

# October 2026 Newsletter

Kim Elder, EM Coordinator  
Matt Vogeler, EM Specialist

[kelder@marshallcountya.gov](mailto:kelder@marshallcountya.gov)

[mvogeler@marshallcountya.gov](mailto:mvogeler@marshallcountya.gov)



## Welcome to the Marshall County EMA Newsletter

Monthly updates on everything that happened in the Marshall County Emergency Management world, locally and nationally, in the past month, along with events happening soon!



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 6-8** – Integration of Cybersecurity Personnel into the EOC for Cyber Incidents (Polk Co)
- Oct. 13-14** – Community Planning for Disaster Recovery (Virtual)
- Oct. 14-16** – Annual Iowa Homeland Security Conference (Polk Co)
- Oct. 20** – Disaster Recovery in Rural Communities (Johnson Co)
- Oct. 20-21** – Winter Weather Hazards: Science and Preparedness (Virtual)
- Oct. 28-29** – Medical Preparedness & Response for Bombing Incidents (Marion Co)
- Nov. 4-5** – ICS 400 Advanced (Polk Co)

## PLAN UPDATES

Plans for 2027 are starting as EMA works a year ahead of schedule. Looking ahead to 2027, ESFs and RSF's that will be reviewed/updated:

- ESF6 – Mass Care (complete)
- ESF8 – Public Health (complete)
- ESF10 – Hazardous Materials
- RSF – Health and Social Services (reviewing)
- RSF- Housing (reviewing)

## ADDITIONAL PLAN UPDATES

- Family Assistance Center Plan
- Mass Casualty Plan
- Marshall County Hazard Mitigation Plan (FEMA reviewing)

## PROJECTS

- Alert Iowa
- Salamander
- Grants
- City EOPs
- School safety planning meetings
- Peer Support for First Responders
- Warming/Cooling Shelter Update
- Local Healthcare Coalition
- EMS Annual Grant
- Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
- Responder Training
- Updates of Recovery & Emergency Support Functions



## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

*Integrating Emergency Management and Disaster Behavioral Health* by Brian Flynn & Ronald Sherman

## GOALS FOR 2026

- Community engagement/relations
- Improvement of Marshall Co. EMA standards Countywide
- Full implementation of Alert Iowa & Salamander systems countywide
- Training Opportunities for Marshall County first responders and local officials
- Outdoor Warnings Sirens upgrades

## October Emergency Management Focuses

Prepare for power outages by stocking up on essentials such as flashlights, extra batteries, and a battery-powered or hand-crank radio. Operate generators outdoors only to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.



### NOTES FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

Wow, where does the time go? This year is flying by. We seem to be in monsoon season right now, with all the Iowa aquifers refilling nicely, but the fields and yards are a big squish with all the rain we have received.

It is a great time to remind everyone to check their sump pumps, if they have one. Sumps relieve water pressure (hydrostatic pressure) from the outside of the basement walls by pumping that water away from the building's foundation. Make sure the sump lines that push water out of the sump pits are far enough from the foundation so the sump can work as designed. It is illegal to tie a sump pump or footing tile into your home's sanitary sewer line. Water should be discharged into your own yard, into a side or rear yard, drainage ditches, or approved city storm sewers. To learn the rules and regulations for sump pump discharge, contact the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Just as important is making sure those gutters are clean and the downspouts are directed away from the building's foundation. You can mostly prevent foundation damage from rain, flooding, ice buildup, etc. by planning.

Since we are talking 'planning' let's

remember that the seasons change and we need to plan for that.

Fall is a beautiful time of year, with a lot of new activities as summer fun winds down. Watch for kids near roads as they go to and from school and school activities. Respect school buses and areas where children wait for buses, as well as drop-off/pick-up areas around schools. Some ride bikes along school routes, so be aware of those, too. Awareness is a preparedness step.

Farm machinery shares the roads this time of year, going from farm to field and to harvest the crops that feed us and the livestock. Remember, they are generally slower-moving and can take more of the road at times when they cannot use the shoulder. Slow down, be aware, don't be distracted, and be respectful. We see many crashes that an alert driver could have prevented. If you happen to be the farmer in the tractor, respect goes both ways. Be sure to use turn signals, hand signals, and signage to help alert those vehicles around you on the

road. We all want to get home safe and sound.

As Halloween and fall festivals get underway, have fun and be safe. Many trick-or-treaters wear masks that may prevent them from seeing to the side or down, which may cause accidents. Prevention is key; wear safer costumes if you are out and about enjoying the candy and fun. Wear reflective tape, use reflective bags, and carry a flashlight so traffic can see you and you can see your path.

As the nights get cooler and you turn on heaters or furnaces, have a professional check them for safety each season. Small steps can prevent illness or death from fire or carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep space heaters away from flammable items and liquids and make sure there are no frayed cords or drop cords. They should be plugged directly into an electrical outlet. A furnace inspection is a great way to start the change of season.

Happy Fall, everyone! Stay safe.

*Kimberly Elder, Emergency Management Coordinator & Proud Member of the IEMA Peer Support Team*