



RAGBRAI[®] XXXIX

COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

For

MILLS COUNTY IOWA

July 23-24, 2011



Prepared by
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Mills County Emergency Management Director

This plan has been completed to support the needs of the City of Glenwood, as an overnight city and to provide safe rider passage through the un-incorporated areas of county. In this way, the plan represents a county-wide commitment to providing the upmost safety to the guests of our county during RAGBRAI[®] XXXIX.

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RAGBRAI® XXXVII COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN FOR MILLS COUNTY

I. Purpose, Policy and Definitions:

Purpose

The purpose of this multi-hazard plan is to develop a procedure for warning RAGBRAI participants and local citizens of approaching severe weather *or other danger*, and to identify locations of safety where RAGBRAI participants may seek shelter and protection. Severe weather is the most likely event and will be stressed.

Policy

The Mills County Emergency Management Agency, in cooperation with the Glenwood Police Department, Mills County Sheriff's Office, the National Weather Service, and Department of Public Safety, will monitor weather conditions during the time RAGBRAI will be riding in Mills County. The public safety operations will make appropriate notifications of weather watches and warnings *and any other dangerous situations* if such conditions occur. **If a critical incident should occur, the designated public information officer shall convene the Crisis Management Team to assess incident and develop a plan of action to include all public information releases to the media. The PIO's name and contact number is Larry Hurst at 712.527.0500 (Cell) or 712.527.4871 (24 Hr. Emergency)**

Definitions

A *watch* means that conditions are favorable for the formation of severe weather in a designated area. Preparations should be made to protect yourself and the persons around you.

A *warning* means that a severe thunderstorm or a tornado has been spotted in the area. Immediate evacuation to a place of safety is necessary.

II. Procedure

1. The National Weather Service and the Mills County E-911/Communications Center will advise all personnel in the field of approaching severe weather in a timely manner.
2. Upon notification of approaching severe weather, the Mills County E-911/Communications Center will broadcast all watches and warnings to Mills County Emergency Management, local fire departments and law enforcement agencies.
3. If a severe thunderstorm warning or tornado warning is issued for the City of Glenwood and/or Mills County, all Law Enforcement Agencies and RAGBRAI officials will be notified by a broadcast from the Mills County E-911/Communications Center. Law Enforcement officers will announce the warning to all RAGBRAI participants with their public address systems. Riders will be notified to relocate to the nearest emergency shelter. If the National Weather Service has issued a tornado warning, the outdoor warning sirens shall be activated by the Mills County Communications Dispatch.
4. A listing of available shelters whether for thunderstorm or tornado in Mills County is included.
5. *If any other dangerous situation develops such as a hazardous materials spill, bio-hazard threat or any other dangerous situation affecting riders or residents during the RAGBRAI event the Iowa Department of Public Safety will be informed of the nature of the emergency and all local law-enforcement and emergency personnel will be instructed as to the appropriate action.*

III. General Information

Should severe weather threaten or strike the City of Glenwood or Mills County during RAGBRAI's stay, the following procedures should be used:

Notification and Preparation:

The Valley, NE. office of the National Weather service issues storm watches and warnings for Mills County. Once notification is received, local law enforcement, fire, EMS and other first responders will receive a notification page from the Mills County Dispatch.

IV. Outdoor Warning System

In the event that severe weather is approaching Mills County, the following procedures will be used to warn the population. For early warnings, the Emergency Management Coordinator, Mills County Sheriff, Glenwood Police Chief or Fire Chief may call for the sirens to be sounded.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning:

1. Law enforcement, fire departments and emergency medical personnel may use vehicle or hand-held loudspeakers to notify bikers and campers in the Park camping areas as well as other designated camping areas.
2. Instructions given to each group individually as to their designated shelter areas and other individualized instructions.
3. All persons must move to the designated safe areas immediately.

Tornado Warning:

1. The outdoor warning siren is sounded for two (1) cycle of three (4) minutes.
2. Law enforcement, fire departments and emergency medical personnel may use vehicle or hand-held loudspeakers to notify bikers and campers in the Park Camping areas as well as other designated camping areas.
3. All persons must move to shelters immediately.
4. All persons must remain in designated shelters until receiving official notification that it is safe to leave the shelters.
5. The RAGBRAI Communications Committee will assist affected persons in taking or making emergency calls.

V. Assistance

Assistance in emergency situations will be handled by the following:

1. Law Enforcement personnel with radios, sirens and loud speakers.
2. Fire Department personnel and vehicles with radios, sirens and loud speakers.
3. County Emergency Management Personnel using radio equipment, loud speakers and sirens.
4. County Emergency Medical Services personnel using radios, sirens, and loud speakers.
5. Glenwood RAGBRAI Communications Committee personnel using radio equipment.
6. Glenwood RAGBRAI Campground Committee personnel using radio equipment.

7. Glenwood RAGBRAI Hospitality Committee personnel using radio equipment.
8. Glenwood RAGBRAI Transportation Committee personnel using radio equipment.

Storm spotters will be used from the local storm-spotter network including trained storm-spotting individuals, fire departments and law enforcement agencies.

