



# Tama County EMA/E911

## Newsletter

### Fall 2012

### Issue 9

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#### Contact Information

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Like the Tama County Emergency Management Agency on Facebook.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tama-County-Emergency-Management-Agency/156362171096409>

**If you have an item or topic you would like researched for a future issue of the EMA / 911 Newsletter please let us know, we will be happy to include it in the next edition.**

# Upcoming Training Opportunities

Live Fire Skills Weekend- October 13-14, 2012

Hazardous Materials Symposium – October 18-19, 2012

November 3 – 4 – NATA Training Academy in Fort Dodge

FSTB Instructor's Conference – November 9-10, 2012

## **National Fire Academy Courses In Iowa**

**Contact:** Jim Kenkel, Special Programs Coordinator - [kenkel@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:kenkel@dps.state.ia.us)

RDPC Class – February 23, 2013 – More information on page 6

Emergency Responder Skills Month – February 2013 – More information on page 9

Waterloo NIRG Haz Mat Trainings for 2012-2013 – More information on page 10

Annual State Fire School - Save-the-Date: February 22-24, 2013

Arson/Fire Investigation School - Save-the-Date: March 11-22, 2013

## NOAA / NWS Storm Ready

The Tama County Emergency Management Agency has recently submitted an application with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration & the National Weather Service for their Storm Ready county classification.

One of the many steps in this process is a letter of support from each and every city in the county. The template for this letter was sent to each city, but if another is needed please contact the Tama County Emergency Management Agency.

We have already received one letter of support (Thank you City of Lincoln) and hope to have the rest whenever possible.

If you have any questions about Storm Ready you can check out the NWS web page on Storm Ready at:

<http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/>

Or contact the Tama County Emergency Management Agency.

Thank you for your support and for helping Tama County be Storm Ready.

Information from NOAA / NWS on Storm Ready:

“Americans live in the most severe weather-prone country on Earth. Each year, Americans cope with an average of 10,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, 1,000 tornadoes, and an average of 2 landfalling deadly hurricanes. And this on top of winter storms, intense summer heat, high winds, wild fires and other deadly weather impacts. You can make sure your community is ready for the weather with the National Weather Service's **StormReady**® program.

Some 90% of all presidentially declared disasters are weather related, leading to around 500 deaths per year and nearly \$14 billion in damage. StormReady, a program started in 1999 in Tulsa, OK, helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property--before and during the event. StormReady helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local safety programs.

StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives.”

## **National Weather Service Haz Mat Information**

National Weather Service – can provide dispersion models – with new system / policy  
(Per Jeff Johnson – National Weather Service) -=

On line training available at:

Training – Web Link:

[https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training\\_module.php?id=773](https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_module.php?id=773)

### HYSPLIT Applications for Emergency Decision Support

This module helps forecasters provide decision support services during hazardous materials emergencies. Topics covered include:

Types of weather data inputs required for short-range dispersion models typically used by emergency managers

Types of inputs required to run the web version of the HYSPLIT model, which is now available to NWS forecasters

The types and scales of events that are appropriate and inappropriate for modeling by HYSPLIT

Key uncertainties that can cause misleading dispersion model forecasts

The processes and limitations of CAMEO/ALOHA and HYSPLIT

How to read and interpret HYSPLIT output

How to handle special situations, such as when the spilled chemical is known or when the meteorological models do not adequately represent conditions at the spill site

The role of emergency managers and how to effectively communicate with them

In addition, two WES case studies have been sent to NWS offices. These cases provide practice running the HYSPLIT model in two scenarios that emphasize potential hazards and weather influences.

## New Dispatchers

Tama County 911 Services is please to introduce the first of our two new on-call dispatchers, April Saunders.



Here is a brief bio by April:

“Hello! My name is April McIntire and I am super excited to join Tama County 911 as an on-call dispatcher. I love to talk and to help people, so for the last 12 years dispatch has been my calling. I keep a busy schedule by working full time as a dispatcher for Benton County Sheriff’s Office, volunteer as an EMT for Belle Plaine Ambulance, volunteer for the American Red Cross Grant Wood Chapter out of Cedar Rapids, and serve as a Belle Plaine City Council Person. I am proud to say I finally graduated from Jacksonville State University with a bachelor’s degree in Emergency Management and a minor in Public Safety Communication in April of 2011. It took several years to complete my studies, but I feel it was well worth the time and efforts. I am blessed with a wonderful family-husband Paul, 2 daughters Madison (13) Hailey (10) and a son Caiden (6.) In our spare time we love to take vacations, go to the kid’s ball games, and hang around the house watching movies. If I can find the time...I also enjoy spending time with friends or curling up on the couch reading a good book. I look forward to working with ya all”

## Free RDPC Training coming to Tama County

### **AWR 209 Dealing with the Media: A Short Course for Rural First Responders**

**Saturday February 23, 2013**

*AWR 209 Dealing with the Media: A Short Course for Rural First Responders* is a six-hour tuition-free course designed to provide rural first responders with the skills and knowledge to quickly adopt the role of public information officer (PIO) if/when needed and to communicate with the public through the media. Many rural first responder organizations do not have a full or part-time PIO on staff. Therefore, in the event that a first responder is thrust into the role of PIO, whether it be roadside at the scene of an emergency or detailing directions to the public in a crisis situation, it is important to understand how the media works and how best to work with the available media outlets.

