

Town of Bell Emergency Action Plan

Bayfield County, Wisconsin
September 8, 2020

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose of the Plan

Although the Town of Bell has been fortunate in that it has not experienced loss of life or significant damage from natural or other disasters that threatened the lives and property outside the ability of local emergency teams to respond, we cannot be complacent and assume that “it will never happen here.” This Emergency Action Plan (Plan) has been developed to provide information and procedures for three general purposes:

- Formalizing a framework to educate and mobilize citizens to prepare themselves and community members for an emergency so that Emergency Services Personnel can focus on those who for whatever reason cannot help themselves.
- Formalizing a guide for Town officials in dealing with potential natural disasters and emergencies that could affect the town and are significant enough to overwhelm local emergency resources. This type of plan is useful because if and when a major disaster strikes, we need immediate action. This aspect of the Plan identifies specific personnel to contact in emergency situations, outlines non-Emergency Services resources available in times of need, and provides a link to procedures that will be used by Bayfield County Office of Emergency Management as the Town of Bell is part of Bayfield County’s Emergency Operational Plan.
- Provide sufficient detail to inform emergency services and other resources outside our region that may be called upon to help us in a time of crisis.

Objectives:

The objectives of the Town of Bell Plan are:

- To identify potential hazards such as flooding.
- To improve the Town’s ability to respond to emergencies through education and training.
- To coordinate the activities of Town staff responsible for continued operations during disasters.
- To coordinate emergency services personnel and disaster response teams.
- To establish and maintain a critical incident management team and provide training and education to facilitate the team’s capability to respond to an emergency.

Definition of a Disaster

A disaster is a natural catastrophe, technological accident, or human-caused event that has resulted in severe property damage, deaths, and/or multiple injuries. These are low frequency but extremely high-risk events that occur once or twice in a lifetime. They pose the threat of death and serious injury, the interruption of normal life, the loss of community and personal infrastructure, loss of livelihood, and economic stress, and will have a lasting effect on the community for many years. These are not events that are considered normal day-to-day emergencies like traffic accidents or dwelling fires, which are handled on a routine and regular basis by public safety providers.

Authority

In accordance with Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 323 Emergency Management Section 323.14 (1) (b) Local Government Duties and Power: the Town shall designate a head of emergency management services and develop and adopt an emergency management plan and program that is compatible with the state plan of emergency management. The Town Plan shall be reviewed annually, or as local changes occur.

The Town of Bell (Board) has sole authority to enact, amend, implement, review and provide oversight to this Plan, but may delegate authority to individual board members, staff members, and committees to act as needed to fulfill the purposes and fully implement the plan. To this end, the Town of Bell adopted this Plan on September 8, 2020. This plan is designed to augment the county and state plan.

Description of the Town

The Town of Bell is a town in Bayfield County, Wisconsin on the shore of Lake Superior. The unincorporated community of Cornucopia is located within the Town. Wisconsin Highway 13 and County Highway C are the main routes in the community. Cornucopia has large break wall and safe harbor where the Siskiwit River enters Lake Superior. There is a 2,000' x 80' grass strip airport.

The Town has a total area of 60.5 square miles, of which 59.7 square miles are land and 0.77 square miles, or 1.25%, is water. The population was 263 at the 2010 census. The median age was 63.2 years. Town children attend school in Port Wing, Wisconsin, 15 miles to the west.

Maps of the Town, sanitary district, locations of resources, and access roads are in the Map Appendix.

Local Economy

The Town of Bell economy is largely retirement and tourism based. While some of the retirement dollars flowing into the community are also seasonal, variations in economic activity are much greater for the tourism industry and can include huge inflows during events such as Corny Day, the annual Fireworks display, and Bayfield's Apple Festival, as well as the usual declared holidays.

Other economic activities within the Town of Bell that are not directly reliant on the flow of retirement or tourism dollars are the commercial fishing operation located within the Town of Bell Harbor, commercial logging, and a scattering of small businesses that produce food and other real goods.

PREPAREDNESS

Potential Emergencies

The Plan contains an evaluation of potential serious events that may cause significant property damage and disruption such as road outages stranding residents in their homes. Safety of residents is of paramount importance in the Town of Bell. Planning and preparation for emergencies such as flooding has become a matter of special concern for Bell Town leaders.

Large-scale flooding and forest fires are the main concerns for the Town of Bell. Both of these events would cause a substantial impact upon the citizens and resource capabilities of the Town.

In the event the Town is isolated by flooding or fires, emergency service providers may need to be flown in or arrive with assistance from the Coast Guard (assuming the lake is free of ice).

These two events are considered the most likely of the many and varied disasters that can occur but are of primary concern because of the large areas they have the potential to impact and the rapidity of their development. Procedures that are developed to plan for these two events will assist greatly in the decisions that will need to be made for similar events like tornadoes, straight-line winds and snowstorms and other scenarios.

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Hazard and Risk Potential

The types of natural disasters or emergencies possible in the Town of Bell include, but are not limited to:

- Epidemics and pandemics
- Forest fires
- Floods
- Ice storms
- Extreme snow
- Power outages
- Lake Superior seiche
- Tornadoes and straight-line winds

Epidemics and Pandemics

An epidemic is defined as an outbreak of disease that spreads quickly and affects many people simultaneously. A pandemic is a serious type of epidemic exhibiting greater range and coverage. It is an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographical area and affects an exceptionally high proportion of the population of a country or a number of countries (global outbreak). Pandemics typically happen when a new organism emerges against which there is little or no pre-existing immunity, thus allowing it to spread rapidly.

When a new virus emerges, a well-matched vaccine would obviously be the most effective countermeasure to prevent widespread transmission. However, a vaccine may not be readily available during the first 4-6 months of a pandemic, given current vaccine production technology. Preventing the spread of a pandemic virus will be a public health priority. When a vaccine is not available, non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) are the best way to help slow the spread of such an organism. They include personal, community, and environmental actions that are more efficient when used together.

