees (with wind) or 0 degrees (without wind). The trailer will be assigned to firefighter rehab and to assist in keeping responders (and homeowners) warm until additional resources can be coordinated. The Birchwood Fire Department rehab trailer will cover fires north of Highway 8 and the New Auburn Fire Department rehab trailer will cover fires south of Highway 8.
- Through the month of May, the Director of Emergency Services coordinated with the National Weather Service and Department of Natural Resources each week to determine if local burn bans were needed. This information was relayed to all townships and villages so they could make an informed decision regarding issuing burn bans in their specific area.

911 Dispatch



Dispatch Radio Computer

- In the spring, Barron County will apply for a statewide grant to upgrade the 911 Center with NextGen capabilities. This upgrade potentially could include enhanced caller locations, text-to-911, and video-based emergency phone calls.
- In addition to the phone upgrade, the Moducom dispatch radio screens will also be upgraded to the latest version. This is the radio interface for dispatch consoles that allow dispatchers to talk on specific frequencies and page first responders. The last upgrade to this system occurred in 2004.

- On June 27th, our 23-year day-shift dispatcher Betsy Theis retired from the Barron County 911 Center to enjoy a relaxed schedule, the freedom of sleeping-in, and the opportunity to explore new hobbies.

To fill the vacant position from Betsy's retirement, Trevor Miller was hired into the full-time position. Trevor holds an Advanced-EMT certification and works part-time for Cumberland EMS. He has also successfully completed his dispatch training.

- Dispatcher Trudy Mazel transferred from the 911 Center to the ADRC on March 14th. To fill Trudy's vacancy, Kelsey Ayash was hired into the full-time position. Kelsey currently serves in the Wisconsin National Guard and has also successfully passed her dispatch training.



Betsy Theis

- In the spring, dispatch will no longer page individual fire departments and EMS agencies to advise of severe weather warnings. This is due to the majority of responders already having an alternate notification app in-place such as area news apps, the National Weather Service app, etc.
- The storm sirens in Cumberland have been upgraded to be radio-activated instead of phone-activated. They are now located under the northwest quadrant paging button so dispatchers don't have to activate them individually.

This upgrade saves dispatchers approximately ten to twelve critical seconds when activating storm sirens in the Cumberland area.



- High winds from the 2019 Windstorm caused damage to antennas on the Clinton and Dallas communication towers, which is affecting portable and mobile radio communications.

Tower climb crews are scheduled to complete repairs in February and will also install enhanced security cameras and weather stations.

- The building roofs at the Clinton and Dallas Communications Towers are being repaired due to weather deterioration. The project is scheduled to be completed by this fall.

- On June 19th, the Life Link crew landed at the Barron County 911 Center to participate in an interview with the Chetek Alert to highlight a new online system for 911 dispatchers to activate air medical resources. This new system reduces the flight request time from approx 2 minutes to approx 12 seconds, which is crucial when dealing with critical patients.

Barron County was the first 911 Center to beta-test this new online request system, and provided feedback to Life Link developers on improvement recommendations before it was implemented throughout their service area.

One call away

New app helps medical helicopter flights respond faster

BY CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

When seconds matter, a new app is helping shave off minutes when 911 dispatchers need to quickly request a Life Link III helicopter to a crash scene or medical call.

Since January 2018, Life Link III has been using a new smart phone app called OneLink. Barron County was the first to test and implement the app, said Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald.

It's for any first responder, fire fighter, paramedic, police officer or 911 dispatcher to use. They download the app on their phone and register with their department or agency.

Before, a local 911 dispatcher had to hang up the initial call, then call the Life Link III's dispatch to request a helicopter. Now, dispatchers can do it with a computer and first responders can do it with an app on their phone. It has cut down the request time from two minutes to 12 seconds, Fitzgerald said.

Lucas Stoflet, with Life Link III and who built the app, said it was made in conjunction with their dispatching software, Flight-Vector.

Improvements and upgrades have been made to the app over the past year and a half. A chat feature was added, so responders at the scene can talk with Life Link III's dispatch center in Minneapolis, Minn., about patient updates and who is at the landing zone. It also provides the estimated time of arrival and direction the helicopter is coming from.

The app has added pre-loaded landing zones, for example, a 100-by-100 foot landing pad in Big Bend Township, Rusk County.

All this information helps ensure the patient gets the



CARL COOLEY | CHETEK ALERT

Members of a Life Link III crew landed at the Barron County Justice Center to talk about their jobs and the new app, OneLink, that helps them and first responders on the ground. Pictured above, left to right, are pilot Robert Glab, flight paramedic Doreen Snell, flight nurse Polly Spenle and flight nurse Keith Velaski.

help they need and that the whole operation runs safely and smoothly for the helicopter, its crew and everyone on the ground.

Life Link III is a non-profit consortium of 10 hospitals which serve as members-owners, and it allows them to share the service and the costs of running it. Patients are transported to whatever hospital is best for them, not just the hospitals of member-owners.

Life Link III has eight bases, including one at the Rice Lake Regional Airport that opened in 2007. But they also call out other companies if a Life Link helicopter is not nearby.

Annually, they respond to about 103 "auto-launch" calls in Barron County. Auto-launch is activated whenever there is a serious medical call, like a heart attack or crash with ejection or major injury.

But most flights transfer patients from smaller,

rural hospitals, to larger, major hospitals; they average around 40-50 of these flights a month.

Each helicopter has a crew of three; the pilot, a flight nurse and a flight paramedic. If the patient is a young child, they can bring along one family member, too.

Life Link uses the AW119KX, which is the fastest civilian helicopter available with a top speed of around 170 mph. Pilot Robert Glab said it takes them about 10 minutes to launch and they cruise at about two miles a minute. Most flights are about 20 minutes long, at 500 to 1,000 above the ground. They can travel for up to about three hours.

Few get to do this type of flying and Glab said he feels fortunate to do it as his job.

The equipment onboard is the same that is found in any emergency room, said flight nurse Keith Velaski,

and they can care for the sickest of patients.

They carry two units of O negative blood, have a CPR machine and have an ultrasound to detect any internal injuries or bleeding. They can also draw a patient's blood and run lab tests onboard.

Not every call ends in a positive result, but they savor the good calls, said Doreen Snell, a flight paramedic.

For Polly Spenle, a flight nurse, making a positive difference in people's lives is what is meaningful to her. When someone is hurt, their families let you in and trust you; it's a very intimate moment, she said.

"You're seeing someone at their worst point," said Snell. "You can help them and reassure their family."

"Having a helicopter in Barron County has saved many lives," Fitzgerald added.

Communications

- In 2016, the microwave radio link connecting the Justice Center to the Government Center failed on two (2) separate occasions due to the effects of severe weather. Additionally, the age of the system required the purchase of \$20,000 in replacement equipment to maintain the communications network for upcoming years.

To eliminate investing more money into aging equipment, a fiber line was installed between the Justice Center and the Clinton Tower. This fiber line replaced the microwave radio link and saved \$8,000 in annual maintenance agreements in addition to eliminating a one-time upgrade cost of \$20,000 to the previous system.

This secure network will also prevent further radio failures of radio channels during severe weather in addition to providing room for expansion such as additional radio frequencies, security cameras, weather stations, and other data gathering devices. Communication networks were installed and tested in the spring of 2019 and are now operating normally.



Fiber Line Installation

Grant Funding

- Office of Emergency Services applied and was awarded \$18,500 from the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant to fund Hazardous Materials and Confined Space Entry training classes for six area fire departments, which consists of 12 classes and 300 attendees.

