

Antrim County

Office of Emergency Management

June 2021 to June 2022 Annual Report



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What we do: The Antrim County Office of Emergency Management coordinates federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources prior to, during and after emergencies/disasters, which includes training and exercise. The department also addresses all necessary state and federal county requirements as directed by the Department of Homeland Security.

Most importantly, we provide support to our local fire, EMS and law enforcement agencies as requested.

What I think we do:



Just call me Billy!

Department Personnel:

ICS Staff: Effective October 1, 2021, the Board of Commissioners voted to make the position of Emergency Services Coordinator full time. This was a great start to help the department attempt to address many of the responsibilities as identified in the extensive job description.

About half of the “staff” (those that received Just in Time Training in 2020) were able to maintain many of their credentials should the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) need to be activated. As we learned from the COVID activation, the previous make-up for the EOC utilizing first responders and department heads was not practical or feasible. Most of those individuals would be too busy with their traditional rolls to help as the first responder community is not flush with staff. Creativity has allowed us to have a proactive plan for the future that allows for an opportunity to have general staff trained in advance.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): Prior to COVID, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) had a roster of 18 with 8 active. 5 of them had received the minimum basic training required to be a CERT member. Another training was planned for April 24-26, 2020 at Camp Grayling. The training was canceled due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

While CERT sat idle for most of 2020, they stayed in contact via Zoom, assisted in mask distribution and took online courses from the Emergency Management Institute’s catalogue. The plan was to be ready to assist in vaccination clinics should the opportunity present itself.

The opportunity presented itself in January 2021. As Antrim County has no hospital or national pharmacies, we needed to assist the Health Department with the distribution of the vaccine. An additional benefit of the support to the Health Department was CERT's exposure to the public. By the end of June 2021, the CERT roster had increased to 28, with 19 active. Again in 2021, the CERT basic training was canceled. By 2022 the roster increased to 46. We were able to host a CERT Basic class the last weekend in January, in county. 16 team members completed the course.

The biggest take-away to share was what a positive impact this had on CERT and its perception within the first responder community. CERT made a positive impression during their clinic stint as many had worked side by side with them. As the first responders became part of the CERT instructor cadre, they became even more aware of CERT and its capabilities. The instructors then passed on this information to their peers. The next basic training is scheduled for October 2022.

CERT has certainly proved to be a true County asset.



The 2022 BASIC CERT Graduates

First Responders

I would be remiss if I didn't include all of Antrim County's first responders and include them in the Emergency Management personnel category. This includes the Sheriff's Dept., 11 fire districts, 2 EMS agencies and 5 police departments. We work as a **TEAM**. There is not a department that does not step up to the plate when asked/needed. From providing medical rescue, security, training, equipment, and general manpower, they assist with whatever may be needed.

Additional Partners:

- Commission on Aging: For meal provision and volunteers;
- Antrim County Transportation: For transportation services;
- Helena Township: For training and exercise space;
- Kearney Township: For hosting CERT meetings and trainings;
- Township Ambulance Authority: For providing training to CERT and County Staff;
- County Jail: For meal provision.

Equipment:

- Generators: Big Green, the generator on wheels, had improvements made that provided additional power access through external outlets. All generators are tested bi-weekly by CERT's Generator Team. All were utilized during the December 16-19, 2021 power outage. Calculations were made as to power usage and both emergency fuel provider MOA's (Memorandum of Agreement) were exercised.
- Pickup Truck: Big White was utilized by the EOC to move PPE and COVID test kits throughout the county, generator transportation, general EOC activity and was loaned to the Maintenance Department when their truck was down. As Big White is aging (she is 13 years old with about 120,000 miles, she doesn't travel far from home. When longer journeys are needed, I take my own vehicle or borrow a patrol car (depending on the destination).
- Cargo Trailers (2): The department maintains two cargo trailers. One is used to hold supplies that are used by CERT and is set up with shelving and compartments. The supplies include tables, chairs, lighting, PPE, pop-up canopies and a pop-up toilet. The other trailer is open and can move equipment (such as portable generators) as needed. Even though the trailers are in good shape, it is important to note that they were purchased in 2000 with a grant from Homeland Security. It will be necessary to purchase tires this next year.
- Command Post: The Command Post was sold at the Sheriff's auction, Aug 6, 2021. An order was placed in early 2022 for a multi-functional trailer that will serve as a command post, communications post and emergency 911 center. We are hoping for delivery before Torchfest. As the number and scope of emergencies increase each year, this will be a valuable asset for the Sheriff, EOC and all local first responders.
- PPE: Our PPE stockpile is doing well. It has been rotated and now includes COVID test kits. We offer the supplies as needed to local government, first responders, schools and non-profits, boasting a 3 month supply. Further, we are providing body bags to the Medical Examiner as requested. We have not spent any funds on the stockpile since May 2020.
- CERT: With the exception of 15 first aid bags, the CERT team member equipment cache is empty. As we continue to grow the team, I will need to make sure that we have the ability to outfit them. We received \$1,000 in R7 HSPB funding that was used to purchase jackets and rain gear. A grant from Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity provided jump bags and Bellaire Family Health Center donated first aid bags.



