Emergency Services 2020 Annual Report



Barron County Emergency Services 2020 Annual Report

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Nine community preparedness articles were published on social media, reaching 40,299 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, severe weather, crime prevention, etc. In addition to community preparedness and safety articles, a total of five severe weather announcements were also published to keep residents informed and prepared.

PLAN UPDATES

- Emergency Off-Site Plans were updated for the 18 chemical facilities in Barron County as identified by EPCRA (the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act). These plans include chemical identification, hazard exposure profiles, release management practices; and are used by facility personnel and local emergency responders in the event of a chemical spill or release.
- Municipal Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) were updated for 31 townships, cities, and villages. These plans help guide local officials through the response and recovery phases of disaster and large-scale incidents that directly impact their communities.



RESPONDER TRAINING

Barron County Emergency Management applied for the Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) grant and was awarded \$2,618 to fund Hazardous Materials and Confined Space training classes for six area fire departments, which consists of 10 classes and training over 180 responders.

DEPARTMENT	TRAINING CLASS	DATES
Barron Fire	Hazmat Ops Refresher	March 15 & 16
Cameron Fire	Confined Space Ops Initial	April thru June
Cameron Fire	Hazmat Ops Refresher	Mar 16 & 17
Chetek Fire	Hazmat Ops Refresher	Jan 10 & 17
Chetek Fire	Confined Space Ops Refresher	Jan 18 & 25
Cumberland Fire	Confined Space Ops Refresher	Feb 8 & 9
Dallas Fire	Hazmat Ops Refresher	Jan 13 & 20
Dallas Fire	Confined Space Ops Refresher	Feb 10 & 17
Rice Lake Fire	Hazmat Ops Refresher	Jan 11 & 18
Rice Lake Fire	Confined Space Tech Refresher	May 5 & 12



EQUIPMENT SHARING

The Barron County Fire Chiefs group moved forward with the purchase of a Porta-Count Fit-Testing Machine for SCBA Masks. The device cost was divided between participating fire departments, which will save each agency several thousand dollars annually in fit-testing fees paid to outside vendors. Department training will be provided in January 2021.

STAFFING

- Emergency Management Assistant Ashley Fankhauser accepted a full-time position in Barron County Finance. To fill the vacancy, Monica Olson was hired into the part-time position. Monica's primary focus is grant management, offsite facility plans, and municipal emergency operations plans (EOPs)
- 911 Dispatcher Holly Hulback accepted another position in Barron County. Sarai Fisher was hired to fill the full-time dispatch vacancy



Porta-Count Fit Testing Machine

o 911 Dispatcher Trever Miller transitioned from full-time to part-time in April. Elizabeth (Liz) Boesl was hired to fill the full-time vacancy

COMMUNICATIONS

Wireless cameras were installed at the Clinton Radio Tower to enhance site security and provide situational awareness in dispatch.

Mounted above the tree-line, the high-definition infrared camera allows 911 dispatchers to quickly adjust (pan/tilt/zoom) the positioning to view and assess current weather conditions and approaching storms.

Additional cameras will be installed at other radio tower sites in Dallas, Turtle Lake, Cumberland, etc.



Clinton Tower Camera View

RESPONSE REIMBURSEMENT



In 2017, Barron County Emergency Management was tasked as the cost recovery billing agent for law, fire, and ems agencies that respond to incidents involving the release of a hazardous material (hazmat), pursuant to WI Statute 323.71(4)(a).

This program provides responding departments (mostly volunteer) with funding to reimburse fuel, equipment, supplies, and other operational expenses.

Since the beginning of the response reimbursement program (initiated in 2017), a **total of \$53,102** has been reimbursed to Barron County response agencies.

