

April 2026 Newsletter

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Welcome to Marshall County EMA Newsletter

Monthly updates of everything that has happened in the Marshall County Emergency Management world locally and nationally in the past month along with events that are happening soon!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 31-Apr. 2 – IS 300

April 1 – WebEOC Intermediate Training

April 2 – EMPD #2 (Polk Co)

April 7 – CERT Meeting

Apr7-8 – Public Information in All-Hazards Incidents

April 9 – 911/EMA Commission Meetings

April 14-15 – Planning: Emergency Operations (Black Hawk Co)

April 22-23 – Emergency Planning (Dallas Co)

April 23 – ISU FAD Course

April 27-28 – Community Mass Care

April 30 – Safeguard Iowa Training Conference

May 5 – CERT Meeting

May 5-6 – Flooding Hazards

May 6-8 – U of O EMA Conference

May 19-20 – ICS 400

May 27-28 – Tornado Awareness/Alerting

May 28 – MCEMSA Meeting

PLAN UPDATES

Plans for 2027 are starting as EMA works a year ahead of schedule Looking ahead to 2027 ESF's and RSF's that will be reviewed/updated:

- ESF6 – Mass Care (complete)
- ESF8 – Public Health
- ESF10 – Hazardous Materials
- RSF – Health and Social Services
- RSF - Housing

ADDITIONAL PLAN UPDATES

- Family Assistance Center Plan
- Marshall County Reunification Plan
- Marshall County Hazard Mitigation Plan (FEMA requirement)

PROJECTS

- Alert Iowa
- Salamander
- Grants
- City EOPs
- Updating 28Es
- Updating CERT Policies
- Assisting IVH and Meskwaki shelter planning
- School safety planning meetings
- Multi-County SOG/SOP
- Red Cross Sheltering updates
- EMA Trailer(s) Inventory
- Peer Support for First Responders
- RAGBRAI Preplanning



BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Principles of Emergency Management: Hazard Specific Issues and Mitigation Strategies
by Michael J Fagel

The Disaster Recovery Handbook by Michael J Fagel

GOALS FOR 2026

- Community engagement/relations
- Improvement of Marshall Co. EMA standards Countywide
- Full Implementation of Alert Iowa & Salamander systems countywide
- Training Opportunities for Marshall County first responders and local officials

Website Update



In the middle of March, the Marshall County Emergency Management website was complete, and we couldn't be happier with the partnership with Neapolitan labs. Recently Marshall County Board of Supervisors also approved to go with Neapolitan Labs for the County website. When you have time, go check it out at marshallema.org and give us feedback.

We will regularly be updated with meetings/calendar, commission agendas, newsletter, and other resourceful resources related to Emergency Management.



Alert Iowa
Sign up to receive important notifications from state and local authorities including Marshall County Emergency Management.
[Sign Up for Alerts >](#)



Report Storm Damage
Report storm damage to the Marshall County, Iowa, Emergency Management Office with our convenient online reporting form.
[Report Damage >](#)

FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

March has flown by. We have been offering many required FEMA and operational training classes to our responders and reaching out to county and city departments to offer training they need, also. Training with partners in response are a critical part of learning what roles will be played by all during a planned event or a disaster/emergency incident. If we do not plan, train, and exercise, our response is not efficient or safe. There are so many different aspects of being good partners with all jurisdictions and agencies (government and non-government) when it comes to working well together, safely, and not duplicating or deleting services offered to our Marshall County residents.

Emergency Management also offers free training for our Marshall County residents. We have offered two Storm Spotter trainings in the last week during Severe Weather Awareness Week. These classes reinforce the importance of knowing

what types of weather are possible in Central Iowa. The class goes over the use of weather warnings like Alert Iowa, NOAA weather radio, local media, and other apps that can alert of possible severe weather in the area. Learning how to interpret the radar scans is another section of the class. Radar can show many aspects of the storms, but getting local storm spotters to tell the National Weather Service what spotters see in the area is vital. Radars do not see everything at the ground level. Knowing what cloud formations and movement means can help storm spotters determine what they need to report. If you missed these classes, the NWS does offer free online classes on their website. I would suggest taking one of these classes, it does make one aware of the local weather possibilities and helps residents prepare ahead of any storms. Some of the other trainings we offer are small-scale exercise planning, preparedness planning, Stop the Bleed, etc.

Have you ever considered volunteering in your community as a first responder? There is a huge void in all communities with volunteerism down all across the country. The need for emergency medical first responders, firefighters, and CERT (community emergency response team) members is growing every day. Our communities need these volunteers on a daily basis and the more volunteers we need, the fewer hours an individual has to dedicate. Right now, we have fewer volunteers so the load they carry is becoming unbearable. It is very fulfilling to give back to your community. If you are considering or have questions, please feel free to reach out to our office and we can get you in touch with those who needs volunteers and get you pointed in the right direction for the training you will need.

Have a wonderful April!
Kimberly Elder,
Emergency Management
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