

Emergency Services Quarterly Report

July 1 2018 to Sep 30 2018

Barron County Sheriff's Department, Office of Emergency Services



Completed Projects

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- (19) Community Preparedness articles were published on social media over the past three months, reaching a total of 123,228 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 the RISC Group, Johnson Truck Bodies, and United Presbyterian Church; instructing over 110 attendees.
- To maintain strong working relationships, the Emergency Services Director attended six countywide police chief meetings, twelve local fire department business meetings, two countywide fire chiefs meetings, two countywide EMS Directors meetings, one Red Cross Meeting, one TIME Traffic Incident Management Meeting, and one Safety Fair.

DISASTER REIMBURSEMENT

- Following the May 16th 2017 EF-2 Tornado, Barron County Sheriff’s Department, Office of Emergency Management represented several Townships and applied for disaster reimbursement through the Wisconsin Disaster Fund (WDF).

In total, five Townships and the Barron Electric Cooperative received a combined total of \$787,173 in reimbursement funding to offset the cost of disaster response and recovery operations.



GRANT FUNDING RECEIVED: \$33,334

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

\$6,440	2018 EPCRA – Period 1
\$2,828	2017 EMPG – Period 2 Redistribution
\$742	HMEP Grant – Confined Space Tech Refresher – TRN Reimbursement
\$1,178	HMEP Grant – Hazmat Tech Refresher – TRN Reimbursement
\$22,146	FFY 2018 EMPG Grant (First Half)

GRANT FUNDING (AWARDED) AWAITING RECEIPT: \$22,146

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

\$22,146	FFY 2018 EMPG Grant (Second Half)
----------	-----------------------------------

Grant funding received (this quarter):	\$ 33,334
Grant funding received (year-to-date):	\$ 82,187
Grant funding awarded (year to date):	\$ 104,333



Completed Projects

TRAINING GRANTS

- Quarterly reports were filed through the State regarding the three Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) training grants awarded early 2018. Grant reimbursements have also been requested through the State, which will offset the training expenses provided by local volunteer fire departments.
- Rice Lake Fire Department was reimbursed \$742.56 for their Confined Space Technician Training through an HMEP Grant.
- A \$10,500 grant application has been submitted to subsidize the cost of providing the following training classes in 2019:

Hazmat Ops Refresher	Chetek Fire Dept
Confined Space Ops Refresher	Chetek Fire Dept
Hazardous Materials Ops Refresher	Rice Lake Fire Dept
Hazardous Materials Tech Refresher	Rice Lake Fire Dept
Confined Space Tech Refresher	Rice Lake Fire Dept
Hazmat Ops Refresher	Cumberland Fire Dept
Hazmat Ops Refresher	Dallas Fire Dept

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Tornado Planning/Safety Walk-Through's were completed at the UW-Barron County Campus, Chetek High School, Chetek Elementary School, and Roselawn Elementary School.
- Specific sections of the Barron County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) were updated and submitted to the State for review:
 - Basic Plan
 - Annex A (Direction & Control)
 - Annex C (Resource Management)
 - Annex D (Law Enforcement)
 - Annex F (Evacuation & Sheltering)



- Applications for the 2019 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Grants were completed and submitted to Wisconsin Emergency Management.
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meetings were held on June 28th and September 27th to review hazmat training grant close-outs, the 2018 hazmat computer and equipment grant announcement, and recent chemical spills.
- K9 officers for the Sheriff's Department, Barron PD, and Turtle Lake PD were issued one dose of Narcan for their law enforcement dogs. The medication has the same drug reversal effects as it does on humans and can be used if drug dogs get into something and experience an adverse outcome. This medication was provided by Emergency Services of Barron County at no cost to the agencies.



Completed Projects

- Emergency Response Plans were updated for nine offsite planning facilities; including 3M, Century Link, Farm & Fleet, McCain Foods, Quanex, RL Water Treatment Facility, Saput Cheese, Seneca Foods, and Tractor Central.
- In preparation for upcoming winter weather, communication tower site generators were serviced and fuel tanks were replenished.
- To allow for rapid notification/call-outs of all Sheriff's Department officers, a mass notification group has been created through the phone alert app "I am Responding".

This software provides the 911 Center with a quick and easy way to notify every deputy of a critical call or disaster. The software is also being used for ERT Team call-outs and department staffing needs.



I am Responding

COMPLETED TRAINING

- The Sheriff's Department partnered with the National Weather Service to host a Skywarn class on May 31st from 6pm to 8pm at the Government Center in Barron, with 57 citizen and emergency responder attendees.
- In May, two 80-hour Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) courses were started, through a partnership with WITC. One class started on May 12th in Almena with 13 in attendance and the second class started on May 19th at WITC with 15 in attendance. These courses provided students with the training needed to achieve national certification and apply toward being a first responder with Emergency Services of Barron County.
- Through a partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), four training classes titled "Street Drug Awareness" were held in the Barron County Government Center Auditorium. Topics included awareness, identification, and management. Attendance exceeded 150 from local police, fire, ems, first responder, and hospital staff.

