

Portage County
Patty Dreier



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
County Executive

December 7, 2017

Dear Portage County Municipal Leaders,

Earlier this year, Portage County received resolutions from 14 of our 27 municipalities expressing concerns about the responsiveness and equity of the current countywide Emergency Medical Service (EMS) system in Portage County. In those resolutions, it called for towns and villages being engaged by the County to help shape an EMS plan that includes consideration of various partnerships with providers (public and/or private) from inside and/or from outside our County to ensure achievement of the standard goal of a 15 minutes or less response time to help protect the health, safety, and welfare of citizens living in their municipalities. Portage County appreciates having received the resolutions and is interested in surveying every one of its 27 municipalities to gather input to help guide the future of EMS in our County.

All current EMS-related contracts run through 2018 so that makes the timing perfect for this next level of discussion about our County's EMS model and preferences going forward. We/You have an opportunity to spend next year preparing for the future (2019 and beyond) and the "next generation" of EMS in our County. BUT first, we need to gather every municipality's input-hence the enclosed survey.

We were hoping that you would set the topic of completing this survey on a public meeting agenda in your municipality. We urge you to gather citizen feedback about how to respond to the survey (vs. just having a municipal leader complete the survey on their municipality's behalf). Then, we'd like you to return the completed survey to the County Executive Office no later than February 9, 2018. We will compile the data and give the countywide results back to you. We will also provide it to the EMS Oversight Board and the Towns Association where both bodies will take up the topic during their respective meetings in March. Ultimately, we are hoping that the combined results will help shape some consensus about ways to move forward. These perspectives will be passed on to the newly elected County Board Supervisors and new County Executive in April 2018 when I transition from this public office. Hopefully, they will strongly consider your feedback in determining next steps for the future of EMS in Portage County.

Thank you in advance for taking this next step. We so desperately need to resolve long standing issues of conflict related to our EMS in Portage County. I am sincerely hopeful that this survey will provide a strong step in that new direction.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patty Dreier", is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, the name "Patty Dreier" is printed in a standard font.

Patty Dreier

Cc: Mike Pagel, Chair, Portage County Chapter of Wisconsin Towns Association
Dan Dobratz, Chair, EMS Oversight Committee and Chair, Public Safety/Emergency Management Committee
Joe Brandt, Director of Portage County Emergency Management/EMS
Jennifer Jossie, Director of Portage County Finance Department
0. Philip Idsvoog, Chair, Portage County Board of Supervisors

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

This survey is important in helping Portage County determine future directions for its EMS program. The survey has three parts. Please complete all three parts in a public setting (to gather feedback from your residents) and return it to Portage County Executive Office no later than February 9, 2018. Mail it to 1462 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481 or email to: countyexecutive@co.portage.wi.us with subject line stating "EMS Survey." Thank you!

NAME OF MUNICIPALITY: Town of Grant

DATE: Special Town Meeting - January 31, 2018

POINT OF CONTACT IF THERE IS A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR SURVEY RESPONSES:

Sharon Schwab, Town Chairperson

BACKGROUND INFO: PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THIS SURVEY

Portage County currently has a model which centralizes administration and contract negotiations for EMS providers (countywide EMS). Under the countywide EMS for 2018, Portage County will have four Paramedic staffed ambulances staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with the capability to add an additional three Paramedic staffed ambulances in times of increased call volume. Contracted EMS services in 2018 will be provided by the Stevens Point Fire Department (2 Paramedics per ambulance), Plover Fire Department (1 Paramedic and 1 Emergency Medical Technician or higher per ambulance), and the Amherst Fire District (1 Paramedic and 1 Emergency Medical Technician or higher per ambulance). Along with these transport providers, Portage County has a network of approximately 140 first responders belonging to 13 different groups located throughout the entire County. In order to support the costs of the Portage County EMS system, property taxes are levied and apportioned to each municipality according to equalized value (see enclosure). The property tax levy for the countywide EMS system is outside the state imposed levy limits.