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>STUDENTS</u>	<u>DATES</u>
RLFD	Hazmat Ops Refresher	16	1/13 & 1/20
RLFD	Confined Space Tech Refresher	28	5/6 & 5/13
Chetek FD	Hazmat Ops Refresher	31	3/18/2020
Chetek FD	Confined Space Ops Refresher	31	4/15/2020
Dallas Sioux Creek FD	Hazmat Ops Refresher	15	01/08 & 01/15
Dallas Sioux Creek FD	Confined Space Ops Refresher	15	01/22 & 1/29 02/05 & 02/12
Cameron FD	Hazmat Ops Refresher	25	03/17 & 03/18
Cameron FD	Confined Space Ops Initial	25	04/14 & 04/15
Almena FD	Hazmat Ops Initial	15	02/06 & 02/13 02/20 & 02/27
Barron Co Hwy & WTE	Confined Space Entry	20	5/11
Cumberland FD	Confined Space Ops Refresher	25	4/13
Cumberland FD	Confined Space Tech Refresher	25	4/20

Barron County Sheriff's Department – Office of Emergency Services

- Office of Emergency Services applied and **received** the following grants this quarter:

\$191,356	2017 Wisconsin Disaster Fund Reimbursement for Barron Electric
\$22,146	2018 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Period 2
\$6,440	2018 EPCRA Emergency Management Grant – Period 2
\$12,893	2019 EPCRA Emergency Management Grant – Period 1
\$2,457	2018 EMPG Redistribution
\$7,514	2018 Computer & Equipment Hazmat Grant
\$3,938	2019 Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) Training Grant
\$7,300	2019 Computer & Hazmat Equipment Grant
\$254,048.07	Total Grant Funding Received in 2019

- Office of Emergency Services was **awarded** the following grants this quarter (awaiting receipt):

\$44,125	2019 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
\$12,893	2019 EPCRA Emergency Management Grant – Period 2
\$7,300	2019 Computer & Hazmat Equipment Grant
\$10,500	2019 Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) Training Grant
\$18,000	2020 Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) Training Grant
\$92,818.98	Additional Grant Funding Awarded in 2019 (awaiting receipt)

Grant funding received this year: \$ 254,048
Grant funding awarded this year (awaiting receipt): \$ 92,818

Total Grant Funding for 2019: \$ 346,866

Disaster Reimbursement

- Following the May 16th 2017 Tornado in the Chetek/Prairie Lake area, Barron County Emergency Management represented five Towns and one Electric Cooperative, and applied for disaster reimbursement through the Wisconsin Disaster Fund to offset the cost of disaster response and recovery operations.

Reimbursement funds were approved by the Wisconsin Disaster Fund and were received in 2019.



- Town of Vance Creek received \$6,107 in reimbursement funding
- Town of Sumner received \$4,533 in reimbursement funding
- Town of Maple Grove received \$7,453 in reimbursement funding
- Town of Prairie Lake received \$360,837 in reimbursement funding
- Town of Chetek received \$216,887 in reimbursement funding
- Barron Electric Cooperative received \$191,356 in reimbursement funding

Total amount of disaster reimbursement received: **\$ 787,173**

Barron County Sheriff's Department – Office of Emergency Services

Exercises

- On May 4th, a full-scale active shooter exercise was conducted at the Turtle Lake High School. On June 29th, another full-scale active shooter exercise was conducted at the Cumberland High School. These training events provide emergency responders with the unique ability to test command, control, and communication strategies in a real-world environment that include volunteer patients and role players.



The scenarios involved 45 injured patients staged throughout both schools, following the (simulated) gunfire from two active shooters.

Law enforcement engaged the shooters and secured the facilities while firefighters and first responders moved injured patients to EMS personnel in awaiting ambulances and helicopters. Patients were then transported to local hospitals for additional exercise scenarios.

An after-action report was created to identify areas of improvement, with an attached Improvement Plan to outline specific goals and completion dates.



Participating agencies included multiple Law/Fire/EMS agencies, Lifelink helicopters, area hospitals, State of Wisconsin Emergency Management, Emergency Services of Barron County, and the Barron County Sheriff's Department ERT Team.

Additional 2019 exercises included:

- Northwest WI Emergency Readiness Healthcare Coalition exercise on April 23rd
- Statewide WebEOC exercise on March 1st
- WITC Tabletop Exercise (tornado scenario) on May 28th

Supplies/Equipment

- In early 2019, Emergency Services replaced the Dodge Ram squad with a Ford F-250 squad. Traditionally, emergency management vehicles only provide a means of transportation for the driver. The Barron County Sheriff's Department has taken a slightly different approach to this concept by stocking the vehicle with incident-specific response supplies.

When onscene, the supplies are available for any responder to use while dealing with the emergency or disaster. Local Police, Fire, and EMS Chiefs were consulted to determine which supplies would benefit onscene operations, that are not typically be carried by other responding apparatus; and include:

- Mass Casualty Incident
 - AED
 - Triage Tags
 - Large Medical Gear Bag
 - 3 Composite Backboards
 - 20 Tourniquets
 - Colored Triage Tarps
 - EMS Patient Tracking
- Hazardous Materials
 - Absorbent Pads
 - Absorbent Socks
 - Absorbent Booms
 - 70 gal of Floor Dry
 - Petroleum Water Strips
- Radio Equipment
 - Mobile Radio
 - Portable Radio
 - Portable Radio Chargers
- Water Rescue
 - Life Jacket
 - Rope Rescue Throw Bag
- Miscellaneous Equipment
 - Laptop Internet Coverage Extender (to eliminate dead spots)
 - Cell Phone Booster (to reduce dead spots)
 - Mobile Printer (for Damage Assessment Forms)
 - 4-Foot Collapsible Road Signs (Road Closed Ahead)
 - Emergency Scene Lighting
- Technical Rescue
 - Rope Bag
 - Carabineers
 - Rescue Gloves
- Search & Rescue
 - Handheld GPS Unit
 - Ground Marking Flags
 - Laminated Aerial Maps



Emergency Management Squad

- The vehicle is also equipped with a laptop computer with Mobile CAD and hazmat plume modeling software, and a vehicle-mounted radio repeater to reduce area radio dead spots.
- The vehicle (including all equipment and supplies) were no cost to the department or Barron County tax payers; as all costs were covered through grant funding and hazmat response reimbursements.

Training

COMPLETED TRAINING

- On April 30th, the National Weather Service hosted two SkyWarn Storm Spotter Classes in the Government Center Auditorium. Classes were attended by a total of 76 local responders and community residents.
- On May 23rd/24th, an Incident Command System (ICS-300) class was held at the Justice Center with 20 attendees from local fire departments, hospitals, public health, and emergency management.
- Emergency Services of Barron County partnered with WITC to offer two 80-hour Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) classes that were open to the public.
 - Course 1 began on Jan 21st at the WITC Rice Lake Campus with 12 attendees
 - Course 2 began on Jan 21st at the Almena Town Hall with 20 attendees
- A “Forensic Considerations for Responders” class was held at Cumberland Medical Center (Feb 18th), Marshfield Medical Center (Feb 26th), and Mayo Barron Hospital (Mar 26th). The training was open to all Law/Fire/EMS/FRs and topics included Body of Evidence, Crime Scene Considerations, Sexual Assault, and Domestic Violence.



- On September 17th, Emergency Services of Barron County hosted a training course titled “How to Operate in Water Emergencies” in Cumberland.

This course provided instruction on water-based trauma, triage, extrication, and also provided participants a realistic hands-on scenario to reinforce instructional topics.

UPCOMING TRAINING

- In April, the Director of Emergency Services was assigned to the WITC Fire Training Committee to represent local fire departments.
- Following the Missing Person Search on January 23rd, the Director of Emergency Services was invited to Madison on August 1st to train the FBI's Child Abduction Response Team (CART) on how to plan and manage large-scale missing person searches.
- On Saturday, March 14th, the DNR will be hosting a “Intro to Wildland Fire for Fire Departments” course at the Justice Center EOC from 9:00am to 4:30pm. This is a 9-hour course designed to provide the necessary training to assist your fire department in achieving compliance with NFPA 1051 standards for professional wildland firefighter qualifications at the Wildland Firefighter Level.

