



Tama County EMA/E911

Newsletter

Winter 2013

Issue 10



In this edition:

- Page 2 – Upcoming Trainings
- Page 3 – Phone safety / harassment / scam questions answered
- Page 4 – Special Weeks and Months of Note
- Page 5 – Interoperability Board Update
- Page 6 – New Dispatch Staff
- Page 7 – Haz Mat Information
- Page 8 – Full Scale Drill for 2013
- Page 9/10 – NWS Weather Training Information

Contact Information

Tama County Emergency Management Agency

Ryan Currens or Julie Vokoun

100 North Main Street

P.O. Box 4

Toledo, IA 52342

RCurrens@ema.tamacounty.org

Office: (641) 484 – 6261

24 hour dispatch number: (641) 484 – 3760

Webpage: www.tamacounty.org

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

National Fire Academy Courses In Iowa

Contact: Jim Kenkel, Special Programs Coordinator - kenkel@dps.state.ia.us

Wide Area Search (PER 213)

When: Aug. 20-22

8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Where: Marshall County Sheriff 2369 Jessup Ave. Marshalltown

This course is applicable to those who would need to conduct wide area searches due to a natural disaster or terrorist incident. Participants will learn practical search methods and skills in order to perform systematic searches. The course concludes with a table top exercise. The curriculum of this course is based on lessons learned from search operations in support of the Space Shuttle Columbia recovery, hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Dolly, Ike, and other wide-area search incidents.

Contact: Kim Elder, kelder@co.marshall.ia.us. Ω

NFPA1600 Emergency Management & Business Continuity

There is No Cost for this Class – Registration is REQUIRED

March 18 - 19, 2013

Story County Administration – 2nd floor 900 6th Street, Nevada Iowa Registration Closes February 18, 2013

*Annual State Fire School – Ames - February 22-24, 2013

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

*Indian Hills Regional Fire School – Ottumwa - March 9-10, 2013

*Northwest Regional Fire School – Sioux City - March 15-17, 2013

*Iowa Lakes Regional Fire School & EMS Ceonference – Emmetsburg – March 23-24, 2013

*Hawkeye Community College Fire School – Waterloo – March 23, 2013

*CITA Fire School – Cedar Rapids – September 29-29, 2013

*NATA Fire School – Fort Dodge – November 2-3, 2013

*Hazardous Material Operations Recertification – Chelsea Fire – February 20, 2013 at 1800

*Hazardous Material Operations Recertification for EMS – Traer Fire – February 21, 2013 at 1800

*Trench Rescue – Gladbrook Fire – February 9, 2013 at 0900

*Ice Rescue – Chelsea Fire – February 16, 2013 at 0900

*AWR 209 “Dealing with the Media for rural responders” (Registration required) – Board of Supervisors Chambers – February 23, 2013 at 0900

Telephone Safety Information Common Questions Answered

Tips

- Use your first initial and last name in the phone book.
- When not at home, use an answering machine. Have it answer that you cannot come to the phone, not that you are not at home.
- Turn the ringer down so it cannot be heard from the outside.
- In cases of emergency, dial 911.
- Don't give any personal information out if called about surveys, contests, subscription drives, purchases or deliveries until the source of the call has been verified. Ask for a number they can be called back at and confirm with what is listed in telephone book.
- Never give your name, address, or phone number to someone you don't know.
- Never give any information to "wrong number" callers, ask for the number they are trying to dial.
- Always give the impression you are not alone.
- If they ask for someone who is not there, say they can't come to the phone and ask for a name and number.
- When you first realize the caller is obscene or harassing, hang up immediately. Do not listen to them or show any type of emotional response. Report continuing incidents to the telephone company and Sheriff's Office / local Police.
- A blast from a whistle should **not** be used to discourage obscene or harassing phone calls.
- If all else fails, change your phone number and have it unlisted.

Telephone Harassment

Repetitive hang-ups, anonymous obscene phone calls and threatening e-mail messages are all examples of harassment, the most common of which is telephone harassment.

Individuals who receive harassing, annoying or threatening telephone calls are encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Office / local Police for assistance. One recommendation:

- Maintain a telephone log that documents the dates and times of calls. This will be helpful in determining what measures the police may pursue.

Harassment is a crime, punishable by a fine and/or time in jail.