The Town of Grant contracts privately with an ambulance provider outside of the countywide system and the Town of Belmont has interest in doing the same.

Other models can be used for EMS/ambulance service besides the countywide model currently used by Portage County. *See the enclosure for four general*

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

concepts and options. It is important to note that under current state law, other options (B, C, and D) must be funded within the state-imposed levy cap (vs. outside of the levy cap like Portage County's current countywide EMS system). Also, for most cases outside of Option A on the enclosure, municipalities would need to do the administrative work related to contracting on their own or with their own partners.

The overall budget for the countywide EMS system for 2018 is just under \$4.4 million. Both property tax levy and user fees support the cost of the services. The 2017 property tax levy for the countywide EMS in Portage County is \$1,349,086 (EMS Levy). For 2018, the countywide EMS tax levy is \$2,161,478 (including replacement of one older ambulance in Stevens Point, adding one additional ambulance to expand the program with a start-up in Plover, and an increase of \$10,000 to the first responder program which had been funded in 2017 at \$75,000). The 2018 countywide EMS levy is \$59.25 of County property tax annually (or about \$4.94/month) for a median value home (\$151,700).

Enclosures with this survey:

- Letter from County Executive Patty Dreier
- Spreadsheet with Municipality Equalized Value and EMS Apportionment
- Basic Financial System Options for EMS
- Map of First Responder Coverage Areas
- Response Zone Map (2016)
- Portage County EMS Brochure

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

PART 1: COUNTY WIDE EMS SYSTEM - TRANSPORT PROVIDERS {AMBULANCE PROVIDERS}

QUESTION 1a: How satisfied are you with our countywide system for providing ambulance service in Portage County?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neutral, neither satisfied nor unsatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

1b: Please explain your municipality's answer:

- Inadequate response time from current and proposed station locations
- Most locations in the township have a 30+ minute response time
- Time study methodology to present response time map was not well defined on map – it is believed that responses to outlying municipalities most typically occurs from Sta 2
 - Response time map does not account for possible delays including railroads or inclement weather

Outlying municipalities pay for services as a direct percentage according to equalized valuation, but receive a lower level of service due to woefully inadequate response times

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

QUESTION 2a: Currently the standard for response time of an ambulance to the location of an incident in Portage County is to arrive within 15 minutes from the time of the call 90% of the time. We want to know how you feel about the standard and what a reasonable expectation for response time is for the residents of your municipality. See the enclosed Response Zone Map (2016) for more information about response times in your municipality. (Recognize that some changes in expectations such as reduced response time may increase the cost of the countywide EMS program.)

Is this a reasonable expectation? Yes No Not sure

2b: If answering no, what expectation do you feel is more reasonable?

- In a true emergency needing ALS care, 15 minutes can be just as poor as 30 minutes for patient outcomes
- What is the county doing to help create an adequate patient-centered response time in the rural areas?
- 10 minute response time in 90% of cases would be preferred
 - Depends on strength of EMR network
 - Depends on community education – hands-only CPR, Public Access Defibrillation

Other comments about response time expectations?

- Under current system and station locations, 100% of Town of Grant residents could not have even a 15 minute response time
- Current system serves Stevens Point and immediate residents well, but does not provide acceptable service to rural areas
- Response times could be improved by looking at partnerships with service providers outside of the silos of county boundaries
- NFPA 1710 standard for ALS response is 8 minutes in 90% of calls

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

QUESTION 3a: See the enclosed spreadsheet detailing specific municipality costs per the formula based on equalized valuation. Given these costs to your municipality/your citizens, how satisfied are you that your municipality is getting its money's worth for Portage County's countywide EMS?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neutral, neither satisfied nor unsatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

3b: Please explain your municipality's answer:

- Town of Grant is paying for a service that is not used (zero responses to Town in 2017) and not wanted because of the woefully inadequate response times
- Paying according to equalized value means that cost versus level of service provided is skewed
- Since apportionment goes to SPFD, a portion of the outlying municipal costs are going to subsidize Stevens Point fire suppression services. Fire services do not service outlying townships.

