



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Department

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Arrowhead Emergency Services Chaplaincy

Nov. 28, 2017 – Lake County is fortunate to have an outstanding group of committed and trained personnel who respond to our 911 calls for help, day or night, in any weather. Some of these are paid law enforcement officers or ambulance emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Others are volunteers with our local fire departments or rescue squad, who respond to everything from fires and vehicle accidents to wilderness searches.

Nobody calls 911 when they're having a good day. Each of these incidents is unexpected and stressful to the victims, but also to those who respond. In addition to a few especially emotional incidents, repetitive calls can build up as accumulated stress. Responders know how to address this, using both personal and group skills, to keep themselves positive and healthy. But sometimes more help is better.



Lake County Chaplains Wally Crabtree, Pat VanDenHeuvel and Gary Gottfried

Enter our newest group of emergency response volunteers. Lake County has partnered with Cook County to form the Arrowhead Emergency Services Chaplaincy Team. Chaplains provide non-denominational support, when requested, to emergency services agencies. They can offer assistance at scenes of accidents, violence, injury or death, help with death notifications, and visit sick or injured responders. They also assist victims and families by connecting them with other resources, and provide spiritual care during community disasters.

Our Chaplains are trained by the Minnesota Emergency Services Chaplain Association, and credentialed by the County Sheriff. Lake and Cook County Emergency Services Chaplains work together to share guidelines and trainings, and can back each other up as needed. Ride-alongs with law enforcement officers are scheduled to orient Chaplains to officers' duties and the variety of call responses, and visits with other responder groups help acquaint them with their roles.

Emergency Services Chaplains contribute to a more compassionate and effective emergency response, more resilient responders, and a stronger community in the face of disaster. For more information, please contact the Lake County Emergency Manager at 218-226-4444 or bj.kohlstedt@co.lake.mn.us.

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