If a specific emergency should occur, the lead agency in the emergency would provide an official spokesperson in coordination with Public Information Officer (PIO) for event Larry Hurst, Director Mills County Emergency Management.

VI. Designated Area Storm/Tornado Shelter Information

	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night*</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
1. Glenwood YMCA, 110 Sivers Road, Glenwood, IA	712-527-4352		1500
2. Glenwood High School, 504 East Sharp St, Glenwood, IA	712-527-4897	712- 527-0090	1500
3. Glenwood Middle School,400 Sivers Rd, Glenwood, IA	712-527-4887	“ “	1500
4. Glenwood West Elementary School,707 Sharp St, Glenwood, IA	712-527-4886	“ “	1500
5. North East Elementary School,901 N. Vine St, Glenwood, IA	712-527-4875	“ “	1500
6. Glenwood Resource Center, Bldg. 111 (GYM), 711 S. Vine, Street, Glenwood, IA	712-527-4811		800
7. Volunteered Sheltering throughout City/Mills County Identified by this sign:			

**Note – If no “Night” number is listed the “Day” number is monitored 24-hrs.*



VII. Emergency Phone Listings

- Sheriff’s Department 911 or 712-527-4871
- Glenwood Police Department 911 or 712-527-4844
- Glenwood Fire Department 911 or 712-527-2093
- Glenwood Rescue 911 or 712-527-2093
- Emergency Management Agency 911 or 712-527-3643 (EOC) or Cell 712-527-0500
- RAGBRAI Incident Public Information Officer (PIO)
712-527-3643 or Cell 712-527-0500 or 712-527-4871

VIII. Additional Information

Emergency Management and the Glenwood Police Department along with the Mills County Sheriff's Department will maintain close contact with the National Weather Service by telephone, amateur radio voice links and state teletype. We will monitor our National Weather screen for the duration of this event in our county. Should the need arise for evacuation, Law Enforcement, Fire, and Emergency Management will be consulted.

All first responding agencies will maintain close contact during RAGBRAI®. Our primary concern is the safety of our residents and guests during this event. *If there are any questions or omitted items, the Mills County Multi-Hazard Plan will be implemented.*

Safety Tips

Before Lightning Strikes...

- Keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening skies, flashes of light, or increasing wind. Listen for the sound of thunder.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Go to safe shelter immediately.
- Listen to [NOAA](#) Weather Radio, commercial radio, television or the Campground Public Address System for the latest weather forecasts.

When a Storm Approaches...

- Find shelter in a building or car. Keep car windows closed and avoid convertibles.
- Telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Unplug appliances. Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliances. (Leaving electric lights on, however, does not increase the chances of your home being struck by lightning.)
- Avoid taking a bath or shower, or running water for any other purpose.
- Turn off the air conditioner. Power surges from lightning can overload the compressor, resulting in a costly repair job!
- Draw blinds and shades over windows. If windows break due to objects blown by the wind, the shades will prevent glass from shattering into your home.

If Caught Outside...

- If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees.
- If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately!

Protecting Yourself Outside...

- Go to a low-lying, open place away from trees, poles, or metal objects. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding.
- Be a very small target! Squat low to the ground. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible.
- Do not lie flat on the ground--this will make you a larger target!

After the Storm Passes...

- Stay away from storm-damaged areas.
- Listen to the radio for information and instructions.
- Listen to the Campground Public Address Systems.

Stay Tuned for Storm Warnings

- Listen to your local radio, TV stations and Campground Public Address Systems for updated storm information.
- Know what a tornado WATCH and WARNING means:
 - A tornado WATCH means a tornado is possible in your area.
 - A tornado WARNING means a tornado has been sighted and may be headed for your area. Go to safety immediately.
- Tornado WATCHES and WARNINGS are issued by the Mills County E-911/Communications Center.

When a Tornado WATCH Is Issued...