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

QUESTION 4a: Some Portage County municipalities advocate for integrating private ambulance providers into our countywide EMS which is currently comprised of government providers. Do you support this integration in areas of Portage County where response time may be improved by the availability of private providers in those areas?

Yes No Not sure

4b: Why or why not?

- Town of Grant is currently utilizing the services of a private provider
- Using this private, out-of-county based provider reduces response times to more acceptable levels
- Using a network of providers will reduce demand on other ambulances that are only located centrally within the county

4c: If yes, what requirements, if any, would you expect a provider to meet in order to be a contractual provider as part of our countywide system?

- EMS Service providers should meet all applicable state laws and licensing requirements to provide 911 coverage ambulance transportation services
- Services not operating at an ALS level would be required to maintain ALS intercept agreements

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

QUESTION 5: What potential EMS ambulance providers might your municipality reach out to if Portage County no longer had a countywide EMS for ambulance service?

- United Emergency Medical Response
- City of Wisconsin Rapids
- Nekoosa Ambulance
- Waushara County EMS

Comments:

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

QUESTION 6: What would you need or want from Portage County to support your municipality in making a transition if Portage County no longer had a countywide EMS system?

- Pay the ambulance fee / contract amount or don't take the apportionment
 - If you are going to collect the money, but not provide service, pay the bill for the service provided
- Town of Grant has negotiated own contracts since 1987 and can negotiate without assistance

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

PART 2: COUNTY WIDE EMS SYSTEM - FIRST RESPONDER GROUPS

BACKGROUND INFO: PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU COMPLETE PART 2

As part of Portage County's countywide EMS, we have a first responder network (see the enclosed map). These volunteers have varied levels of training ranging from Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), to Paramedics and Nurses, all functioning up to the level of EMT Basic. These community based First Responders answer the call for emergencies within their own community or workplace and are often the first trained providers to arrive on-scene.

Annually, these men and women are educated and evaluated on a variety of skills such as CPR and other life-saving skills which provide them with the qualifications needed to render aid in critical situations. In many medical emergencies minutes matter and having a trained first responder on the scene within the first four to eight minutes can significantly increase a person's chance of survival. All of our first responders are able to communicate through radios with Portage County dispatch and other emergency response personnel.

In Portage County's 2018 EMS budget, over \$85,000 is dedicated to supporting our countywide first responder network.

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

QUESTION 7a: How satisfied are you with our first responder system in Portage County?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neutral, neither satisfied nor unsatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

7b: Please explain your municipality's answer:

- Portage County could do more to assist with volunteer recruitment and retention
- Currently, first responders receive \$15 per call – this isn't nearly enough to compensate time and fuel spent on most calls. Even though most responders aren't in it for money, if reimbursement was more comparable to surrounding agencies, it might help with volunteer retention
 - Example: Saratoga first responders receive \$17/hour when responding, \$3/hour when scheduled on-call
- County could reimburse municipalities for training expenses

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

QUESTION 8: Portage County could retain the countywide first responder network (outside the levy cap) even if it no longer had a countywide ambulance service. Do you favor retaining the countywide first responder network (outside the levy limit) even if EMS ambulance service is provided through a different model(s) at the municipal level in Portage County?

Yes No Not sure

Comments:

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

QUESTION 9: We have been working to expand the first responder network in Portage County. Please share suggestions you have about how we can recruit and retain emergency medical responders in your municipality:

- Increase reimbursement for EMR volunteers
- Reimburse municipalities for cost of training
- Use innovative techniques to engage millennials
 - That population demographic is less engaged
 - Many kids activities, less perceived time to serve
 - Hard to get that demographic to volunteer for anything

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

QUESTION 10: If you have suggestions about specific individuals Portage County should contact about possibly becoming a first responder, check the box below and we will contact you:

YES, I would like to talk with someone from Portage County EMS about who/how to recruit for first responders in our municipality

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

PART 3: COUNTY-WIDE EMS SYSTEM - GENERAL QUESTIONS

QUESTION 11: What are the elements/aspects of the EMS system which are most important to your residents and municipality?

