



Poweshiek County Emergency Management Agency

Emergency Support Function 13

Public Safety & Security

2026



Poweshiek County Emergency Management Commission

Plan Adoption Document

2026

We hereby certify that the attached/enclosed plans, portions of plans or Emergency Support Functions (ESF) to the Poweshiek County Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan have been approved and adopted by the members of the county Emergency Management Commission on this the 23rd day in the month of June in the year 2026. This plan shall become part of the county emergency response and emergency operations plan once adopted.

Plans or ESFs Adopted:

ESF 13: Public Safety & Security; Including all attachments and appendices

Dawn Hamilton
Chairperson, Emergency Management Commission

06-23-2026
Date

DAWN HAMILTON
Chairperson, EMC-Printed

Brian Paul
Coordinator, Emergency Management Agency

6/23/26
Date

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ESF Coordinator

Poweshiek County Emergency Management Agency

Primary Agencies

Primary agencies that will take the lead in implementing this ESF

Grinnell Police Dept

Poweshiek County Sheriff

Support Agencies

Major agencies that support Primary Agencies

Poweshiek County Dispatch

Poweshiek County Jail

Poweshiek County Secondary Rds/Municipal Public Works

Poweshiek County Medical Examiner

Poweshiek County Fire/EMS Departments

Grinnell Regional Medical Center

Grinnell College Campus Safety

Iowa Dept. of Public Safety

Iowa Dept. of Transportation

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Federal Bureau of Investigations

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives

Department of Homeland Security

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Purpose

Why are we writing this ESF?

The Public Safety & Security function in emergency or disaster situations is complex and may require the coordination of resources and all appropriate local, state, and federal agencies. The purpose of this plan is to optimize the use of Public Safety & Security resources for an emergency, major catastrophe, or large-scale disaster requiring Public Safety & Security response or assistance to ensure the safety and security of all citizens, maintain law and order, and protect property. This plan may be implemented in all or parts as needed to meet the needs of the situation.

Scope

What does this plan cover?

This plan is not meant to establish specific operating guidelines or procedures, but to establish the framework that will provide guidance, coordination, and communication among the responding agencies, departments, and jurisdictions. This plan applies to all phases of incident management to include preparedness, response, and recovery. Typical activities in the plan will require close working relationships and coordination, collaboration, and communication with ESF-2:

Communications; ESF-3: Public Works; ESF-4: Fire/Rescue; ESF- 5: Emergency Management; ESF-8: Medical (EMS); ESF-9: Search & Rescue.

ESF 13 assistance includes actions taken through the application of local, state, and federal government resources and technical expertise to control and maintain public safety and security during major emergencies or disasters. The provision of such services will be in accordance with mutual aid agreements, compacts, and established recognized standards for law enforcement. Public safety and security efforts will address the following categories:

- 1. Security & Protection**

Providing for the protection of life, property, critical facilities, disaster sites, and infrastructure through coordinated law enforcement and security operations during emergency or disaster incidents.

- 2. Traffic Control**

Establish and maintain traffic control measures to support emergency operations including road closures, detours, access control points, routing for emergency responders, evacuees, and essential services.

- 3. Evacuation**

Support and enforce evacuation or curfew orders and other protective actions including area/perimeter security, access control, and coordination with emergency management and transportation partners to ensure safe and orderly movement of affected populations.

- 4. Missing Persons**

Coordinate law enforcement resources and information sharing efforts to identify, locate, and reunite missing, displaced, or separated persons during and following emergency incidents.

- 5. Active Threat Response**

Respond to and mitigate active threat situations including armed or violent incidents, actual or perceived explosive incidents, and other related incidents through immediate law enforcement action, interagency coordination, and integration with other emergency responders.

- 6. Civil Disturbance**

Maintain public order and safety by managing unlawful assemblies, unrest, or disorderly conduct through coordinated law enforcement response and mutual aid support.

Policies

What policies are in place that will govern preparedness, response, and recovery efforts?

Each department or unit of local government is responsible for its law enforcement agency and has the primary responsibility for incident preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

When responding to an incident of multi-jurisdictional or county-wide significance, the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) will lead other municipal, county, state, or federal agencies and resources in response and recovery efforts.

Each jurisdiction maintains control over their individual resources, however, will operate in accordance with the Incident Command System (ICS) and operate within the goals, objectives, tasks, missions, and Incident Action Plan (IAP) set by the Incident Commander.

All operations shall align with National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) principles.

Primary and support agencies will develop their own internal procedures necessary to fulfill their responsibilities under this plan.

Situation

What is creating the need for this plan?

