

# January 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

- Jan. 7-9** – ICS 300 (Dallas Co)
- Jan. 8** – EM Commission Budget Hearing/Meeting
- Jan. 12-13** – Recovery from Disaster: The Local Government Role
- Jan. 18** – IS 100.c Course
- Jan. 22** – Mass Fatality Plan Meeting/Workshop
- Jan 27-29** – ICS 300 (Wapello Co)
- Feb. 3** – CERT meeting
- Feb. 20-21** – CERT Basic Training
- Mar. 7** – EMS Conference
- Mar 17** - Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting
- 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

## 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

*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

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# Grant Update

With the lack of grants at the local, state, federal, or private level. EM has decided to place one of the grants on hold which includes the EOC/Training facility updates along with additional office/storage for growing staff of EM personnel. The other two grants are ready to be submitted when the grants become open at the beginning of January and close at the end of February.

Emergency Management is continuously looking into areas of improvement within variable areas within Marshall County to better prepare, protect, mitigate, response and recover to serve communities and residents.

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## NOTES FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

As we make our way into the new year, I would like to challenge each and every one of you to think about what it takes to fully prepare yourself for a disaster, before it strikes. Why is it important for each individual to prepare themselves for emergencies? If each person is responsible for themselves, think of how much less weight and responsibility that places on the first responders that are coming to help. There are not enough first responders in our communities to assist each and every individual.

What can you do to protect yourself, your family, your place of work, your school, your community, and ultimately safe lives? How can you take small steps forward each day of the new year to better prepare and be stronger in the face of an emergency? How can you reach out to others around you, at home and in public, to promote preparedness?

I would suggest starting with what you can do to protect yourself every day by prevention.

Let's use the example of a home fire. Prevention (Mitigation) is the process by which one can change the way things are done to stop something from happening. An example of prevention methods would be to prevent fire injury or deaths by installing and maintaining smoke detectors in a home. This prevention measure can alert you to danger and allow time to escape a fire, thus preventing injury or death. Preparing is also included in the prevention step just mentioned, by preparing your home and yourself for a fire by installing the smoke detectors and knowing what to do if they go off. Do you have a plan? Plan to escape the home if there is a fire, plan several exit routes and share these plans with anyone living in the home. The next step is doing a walkthrough of those plans to make sure they are going to work and to assure that everyone understands the plans.

Having to respond to an actual house fire in your own home is a rare occurrence but if you do not prevent, prepare, and plan, there is a high chance of injury or death.

All these steps are important in preparing for all types of emergencies and disasters. If all the individuals in Marshall County prepared, it would make recovery from disasters faster and ultimately a better outcome.

Become involved in preparedness classes, put together emergency kits (first aid, tornado shelter, vehicle safety, etc.), draw out a plan of escape for house fires, find out where it is safest to shelter in a severe thunderstorm or tornado. All of these things add up to a better prepared individual, and in turn a better prepared community.

Here's to a safe and secure 2026 – Kimberly Elder

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