- Reasonable response times
- Saving lives
- Under current system, it appears that the county values lives of those in more concentrated population areas as more valuable than those in more rural areas
- There is a clear and sustained impression that rural lives do not mean as much
- Patient center response times and a system that provides better value to all
- Opportunity for better patient outcomes with more consistent emergency service

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

QUESTION 12: Are there any barriers to receiving Portage County EMS service that affect the residents of your municipality? If so, please describe them:

- RESPONSE TIMES
- Physical distance of responders/SPFD from Town of Grant
- Possibility for en route environmental factors – railroad delays, weather delays

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

QUESTION 13a: Comment on how satisfied you are that your municipality's concerns and/or issues about countywide EMS have been heard by Portage County:

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neutral, neither satisfied nor unsatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

13b: What issues regarding countywide EMS do you feel you have been heard on?

NONE

The “right” person hasn’t died yet due to poor services to trigger change.

Portage County doesn’t care about the lives of rural residents.

With the current distribution of emergency response services, and continued denial of the rights of Towns to enter into contracts with service providers that can provide better response times, without at the same time subsidizing the poor level of response provided by the county system, Portage County demonstrates that they value Stevens Point metro area residents more than residents that live in more rural areas.

13c: What issues do you feel you have not been heard on?

- Response times
- Value of lives – lives of those in rural areas don’t matter
- The County Board has already made up their mind without hearing or understanding the residents of all municipalities
- It great to see some sort of response time data...but methodology used hasn’t been clearly defined.
- Where is the call type and patient outcome data compared against response time data?

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

13d: What suggestions do you have to improve your municipality's representation related to the countywide system?

- Give back the money paid to support county system when no services have been provided
- Ensure equal representation on EMS advisory board and on oversight committee
- If county-wide EMS system continues, ensure representation from each municipality or district AND not just the county supervisor from that area

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

13e: What suggestions do you have to improve oversight of the countywide system?

- Ensure no conflict of interest – Representatives of service providers should not be the only ones on an oversight committee
- Non-field-EMS healthcare providers should be on oversight committee
- Ensure expertise – even in oversight committee members aren't experts in this topic area, they should be collaborating and soliciting input and best practice information from subject matter experts

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES {EMS} SURVEY

QUESTION 14: Does your municipality favor the general concept of retaining the current countywide EMS? (You might wish to review the enclosure with four EMS Options.)

Yes No Not sure

Comments:

- System would need to be restructured
- Need to look at fundamental changes – with increased costs, should consider an offsetting increase in revenue
 - Could be accomplished by a public-private partnership community paramedicine program which would not only provide an alternate revenue stream, but could improve the health of Portage County residents
- Incorporate private service providers or out-of-county providers
- More sound methodology to determine number of ambulances and ambulance placement

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES {EMS) SURVEY

QUESTION 15: Please provide a few sentences or phrases describing your municipality's vision of the future of EMS in Portage County.

- It has to be about saving lives
- It has to be about more than the central circle
- BREAKDOWN THE SILOS
- This is a chance for Portage County to do things differently and to be a leader
- Need to stop clinging to the old systems and look at systems that will best serve the residents into the future
 - This might be looking beyond 911 response and include things like community paramedicine
- Portage County is one of only a few systems left in the state that have a “countywide” structure...the others include alternatives that address residents needs and response times more equally
- Portage County EMS is centered on providing service and care in the City of Stevens Point, it is inadequate in outlying areas

PORTAGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SURVEY

QUESTION 16: Is there anything else your municipality wishes to comment on related to Portage County EMS? We'd welcome your thoughts here:

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY!

NEXT STEPS: Data from all municipalities will be tabulated and a report will be prepared by the County Executive's Office and the Portage County Emergency Management Office. This report will be shared with each municipality. The report will be discussed at the March Towns Association Meeting (location to be announced by Chair Mike Pagel), a future EMS Oversight Board Meeting and the Public Safety/Emergency Management Committee meeting. A copy will also be shared with the Portage County Board of Supervisors.

