OUR MISSION:
Protecting the whole community by coordinating, supporting, and integrating activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards.

RESULTS
A prepared, responsive and resilient community.

★★★★
Professional leadership during complex and high impact situations.

★★★★
Agreement and shared expectations supported through collaboration.

★★★★
Proven methods established around experience.

★★★★
Situational awareness produced from trusted relationships.

★★★★
Effective teamwork shaped by a common operating picture.

★★★★
Shared resources applied in a cost-effective manner.
In the United States, the Office of Civil Defense was established in May 1941 to coordinate civil defense efforts and coordinated directly with the Department of the Army.

One of these groups that still exists today is the Civil Air Patrol, which was originally created as a civilian auxiliary to the United States Army.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

PRE—1950’s

Piecemeal legislation and programs focused on natural disasters.

1950’s

A Cold War focus was delivered through civil defense programs managed mostly by retired military personnel.

1960’s

Ad hoc local approaches continued. A large earthquake in Alaska refocused priorities back to natural disasters.

City of Council Bluffs and Pottawattamie County created and authorized the Pottawattamie County/Municipal Civil Defense Agency as authorized under the Iowa Civil Defense Act of 1959, Chapter 82, Acts of the 58th General Assembly.

1970—1980’s

Efforts began to synchronize desperate ad hoc programs. Three Mile Island broadened the focus to include technological disasters.

Chapter 29C, Code of Iowa, 1975 authorized the creation of joint county-municipal civil defense administrations, duly organized and authorized to perform specific functions under the laws of the State of Iowa at the local level.

In 1975 the Pottawattamie County Joint County-Municipal Civil Defense Administration received a federal grant of $120,550 to construct an Emergency Operations Center as part of the new Pottawattamie County Courthouse construction. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was created in 1978.

1990’s

Recognition of hazard mitigation and all-hazards approach embraced. FEMA was elevated to a cabinet-level position in the Executive Branch.

Chapter 29C, Code of Iowa, 1992, amended by the 74th General Assembly to mirror efforts at the federal level. This transitioned local county-municipal civil defense administrations to local emergency management commissions with mandatory membership by certain officials, the creation of a local emergency management agency (formerly civil defense agencies), and appointment of a local emergency management coordinator to implement the responsibilities of the commission.

July 1, 1992 - the present day Pottawattamie County Emergency Management Agency was created, replacing the Pottawattamie County-Municipal Civil Defense Agency.

2000’s

Terrorism is the new primary focus with the creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with FEMA folded into that department and mission.

2010’s

Efforts are enhanced to renew an all-hazards mission focus, to include natural, technological, and intentional threats such as terrorism.
DID YOU KNOW?

The local emergency management agency is the only local entity that:
1) coordinates and supports multiple disciplines; 
2) maintains an all-hazards focus; and
3) has regional jurisdiction.

Our Principles: We Strive to be ....

1. **Comprehensive** - we consider and take into account all hazards, all phases, all stakeholders, and all impacts relevant to emergencies and disaster.

2. **Progressive** - we anticipate future emergencies and disasters and take preventative and preparatory measures to build disaster-resistant and disaster-resilient communities.

3. **Risk-Driven** - we use sound risk management principles (hazard identification, risk analysis, and impact analysis) in assigning priorities and resources.

4. **Integrated** - we ensure unity of effort among all levels of government and all elements of a community.

5. **Collaborative** - we create and sustain broad and sincere relationships among individuals and organizations to encourage trust, advocate a team atmosphere, build consensus, and facilitate communication.

6. **Coordinated** - we synchronize the activities of all relevant stakeholders to achieve a common purpose.

7. **Flexible** - we use creative and innovative approaches in solving emergency and disaster challenges.

8. **Professional** - we value a science and knowledge-based approach founded on education, training, experience, ethical practice, public stewardship and continuous improvement.

**How We Do It.**

The laws of the State of Iowa establish local emergency management commissions. They have the responsibility and authority to coordinate emergencies and disasters among the cities and the county.

The commission members include the Mayors of each of the cities, a member of the County Board of Supervisors, and the County Sheriff.

The commission delegates this authority to the Emergency Management Agency to fulfill the commission’s duties.