Past pandemics include the 1918 H1N1 influenza virus, the 1957 H2N2 influenza outbreak, the H3N2 influenza outbreak of 1968, the 2003 SARS outbreak, the 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak, and the 2019-20 outbreak of the novel coronavirus SARS-COV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19).

A pandemic may:

- disrupt supply chains for essentials like food, fuel, hygiene products, and medical supplies
- create shortages, especially of medical supplies and facilities required to treat the disease
- require distancing, isolation, and/or quarantines to slow the spread of disease
- reduce or halt travel and tourism
- cause businesses to reduce operations or close
- affect community members unevenly due to specific health risks or employment, depending on the specific nature of the disease and measures taken to stop it

Objectives:

- Communicate with government agencies such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Wisconsin State Health Agency, Bayfield County Health Department, and Bayfield County Emergency Management Coordinator early and often
- Implement distancing and other measures as early as possible to slow the spread of and limit cases of the disease
- Identify at-risk community members and establish means of support
- Communicate non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) and other best practices to community members, including the following:

Incident Specific Considerations:

- People who are or might be sick, and those in contact with them, should isolate themselves until they are no longer contagious.
- Community NPIs can help limit face-to-face contact. These strategies may include making sick-leave policies more flexible, promoting telework, avoiding close contact with others, and scheduling remote meetings.
- Environmental NPIs are surface cleaning measures that remove infectious organisms from frequently touched surfaces and objects. Effective cleaning measures may vary depending on the organisms involved.
- Households should maintain food, hygiene, and basic health supplies sufficient for all members to remain at home for two weeks in case of shortages and isolation measures. Individuals should not reduce others' ability to access essential items by stockpiling goods beyond their needs.

Forest Fire

The Town of Bell is primarily forest with smaller areas of open fields. Bell housing is concentrated around the Village of Cornucopia and scattered throughout the township especially on the shores of Lake Superior. During periods of drought and early spring, grass and brush fires can ignite anywhere in the township. Wildfires in our forest and some fields threaten the community, their homes, town roads and the forests. Grass fires within the Village of Cornucopia, as well as structural fires, would be handled by the Volunteer Bell Township Fire Department with additional mutual support response, if needed. In some wildfire situations, the local fire department and Town resources could be quickly overwhelmed.

The DNR Ranger Station headquartered in Park Falls has resources to respond to wildfires. The Wisconsin DNR has the authority for statewide forest fire prevention, education and coordination efforts. The Wisconsin DNR has suppression authority on all wildfires in our area except within the Village of Cornucopia limits. A contingent of staff from the DNR responds to wildfires. Their equipment includes: two Type-8 trucks with a 130 gallon tank, one Type-6 truck with an 180 gallon tank, one Type-4 truck with an 850 gallon tank, and a bulldozer with a fire plow.

Notification of residents in the event of a wildfire would be coordinated by the Bayfield County Office of Emergency Management as well as the Town of Bell incident commander.

Fires have the potential of isolating several neighborhoods, particularly Roman's Point where ingress and egress is limited to one dirt road off Hwy 13. Removing people from this area may include evacuation by helicopter and/or assistance by watercraft and the Coast Guard.

As most fires are caused by human activities, prevention and education are important. Burning permits are required and they can be obtained free of charge on the Wisconsin DNR website.

Incident Specific Considerations:

- Evacuation
- Requirements of access and functional needs residents
- Fuel for evacuation vehicles and drivers for transport
- Safe and Well information for significant others
- In route communications for self-evacuees

Floods

Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry as a result of rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surges, or overflows of dams and other water systems. Floods can develop slowly or quickly and can come with no warning. Failing to evacuate flooded areas, entering flood waters, or remaining after a flood has passed can result in injury or death.

Areas of the Town of Bell particularly at risk of flooding include the branches of Lost Creek where they flow into the wetlands west of Blueberry Lane, and the mouth of the Siskiwit River where it flows under Highway 13 into the harbor. The sanitary district pumping station, Tillmans and Town Marinas, and Excel Energy electrical substation are vulnerable to harbor flooding. Flooding west of the Village could prevent South Shore Ambulance or assisting Fire Departments from providing services in the Cornucopia area.

Past floods include the 1999 super storm event, in which the Lost Creek area on Highway 13 flooded, stopping traffic flow and isolating residents from communities to the southwest until the road was repaired. Heavy rains in 2018 caused flash flooding that led to several road closures, washed out driveways, and caused damage to the shoreline.

A flood may:

- cause power outages
- disrupt transportation by blocking or damaging roadways
- limit or slow emergency services due to lack of transportation
- damage buildings, leading to evacuation
- discharge raw sewage, fuel, or other contaminants into waterways
- create landslides

Objectives:

- Identify potential hazards and contain them if possible.
- Establish evacuation routes and shelter plans as needed.
- Identify equipment, resources, and valuables and remove them to a safe place.
- Coordinate the activities of town staff responsible for continued operations during disaster.
- Communicate with Excel Energy and/or Bayfield Electric Company, Sanitary District officials, County Highway Department, and Bayfield County Emergency Government.

Incident specific considerations:

- Do not enter flood waters. Currents, obstacles, and the possible presence of contaminants or electrical current can be dangerous.
- Assess damage to critical infrastructure, especially the sanitary district pumping station, Excel substation, and roadways. Block off access to unsafe areas.
- Identify residents who may be isolated or require evacuation.
- Public buildings and business should remain closed and locked until an examination for hazards (mold, sewage, structural integrity, gas leaks, chemicals, and electrical danger) can be conducted and the building be considered safe to enter.

Ice Storms

Ice storms are a particularly paralyzing event. The weight of the ice brings down trees and their limbs. It snaps power poles and caused the powerline to part. Loss of power follows. The power crews have to contend with slippery conditions as well as being hampered by the debris which bars their access to their equipment.