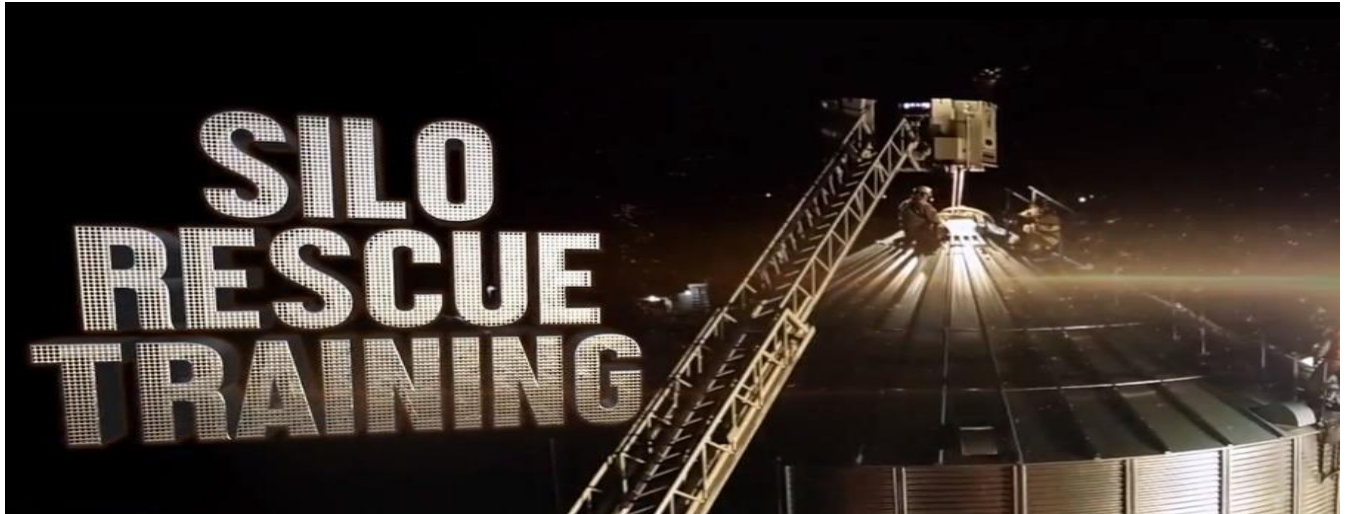
This also bridges the training requirement from a Structural Firefighter 1 to a Wisconsin DNR Wildland Firefighter, making you eligible to compete for part time Wildland Firefighter positions with the DNR.

This is a no cost training and lunch will be provided. Registration can be made by visiting www.2020Wildland.Eventbrite.com

Barron County Sheriff's Department – Office of Emergency Services

- Over the past three years, Barron County has experienced three silo rescue calls, all of which presented unique challenges. Through a partnership with the NW Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC), a Silo/Grain Bin Rescue Training will be held in Barron County in the summer of 2020 (date TBD).

This class will be geared specifically toward extrication, structural stability, and safety for patients and responders. The training will also include active field exercises using realistic training props. Dates are being confirmed and a training flyer will be published in the near future.



Business EOC

- To support local disaster response and recovery efforts, Emergency Management is working toward creating a Business Emergency Operations Center (EOC) concept. The purpose of a Business EOC is to create a network of local and regional businesses interested in actively participating in emergency/disaster response and recovery efforts. These efforts could consist of offering physical resources such as volunteer manpower, heavy equipment, food/water, etc. Additional business involvement could be provided through logistical support such as transportation management, disaster supply storage, etc.

In the event of an incident, a situation report (SitRep) would be emailed to the Business EOC group utilizing a Google Shared Document. This would provide an overview of the incident and describe what actions are being taken regarding emergency response and recovery.

The second section of the SitRep would list any unmet needs, such as volunteer manpower, heavy equipment, chain saws, debris clean-up teams, supply transportation assistance, etc. If a business chooses to voluntarily fill an unmet need, they would simply select the need they wish to fill, and assign it to their company name. This process would provide a real-time update of resources needed and fulfillment assignments made.

Pending the size of the incident, this group of business representatives could also be requested to meet at the Barron County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to further support disaster response and recovery operations. Further information on this program will be released over the next few months as the program is further developed.

First Responders

- Emergency Services of Barron County (ESBC) currently has 35 active members equipped with a personal protective equipment and a fully-stocked response gear bag with medications such as Albuterol, Narcan, Epinephrine, and Glucose. Team members are also provided liability insurance and workers compensation coverage.



Initial team goals were achieved in 2018, with all team members operating under a countywide set of state-approved medical protocols with dual-medial-direction provided by physicians from Mayo Clinic Health System in Barron and Marshfield Medical Center in Rice Lake. In addition, an annual training plan is in the final stages of approval with quarterly trainings offered to provide continuing education hours and hands-on skills practice for all law/fire/ems responders.



When the countywide initiative was launched in 2016, the 911 Center received 4,300 EMS calls with first responders responding to 21%. In 2017, that number increased to 23% coverage. In 2018, first responder members responded to 2,097 (39%) of calls in Barron County, almost doubling in coverage from 2016. In 2019, the percentage of countywide calls that first responders attended increased to 50%.

With a goal of 100% coverage by the end of 2021, team members are working hard to secure the funding to achieve this goal. As a 501(c)(3), ESBC is reliant upon community donations to provide funding to purchase response equipment, medical supplies, and sponsor team member training.

As of January 15th, the ESBC Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/ESBarronCounty) has 4,524 followers and the website (www.EmergencyServicesBC.org) has been viewed by 12,683 visitors.

Following several generous donations from our community members and local businesses, Emergency Services of Barron County (ESBC) is able to increase the number of countywide first responders from 25 to 35 members.

The roster includes responders in the following areas:

- o Almena area (7 first responders)
- o Barron area (7 first responders)
- o Haugen area (2 first responder)
- o Cameron area (3 first responders)
- o Chetek area (3 first responders)
- o Cumberland area (1 first responders)
- o Rice Lake area (2 first responders)
- o Turtle Lake area (6 first responders)



Five (5) additional responders will be added to the team over the next few weeks in areas that are in need, which will balance countywide coverage levels.

Rescue Task Force

- Emergency Services of Barron County has expanded to include a Rescue Task Force (RTF) response branch. The team currently consists of 32 members representing various Barron County fire departments, first responder agencies, and law enforcement agencies. Nine (9) RTF ballistic gear sets are being purchased in January, and training dates are being scheduled soon.

Once team members have completed the initial training, they will begin training with each law enforcement agency in Barron County (including ERT) to build a working relationship and learn specific response and safety tactics. Once all training has been completed, the RTF team will be available as a regionally deployable asset.

As a background, a RTF Team is responsible for responding into the warm zone of an active shooter incident (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. This nationwide initiative has proven to be the most effective method of saving the lives of patients suffering from gunshot wounds.

The Barron County RTF Team consists of local responders that will be provided all training, equipment, and supplies. The initial team will serve as a beta-test group to ensure training and education plans are in-place. Once the beta-test group has completed the process, RTF team sign-ups will be opened to all other emergency responders in Barron County that are interested in participating.



Additional Rescue Task Force information will be published within the next few weeks.

Search & Rescue

- To supplement local response efforts in locating missing persons, Emergency Services of Barron County will be expanding its operational capability to include a Search & Rescue (S&R) Branch in the spring/summer of 2020. There will not be a membership capacity, however participation on this team will only be open to current responders. Initial estimates are predicting 100 responders.

Once the team is rostered, training classes will be provided such as Basic/Advanced Search Techniques, Missing Person Actions and Expectations, etc. Each year, members will need to complete 4 hours of continuing education (provided by the team) and participate in an annual full-scale exercise. Once established, the team will serve as a regional response resource to other counties upon request.

The structure of this team is very specific and unique to our area. The team will be divided into functional groups such as a Short Team, Planning Team, Special Teams, and the Full Team. When a missing person is reported, the Director of Emergency Services will respond to the scene. Upon confirmation, the Director will activate the Short Team and Planning Team.

