

# Providing and Maintaining Emergency Medical Responders in Wisconsin

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# Emergency Medical Responders in Portage County EMS

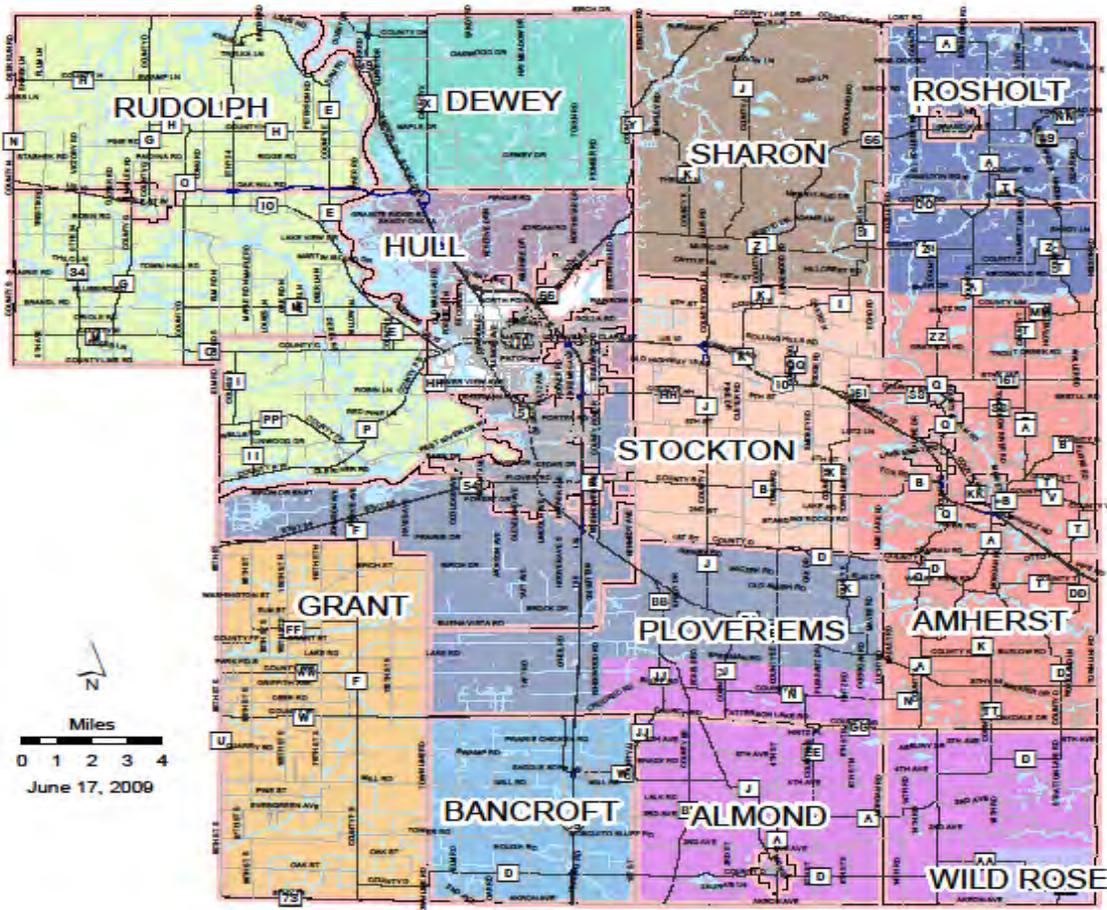
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# Current System

- Portage County EMS
  - 13 Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Groups (2 Industrial)
  - Two Ambulance Services
    - Stevens Point Fire Department (2 ambulances, 24/7)
    - Amherst Fire District (1 ambulance, 24/7)
  - Service Directors
  - Medical Director

# Portage County First Responders



# History of Portage County Responders

- First organized group – Almond First Responders
- 1994 Portage County was 2/3 covered by First Responder response – still large “pockets” absent of responders
- Concerted effort beginning in 1994 to achieve county-wide response by First Responders
- By 2000 added Dewey, Sharon, Stockton, Hull, Grant (with extended coverage by Amherst and Almond into Belmont and Lanark)
- Achieved full coverage

