



BERRIEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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The MISSION of the BERRIEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is to enforce the laws of the State of Michigan and Berrien County. To safeguard life and property, to prevent and detect crime, to preserve the peace, and to protect the rights of all citizens. We will serve all citizens with fairness, integrity, respect, and compassion without discrimination of any persons or groups.

The Berrien County Sheriff's Office has established the following policy and procedures with the intention of increasing officer safety and reducing the possibility of a line of duty death.

Effective October 29, 2008, each Enforcement Division deputy will be issued a personal ANSI compliant high-visibility vest. Anytime a deputy is directing traffic, investigating a crash, handling lane closures, obstructed roadways, and disasters within the right-of-way of ANY road or highway, it is the policy of the Berrien County Sheriff's Office that all members will wear their High-Visibility Public Safety Vest.

Effective January 23, 2003, It shall be departmental policy that all members whose primary responsibility in dealing with the public in an enforcement capacity will wear department provided concealable soft ballistic vests while on duty in uniform.

Effective January 23, 2003, Berrien County Sheriff's Office personnel shall carry an automated external defibrillator (AED). The AED shall be used exclusively by department personnel, who have received training and certification in CPR and AED within the previous year. Berrien County Sheriff's Officer Personnel shall receive annual training in the proper operation of the AED through in-service training by certified AED instructors.

Effective July 24, 2013, Individual first aid kits (IFAK) will be issued to each qualified department member. Each IFAK shall contain the following medical equipment.

- #1: Combat Application Tourniquet
- #2: QuikClot Combat Gauze
- #3: Israeli 4" Emergency Bandage
- #4: Asherman Chest Seal
- #5: Compressed Gauze
- #6: EMT Shears.
- #7: Permanent Marker
- #8: Medical Tape
- #9: Medical Gloves.

IFAK kits are intended for use by officers in emergency situations in which conventional emergency medical aid is not immediately available, and decisive medical action and attention is required to prevent additional harm to injured officers or civilians.

Effective November 30, 2015, All Berrien County Sheriff's Office personnel, will receive training on the use of Naloxone Hydrochloride and the deputies will attend refresher training annually.

The Berrien County Sheriff's Office also has a twenty member Tactical Response Team and in order to address the needs of the Tactical Response Unit members and the civilians they

encounter, when executing high-risk missions, the Berrien County Sheriff's Office has implemented a TEMS (Tactical Emergency Medical Services) program, where a tactically trained physician and tactically trained Emergency Medical Technicians are deployed with the Tactical Response Unit members, whenever their services are needed. The TEMS Physicians and Emergency Medical Technicians also attend all monthly training programs that the Tactical Response Unit members participate in.

Having the tactically trained Physicians and Emergency Medical Technicians on hand for each high-risk operation carried out by the Tactical Response Team members provides a mental relief to the officers, as they know if they sustain any type of wound, that they would immediately receive the property medical treatment that they may need.

Unfortunately, it's hard to do a before and after comparison of changes due to the program, as the Berrien County Sheriff's Office is always trying to be proactive in providing the necessary equipment and protection to our deputies and we have been extremely fortunate not to have any and serious issues prior to or after the implementation of the programs.

The Berrien County Sheriff's Office was the first agency in South West Michigan to be training on the use of Naloxone Hydrochloride and begin utilizing it. In the first year that the deputies began carrying Naloxone Hydrochloride, the officers utilized it on fourteen individuals suspected of having overdosed on Opioids, which may have resulted in the fourteen individuals having a second chance to turn their lives around and deal with their addictions. Based upon the success of the Naloxone Hydrochloride program of the Berrien County Sheriff's Office, numerous other local law enforcement agencies in the South-West Michigan area began to train their officers on the use of Naloxone Hydrochloride.

No challenges had to be overcome to implement these programs, as the deputies immediately "bought into the programs" as they immediately recognized that the programs were being implemented for their safety and protection and well as the safety and protection of the community.

The impact of these programs appear to have a positive impact on the Berrien County Sheriff's Office staff as the implementation of the programs bring a sense of mental relief to the employees, as they know that they have the tools, medical supplies, personnel, and equipment readily available to provide the necessary first aid and medical treatment that they may need in the time of a crisis.

These programs can and have been replicated by other agencies. Such examples are that many of the local police agencies in the Berrien County area have followed suit in equipping their officers with ANSI compliant high-visibility vests, concealable soft ballistic vests, Automated External defibrillators, the Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK), and Naloxone Hydrochloride.

Respectfully,

R.E. Boyce III #194

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Chief Deputy

Berrien County Sheriff's Office