- Before activating the full search team, a small core group of 20 heavily trained searchers (Short Team) will respond to the scene to gather intel and initiate a “hasty search” to check common areas, hazard areas, favorite locations, etc. This approach focuses on high probability areas and prevents large-scale contamination of the scene and potentially destroying evidence.
- In addition to the Short Team, the 10 member Planning Team will respond to the staging area to begin planning for a full-scale search if needed. This plan will include aerial maps with search grids, a communications plan, logistics, etc.
- If the subject is not found within a specific timeframe, the remaining 70 field searchers (Full Team) will be activated. These members will respond to the scene where they will report to members of the Short Team, who will transition into Team Lead roles.

Specialized Teams will augment search efforts to include a Drone Rescue Team, ATV/UTV Rescue Team, and Snowmobile Rescue Team. More information regarding these teams will be published in the spring of 2020.



Agency-Specific Equipment

- The Barron County Fire Chiefs group approved the purchase of a Porta-Count Fit-Tester for SCBA Masks. The cost of the device is being divided between participating fire departments and will save each department several thousand dollars each year in mask fit-testing fees paid to outside vendors. The equipment has arrived at the Justice Center and will be distributed at the next Quarterly Fire Chiefs meeting.
- Mayo Hospital in Barron is considering the installation of Mobile CAD in their Emergency Room to provide ER staff members with an early heads-up of the incidents that local EMS is responding to. This would allow staff members to start clearing ER beds, activate additional ER staff members, request medical helicopter standby's at the hospital, and/or notify trauma teams for critical patients.



- Cumberland EMS has installed Mobile CAD in their EMS Units to provide their EMS staff members with the ability to see dispatch call notes, location history, address alerts, etc.

This capability closes the loop on information when 911 dispatchers are busy with high call volumes, and provides a means to access additional information such as site floor plans, emergency pre-plans, etc.

Plan Updates

- Off-site Emergency Plans were updated for 19 chemical facilities identified by the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). These documents include chemical identification, hazard exposure profiles, and release management practices, and are used by facility management in the event of a chemical spill or release.
- Municipal Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) were updated for 33 townships, cities, and villages. These documents guide local officials through the response and recovery phase of large-scale incidents and disasters.

Responder Recognition

- Over the past year, Barron County has experienced four emergency responses that resulted in a confirmed life-save by local first responders and citizens. On Wednesday July 31st, an award ceremony was at the Old Lakeview Medical property located at 1100 North Main St in Rice Lake.

The ceremony recognized 60 Firefighters, EMTs, Paramedics, Law Enforcement Officers, Dispatchers, and community members for their part in the four recent cardiac arrest resuscitations.

The ceremony included 60 Responder Commendation Awards, six Citizen Lifesaving Awards, and three Phoenix Awards.

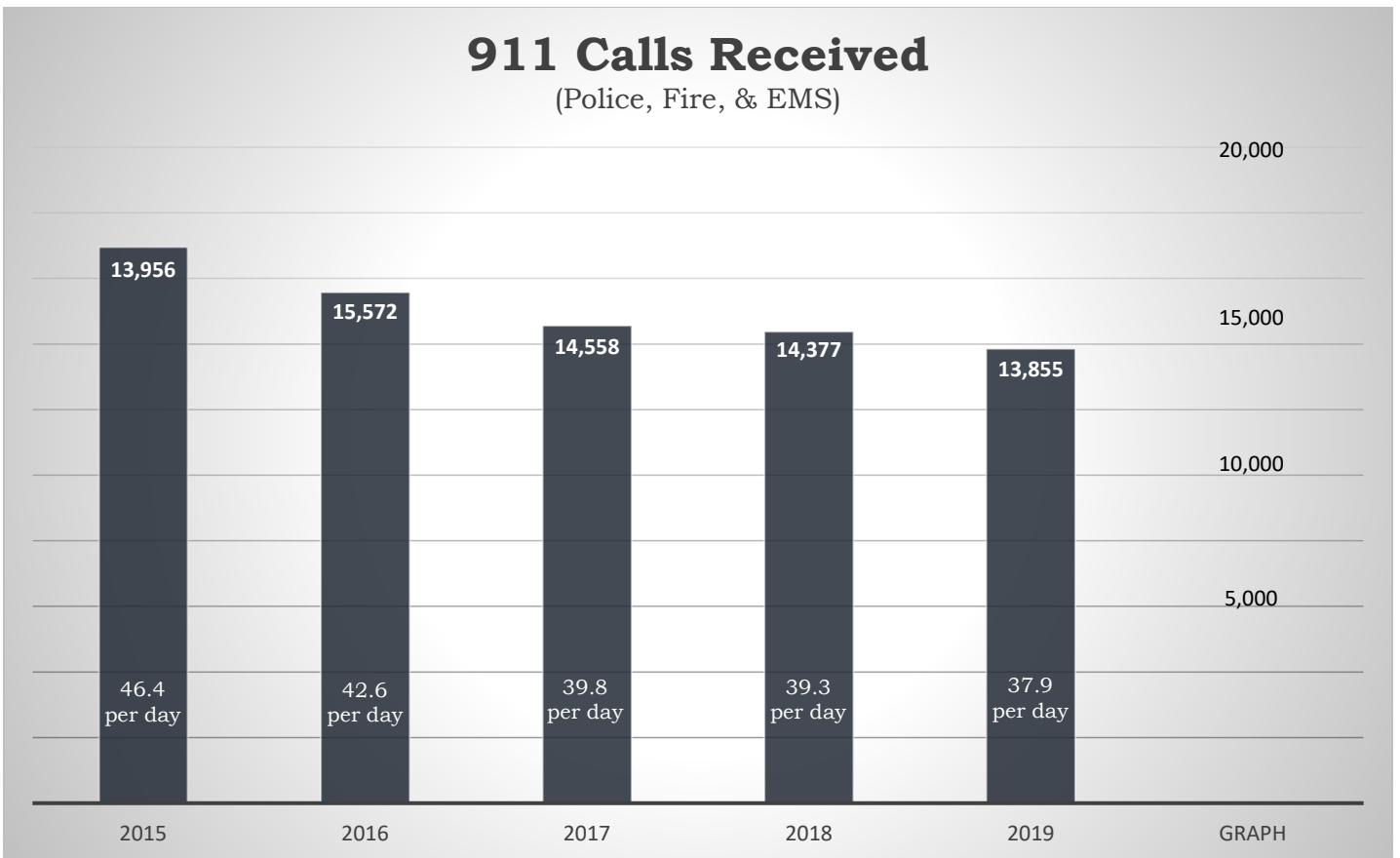
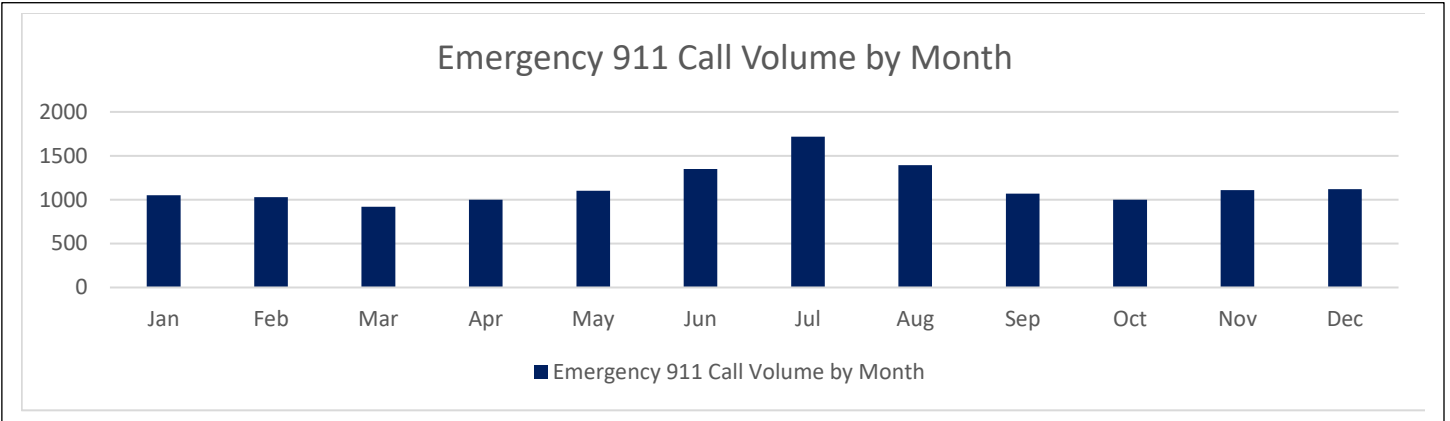


