

2007
**Strategic Status Report of Carroll County
Emergency Management Agency**



Report filed by Derek White, Emergency Management Coordinator

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Attachment 1: 2007 Estimated Economic Impact of Carroll County EMA

Greetings,

It has been an extremely busy and productive year for emergency preparedness in Carroll County! From conferences to disaster drills, there have been a lot of accomplishments in the past twelve months. Carroll County has, in many regards, become a leader in emergency management in the state of Iowa!

A few examples of the success we have had this year include:

- **Landing grants for local agencies, which provided critically-needed funds and equipment**
- **Hosting a locally-developed regional disaster recovery conference, which brought many people into the area and provided an economic boost to local businesses**
- **Becoming the eighth Iowa county to receive StormReady status with the National Weather Service, which can be used to promote the healthy business climate and could save money for those with flood insurance policies**
- **Being considered one of the leaders of emergency management in the state as a key member of the Iowa Emergency Management Association's executive committee and the Iowa State Association of Counties' board of directors**
- **Helping two school districts prepare for various types of emergencies through planning, training, and exercise drilling**
- **Providing training for various agencies and organizations in the county, which helped make them better prepared for emergencies**

While this report will focus primarily on what was accomplished in 2007, I am already looking forward to what we can do together in 2008. I think we are only beginning to see the fruits of proactive, progressive full-time emergency management!

Sincerely,

**Derek White, MPA, IACEM
Emergency Management Coordinator**

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

MARCH DISASTER RECOVERY CONFERENCE

One of the biggest accomplishments for Carroll County Emergency Management in 2007 was the March disaster recovery conference held at the Carrollton Centre. With the assistance of Doreen Loeffelholz (Catholic Charities) and Marsha Nuckels (Carroll County Case Management), the conference focused on an area in which much disaster planning does not address: social and mental issues caused by disaster. Over 75 people, most from organizations outside of Carroll County, attended the one-day conference.

The keynote speaker was Lisa LaDue, an international expert from the National Mass Fatalities Institute who has worked with disaster victims from around the world. She discussed how mental health professionals and emergency managers can work together to address the needs of victims after a disaster. Other expert-speakers included Dianne Pinneke (St. Anthony Mental Health), Dr. John Wallace (The Richmond Center), Paulette McDonough (Carroll County Critical Incident Stress Management Team), Dean Sweberg (American Red Cross—Central Iowa Chapter), and representatives from local agencies working with special needs populations. **The event was paid for by conference fees from the attendees and financial support from St. Anthony Regional Hospital and provided a small boost to the local economy.**

STORMREADY STATUS

A major goal for Carroll County Emergency Management in 2007 was to obtain StormReady status with the National Weather Service. StormReady is a program that has been around for a number of years and recognizes communities throughout the United States that are proactive when it comes to severe weather preparedness, response and notification. As of the writing of this report, there were only seven Iowa counties with this distinct status as it is an award not easily gained. **Among the various benefits that come with StormReady status is this: local taxpayers who have policies with the National Flood Insurance Program may see reductions in their premium charges.**

The application process commenced last fall with a visit to the National Weather Service office in Johnston. Although Carroll County was ahead of many Iowa counties in storm preparedness and spotter notification, much work still needed to be done and the groundwork was laid at this meeting for getting the county where it needed to go. That included placing weather radios in every community center, opening the emergency operations center during severe weather events, sponsoring weather preparedness efforts in the county, and other such things. The governments of the county and the cities also needed to agree to support the application.

After working out minor details, meteorologists from the National Weather Service (Brad Small and Jeff Johnson) came to survey the work in December 2007. After completing the review, **the meteorologists gave their approval for Carroll County to**

become the eighth Iowa county to be recognized as “StormReady”. A formal ceremony will be held on March 20th, 2008.

SHELTER AGREEMENTS

It is helpful and important to try to get as many mutual aid agreements in place prior to a disaster in order to expedite operations and ensure legal issues such as liability are handled. Carroll County Emergency Management has made it a priority to continually work on such agreements as an integral process of emergency preparedness efforts. Several mutual aid agreements were enacted in 2006 and 2007 was no less successful.