In 2020, Emergency Management invoiced for a hazmat incident in Cameron and provided reimbursement funding to the following agencies:

Reimbursement	Department
\$1,784	Cameron Fire Department
\$1,086	Barron County Sheriff's Department
\$137	Cameron Police Department
\$3,310	Rice Lake Fire Department
\$6.317	Total Response Reimbursement in 2020

GRANT FUNDING RECEIVED

The Barron County Office of Emergency Management applied for and received the following grants:

\$44,125	Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) for FY2019
\$1,334	EMPG Redistribution from FY2019
\$12,893	EPCRA Emergency Management Grant for FY2019
\$7,291	Computer Equipment & Hazmat Grant for FY2020
\$2,618	Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant (HMEP) for FY2020
\$68,261	Total Grant Funding Received in 2020

GRANT FUNDING AWARDED (AWAITING RECEIPT)

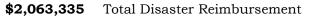
The Barron County Office of Emergency Management applied for and was awarded the following grants:

\$44,519 \$12,643	Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) for FY2020 EPCRA Emergency Management Grant (FY2020)
\$57,162	Additional Grant Funding Awarded in 2020 (awaiting receipt)

DISATER REIMBURSEMENT

Following the July 2019 Windstorm, Emergency Management represented local towns and cooperatives to apply for disaster reimbursement through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to offset the cost of local disaster response and recovery. The following chart outlines the funding reimbursement schedule for local municipalities (to date). Please note this list does not include all reimbursements, as some municipalities are still awaiting FEMA review.

\$5,998	Town of Clinton
\$15,403	Town of Stanley
\$15,717	Village of Almena
\$18,025	Chetek School District
\$26,560	Barron County Sheriff's Dept
\$44,602	Town of Turtle Lake
\$47,199	Town of Barron
\$54,550	Town of Chetek
\$63,946	Barron County Highway Dept
\$75,849	Village of Turtle Lake
\$89,302	Town of Prairie Lake
\$95,360	Town of Almena
\$96,602	City of Chetek
\$104,329	Town of Maple Grove
\$132,962	Town of Crystal Lake
\$191,356	Barron Electric Cooperative (reimbursement for 2017 tornado)
\$225,505	City of Barron
\$760,070	Barron Electric Cooperative (reimbursement for 2019 windstorm)





2020 FUNDING OVERVIEW

(totals from previous sections above)

\$68,261	Total Grant Funding Received
\$57,162	Total Grant Funding Awarded (awaiting receipt)
\$6,317	Total Response Reimbursement Received
\$2,063,335	Total Disaster Reimbursement Received

\$2,195,075 Total Emergency Management Funding for 2020

ACTIVE INITIATIVES

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

High winds and tornadoes often lead to loss of life, injuries, damage to property, crops, and infrastructure. Historically, Barron County has experienced some of the most damaging tornadoes in Wisconsin, which establishes it as being a relative hotspot for tornadic activity, with only 5 other counties experiencing more tornadoes since 1950. In the last 60 years, Barron County has experienced 38 tornadoes resulting in 1 fatality, 41 injuries, and over \$37 million dollars in damage. Based on these historical trends, it's projected that Barron County could experience a tornado every 1.5 years. Additionally, Barron County has experienced 104 high-wind events since 1993 (averaging 4.5 per year), resulting in over \$5.3 million dollars in damage.

FEMAs Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grants are designed to assist communities in implementing a sustained hazard mitigation program. The goal is to reduce risk to the population 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.

In an effort to enhance the physical protection of residents located in mobile home areas, Barron County was approved for a FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$204,517 to fund the construction of a community storm shelter to be located at 1045 22nd Street in Chetek (Prairie Lake Estates).

In May 2019, Barron County was approved for the grant and the Barron County Board of Supervisors approved moving forward with construction of the storm shelter at Prairie Lake Estates. The building is designed as a single-use facility (storm shelter) with 988 square feet to accommodate 138 persons. The shelter has also been designed to meet FEMA storm shelter standards for the protection of life safety with the ability to withstand 250 mph wind speeds (EF-5 level tornado).

The facility is scheduled to serve as a functional storm shelter by March 2021 (prior to beginning the spring storm season). Due to winter weather, specific details (landscaping, grass seeding, concrete sidewalks, etc) will be completed during the summer. Updates will be published as the project continues.