Tremendous amounts of new cable, wires, poles as well as transformers and substations have to be located and then transported to the affected areas. A large-scale storm prevents the loads from being delivered. Crews from around the country must be located and transported to the devastated area where the airports and transportation hubs are often closed.

Wide scale power outages have lasted for 2 weeks in recent incidents. Trees and debris on the roadways prevent movement for up to a week. Cleanup is extremely expensive and time consuming. Power customers are responsible for the connection from the power pole to the house and this can cost up to \$500 to replace. Falling trees and limbs damage homes and trap people in their homes.

Ice storms could become more common in this area due to the climate crisis. Warming temperatures could turn lake effect snow into lake effect ice.

Incident Specific Considerations:

- Requirements of access and functional needs residents
- Fuel for generators and the ability to pump fuel due to power outage
- Equipment and person-power to remove debris
- Possible loss of water in areas without artesian water.
- Sanitary system shutdown
- Communications blackout due to downed cell or radio towers

Extreme Snow

The changing climate has brought a significant increase in downpours or a large amount of precipitation falling in a short amount of time over a small area.

The Town experienced an extreme snow fall in the winter of 2019, and it paralyzed the area. A number of residents were trapped in their homes, some without power or heat for up to 72 hours. The Town road crew could not get to their equipment, and a combination of very slippery under layer and a large amount of snow resulted in the snow removal equipment getting stuck while attempting to clear roads.

The experience taught us some lessons including:

- Current equipment capabilities
- Ability to gain access to equipment
- Locally affected or area-wide
- Mitigation needed for loss of ambulance service and emergency medical transport
- Coordination with county work crews

Incident Specific Considerations:

- Prioritizing access and functional needs households
- Include seasonal homes for wellness check
- Prolong power outages
- Wellness checks on occupied homes without the capability to heat with wood
- Inspection of older structures and homes for excessive snow load with possibility of assistance from volunteers.

Power Outages

Extended power outages may impact the whole community and the economy. A power outage is when the electrical power goes out unexpectedly. This may be caused locally during a storm with heavy wind or ice conditions that take down trees, or a traffic accident that breaks power poles. It

can also be caused when a disruption of power occurs outside the area to the power company transmission lines or station for whatever reason.

A power outage may:

- disrupt communications, water, and transportation
- close retail businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, ATMs, banks, and other services
- cause food spoilage and water contamination
- prevent use of medical devices

Objectives:

- Identify all potential hazards.
- Establishment of evacuation routes, shelter plans as needed.
- Coordinate the activities of Town staff responsible for continued operations during disaster.
- Communicate with power company Sanitary District officials, County Hwy Department, Bayfield Emergency Government.
- Dispatch Neighborhood Information Resource Persons to check on neighbors to offer suggestions for safety and survival including the following incident specific considerations.
-

Incident Specific Considerations:

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed. The refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours. Use coolers with ice if necessary. Monitor temperatures with a thermometer.
- Maintain food supplies that do not require refrigeration.
- Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Generators, camp stoves, or charcoal grills should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows. Never use a gas stovetop or oven to heat your home.
- Go to a community location with power if heat or cold is extreme.
- Turn off or disconnect appliances, equipment, or electronics. Power may return with momentary “surges” or “spikes” that can cause damage.

Lake Superior Seiche

A seiche is a standing wave in an enclosed or partially enclosed body of water like Lake Superior, harbors, bays, etc. The word means “to sway back and forth” and that is what an extremely long wavelength can do when disturbed by one or more factors such as earthquakes, wind and atmospheric pressure variations. Gravity always tries to restore the horizontal surface of the water and works against the vertical motions generated by the wind or air pressure. The resulting impulse travels the length of the basin where it is reflected back from the end of the basin, generating interference.

A seiche is usually unnoticeable to the naked eye except during periods of unusual calm, but harbors and bays are often prone to seiches that can be a few centimeters high in just minutes. On July 13, 1995, a large seiche on Lake Superior caused the water level to fall and then rise again by three feet within fifteen minutes, leaving some boats hanging from the docks on their mooring lines when the water retreated. Though nothing that extreme has occurred at the Cornucopia

harbor, boat owners can take proactive measures to secure their boats properly, and lakeshore homeowners should listen to the weather reports during storm events to be aware of and prepare for possible damage or erosion of their waterfront by seiche waves. The National Weather Service issues low water advisories for portions of the Great Lakes when seiches of two feet or greater are likely to occur.

Incident Specific Considerations:

- Buildings and business should remain closed and locked until an examination for hazards (mold, sewage, structural integrity, gas leaks, chemicals, and electrical danger) can be conducted and the building be considered safe to enter.
- Have Neighborhood Task Group Leaders check their areas for unusual erosion and offer information and resources.

Tornadoes / Straight-line Winds

It is highly unlikely the Town of Bell will be threatened by a tornado; however, straight-line winds have occurred, most recently in the summer of 2016, causing substantial damage to trees in the Chequamegon-Nicollet National Forest. These winds are not always severe but are far more common than tornadoes, the difference being that straight-line winds do not rotate. They tend to cover a larger area and do not toss debris randomly like a tornado, and the damage caused usually occurs in one direction. Both are usually produced because of thunderstorms and when mixed with rain can be confusing as to what is being experienced. Wind speeds can easily exceed 100 mph.

Tornadoes and straight-line winds may:

- occur suddenly with little warning
- pose significant risk to lives
- cause substantial damage to property
- interfere with transportation
- cause loss of power and other infrastructure

Objectives:

- Identify the threat (tornado or straight-line winds).
- Determine the locales and the level of risk within the Town.
- Provide community and individual warnings as quickly as possible.
- Move / protect items and equipment from potential damage.
- Determine the path of the tornado / winds and ensure that first responders are moved into the area to check for victims.
- Coordinate support and seek additional assistance from government and non-profit organizations (Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc).
- Organize and participate in recovery operations.