Several agreements for shelters were put into place in 2007 with the following facilities:

- American Legion Hall in Dedham
- St. Francis Catholic Church in Maple River
- Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church in Mt. Carmel
- Holy Angels Catholic Church in Roselle
- St. Augustine Catholic Church in Halbur
- Sacred Heart School in Templeton

GRANTS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

Like most government agencies, funding for programs can be difficult to come by many times. Whether it is for training, mitigation efforts, equipment, or other such items, grants can assist agencies and communities in meeting their needs. This was a good year for grants either gained or administered by Carroll County Emergency Management. In addition, events that are developed or brought in by Carroll County Emergency Management can and have contributed to the community through purchases and sales tax revenue generated via visitor participants.

Some of the highlights include:

- **Awarded a competitive, nationwide grant for a Polaris Ranger 6x6 all-terrain vehicle to be used in remote locations.**
- **Reimbursed county and cities that did work on resource typing as part of the requirements of the National Incident Management System. Very few other county emergency management agencies did this.**
- **Acquired shelter cots with a mix of local and regional grant allocations so that we will have them for use when shelters are needed during and/or after disasters.**
- **Worked with other members of Region One Homeland Security to get money for amateur radio communications infrastructure upgrades throughout central Iowa, including Carroll County.**

For more information on this section, see the attachment titled, “2007 Estimated Economic Impact of Carroll County Emergency Management”.

SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION WORK AND REGISTRY

Carroll County Emergency Management and Carroll County Public Health invested time and energy in 2007 toward working with special needs populations for planning purposes. Special needs populations are folks who may require additional assistance with life’s duties and chores because of impairments or disabilities. These challenges are exacerbated during disasters and additional attention should be paid to dealing with these ahead of time.

This past year, former public health coordinator Sara Fleecs and I visited several facilities such as daycares, assisted living facilities, and schools to discuss what their plans are for various types of disasters. Only a couple of the facilities were prepared for many different types of hazards. We advised them on some areas that they might want to make changes or additions in their planning efforts.

In the fall of 2007, both agencies unveiled a special needs registry that is aimed at individuals in the community may require assistance with warnings or evacuations during disaster. We worked with local agencies such as Elderbridge Agency on Aging, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, and others to get the information out. The process has been slow but steady so far with around twenty persons sending in applications for the volunteer registry.

STATEWIDE LEGISLATIVE WORK

In 2006, I was asked by the Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) to be its legislative operations director and representative to the board of directors of the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC). While I have made sure that these duties have not overshadowed the responsibilities of the county emergency preparedness program, I believe that the work being done can enhance emergency management throughout the state.

During the 2007 Iowa Legislature General Session, I monitored legislation and worked closely with ISAC legislative representatives. By doing this, Carroll County Emergency Management was able to be an integral part of the following legislative successes:

- **Obtaining state grants for public safety communications center upgrades (2007 Senate File 575)**
- **Amending a bill aimed at running communications centers through emergency management agencies to do so only through a 28E intergovernmental agreement (2007 Senate File 90)**

In the past few months, Carroll County Emergency Management has been working

closely with both groups to set legislative objectives that help enable the local efforts of emergency management agencies. In 2008, IEMA will hire its own representative to the Iowa Legislature and will continue to work with ISAC and other public safety organizations in order to help advance the cause of proactive emergency preparedness and assist the local and federal governments with the costs of such measures.

REGION V HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Every month that goes by, Carroll County works harder and closer with Region V as a vested partner in its success. Along with County Supervisor Dan Nieland, Carroll County Emergency Management is involved in working with eight other northwestern Iowa counties to ensure that there is proactive activity performed to mitigate and respond quickly to hazardous materials-related events. Extensive work was performed in 2007 to prepare for incidents involving ethanol spills or explosions.

