



MIKE LUKAS
Sheriff

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News Release

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County Board Approves Emergency Management Reorganization Emergency Management and EMS Move to Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Lukas is pleased to announce that the Portage County Board of Supervisors has approved a plan to move the County's emergency management and emergency medical services functions under the Sheriff's Office. "This is a great opportunity to blend the expertise and assets of the County's largest emergency response organization with the other county level emergency oriented functions. It leverages our ability to better plan, respond, mitigate, and recover from disasters, and allows us to better coordinate and administer programs and contracts," said Sheriff Lukas.

Under the previous organization, the County's emergency management and emergency medical services (EMS) functions were run out of a separate department. Now, each will be reorganized into their own division within the Sheriff's Office, independent of each other but linked together at the staff management level.

The Sheriff's Office currently is responsible for county-wide law enforcement, operates the Jail and Juvenile Detention Facility, and runs the county-wide 9-1-1 and dispatching functions. Now the addition of emergency management will give the Office the capability to coordinate disaster responses, better plan for and recover from natural and man-made emergencies, and support municipalities in Portage County with their needs in times of crisis or tragedy.

The EMS Division will be responsible for administering the County's several ambulance provider contracts, managing the emergency medical responder network, providing EMS related training and programs, and operating the County's Special Events Unit.

Sheriff Lukas says that the public will not notice any difference in the County's operations. "The transition will be seamless, and operate all in the background," he said. "I anticipate that we will see system improvements and benefits fairly quickly once we finalize our move," he added.

More information can be found at the Sheriff's Office website, www.co.portage.wi.us/sheriff.

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