Municipality	2017 EQ	EMS Apportionment	2017 DOA Estimates for Population	2016 EMS
Towns				
Alban	87,193,400	34,035.50	876	29
Almond	54,294,300	21,193.50	666	29
Amherst	135,456,700	52,874.84	1,335	64
Belmont	60,945,800	23,789.88	618	17
Buena Vista	97,018,700	37,870.76	1,195	42
Carson	145,239,800	56,693.62	1,304	56
Dewey	107,519,300	41,969.61	943	34
Eau Plaine	110,870,600	43,277.78	962	46
Grant	158,155,000	61,735.00	1,916	0 *
Hull	426,767,000	166,586.34	5,383	303
Lanark	124,203,600	48,482.25	1,538	26
Linwood	112,026,500	43,728.98	1,122	36
New Hope	82,995,000	32,396.68	708	25
Pine Grove	54,150,900	21,137.53	927	59
Plover	198,737,700	77,576.25	1,716	191
Sharon	183,664,500	71,692.51	2,018	70
Stockton	277,887,600	108,472.02	2,985	82
	2,417,126,400	943,513.05	26,212	1,109
Villages				
Almond	18,953,300	7,398.32	434	16
Amherst	59,346,700	23,165.68	1,055	44
Amherst Junction	31,496,400	12,294.46	383	20
Junction City	17,371,600	6,780.92	436	16
Nelsonville	10,771,400	4,204.56	156	3
Park Ridge	54,537,600	21,288.48	493	60
Plover	1,005,779,200	392,600.81	12,671	877
Rosholt	22,459,900	8,767.11	488	34
Whiting	123,686,400	48,280.36	1,676	304
	1,344,402,500	524,780.70	17,792	1,374
City				
Stevens Point	1,775,824,900	693,184.25	26,757	2,127
TOTAL	5,537,353,800	2,161,478.00	70,761	4,610

Summary Information:

	EQ Values	% of total
Towns	2,417,126,400	43.65%
Villages	1,344,402,500	24.28%
City	<u>1,775,824,900</u>	<u>32.07%</u>
	5,537,353,800	100.00%

	Population	% of total
Towns	26,212	37.04%
Villages	17,792	25.14%
City	<u>26,757</u>	<u>37.81%</u>
	70,761	100.00%

	EMS calls	% of total
Towns	1,109	24.06%
Villages	1,374	29.80%
City	<u>2,127</u>	<u>46.14%</u>
	4,610	100.00%

Notes:

