

# Antrim County

## Office of Emergency Management

June 2019 to June 2020 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. The department also addresses all necessary state and federal county requirements as directed by the Department of Homeland Security.

Further, we provide support to our local fire, ems and law enforcement agencies as requested.

**Events:**

COVID-19 – Presidential State of Emergency, Influenza Pandemic – March 13, 2020. State of Michigan declaration, March 10, 2020. EOC stood up on March 23, 2020.

At this time, we have approximately 3 months of PPE to support operations for county staff, 10 fire departments, 5 police departments and TAA. We also can assist Meadowbrook, if needed. No more PPE will be purchased at this time, however, donations will continue to be accepted.

**Public Outreach:**

- The Facebook page is going well with an average of 7000 hits per week and 2000 followers.
- Community Emergency Response Team is doing well. We have a roster of 22 members. Camp Grayling for our new members was unable to take place this year due to COVID-19. Due to health issues, our lead CERT responsibilities are being shared amongst the participants.

At the 2019 Paddle Antrim Festival, members of the CERT team successfully pulled a paddler suffering from anaphylactic shock from the water and alerted EMS. The alert took place with the new 800 MHz radio received from the People’s Fund grant.

In most cases, the CERT time is invaluable for EOC staffing. The pandemic, however, did not lend itself to allow much use for them. The majority of our team is middle aged for starters.

Secondly, there were too many unknowns, especially the length of the commitment. The average incident lasts 4 – to 48 hours. They did continue to meet via Zoom and all trained in POD’s (point of distribution centers).

- At the Harvest Festival last September we presented the third annual Chopped – Disaster Style. The event featured local members of the public creating their best dinner offering with items selected from a family emergency kit. The Chamber estimates that over 250 people watched the event and I handed out over 100 emergency family preparedness books and 200 preparedness kid activity books. 2020, if the festival takes place, will include elected officials from around the County. Any volunteers at the Commissioners level?
- Several presentations were done for school age children. These included how to prepare for an emergency and a presentation that involved all women first responders. Ann Butler represented Fire, Lacey MacLean represented Law and Shannon Johnson EMS. Anytime the schools request safety and preparedness presentations, we do our best to accommodate.
- Assisted Animal Control with their Open House in January and took the opportunity to distribute 28 Family preparedness books and 40+ children’s activity books.

**Education/Training:** Emergency Mangers are required to take part in 12 trainings and 4 exercises per year.

- June 19, 2019 was the date of the Full-Scale Exercise entitled “Central Lake Schools Active Assailant Exercise.” Over 200 participated. It was a very eye opening experience for the volunteers and an educational one for first responders. The County’s biggest short-coming? Communications amongst first responders. While not yet solved, with the recent purchase of 800MHz radios for fire departments, the communications issue will be improved.
- A full scale exercise – Torch River Spill - was proposed to take place on May 9, 2020 and was canceled due to the State of Emergency. A date for rescheduling is still to be determined.
- Antrim County was also in the planning stages with the Region 7 Healthcare Coalition for a jet emergency landing at the Mancelona airstrip. The full scale exercise was scheduled for early October. A meeting is scheduled for mid-July to determine the next steps and a new schedule.
- The EOC, while stood up, took place in a ½ day exercise to see if all 7 members could work remotely with the equipment we had on hand. For the most part, we could. An after action report was created and I am currently working on satisfying the improvement plan.
- The COOP (Continuity of Operations Plan) is in the process of being updated (based on the lessons learned from COVID). We will be performing a table-top exercise later this summer to test the improvements.
- The State of Michigan will accept an After Action Report for the time our EOC this year to count toward our exercise count.
- MICIMS (aka Web EOC) training was performed for all that worked in the EOC.
- ICS 100 was taught to EOC staff, Unified Command and Command Staff.
- Monthly Radio Drills that address the state and regional 800 MHz system.
- Michigan Emergency Management Association Conference (20 hours). The conference was held at Shanty Creek. The Friends of Veterans flanked the resort with flags and Chairman Boettcher provide to the welcome address.
- White Pine Stampede was assisted by our CERT and RACES Team.
- The traditional National Weather Service Storm Spotter Training was canceled and a webinar format was substituted. For trained SKYWARN personnel, it was a great refresher, but was not quite enough for new persons.
- All State Trainers for MICIMS were required to take an update to the system class. I was able to convince MSP to have a training in northern MI. They complied and Antrim hosted the training. It was a shock to see that most of the attendants were from down state and they appreciated the opportunity to go north instead of Lansing.
- Public Information Officer training: Last fall I was then able to convince the state that a PIO course would be welcomed in Antrim too. This allowed 6 from Antrim (Christian and police depts. And fire) to take the course locally instead of heading to Lansing for an expensive 3 days of travel).
- Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference was canceled.
- The majority of my personal training addressed becoming certified to instruct four classes readily needed by first responders throughout the County (fire, ems and law). I became certified on March 5, 2020. The first ICS 300 course will be given in August and will take place in August for law enforcement. Region 7 Homeland Security Planning Board (made up of 20

