



Tama County EMA/E911 Newsletter

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Upcoming Training Opportunities

Haz Mat Ops Recertification –

A Hazardous Materials Operations Level Recertification will be held at the Lincoln Fire Station on June 8th 2011 from 6:00pm till 10:00pm.

Incident Command System Basics-

An ICS class will be held at the Tama County Board of Supervisors Chambers on June 13th 2011 from Noon till 5pm.

Nursing Home Evacuation Tabletop –

A Tama Nursing Home Evacuation Tabletop will be held later in June, interested agencies should contact the EMA office.

Iowa Partners in Preparedness Conference 6/22-23/11 @ 7:30AM

Contact Information: Brian Lake 703-894-7414

IS-240 Leadership & Influence Camp Dodge, Johnston

7/20/11-7/21/11 @ 8am-4pm

Contact Information: Beth Lewis 515-725-3204 beth.lewis@iowa.gov

IS-241 Camp Dodge, Johnston

9/15/11 @ 8am-4pm

Contact Information: Beth Lewis 515-725-3204 beth.lewis@iowa.gov

25th Annual CITA-Kirkwood Fire School September 24 and 25, 2011

An important note on NIMS and all FEMA I.S. Classes:

Important Notice: Due to limited need and improved technology access, as of April 29, 2011, Independent Study exam answers will no longer be accepted on Form 064-0-9. Form 064-0-9 is commonly called an "Opscan form" or "Scantron sheet". All answers will need to be submitted via the internet at <http://training.fema.gov/IS>

8th Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference

West Des Moines, Iowa

Nov. 1-2, 2011 @ Not available at this time, check back for more details

New 911 / EMA Coordinator & New Dispatcher

Tama County has a new 911 / EMA Coordinator, Ryan Currens started on May 16, 2011.

Ryan can be contacted at:

Office Telephone: (641) 484 – 6261

Office E-Mail: rcurrens@ema.tamacounty.org

Or by dropping by the Communications Center

Ryan has a combination of law enforcement, dispatch, first responder, firefighting, instructing and military experience. Ryan is a former Tama County Dispatcher and former Traer Fire Department firefighter. He has his Masters degree in Public Policy from the University of St. Thomas. Ryan has additional firefighting experience through the Woodward and St. Louis Park Fire Departments and has served as a FSTB Field Instructor for several Firefighter I and Firefighter II classes within Tama County.

Please contact Ryan with any questions or concerns you may have reference Tama County Emergency Management Agency or the Tama County 911 Communications Center or staff.

The Tama County 911 Communications Center also has a new Dispatcher! Matthew Schlichting will start with 911 on June 6th. Look for Matthew in an upcoming issue of the newsletter in the meet a Dispatcher section. Matthew is from Traer and has served as a Traer EMS volunteer.

Emergency Responder IDs

Due to a recent change within the Iowa D.O.T. the emergency responder Identification Cards previously issued out of the Tama County Emergency Management Agency office will no longer be available. Instead each department head will need to issue Iowa DOT form #: 431059 to each individual serving as an emergency responder who wishes to have an ID. This form can then be taken to the Tama County Treasurer's Office, where the responder will have to pay the fee of \$1, have their picture taken, and provide the address of the agency they are a responder for (the ID must be mailed to the agency, it can not be mailed to the individual).

This change is a part of the Iowa D.O.T.'s efforts to avoid fraudulent activity as part of their central issuance campaign. (Licenses are no longer issued same day) It is the department head's responsibility to ensure retired / inactive members return their ID.

Tama County Treasurer's Office:

Driver License Department: 8:00 - 4:00, Monday - Friday (except Holidays)

Phone: (641) 484-3141

The Treasurer's Office does NOT accept credit or debit cards for Driver's License payment.

As of right now the Tama County Emergency Management Agency does not have an operating way of issuing Emergency Responder Identification.

Geiger Counters / Teddy Bears / ZAM Electronic Communicators

The Tama County Emergency Management Agency has several Geiger Counters available for any Tama County Emergency Response department that is willing to commit to having at least six of their members trained on their use. Please contact Coordinator Currens if interested. Quantities are limited; this will be a first come, first served item.



The Tama County Emergency Management Agency also has several donated Teddy Bears available for any county agency that has regular interaction with children that would like them. Please contact the EMA office if interested. Quantities are limited; this will be a first come, first served item.

We also have several boxes of 9-1-1 pencils available, please contact the Emergency Management Agency office if you are interested in a box (they come in boxes of 250 pencils).

Lastly, the Tama County Emergency Management Agency has two ZAM Electronic Communicators available to any county agency that deals with individuals who may have communication issues. Please contact Coordinator Currens if interested. Quantities are limited; this will be a first come, first served item.



Asset Surveys

County wide asset surveys have also been mailed out to each emergency response agency. If you did not get yours or have questions please contact the Tama County Emergency Management Agency as soon as possible. We would like to have all of these in so we can re-disseminate the information back out to the rest of the county response agencies as soon as possible.

This information will only be transmitted to other emergency response agencies and can be greatly useful to neighboring agencies in the event of a major incident.

These surveys are being sent for Civil, Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement agencies.

Code Red

Tama County has just renewed our CodeRed agreement. Bills were sent out to each City to pay their allotment based on population. Minutes in the CodeRed system have been assigned based on population as well.