Poweshiek County faces recurring natural, technological, and human-caused hazards that can quickly exceed routine law enforcement and security capabilities. These incidents create the need for coordinated public safety & security resources. ESF 13 provides a unified framework to ensure life safety, maintain public order, protect and secure property, and support emergency operations during and after disasters and significant incidents. Some of the key situations and risk factors driving the need for this plan are:

- Severe Weather Events- Iowa experiences tornadoes, high winds, and severe summer and winter weather which can trigger the need for evacuations, curfew enforcement, identifying lost or missing people, traffic control, access control, and security needs.
- Limited Resources- Law enforcement related incidents can quickly overwhelm agencies with limited resources and available personnel. Mutual aid and the coordination of resources from municipal, county, state, and federal partners will be needed.
- Transportation Incidents- Major transportation routes through Poweshiek County increase the risk of major incidents requiring traffic control, road closures, detours and

rerouting traffic, evacuations, and investigative needs all of which may require coordination across multiple jurisdictions.

- Critical Infrastructure- During and following a major disaster or incident, critical infrastructure such as shelters, evacuation centers, reunification centers, hospitals, incident sites/perimeters, and other areas will require additional security and protective measures.
- Missing Persons- Coordination of multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional resources for investigating and searching for missing persons is a primary law enforcement function and will require coordination efforts.
- Active/Potential Threats- This includes acts of terrorism, violence, and explosives. This type of situation will require a response from multiple agencies across multiple jurisdictions and require coordination among resources.
- Public Events/Venues- These situations may require crowd and traffic control, access control, and safety & security duties for and surrounding the event. This will require coordination across multiple agencies and jurisdictions.
- Compliance- The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department require counties to adopt and align with the National Response Framework (NRF), National Incident Management System (NIMS), and Incident Command System (ICS) and work towards the National Qualification System (NQS) to remain eligible for disaster reimbursement and federal grant awards.

Planning Assumptions

What can we realistically assume regarding our response to the above situations?

The timely and coordinated deployment of public safety and security resources will have a direct impact on the ability to respond to and recover from a disaster or large-scale incident. Some incidents may not affect all public safety & security resources at one time or have an impact on all services. To this end, ESF 13 is based on the following assumptions:

- Law enforcement agencies will utilize their existing directives and procedures to the extent possible when responding to disasters and emergencies. All agencies will operate within the framework of the Incident Command System when working during a disaster or emergency incident.

- Existing law enforcement personnel and resources will be able to cope with most day-to-day emergency situations either within their jurisdiction, or use of existing mutual aid agreements.
- During a major disaster or incident existing law enforcement resources will be exhausted quickly requiring additional resources from off duty personnel and mutual aid. It may take a significant amount of time for additional resources to be notified, assemble, respond, and become operational during an incident.
- It is reasonable to assume that law enforcement services will be needed at multiple locations/areas during and following a major disaster or incident.
- For law enforcement related incidents, law enforcement will take command of incidents within their jurisdiction and establish a unified command when necessary, with other agencies and ESF functions based on details of the incident and the needs to complete the mission.

Roles and Responsibilities

What defines a primary or support agency?

ESF 13 has the primary mission of coordinating law enforcement and public safety resources to maintain or restore law and order, protect life and property, secure critical facilities and infrastructure, disaster areas, coordinate evacuation and reentry operations, and assist with traffic control, investigations, and public safety operations before, during and after an incident.

The county has identified primary and support agencies to ensure ESF 13 related activities are performed in an efficient and effective manner during all phases of the emergency management cycle.

- Primary Agency- Agency(s) that are assigned as the primary agency have been designated as such based on the agency's responsibility, authority, jurisdiction, functional expertise, resources, and capabilities in managing the assigned tasks and activities. Primary agencies may not be responsible for all elements of a given function, task, or mission and will work with supporting agencies to manage and complete functions, tasks, and missions related to ESF 13. Primary agencies may operate in a support role during mutual aid requests to other jurisdictions, or when an incident goes beyond local capability.
- Support Agency- agencies may be assigned a support role if they have a substantial interest, mission, resources during incidents based on their role, capability, and resources.

Preparedness Responsibilities

How will primary and support agencies prepare for the management of public safety and security efforts in the event of a major emergency or disaster?

- Develop and maintain response policies, plans, and procedures
- Develop, maintain, and participate in mutual aid agreements
- Assign personnel to function in the EOC or ICP to assist in the coordination of resources, tasks, and missions.
- Train personnel in the Incident Command System to ensure proper coordination during incidents. The minimum level of training for all law enforcement personnel is ICS 100 and NIMS 700. It is highly recommended that senior and command level personnel take ICS 200 and NIMS 800 also.
- Conduct and offer routine training for personnel
- Participate in drills and exercises to test existing plans and procedures and develop interagency collaboration
- Maintain equipment, tools, vehicles, and equipment to ensure a constant state of readiness.
- Develop, maintain, and update equipment and resource lists

Response Responsibilities

How will primary and support agencies respond to a major incident or disaster?