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



December 2020 Project Update (Exterior)



Storm Shelter Example



December 2020 Project Update (Interior)

PANDEMIC PLANNING/RESPONSE

Since the onset of Coronavirus, Barron County Public Health and Barron County Emergency Management have taken an aggressive approach to pandemic preparedness and response. The following list is a "partial" example of pandemic planning and response efforts taken during 2020.



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Amouris Coss

Covid Testing Sites

- A single-day testing site was established in Turtle Lake on May 4th 2020 to provide local residents with access to drive-through testing
- A reoccurring Covid testing site has been established at the Barron Fire Department to provide drive-through testing every Tuesday (from 10:00am to 6:00pm) until March 2021
- Isolation facilities also identified and placed on standby to provide Covid-positive-responders a secure place to quarantine if needed

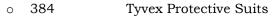
In the event of local hospital overload, a large Alternate Care Site was prepared and placed on standby, capable of monitoring up to 220 patients if needed. Medical staffing plans were also created to support the facility, consisting of retired physicians and other medical professionals as not to negatively impact the medical staffing of our surrounding hospitals

Hospital Support Packages were created to support local hospitals experiencing surge capacity. Each support package includes a 10'x20' tent, quiet-run generator, tables, chairs, electrical cables, etc to provide hospitals with additional outdoor patient triage options

In August, 4,000 cloth masks were provided to churches throughout Barron County to increase the level of protection in our faith-based communities

As of Dec 2020, a total of 53,957 pieces of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) have been distributed to Long Term Care Facilities, Law Enforcement, Fire Departments, EMS Agencies, First Responders, Hospitals, Schools, Medical Examiners, Churches, etc. The following list provides an overview of PPE distribution:

0	24,760	Surgical Masks
0	11,332	N95 Masks
0	8,110	Cloth Masks
0	3,630	Isolation Gowns
0	1,903	Face Shields
0	1,527	Hand Sanitizer
0	1,333	Eye Protection
0	608	Boxes of Medical Gloves
0	370	Disinfectants





AP Photo/John Minchillo

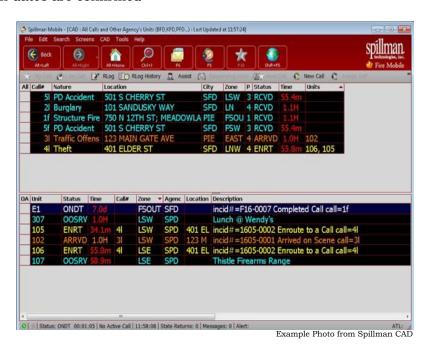
VACCINES

As of Dec 29th, Wisconsin has been allocated 265,575 vaccines, has received 156,875, and has administered 47,157. As outlined on the Wisconsin DHS website, vaccines are currently being provided to personnel that meet "Phase 1A" criteria, including healthcare workers, medical first responders, and long term care facilities. WI DHS is expecting Phase 1A to last several months before making the vaccine available to "Phase 1B" which may include persons aged 75 and older and non-health care frontline essential workers. WI DHS advises that "Phase 1C" may include persons aged 65-74, persons aged 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions, and essential workers not included in Phase 1B. DHS has not identified a timeline for each phase and does not indicate when the vaccine will be available to the general public. For more information, please refer to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website at https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm

Barron County will continue to proactively support citizens, responders, and community partners as the pandemic continues.

