

Emergency Services Quarterly Report

January 1 2018 to March 31 2018

Barron County Sheriff's Department, Office of Emergency Services



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



Completed Projects

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- (19) Community Preparedness articles were published on social media over the past three (3) months, reaching a total of 181,894 viewers. Articles were also included within the “Barron County Review” and Meals-on-Wheels, which also reached an additional 15,000 residents this quarter. Topics included severe weather awareness, emergency preparedness, warming shelters, driving safety, and weather alerts.
- Active Shooter Preparedness presentations were delivered to 19 area businesses, churches, hotels, hospitals, and government facilities; instructing a total of 690 attendees. This brings the 2-year total of Barron County Active Shooter Trainings to 83 classes with over 1,700 attendees. On Jan 15th, live active shooter scenarios were conducted on each floor of the Barron County Government Center to refresh response principles for all employees.
- In March, the Emergency Services Director presented “Disaster Recovery Lessons Learned from the Barron/Rusk Tornado” to the Wisconsin Emergency Management Governor’s Conference in Appleton.
- Two (2) Emergency Preparedness presentations (open to the public) were held in Barron and Prairie Farm, which outlined emergency preparedness goals for individuals and families. With over 40 attendees, topics included creating 72-hour kits, emergency evacuation plans, disaster preparedness, etc.
- Ten (10) fire department monthly business meetings were attended to answer questions, promote communication, and strengthen working relationships with local responders.



Active Shooter Training – Barron County Gov Center

GRANTS RECEIVED (YTD Grant Funding Received: \$60,041)

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

\$22,239	Second-Half of 2017 EMPG Grant
\$6,480	Second-Half of 2017 EPCRA Grant
\$30,169	Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant to update Hazard Mitigation Plan
\$1,153	EMPG Computer/Equipment Grant Redistribution

ADDITIONAL GRANTS AWARDED (YTD Grant Funding Awarded: \$3,000)

- Office of Emergency Services applied and was awarded the following grants this quarter:

\$1,500	HMEP Training Grant for Bear Lake/Haugen Fire
\$3,000	HMEP Training Grant for Rice Lake Fire

Grant funding received this quarter: \$ 60,041
 Grant funding received year-to-date: \$ 60,041



Completed Projects

TRAINING GRANTS

- Emergency Services applied and were awarded three (3) training grants through the Hazard Mitigation Emergency Planning grant. These grants cover the cost of hazardous materials technician and confined space entry classes for three (3) local fire departments.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- A partnership with Mosaic Telecom was created to install a dedicated fiber line from the Justice Center to the Clinton Radio Tower. To meet the project cost of \$155,508, a Broadband Expansion grant was applied for through the WI Public Svc Commission. If approved, the project is slated to begin early Spring. Grant status will be announced in May.
- Emergency response plans were modified and approved for Boy Scout Camp Phillips, located in Haugen. Plans included response procedures for fire, medical, search & rescue, and active threat incidents. Agreements were created for early responder notifications during potential and escalating incidents, such as overdue campers.
- On March 20th, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved the Barron County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was revised in late 2017 by a committee of representatives within Barron County. This plan prioritizes natural and technological hazards and threats to our community and identifies mitigation strategies to reduce our vulnerability.
- Off-site Emergency Plans were updated for eight (8) 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 and responders in the event of a chemical spill or release.
- Seven (7) sections of the Barron County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) were updated, to include warning & communications, evacuation & sheltering, fire & rescue, etc.



COMPLETED TRAINING

- A Homemade Explosives Course presented by New Mexico Tech was held at the Barron County Justice Center on February 8th with over 50 local and regional attendees. Training included how field responders can recognize explosive making materials for early detection and notification of law enforcement.
- Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents course was held at the Justice Center on March 22nd/23rd with 40 local and regional responders from fire departments, EMS agencies, hospitals, law enforcement agencies, and some attending from out-of-state.



Completed Projects

FIRST RESPONDERS

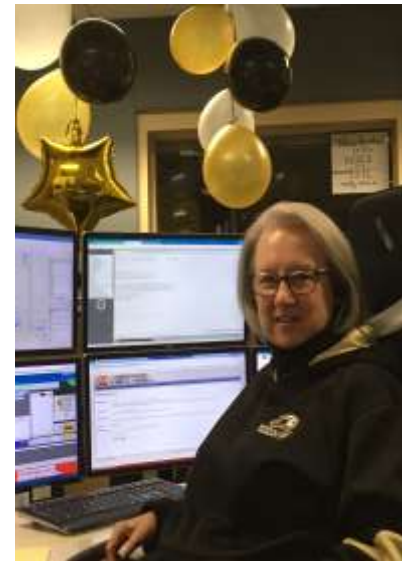
- The countywide first responder team (Emergency Services of Barron County) was formally approved by the Wisconsin Office of EMS in January. The team has approved its first thirteen (13) responders which are currently being issued equipment and supplies. Each member will receive a fully-stocked gear bag, portable radio, and reflective vest.

Once the initial members are outfitted, an additional ten (10) members will be approved. This process will continue as the budget allows. Since January 1st 2018, a total of \$8,753 in community donations have been received. These funds will allow more team members to be added to the roster over the next several months.

A goal of 50 fully operational team members by the end of 2018 will be supported by additional community donations. A quarterly training program has also been established to provide responders with no-cost continuing education throughout the year to apply toward recertification.