PHOENIX

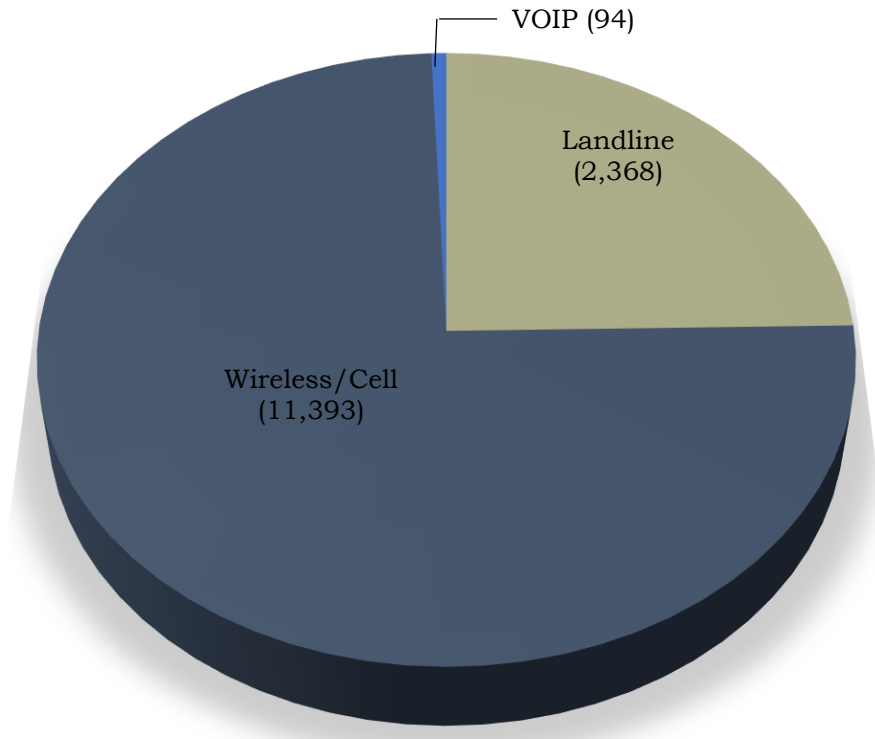
Life-Saving Award

CALL STATISTICS OVERVIEW

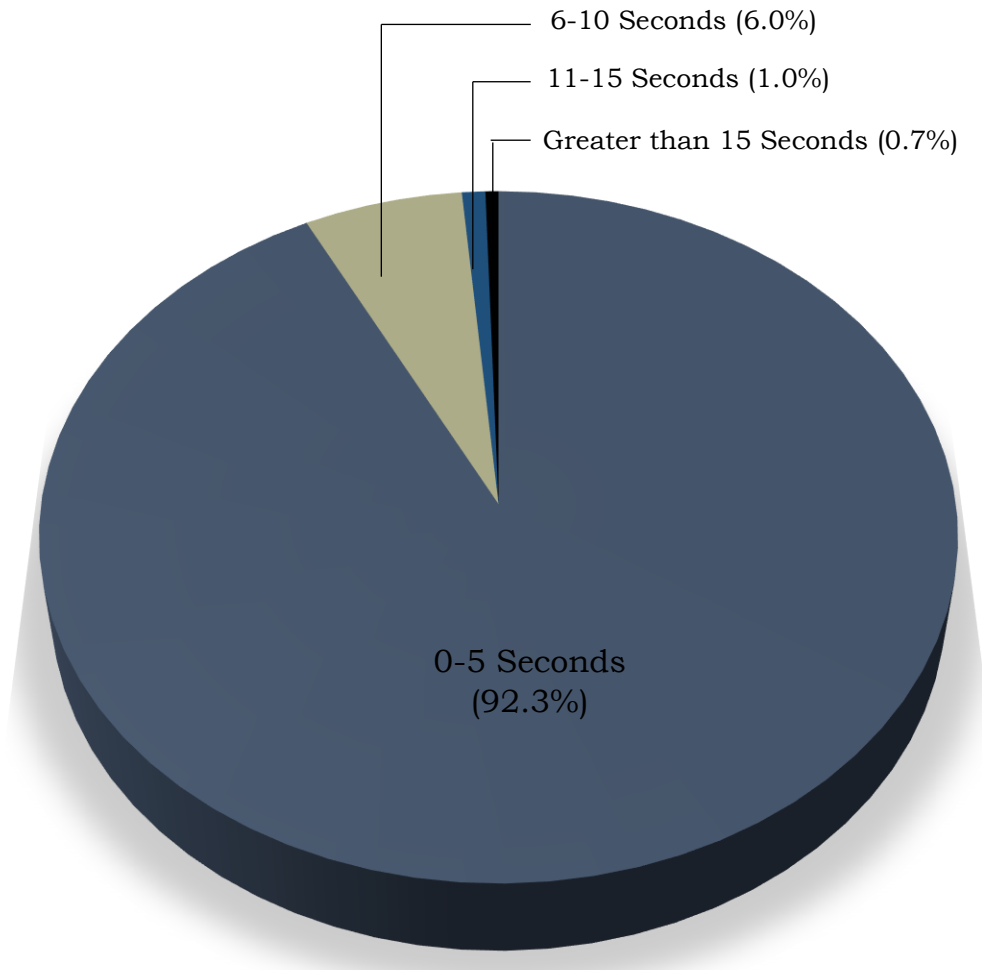
Total Number of CADs Created	<u>46,061</u>
Total Number of Inbound Phone Calls Received	<u>55,654</u>
Emergency 911 Phone Calls Received (13,855)	
Non-Emergency (Admin) Phone Calls Received (41,799)	
Total Number of Outbound Phone Calls made from the 911 Center	<u>16,427</u>