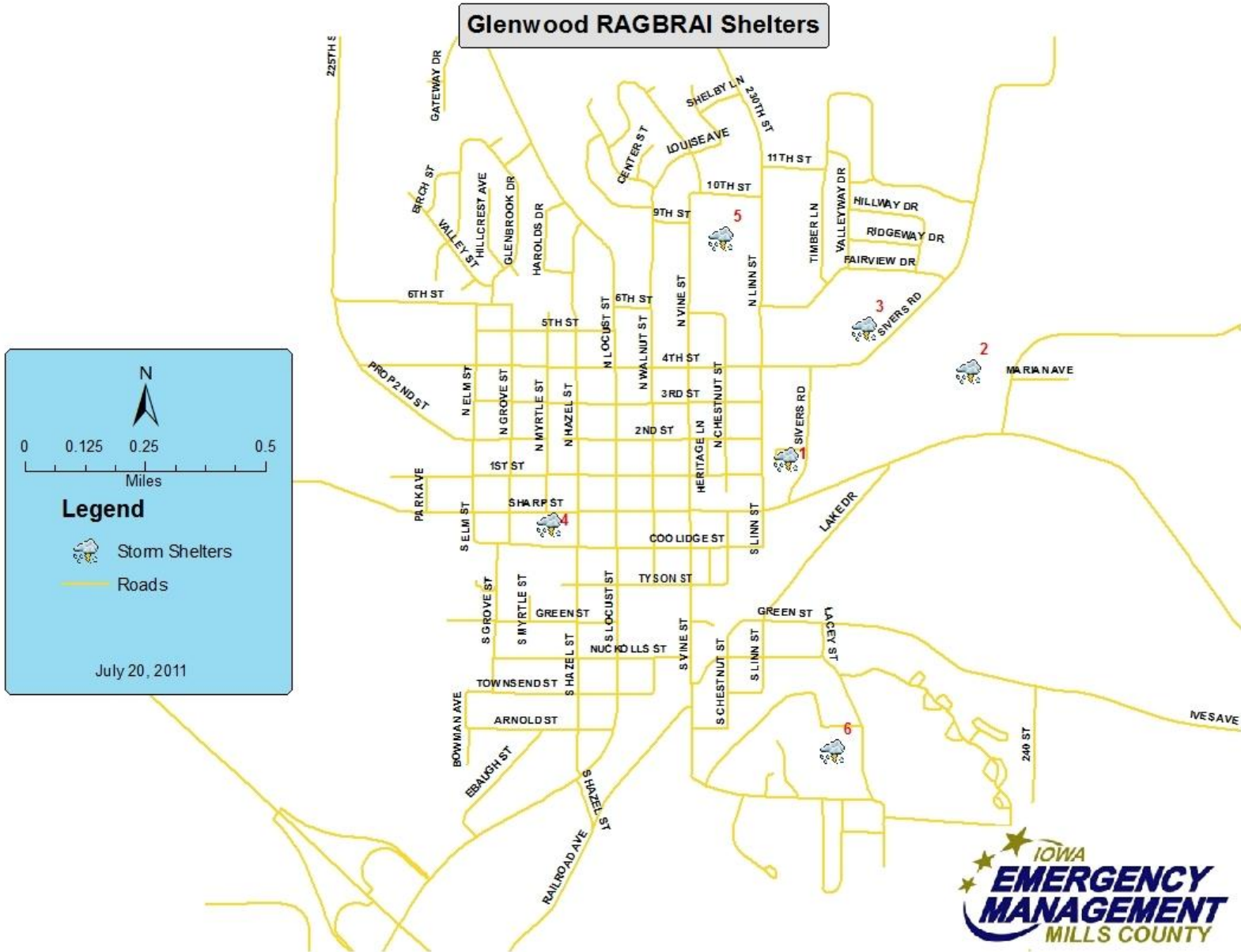
- Listen to local radio, TV stations for further updates.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Many people say it sounds like a freight train.

When a Tornado WARNING Is Issued...

- If you are inside, go to the safe place you picked to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects. The tornado may be approaching your area.
- If you are outside in a campground, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.
- If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety (as above).

After the Tornado Passes...

- Watch out for fallen power lines and stay out of the damaged area.
- Listen to the radio and public address systems for information and instructions.
- Use a flashlight to inspect your situation for damage.
- Do not use candles at any time.



Shelter 1 – Glenwood YMCA, 110 Sivers Rd, Glenwood, IA 51534

Shelter 2 – Glenwood High School, 504 East Sharp St., Glenwood, IA 51534

Shelter 3 – Glenwood Middle School, 400 Sivers Rd., Glenwood, IA 51534

Shelter 4 – Glenwood West Elementary School, 707 West Sharp Street, Glenwood, IA 51534

Shelter 5 – Northeast Elementary School, 901 N. Vine Street, Glenwood, IA 51534

Shelter 6 – Glenwood Resource Center, Bldg. 111, 711 S. Vine Street, Glenwood, IA 51534

In addition to the above designated shelters, riders should look for this sign at residences and business along the route signifying places volunteered by the public for emergency sheltering.



During the Register’s Annual ‘Great Bicycle Ride’ across Iowa (RAGBRAI), Mills County will have thousands of visitors traveling through our communities and rural areas Saturday July 23, and Sunday July 24, 2011. Should a severe weather event occur during this period, several thousand people will be seeking shelter and safety. Because of this, the Mills County Emergency Management Agency has developed the Mills County RAGBRAI Volunteered Sheltering Program.

This is a program that reaches out to individual residents and businesses within our county that have the capacity to safely shelter our visitors, to volunteer their facilities in case of an emergency. Even if they only have room for a few people in their basement, they are encouraged to participate in the program. Any amount of sheltering space that they can provide could very possibly save lives.

To participate in the program, all that is required is that they place the Volunteered Shelter sign in a front-facing window of their home or business. This signifies to cyclists that in the event of a storm they have additional sheltering space. **The following page, Attachment B-3 can be downloaded and copied for this purpose or copies may be obtained at Glenwood City Hall or at Mills County Courthouse (Main Floor Service Counters).**

**SEVERE
WEATHER**



**RAGBRAI
VOLUNTEERED
SHELTER**