Scams

Being scammed is just a phone call away — a phone call to area code 809. This popular scam could cost you more than \$100 for a few minutes of your time. The scam plays something like this: You receive an e-mail message, a message on your answering machine or on your pager urging you to immediately call an 809 area code. The message may tell you to call to avoid the cancellation of your e-mail account, to get information on a relative in danger or to claim a prize. If you call from the United States, you may be charged as much as \$25 per minute. What lies on the other end of the receiver varies from a person speaking broken English to a long recorded message, both aimed at keeping you on the phone as long as possible. The 809 area code is located in the Bahamas and can be used as a "pay-per-call" number similar to a 900 number. But unlike 900 numbers in the United States, 809 area codes do not have to conform to laws set up to avoid scams like this one. U.S. regulations require that you be warned of charges and rates involved and that the company provide a time period during which you may hang up without being charged. In addition, many U.S. phones have 900-number blocking, but this is not available for the 809 area code. The chances of getting the charges dropped are slim, according to the Internet Scambusters. In a message sent out over the Internet October 23, Scambusters warns that both your local phone company and your long distance carrier may say they were simply providing the billing for the foreign company. The foreign company can argue it has done nothing wrong and you may still be stuck with the bill because you made the call. The easiest way to avoid this hassle is not to return any calls with the 809 area code until you have investigated further.

Special Weeks/ Months from the Homeland Security Calendar

JANUARY

- National Volunteer Blood Donor Month
- National Radon Action Month
- Hazardous Materials Awareness Week (20-16)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (21)*

FEBRUARY

- National Burn Awareness Week (3-9)
- Great Central U.S. ShakeOut (7)

MARCH

- American Red Cross Month
- National Poison Prevention Week (17-23)
- Severe Weather Awareness Week (25-29)

*******INTEROPERABILITY BOARD UPDATES*******

LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE FUTURE PUBLIC SAFETY WIRELESS BROADBAND NETWORK IN FEBRUARY, 2012, CONGRESS PASSED LEGISLATION TO CREATE A NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK (NPSBN), WHICH WILL BE BUILT AS A SINGLE NATIONAL NETWORK, TO INCLUDE IOWA. THIS HIGH-SPEED WIRELESS NETWORK, DEDICATED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY'S USE, WILL PROVIDE IOWA'S FIRST RESPONDERS WITH A CRITICAL HIGH SPEED WIRELESS COMMUNICATION NETWORK TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR MISSION CRITICAL RADIO SYSTEMS. COME AND GET AN INITIAL BRIEFING ON THIS TECHNOLOGY AND PROPOSED NATIONWIDE NETWORK, AND THEN SEE A LIVE DEMONSTRATION OF WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT CAN DO FOR IOWA'S FIRST RESPONDERS. WE WILL DEMONSTRATE A HIGH-SPEED MAPPING PLATFORM, STREAMING VIDEO FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, EMS DEVICES, A DEVICE FOR FIRE PERSONNEL, AND AN APPLICATION TO HELP FIRST RESPONDERS ASSESS TRAUMA INJURIES AS A RESULT OF AUTO CRASHES. SEE THE RESULTS OF OUR PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND SURVEY AND LEARN WHAT IOWA'S ISSUES, NEEDED EQUIPMENT, AND PLANNED USES ARE FOR THIS NETWORK. EACH DEMONSTRATION WILL BE HELD AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

BUILDING, 215 E. 7TH ST., DES MOINES, IA, AND TAKE APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES, AND BE REPEATED DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

TUESDAYS (10:30 AM)	THURSDAYS (1 PM)
FEBRUARY 12, 2013	FEBRUARY 14, 2013
FEBRUARY 19, 2013	FEBRUARY 21, 2013

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 27, 2013 (1:30 PM) PLEASE REGISTER FOR DATE YOU WILL ATTEND.

[HTTP://EVENTS.CONSTANTCONTACT.COM/REGISTER/EVENT?LLR=LKJMONIAB&OEIDK=A07E6WUX](http://EVENTS.CONSTANTCONTACT.COM/REGISTER/EVENT?LLR=LKJMONIAB&OEIDK=A07E6WUX)
[EO3](#)

39B04800 YOU MAY ALSO REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.ISICSB.IOWA.GOV
THE IOWA STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY BOARD IS SPONSORING THIS EVENT FOR OUR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS, LEGISLATORS, AND LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

New Dispatcher

Tama County 911 Services is please to introduce our new on-call dispatcher, Josh Stull.