Carroll County Emergency Management is also working with Region Five leaders to work on various trainings involving exercise planning, airplane crash response, and threat and risk assessment. The hazardous materials team will be involved in the airplane exercise that will be held in Carroll County in 2008. We are also involved on working with the team on acquiring "safe" radios and other electronics that are able to be used in and around flammable gases and liquids.

REGION ONE HOMELAND SECURITY

Homeland Security funds continue to be administered and managed by regional boards throughout the state. Carroll County is part of Region One Homeland Security, which is based in central Iowa and has sixteen counties as members. We were able to accomplish some great things through Region One in 2007, shown in the following examples:

- **As training committee chairman, we focused on pushing training out to various parts of the region instead of having all classes in Polk or Story Counties. Dispatcher homeland security, incident command, threat and risk assessment, special needs facility planning, and public information officer classes were some of the classes held this past year in Region One.**
- **Together with several other counties, the region voted to upgrade amateur radio communications throughout central Iowa and also purchase shelter equipment for each county and regional caches of animal rescue equipment.**
- **Began work on regional projects to address mass fatalities and emergency plan overhauls as required by the federal government.**
- **Authored an amendment change in the regional by-laws to cut out unnecessary monthly meetings, saving taxpayers money for fuel and vehicle wear-and-tear.**

FLASHING PORCH LIGHT PROGRAM

IN 2006, the Carroll County Local Preparedness Planning Group (which has partners from government, private, and non-profit organizations) began a program for funding special “flashing” porch lights that could be used during home or business emergencies during nighttime hours. Several donations came in from emergency responder organizations, businesses and individuals in the county to help us get the program off the ground. **No public funds were used for this program.**

Scores of the special bulbs have been purchased and handed out to citizens free of charge to them. The initial emphasis was on low-income and special needs individuals as identified by various social organizations in the county. Recently, the program has been expanded to include all Carroll County residents. All funds have been expended for the lights and future fund-raising efforts will be considered in 2008.

PLANNING

Planning is a big part of emergency management. President Eisenhower was known for saying that “Plans are nothing; planning is everything”. It is important to have written documentation of emergency procedures and protocols, but it is more important to work with others to ensure that they understand how being prepared to respond will help everyone survive and recover from a disaster.

Plans that were updated or created in 2007 were:

- **Carroll County Continuity of Operations Plan—A major step forward for Carroll County government. This plan, developed by Carroll County Emergency Management Agency and Carroll County Information Technology Department, provides the county government with a game plan for staying open no matter what disaster should strike. It includes a leadership structure should the Board of Supervisors be unable to lead during a disaster, backup facility plans for various departments, and more**
- Annex C-Damage Assessment—Updated to include information on our Damage Assessment Team
- Annex E-Evacuation—Reviewed and revised
- Annex L-Radiological Response—Updated to note changes in state response structure and how departments should respond.
- Annex M-Resource Management—Updated to include various duties of Emergency Management Coordinator
- Annex P-Hazardous Materials—Required annual update of our basic plan to respond for dealing with hazardous materials incident.
- Annex S-Mass Casualty—A new addition to the plan that allows us to have a better idea on how EMS and others will handle multiple injuries in large disasters
- County Facility Plans—developed plans for the Carroll County Courthouse, Paul Fricke Building, and Carroll County Engineer Office Complex

- Mitigation Plan—Five-year update on each jurisdiction’s plans for minimizing death and destruction from various disasters (individual plans will be due in the next 1-2 years).
- Recovery Plan—Also a plan that must be updated every five years, the Recovery Plan gives us a template for guiding the community after a major disaster.
- Mass Fatality Planning—Have had several meetings with local funeral home directors to discuss our plan of attack for dealing with multiple cadavers after a disaster. This has become a long-term project that will extend into 2008.
- Water Supply Emergency Planning—I had a meeting in September with local water department officials throughout Carroll County to discuss issues that may arise should water not be available for more than a few hours. This discussion spawned from the Ottumwa incident during the summer. The group talked about various options and agreed that more meetings, and possibly a mutual aid agreement, would be good. This, too, will be a project that will extend into 2008.

