

February 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

- Feb. 3** – CERT meeting
- Feb. 3-4** – Leveraging Tools for Conducting Damage Assessments
- Feb. 11** – Damage Assessment Training
- Feb. 17-18** Medical Countermeasures (Delaware Co)
- Feb. 20-21** – CERT Basic Training
- Feb. 26** – MCEMSA Meeting
- Mar. 4** – WebEOC Training
- Mar. 7** – Marshall Co. EMS Conference
- Mar. 14** – COOG for Rural Communities
- Mar 17** - Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting
- Mar. 18-19** – Warning Coordination (Polk Co)
- Mar. 26** – MCEMSA Meeting
- Mar 31-Apr. 2** – IS 300
- April 22-23** – 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
- Marshall County Hazard Mitigation Plan (FEMA requirement)

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
- Peer Support for First Responders



BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) 2024

Emergency Management: Principles and Practice for Local Government – William Waugh Jr. & Gregory Streib

GOALS FOR 2026

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

Changes to EMA Budget



The Marshall County Emergency Management Commission approved a change in the funding option used for the EMA Budget fiscal year 2027.

The Emergency Management Agency was funded in past years by one of the options sets by 29.c of the Iowa Code. It was a voluntary assessment for each city and the county set by the Commission. This was roughly based on the population of the jurisdiction and a percentage increase as needed annually.

This option was not as transparent for taxpayers as the commission would like and thus for fiscal year 2027 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027) the Emergency Management Agency presented another 29.c option which is a countywide levy funded through the County General Supplemental fund, also an option under Iowa Administrative Code 29C. This will be the funding mechanism that is used starting July 1, 2026. Taxpayers will see the budget approved by the EM Commission on their tax statements labeled Emergency Management.

NOTES FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

As I sit here looking at the different piles of information on my desk, I remember just how many different partners we have in Emergency Management. There are the traditional partners you would think of, such as the local elected officials, local first responders, and county department heads. The partners that we have with the state and federal levels are pretty evident in the work we do with Iowa Homeland Security and FEMA but there are also those like the Department of Animal and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University, Department of Health and Human Services, etc. There are so many different state and federal partners. We also work across county lines, as those lines mean little to the severe storms that pass over them with no consideration that there is a different emergency manager on either side of the invisible line. So, we work with our surrounding partner agencies in counties that are contiguous and not. There are many opportunities to build

these partnerships at trainings, exercises, and actual disaster or emergency events. We all know that the invisible map lines do not mean that we won't respond to help one another. There are agreements in place to help with this 'crossing of jurisdictional lines'.

There are also the non-traditional partners such as local business owners, private agencies, and residents in our county that play a huge role in preparedness and response.

Every day we are working with many of these partners, planning events to be safer environments for our residents, planning for response to help protect life and property in a more organized and efficient way, and working to prepare individuals to take care of themselves, their families, their neighbors, and their communities. We know that if we are all better prepared, we will save lives, we will recover quicker.

The tangled web we weave may look disorganized to some, but it is a beautiful woven tapestry of partnership. Emergency Management brings partners to the table to meet other partners that would not on a "normal day" be in the same circles, so that we can learn from each other and grow stronger as a prepared community.

Stronger, more resilient communities are our goal and each partner relationship is essential.

Thank you for your partnership and dedication to becoming better, stronger, prepared, and resilient.

Kimberly Elder,
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Coordinator