Here is a brief bio by Josh:

“I have been married to my wife, Wendy, for 13 years. We have five children Madison 13, Kaitlyn 12, Olivia 8, Natalie 6, and Joshua Jr. 5. I have been in training for dispatch for a few months now mostly on first and second shift. In my spare time I volunteer on the Toledo Fire Department and Toledo Ambulance. I am also working on finishing my BA from the University of Northern Iowa.”

Haz Mat Recertification Information

Several responders have had questions regarding the Haz Mat Ops Recertification Requirements, here is a list of the requirements as provided by Waterloo Haz Mat:

“The recert for haz mat is 8 hours per year. We provide 4 hours of that and the department, through scba training etc provides the other 4.”

A copy of the OSHA standard regarding Haz Mat Ops can be given to any requestor.

As a reminder each year Tama County gets the following free Haz Mat trainings:

- 4 Ops Recertification (4 hours)
- 1 EMS Ops Recertification (4 hours)
- 1 initial Ops Certification (16 hours)
- 1 EMS initial Ops Certification (16 hours)
- 1 Introduction to Incident Management Course (4 hours)
- 1 Clandestine Lab Course (4 hours)
- 1 Confined Space Awareness Course (4 hours)

2013 Full Scale Hands on Drill

For this year's live action training drill the Tama County Emergency Management Agency would like to invite all interested responders to a Bus versus Haz Mat vehicle accident simulation.

The drill will be held at the North Tama Athletic Complex (Highway 8 East of Traer) beginning at 0900 hours on 20 April 2013.

A meal will be provided **FREE** to all participants who register ahead of time.

Register by calling or emailing the Tama County Emergency Management Agency at: (641) 484 – 6261 or rcurrens@ema.tamacounty.org

This year's drill is made possible through collaboration with Traer EMS, AWE, North Tama County Community Schools, New Century FS and the Boy Scouts of America Troop 304.

NWS Trainings in 2013

The National Weather Service is no longer doing in-person severe weather spotter trainings in each county each year, instead as a cost savings, they are having 11 for our entire portion of the state and this year is not Tama County's year to host one (we will get one next year – 2014). Here is the information for the nearest spotter training and the on-line class the NWS will be doing in our region this year:

In-person Class: **March 4**, 2013 at Hawkeye Community College in Tama Hall.

Registration will begin at 6:30pm.

Webinars are accessible via the NWS Des Moines Webpage:

Mar. 13, 2013 10:00 A.M.	Topic: Impact Based Warnings Audience: Emergency Managers, Dispatchers and Dispatch Managers and Decision-makers concerned with weather Presenter: Jeff Johnson	A 20-30 minute presentation on the new Impact Based Warning initiative which is scheduled to start in early April, 2013. Impact Based Warnings are new warning and statement wording, warning codes and tags. The webinar will explain what the changes are and their intended goals.
Mar. 6, 13, 26 Apr 3, 10 7:00 P.M.	Topic: Spotter Training Audience: Storm Spotters, Emergency Managers and Spotter Net Controllers Presenter: Varies	Multi-media presentation containing information about severe weather climatology in Iowa, how to identify severe weather in the field, thunderstorm types and threats, how to report severe weather, severe weather spotter networks, safety and more
Apr 9, 2013 10:00 A.M.	Topic: Virtual Storm Survey Training Audience: Emergency Managers Presenter: Craig Cogil	Although the NWS would like to survey all storm damage thought to be tornadic, often the NWS is unable to survey lower-end damage. It is these cases where it is difficult to determine if the damage was produced by a tornado or by thunderstorm straight-line winds. The 30 minute presentation was designed to teach what is needed and in what format to enable the NWS

to remotely assess damage.

Apr 16, 2013 7:00 P.M.

Topic: Advanced Spotter Training

Audience: Advanced Storm Spotters, Emergency Managers and Spotter Net

Pre-requisite – Attend a regular spotter presentation.

The advanced class will build on what is taught in the regular class. It is intended for those who wish to do mobile spotting and desire a deeper understanding of meso-scale and storm-scale meteorology as it relates to storm spotting.

Also:

Severe Weather Awareness Week - March 25-29 this year. Poison prevention month is also in March this year (17-23).

The statewide tornado test is scheduled for 1000 am on the 27th of March. And the regional earthquake drill/test is scheduled for February 7th at