CCEMA also worked with St. Anthony Regional Hospital, Manning Regional Health Center, and Carroll County Public Health on a myriad of pandemic and bioterrorism health planning issues. A big part of this was working to update and upgrade plans and procedures for mass vaccination in the event that a disease would strike the community.

In addition to these plans, I assist private facilities with their planning needs upon request. Those I worked with in 2007 include:

- **Kuemper Catholic High School**
- **Holy Spirit Elementary**
- **Manning Community School District**
- **New Hope Village**
- **American Home Shield**
- **Carroll County Conservation Board**
- **Manning Regional Health Center**

TRAINING

Planning is only part of the preparedness process. Training must be held in order for responders and citizens to understand how to put the planning to action. Training is a vital part of the work performed by Carroll County Emergency Management. Classes in 2007 included:

- Organizational Preparedness Planning Course—Four-hour class reviewing all-hazards mitigation, prevention, response, and recovery strategies with those from private and non-profit organizations who do not receive as much training as those in the public sector. Class involved a mix of speaker presentation, discussion, and class activities. Two of these classes were held: one in Manning in February and one in Carroll in August. Both had around a dozen participants a piece from various private and non-profit organizations in the county.

- Courthouse Plan Training—Two sessions held to train courthouse employees on response procedures as written in the new courthouse emergency plan. Similar training was offered at the other county facilities, but they have not been scheduled yet.
- Damage Assessment Refresher Training—Carroll County has a team of dedicated professionals from government and private industry that can volunteer to assist with quantifying damage costs in the community should a major catastrophe strike. Refresher training was held in the summer to help remind team members of the criteria needed for damage assessment should and when it is needed.
- Exercise Drill Design Class—In September, I offered a class to local organizations on how they can design exercise drills to test their plans and training. We had several organizations take part in this three-hour class.
- Shelter-in-Place Class—I held a class in the spring to discuss why and when fire departments may give a shelter-in-place order and what organizations can do to prepare for it. Several businesses and responders took part in this class.

Carroll County Emergency Management was also responsible for lining up the following training performed by other agencies:

- Homeland Security Training for Dispatchers—Held in June and brought in several dispatchers from surrounding communities for a day of training on incident command, terrorism, and other issues.
- Water Incident Rescue and Recovery—Held at the November County Fire Association Meeting, members of the Carroll Water Rescue Volunteers discussed their role in a water-related emergency and how local responders can assist them with a good response or recovery.
- Law Enforcement Weapons Simulator—In January, I arranged with the Carroll Police Department and the Iowa Central Homeland Security Institute a week of training on how law enforcement officers could deal with a variety of threats, from an active shooter in a school to a hostage threat. Law enforcement agents from throughout the county and region came to work with the simulator training.

In addition to these, other important preparedness tips and information have passed along via e-mail and through the Local Preparedness Planning Group meetings held every month.

EXERCISING

Planning and training are only good when people take them seriously. In order to do this, exercises must be carried out to test the knowledge of the plans and training. 2007 marked an interesting year for exercises as we had five of them: a tabletop (informal conversation-type exercise), a functional (command and communications exercise), and three full-scale exercises (all-out mock disaster drills). In this section, the exercises will be discussed in more detail.

TABLETOP: SCHOOL TERRORISM

School terrorism incidents have been rampant in our American society over the past two decades. Carroll County Emergency Management wanted to make sure that local schools were spending time working on preventing or mitigating such situations. After working on emergency plans with Kuemper Catholic and Manning Community High School (by their request), we began discussing work on an exercise drill program for 2007.

Our first exercise was a tabletop (or informal, conversational play-by-play exercise drill) that was held in April at St. Anthony Hospital. The scenario involved a shooter. Over fifty people attended the exercise from various organizations. Local school districts involved included Kuemper, Manning, Carroll, Coon Rapids-Bayard, and Glidden Ralston. Businesses were also asked to partake as any incident that occurs in our community, much less a school, may have a huge impact on the operations of the business community in the first hours and days. Law enforcement and health officials were also heavily-involved.