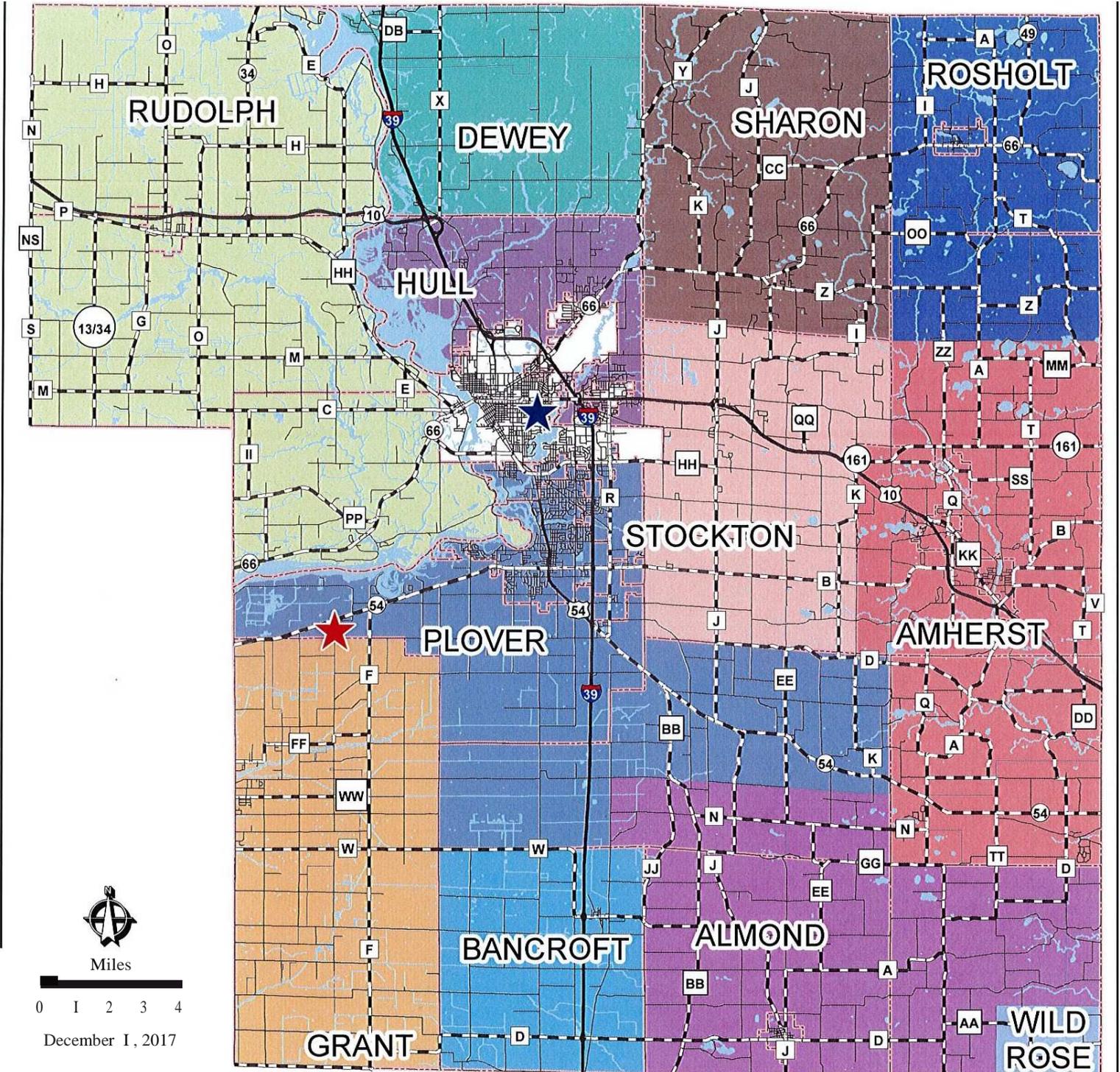
2017 Equalized values obtained from Department of Revenue
Population data is supplied by the Wisconsin Department of Administration population estimate on January 1, 2017 EMS
Call volumes supplied by Portage County EMS 2016 Annual Report
*Town of Grant contracts with a private provider outside of the countywide system

Basic Financial System Options for EMS

<p align="center">Option A Countywide System</p>	<p align="center">Option B Enterprise System</p>	<p align="center">Option C Municipal System</p>	<p align="center">Option D Combo of Options B & C</p>
<p>Who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must be all 27 municipalities. <p>What:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current countywide system of all or nothing, County levies funds across all municipalities and all receive service. ● County provides or contracts with provider(s) for services. ● System administered by the County. <p>Levy/Payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Levy taxes across entire County based on equalized valuation. ● All municipalities must participate in order to be outside of levy cap. 	<p>Who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each municipality contracts for services. <p>What:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provider could be a County or Municipality. ● Provider delivers or contracts with provider(s) for services. ● Provider negotiates contracts with municipalities to provide services. ● Provider would determine basis for contract-fee per service/retainer/population/etc. <p>Levy/Payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Municipalities levy taxes for services under their respective levy caps. <i>Provider does not levy taxes.</i> ● Provider would invoice each municipality for payment. 	<p>Who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each municipality contracts for service on their own. <p>What:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Municipality would research and negotiate their own respective contract with provider(s). ● Municipality could be the provider and staff the service. <p>Levy/Payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Municipality would determine payment with selected provider(s) and levy for payment under municipal levy cap. ● Provider would invoice municipality for payment. 	<p>Who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any combination of municipalities wanting to contract together. <p>What:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any combination of Option B & C, with either municipalities grouping together (regions?) or entering into individual contracts. ● Providers can be a combination of public and private. ● Intergovernmental Cooperation: Wis. Stats. 66.0301 would allow for forming an Ambulance Commission. <p>Levy/Payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Municipalities would determine payment with selected provider(s) and levy for payment under respective municipal levy caps. ● Provider would invoice each municipality for payment.

