

November 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

- Nov. 4-5** - Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program
- Nov. 11** - Intro to Salamander
- Nov. 13** - EM Commission Meeting
- Nov. 14-20** - International EM Conference (Louisville)
- Nov. 20 & 21** - Intro to Salamander
- Nov. 24** - Hazard Mitigation Plan Community/ Plan Partner Kickoff
- Dec. 4** - City EOP Workshop
- Jan. 12-13** - Recovery from Disaster: The Local Government Role
- Mar. 7, 2026** - EMS Conference

PLAN UPDATES

Continuous updates for 2025 -2026 plans are in full swing as updates are scheduled to be submitted to the state before July 1, 2026.

- ESF4 - Firefighting
- ESF9 - Search & Rescue
- ESF10 - Hazardous Materials
- ESF13 - Public Safety

ADDITIONAL PLAN UPDATES

- Mass Fatality Plan
- Mass Casualty Incident Response
- Hazard Mitigation Plan - County
- Starting 2027 ESF's

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



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

Grants Update

Three grants are in the works. First, the new outdoor warnings (tornado) siren and the legacy (old) system do not communicate on the same radio system. Secondly, EMA has no additional radios to loan out to response partners during a disaster (CERT, EMS or Fire) which is problematic as communication is key during a disaster. Thirdly, the EOC/Training facility needs a few more updates. Additional office space/storage for growth of EM personnel. All grants are in the paperwork/filing stage with most applications due in February 2026.

The federal grants are far and few between, especially with the federal shutdown, so continued research into local and private grants is being done.

EM is continuously looking into areas of improvement within Marshall County to better serve its communities and residents. We are always willing to take ideas/suggests.

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