L- First Aid Kits donated by Bellaire Family Health Center; R- CERT Backpacks

- Computer and iPad Cache: With the assistance of IT, the EOC maintains 15 laptop computers and 5 iPads. The computers are available for use by all County and Municipal departments and first responders. They can be checked out through MSU Extension. Well the EOC gets preference, others use them for short term remote work, training and exercise. The iPad's are used for damage assessment, if needed. All were acquired via the EMPG program through MSP-EMHSD grant program. The computers have 6 years left in their cycle.
- Fit Tester: Through a EMPG grant in 2012, the EOC received a Fit Tester for determining proper fit for respiratory fire equipment. ¾ of our fire departments alternate usage throughout the year. Each pays a small fee which goes to the service the machine receives each year. This provides a significant saving to the users. The tester just began its 13th year of service and will need to be replaced soon. We are looking into funding mechanisms. As a side note, the other ¼ contract with a company to perform the fit testing.
- Dummies: We foster 1 rescue, 1 CPR training, 1 water rescue CPR and 2 land rescue dummies for use by any first responding agency that needs them.

Events/Exercises:

Heavy Rain: August 10 -12, 2021. After heavy rain fall washed several roads and most notably, the Alden Highway at Finch Creek, the EOC provided damage assessment for the all areas of the County. It was determined that we were able to address the event without assistance from the state or much effort from Emergency Management. What the EOC was able to do was exercise our damage assessment annex of our Emergency Action Guidelines to be better prepared when service is needed.

Paddle Antrim: September 17-18, 2021. After a year off, Paddle Antrim took place in person. CERT managed to support the event without a communications trailer. As many areas of the water trail traverse areas with limited cell service, we provide 800 MHz radios for executive staff and safety boats associated with the race. This allows dependable communication with the RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) division of CERT, Dispatch and other volunteers. We borrow radios from MSP and Charlevoix County in addition to our small cache. It is important to note that Paddle Antrim has provided two of the EOC's portable 800 MHz radios and our CPR compatible water rescue dummy – Frank, through their Ripple Effect Grant Program.

Torch Lake Spill Table Top Exercise: October 5, 2021. The Full Scale Exercise planned for May 2020 was reduced to a Tabletop with built-in training. A tabletop exercise is an activity in which key personnel are assigned emergency management roles and responsibilities, and are gathered to discuss, in a non-threatening environment, various simulated emergency situations

We had 33 participate. During the 5-hour simulation, presentations from EGLE (Environment Great Lakes & Energy) and NWS (National Weather Service) addressed how they could/would assist. AT&T's First Net also provided information regarding their offerings. Interestingly, the biggest question raised was "how would you evacuate 8,000 from the sandbar on a summer weekend?" It is a difficult mission

to accomplish, especially if you ask them to abandon their boats. Paddle Antrim is assisting us with strategies.



