

Emergency Services Newsletter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emergency Management has been working hard to make things happen for this next year. Here are a few updates:

- Please welcome Maria Renz as the new Emergency Management Assistant. She officially started on January 3rd, 2023.
- The new Emergency Response Trailer is completed and looks amazing. It is currently sitting at the annex building and will be available for use soon. Watch out for pictures in the next newsletter!

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

On New Years Eve all over the nation, many people create their new years resolutions. People write down their dreams, aspirations, and hopes. At Emergency Management, we are excited for what 2023 will bring! We have many projects in the works and will be updating everyone as we make progress. Some of the projects to look forward to is the implementation of the Genasys and IPAWS system. Genasys is a mass notification system that will be used to notify the public of circumstances such as any missing persons, weather, or disaster alerts through IPAWS. We are in the beginning stages of creating a CERT, Community Emergency Response Team, for Ashland and Bayfield County. We are working with the school districts that serve Bayfield County to create a county wide understanding of response, and a County wide EMS Mass Casualty Incident team has been established. For 2023, our goals will focus on collaborative efforts between Emergency Management and partners throughout the county and beyond!



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2022 Radio Grant By Jack Hoilby



In 2015, the Grand View Fire Department obtained a grant through a FEMA program, Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), to obtain state of the art radios for Bayfield County with Ashland and Brule Fire Departments participating along with 13 Bayfield County services. That grant was in the amount of \$821,585, 95% of which was covered by the grant. The program provided 294 radios for the county. This year, the Grand View Fire Department was awarded an additional grant in the amount of \$897,263 with 90% of the cost being covered for 203 additional radios for 20 services in Bayfield, Ashland and Douglas counties.

The departments and services included in the program are: Ashland FD, Bayfield FD, Bayfield EMS, Brule Fire, Cable FD, Cornucopia FD, Drummond FD, Grand View FD, Great Divide EMS, Herbster FD, Iron River FD, Madeline Island FD, Madeline Island EMS, Marengo EMS, Mason FD, Mason EMS, Namakagon FD, South Shore Ambulance, Washburn EMS and Washburn FD.

The purpose of the program is to provide every emergency responder with a compatible radio for use with WISCOM, a statewide communications program for interoperability. The primary reason for this year's grant is to provide radios to those departments who were not included in the 2015 grant who chose not to participate at that time. Many of the departments involved with the initial grant are participating to supplement their complement of radios.

These two programs supplement an OJA grant from 2021 obtained by Emergency Management as a start toward being compatible with the statewide system which required more sophisticated radios than were presently available. When it was realized that this system solved major communications issues, the Grand View Fire Department saw it as a solution to distance communication apart from the decades old County repeater system (Local Government) where all communication went through one channel. WISCOM provides additional channels that don't interfere with dispatch. When completed, the county will be 100% equipped with compatible radios.

Between the time the grant application was submitted, and the subsequent award was made, WISCOM announced that it was moving to a different band due to the original system being at its 'end-of-life' and needed to be upgraded. It is presently on VHF (Very High Frequency) as is Bayfield County conventional radio, which will stay the same. The move will be to 800 MHz which could be considered UHF (Ultra High Frequency). In any event, dual-band radios will be required. Since this came about after the grant application was submitted, the decision was made to acquire as many dual-band radios as possible within the framework of the funds available and still provide all departments with the radios they had requested. When finished, all new mobile radios and at least one portable in each department will be able to be programmed to the new band while keeping the functionality of the existing radios.

During an incident, communication is vital, whether it be between fire and EMS, law, dispatch, mutual aid, inter-county, hospital, coast guard, DNR, Forestry, or highway department and every radio must be able to transmit and receive on each other's channels and talk groups. All of these radios are capable of having 500+ channels or talk groups, even though we probably use fewer than a dozen. They are all there.

With the uncertainty of the world we live in, dependable communication is a must. The other side of the coin, each responder has to learn how to use it.

Washburn Businesses Become Life-Saving Partners

The American Heart Association estimates that more than 356,000 people in the U.S. suffer cardiac arrest outside a hospital each year. When that happens, the chance of survival drops by 10% every minute that passes without being given CPR or applying an AED. Businesses in Washburn are preparing to help a person survive that moment when it happens.

Earlier this year, the Washburn Chamber of Commerce and Washburn Area Ambulance Service teamed up to provide CPR training and an automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to businesses and other public entities in Washburn.

“One of our chamber members asked me how to go about getting an AED to put in their business,” said Melissa Martinez, director of the Washburn Chamber. She contacted the ambulance service, and that one inquiry sparked an idea to provide AEDs to any of the local businesses who were interested in having one, along with the training to use them.

“We respond quickly when we are called, but our EMTs are volunteers coming from home or work, or we could be out on another call” said Jeff Bellile, director of the Washburn Area Ambulance Service. “So if employees at the coffee shop or the grocery store can provide CPR and have an AED to shock the heart before the ambulance arrives, that dramatically improves the chances of survival for that person.”

Martinez surveyed Chamber members to see who wanted to participate and more than 20 businesses and churches expressed interest. Martinez and Washburn EMT Ted Gostomski then worked on grant proposals, and funding was provided by the Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund and the Washburn Community Education Foundation to purchase AEDs and to provide training in CPR and AED use.