COMMUNICATIONS

- o In 2019, the Barron County 911 Center was awarded \$76,209 through a federal communications grant to upgrade the existing 911 phone system to a "NextGen911" platform. The upgrade will allow dispatchers to receive text messages and videos from 911 callers in the field. The system will also allow dispatchers to access the 911 phone system from laptop computers in the event of a 911 Center evacuation. More information to be released when installation dates are confirmed
- o Mayo Hospital in Barron is working toward the installation of Mobile CAD in their Emergency Room (ER) 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
- o The Barron County 911 Center is coordinating with Barron Electric Cooperative to reduce the amount of time needed for 911 dispatchers to contact and request electric companies to respond to specific incidents during severe weather. An update will be released when more information is available



RESPONDER AWARDS

On March 11th 2020, a total of 47 Barron County responders received the Red Cross Heroes Award for their actions during a grain bin rescue on September 16th 2018, where the victim survived and was extricated with only minor injuries. Responding departments includes Dallas Fire, Prairie Farm Fire, Barron Fire, Dallas EMS, Lifelink Helicopter, Emergency Services of Barron County, and the Barron County Sheriff's Department.

The Red Cross Heroes Award was established to raise public awareness of local heroes who continue the Red Cross mission and to celebrate local individuals who were involved in selfless acts of courage and kindness.

Award recipients were invited to the Red Cross VIP Reception on March 3rd, followed by the Heroes Breakfast in Eau Claire on March 11th. Responders also received a personalized award certificate and recognition through local press releases and photos.





To view the Red Cross Award, visit www.YouTube.com and search for "2020 Healthcare Heroes – Barron County First Responders"

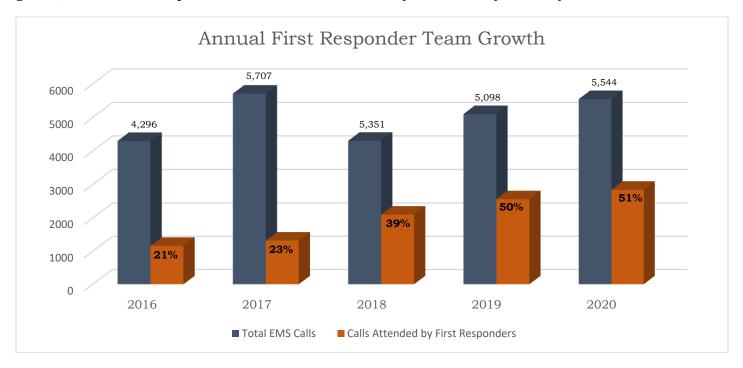
FIRST RESPONDERS

Emergency Services of Barron County (ESBC) currently operates with 30 countywide first responders equipped with a fully-stocked response gear bag with medications such as Albuterol, Narcan, Epinephrine, and Glucose. Responders are also provided with 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 consistent medical direction.

When the countywide first responder team was created in 2016, the Barron County 911 Center received 4,300 EMS calls, with first responders responding to 21%. In 2020, a total of 5,544 EMS calls were received, with first responders responding to 51%. This increase in coverage is due the incredible commitment of current team members, coupled with the addition of new team members as funding allowed. To continue team growth, 15 more first responders will be added to the countywide roster by February 2021.



The ESBC Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/ESBarronCounty) has 4,900 followers and the website (www.EmergencyServicesBC.org) has been viewed by 14,054 visitors.

To increase team funding, the 2021 Calendar Raffle was created with up to \$10,000 in cash prize giveaways. Raffle tickets can be purchased <u>before the February 1st deadline</u> by visiting the team website at: <u>www.EmergencyServicesBC.org</u> or by calling 1-866-715-ESBC (3722).



RESCUE TASK FORCE (RTF)

In May 2019, a Committee was formed to facilitate the creation of a Rescue Task Force (RTF) Team under the Medical Branch of Emergency Services of Barron County (ESBC).

This team will be responsible for responding into the warm zone of active shooter incidents (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. The nationwide RTF initiative has proven to be the most effective method of saving the lives of patients with gunshot wounds.

Rescue Task Force (RTF) consists of local volunteer emergency responders that will be provided with all training, equipment, and supplies. The initial team will consist of 50 members as a beta-test group to ensure training and education plans are streamlined. Once the initial group is trained, the team roster will be opened to all other emergency responders in the county that may interested. The initial team will be meeting soon to complete their orientation. Additional information will be published as the team is further developed.