L - Torch Lake Sandbar, July 4, 2015; R – Torch River Bridge

Wide-spread Power Outage: December 16-19, 2021. In general, the residents of Antrim County do not need 24-hour shelters like those run by the Red Cross. For the most part, we are a very resilient and resourceful bunch. In that vein, we have developed a secondary shelter MOU with our fire stations. In the event that there is a need for temporary short-term sheltering, they will activate with the assistance of CERT. By early Thursday morning, December 16, 2/3 of Antrim County residents found themselves without power. While in most cases, this is not a real big deal, but with temperatures quickly dropping from the 50's to freezing and wind gusts as high as 50 mph, things got dicey quickly. The cold weather held for 4 days. CERT's first mission was to power up the Commission on Aging building and protect the senior meal service, while providing warmth to those in need. Further, we were able to utilize the Red Cross for their other programs (besides sheltering) for those with serious medical needs due to the outage. Next, several fire departments opened to the public with CERT assisting staffing to provide warming and a hot meal as the departments were actively responding to downed trees due to the high winds. The COA Kitchen and the County Jail provided soup and sandwich fixings for any shelter that requested this service. By late Saturday night, all secondary shelters were deactivated as 90+% had their power restored. Please note that when necessary, we are prepared to activate 24-hour Red Cross Shelters and have plans in place that include 21 sites throughout the County.



From L to R: Heather and Hope warm up before going home to fight freezing pipes; Big Green running the COA building; and The Emergency Trailer preparing to leave for the Animal Shelter to add warmth from a portable generator.

White Pine Stampede: February 5, 2022. The event was back after a 2-year hiatus. As it was winter, warm accommodations were needed. The RACES division of CERT took to the fields (and road crossings) to assist the 10, 20 & 30 K races that started in Mancelona and ended at Shanty Creek Resorts. Over 220 racers participated. To address the cold and do their jobs to the fullest, RACES borrowed the Communications Trailer from CCE (Charlevoix, Cheboygan & Emmet) RACES. Again a successful (and from a safety standpoint – uneventful) event. Besides adding a level of safety to community events, it also provides great training opportunities to our first responders and CERT. They are able to cooperatively work together before a crisis.

R7HCC – Evaluator for their Exercise: April 21, 2022. The Region 7 Health Care Coalition held a functional exercise to test their triage and tracking plan. The scenario - Grand Traverse Pavilions (long-term care facility) experienced an accident in the boiler room causing fire during a multi-school field trip. A complete evacuation was required of all patients and visitors. 10 died, 220 were injured and 20 were transferred down state. I served as an evaluator and Meadowbrook served as a player. The biggest take-away, that more training and usage of the tools already in place is needed, this can easily be corrected with regular usage in non-stressful environments makes things easier when the need arises. This only reinforces the need for Antrim County Responders to regularly use and practice with the tools in our box.

Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) w/Search & Rescue (SAR) Full Scale Exercise: April 29, 2022. Scenario - Three guys in their mid-20's have been reported missing while mushrooming in the Jordan River Valley. Shortly before dusk, an Antrim County Sheriff Deputy reports locating the group's vehicle in the vicinity of Piney Bridge but has halted all search and rescue efforts until daybreak as NWS predicts that the rain, wind and lightening will dwindle closer to morning with drier air moving in. Star Township Fire and the K-9 unit of the Sheriff's Office plan to begin a hasty search of the area at daybreak prior to bringing in the Antrim County SAR team.

Requests for assistance have been made for area CERT members, not included in the SAR team, to respond and assist in establishing a Volunteer Reception Center to address and organize spontaneous volunteers and search and rescue support.

The players (CERT members from Antrim, Benzie, Manistee and Crawford Counties) worked together to build the VRC for "spontaneous" volunteers (actors). While a few of the players had simulated the set up before, the vast majority had not. Additionally, only a few of them had taken part of any VRC training.

As the Glacial Hills Natural Area Trailblazers had just completed a search and rescue manual, it seemed appropriate to test it out for the exercise. A group was identified at the VRC to head out to Glacial and attempt a basic SAR. We will be working now with E911 to load the SAR Manual into the MCT's (Mobile Computer Terminals) that are installed in all law enforcement vehicles and fire engines.

Like all exercises, lots was learned. We hope that there will not be a large call for this service and CERT plans on doing a tabletop exercise later this fall to practice what was exercised for improvement when the need arises. 6 members of CERT will be taking part in a two weekend advanced SAR training in late August.



L - Volunteers are vetted; R – SAR receives a briefing prior to beginning the search.

Avian Flu: In late February, all EM's in the state were invited to a web-based meeting regarding the threat of Avian Flu from MDARD (Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) to the United States. The meetings have become weekly (every Monday at 3 PM) as there has now been confirmation of avian flu in a Michigan commercial flock as well as in red-tailed hawks and two bald eagles. There is also confirmation in some mammals. We are sharing this information with our farmers and Animal Control. While some may ask why the EOC is involved, when it became a front line issue, Animal Control was overwhelmed with the Central Lake animal issue and this does effect general public health as well.