Three training sessions were held in May and June, attended by 16 people from nine area businesses. Due to supply chain issues, it took three months for the AEDs to arrive. Those AEDs were presented to four participating businesses in early October.

“We found a vendor willing to give us a small break on the price of each AED, but we were only able to buy four units to start this program,” said Gostomski. “Two churches already had an AED, so six of the nine inaugural participants now have AEDs on site and people who are trained to use them.” Washburn EMS will conduct regular maintenance checks of the units, but each business is responsible for the cost of replacing pads and batteries.

Martinez and Gostomski see a need for and an interest in providing these life-saving skills to Washburn’s residents and visitors. They are working on the next round of grant proposals to purchase AEDs for the three remaining businesses and then continue to build on this program. Additional training sessions are being planned for this fall and winter.

PHOTO CAPTION: Washburn Chamber Director Melissa Martinez (left), 47th Assembly District Representative Beth Meyers (right), and Washburn EMT/ Assistant Director Ted Gostomski (second from right) congratulate four local businesses that now have staff trained in CPR and an AED to keep on their premises. Photo courtesy of Representative Beth Meyers.

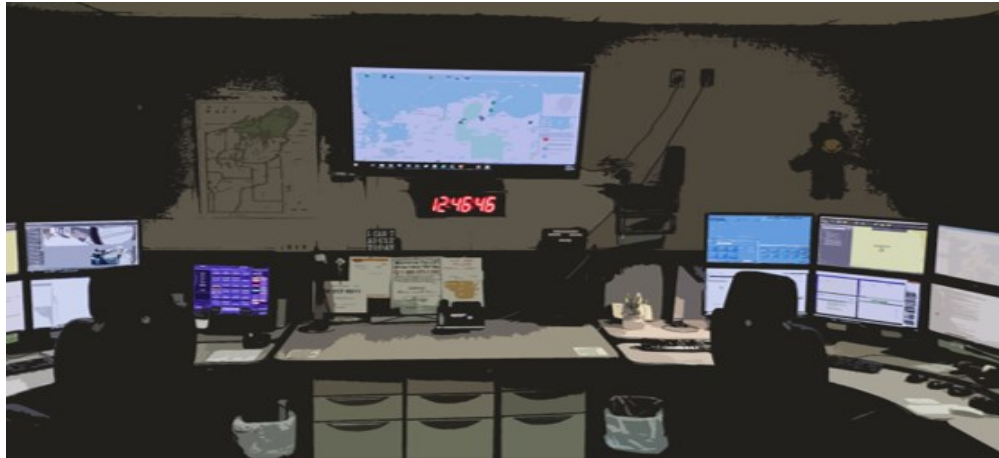


PSAP NEWS

In conjunction with Ashland County, Bayfield County applied for the State of Wisconsin PSAP Grant.

We recently heard back from the Office of Emergency Communications that our applications were initially denied because the State requires a full consolidation plan prior to approval. Bayfield and Ashland counties will be working with the state to meet eligibility requirements for future funding.

We plan to keep everyone updated as more information comes in.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

AWR 148-V CRISIS MANAGEMENT FOR SCHOOL-BASED INCIDENTS: PARTNERING RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRST RESPONDERS AND LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS

This eight-hour awareness-level course is delivered in 4-hour sessions over 2 consecutive days. The course is delivered virtually with a live instructor via the Zoom web conference platform. It is designed for school administrators and emergency responders and will educate rural law enforcement personnel as well as school administrators and staff to effectively respond to an emergency involving a school building or an entire school system. The training will provide representatives of rural law enforcement departments with a foundation of knowledge and skills that will enable them to progressively establish a school-based emergency response plan and crisis management team through information sharing and training.

You can register for this free training at:

<https://ruraltraining.org/course/AWR-148-V/?scheduled=true&id=8731>

FIRE NEWS

As we look forward to news from the fire departments, however, we wanted to start off with sharing meeting schedules.

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.
5:30pm Bayfield Fire Meeting	7pm Cable Fire Meeting	6:30pm Drummond Fire	Barnes Fire Training Meeting
7pm Iron River Business Meeting		Grand View Fire Meeting	
7pm Washburn Fire Meeting		7pm Herbester Fire Meeting	
7pm Iron River Fire Work Meeting	7pm Cable Fire Meeting		6pm Namakagon Fire Meeting
7pm Iron River Fire Training Meeting		6:30pm Drummond Fire	
7pm Washburn Fire Meeting		Grand View Fire Meeting	
		Barnes Fire Business Meeting	
7pm Iron River Fire Training Meeting	7pm Cable Fire Meeting	7pm Fire Association Meeting	6pm Namakagon Fire Meeting



The next entry level firefighter course will be held in Bayfield starting January 28th. For more information please contact Dave Haan at dave.haan@northwoodtech.edu



THANK YOU

Please join us in thanking Sheriff Paul Susienka for his 40 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Bayfield County, as well as his service to the State of Wisconsin. Sheriff Paul Susienka started with the Bayfield County Sheriffs Office on January 1st, 1983. From all of us at the Sheriffs Office, thank you for your leadership and always holding us to the highest standard. You will be missed greatly.

Enjoy retirement sir, you have earned it.

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