^aDoes not address operational licensing or system requirements. Countywide First Responders System could be continued under all options.

Coverage of First Responders ID Portage County





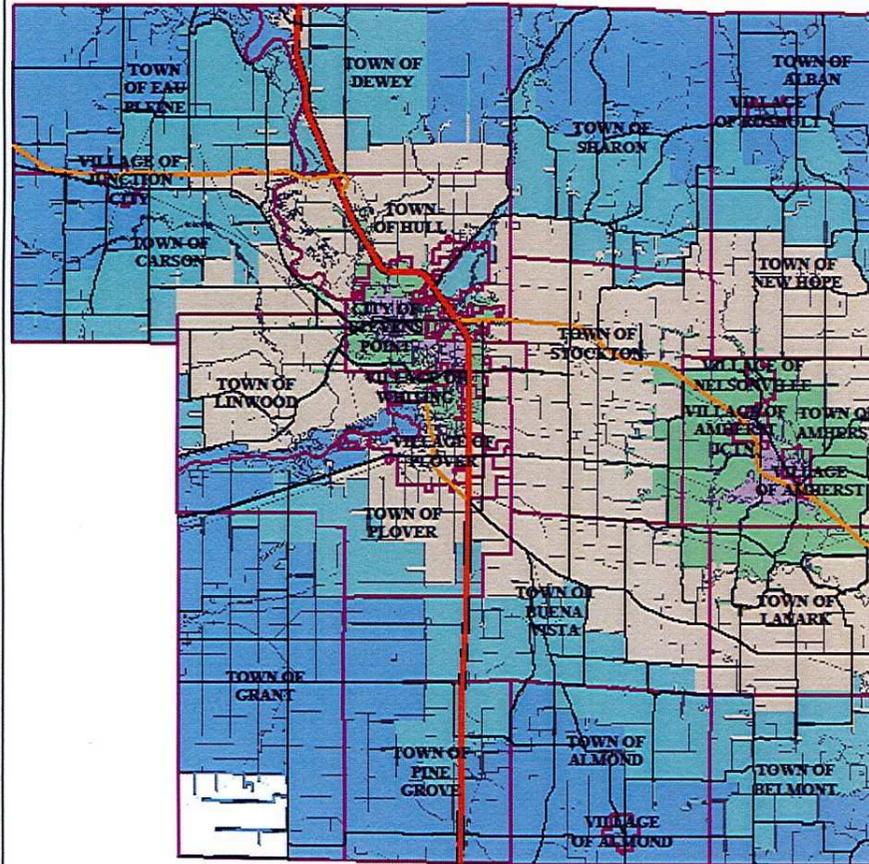
 McCain Foods

 Worzalla Publishing

First Responders

ALMOND	C=J	GRANT	CJ	RUDOLPH
DE] AMHERST		HULL	1111	SHARON
CJ BANCROFT ..		PLOVER	CJ	STOCKTON
[&] TI DEWEY	III	ROSHOLT	CJ	WILD ROSE

EMS 4, 8, 15, 20, and 30 Minute Response zones from SPFD1, SPFD2, and Amherst FD, Portage County, WI



Time	Pop Cvg	Pop%
4min	17986	25.7%
8min	39021.3	55.7%
15min	58315.1	83.3%
20min	63871.8	91.2%
30min	69903.1	99.8%

Portage Co- tyEMS Response

CJ 4 Minutes
 CJ 20 Minutes
 c:J Municipal Boundaries
LJ 8 Minutes
 LJ 30 Minutes
D 15 Minutes

County-wide System

Portage County Emergency Medical Services is a multi-tiered system designed to deliver quality care when and where it is needed most.