Incident specific considerations:

- Watch changing weather patterns / listen to weather forecasts.
- Look for swirling and flying debris and move indoors if possible.
- Prepare for the loss of electricity.
- Move away from the path of the tornado or winds and move indoors to a basement or the safest place in the structure, or the lowest spot if caught outside. In some situations, it's best to exit a vehicle and find a safer location, particularly if in the path of a tornado.
- Bring children and pets inside.
- Move away from doors, windows and glass enclosures.
- Stay away from downed power lines and gas or water line ruptures.
- At the earliest and safest opportunity notify authorities of your situation and comply with instructions. Shelter in place if possible.

RESPONSE

Emergency Services

South Shore Area Ambulance

The South Shore Area Ambulance Service (SSAA) is an organization of 19 volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians and Emergency Medical Responders. These volunteers staff one Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance covering an area of over 220 square miles along the south shore of Lake Superior. The service is located at 86980 Lake Avenue, Herbster, Wisconsin and is owned and administered by the Town of Clover with the Towns of Bell, Orienta, and Port Wing contracting for Emergency Medical Service. SSAA responds to an average of 70 calls per year throughout the south shore region. Emergency Medical Operations are conducted under rules outlined by the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS 110) and policies, protocols, and guidelines for medical direction through the Bayfield-Ashland County EMS Council. In order to achieve the best patient outcomes, SSAA works closely with Ashland Fire Department, Mayo Medical Ambulance, and aero-medical providers (Lifeline III and North Memorial) to deliver Advanced Life Support care to those patients requiring it.

Cornucopia Fire Department

The Cornucopia Fire Department is an all hazards department of 16 volunteer firefighters operating from a single fire hall located at 22620 Ash Street in Cornucopia. The department staffs three pieces of fire suppression equipment; a 1985 Mack/Emergency One Engine with a 500 gallon tank /1250 gallon per minute pump, a 2011 Rosenbauer 3000 gallon Tender/ 750 gallon per minute pump with Class A foam capability, and a 2007 Ford 4 wheel drive Brush Unit with a 300 gallon skid type pump.

The Cornucopia Fire Department is an active member of the South Shore Fire Association, which comprises the three Fire Departments serving the south shore area. This organization has planning meetings biannually, hosts combined training sessions biannually, has written Standard Operating Guidelines, and shares ownership of heavy hydraulic extrication equipment which is housed in Port Wing, Wisconsin. This close working relationship between departments fosters greater interoperability for Fire and Rescue incidents along the south shore area. Written mutual aid agreements are also in place with Local, State, and Federal emergency response agencies to augment the south shore area departments should an emergency incident exceed the capabilities of our local resources.

Nearest Trauma Centers

Level II Adult and Level II Pediatric Trauma Center:

- 65 miles west. St. Luke's Regional Trauma Hospital. 915 East 1st Street, Duluth MN 55805. 218-249-4000

Level I Adult and Level II Pediatric Trauma Center

- 61 miles west. Essentia Health St. Mary's Hospital. 407 E. 3rd St., Duluth, MN 55805 218-786-4000

Unclassified Trauma Center

- 29 miles south. Memorial Medical Center. 1615 Maple Lane, Bayfield WI 54805 715-682-4563

Law Enforcement

Bayfield County Sheriff
715-373-6120 Office
911 Emergency Dispatch

Town of Bell

Contact List

Bayfield County Emergency

911 - Police, Fire & Ambulance

Bell Town Hall

715-742-3356

Bayfield County Emergency Management Coordinator

715-373-6113 - Jan Victorson

Bayfield County Highway Department

715-373-6115 - Paul Johanik

(Commissioner)

715-373-6116 - Garage/Shop

Bayfield Electric Cooperative

715-372-4287 - Iron River Station

715-372-4047 - After-hours Emergency

Wisconsin DNR - Park Falls Office

715-762-1345 - Fire Control

XCEL Energy

800-895-1999 (Power Outage)

Town Board:

Roger Lindgren, Chairman

715-742-3511 (Home)

715-209-7323 (Cell)

Allen Hahn, Supervisor

715-742-3855 (Home)

715- 413-1289 (Cell)

Jesse Kaseno, Supervisor

715-742-3422(Home)

715-681-0543 (Cell)

Andrew Sauter-Sargent, Supervisor

715-742-3552 (Home)

920-915-7548 (Cell)

Jackie Eide, Supervisor

715-209-6762 (Cell)

Town Staff:

Mary Beth Tillmans, Clerk

715-742-3337 (home)

Janice Olson, Treasurer

715-742-3475 (Home)

Matt Hipsher, Town Road Foreman

715-209-7322 (Cell)

Art Hyde, Town Road Crewman

715-742-3466 (Home)

715-209-5001 (Cell)

(Post this list next to phones for quick action in an emergency)

Town of Bell

Resource List

American Red Cross - NW WI Chapter

877-618-6628

Immanuel Lutheran Church

715-742-3440

Bayfield County Sheriff

715-373-6120

Town of Bell Community Center

715-742-3356

Bayfield County Health

715-373-6109

WDIO/WIRT TV

218-727-6864

Bayfield County Human Services

715-373-6144

KDLH – TV

218-720-9603

Bayfield County Emergency Government

715-373-6113 office

KBJR TV –Duluth

218-720-9666

Radio Stations

KUWS 91.3 FM	Superior, WI UW - Superior Public Radio	715-394-8530
KDAL 95.7 FM	Duluth, MN - Adult Contemporary	218-722-8729
KDNW 97.3 FM	Duluth, MN - U of NW St. Paul - Christian Contemporary	218-722-6700
KTCO 98.9 FM	Duluth, MN - Country	218-722-5826
KUMD 103.3 FM	Duluth, MN - University of Minnesota - Duluth	218-726-7181
WEGZ 105.9 FM	Washburn, WI - Religious	800-729-9829
WEBC 560 AM	Duluth, MN - Sports	218-720-4888
WDSM 710 AM	Superior, WI - News/Talk	218-722-7500