STAFFING

- Dispatcher Courtney Holub resigned from the 911 Center and returned to her previous career in the medical field. To fill Courtney's vacancy, Holly Hulback transferred from Barron County DHHS back to the 911 Center into a fulltime dispatcher position.
- In September, Heather Hughes (Mathison) transferred from the Clerk of Courts back to the 911 Center as a full-time dispatcher. In October, Heather will be transferring back to the Clerk of Courts. To fill Heather's vacancy, Amy Thompson was hired from Albuquerque, where she dispatched for Albuquerque Police and Ambulance. She has a total of 11 years dispatching experience and is working on her Bachelor's Degree in Business Management.
- In October, 911 Dispatcher Emily Cerney will be transferring to the Register of Deeds. To fill Emily's vacancy, Dawn Lutzow was hired from Illinois, where she dispatched and trained for the Boone County Sheriff's Department. She has a total of 12 years dispatching experience and holds a degree in Education.



Completed Projects

RESPONSE REIMBURSEMENT

- In 2017, the Barron County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) approved Emergency Management to be the cost recovery billing agent for law, fire, and ems agencies that respond to incidents involving the release of a hazardous substance, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 323.71(4)(a). Over the past three months, Emergency Management has invoiced six incidents and provided response reimbursement to the following departments:

Reimbursement Received (this quarter): \$13,356

Reimbursement Received (year to date): \$22,716

\$5,935	June 12 th Semi vs Passenger Van in the Barron Fire District
\$789	June 15 th Gas Line Cut in the Cumberland Fire District
\$1,077	June 25 th Fuel Spill in the Cumberland Fire District
\$1,512	August 30 th Gas Line Cut in the Cameron Fire District
\$6,945	September 23 rd Motor Semi Accident in the Rice Lake Fire District
\$3,089	September 25 th Motor Semi Accident in the Almema Fire District



Issuing cost recovery invoices for these incidents provide responding departments (mostly volunteer) with funds to reimburse staffing, fuel, equipment, supplies, and other response related expenses. This quarter, the following agencies received response reimbursements:

Reimbursement	Department
\$2,441	Almena Fire Department
\$6,962	Barron County Sheriff's Department
\$4,570	Barron Fire Department
\$580	Bear Lake/Haugen Fire Department
\$1,015	Cameron Fire Department
\$50	Cameron Police Department
\$1,248	Cumberland Fire Department
\$113	Cumberland Police Department
\$2,065	Dallas Fire Department
\$20	Emergency Services of Barron County
\$206	Lakeview Medical Center Ambulance
\$3,445	Rice Lake Fire Department



Completed Projects

EXERCISES

- On Tuesday July 10th, a full-scale active shooter exercise was conducted at the Barron High School from 10:00am to 2:00pm. This training event provided emergency responders with the ability to test command, control, and communication strategies in a real-world setting with volunteer patients, role players, and evaluators.

The scenario involved 25 injured patients staged throughout the school following (simulated) gunfire from two active shooters. Law enforcement engaged the shooters and secured the facility while Firefighters and First Responders moved injured patients to EMTs and Medics in awaiting ambulances and helicopters. Patients were then transported to one of three participating hospitals for additional training exercise treatment.

Participating agencies included Barron Police Department, Barron County Sheriff's Department, Barron Fire Department, Gold Cross EMS, Lakeview Medical Center EMS, Cumberland EMS, Clear Lake EMS, Lifelink Helicopter, North Memorial AirCare Helicopter, Emergency Services of Barron County, MCHS-Barron Hospital, Cumberland Memorial Hospital, and Marshfield Medical Center. A special thanks to the Barron County ADRC for providing transportation resources to return the volunteer patients back from the hospitals.



(Photos by: Dirk Miller, Ashley Fankhauser, and Lacey Huset)



Completed Projects

EXERCISES

- On September 26th, a second full-scale active shooter exercise was held at the Haugen Elementary School. This training event continued to provide emergency responders with the ability to test command, control, and communication strategies in a real-world setting with volunteer patients, role players, and evaluators.

The scenario involved 15 injured patients staged throughout the school following (simulated) gunfire from two active shooters. Law enforcement engaged the shooters and secured the facility while Firefighters and First Responders moved injured patients to EMTs and Medics in awaiting ambulances and helicopters.