The exercise was useful for all agencies, but more importantly, the school districts gave great feedback on it. It allowed them to see that disasters cause a domino effect with other people and areas of the organization and community. Due to the sensitive nature of this type of exercise, we did not and will not release a detailed analysis of the “lessons learned’ and corrective actions taken by the schools and response agencies.

FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE

In June, a functional (command and communications) exercise was held among both hospitals and the county courthouse. The purpose was to test decision-making and secondary communications among agencies during a pandemic influenza event. Carroll County Emergency Management, Carroll County Public Health, Carroll County Environmental Health, Carroll County Sheriff Office the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Health, Dr. Rexanne Struve (veterinarian from Manning), Manning Mayor Ron Colling, both hospitals, senior volunteers from the Carroll RSVP program and the Coon Valley Amateur Radio Club all participated. Evaluators from Calhoun County and the state government were also on hand to watch.

During the exercise, the participants had to use either a statewide 800 MHz radio system that is used among emergency management, hospitals and public health agencies to communicate or use amateur radio. Situations arose in the area of hospital surge capacity, continuity of county government, disaster declarations, sick individuals and animals, and other issues. The exercise was a good test of our pandemic and continuity of operations plans. Communication about what agencies were handling during the incident was cited as the biggest area for improvement.

FULL-SCALE #1: KUEMPER HIGH SCHOOL—TERRORISM INCIDENT

In August, we had planned a full-scale (mock disaster) exercise drill at Kuemper Catholic High School. Several law enforcement agencies (Carroll Police, Carroll County

Sheriff, Iowa State Patrol) along with school officials, Carroll County Emergency Management, Carroll County EMS, Carroll Fire, and others participated. The scenario was the same as the tabletop—an armed intruder. However, the exercise had barely started when a tornado touched down southeast of Willey (see “Disasters and Call-Outs”).

We were forced to cancel the rest of the exercise for that evening. Nonetheless, I was able to sit down with Kuemper administrators to discuss some scenarios that may occur during such an incident. It was a good discussion, although details of the education gained from the exercise and the corrections made were not and will not be released because of the sensitivity of this type of exercise.

FULL-SCALE #2: MANNING HIGH SCHOOL—TERRORISM INCIDENT

In October, we held another school exercise, but this one was at Manning High School. This exercise involved an explosion caused by a bomb. Carroll County Emergency Management worked with Manning Fire Department, Manning Police Department, Carroll County EMS, Manning School administrators, the City of Manning, Manning Regional Health Center, and State Fire Marshal’s Office on this exercise. The exercise brought up many valid points when it came to communications, unified command, school response, and other issues. Again, detailed “lessons learned” cannot be released because of the sensitivity of this type of exercise.

FULL-SCALE #3: POET BIOENERGY-COON RAPIDS (AKA TALL CORN ETHANOL)—EXPLOSION

For the second straight year, Poet Bioenergy—Coon Rapids (formerly Tall Corn Ethanol) held a disaster drill in October and invited emergency responders from Carroll and Guthrie Counties to work with them. The basic scenario was an explosion in the distillation building. Fire departments from Coon Rapids, Bayard and Carroll worked to extract victims from confined spaces and high angles as well as handled a small ethanol fire. EMS crews treated the victims. Emergency management advised incident command on various issues, from communications to media and security control. Overall, the exercise went very well and the response was fairly quick. Lessons learned from the exercise focused on:

- Communications—Too many people on “county fire” channel. Emergency Management recommended EMS change to “state EMS”, but some radios wouldn’t work on that channel inside the plant. Also, Bayard and Coon Rapids fire departments had difficulty contacting one another on the “mutual aid” channel.
- Ethanol fire response—Bayard truck had difficulties getting specialized foam mixed with water so that fire could be put out promptly.
- Unified Command—Not always clear who was EMS unified command officer that could work with other agencies.

