

# July 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

- July 7** – Flooding Hazards: Science and Preparedness
- July 22** – Tornado Awareness
- July 22/23** – RAGBRAI Marshall County
- July 29** – Intermediate EOC Functions
- August 4** – Planning For Disaster Debris Management
- August 6** – HazMat IQ Tactics: Battery IQ (Dallas Co)
- August 8** – DOT Hazardous Materials Transportation (Marshall Co)
- August 19** – Social Media Engagement Strategies
- August 25** – Evacuation Planning Strategies and Solutions
- August 27** – Leveraging Tools to Conduction Damage Assessments

### 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
- 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
- Peer Support for First Responders
- RAGBRAI Preplanning



### BOOKS OF THE MONTH

***Weather: A Force of Nature*** by The Royal Meteorological Society

***Storm: Chasing Nature's Wildest Weather*** by Hank Schyma

### 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

# RAGBRAI Month

All the preparedness and coordination over the past several months will finally be worth it in about three weeks' time when RAGBRAI comes into the western part of Marshall County on July 22<sup>nd</sup> with an overnight stop in Marshalltown and leaving the northeast part of Marshall County on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. There are tons of festivals to happen in the 13<sup>th</sup> St. District and Main St Business District.

Marshall County Emergency Management staff along with Emergency Operation Center (EOC) staff will be active for roughly 36 hours between the two days that RAGBRAI riders, support vehicles, and RAGBRAI support staff are in Marshall County.



## What Does Emergency Management Do Every Day?

When most people think of Emergency Management, they often think of tornadoes, floods, or other disasters. While responding to emergencies is an important part of our job, much of our work happens long before disaster strikes.

Emergency Management professionals work every day to help communities prepare for, respond to, recover from, and reduce the impacts of emergencies. This includes coordinating with fire departments, law enforcement, EMS, public health, schools, hospitals, public works, volunteer organizations, schools, and local government officials.

On a typical day, Emergency Management may be updating emergency plans, conducting training and exercises, monitoring weather conditions, managing grants, coordinating public safety projects, maintaining emergency communication systems, checking and testing equipment, and providing preparedness information to residents.

We also work closely with state and federal partners to ensure resources are available when they are needed most.

After disasters, Emergency Management helps assess damages, coordinate recovery efforts, and assist local governments and residents with available assistance programs.

Our goal is simple: to help protect lives, property, and the quality of life in our community. While emergencies may not happen every day, preparedness is a daily responsibility. By planning ahead and building strong partnerships, we help ensure Marshall County is ready for whatever challenges may come our way.

Preparedness starts before an emergency—and that work never stops.

Have a great month!

*Kimberly Elder*  
Emergency Management Coordinator