Agencies included Bear Lake/Haugen Fire Department, Barron County Sheriff's Department, Washburn County Sheriff's Dept, Gold Cross EMS, Lakeview Medical Center EMS, Lifelink Helicopter, North Memorial AirCare Helicopter, and Emergency Services of Barron County.



(Photos by: Ashley Fankhauser)

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

- To support field responders on structure fires, Emergency Services of Barron County is considering the purchase of an enclosed cargo trailer with the capability of providing onscene firefighter rehab. In concept, the trailer would be automatically dispatched to all working structure fires and staffed with first responders trained to provide rehab support. When not in use, the trailer could also be staged at local preplanned events such as fairs and festivals to offer public rehab and medical support. The cargo trailer concept has been presented to the Emergency Services Board of Directors and is awaiting feedback from local fire departments to ensure the resource would be frequently utilized.



DISPATCH

- Spillman Dispatch software is scheduled for install in mid-December, which will enhance the dispatch capabilities of the Barron County 911 Center. A significant amount of work has gone into this project and dispatcher training will begin in mid-November. The new platform offers features to enhance mapping, resource management, initial assignments, and documentation. Some Fire and EMS agencies will be installing Mobile CAD, which will provide field units with the same information as shown on the dispatch screens. Field software (Mobile CAD) also offers field units the ability to access facility pre-plans, hydrant maps, and other preparedness and response resources.
- At the request of field responders, Barron 911 is researching methods to use the smart phone app “I am Responding” to notify responding units when a call has been cancelled. The system is originally designed for “initial alert only”, however modifications are being considered to provide cancellation notifications. Follow-up will be provided when more information is available.

FIRST RESPONDERS

- This quarter, Emergency Services of Barron County added five new members to the countywide first responder team, which now has a total of 28 members that are fully trained. Members are covered by professional liability insurance and workers compensation coverage. In addition, members are issued team t-shirts, a reflective vest, a portable radio and a fully-stocked gear bag with all medical supplies and medications.

Over the next quarter, a calendar raffle will be launched as a large fundraising event. This calendar will be unique, as it will contain all holidays in addition to all local events such as fairs, festivals, pancake breakfasts, etc. This will be a significant fundraiser as proceeds will add additional members to the team, with the goal of filling a 100 responder roster by 2010.

A 2019 quarterly training calendar is being developed to provide all members with continuing education hours toward their recertification. These trainings will also be open to neighboring police, fire, ems, and first responder agencies to promote education and collaboration.



In-Progress Projects

RESPONDER RECOGNITION

- On September 28th 2018, emergency personnel responded to Saputo Cheese in Almena for an adult patient in cardiac arrest. CPR/AED provided by two local firefighters resulted in the resuscitation of the patient who was later released from the hospital. Due to these actions, “The Phoenix Award” will be presented to two members of the Barron Fire Department. “Responder Commendation Awards” will also be presented to specific members of the Barron County 911 Center, Gold Cross EMS, and LifeLink Helicopter. Awards will be presented at the Barron County Board Meeting at 7:00pm on Monday, October 15th in the Barron County Government Center Auditorium. (open to public attendance)
- On October 23rd 2017, emergency personnel responded to Cameron Elementary School for an adult patient in cardiac arrest. CPR/AED provided by a Cameron Police Officer and two bystanders resulted in the resuscitation of the patient who was later released from the hospital. Due to these actions, “The Phoenix Award” will be presented to one member of the Cameron Police Department. Additional “Citizen Life-Saving Awards” will be presented to the two bystanders that assisted with CPR/AED, and “Responder Commendation Awards” will be presented to specific members of the Barron County 911 Center and Lakeview Medical Center Ambulance. Awards will be presented at the Barron County Board Meeting at 7:00pm on Monday, October 15th in the Barron County Government Center Auditorium.
- On August 17th 2018, emergency personnel responded to the 2100 block of 11-1/2 Street in Cumberland for an adult drowning patient rescued from a pond. Water Rescue and CPR provided by four bystanders resulted in the resuscitation of the 20 year old patient who was later released from the hospital. Due to these actions, “Citizen Life-Saving Awards” will be presented to the four bystanders. “Responder Commendation Awards” will also be presented to members of the Barron County Sheriff’s Department, Cumberland Fire Department, Cumberland EMS, and LifeLink Helicopter. Awards will be presented on October 22nd at the location where the incident originally occurred.



Phoenix Medal

COMMUNICATIONS

- Regarding communications, patrol officers use their Motorola APX4000 portable radio and ERT members use an EFJohnson radio which is connected to their headset through a push-to-talk (PTT) system. It was recently learned that the PTT system for the EFJohnson radio is not compatible with the Motorola APX radio. To overcome this barrier, new PTT adapters are being considered. If replaced, these new adapter cables will allow officers to use one portable radio for all communications (patrol, investigations, ERT, etc). More information will be published as new PTT adapters are reviewed.
- The plan has been approved to replace the microwave link between the Justice Center and the Clinton Tower with a dedicated fiber line. This line will carry all communications and discontinue the need to maintain the expensive microwave system that’s currently in place. This project will also prevent radio frequencies being interrupted or disconnected during severe weather with high winds. The project is slated to be installed by the end of 2018.