MISSING PERSON SEARCH TEAM

To supplement local response efforts in locating missing persons, Emergency Services of Barron County (ESBC) is planning to expand its operational capability to include a Search & Rescue (S&R) Branch. Participation on this team will be open to current Barron County responders only. There will not be a membership capacity, however applicants will be required to pass a background investigation before formally being accepted onto the team.

This type of team will provide many response benefits including a full planning group and highly-trained search members. Once initial training (scheduled for summer of 2021) has been completed, specialty teams

will be created; such as a snowmobile search group, ATV/UTV search group, Drone search group, and ground search personnel. These groups will be designed for rapid deployment and will be provided with training such as basic & advanced search techniques, missing person actions & expectations, wilderness rescue, and medical training. Each year, members will also complete 4 hours of continuing education and participate in an annual full scale exercise.

Once established, the team will serve as a regional response resource for surrounding counties upon request. Additional information on this group will also be released as the team is assembled.

UPCOMING TRAINING

<u>SkyWarn "Storm Spotter"</u> – Emergency Management is be coordinating with the National Weather Service to offer a SkyWarn Storm Spotter class in early spring, prior to the beginning of storm season. This training "may" be provided online (if available) due to Covid. More information will be announced once the training dates are confirmed.

Rescue Task Force (RTF) – Emergency Services of Barron County will be offering Rescue Task Force (RTF) training to initial members of the RTF Team during the first quarter of 2021. More information will be published as the RTF team is developed.

UPCOMING TRAINING (continued)

Grain Bin Rescue - Due to Barron County experiencing several silo rescue calls within the past few years, Emergency Management is coordinating with State Technical Rescue Teams to host a local Silo (Grain Bin) Rescue Class. The class will be geared toward extrication, structural stability, patient and responder safety; and will include hands-on field exercises using realistic training props. Training flyers will be published when training dates/times are confirmed.



Farmedic – With agriculture being one of the most dangerous industries in America, significant injuries and deaths occur to farmers, family members, and rescue personnel each year. These types of emergencies require specialized knowledge of farm machinery, chemicals, and specific rescue techniques. The National Farmedic Program allows responders to participate in hands-on field training involving tractor rollovers, PTO entanglements, pesticide exposures, common farming chemicals, silo fires, and dealing with livestock. A training flyer will be published when training dates are confirmed.



First On The Scene

(this training is geared toward the general public) Considering the hazards surrounding the farming industry, traumatic injuries occur on a frequent basis. In these types of incidents, critical decisions and actions need to be made and implemented in a logical order. If not, risk of further injury or death to the victim is increased.

"First On The Scene" is a program that teaches farm family members, farm employees and the general community how to make important decisions at the scene of a farm emergency prior to the arrival of emergency responders.

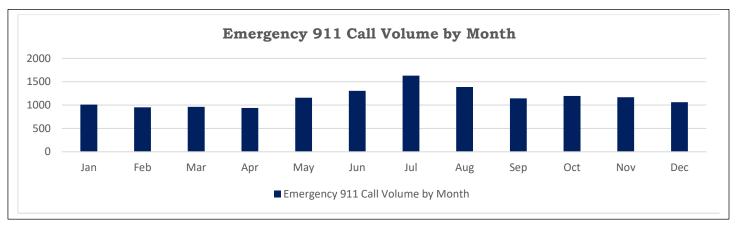
The program is designed to lead participants through various scenarios that will force them to think about typical injury incidents and make proper decisions and reactions. Topics include tractor overturns, machinery entanglements, grain bin emergencies, silo emergencies, chemical emergencies, and electrical emergencies.