Emergency Service Coordinators in northern MI) is sponsoring a training in September at Camp Graying that addresses Field Force training (civil disorder) and all participants are required to have ICS 300. A second training will take place in late fall for Elk Rapids, Milton and Torch Lake Township Fire Departments.

- Northern Exposure, a Red Cross Volunteer training conference was held this past year at Shanty Creek. I participated on a Saturday as a trainer for ICS 100 & 200.
- I finished up my final class for taking the PEM (Professional Emergency Manager) certification in November. As the test continues to be postponed due to COVID-19, they are currently looking into remote testing.
- Amerigas provided a propane safety training course with dinner for over 40 firefighters and law enforcement officers.

#### **Committees/Boards:**

- Antrim County Emergency Services (ACES): This committee consists of a representative from each of the fire agencies in the county, the DNR Fire Representative, the Sheriff, 911 and the Emergency Manager. They meet bi-monthly, except in June and July. I serve as the recording secretary. These meetings have changed a bit from years past and we are now attempting to provide a training every other meeting which has grown the group numbers and participation. Due to the State of Emergency, we meet weekly throughout March and April.
- 911: This Board met bi-monthly. I serve as the recording secretary.
- 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 Emergency Services provides staff support. This year a visit to the LAMBDA Operations Center (they run the pipeline that traverses the County) in Kalkaska took place. Their SARA Title III plan was reviewed and several demonstrations were shown.
- Region 7 Emergency Management Coordinators Monthly Meeting.
- Region 7 Homeland Security Planning Board (for Homeland Security Grants) Monthly Meeting.
- Monthly State EM Webinar.

#### **Miscellaneous:**

- Antrim County could receive up to \$2000 to perform the reviews of our SARA Title III sites this year. SARA sites are sites that are known to manufacture, store or transfer hazardous materials. This is all dependent on the amount of new sites and how many require updating from last year. Last year, we received \$350.
- Assisted new animal control staff with emergency preparedness training.
- Updated the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) as required and all Annexes.
- Grant writing for fire departments: In early May, a grant was submitted on behalf of all 10 of our fire departments under the Assistance to Firefighter grants – supplemental COVID-19 program. 1000 grants are to be issued totaling \$100,000,000 dollars. Our request was for reusable PPE that was consistent throughout the County. This would allow all departments train in its use utilizing limited trainers and the ability to share if one department began to run low. Even though the PPE is reusable, it does wear out. All applicants were to be informed of their status, in writing, by June 1. To date (June 24, 2020), 7 awards have been made and we have not heard anything back.

- All Hazards Plan Grant: Region 7 has applied for a grant that will allow for the individual counties to update their plans which expire later this year. This project went on hiatus due to COVID. It appears that our plans will be granted a 1 year extension and that the funding will still be available.
- Regular testing takes place for all EOC equipment. With the exception of the Communications Trailer, all equipment is in good running condition.
- All school district Emergency Operations Plans were reviewed and signed off on by Emergency Management and were submitted to the State.