Each City's Minute Bank:

Chelsea- 521
Clutier- 416
Dysart- 2,691
Elberon- 383
Garwin- 1,029
Gladbrook- 1,844
Lincoln- 316
Meskwaki Settlement- 2,073
Montour- 486
Toledo- 4,569
Traer- 3,324
Vining- Included in county minutes

NIMS

Update on NIMS, Important Notice: Due to limited need and improved technology access, as of April 29, 2011, Independent Study exam answers will no longer be accepted on Form 064-0-9. Form 064-0-9 is commonly called an "Opscan form" or "Scantron sheet". All answers will need to be submitted via the internet at <http://training.fema.gov/IS>

Please remember that Local Government Officials are included in the list of individuals who need NIMS certification, if you have any new Local Officials in your jurisdiction please remind them of their role and NIMS requirement.

Access NIMS at:

<http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is700.asp>

“IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction”

Course Overview

You can also find information about NIMS at <http://www.fema.gov/nims/>

This course introduces NIMS and takes approximately three hours to complete. It explains the purpose, principles, key components and benefits of NIMS. The course also contains "Planning Activity" screens giving you an opportunity to complete some planning tasks during this course. The planning activity screens are printable so that you can use them after you complete the course.

What will I be able to do when I finish this course?

- Describe the key concepts and principles underlying NIMS.
- Identify the benefits of using ICS as the national incident management model.
- Describe when it is appropriate to institute an Area Command.
- Describe when it is appropriate to institute a Multiagency Coordination System.
- Describe the benefits of using a Joint Information System (JIS) for public information.
- Identify the ways in which NIMS affects preparedness.
- Describe how NIMS affects how resources are managed.
- Describe the advantages of common communication and information management systems.
- Explain how NIMS influences technology and technology systems.
- Describe the purpose of the NIMS Integration Center

Course Length: Approximately 3 hours

Narrowbanding

Old Equipment - We have received word that the Council Bluffs Police Department is collecting old radio equipment that is no longer being used (or that will no longer be used due to the FCC regulations) for Afgan Police Officers. Interested agencies can contact Officer Greg Becker at 227 South 6th Street Council Bluffs Iowa 51503 or 712-328-4716 Monday through Friday 0800-1600 or email at jgbecker@cbpolice.org.

Radio Communications – Is currently in the process of reviewing the equipment surveys each department submitted in order to determine what equipment will be Narrowband compatible. They will be getting us price quotes as soon as possible, we will contact each department as their information becomes available.

Funding - For agencies not in a position to fund their entire communications needs from existing resources, grant funding can supplement what's available locally. Below is a short reference of some of the communications-friendly grant programs available from the federal government.

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). Of the DHS programs, the SHSP is likely the broadest in scope and most far-reaching in its impact of a variety of state, local and tribal homeland-security partners. The program provides \$842 million that must support terrorism preparedness by building, or in many cases enhancing, various capabilities that relate to the prevention and response to terrorism. Fortunately, many capabilities that support terrorism preparedness simultaneously support preparedness for other "all hazards" such as natural disaster, public safety and emergency management. Communications network infrastructure and end-user devices would be appropriate here. Potential applicants may want to think about developing a regional project instead of a strictly local-level initiative. Contact your state administrative agency (SAA) for additional information and next steps at www.fema.gov/government/grant/saa/index.shtm.

Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS). This program provides \$40 million to 124 individually identified jurisdictions to support local emergency management, health and medical systems to develop a coordinated local response capability. Solutions involving continuation of operations in the aftermath of an emergency and interoperable communications are appropriate here. Visit www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/2010/fy10_hsgp_kit.pdf for additional information.

Operation Stonegarden Program (OPSG). This DHS program provides \$60 million for security of U.S. borders — international maritime borders as well as those bordering Mexico and Canada. OPSG is designed to enhance coordination among federal, state and local law enforcement. Programmatic support would include funding interoperable communications projects for those responsible for the security of U.S. borders.

Justice Assistance Grants (JAG). This Department of Justice (DOJ) program, funded at more than \$500 million in 2010, provides multiple funding avenues for grant support. Forty percent of the JAG funds available are provided directly to large municipalities based on a Bureau of Statistics formula using variables such as population and part one violence crime statistics. Information on direct JAG allocations is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/10jagallocations.html. The JAG program's allowance for local spending discretion makes this a prime program for local-level communications efforts. The remaining 60 percent of the total JAG money will make its way to each state. States will retain a portion of this money for state-level activities, but are also required to pass through a pre-determined percentage to local applicants. Contact your JAG state administrative agency (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/saa/index.htm) for additional information on this pass-through process and timeline.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). The program, with funding of \$340 million in 2010, provides financial assistance directly to fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations. Grant support is offered in an effort to enhance various capabilities with respect to fire-related hazards. The AFG supports three individual application categories with areas of giving ranging from turnout gear and vehicles to regional communications initiatives. In addition to providing funding for individual communications equipment, the program will also support communications network needs such as trunked radio systems, wireless technologies and other creative communications projects that support interoperability. Additional information is available at www.firegrantsupport.com.

Meet a Dispatcher

Jeremy Cremeans -

My name is Jeremy Cremeans and I am a Dispatcher / Certified Trainer with Tama County E911. I have been employed with Tama County since April 2005. I first started with emergency services in 1996 as a Fire Fighter and have continued with emergency services since. I am married to Crystal who I met here at Tama County before she went to Marshall County where she is currently a part-time Dispatcher. I have two beautiful daughters, Jenna (9) and Jordyn (7), who attend South Tama Elementary. I live in Toledo and in my spare time I enjoy traveling, camping, being with family and watching my daughters play sports.

Jeremy currently works the 8am – 4pm shift Friday through Tuesday.



Jeremy is pictured in the Tama County Command Trailer.