DISASTERS AND CALL-OUTS

March Blizzard

March 1-3, 2007 brought us the first presidential-level disaster in some time for Carroll County. Exactly one week after a major ice storm hit the eastern part of the state, the western part was slammed with a blizzard. By all National Weather Service calculations, Carroll County was hit the worst as we received 19 inches of snow in one 24-hour period (March 1). March 2nd did not provide any relief, however, as strong 50-mph winds caused whiteout conditions throughout the county. Both days prevented most city and county snowplows from being able to operate.

Carroll County Emergency Management became the central hub for most emergency situations relating to the blizzard, working 45 hours in three days. Areas in which CCEMA worked during the storm included:

- Establishing and staffing shelters in Carroll, Glidden and Ralston for those stranded during the storm and “warming centers” in Glidden and Templeton, as well as making food arrangements with the American Red Cross.
- Working with the Iowa National Guard and local snowmobile owners to task rescue missions and deliveries.
- Talking to the city, county and state roads crews on the developing situation.
- Providing information to citizens via local and statewide media.
- Notifying community service agencies (such as Public Health, Case Management, Elderbridge and others) on the storm status, asking them to check on their clientele in the affected areas.
- Working with local officials to close roads where vehicles were piling up
- Discussing the situation with the Governor’s office, state emergency management and the National Weather Service.
- Seeking disaster declarations from local governments so that state assets and reimbursements may be acquired.
- Calling local hospitals to discuss continuity of operations and resource issues.
- Assisting the Communications Center with citizen inquiries and weather-related emergencies.

The blizzard was expensive to clean up and several city governments as well as the county government were able to seek reimbursement dollars for most of the expenses because of the presidential disaster declaration. Carroll County citizens and responders worked well during this disaster and we fortunately did not have any deaths or major injuries related to the storm.

August Tornado

On the evening of August 28th, there was a severe storm that swept across the county while many responders were working on the Kuemper disaster drill. This storm brought with it a tornado that touched down at different points south of Willey going east

toward the northern rural area of Coon Rapids. This damage did cause a small power outage near the Greene County line and destroyed a storage shed near Coon Rapids. Carroll County Emergency Management did some damage assessment with this storm and stood ready to assist the community in the event that more damage was found, but fortunately the tornado came and went quickly.

Other Incidents

The following list notes some of the other times that I have been summoned this year for assistance:

- Long-Term Power Outages—2
- Accidents with Potential for Hazardous Materials Incident—2
- Spring Flooding Surveys—3
- Evacuation (caused by May flooding)—1
- Assisting Buena Vista County with sinking dredge—1
- Storm-Spotting/Severe Weather—10

DRIVE TO FULFILL STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

As is usually the case, emergency management has to spend time dealing with mandatory planning, training, and exercise requirements set forth by the Iowa and the U.S. governments on an annual basis.

STATE

The state, through Iowa Code 29C and Iowa Administrative Code 605-7, requires a plethora of standards from county emergency management coordinators. These standards include planning, training, and exercising. In 2007, I was able to fulfill all of the training requirements as well as surpass other requirements that are set for county coordinators. The Iowa Emergency Management Association, a professional guild for local emergency managers, has endorsed me as a certified emergency manager for the work that has been done in Carroll County. This certification lends credence for the accomplishments that we in Carroll County are making in the world of emergency preparedness.

FEDERAL—NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

There was not quite as much to do with the National Incident Management System, or NIMS, in 2007. After local jurisdictions wrapped up most of their work in 2006, I spent time making sure that agencies continued to work on upholding their requirements. More work will be required in 2007, however, because of the number of new officials and employees who need to take the required classes.

CITIZEN OUTREACH AND LOCAL ENTITY NETWORKING

As emergency management coordinator, the “coordination” involves bringing people together to work toward community-wide emergency preparedness. The best preparedness levels come when many people from across all sectors are working together as a team. This means being proactive in attempting to reach those not traditionally involved in the process, such as businesses and non-profit entities.