Total Number of Inbound 911 Phone Calls into the 911 Center: **13,855**

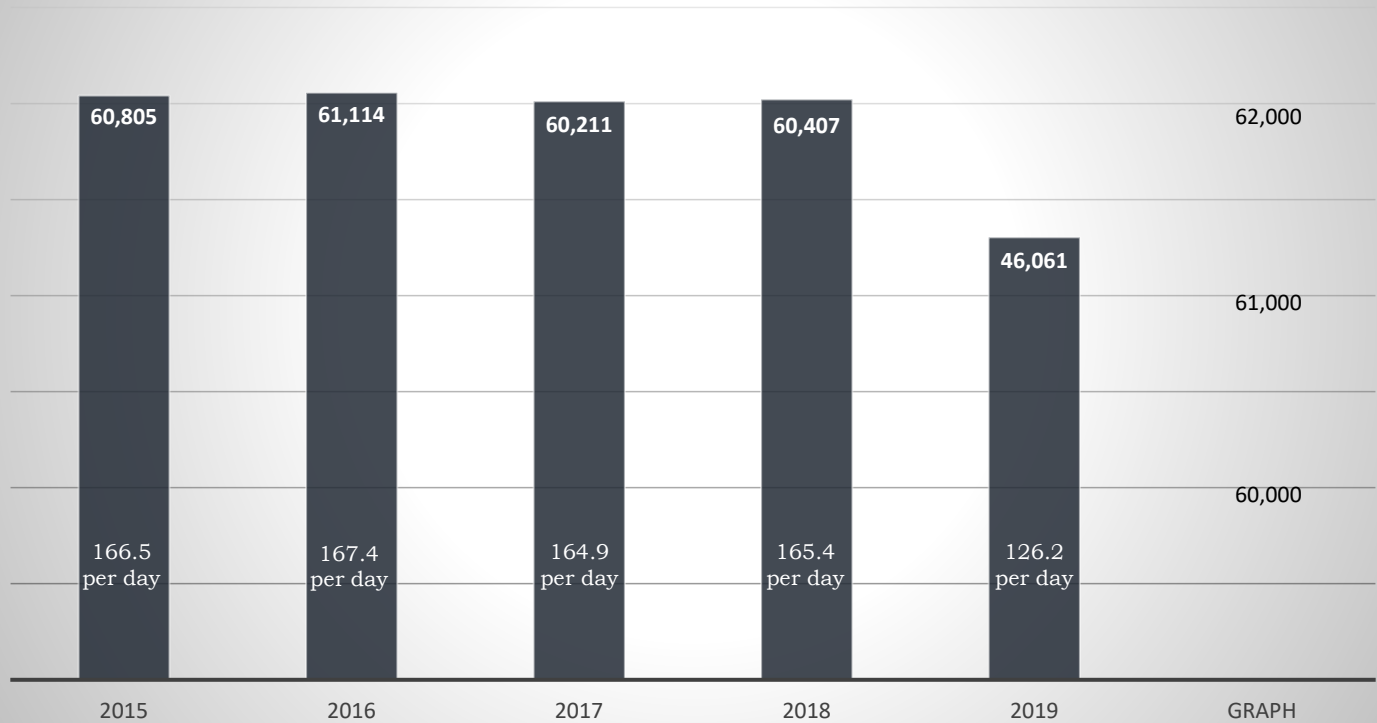


Average 911 Ring-To-Answer Time (3 Seconds or less)



911 CADs Created

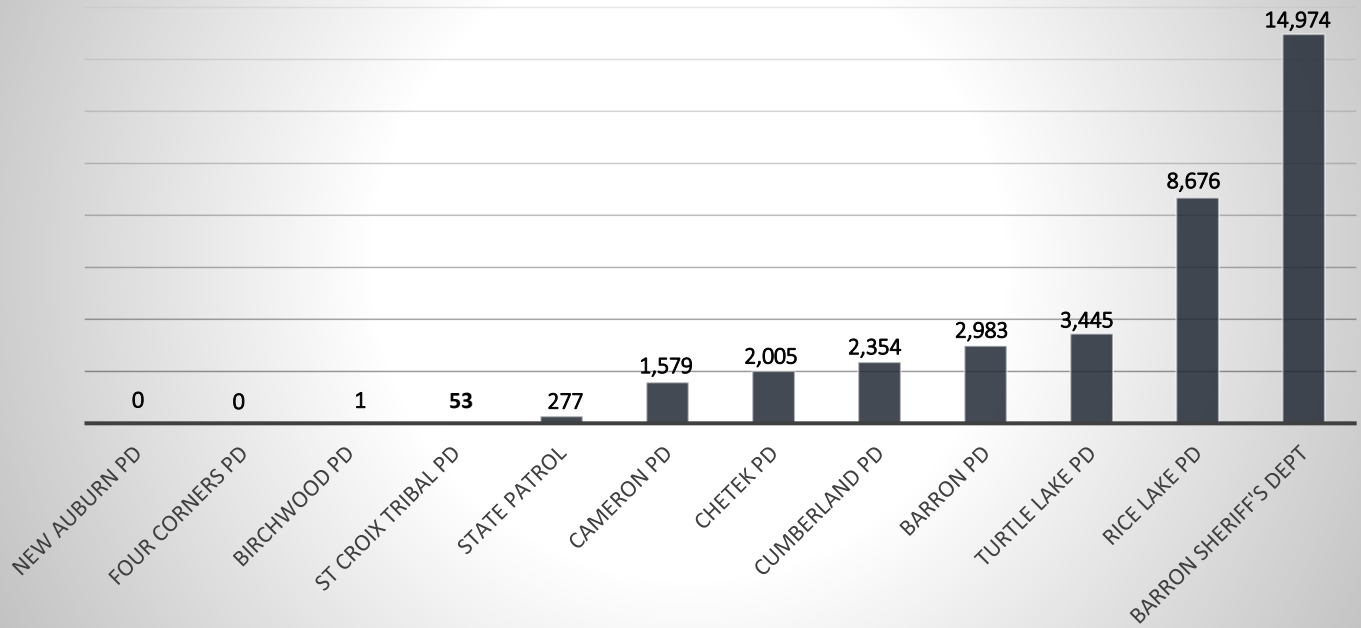
(Police, Fire, & EMS)



NOTE: In January 2019, the Barron County 911 Center switched over to Spillman CAD which tracks law, fire, and EMS calls on a more accurate basis than the previous CAD system.

The annual response numbers in this report may be higher/lower than previous years, however they now reflect a more accurate count.

Law Enforcement Calls (36,470 Total)



LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

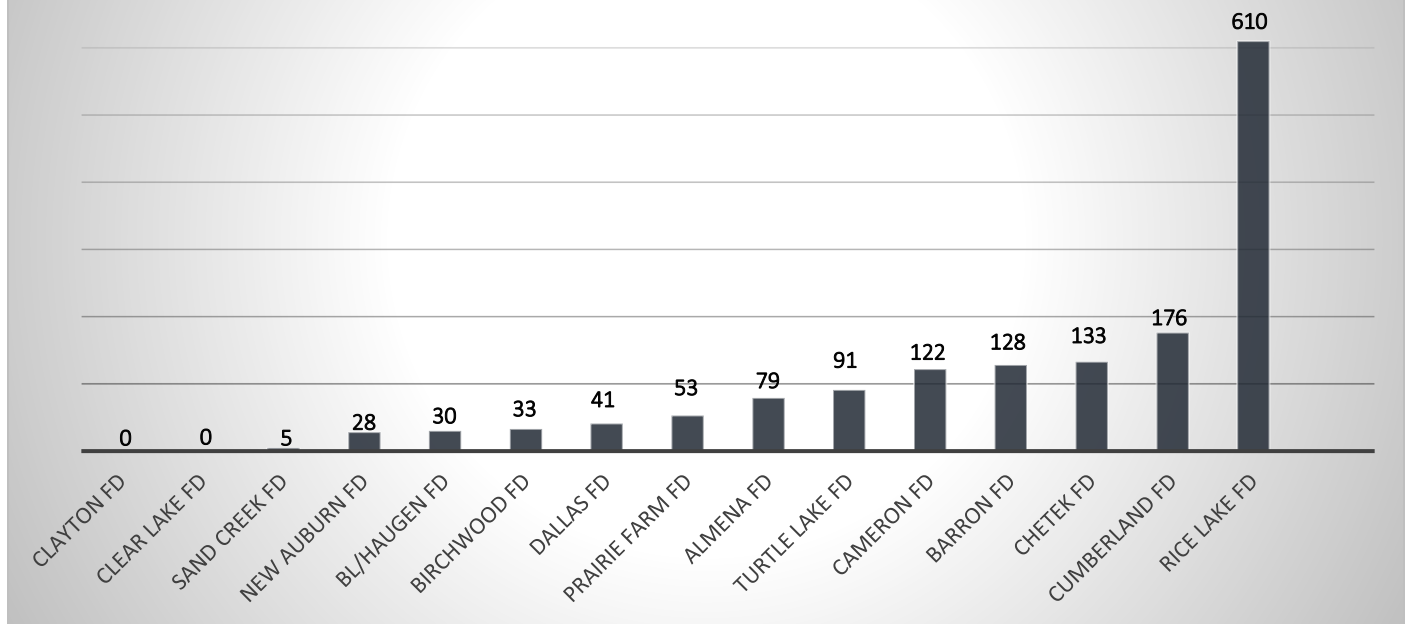
911 Hang Up	2453
Controlled Burn	2412
MVA Non-Injury	1412
Motorist Assist	1052
Dog Case	875
Call For Service	814
911 Misdial	649
Lockout	598
Disorderly Conduct	562
MVA Auto vs Pedestrian	506
Domestic Disturbance	480
Commercial Burg Alarm	407
Animal Complaint	400
Information	392
Drug Complaint	387
911 Non-Emergency	369
Harassment/Stalking/Threat	339
Fraud	300
Assist Other Agency	268
Damage/Vandalism	247
Lost & Found	243
Attempt to Locate	232
Mental Disorder	220
MVA with Injuries	215
Non-Emergency	196
Livestock on Highway	194

LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS (CONTINUED)

Residential Burg Alarm	174
Missing Person	169
Gas Drive Off	159
Child Custody	152
Intoxicated Person	142
Noise Complaint	138
Hit & Run	137
Civil Complaint	127
OWI	119
Ordinance Violation	110
Abdominal Pain	109
Paper Service	98
Burglary/Home Invasion	83
Human Services	79
ATV/Boat/Snowmobile Complaint	70
Assault/Battery	66
Animal Bite	64
Public Assist	64
Open Door	64
Extra Patrol	62
Fight in Progress	61
DNR Complaint	60
Abuse/Neglect	53
Deceased Person	47
Duress Alarm	43
Gunshots Complaint	42
Littering	41
Barking Dog	39
Fireworks Complaint	39
Landlord/Tenant Dispute	26
K9 Assist	23
Man with a Gun	21
MVA Boat/ATV/Snowmobile	19
MVA Extrication	17
Chase/Pursuit	16
Liquor/Open Container	16
Emergency Message	13
Indecency	12
Forgery	8
MVA Auto vs Pedestrian	5
Boat Assist	4
Funeral Assist	4
MVA Fatal	3
Inmate Violation	2

ERT Callouts	11
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Fire Department Calls (1,529 Total)

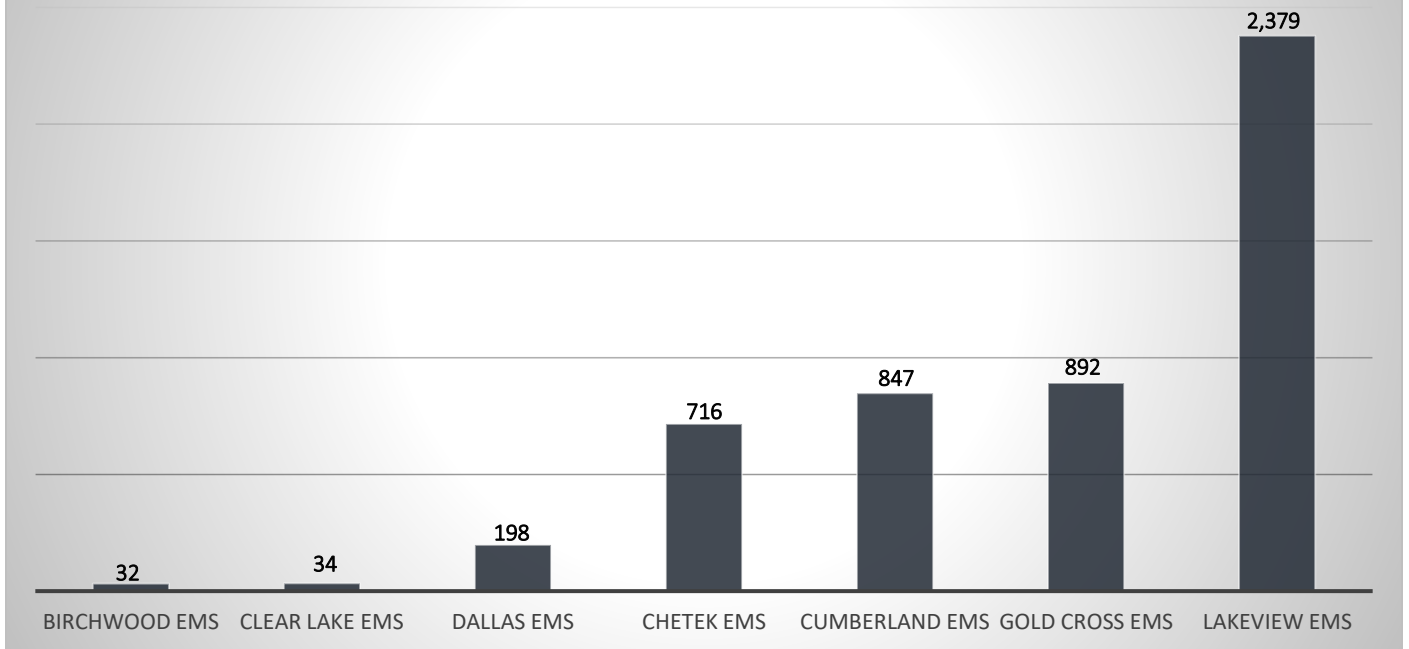


FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

MVA with Injuries	215
Commercial Fire Alarm	200
Structure Fire	103
Outside Fire	90
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	65
Residential Fire Alarm	50
Gas Leak	50
Odor Investigation	45
Grass/Brush Fire	42
Electrical Hazard	36
Passenger Vehicle Fire	26
MVA with Extrication	17
Hazmat	15
Commercial Vehicle Fire	9
Smoke Investigation Outside	9
Confined Space Rescue	6
Fuel Spill	3
Lightning Strike Investigation	3
MVA Fatal	3
Explosion	2
Farm Accident	2
Animal Rescue	2

(Statistics do not include mutual aid requests)

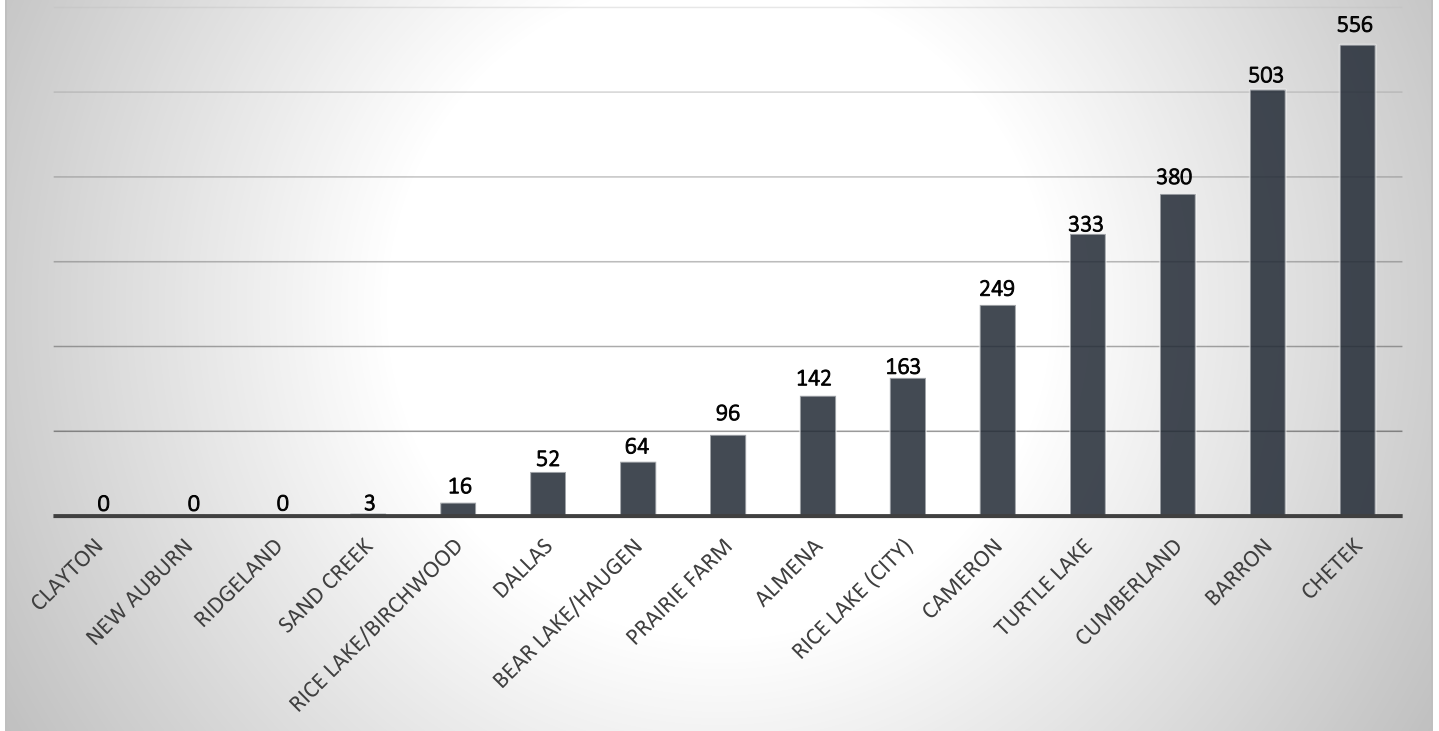
Ambulance Calls (5,098 Total)