Our response begins the moment 911 is called. Highly-trained public safety dispatchers gather critical information from the caller using a nationally recognized interview system.

Dispatchers can also provide first aid and CPR instructions to the caller when needed.

Quick responding medical first responders (Emergency Medical Responders & Emergency Medical Technicians) are trained and equipped to handle many life threatening emergencies until the ambulance arrives.

All ambulances in Portage County provide advanced life support and are staffed with Paramedics and Intermediates. Our ambulances have progressive medical protocols and state of the art equipment.

A Rapid Response Unit (RRU) responds with the ambulances when additional support is needed on difficult cases.

We need you!

Many first responder groups in Portage County rely on community volunteers to do the important work they do.

We'll train you. Training to become an Emergency Medical Responder is conducted by Mid-State Technical College and consists of 70 hours of classroom and hands-on training.

We'll give you the equipment. Each first responder group provides the necessary medical and safety equipment to respond.

Give us a call today.



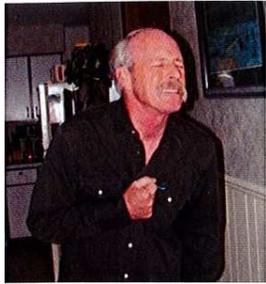
Portage County EMS
EMS Coordinator
1462 Strongs Avenue
Stevens Point WI 54481
(715) 346-1399
co.portage.wi.us



Portage County Emergency Medical Services



Chest Pain



A heart attack or *myocardial infarction* is when the heart muscle is not getting enough oxygen due to a blocked coronary artery. This

is a true emergency and you should recognize the signs :

- D Chest pain or tightness
- D Shortness of breath
- D Sweating
- D Nausea

Call 911 and stay with the person until help arrives.

Do not delay calling for help. Each minute the heart muscle goes without oxygen, the more damage is done.

Do not drive yourself or a person experiencing chest pain to the hospital. If your chest pain is due to a heart attack, it may lead to sudden cardiac arrest. The medical first responders and ambulances of Portage County are trained and equipped to provide important CPR, defibrillation and advanced cardiac life support.

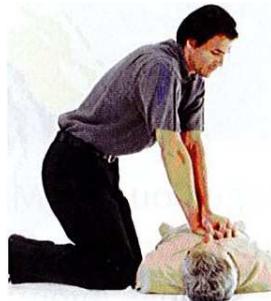
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

If an adult suddenly collapses and is not breathing or not breathing normally, they need CPR and defibrillation!

The American Heart Association Hands-Only™ CPR makes it easy:

1. Call 911
2. Push hard and fast on the center of the chest until help arrives
3. The 911 Dispatcher will give further instructions if needed

The 911 Dispatcher can also give instructions for unresponsive children or collapses from causes other than a heart attack.



Learn more:

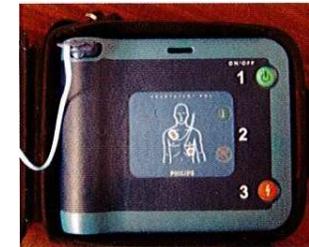
- D HandsOnlyCPR.org
- D RedCross.org

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

When a person experiences a sudden cardiac arrest, an AED can shock (defibrillate) it back to normal.

Operation of an AED is very easy and safe .

Most units start by pressing a green ON or #1 button. Voice prompts then take you through the rest of the steps.



Many public locations now have AEDs:

- D Office buildings
- D Churches
- D Grocery stores
- D Municipal buildings
- D Schools
- D Sports arenas
- D Airports

Take note of their locations as you go about your day. You never know when you could use one to save a life.