STAFFING

- On February 25th, our 10-year veteran night shift dispatcher Mary-Ann officially retired. She plans on working with her son's local company and enjoying the freedom of sleeping-in and taking a well-deserved relaxing break. We thank Mary-Ann for her service to the community and wish her all the best as she explores new hobbies.
- On February 14th, Katrina was hired in dispatch to fill the vacancy from Mary-Ann. Katrina comes to Barron County with experience from a neighboring county 911 center.
- On February 16th, Ashley Fankhauser was hired as the part-time Emergency Management Office Specialist to fill the vacancy left by Dee Paradise. Ashley will be the primary point-of-contact for grants, off-site plans, and municipal-level emergency operations plan updates.



PLAN OF WORK

- The 2018 Plan of Work (1st Half) was completed and submitted to Wisconsin Emergency Management. This guidance document contains 23 sections that outline specific tasks and requirements that must be completed by county-level emergency managers each year to qualify for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). Sections include planning, training, exercises, community outreach, meetings, partnerships, and grant opportunities. Each year, Barron County Emergency Management meets/exceeds these standards to better support the agencies and communities we serve.



In-Progress Projects

- On Wednesday June 27th, a mass casualty exercise will be held in the City of Barron from 10:00am to 12:00pm. The scenario type will not be published, to promote realism. Response agencies will include law enforcement, fire departments, ambulance agencies, air medical, first responders, and area hospitals.



- On Wednesday September 26th, a mass casualty exercise will be held in the Bear Lake Haugen area. The scenario will be also be held to promote realism.
- To increase the information available to 911 dispatchers, a **voluntary** database is being created so area businesses can share specific information with emergency responders; such as access codes, 24-hour contacts, floor plans, AED locations, and any other information that may assist responders dispatched to that specific location day and night.
- A residential program is also being created to allow homeowners to **voluntarily** share information with 911; such as garage door codes, hide-a-key locations, special needs residents, and any other information that may help responders in the event someone from that address calls 911 and is unable to verbally communicate with the dispatcher. Additional information may include residents that are blind or hard of hearing, oxygen dependent, electric dependent, etc. This information will be stored in the 911 database and relayed to responders as needed.
- A quick-reference binder is being designed to walk Barron County representatives through quickly establishing a Family Assistance Center, Multi-Agency Resource Center, Donation Management Center, and Supply Distribution Points. This guide will outline available sites (with interior/exterior site plans), setting up the site, personnel needed, and instructions on notifying disaster victims regarding the date/time and location of the site.

COMMUNICATIONS

- To improve radio communications in the Chetek and New Auburn areas, adjustments were made to the Chetek Radio Tower antenna. Local responders are testing the system to verify if coverage area improvements are noticed. The intent of this project is to broaden the mobile and portable radio coverage and strengthen radio reception throughout the southeast portion of Barron County specific to Fire/EMS frequencies.
- In late 2017, the Barron County Sheriff's Department chose to switch portable radio models from EFJohnson to Motorola due to unrealistic manufacturer-mandated repair costs. In March 2018, the department purchased 25 Motorola APX3000 replacement radios for patrol officers, which will be issued in late April.



In-Progress Projects

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- High winds and tornadoes often lead to loss of life, injuries, damage to property, crops, infrastructure, and forest areas. Barron County has experienced some of the most deadliest and most damaging tornadoes in Wisconsin, establishing it as being a relative hotspot for tornadic activity, with only 5 other counties in Wisconsin experiencing more tornadoes since 1950. In the last 60 years, Barron County has experienced 38 tornadoes (averaging a tornado every 1.5 years), with 1 fatality, 41 injuries, and over \$37 million dollars in damage.



Example of Storm Shelter (not actual design)

The county has also experienced 104 high-wind events since 1993 (averaging 4.5 per year) and resulting in over \$5.3 million dollars in damage. In an effort to enhance the physical protection of residents located in mobile home areas, Barron County has applied for a \$270,000 FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant to fund the construction of two community storm shelters. One located at 1045 22nd Street in Chetek (Prairie Lake Estates) and one located at 1469 E Division Ave in Barron (East End Estates). The application was sent to FEMA for review in November, however the approval process takes 6-8 months to complete. Additional information to follow as it becomes available.

UPCOMING TRAINING

- Airway Management in Unique Circumstances – will be held at WITC on Saturday, April 28th. This course allows EMRs and EMTs the opportunity to practice airway management in difficult field situations, such as unusual patient positioning, mechanical entrapment, confined spaces, etc. This collaborative training resulted from a partnership between the Barron County Sheriff's Department, MCHS-Barron, Lakeview Medical Center, Cumberland Hospital, and Emergency Services of Barron County. Registration can be completed at www.BarronAirwayTraining.Eventbrite.com
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) – Through a partnership between the Barron County Sheriff's Department, WITC, and Emergency Services of Barron County; two EMR classes will be held locally. The first class from May 14th to June 27th will be held at WITC and the second class from May 30th to July 23rd. Classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday evenings, with an occasional Saturdays. A training announcement will be published within the next few weeks.
- Identifying and Managing Street Drugs – Within the next few months, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) will conduct a presentation for first responders and hospital nursing staff on identifying and dealing with street drugs. Training will be designed to increase awareness of identifying street drugs, managing patient overdoses, and protecting against potential self-exposures. A training flyer will be published once the date and location is confirmed.

In-Progress Projects



- Skywarn (Storm Spotter) Training – Through a National Weather Service partnership, a Skywarn Storm Spotter Class will be held at the Turtle Lake High School on Tue, April 17th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, and again from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Registration can be completed at www.BarronStormSpotter.Eventbrite.com

On behalf of the Barron County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services, we sincerely thank the men and women of our emergency response organizations for their unsurpassed service and dedication to the members of our community.

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End of Report

Submitted by: Mike Judy

