



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Emergency Management

99 Edison Blvd  
Silver Bay, MN 55614  
218-226-4444 office  
218-220-7811 cell  
Bj.kohlstedt@co.lake.mn.us

---

## Students participate in Mock Car Crash in Silver Bay

**May 10, 2017** – It appeared that four William Kelley High School students were involved in a serious vehicle accident right in the school parking lot on Wednesday of last week. Other students watched while one patient was airlifted by a medical helicopter, one was taken in an ambulance, one was pronounced dead at the scene, and one driver was arrested for drunk driving.

Fortunately, all these patients were student actors and none was really injured. Lake County conducts these full-scale exercises for the students' benefit, to alert young drivers to the deadly risks of driving while distracted or impaired.

"It's quite an event, and looks very real," said BJ Kohlstedt, Lake County Emergency Management Director. "Responders are paged out, lights and sirens arrive with people in turnout gear, injured friends are extricated from the vehicles, treated, triaged and transported, while law enforcement conducts a sobriety test and arrests one of the drivers. It can be scary and emotional."

After the outdoor demonstration, students gathered in the auditorium to hear presentations by the MN State Patrol Trooper Neil Dickenson and community member Tommy Doyle, whose life was affected by a fatal car accident involving alcohol. Students then asked questions of the presenters and those who responded to the accident.

The exercise also provides training and community recognition for our emergency responders. Those involved included Silver Bay Police, Silver Bay Fire Department, Lake County Sheriff's Office, Rescue Squad, Ambulance, and Community Emergency Response Team, Chaplains, and Victim Witness Coordinator, the MN State Patrol and Lifelink III. The school provides strong support to provide vehicles, student actors and sound system, and local citizens and businesses contribute as well.

"It definitely takes a community to put this event on," said Kohlstedt, "It highlights our emergency responders, many of whom are volunteers who drop whatever they are doing to respond during true emergencies. If drills like this can prevent one of those accidents from happening for real, it's worth the effort."

###

**Contact:** BJ Kohlstedt, Lake County Emergency Management Director, 218-220-7811