



THE 9-1-1 DISPATCH

2020/ Spring Edition

COVID-19 VIRUS

This virus and the associated pandemic are in the front of everyone's minds right now. I want to update everyone on how Belmont County 9-1-1 is addressing the current situation.

In late February, our dispatchers began to interrogate callers for signs and symptoms of the Coronavirus and passing those symptoms along to first responders. As March progressed, things began to ramp up nationwide. Many callers began to seek information regarding the virus. Our staff has handled these well, providing callers with phone numbers and resources for the general public. On March 16, 2020 at 8:00 a.m., I closed our building to anyone who is not an employee. Only employees and preapproved vendors doing repairs may enter, in an attempt to control the spread to the Dispatch Center. We have implemented policies regarding personal hygiene at work, desk and work area sanitizing, sick leave use for suspected illness and/or quarantine, daily temperature check for all employees on duty and many other things.

We have been receiving reports, almost daily, from the Belmont County Health Department, of all Belmont County residents who have been tested and are awaiting results, and those who have tested positive. This information is updated in the CAD, so that we can warn all first responders of addresses that may be affected by this virus.

Regardless of any alert to you from Dispatch, we urge ALL first responders to use caution in all interactions with the public. Use your PPE! Let's all watch out for one another and get through this together.

BELMONT COUNTY OVERDOSES REPORTED

These are the overdoses reported to 9-1-1 countywide for 2020, so far. Monthly breakdown is as follows:

January: 12
February: 20
March: 18

9-1-1 WORK ANNIVERSARIES

First Quarter of 2020:

Bryan Minder	1/6/1997	23 Years of Service
Darrin Sawchuk	2/26/18	2 Years of Service
Miranda Schramm	3/6/06	14 Years of Service

Upcoming 2nd Quarter of 2020:

Greg Probst	4/8/12	8 Years of Service
Nick Jessee	4/30/18	2 Years of Service
Stacey Zavatsky	5/2/16	4 Years of Service
Bob Tracey	5/10/99	21 Years of Service
Dustin Hudak	5/23/10	10 years of Service
Shawn Yost	6/20/10	10 Years of Service
Kyle Jones	6/30/17	3 Years of Service

Contact Us

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PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Per the Belmont County Health Department, they understand that all first responders will be using a lot of PPE during this pandemic. Much of it is in short supply throughout the county. If your department is in need of more PPE, and you're unable to find it, please send an email to Daniel Grady at dgrady@belmontcountyhealth.com or call the Belmont County EMA at (740) 695-5984. In your request, please be specific in what you are needing, the amount needed, what department it will be for and a contact for them to follow up with. They are doing what they can to get everyone what they need and request. Sometimes those requests will be delayed as many items are in short supply or on backorder.

SAVE YOUR USED N-95 MASKS

The State of Ohio has a company that can clean used N-95 masks, for reuse. The Belmont County Health Department is currently working on a plan to collect all used N-95 masks in the county and send them off to be cleaned. They want to do this as a county and send them in all at once. For now, please collect all your used N-95 masks, place them in bags, then into a sealed container (to protect others from exposure). Keep them stored away from living areas and areas frequented by your personnel. When adding masks to your storage container, please protect yourself with your own PPE. As soon as more details are announced about the process to collect them, clean them and return them to you, we will pass that along to all of you.

BELMONT COUNTY RADIO SYSTEM UPGRADES

Bearcom is still working to finalize the installation of the new equipment for the Paging and Microwave system upgrades. Most of this work was completed in December. There were a few snags in the necessary equipment needed at each of the tower sites. We are hoping to have better news on this in the very near future.

The addition of two frequencies to use on our 800 MHz P25 Radio System has been completed. This should now help to increase the capacity of the system, so that during the busiest periods, users will have less "busies" when attempting to communicate.

We had plans to begin reprogramming of all county-owned radios, but then the Coronavirus hit. In an effort to eliminate unnecessary contact with others, this part of the project is delayed until further notice. Once restrictions are lifted in the state, and nation, we will look into a plan to begin this part of the project. While this part is needing to be done, in order to utilize the new system features, it is not essential for the operation of the system. Everything still works that same as it always has, so this is low on the priority list currently.

All of these upgrades will be paid with funds from the 9-1-1 Radio System Upgrade Levy. Without this levy, none of these upgrades and enhancements would be possible.

BELMONT COUNTY CISM IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Just a reminder to all departments, Belmont County has access to Critical Incident Stress Management teams to help your members 24/7. CISM can be accessed by calling the EMA at 740-695-5984 or by calling into dispatch at 740-699-0425 to request it. All requests are kept confidential. Additionally, **the Belmont County CISM Team is now certified and approved through the FOP to provide CISM to all law enforcement in Belmont County.** CISM is a very valuable tool that can help your members cope with difficult calls and situations. Please do not hesitate to ask for their assistance.

911 WIRELESS FUND:

JAN 2020: \$7,500.00

FEB 2020: \$20,095.88

MAR 2020: \$10,205.12

2020 YTD: \$37,801.00