Town of Bell Garage Equipment List

772 Deere motor grader w/wing
12' V Plow
Case 125 tractor with mower boom
Case W11B 1cy end loader
Cat 420E tractor loaded backhoe
348 Peterbilt patrol truck with 5cy dump
348 Peterbilt patrol truck with 6cy dump w/wing
2-12' power angle snowplows
11' power angle snowplow
12' highway plow
Ford f250 regular cab pickup
Ford f350 regular cab pickup
Landa gas powered steam cleaner
20hp Honda generator
Boss V-XT plow 9'2"
Boss V-XT plow 8'2"
tractor mounted rear blade
tractor mounted rear mower
625 Jonsered chainsaw
gas powered leaf blower
gas powered line trimmer
Deere zero turn mower
WRT 11 wheel pull type wheel roller
1/2 ton extended cab pickup (recycling center)
Ford 8N tractor
12' utility trailer

Local Fuel Availability

One gas station operates within the Township, and while supplies may vary, the capacity of the station's underground fuel tanks is as follows: one 10,000 gallon tank for octane 87 gasoline, one 4,000 gallon tank for octane 91 gasoline, and one 6,000 gallon tank for diesel fuel. The station currently has no ability to pump gas during a utility power outage.

The Town of Bell Garage has a 750 gallon above-ground tank for diesel that is used for road equipment. It should be noted that the fuel in this tank is shared with the Town of Bell Fire Department and that both of them rely on the gas station for all of their gasoline needs.

Siskiwit Bay Marina also pumps fuel; however, most of their fuel is sold dockside to marina customers. They maintain a 550 gallon diesel tank and a 1,250 gallon gasoline tank and do have the ability to pump fuels during a power outage.

Other retail gas stations within the area include Port Wing (16 miles), Red Cliff (18 miles), Bayfield (20 miles), and Washburn (20 miles).

Other Fuels and Essentials

The Cornucopia gas station also serves as a convenience store with minor necessities and food items available throughout the calendar year. This includes small engine and automotive necessities, as well as portable LP gas tank exchanges.

Ehlers Store has a larger and more varied inventory of food and hardware, as well as LP tank exchanges; however, the store closes for the winter months of November through April.

A map showing the location of these and other resources is in the Map Appendix.

Evacuation Procedure

An order for evacuation can only be made by the County Emergency Management Director or the Bayfield County Sheriff. The evacuation order shall specify the exact location and describe residents affected within the evacuation zone. Communication by all appropriate means available, including telephone, radio, public posting, social media, or door-to-door contact should be used. Evacuation procedures shall follow any federal, state, or county guidelines.

Vulnerable populations should receive a precautionary warning prior to the general evacuation announcement.

A map of alternate routes in case of road closure is in the Map Appendix.

Concept of Operations

Emergency Operations Plan Responsibilities

The Town Board has the primary responsibility to provide comprehensive management of natural disasters and emergencies to protect life and property from their effects. The Town Chair serves as the Incident Commander for the Town of Bell. In the Chair's absence, these duties will be completed by the Town Supervisor per the Town's succession plan.

Line of Succession

Listed below is the line of succession with authority to act on behalf of the Town of Bell should a natural disaster or emergency occur.

Line of succession is as follows:

Town Chair - Roger Lindgren

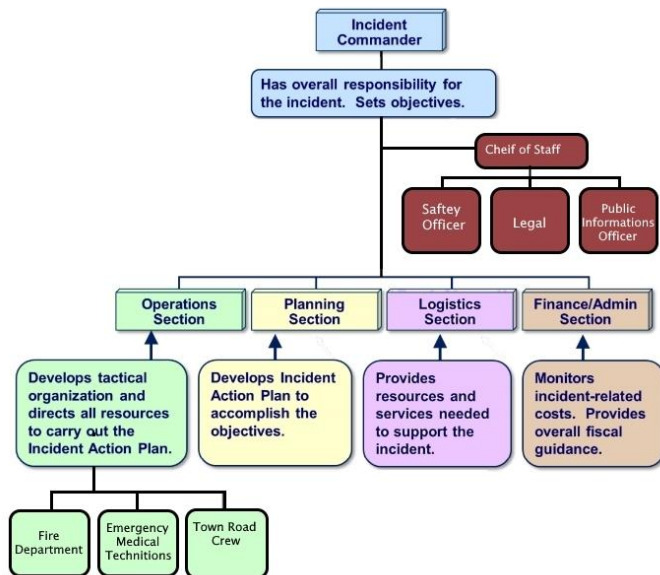
Supervisor - Jackie Eid

Supervisor - Jessie Kaseno

Town Clerk - MaryBeth Tillmans

Command and General Staff

(The incident response is scalable. The Incident Commander decides which resources to activate.)



Incident Commander's Responsibilities

The Incident Commander is responsible for coordinating the response of Town services and coordinating the response with Bayfield County officials if county assistance is needed. The Incident Commander prioritizes actions and directs the distribution of resources.