LOCAL PREPAREDNESS PLANNING GROUP

The Local Preparedness Planning Group, started by Carroll County Public Health Director Angela Dillon three years ago as a way to connect organizations working on emergency preparedness issues, **has continued to grow and expand**. Most meetings see an average of 15-20 organizations participating. The meetings have been moving around to various facilities and now include a short training session at the end of the update meeting so that everyone who attends can take away something new and fresh for implementation in their planning processes.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

CCEMA works hard to reach out to the community so that citizens and organizations can not only get a comprehension for what the office is, but how we can work together to prepare the community for disasters. This can include having brochures, giving talks and presentations, press conferences, sending letters, etc. Talks were given at the request of Orchard View and the Seniors and Law Together (SALT) group, to name a couple.

The largest outreach event of 2007 was the Safety and Preparedness Fair held in May at the Carroll National Guard Armory. Around twenty organizations partook in the event and set up presentation tables and displays for the public. Although much effort was put into working on this fair, other events in the Carroll area scheduled after the fair was scheduled may have prevented a large turnout. Nonetheless, those who did show said that they found the event to be impressive and informational.

OTHER EMA DUTIES

Carroll County has asked that I work on E-911 and Americans with Disabilities Act (county offices only) issues on behalf of the county as issues from time to time arise in each area. E-911, which deals with emergency communications issues, has a great deal of overlap with emergency management because the ability to communicate effectively is one of the greatest challenges during any disaster. In addition, working on ADA issues allows me to learn more about how we can assist persons with disabilities during a disaster.

E-911

It is vital that our emergency responders have the capability to communicate at all times, whether it is for a routine traffic citation or a full-blown disaster. In 2007, Carroll County Emergency Management Agency and the E-911 Board continued to work toward upgrading communications equipment throughout the county. It is hard for the volunteer responders to get radios and pagers fixed or to get new batteries, so hours are spent assisting these folks with these issues.

This included purchasing pagers and radios, repairing repeaters and Communications Center equipment, and working on solutions to communications interoperability issues. Our backup dispatch center, located in the tower shack at Mallard View, also had some issues that needed to be addressed and have been so that we have an ability to quickly get back on the air if the primary Communications Center is rendered useless. This could be used in addition to the independent radio system located in the Emergency Management Office/Operations Center (see above under "Homeland Security Projects").

ADA Compliancy

There were not a lot of things that needed to be done in this category in 2007. The county courthouse was made compliant in 2006. The largest matter concerning this issue in 2007 was the coordination of a Carroll training site as part of a statewide ADA training session held in November with the U.S. Department of Justice on the Iowa Communications Network.

Several local officials, such as County Auditor Joan Schettler and Carroll Fire Chief Greg Schreck, were able to attend this important training while ***saving local taxpayers money*** that they would have had to pay in mileage reimbursements because the next closest site was in Spencer. The training was very informational and those who attended went back to their agencies and communities and began making critical changes that they felt were needed based on the training provided. By being proactive on ADA compliance, local officials can save even more taxpayer dollars by not having to make hasty, expensive decisions to rectify complaints linked to ADA non-compliance.

CLOSING STATEMENT

As underscored in the document above, Carroll County is demonstrating itself to be not only a regional leader in western Iowa but also as a statewide leader. This has been done with the help of quite a few forward-thinking people in this county who devote their time and efforts to making Carroll County more prepared. The support of elected officials and the emergency management commission has been the foundation for the great success made.

2008 brings another year and even more things to work on. Just like with the insurance industry, there is no “end” to what emergency management does or can do. There is always plenty to do when it comes to preparedness efforts and disaster can strike at any time. In January, we will hold a presentation for elected officials and appointed policy makers on There will be a large multi-county exercise drill involving the collision of two airplanes near the Carroll Municipal Airport. The need for training in areas like NIMS, collapsed structure awareness, radiological accident awareness, and other areas will be addressed. Grant searches and administration will continue to be a high priority for the county emergency management agency. There are more shelter agreements that need to be developed and more facilities that need help with comprehensive “all-hazards” emergency plans. Jurisdictions will need to begin work on their mitigation plans.

