

# Emergency Services Quarterly Report

April 1 2018 to June 30 2018

Barron County Sheriff's Department, Office of Emergency Services



# Completed Projects

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- (47) Community Preparedness articles were published on social media over the past three (3) months, reaching a total of 311,272 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 16 area businesses, churches, hospitals, and schools; instructing over 520 attendees. On Tuesday July 10<sup>th</sup>, a full-scale active shooter exercise is scheduled at Barron High School from 10:00am to 2:00pm to provide emergency responders the ability to test command, control, and communication strategies. Participating agencies will include law enforcement, fire departments, ambulance agencies, air medical, first responders, and area hospitals.
- Nine (9) fire department monthly business meetings were attended to answer questions, promote communication, and maintain strong working relationships with local departments.
- On June 8<sup>th</sup>, 911 Dispatcher Tucker McCumber attended the Mayo Hospital’s Kids Safety Camp at Anderson Park in Barron and instructed youth campers on how to call 911, questions they would be asked by 911 dispatchers, the information they need to know when calling 911, and completed a test 911 call over the speaker system as a demonstration.



MCHS-Barron Kid’s Safety Day

Tucker’s presentation was followed by Hands-Only CPR, which was instructed by Marlene Dirkes from Gold Cross EMS.

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

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

\$0	No additional grants awarded
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## **ADDITIONAL GRANTS AWARDED (YTD Grant Funding Awarded: \$0)**

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

\$0	No additional grants awarded
\$0	No additional grants awarded

Grant funding received this quarter:	\$ 0.00
Grant funding received year-to-date:	\$ 60,041



# Completed Projects

## **TRAINING GRANTS**

- Quarterly reports were filed through the State regarding the three (3) Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) training grants. Grant reimbursements have also been requested through the State.
- A \$10,000 FEMA Computer & Hazmat Equipment Grant was applied for, and we're awaiting an approval letter from the State.

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

- Tornado planning walk-throughs were completed at Chetek High School and Roselawn Elementary School in Chetek to assist school administration with severe weather planning.
- On April 10<sup>th</sup>, a Tornado Drill was attended at UW-Barron County to help guide disaster preparedness measures regarding severe weather. A facility pre-plan will be created within the next six months to enhance response and recovery capabilities.
- On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Barron County Emergency Services coordinated a table-top disaster exercise with the City of Rice Lake. The scenario followed an EF-3 Tornado striking the southwest portion of the city with a damage path stretching over three miles. With eight participating departments; representatives discussed response plans, communication plans, and resource needs at local and regional levels.
- A Crisis Response Plan was reviewed with the Cumberland School District to discuss preparedness and response strategies for emergency situations; such as injured students, weather related incidents, etc.



To assist town chairpersons in making decisions on implementing burn bans, the Director of Emergency Services agreed to coordinate with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the National Weather Service (NWS) to determine if a burn ban is needed and shall forward that recommendation to the town chairpersons for their consideration. Emergency Management will also maintain a list of bans and publish that information in the Barron County 911

Center, on social media, and will forward it to all fire chiefs. This program will be in-place each year from snow-melt to around the Memorial Day weekend. Note: this program is not intended to replace any ordinance or agreement between the town and the local fire chiefs, and townships are not required to participate in this initiative. This is simply an informational program designed to support town chairpersons in making the decision to enact a burning ban in their communities.



# Completed Projects

- In an effort to take a more proactive stance during severe weather warnings, a countywide Weather Spotter Team was created, consisting of firefighters from various departments across Barron County. To support this initiative, the National Weather Service agreed to notify the Barron County Director of Emergency Services during all severe weather warnings before the public warnings are issued. When this notification is received, an alert is sent to the specific firefighters that have signed-up to participate in the weather spotter group.

When the alert is received, those members report to their fire hall, staff a truck (as a group), and drive their district to monitor for severe weather (tornado touchdowns, funnel clouds, hail, wind damage, etc). It's important to know this group is only activated during Severe Weather (thunderstorm and tornado) WARNINGS, not WATCHES.