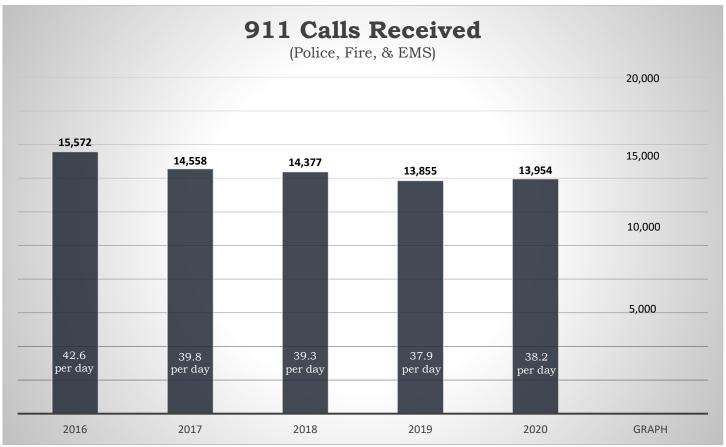
The training is intended for all farm groups such as farm managers, employees, spouses, 4-H and FFA groups, etc. Participation as a family or as a farm work group is encouraged. A training flyer will be published when training dates are confirmed.

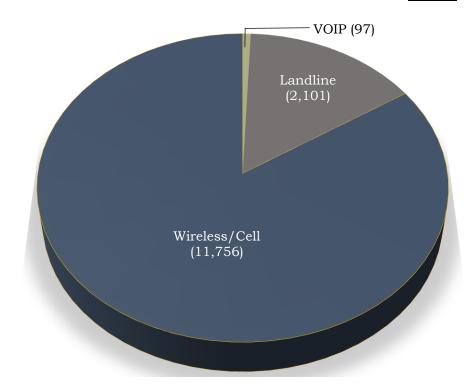
Annual Statistics on Following Pages

CALL STATISTICS OVERVIEW

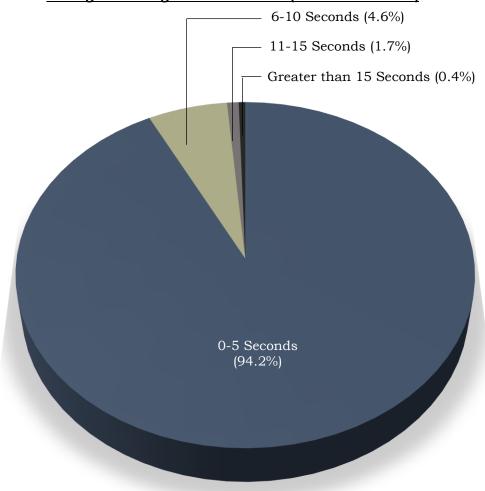
Total Number of CADs Created	36,330
Total Number of Inbound Phone Calls Received	54,129 (13,954 Emergency Calls) (40,175 Non-Emergency Calls)
Total Number of Outbound Phone Calls made from the 911 Center	15,714



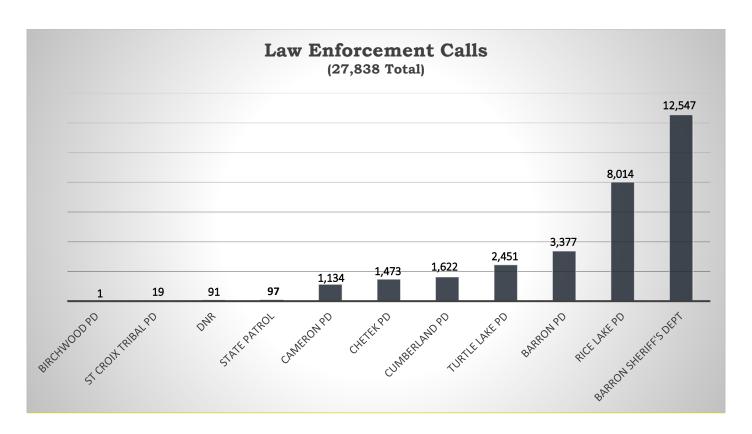




Average 911 Ring-To-Answer Time (3 Seconds or less)