Topics covered include but are not limited to:

- Utilizing the media in emergency and public awareness situations.
- Working with the media at the scene of an emergency.
- Anticipating what news agencies want from the responders at the scene of an emergency.
- Giving interviews that work.
- Writing effective news releases that will be read.

*\*Please note all foreign nationals need to complete a Department of Homeland Security Foreign National Visitor Request Form in order to attend this course.*

Registration online or with Michelle Day:Michelle.Day@eku.edu • (606) 274-0262

Training Location and Time:  
Tama County Board of Supervisors Chambers  
104 W. State Street, Toledo, IA 52342  
Registration - 8:30am - 9:00am  
Class begins - 9:00am - 4:00pm  
Lunch on your own!

Please sign-up no later than **\*\*February 9, 2013\*\*** as a minimum of 20 registrations must be received by this date to confirm the class will be held. Should you have any questions regarding the local jurisdiction or directions to the facility please contact Ryan Currens, 641-484-6261 (p), rcurrens@ema.tamacounty.org, 641-484-2198 (f).

For information about course content or how to obtain a DHS Foreign National Visitor Request Form contact Michelle Day:Michelle.Day@eku.edu • (606) 274-0262

## Narrowbanding

Narrowbanding of municipal emergency responders is now completed through the county. If any equipment was missed on your town's day please call the Tama County 911 administrative office (641-484-6261) as soon as possible and wideband equipment may not work once the county completes the narrowbanding of the county radio towers and wideband equipment may be subject to FCC fines as of 1 January 2013.

If you or your department is experiencing any radio problems please let Tama County 911 Services know about the issue as soon as possible, the only way we can help fix an issue is to be aware of the issue.

Please contact the Communications Center any time of day at: 641-484-3760 to report a County radio system issue or call the administrative office during business hours at: 641-484-6261 to report an issue or to speak with the Director or Deputy Director, this is also the number to call for dispatch complaints.

Also here is the information again on how departments can donate old non-narrowband equipment to the Afghanistan Police:

**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 6<sup>th</sup> Street Council Bluffs Iowa 51503 or 712-328-4716 Monday through Friday 0800-1600 or email at [jgbecker@cbpolice.org](mailto:jgbecker@cbpolice.org).

## Fire Bridge Update

We recently had staff attend an FSTB class on the Fire Bridge reporting system for NFIRS. If your department would like a hand setting up or classifying your resources please call the Tama County Emergency Management at 641-484-6261.

Fire Bridge is a **free** online way for departments to submit their NFIRS to the state.

More information on fire bridge can be found at the Fire Service Training Bureau's web page or by contacting:

<http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb/index.shtml>

Alicia VerHuel, NFIRS Program Manager  
[verhuel@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:verhuel@dps.state.ia.us)

Fire Bridge can be accessed at:

<http://www.iowafirebridge.com/>

Information about Fire Bridge:

ImageTrend has a newly implemented, web-based, statewide fire reporting system called Iowa Fire Bridge. The Iowa Fire Bridge will provide over 875 Iowa based fire departments with the ability to input their fire run reports. The report writer features will allow these fire departments to tailor their reports to meet their specific needs. Fire departments will also be able to enter fire inspection reports and training documentation.

## 2013 Emergency Responder Skills Month, February 2013

Once again the Tama County Emergency Management Agency will be hosting several trainings designed to help any emergency responders achieve their yearly training requirements / goals.

This coming year will include the following:

**Saturday February 2:**

New Century FS Ammonia Safety Presentation at the Lincoln Fire Station at 0900 hours

**Saturday February 9:**

Trench Rescue Training presented by PRI at the Gladbrook Fire Station at 0900 hours

**Saturday February 16:**

Ice Water Rescue Training presented by PRI at the Chelsea Fire Station at 0900 hours

**Saturday February 23:**

**AWR 209 Dealing with the Media: A Short Course for Rural First Responders at the Tama County Board of Supervisors Chambers.** Please sign-up no later than \*\*February 9, 2013\*\*

Registration - 8:30am - 9:00am

Class begins - 9:00am - 4:00pm

**Simultaneously:**

Annual State Fire School - Save-the-Date: February 22-24, 2013

## **FREE NIRG / Waterloo Haz Mat Classes offered in 2012-2013**

The following FREE Trainings will be available through the Waterloo Haz Mat Team:

**Clandestine Laboratories Awareness –**

Garwin Fire Station at 1800 hours on Wednesday November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Hazardous Materials Operations Level Recertification –**

Chelsea Fire Station at hours on Wednesday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**Hazardous Materials Operations Level Recertification –**

Dysart Fire Station at 0900 hours on Saturday January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**Hazardous Materials Operations Level Recertification –**

Toledo Fire Station at 1800 hours on Thursday January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**Hazardous Materials Operations Level Recertification –**

Gladbrook Fire Station at 1800 hours on Wednesday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**Entry level Incident Command –**

Tama County Board of Supervisors Chambers at 1000 hours on 15 November 2012

**Confined Space Awareness –**

Traer Fire Station at 1800 hours on Monday 12 November 2012.

**Hazardous Materials Operations Initial Class** – still available to any department that can host with 12 students.

**Hazardous Materials Operations for EMS Initial Class** – still available to any department that can host with 12 students.

**Hazardous Materials Operations Level Recertification for EMS** – still available to any department that can host with 12 students.