The benefit of this program is putting Skywarn-trained weather spotters (responders) in the field proactively monitoring severe weather and relaying certain information back to the 911 Center in real-time. The program also disperses response vehicles throughout the district. In the event a fire hall is severely damaged by storm debris, response vehicles aren't trapped inside and unable to respond to calls.

There are currently 32 emergency responders (trained as NWS Weather Spotters) actively participating in this program across Barron County.

- To promote incident communications and support hospital preparedness, the Director of Emergency Services has agreed to provide hospitals an early heads-up (if possible) over the radio when responding to critical incidents. This is meant to assist hospitals with planning for additional resources and preparation for potential critical patients. When contacted, each hospital has agreed to share the information with surrounding hospitals in Barron County.



- In previous years, the Storm Siren located within the City of Barron has been included during the activation of all other quadrants within Barron County. The reasoning is Barron being centrally located at the intersection of all quadrants (Hwy 8/Hwy 25). Recent feedback has identified a potential for area residents to become complacent due to the siren being activated for weather warnings not in the Barron area.

To mitigate this concern, the storm siren activation policy was modified for the siren to only be activated within the southwest quadrant (since the majority of severe storms move from southwest to northeast in direction). This change will be monitored to ensure safety and effectiveness.

- To enhance employee preparedness, Barron County Employee Safety Guides were created for the Justice Center, Government Center, Highway Department, and the Waste-to-Energy Plant. The purpose of these guides are to walk Barron County employees through the various safety-related features available to them during emergency situations, in an effort to protect themselves and visitors from injury. Topics include how to diffuse difficult situations, floor plans, panic buttons, active shooter, automated external defibrillators (AEDs), fire alarms, fire extinguishers, severe weather preparedness, and emergency evacuation routes.



# Completed Projects

- To provide patrol officers, ERT members, and firefighters with better situational awareness, a facility pre-plan has been created for the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Plant in Almena. A pre-plan is a document that outlines specific hazards within a facility so responders have a better understanding of what's inside a specific facility before entering it.

Pre-plans normally include the location of AEDs, chemicals (type, amount, location), casualty collection points, staging area, landing zones, responder rendezvous locations, aerial images, floor plans, etc. Responders can use pre-plans when managing ERT callouts, hazmat leaks, active threats, and other critical incidents. These plans also provide dispatchers with useful information such as floor plans, door/window numbering, 24/hour contact numbers, etc.

Additional pre-plans will be created for facilities throughout Barron County and will be loaded into the new CAD so patrol officers, firefighters, and EMS can view them on their laptops in the field.

## **RESPONDER RECOGNITION**

- All too often, emergency responders assemble as a group when a bad call ends with an equally bad outcome. It's rare that responders get the opportunity to showcase the calls where quick response times and advanced skill-sets produce a life-saving outcome. In an effort to recognize local emergency responders for their efforts that result in a "life save" in the field, Barron County has adopted the Phoenix Award Program.

The Phoenix Award has been adopted by the Barron County Sheriff's Department to recognize those individuals who, through their skills and knowledge, successfully revive an individual known to have been in cardiac arrest. The prestigious Phoenix Award goes to emergency responders (police, fire, ems, first responders, dispatchers) who have been involved in calls where a patient that was clinically dead, was resuscitated by emergency responders.



Phoenix Awards can be coupled with Citizen's Lifesaving Awards, which are designed to recognize citizens (non-responders) of the community who have been involved in a lifesaving effort at an emergency scene.



Pat Mattmiller Award Ceremony

To qualify as a "life save", the following criteria must be met:

1. Patient confirmed pulseless onscene by responder
2. CPR initiated by emergency responders
3. Patient regained pulse (ROSC)
4. Patient recovered and was released home

(or any incident where a responder performs life-saving measures onscene)

The patient must agree to participate in the Phoenix Award program. When a responder is aware that a life-save has occurred in the field, they can contact the Barron County Sheriff's Department - Director of Emergency Services for follow-up.