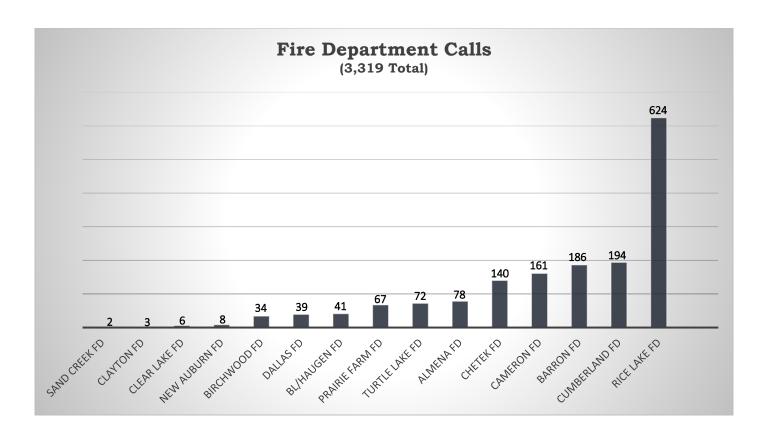
Barron County Sheriff's Department - Office of Emergency Services



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LAW ENFORCEM	6083
Traffic Stop	
911 Hang-Up	2793
Suspicious/Wanted	1497
Traffic Complaint	1197
MVA Non-Injury	916
Motorist Assist	843
Dog Case	790
Disorderly Conduct	741
911 Misdial	729
Welfare Check	613
MVA Auto vs Animal	516
Lockout	467
Traffic Hazard	439
Theft Complaint	414
911 Non-Emergency	411
Commercial Burglary Alarm	377
Animal Complaint	354
Harassment/Stalking/Threat	326
Mental Disorder / Behavior	325
Fraud/Deception	324
Domestic Disturbance	308
Drug Complaint	276
Damage / Vandalism	260
Lost and Found	259
Attempt to Locate	254
Trespassing / Unwanted	251
Warrant	238
Assist Other Agency	224
Transport	207
OWI	198
Violation Order	194
VIOLUTION OT GOT	151

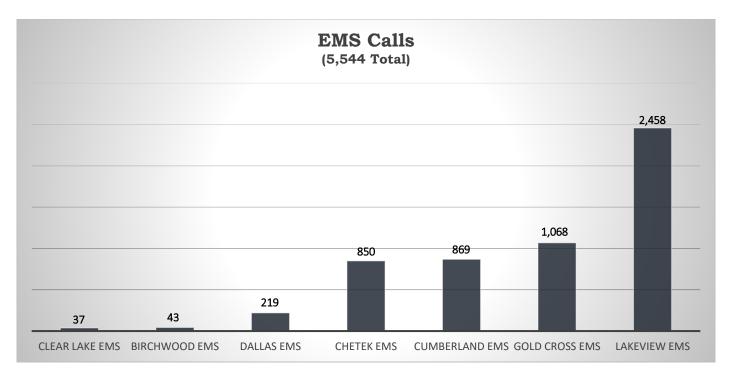
Barron County Sheriff's Department – Office of Emergency Services

LAW ENFORCEMENT STA	TISTICS (Continued)
Child Custody	165
Traffic Stop Rec	158
Civil Complaint	152
Noise Complaint	152
Residential Burglary Alarm	140
Protection Papers	138
DNR Complaint	134
Hit and Run	128
Missing Person	127
Shoplifting	125
Stolen Vehicle	125
Gas Drive Off	122
Livestock on Highway	108
Intoxicated Person	106
Property Dispute/Exchange	104
Suicidal Person	104
Ordinance Violation	98
Burglary/Home Invasion	85
Sexual Assault	73
Extra Patrol	70
Fight in Progress	58
Fireworks Complaint	58
Open Door	56
Repossession	55
Assault/Battery	53
Road Blocked	53
Littering	50
Search Warrant	50
Abuse/Abandonment/Neglect	47
ATV/Boat/Snowmobile Complaint	46
Barking Dog	42
Duress Alarm	41
Animal Bite/Attack	41
Gunshots Complaint	35
Underage Drinking	33
Outside Fire	32
Funeral Assist	29
Landlord/Tenant Dispute	27
Runaway/Found Person	26
Unknown Problem	26
Worthless Check	25
Utility Complaint	24
Man with a Gun	23
Paper Service	22
Probation	21
Indecency	16
Recovery of Stolen Property	15
Chase / Pursuit	14
K9 Assist	12
Suspicious Package	11
Severe Weather Alert	8
MVA Auto vs Pedestrian	6
Robbery / Car Jacking	3
Abduction / Kidnapping	2
ERT Callouts	5