- Assesses the nature and scope of the disaster or emergency.
- If the situation can be handled locally, does so using available resources and procedures in this plan, as appropriate.
- Activates the Town Incident Command Post at the Bell Town Community Center, located at 22615 County Highway C village of Cornucopia. In the event that Community Center is unable to be used, the back-up location will be the Lutheran Church 22555 Elm St. in Cornucopia.
- Declares a local state of emergency, if warranted, and notifies Bayfield County's Director of Emergency Management. (Attachment 1)
- Forwards the Town of Bell Disaster Declaration (Attachment) to Bayfield County's Office of Emergency Management.
- Directs resources to respond to the situation.
- Ensures life safety issues are addressed.
- Identifies any elderly, disabled or other persons in need of assistance.
- Issues directives as to travel on local roads and recommends protective actions as needed.
- Notifies the public of the situation and appropriate actions to take.
- Keeps County officials apprised of the situation.
- Directs staff to take pictures and measurements of the scene, including GPS coordinates.
- Reports damage estimates to the County Office of Emergency management.
- Ensures accurate records are initiated and maintained, including all actions taken, expenditures, and resources requested and/or used.
- Takes any other actions necessary and appropriate to the emergency.
- To schedule an after-action meeting(s) to review the decisions and actions taken to mitigate the disaster, identify successes and failures and areas for improvement and provide a summary to the citizens of the Town and mutual aid responders.

If assistance is requested, the County Emergency Management Director will assess the situation and make recommendations. The County will do the following to the extent appropriate:

- Activate the County Emergency Operations Center.
- Implement the County Emergency Operations Plan.
- Respond with county resources, as requested.
- Activate mutual aid agreements.
- Coordinate county resources with town resources.
- Notify Wisconsin Emergency Management Director.
- Forward a Uniform Disaster Situation Report (UDSR) form to the state identifying preliminary damages.
- Assist the town with prioritizing and allocating resources.

If Town and County resources are exhausted, the County Emergency Management Director can request State assistance through Wisconsin Emergency Management. The Bayfield County website is the official source of information during an emergency.

If State assistance is requested, the Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator, in conjunction with the Regional Director, County Emergency Management Director, and Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator, assesses the disaster or emergency situation and recommends that personnel, services and equipment be made available for response mitigation or recovery. After completing the assessment, the Wisconsin Emergency Management Regional Director immediately notifies the State Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator.

Incident Command Post and Potential Shelter

The Bell Town Community Center is located at 22615 County Highway C in the Village of Cornucopia. The Community Center building houses the local food shelf and has a kitchen, Town offices, meeting rooms, and one large room used for Town meetings and gatherings that can accommodate 140 persons. The building has a basement room that can be utilized as a tornado or other shelter for 45 persons. This building will serve as the Incident Command Post or ICP.

Phone: 715-742-3356

The Community Center is the working headquarters for the Incident Commander and should be equipped with communication equipment and other appropriate supplies.

Local Churches

Cornucopia has three active churches: St. Ann's Roman Catholic, Immanuel Lutheran, and St. Mary's Orthodox Church of America. The Lutheran Church has a gathering room complete with a kitchen. This is a first floor room suitable for 76 people. The church does have a basement, but it is not suitable for shelter use. St. Ann's has a capacity for 33 persons.

Emergency Personnel Communications

The primary first response resource for the Town of Bell is the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department. The Incident Commander will contact the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department is under the direction of the Bayfield County Sheriff.

If additional resources are needed, the Town Incident Commander will make the necessary contacts as identified in this plan.

Accurate communications with the local residents can allay rumors and misinformation and support public morale. A fact sheet or written summary including all known details, after a careful analysis for accuracy, should be prepared. The Incident Commander or designated spokesperson can issue warnings and communications including:

- Whether the residents should remain in their homes.
- What evacuation measures are or may be necessary.
- Inform residents what precautionary measures should be taken.

- What areas of the town are affected or most likely to be affected?
- The emergency response actions that have been initiated to assist or protect them.
- What persons or agencies to contact with information or requests for assistance, and how to contact them.

Contact Bayfield Emergency Government at 715-373-6113 daytime or cell anytime at 715-681-1022 to alert NOAA to send out an alert over their Weather Radio notifying residents of an emergency.

Mutual Aid and Understandings

By agreement and ordinance, Bayfield County's Office of Emergency Management is the primary contact and resource coordinator for emergency needs that cannot be met by the Town of Bell. Understandings exist for mutual aid with the Township of Bell and surrounding towns in the event of emergencies.

Access and Functional Needs

Residents with Special Needs

For all individuals who have physical, medical, sensory or cognitive disabilities, emergencies such as fires, floods, or other disasters present a real challenge. The same challenge also applies to the elderly and other special needs populations. Protecting themselves and their families when disaster strikes requires planning ahead. The Red Cross, in partnership with FEMA, have provided an excellent booklet that addresses that challenge in a very comprehensive manner titled *Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and Other Special Needs*. This booklet emphasizes the need to plan ahead, have a back-up plan, and have an evacuation plan.

Plan Ahead

Emergencies can happen at a moment's notice. Mobility, hearing, learning, or sight disabilities can create specific needs that individuals need to address to be able to respond to an emergency. We urge everyone to become ready for any urgent situation, which means assembling a survival kit, making an emergency plan, and being informed regarding managing communications, equipment, pets, and home hazards.

Back-Up Plan

Emergencies and disasters can unfold in unpredictable ways, and even carefully made plans may need to adapt to changing circumstances. Thus, it is important to arrange a back-up solution for the most critical parts of an emergency plan.

Evacuation Plan

The first option and plan should always be to go to family or friends first, as their accommodation would likely be most comfortable in a stressful situation. Our emergency public shelter may provide a safe place to stay; however, if required, a personal care attendant should accompany the individual.

The above-mentioned publication provides excellent detail for every aspect of dealing with an emergency situation. The Emergency Preparedness Committee recommends that each resident with special needs obtain a copy of *Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and Other Special Needs* and will provide them. We will work with the local EMS as well as the road crew in identifying as many of individuals with special needs as possible to offer them this booklet.

Knowing what to do in advance is the best protection, and knowing this is each individual's responsibility.

