

December 2025 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

- Dec. 4** – City EOP Workshop
- Dec. 8** – Board of Health Meeting
- Jan. 7-9, 2026** – ICS 300 (Dallas Co)
- Jan. 12-13, 2026** – Recovery from Disaster: The Local Government Role
- Feb. 20-21, 2026** – CERT Class
- Mar. 7, 2026** – EMS Conference
- April 22-23, 2026** – Emergency Planning (Dallas 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
- ESF8 – Public Health
- ESF10 – Hazardous Materials
- RSF – Health and Social Services
- RSF - Housing

ADDITIONAL PLAN UPDATES

- Mass Fatality Plan – appendix for ESF8
- Mass Casualty Incident Response – appendix for ESF8

PROJECTS

- EM Website
- Alert Iowa
- Salamander
- Grants
- City EOPs
- Updating 28Es
- Updating EM Policies
- Updating CERT Policies
- Assisting IVH and Meskwaki shelter planning
- School safety planning meetings
- EMS conference
- Red Cross Sheltering updates
- EMA Trailer(s) Inventory



BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) 2024

***Terror at Beslan* – John Giduck**

Coming Soon!

Watch this newsletter for updates on projects currently underway that will fully integrate the Marshall County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

GOALS FOR 2026

- Website operational
- Community engagement/relations
- Improvement of Marshall Co. EMA standards Countywide
- Full Implentation of Alert Iowa & Salamander systems

Salamander Update

The Salamander system continues to be in full swing as multiple agencies have attended previous trainings that were held in November. Salamander is the future to accountability, security and administrative to an organization. There are tons of great and beneficial features that help improve an organization's structure. The Salamander system has been adapted by multiple cities and agencies, such as the City of Melbourne, Marshalltown Police and Fire, and Marshall County Engineer's Office to name a few.

This system is to bring greater accountability, tracking, and security to Marshall Counties organizations and agencies as we are not immune to natural disasters within the Marshall County.

If anyone was unable to attend one of those trainings date and wants more information on the Salamander system or join, please do not hesitate to reach out to Matt.

NOTES FROM KIM

Wow! There are so many moving parts in Emergency Management, even more than I have seen in any year I have been in EM. Maybe this abundance of work is because I am becoming more knowledgeable as I go along (21 years in EM), maybe it is more unfunded mandates being handed down, maybe it is because I am more and more passionate about the safety and security of our communities in Marshall County...I would beg to differ that it is a lot of each. I began to realize just how much I was involved in and with after Matt came onboard and started taking some of the workload, and he is running out of hours in the day, also. Emergency Management is an ever changing and ever growing part of so many partner's plans, exercises, and trainings. We are meeting with partners through in-person and online meetings and trainings pretty much every day of the week. We work with everyone from the private business owners, to the non-governmental agencies, to the department heads of the county and cities. Each of these partners are a piece of the puzzle when

it comes to protecting our county, our state, and our country. We all play a role in preparedness. If our community members are not prepared, our first responders are overtasked when a disaster or emergency situation occurs. One of my favorite parts of emergency management is getting out to the community, into the schools, attending community events, and training/talking about preparedness to each and every one, every partner. They realize how they can make a difference, how they can help themselves, their families, their neighborhoods...and in turn help to alleviate the burden on county responders and government. Training each and every person saves time, saves money, and ultimately saves lives. It is so rewarding to be a part of the big picture. As we enter into the next federal fiscal year, we get into updating many of the plans that are mentioned in this newsletter, this is another way that partners work together to not only write a plan, but to go through it and make sure it is going to work in

real world situations. The best written plans mean nothing if they sit on the shelf and are not exercised and reviewed. It takes all partners to know their roles and responsibilities and know their own and others' capabilities before dark sky times. This is where the work starts every day at the office and at the partner meetings; getting to know each other and what resources and strengths we all bring to the table. Marshall County is blessed with many people, whether an elected official, a first responder, a business owner, or a private citizen, who wants to help their community, and their neighbor and Emergency Management is the conduit between them all. I am proud to say I am part of the behind the scenes work that goes on. The boards, commissions, taskforces, and the in-the-middle-of-the-sidewalk meetings all add up to better relationships, communication, cooperation, and collaboration that is used to make our county safer and a better place. -Kim