# Why Success

- Determined effort
  - Strategic initiative
  - Sheriff's Office
  - Medical Directors
  - Townships
  - EM
  - Supporting structure

# Current Supporting Structure

- Individual Townships
  - Financial support
  - Most are associated with a FD
  - Create own policies and procedures
  - Oversight/governance by each township
- EMS Association
- Portage County Oversight Board
- Technical Team
- Medical Director/Service Director
- Licensing agency – Stevens Point Fire Department

# Portage County Involvement

- Emergency Management
- Allocation of grant monies
  - Budgeted \$150,000 to distribute
  - “Carrot and Stick” approach
  - Townships couldn’t decrease or discontinue financial support
- Benefits
  - Improvement in overall program
  - Allowed some oversight by the Portage County Oversight Board

# EMS Association

- Initiated in early 1990's
- Value to standardizing and organizing
- 1994 became official
  - By-laws
  - Quarterly meetings
  - Run reviews replaced with annual trainings
  - Annual banquet
  - Stable funding sources

# Dispatching of EMR

- Portage County Dispatch
  - All entities paged on paging channel
  - All entities communicate on public safety channel while responding
  - All entities move to IC designated tactical channel upon arrival at the scene
- Most townships have individual policies on number of call hours or shifts
- Dispatched with ambulance
- Most respond in their private vehicle
  - All have RL&S policies

# Hiring and Licensing

- EMR groups hire their own members
  - Required to meet specific criteria created by the EMS Association
- Stevens Point Fire Department is the licensing agency
  - Apply through E-Licensing
  - Approved by AC EMS and Medical Director
- Benefits
  - Can license individuals to a hire level
  - Participation in annual training

# Difficulties

- Recruitment and retention
  - EM/Portage County Initiative
- Assurance in maintaining skill level
  - Annual skills lab
  - Individualized group trainings
  - Regular meetings by EMR groups
- Inconsistency in funding from group-to-group

# Relationships

- Fire and Rescue
- Ambulance services
- Sheriff's Office
- Medical Director
- Service Directors

# Tracking of Data

- Hiring of an EMS Coordinator by Portage County
- Assists in organizing and conducting skills labs
- All EMR groups report quarterly statistics
- Data currently tracked
  - Response times
  - Skills utilized
  - Customer satisfaction survey



**Thank you for your attendance**

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# Wisconsin EMS Update

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August 7, 2013

Wisconsin EMS Office



Chuck Happel, Intermediate/WARDS Coordinator

# WARDS – Wisconsin Ambulance Run Data System

- Uploading to NEMESIS
- Required to submit patient care reports
- Standard reporting with over 3 million reports since 2008.
- Hospitals have access for reports
- NHTSA / TRCC Grant used to improve data quality

# Complaints and Waivers

- New form for complaints
  - Public
  - EMS services
  - EMS personnel
- New form for waiver requests
  - Medical
  - Military
  - Other ?

# Enforcement

- 110.54: Reasons why enforcement may take place
- 110.55: Warning letter
- 110.56: Reprimand
- 110.57: Summary suspension
- 110.58: Multiple actions – Revocation
- 110.59: Appeals



Ray Lemke, First Responder/EMT-Basic Coordinator

# First Responder Grants

- Department of Transportation
- 2012 \$150,000
- Training, equipment, supplies and marketing
  - Last year only 19 of 341 services applied
- 2013 \$190,000
  - Training, jump kits and safety vests
  - Service matching funds

# Educational Standards

- No longer a National Standard Curriculum
  - Increase flexibility
  - Encourage creativity
  - Improve and facilitate alternative delivery methods

# National Scope Transitions

- Transition to the new levels and scopes of practice
- Each level builds on the previous level
- Each level includes all information from previous levels plus additional information.
- Provide for minimal objectives for each level
- Guides the EMS instructors and training centers on what materials to cover in class

# Questions?

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<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/EMS>

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