May 20, 2022 Straight Line Winds/EF3 Tornado: At approximately 3 pm on Friday, May 20, winds exceeded 75 miles per hour through the Village of Bellaire and headed toward Alba. Widespread power outages followed and 1,000's of trees were down throughout the Village and portions of Kearney and Forest Home Townships. About 30 minutes later, the storm increased in intensity to tornado status about 2 miles from the Antrim/Otsego County lines at Patterson Rd. We worked with all first responder agencies to determine what we could send over to Otsego County without threatening our already burdened responders. TAA off-duty staff volunteered to send a BLS (Basic Life Support) and a ALS (Advanced Life Support) unit which then allowed us to allow our ambulance service to run at normal capacity. Fire Departments took their light towers as requested, a few departments were able to send fire engines and the Sheriff's Department sent 3 deputies (off-duty). Otsego asked that our CERT be on standby for deployment on Saturday as needed. The EOC coordinated public information via social media, the Civil Air Patrol (the division is new to the region and we had just worked together on our April 29 VRC Exercise), directed Red Cross Damage Assessment Teams to various areas of Antrim that required review and played liaison between Antrim E911 and the Otsego County EOC. Our after action and improvement planning includes researching switching to MABAS for mutual aid and prompted the EOC to offer up again the Local Officials training for disaster series. The formal damage assessment for the county identified 2 homes with major damage and 4 mobile homes with extensive damage.

Public Outreach:

Due to the after effects of COVID, public outreach has changed as in-person presentations are fewer in number. We have tried our best to adapt more to social media and are quite excited about the launch of the new County Website.

- The Chopped - Disaster Style Event at the Harvest Festival was held in person. We held our first “Tournament of Champions” with Stacy Maza of MDHHS declared the Champion. For 2022, Law Enforcement members will be highlighted.
- The Facebook page continues to grow with an average of 10,000 hits per week and 2,750 followers. We have attempted to make the site not only educational but entertaining too.



Two recent Facebook posts offering weather education.

- The biggest public outreach event for this year was planned to be a county-wide COVID test kit distribution in mid-January. We wrote a great plan, enlisted our fire departments and CERT to prepare for the distribution of 12,000 test kits. Unfortunately the shipment never arrived. On a positive note, we were able to create a general distribution plan should the future direct us to need to distribute just about anything.
- We are still providing PPE and COVID Test Kits as requested.

Education/Training:

Emergency Managers are required to take part in or run 12 trainings in addition to 3 exercises per year.

- 12 Monthly radio drills that address the state and regional 800 MHz systems were performed. When I am unavailable to participate, E911 fills in. First Wednesday of each month.
- Final installment of my EMI Advanced Academy Course. 40 hours. July 2021
- Traffic Control. Funded through the Fire Departments annual training funds. 5 CERT & 12 Firefighters participating. 12 hours. August 2021

- ICS 100 & 200, 700 & 800 – 2 classes of each offering. Instruction provided by Leslie Meyers. 28 total participants. 3 hrs per class. September & November 2021 and February & March 2022
- Agricultural/Farm Equipment Training. Funded through a grant from OSHA, 16 firefighters participated in a hands on AG equipment training. 12 hours. September 2021



Utilizing new methods for farm equipment emergencies. L – Don't be like Pat!

- IAEM Conference. Funded through R7HSPB for EM's in the region. 24 hours. October 2021
- Livestock Emergency Training. Funded through a grant from MDARD and MSU Extension. 8 participants from CERT & Animal Control. 6 hours. October 2021