- Establish Incident Command and the Incident Command Post
- Identify priorities and objectives
- Request additional resources to complete priorities and objectives
- Establish Unified Command when necessary
- Establish clear communication links for all resources

Recovery Responsibilities

How will primary and support agencies assist in the recovery phase to a major incident or disaster?

- Assist with damage assessment needs
- Coordinate law enforcement and security resources based on the needs of the incident
- Assist with the identification and search of missing persons
- Assist in access control, area/perimeter security, reentry to impacted areas, and traffic control
- Provide security and law enforcement presence to critical facilities and infrastructure
- Participate in after-action meetings and submit documentation for after action reports
- Demobilize mutual aid and other resources when they are no longer needed
- Prepare and submit cost recovery documentation if appropriate

Concept of Operations

This section will describe how the primary and support agencies will organize and work to support the overall preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

To the extent possible, ESF 13 agencies and organizations will follow their normal day-to-day policy and procedures in carrying out designated tasks. Conflicts regarding mission, tasks, priorities, and responsibilities will be forwarded to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Executive/Policy Group (if activated), or the Incident Commander.

Organizing & Coordinating Resources

How will initial response operations be managed?

When law enforcement services are needed for an incident response or recovery, an Incident Command Post (ICP) will be established, or the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated. All activities related to ESF 13 will be coordinated at either the ICP or the EOC. Law enforcement agencies may use local resources and existing mutual aid to supplement their capabilities for unmet needs. Emergency Management should be utilized to assist in the coordination of resources for response and recovery efforts related to ESF 13, when practical.

When operations go beyond local resources, and existing mutual aid agreements, the EOC may be activated to coordinate additional support. When prioritization becomes necessary, coordinating resources will occur under a unified command.

When local resources are inadequate or exhausted, the Incident Commander or Unified Command may request mutual aid and/or appropriate resources through the dispatch center or assist with the incident.

Incidents requiring multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency response should be organized under a Unified Command structure using ICS principles.

EOC Operations

How will Public Safety & Security related objectives be coordinated in a large-scale or expanding incident?

The Poweshiek County EOC may be activated to support field operations and serve as the central location for interagency coordination and executive level policy and decision making. ESF-5: Incident Management outlines in greater detail the functions and responsibilities of the EOC. Refer to that plan for further guidance.

EOC Functions- The EOC will facilitate the following functions/responsibilities:

- Overall coordination of emergency response and/or recovery efforts
- Establish incident objectives, goals, and metrics.

- Provide executive policy and decision making
- Coordination with agencies, jurisdictions, including mutual aid, state and federal resources.
- Collection, evaluation, and dissemination of information.
- Resource procurement, allocation, and tracking.

Activation- The EOC may be activated under the following general guidelines:

- Resource needs exceed local and normal mutual aid resources.
- Widespread or long-duration incidents that may last multiple days.
- Multiple agencies and jurisdictions are affected or responding.
- Multi-county, state, or federal assistance may be required.

Authorization- The following individuals may request the EOC be activated:

- Emergency Management/Designee
- Chief Elected Official/Designee
- Incident Commander

Notification Procedure

Requests to activate the EOC will be made through the Poweshiek County Dispatch Center and/or Poweshiek County Emergency Management. Contact lists are kept on file in the dispatch center and with Emergency Management who will make proper notification of EOC activation through Alert Iowa and normal means of communication.

Initial Reporting Requirements

When the EOC is activated the minimum reporting requirements to the EOC include:

- Emergency Management Coordinator
- Elected Officials of the jurisdiction
- Representative(s) from the primary response agency (agency having jurisdiction)
- Representative(s) from support agency(s)
- EOC General Staff (Operations, Logistics, Planning, Finance/Admin Section Chiefs)
- Specific requests by the authorized entity activating the EOC

Subsequent notifications to report to the EOC will be determined on an assessment of the situation and will be the responsibility of the above identified personnel to notify appropriate agencies/personnel to report.

EOC Facilities

There are two Emergency Operations Centers located in Poweshiek County. The primary location is listed first, and the secondary is listed second. Based on the location and complexity of an incident it will be determined by the elected officials and Emergency Management which EOC to utilize. Both EOC's are equipped similarly and can sustain 24/7 operations and are equally accessible for use as needed.

