

23 August 2006

Fred Luckeroth, President

Boot Lake Homeowner's Association

Subject: Defibrillator

Discussion:

At the 2006 Annual Meeting for the Boot Lake Association a question was raised regarding access to a defibrillator for people living in the Boot Lake area. It was stated that the closest known defibrillator was in Park Rapids, MN and that the time to respond from Park Rapids was not acceptable. It was further suggested that the Association might take a look at what issues would need to be address to attain such an instrument and place it at an appropriate location. After some comments and a brief discussion, Russ Price volunteered to look into the situation and make a report back to the six-member board.

Alternatives:

A1. Rely on the current setup that utilizes the defibrillator kept at the Country Store in Two Inlets, MN.

A2. Continue to pursue purchasing a defibrillator and developing a plan for training personnel and administering a response program.

Recommendation:

Select "option A1" as stated above and provide communication to all Boot Lake residences on the current practice.

Actions:

Drove to Ponsford, MN and approached the volunteer fire department, requesting information on availability of a defibrillator.

As follow-up, drove to Two Inlets and discussed current availability of defibrillator located at the Country Store.

Findings:

Conversation with volunteer firemen at Ponsford:

- 1. Ponsford Fire Department has a defibrillator.
- 2. A team a "First Responders" are trained in the proper use on this instrument.
- 3. Ponsford Fire Department does not have an agreement with Savannah Township and would therefore not respond to a call from that area.
- 4. Park Rapids has the agreement Savannah Township.
- 5. There is a group of "First Responders" in the Boot Lake area and that Leonard Thelen and Lou, proprietor of Two Inlet store, are among those trained. Further a defibrillator has been procured and is kept at the Two Inlet store.

Conversation with Lou at Two Inlets

- 1. A defibrillator is kept at the Country Store in Two Inlets.
- 2. Lou and Leonard are trained "First Responders."
- 3. "First Responders" attend periodic classes given by the Emergency Response Team from Park Rapids.
- 4. "First Responders" are provided with the latest equipment required to handle a host of emergency situations and trained in all kinds of emergency processes; not just defibrillator use.
- 5. "First Responders" need good knowledge of the area covered as they respond to snow mobile accidents, boating accidents, emergency health issues, etc.
- 6. Current system requires a call to Becker county "911" who will then forward call to Park Rapids, who then page the "First Responders" with the details.
- 7. Lou stated that in the near future all "First Responders" will be equipped with defibrillators in there response vehicles; she believes Leonard already has his now.
- 8. Lou also stated that the above stated process is getting better all the time.

Comment:

It is surprising that we are not aware of this process and we need an education through good communication to all who need to know this valuable information. Lou was also surprised that no one at our meeting was aware of the process.

Russ Price