Source: Code of Iowa Chapter 29C

**Our most valuable resources ....**

- **Doug Reed** - Began his emergency management career in 2003 and was appointed by the Commission to lead the agency in 2012. He also brings experience from multiple public safety disciplines and is a veteran of the U.S. Army.

- **Michell Bose** - Joined the agency in 2012 after serving 4 years as a regional response manager with the American Red Cross. She brings valuable experience in human services as well as emergency medical services to the agency.

- **Scott Manz** - Started with the agency in 2014 bringing command level experience in fire, rescue, & emergency medical services. His operations background has proven beneficial in response and logistics support missions.

- **Michael Bertacini** - Joined the staff in 2017 bringing his education in criminal justice and emergency management as well as experience in the fire service.
DID YOU KNOW?

Emergency Management is a tiered system.

THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Source: Iowa Administrative Code Section 605, Chapter 7

**Administration and Finance:**
- Establish agency and define mission.
- Develop and adopt annual budget.
- Appoint qualified emergency manager.
- Coordinate activities and services among cities and county within commission’s jurisdiction.

**Damage Assessment:**
- Perform preliminary on-site evaluation of damages and impacts.
- Analyze and categorize damage data.
- Utilize data for recovery assistance process.

**Exercises:**
- Evaluate plans, procedures, policies.
- Identify practices to sustain, adjust, or cease programs.
- Validate & improve understanding.
- Plan for improvement actions.

**Training:**
- Achieve understanding of responsibilities.
- Acquire knowledge, skills & abilities required to successfully implement the plan.
- Increase competencies of performance.
- Meet standards & compliance requirements.
Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment:

- Identify natural & human-cause hazards, threats & resulting risks.
- Consider historical occurrence, probability, vulnerability, severity, geographical extent, speed of onset & cascading impact potential.

Resource Management:

- Identify, acquire, distribute, and utilize resources.
- Utilize services, equipment, supplies & facilities of the political subdivisions.
- Perform gap analysis (Need vs. Have = Acquire).
- Develop mutual aid agreements & compacts.

Direction, Control, and Coordination:

- Execute laws and orders of the Governor.
- Apply the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Manage the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- Achieve an efficient and effective command and EOC interface.

Operations and Procedures:

- Develop standard operating procedures and guidelines to execute plans.
- Promote action-oriented activities to implement shared expectations.
- Increase predictability of acceptable practices.

Communications and Warning:

- Identify means to notify public, official & responders.
- Disseminate warning products.
- Support command & control.
- Establish interoperable communications systems, plans & practices.

Public Education:

- Disseminate protective action recommendations.
- Improve access for the public, to include those with access & functional needs.
- Promote healthy relationships with media & public.
The Emergency Management Agency has been responsible for bringing in approximately $29,092,716 in disaster recovery, mitigation & preparedness dollars since FY2010.

During that same period the local investment costs have totaled approximately $10,342,304.

**That is a 281% return on investment.**
Make a Plan.

Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to think about the following situations and plan just in case. Consider the following questions when making a plan:

- How will my household get emergency alerts & warnings?
- How will my household get to safe locations for relevant emergencies?
- How will my household get in touch if cell phones, internet, or landlines don’t work?
- How will I let loved ones know I/we are safe?
- How will my household get to a meeting place after the emergency?

Get a Kit.

A disaster supplies kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment’s notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them.

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it may take days. Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages.

Be Informed.

Learn what protective measures to take before, during, and after an emergency. Most communities may be impacted by several types of hazards during a lifetime. Americans also travel more than ever before to areas with different hazard risks than at home.

Knowing what to do before, during, and after an emergency is a critical part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count. For more information on personal preparedness, visit: beready.iowa.gov.
OUR / YOUR FACILITIES.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is the central location that enables multiple entities to collaborate on:

1) establishing the overall priorities for the incident;
2) managing and allocating resources;
3) sharing information with responders and the public;
4) maintaining situational awareness;
5) synchronizing policy decisions; and
6) coordinating communications systems.

They are empowered to:

- Develop response strategies (Operations);
- Anticipate future operational conditions based on forecasts and trends (Planning);
- Support the community and responders through established procedures (Logistics); and
- Manage activities with sound economic stewardship (Finance & Administration).

The EOC will produce several products to maintain broad situational awareness and create a solid common operating picture. Intelligence Bulletins, Situation Reports, and other products are produced and distributed to key officials, responder groups, and the media to get valid information to the right people at the right time.