



# BELOIT POLICE DEPARTMENT



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## PRESS RELEASE

Incident Number: N/A

Date: 03/10/15

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### **Safe Communities Program**

The Beloit Police Department and the Beloit Health System have combined their efforts to provide \$10,000.00 in funding to support the School District of Beloit in providing casualty care training and equipment for district employees and staff. This collaboration was initiated between the School District of Beloit and the Beloit Health System during a local community training exercise in 2014. Representatives from the School District of Beloit, Beloit Health System, and the Beloit Police Department worked closely on securing the funding and concept of operations for a local delivery to nearly 1,000 classrooms in the Beloit. The Beloit Fire Department joined the effort, agreeing to provide some of its Tactical Medics to assist in the training delivery.

Beloit Police have one of the longest established Tactical Emergency Medical Programs in the State of Wisconsin. Initially established in 1988 with one law enforcement officer that was licensed medic, it has evolved over the years. In 2006, the Beloit Fire Department finally agreed to provide the medics for the department's TEMS program. This collaboration had been sought for many years. Fire Chief Brad Liggett, a combat medic in the early 1990's Gulf War conflicts was a huge supporter of the enhanced program development upon his appointment as Fire Chief.

The police department has sent all of its tactical unit officers to Tactical Emergency Casualty Care training courses in 2013 and early 2014. The Fire Department medics are some of the best equipped and trained TEMS units in operation. This partnership evolved in 2014 with training line level fire department personnel to be able to insert into hostile environments with appropriate protective gear. This training was also provided to line level police officers in how to better treat themselves or someone else, in these types of situations. While not new in Beloit, as early as 1998 they were conducting active shooter drills in local schools and as a result, some members of the tactical team developed Contained Threat Escort Tactics. This was one of the earliest documented versions of training with fire department and EMS personnel that utilized the insertion of them into a potential hostile environment.

In November 2013, we learned of some emerging concepts in providing a version of casualty care in the classroom by representatives of the Oak Creek Fire/Police Department in how they were engaging their local schools to provide some similar concepts in training. This was consistent with some national trends in varying response tactics for FIRE/EMS personnel and expectations of their actions in crisis response situations. In August of 2014, Beloit area stake holders had the opportunity to participate in a table top exercise sponsored by the FBI and hosted by the Beloit Police Department. The group discussions were designed to conduct training and an opportunity to provide a pre-plan for all major stake holders in the event of a mass casualty incident, specifically an active shooter. As a result of this training opportunity, the aforementioned groups began to meet to discuss how to deliver such a program with key community partners.

As a result of these efforts, a proposal was submitted to the School District of Beloit at its February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. The proposal was presented by representatives from the Beloit Police Department, Beloit Health System, and the Beloit Fire Department. The Board unanimously voted to support this worthwhile effort, affecting all district staff. An initial training is scheduled for April 2015, with complete district wide staff training prior to the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

We are excited to work closely with those in our community that have a vested interest in the success of the community and its key employers. If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

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End

*Anyone with information in regards to this crime is encouraged to call the Beloit Police Department, 364-6801, or Beloit Area Crime Stoppers, 362-7463. Individuals may also text information to 274637 then type BACS + your message. Information leading to an arrest may be eligible for a cash reward up to \$1000.00.*

*Pursuant to the directive of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, as found in Supreme Court Rule 20:3:6 Trial Publicity, you are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.*

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