RECOVERY

Recovery Operations

Following an emergency or disaster, recovery activities should begin immediately. The Incident Commander oversees the efforts and shall:

- Ensure that essential services are restored.
- Ensure that town roads are closed and barricaded if damaged.
- Ensure emergency repairs and/or clearance of debris is completed to make roads passable as soon as possible.
- Hold town meetings to inform residents of recovery status.
- Organize clean-up and debris removal.
- Oversee the completion of applications for insurance and all disaster relief forms
- Explore FEMA Grants and other sources of recovery funds

Incident Response Evaluation

After an emergency, the Incident Commander shall convene a public meeting to evaluate the response to the emergency: what was done well, what could be improved, and what lessons were learned. The purpose of this meeting is to improve emergency response for the future.

Annual Training and Plan Evaluation

1. The plan will need to be reviewed annually.
 - a. The Emergency Preparedness Committee will be responsible for the implementation and annual review.

All members of the Emergency Preparedness Committee will have Incident Command Training FEMA ISO course 100 and 200 annually. Town Board members are strongly encouraged to take FEMA ISO 100 and 200 training in the first semester of their terms and consider an annual refresher of FEMA ISO 100.

Attachments

Attachment 1

TOWN OF BELL DISASTER DECLARATION
BAYFIELD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS on _____, 20_____ a disaster,
namely _____ has struck the *Town of Bell* in Bayfield
County, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, because of such emergency conditions, the *Board of Supervisors* of the *Town of Bell* is unable to meet with promptness; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, welfare, and good order of the *Town of Bell* to proclaim that emergency conditions exist; and

WHEREAS, the disaster has caused the *Town of Bell* to expend, commit and exhaust its
pertinent available resources; and

WHEREAS, the *Town of Bell* is asking for county assistance and requests and requests the
county to advise the State of Wisconsin of our emergency conditions;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to sections **323.11 and 323.14(4)(b)** of the Wisconsin State
Statutes, as Chief Elected Official of the *Town of Bell* in testimony whereof I have hereunto set
my hand and have caused the great seal of the Town of Bell to be affixed.

Done at the Town Hall this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Chair

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Clerk

Attachment 2

**RATIFICATION / ALTERATION / MODIFICATION /
REPEAL**

**TOWN OF BELL DISASTER DECLARATION
BAYFIELD COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the *Board of Supervisors* of the *Town of Bell* duly adopted the foregoing resolution at a legal meeting on _____, 20__.

Ratified / Altered / Modified / Repealed by Resolution No. _____ of the *Town of Bell, Board of Supervisors* on the _____ day of _____, 20__ by a vote of _____ for, _____ against.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution may be forwarded to Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) as an eligibility criteria for disaster assistance.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY: *Town of Bell Board of Supervisors*, Bayfield County, Wisconsin. Adopted _____ 20__.

Chair

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

Clerk

Attachment 3

TOWN OF BELL

Board Resolution # _____

RE: ADOPTION OF TOWN OF BELL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town of Bell Board has received a report from the Emergency Preparedness Committee entitled *Town of Bell Emergency Action Plan* which appears to be in final form; and

WHEREAS, the Board having required a public hearing on the Plan before Board consideration on the merits and adoption; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing having been held to review and comment on the Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town of Bell, having considered the recommendation of the Comprehensive Planning Committee and public comments on the Plan, **BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE** Town of Bell Board hereby approves and adopts the *Town of Bell Emergency Action Plan*.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Town of Bell Board on this date: _____