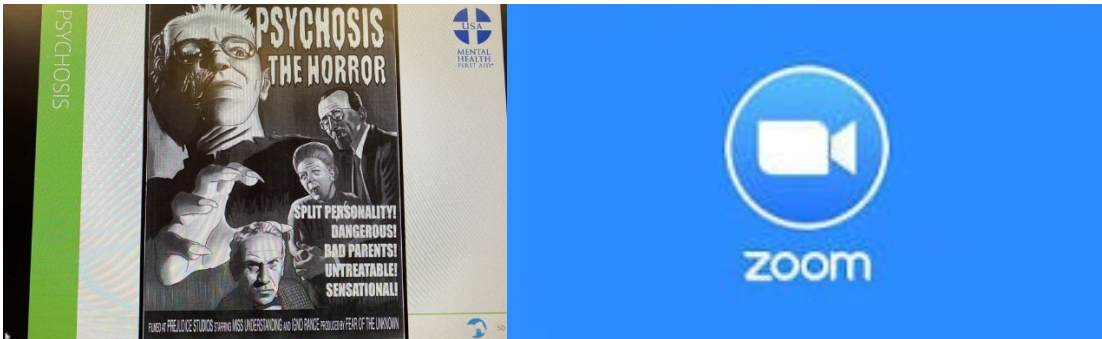


L to R: Livestock Emergency Training; VRC Training; Training Flyer

- VRC Training. Regional Training funded through R7HCC. 5 participants from Antrim. 8 hrs. October 2021.
- AED trainings for Staff in conjunction with the new AED's purchased for all County buildings. Two sessions of 1 hour. 15 participants each. December 2021
- One Basic CERT Training. This class was funded through a grant for MDLEO. 16 participants. 20 hrs. Instructors included Alan Shumaker, Bellaire Fire; Laura Criddle, TAA; Kevin Hoch, Antrim County Sheriff; Trp. Corey Hebner, Terrorism; Leslie Meyers, Local EOC and Activation: Sheila Brown, Benzie CERT Coordinator, Carl Begley, Manistee County CERT Coordinator. January 2022



- 2 Mental Health First Aid Classes with instruction provided by Community Mental Health. 41 participants. 8 hrs., electronic offering. March & April 2022



L- Mental Health affected us all. R- Zoom has become an important part of how we do business.

- The National Weather Service Storm Spotter Training. 32 participants. April 2022
- Basic First Aid, instruction donated through Laura Criddle and TAA. 9 participants. 8 hrs. April 2022
- Wilderness First Aid. A requirement for the upcoming advanced SAR training is Wilderness First Aid. Chief Drollinger offered to update his training certificate and taught the 16 hour class to our CERT members attending the advanced SAR. April 2022
- NarCan/Naloxiam Training provided by the Health Department of Northwest MI. 24 participants and 48 doses distributed. May 2022

Committees/Boards/Standing Meetings:

- Antrim County Emergency Services (ACES): This committee consists of a representative from each of the fire agencies in the county, a DNR Fire Representative, the Sherriff, E911, EMS, RACES, CERT, and the Emergency Services Coordinator. I serve as the recording secretary and staff support. This group also directs our fire education and provides a representative to the 911 Board. They meet bi-monthly, except in June and July. I serve as staff support and recording secretary. We have moved toward having a quest speaker/training for each meeting with the exception of the August meeting each year as the use of training dollars from the state is determined then. This year we gained insight on the railroad, American Red Cross, considering Automatic Aid vs Mutual Aid and how our electric grid works.
- E911: This Board met bi-monthly. I serve as the recording secretary. My biggest contribution to the E911 Board this year was my planning and zoning background with regard to the proposed Orchard Hill Tower project. I am extremely excited to watch the project move forward so that our first responder communication issues can be improved.
- Local Emergency Planning Committee/Local Planning Team (LEPC/LPT): Both are required, but based on our population, we have been able to combine them into one group. They meet quarterly and the Emergency Services Coordinator provides staff support. This year we are working on the Natural Hazards Plan, a 5 year document. The funding is being provided from a grant through FEMA and Networks Northwest is providing the support. When the plan was addressed in 2015, meetings took place in person. We utilized Zoom for two Natural Hazards identification meetings – one for coastal communities and the other for inland. Attendance

was twice what it was in 2015! The Plan will be before the Planning Commission for review in early 2023.

