

March 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

- Mar. 4** – WebEOC Training
- Mar. 7** – Marshall Co. EMS Meeting/Conference
- Mar. 10** – EM Special Commission Meeting
- Mar. 10-11** – Hazard Mitigation One-on-One Appointments
- Mar. 11** – 99 Counties Project; Marshall County Public Health
- Mar. 12** – Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
- Mar. 16** – Board of Health Meeting
- Mar. 17** – Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting
- Mar. 18-19** – Warning Coordination (Polk Co)
- Mar. 30-31** – Evacuation Planning Strategies
- Mar 31-Apr. 2** – IS 300
- April 1** – WebEOC Intermediate Training
- April 2** – EMPD #2 (Polk Co)
- Apr7-8** – Public Information in All-Hazards Incidents
- April 14-15** – Planning: Emergency Operations

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

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

PROJECTS

- EM Website
- 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
- EMA Trailer(s) Inventory
- Peer Support for First Responders
- RAGBRAI Preplanning



BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Principles of Emergency Management: Hazard Specific Issues and Mitigation Strategies
by Michael J Fagel

The Disaster Recovery Handbook by Michael J Fagel

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

Grant Update



At the end of February, two grant applications submitted by the Emergency Management Office officially closed and have now entered the review phase. We will await further communication as they proceed through the evaluation process.

The Emergency Management Office remains confident in the strength of these proposals and is optimistic that our efforts will result in securing funding to further enhance and support the future of Marshall County.



FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

I am ready for spring, how about you? Spring can mean some exciting things ahead. It can mean graduations are near, celebrations of the next step in young lives. Spring means flowers and trees waking up from their slumber, the much needed rest that many animals also take, to refresh and get ready for the busy spring, summer, and fall season. Spring in the emergency management world means ramping up the thunderstorm season, by planning and training for the possibility of severe storms affecting our communities. These are inevitable, and a part of the change of seasons. Our slogan of "Be prepared, not scared" is repeated over and over when we do any type of community preparedness training. We don't want anyone panicking or scared of what emergency situations can bring or when a storm turns severe. Being prepared means being more comfortable with the options available to be safer and know how to react when faced with an emergency situation.



March, coming in like a lion or a lamb?



How do you prepare for spring storms?

Knowing the difference between a storm watch and warning is important. Watches mean just that, watch for the chances of storms, there is a possibility. Warnings mean there are severe storms imminent and will happen in or near you. Get ready!

Warning systems used in Marshall County are outdoor warning sirens, NOAA weather radios, Alert Iowa, local radar (tv stations), local radio, and online options/applications. Needless to say, these are all great options, and we have a lot of availability for storm warning. Alert Iowa is a great way to get tailored information sent directly to your phone/e-mail. It is as easy as a quick sign up at Alert Iowa and select Marshall County.

Have a happy spring and be prepared, not scared!
Kimberly Elder,
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