# Completed Projects

## **COMPLETED TRAINING**

- The Sheriff's Department partnered with the National Weather Service to host a Skywarn class on April 17<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 4pm and again from 6pm to 8pm at the Turtle Lake High School, with over 100 attendees from Barron and Polk Counties. An additional Skywarn Class was held on May 31<sup>st</sup> at the Barron County Government Center, with 57 attendees.
- On April 28<sup>th</sup>, a countywide first responder training titled "Airway Management in Unique Circumstances" was held at WITC-Rice Lake in partnership with WITC, Mayo Clinic Health System, Lakeview Medical Center, and Emergency Services of Barron County. Students learned about advanced airways and how to utilize them in unique circumstances such as trapped and inverted situations. Students then participated in five hands-on field scenarios to test recently learned skills.



Airway Management Training



Airway Management Training

- In May, two 80-hour Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) courses were started, through a partnership with WITC. One class started on May 12<sup>th</sup> in Almena with 13 in attendance and the second class started on May 19<sup>th</sup> at WITC with 15 in attendance. These courses provide students with the training needed to achieve national certification and apply toward being a first responder with Emergency Services of Barron County.

## **STAFFING**

- On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Tucker McCumber was hired in dispatch to fill the vacancy from Heather Mathison. Tucker comes to Barron County with dispatch experience from Tribal Police Department, in addition to being a firefighter and first responder in Washburn County.
- On April 9<sup>th</sup>, Courtney Holub was hired in dispatch to fill the vacancy from MaryAnn Bergstrom's retirement. Courtney will be training on day shift with Paul until she completes her training program.

The previous section outlined projects completed within the past 3 months.

The following section identifies initiatives in-progress over the next 3 months.



# In-Progress Projects

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

- A quick-reference binder is being created 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.
- To increase the information available to 911 dispatchers, a voluntary database is being created so area business 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 the location during the day or 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 loaded into the Dispatch CAD and made available to emergency personnel responding to that address.



## **DISPATCH**

- Two additional phone lines are being added to the 911 Center, to be shared by the four dispatch consoles. These lines will only make outbound phone calls, which will give dispatchers the ability to make outbound phone calls if all of the incoming lines are ringing. This was an identified need during the 2017 tornado.
- Three administrative phone lines are being added to the 911 Center, located on the back desk. During disasters and major incidents, extra staffing can come in and make outbound calls or answer non-emergency lines which will let the primary dispatchers focus on 911 calls and managing resources.

Name	Role	Station	Called At	Max ETA
Gary Doe	Interior FF	Station 1	16:15	16:20
John Clark	Asst. Chief	Station 1	16:15	16:20
Larry Doe	Exterior FF	Station 1	16:15	16:20
James Doe	Driver	Station 2	16:15	16:16
Jane Doe	FF/EMT	Scene	16:16	16:21

- To reduce the amount of time it takes dispatchers to coordinate additional staffing in the 911 Center (during wind storms, tornadoes, etc), on-duty dispatchers previously had to call dispatchers at home to see who's available and who could come in. In August, 911 dispatchers will have the ability to create a CAD and assign the DISPATCH-ALL unit.
- This will page all off-duty dispatchers through the "I am Responding" phone app, who can coordinate who is closer to the Center to help. This new procedure streamlines the process and allows on-duty dispatchers to manage the incident at hand, and takes the staffing work out of the Center.



# In-Progress Projects

- To streamline the process of dispatchers filling open patrol shifts, officers will begin using the “I am Responding” phone app to receive open shift notifications. This new procedure will reduce the patrol-shift-filling process in dispatch from 40 minutes to under 10 minutes.
- In the past, it took a minimum of 9 minutes for dispatchers to activate every storm siren in Barron County for severe storms moving throughout our area. To simplify and expedite the process, the paging system was reconfigured to a 1-button per quadrant layout. This allows dispatchers to select the affected quadrant and press SEND, which will activate all sirens within that specific quadrant. This new process reduces activation times from 9 minutes to under 60 seconds.