- CERT Meetings: The Team holds a training meeting every month plus additional trainings/exercises per each members interests.
- Region 7 Homeland Security Planning Board (for Homeland Security Grants) Monthly Meeting. We meet monthly. I currently serve as the chair of the Training Committee.
- Monthly State EM Webinar. The MSP-EMHSD (Michigan State Police, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security) hosts monthly meetings with all EM's to discuss the State of the State, new equipment available, upcoming trainings, grant opportunities, etc.
- Region 7 Citizen Corps Council: The group has met monthly but will be switching to a quarterly format. Each county CERT, the regional Michigan Defense Force and the regional Medical Reserve Corps are represented. Prior to COVID, the CCC was responsible for the yearly regional CERT training. As we have found that local training proves to be more beneficial, their focus has moved to securing all available state training funding and managing the R7HSPB CERT funding. The CCC will be the recipients of the \$12,500 Region 7 funding for the advanced SAR training.
- Department Head meetings are now bi-monthly. These meetings allow for regular communications with all departments which proves valuable in determining needs and addressing common issues.
- Antrim Kalkaska Community Collaborative: Monthly meetings. Their mission is to identify concerns, initiate action and organize for impact by providing community-based partnerships and provide a continuum of cooperation, coordination and integration of services and resources for all the county. This partnership has proved to be a truly positive one. We have secured pack & plays for all of our fire stations should the need arise, CMH provided our Mental Health First Aid courses and I have raised awareness of how Emergency Management can provide them with additional resources.

Miscellaneous:

- In October of 2021, I was honored by my peers as the Emergency Manager of the Year for communities under 60,000.
- Bellaire Family Health Center: Provided first aid kit sponsorship for CERT. The kits included tourniquets, pocket masks and a small duffel to make medical jump bags. We are truly grateful.
- Antrim County will receive funding for keeping our SARA Title III sites this year. This funding will allow us to purchase software for Emergency Management, fire departments and law enforcement to have access to the files through the MCTs, eliminating the need to use paper copies that can become cumbersome in an emergency. SARA sites are sites that are known to manufacture, store or transfer hazardous materials.
- Jim & Sherry Bailey, CERT members, were named Community Health Champions of 2021 by the Bellaire & East Jordan Health Centers for their commitment to health and safety during the Pandemic. Jim and Sherry worked every COVID vaccine clinic held from January to June of 2021 assisting in providing over 8,000 shots. Way to go guys!
- With the change at the Medical Examiner's Office, it was brought to our attention that 8 sets of cremains are unclaimed. There are many reasons why they are unclaimed ranging from there being no family to claim them to concerns that there may be a bill for services once claimed. I

am currently working with our Townships to address this matter and provide a final resting place for them. We hope to have a plan in place later this year that will resolve the issue now and into the future.

- Working with Fire Departments to switch from Mutual Aid to Automatic Aid. It has been determined that this task will help departments reduce their ISO (Insurance Services Office) Rating, thus allowing for a reduction in homeowners/renters insurance rates. The automatic aid will follow the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System).
- Presented my paper from the Advanced Academy to IAEM's (International Association of Emergency Managers) Region 1 membership via Zoom in August 2021.
- MEMA (Michigan Emergency Management Association) Conference Committee member. As almost 25% of EM's in the State are new, I am working on the tract specific to those new to the EM world.
- Flood Plain Education. As the EM, it is appropriate to keep up to date with my Certified Floodplain Manger status that is left over from my previous profession as all of our participating communities have had changes made to their maps.
- In conjunction with Mike Gank of E911, we prepared the specifications for the new Command Post/Communications Trailer/E911 Center.
- The memorandum of understanding for our IPAWS system was updated for renewal with DHS.
- The Office of Emergency Management is assisting with the Lake Levels Public Presentation to be held July 12, 2022 at the Central Lake Schools Auditorium with a reception following at Thurston Park. The event will begin at 5 PM. Mark Stone and Dave Christian will be the presenters. We hope to see you there.
- Working with Glacial Hills Pathway & Natural Area to create their SAR Manual. This will also be provided to E911 and on MCT's.
- Being certified to teach ICS (Incident Command System) courses has been a great bonus for the county. I have had several requests to help other counties but have not had the time to assist.
- It is important to note the true gift/friend that Zoom has become. The travel time saved alone is huge. Meetings have gotten shorter too!



L – My Zoom Avatar during an EOC Activation; R – Avatar during steady operations.

The Future of Emergency Management in Antrim County

Emergency Management, from mitigation through long-term recovery, must be recognized and supported by all elected officials as a critical government service.