AMBULANCE STATISTICS

Sick Person	1008
Fall	913
Breathing Problem	461
Chest Pain	265
MVA with Injuries	232
Unconscious/Fainting	179
Seizures	149
Traumatic Injuries	119
Stroke	112
Abdominal Pain	109
Diabetic	103
Heart Problems	97
Back Pain	95
Hemorrhage	79
Overdose/Poisoning	67
Medical Alarm	56
Deceased Person	47
Cardiac Arrest	42
Allergies	26
Psychiatric	19
Choking	16
Headache	15
Gunshot Wound	10
MVA Auto vs Pedestrian	5
Burns	5
Pregnancy/Childbirth	5
Heat/Cold Exposure	4
Drowning	3
Electrocution	1

First Responder Calls (2,557 Total)



First Responder Coverage

- In 2019, first responders responded to 50% of EMS calls in Barron County
- In 2018, first responders responded to 39% of EMS calls in Barron County
- In 2017, first responders responded to 23% of EMS calls in Barron County
- In 2016, first responders responded to 21% of EMS calls in Barron County

Major Incidents

COMMUNITY EVACUATION

- On January 30th, the Emergency Services Director responded to the Maple Plain Reservation for a power outage affecting 200 customers during winter temperatures of -30 degrees. Two community warming centers were opened and local residents were relocated for 8 hours until power was restored.

WINDSTORM/TORNADO

- At 1729 hrs on Friday July 19th, a Tornado Warning was issued for Barron County. At 1745 hrs, a severe thunderstorm moved through Barron County resulting in the 911 Center receiving multiple reports of winds in excess of 70 mph in the Turtle Lake area and moving eastward. Initial size-ups indicated significant tree damage with downed electrical lines, trees on houses, residential gas leaks, and roads blocked in multiple areas.

The County Fairgrounds were evacuated and countywide storm sirens were activated, along with local weather spotters. Responders worked for several hours to clear roads, protect power lines, and check on residents; while no injuries or fatalities were reported.



Approximately 10,400 residents were without power as 115 power crews actively worked toward clean-up and restoration.

Community shelters were opened to provide coffee, water, and power outlets for charging personal devices – and area schools were also opened to provide showering facilities for local residents.

Code Red (mass notification) messages were sent to 23,021 residents encouraging homeowners to contact 211 to report damage and/or request clean-up assistance. To assist residents with clean-up, a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) was opened on July 26th and 27th, which coordinated over 150 community volunteers. A total of 213 clean-up work orders were received with 187 being completed by volunteers and the remaining 26 being forwarded to the respective township for follow-up.

In addition to local residents, chainsaw crews were deployed from the Wisconsin Dept of Corrections (Gordon Facility and Black River Facility).

To assist clean-up efforts in the Loon Lake area, the Wisconsin National Guard deployed heavy equipment including loaders, backhoes, dump trucks, and chainsaw operators.

On July 22nd, the county signed its disaster declaration, opening countywide resources to areas in need. Within 48 hours, 13 municipal disaster declarations were also signed.



Following the storm, National Weather Service (NWS) Survey Teams confirmed that Barron County experienced significant straight-line winds in addition to two tornadoes (EF-0 and EF-1), both in the Turtle Lake and Comstock area. The NWS also advised that Wisconsin experienced 14 tornadoes on the same day.



The following amounts were collectively reported by the impacted municipalities. These amounts were also submitted to FEMA for disaster reimbursement, which is still in the approval process.

- Debris Clearance: \$1,267,170
- Protective Measures: \$50,246
- Roads & Bridges: \$11,310
- Buildings & Equipment: \$1,185
- Utilities: \$1,267,376
- Parks & Recreation \$96,990

- **Total Expense: \$2,694,278**



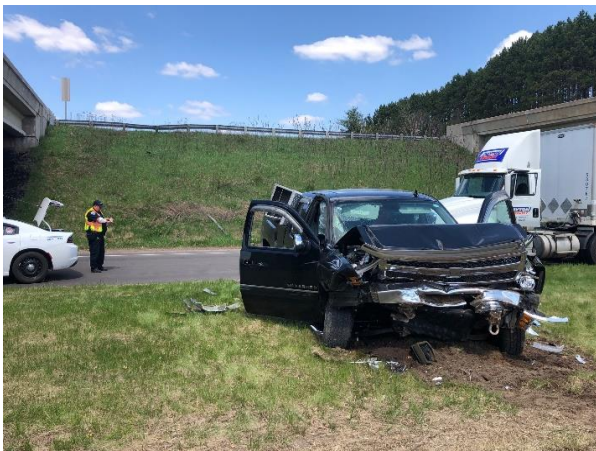
2019 INCIDENT OVERVIEW



Residential Structure Fire
Almena Fire District



Storm Flooding
Town of Sumner



Motor Vehicle Accident
Chetek Fire District



Train vs Semi
Barron Fire District



Structure Fire
Barron Fire District



Grain Bin Rescue
Dallas Fire District

2019 INCIDENT OVERVIEW



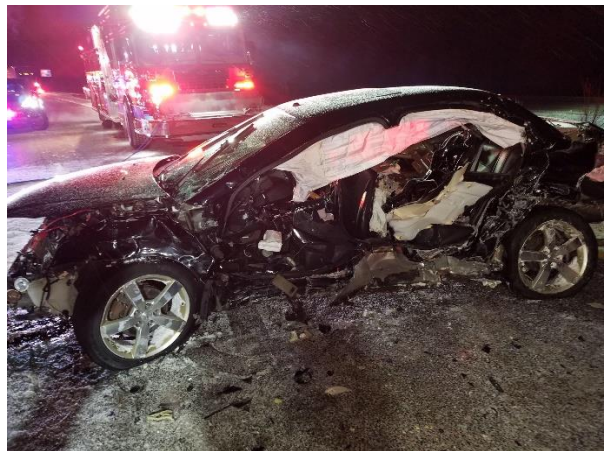
5-Car Motor Vehicle Accident
Cameron Fire District



Motor Vehicle Accident
Rice Lake Fire District



Structure Fire
Almena Fire District



Motor Vehicle Accident
Chetek Fire District



Residential Structure Fire
Barron Fire District



Residential Structure Fire
Cameron Fire District

2019 INCIDENT OVERVIEW



Brush Fire
Cameron Fire District



Motor Vehicle Fire
Cameron Fire District



Brush Fire
New Auburn Fire District



Motor Vehicle Accident
Almena Fire District



Brush Fire
Cumberland Fire District



Brush Fire
New Auburn Fire District

2019 INCIDENT OVERVIEW



Smoke Investigation
Turtle Lake Fire District



Structure Collapse
Cameron Fire District

At the January 30th Residential Structure Fire, Cameron Fire Chief Mitch Hansen made national News when his -30 degree firefighting photo was Picked up by multiple news media outlets.

Chief Hansen spent the next several days Conducting phone interviews with CNN, Good Morning America, Maxwell House Coffee, and many others.



END OF REPORT



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