Chair

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor

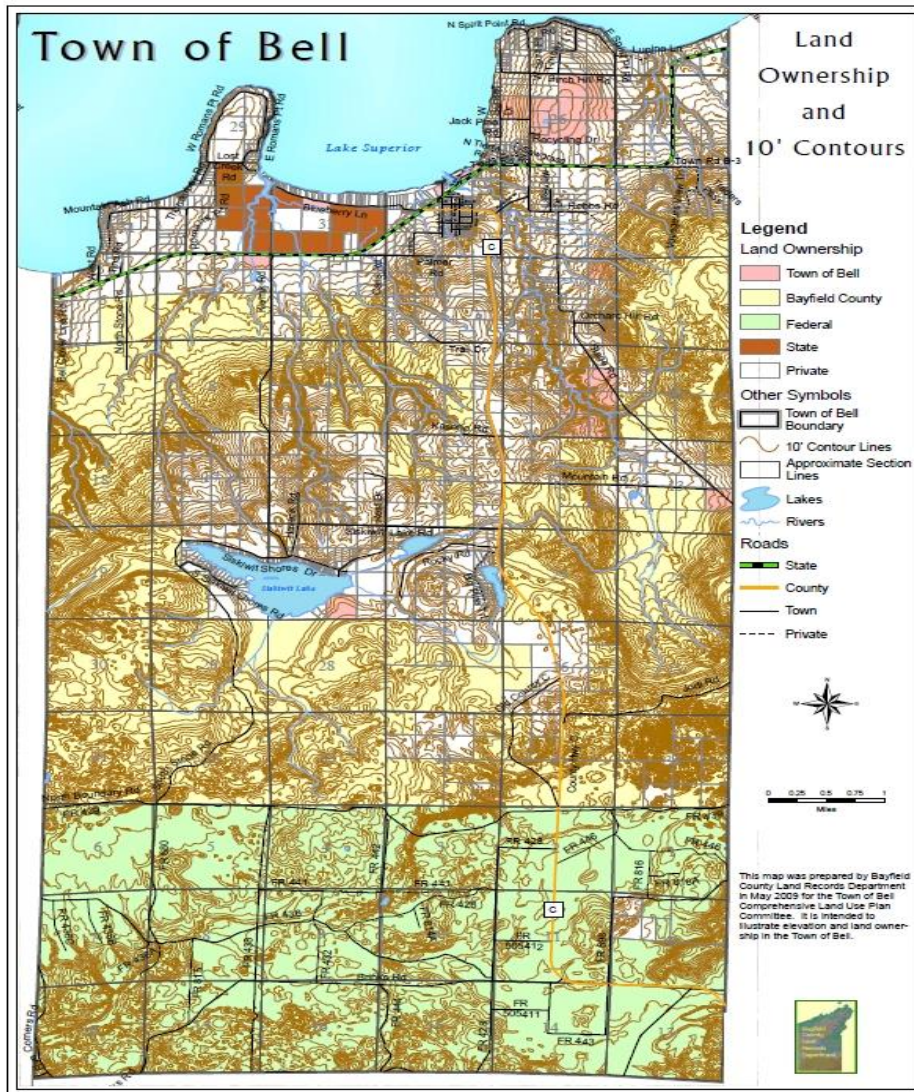
Supervisor

Clerk

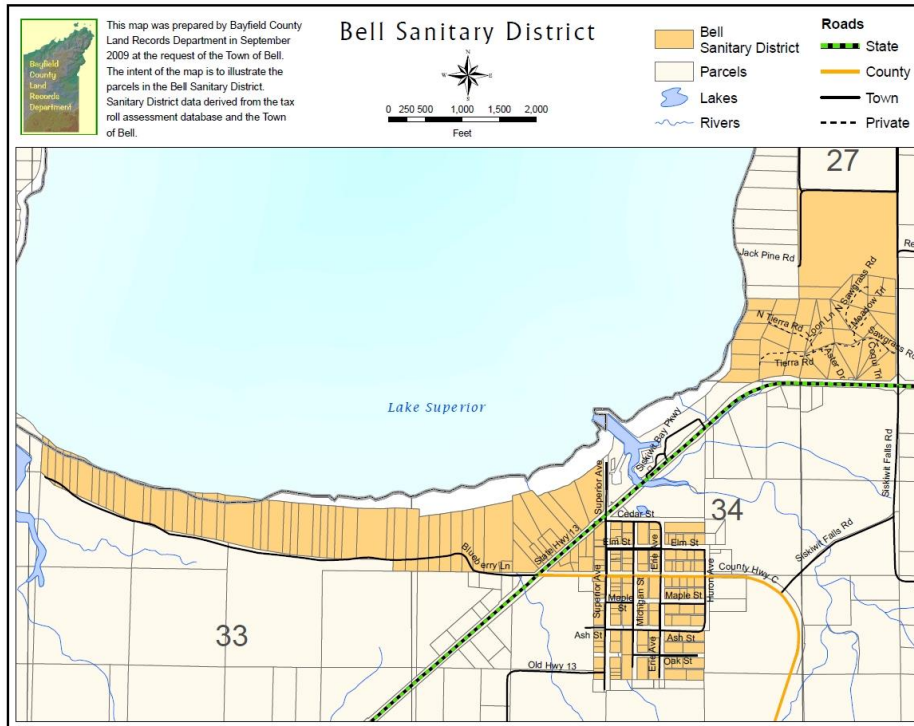
Public hearing held on _____.

Map Appendix

Town of Bell

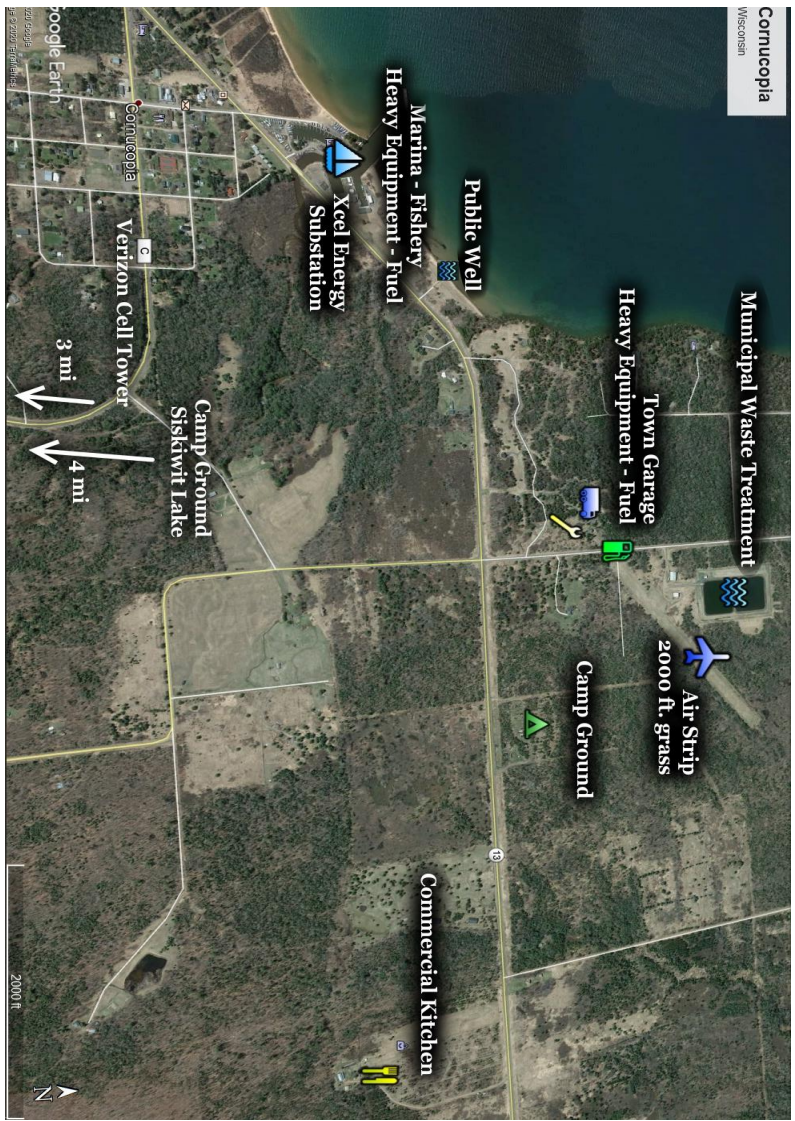


Bell Sanitary District





RESOURCES LOCATED OUTSIDE OF CORNUCOPIA PROPER



Alternate Route Map