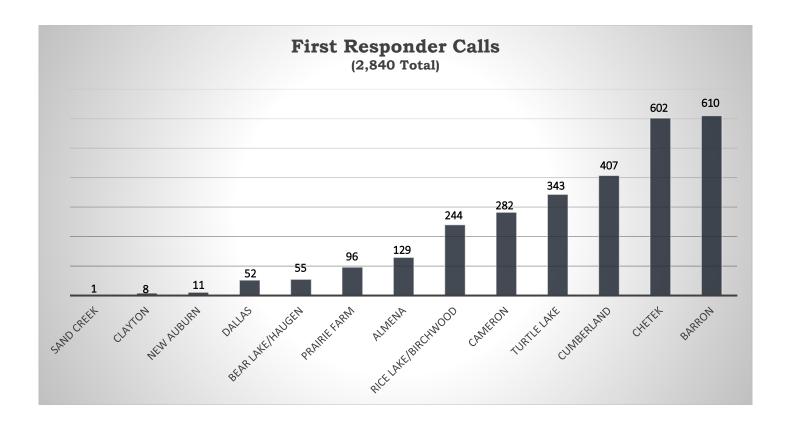


FIRE DEPARTMEN	IT STATISTICS
Controlled Burn	2309
MVA with Injuries	184
Commercial Fire Alarm	140
Structure Fire	102
Residential Fire Alarm	58
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	45
Gas Leak	34
Grass/Brush Fire	33
MVA Boat/ATV/Snow/UTV	26
MVA Auto vs Pedestrian	23
Smoke Investigation Outside	17
Severe Weather Alert	12
Electrical Hazard	9
Fuel Spill	8
Commercial Vehicle Fire	6
Water Rescue	6
Elevator Rescue	3
Hazmat	3
MVA Extrication	3
MVA Fatal	3
Aircraft Emergency	2
Boat Fire	2
Lightning Strike Investigation	2
Boat Assist	1
Confined Space Rescue	1
Farm Accident	1
Stabbing	1

Statistics do not include mutual aid requests



EMS STA	
Sick Person	1208
Fall	998
Breathing Problems	411
Chest Pain	274
Unconscious/Fainting	189
MVA with Injuries	184
Back Pain	128
Stroke	127
Heart Problems	113
Traumatic Injuries	106
Abdominal Pain	105
Structure Fire	102
Seizures	100
Diabetic	98
Medical Alarm	97
Hemorrhage	92
Overdose Poisoning	59
Allergies/Envenomation	49
Cardiac Arrest	43
MVA Boat/ATV/Snow/UTV	26
MVA Auto vs Pedestrian	23
Choking	21
Psychiatric / Abnormal Behavior	19
Headache	16
Pregnancy/Childbirth	9
Burns	5
Heat/Cold Exposure	3
Gunshot Wound	3
MVA Extrication	3
MVA Fatal	3
Confined Space Rescue	1
Farm Accident	1
Stabbing	1
Stabbing	I



FIRST RESPONDER STATISTICS	
Sand Creek	1
Clayton	8
New Auburn	11
Dallas	52
Bear Lake/Haugen	55
Prairie Farm	96
Almena	129
Rice Lake/Birchwood	244
Cameron	282
Turtle Lake	343
Cumberland	407
Chetek	602
Barron	610

END OF REPORT