Prior to 2015, when we experienced the August 2, 2015 Straight-line winds event (D) that left the west half of the county without power for 5+ days, some roads blocked for 36 hours or more, plus the need to activate the County Debris Management Annex, Antrim County hadn't recorded an EOC activation since the 1995 gas explosion in Mancelona. Since then, we have partially or fully activated the EOC 12 more times!

- August 2017 – Tornado Touchdown in Elk Rapids (D)
- October 2018 – Kitchen Farms Fire – 10 Alarm (E)
- October 2018 – Lakes of the North HazMat Incident (E)
- February 2019 – Meadowrun Apartments Building Evacuation (E)
- February 2019 – Snowstorm that shut down US131 (E)
- August 2019 - Tornado Touchdown in Alba & Straight Line Winds in the Alden Area (D)
- October 2019 – Train Derailment in Mancelona (E)
- March 2020 – COVID-19 (D & E)
- November 2020 – COVID-19 (D & E)
- May 2021 – Kitchen Farms Fire – 21 Alarm (E)
- August 2021 – Storm, Alden Hwy Blowout (D)
- May 2022 – Straight Line Winds – Bellaire/Star Twp & Support to Otsego County and their EF3 Tornado. (D)

(D) denotes Disaster. (E) denotes Emergency

It is important to note that Gaylord may not receive a Federal Declaration for their EF3 tornado which will limit widespread assistance. The State has declared but it likely will not reach the 60 million dollar threshold to trigger IA (individual assistance). IA supports those without insurance. PA (Public Assistance) will be available. As the saying goes – disasters (and emergencies) start and end local.

2/3 of first responders in the County are mostly volunteer. These volunteers make up the 11 fire and rescue departments that protect Antrim County. Their numbers are shrinking. According to a survey taken this spring, their ranks have decreased on average by 1/5, while their case load has doubled, and in one case, tripled! They, like most, are doing more with less. Some of our departments have recently needed to hire their chief (and sometimes and asst. chief) as full time employees so that they can staff the department during the week days. This has placed a strain on their budgets. Fire millage rates will need to be increased as this trend will surely continue.

While Emergency Management can't assist the departments with recruitment, the Antrim County CERT can assist in that shortfall. Now 50+ members strong, the CERT Team can provide the following services to our fire, law and EMS departments:

- Traffic Control
- Search and Rescue
- Shelter Staffing
- Triage

- Basic First Aid
- Damage Assessment
- Basic Fire Safety
- EOC Staffing
- Generator Movement
- Logistic Support
- Preparedness Education to the Community
- And coming soon, a Drone Division

By law, the County Emergency Services Coordinator is required to oversee day-to-day operations in preparedness for a disaster; during a disaster, act as conduit between Incident Command and Elected Officials; and develop strategic vision for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. In addition to the disasters, consider the amount of emergencies we now deal with as well.

How can County Officials best serve their constituents with regard to public safety? The most economical and prudent way would be to expand the Office of Emergency Management staff from one to two. This will allow for:

- the continued growth of CERT (we are currently considering dividing the group into 2 groups as the team is getting harder to manage as it grows and one meeting time does not fit all);
- the opportunity to assist the 20 municipalities with their emergency and continuity of operations plans;
- the ability to write more grants to assist in training and equipment budgets for first responders;
- permit more time to assist in emergency preparedness education for the general public;
- provide more training to county and municipal staff, including first aid, AED, local officials emergency training;
- devote more time to emergency education to our schools;
- allow for the appointment of an assistant emergency services coordinator; and
- the ability to continue to forge new partnerships to allow us to do more with less;
- allow the department to have a dedicated (and trained) second that can fill the lead role in my absence;
- Be able to follow up on AAR/IP (after action reporting and improvement planning on a timelier basis; and
- assist in maintaining the Emergency Service Coordinator's sanity.

Budget Requests for 2023 (In addition to the standard budget)

- Assistant County Emergency Services Coordinator. Cost: \$50,000 +/-
- Add a new vehicle to the department. This will allow for the movement of equipment and people throughout the County as needed. Cost: \$42,000
- Equipping CERT – winter jacket, vest, rain gear, backpack, gloves, flash light, etc. Cost: \$5,000
- Increase in training budget to accommodate a growing CERT. Cost: \$6,000
- Address sign materials. Cost \$1,000
- Maintenance budget increase as the generators, trailers, pick up and radios are aging. Cost: \$5,000