The continued support of the Carroll County community will allow Carroll County Emergency Management Agency to be a success in the next year and for many years down the road. We do this work together as a service to the businesses, organizations and families that make Carroll County thrive. We want to try to mitigate death and destruction as much as possible so that the county can continue to grow and prosper in west central Iowa.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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**2007 ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CARROLL COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

The information in this statement is meant to focus on major items concerning grants and projects that have either brought in money to the community or saved taxpayer dollars in the past year. It is not an all-inclusive list.

March Disaster Conference

75 participants—around 50 were from outside Carroll County

Assuming that each spent around \$20 on average for overall lunch, hotel (a few stayed overnight), fuel, and other expenditures in our community, the estimate total economic impact of the conference is: **\$1,500**

NOTE: This does not include the fees paid for the conference, which covered conference expenses such room rental, refreshments, speaker and “helper” fees (about half of which went to residents of Carroll County), supplies, and other expenses.

The conference also saved money for Carroll County Community Services and Case Management employees because they were able to get mandatory continuing education hours locally without having to travel long distances or pay large tuition fees.

Polaris Ranger for Sheriff Office

Approximate cost of new Polaris Ranger 6x6 All-Terrain Vehicle (including shipping and options): **\$12,000**

Water Rescue Volunteers

Grant for Equipment (suits, pagers, etc.) **\$4,000**

Citizen Corps Grants

2006 Citizen Corps Grant **\$4,300**

2007 Citizen Corps Grant **\$2,000**

2007 CEDAP Grant

Vulnerability Assessment Equipment **\$32,000**

Emergency Management Performance Grant

2007 EMPG **\$15,500**

Homeland Security Grant Equipment

Amateur radio repeater for county (regional request)	\$7,000
Independent radio system for EOC (local grant)	\$2,500
Shelter Cots (local and regional grants)	\$9,000
Resource data from city/county governments (local grant)	\$6,700
Siren for City of Carroll (local grant)	\$4,000
EMS Decontamination Kits (local grant)	\$1,300
“All-hazards” radios for community sites (local grant)	\$600
Law Enforcement Surveillance Camera (local grant)	\$400
Radiological monitors for fire departments (regional grant)	\$6,300

Oversight of Finances of Grants and Organizations

Region One (part of sixteen-county board):

2005 Homeland Security Grant	\$1.8 million
2006 Homeland Security Grant	\$500,000
2007 Homeland Security Grant	\$300,000

E-911 Equipment (assisting E-911 Board)

Replacement and inventory of radios, pagers, miscellaneous equipment	\$40-50,000
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Region Five Hazmat Board (along with Dan Nieland and eight other counties)

\$150,000

Iowa State Association of Counties (Board of Directors)	\$2 million
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Qualified Benefits (no specific quantifiable estimates can be attached)

StormReady Status with the National Weather Service:

Can cut premium costs for taxpayers with National Flood Insurance policies

Mutual aid agreements for shelters, assistance during disaster, etc.:

Can save cities and county time and money by utilizing resources of other organizations in community

Working with other county coordinators and the Iowa State Association of Counties on legislative issues:

Can affect state government policies that could aid emergency preparedness efforts; could also bring in additional funds to assist local governments in proactive emergency management efforts

Making changes in Region One Homeland Security policies for number of board meetings and where trainings would be held:

Saving public funds by lowering the amount of fuel and vehicle wear-and-tear costs

Working with Organizations on Mitigation, Planning, Training and Exercise Drilling:

Can save unknown money and time when disaster strikes because organizations will be better prepared to respond. In addition, mitigation efforts can keep down federal recovery and/or insurance payments (auto, structure, life, health, etc.)