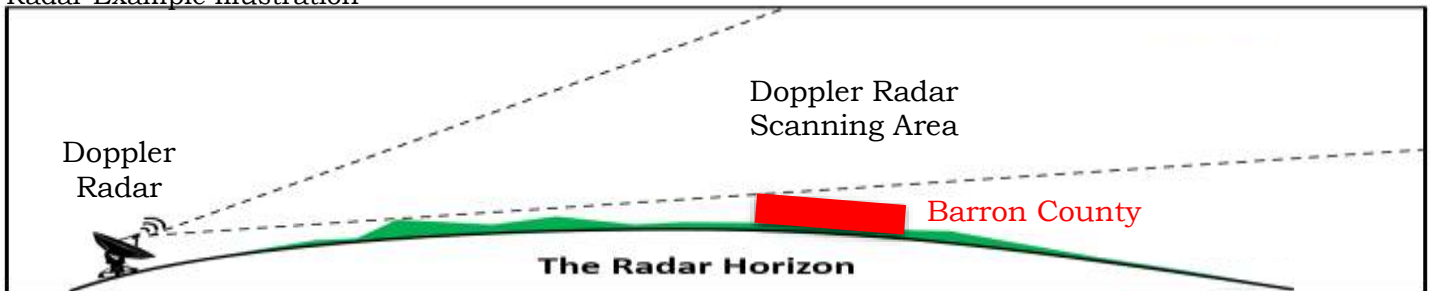
In-Progress Projects

WEATHER NETWORK

Doppler Weather Radar is an advanced weather device that scans the atmosphere and provides real-time weather information. These radar sites are highly robust, however there are downsides to communities that are physically located a significant distance from the radar station.

The downside is the radar beam extending from the Doppler station extends in a straight line. Due to curvature of the earth, a blind spot is created between the ground and the bottom of the Doppler scan beam which is originating from Minneapolis or Duluth. Within this blind spot, severe weather can occur without the National Weather Service (NWS) being aware of the storm cell. This blind spot can also range in height from a few hundred feet to a few thousand feet above ground.

Radar Example Illustration



With Barron County being positioned within this ground-level blind spot, the NWS has limited data relating to low-level severe storms. If a storm continues to build, it can increase in height to be noticeable on Doppler radar. However, some storms don't increase to the height needed to reach the bottom of the Doppler Radar coming out of Minneapolis or Duluth. This low-level blind spot can directly affect when Tornado Warnings and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued.

For example, the Tornado in May of 2017 that significantly impacted several areas of Barron County was a fast-moving low-level storm that didn't reach the height to be fully viewed on Doppler Radar. This prevented the NWS from seeing cloud rotation, real-time wind speeds, and wind direction.

To help eliminate these blind spots, the Barron County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Management is working to install low-cost weather stations in specific locations throughout Barron County to provide local "ground-level" weather data back to the 911 Center.

These devices are specifically designed to provide information such as rainfall amounts, wind speed, wind direction, and barometric pressure. To enhance local weather forecasting, this information will also be shared with the NWS and Barron County community members through existing public weather websites such as AccuWeather.com, WUnderground.com, etc.



Radio Tower Mounted Weather Station

To further minimize cost, weather stations will be located on existing radio towers that already contain the power and wireless network needed to support the devices. Equipment will also be installed when the towers are climbed for maintenance, to prevent additional "tower climb" costs. These devices will initially be installed on the Clinton and Dallas Radio Communication Towers as beta-test sites to ensure operational reliability before expanding the system to additional sites.



Incident Overviews

Event Standby
Barron County Fair



Motor Vehicle Accident
Cumberland Fire District



Motor Vehicle Accident
Almena Fire District



Incident Overviews

Motor Vehicle Accident
Cumberland Fire District



Motor Vehicle Accident
Barron Fire District



Motor Vehicle Accident
Dallas Fire District



Incident Overviews

Motor Vehicle Accident
Almena Fire District



Residential Structure Fire
Rice Lake Fire District



Wind Storm
New Auburn Fire District



Incident Overviews

Motor Vehicle Accident
Almena Fire District



Motor Vehicle Accident
Rice Lake Fire District



Gas Line Cut
Chetek Fire District



Incident Overviews

Residential Structure Fire
Almena Fire District



Motor Vehicle Accident
Cameron Fire District



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