Poweshiek County Public Safety Bldg
4802 Barnes City Rd
Montezuma, IA 50171

Grinnell Public Safety Bldg
1020 Spring St
Grinnell, IA 50112

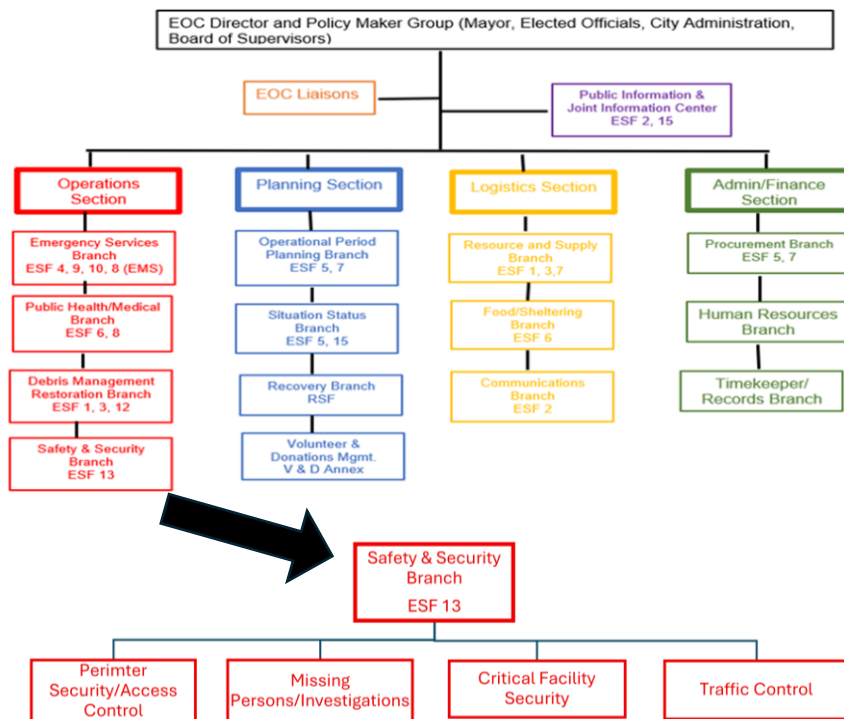
EOC Operational Levels

To be consistent with ICS principles, a graduated approach to managing emergencies and disasters is used. As the scope and complexity of the situation escalates, staffing levels within the EOC will increase as needed.

Level	Description	Minimum Staffing
1 (Monitor)	Small incident or event One Site One or more agency involved Potential threat of: Severe storm Escalating incident	Emergency Management (EOC Director) Additional Staff as Requested
2 (Partial)	Moderate event Two or more sites Several agencies involved Major scheduled event Limited evacuations Resource support required	EOC Director Requested ESF Groups Section Chiefs (as needed) Senior Elected Officials PIO
3 (Full)	Major event/incident Multiple Sites Regional disaster Multiple agencies involved Extensive evacuations Resource support required	EOC Director All ESF Groups All Section Chiefs Policy Group (elected officials) Liaison Officer All EOC General Staff

EOC Organization

In our EOC, ESF 13 is under the Operations Section and serves within the Safety & Security Branch. Based on the size, severity, complexity of the incident and/or available personnel, multiple people will serve in various roles (single role) within the Safety & Security Branch, or one person may serve in multiple roles under the Safety & Security Branch (dual/multi-role).



Communications

How will personnel and resources communicate during an EOC activated incident?

Informal Communications

Communications may be informal and direct to the intended party when exchanging information with other local, regional, and state counterparts following normal day-to-day practices and procedures. Informal communication may be used when there is a need to:

- Communicate with other primary or support agencies operating within an assigned mission or task.
- Communicate outside the EOC or ICP with personnel, resources, and other agencies to obtain information or available resources needed to assist in the implementation of plans, missions, or tasks.
- Coordinate and communicate closely with other active ESF groups within the EOC.

Formal Communications

Any communication that requires a change to the status of the operational plan or Incident Action Plan (IAP) goals and objectives must be formal in nature and follow the formal chain of command process. Formal communication may be used when there is a need to:

- Change or alteration of goals or objectives identified in the IAP.
- Resource requests outside of available on-scene or staged resources, or unmet resource needs.

- Situation/status reporting and progress reports
- Public information reporting

Plan Maintenance

How will this plan be maintained?

Maintenance

The ESF 13 Coordinator will be responsible for the review of this plan on an annual basis. If revisions are necessary, they will be made and the updated plan forwarded to the primary agencies.

- Dissemination of the updated plan will be made by Poweshiek County Emergency Management following the guidelines outlined in the Basic Plan...
- Significant operational changes in the plan resulting from exercises or actual events will be accomplished through an ESF 13 Planning Committee.

Exercises

The Poweshiek County Emergency Management Agency will coordinate and integrate the exercising of this plan to meet local needs and state/federal requirements as part of other ESF or incident specific exercises.