## **FIRST RESPONDERS**

- Emergency Services of Barron County currently has 27 fully-equipped first responders throughout the county, with multiple more applications on-file. Upon receipt of additional funding, more members will be approved and accepted onto the team.



Over the next three months, fundraising campaigns will help increase the budget to allow the purchase of advanced medications for current members and start-up equipment for new members.

For example, a fundraising event has been scheduled at Louie’s Brat Stand in Cumberland on July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in Cumberland.

Informational tables (accepting donations) will also be setup at the Cumberland National Night Out Event on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Due to retirements, both medical directors will be transitioning the medical directorship over to two new medical directors within the next few months. Potential directors are currently being reviewed to ensure shared visions are in-place, and additional information will be sent to all members once confirmed.

One continuing education class (Managing Airways in Unique Circumstances) was held in April, and two Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training classes are currently being held (information outlined in Training Section above).

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- In April, the Sheriff’s Department received 25 portable radios (Motorola APX 4000) to replace the previous EFJohnson portables. These radios were programmed with “Vote Scan” which automatically selects the closest radio tower with the best coverage signal, eliminating the need for officers to manually change towers as they move throughout the county.
- Maintenance has been completed at the Turtle Lake Radio Tower, which replaced back-up batteries and added a UPS System and charger to ensure continual communications.





# In-Progress Projects

## **DISASTER REIMBURSEMENT**

- Following the May 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 Tornado, Barron County Emergency Management represented several Towns and applied for disaster reimbursement through the Wisconsin Disaster Fund (WDF). The following is an update on the status of each application:
  - The Town of Vance Creek has been approved for \$6,107 from the WDF and has received their disaster reimbursement funds
  - The Town of Sumner has been approved for \$4,533 through the WDF. The check has arrived in the Barron County Emergency Management Office and is awaiting pick up.
  - The Town of Maple Grove was approved for \$7,453 through the WDF. The check has arrived in the Barron County Emergency Management Office and is awaiting pick up.
  - The Town of Prairie Lake was approved for \$360,837 through the WDF. The check has arrived in the Barron County Emergency Management Office and is awaiting pick up.
  - The Town of Chetek has been approved for \$216,887 through the WDF. The check has arrived in the Barron County Emergency Management Office and is awaiting pick up.
  - Barron Electric Cooperative application is pending review, but is in the que

Wisconsin Disaster Fund reimbursement to Barron County Townships total: **\$595,817**

## **UPCOMING TRAINING**

- Mass Casualty Exercise – On Tuesday July 10<sup>th</sup>, a full-scale active shooter exercise is scheduled at Barron High School from 10:00am to 2:00pm to provide emergency responders the ability to test command, control, and communication strategies. Participating agencies will include law enforcement, fire departments, ambulance agencies, air medical, first responders, and area hospitals.
- Identifying and Managing Street Drugs – The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) will conduct a presentation for first responders and hospital nursing staff on identifying and dealing with street drugs. Training is designed to increase awareness of identifying street drugs, managing patient overdoses, and protecting against potential self-exposures. Training flyers will be published within the next few days.

Incident Overview on following pages



# Incident Overview

Traumatic Injuries  
Cameron Fire District



Motor Vehicle Accident  
Barron Fire District



Grass Fire  
Barron Fire District



# Incident Overview

Brush Fire  
Dallas Fire District



Grass Fire  
Barron Fire District



Grass Fire  
Prairie Farm Fire District



# Incident Overview

Residential Structure Fire  
Almena Fire District



Residential Structure Fire  
Cameron Fire District



Residential Structure Fire  
Cameron Fire District



# Incident Overview

Motor Vehicle Accident  
Dallas Fire District



Motor Vehicle Accident  
Barron Fire District



Gas Line Cut  
Cameron Fire District



# Incident Overview

Motor Vehicle Crash  
Bear Lake Fire District



Wind Storm  
Chetek Fire District



Gas Line Cut  
Cumberland Fire District



# Incident Overview

Aircraft Fire  
Rice Lake Fire District



Motor Vehicle Crash  
Barron Fire District



END OF REPORT

