

August 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

- August 4** – Planning For Disaster Debris Management
- August 6** – HazMat IQ Tactics: Battery IQ (Dallas Co)
- August 19** – Social Media Engagement Strategies
- August 19 & 20** – Bombing Prevention Awareness
- August 25** – Evacuation Planning Strategies and Solutions
- August 27** – Leveraging Tools to Conduction Damage Assessments
- Sept. 10** – Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command system Interface (Marshall Co)
- Sept. 23-25** – ICS 300 Intermediate (Polk Co)
- Sept 24** – Intro to Continuity of Government Planning for Rural Jurisdictions
- Oct. 1** – Business Continuity Planning (Marshall Co)

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 (reviewing)
- ESF10 – Hazardous Materials
- RSF – Health and Social Services
- RSF - Housing

ADDITIONAL PLAN UPDATES

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

PROJECTS

- Alert Iowa
- Salamander
- Grants
- City EOPs
- Assisting IVH and Meskwaki shelter planning
- School safety planning meetings
- Multi-County SOG/SOP
- Red Cross Sheltering updates
- Peer Support for First Responders
- Warming/Cooling Shelter Update
- Local HealthCare Coalition



BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Lights Out: A Cyberattack, A Nation Unprepared, Surviving the Aftermath by Ted Koppel

GOALS FOR 2026

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

Emergency Management Awareness Month

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) invites you to participate in National Emergency Management Awareness Month this month. August is dedicated to:

- Educating government officials at all levels on the vital role of emergency management.
- Highlighting the profession's impact on public safety and community resilience.
- Helping the public understand what emergency management is and why it matters.

IAEM has created communication tools, including talking points, videos, and promotional kits, to help you effectively engage with the public and your local officials. Visit the [National Emergency Management Awareness Month](#) page for more information.



Supporting the Mental Health of Our First Responders

When we call 911, we expect someone to answer and respond—often on what may be the worst day of our lives. Firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, dispatchers, emergency management professionals, and volunteer responders answer those calls without hesitation. What many people don't see is that these experiences can have lasting effects long after the emergency has ended. First responders routinely witness traumatic events, serious injuries, fatalities, and situations that most people may never encounter. They often work long hours, miss family gatherings, respond in dangerous conditions, and carry the responsibility of making critical decisions under immense pressure. While they are trained to respond professionally, they are still human. The cumulative stress of repeated exposure to emergencies can contribute to anxiety, depression, burnout, sleep disturbances, and post-traumatic stress. Unfortunately, many responders have historically felt they needed to "stay tough" or avoid talking about what they have experienced.

That culture is changing, and that's a positive step for everyone. One of the most effective tools available is peer support. Peer support programs connect responders with trained colleagues who understand the unique challenges of emergency services because they have experienced them firsthand. Sometimes, simply talking with someone who understands can make all the difference. Peer support is confidential, compassionate, and focused on helping responders recognize stress before it becomes overwhelming.

Marshall County Emergency Management encourages all emergency response agencies to make mental wellness a priority. Just as we maintain our equipment, complete ongoing training, and prepare for disasters, we must also care for the people who dedicate themselves to protecting our communities. Our community

also plays an important role. A simple "thank you," a kind word, or understanding that responders may be processing difficult calls can go a long way. Supporting the mental health of first responders helps ensure they remain healthy, resilient, and ready to serve when our community needs them most. Taking care of those who take care of us is not a sign of weakness, it is a sign of strength. Together, we can build a culture where asking for help is encouraged, peer support is valued, and no responder feels they have to face life's toughest moments alone.

Marshall County Emergency Management proudly supports the mental wellness of all first responders and encourages anyone serving in emergency services to reach out to their agency's peer support resources or trusted leaders whenever they need assistance. Strong responders build stronger communities.

Kimberly Elder Emergency Management Coordinator & Proud Member of the IEMA Peer Support Team