



RESILIENCE RESOURCES





WINNESHIEK COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Call 911 for Emergency Dispatch

Law Enforcement

Winneshiek County Sheriff: 563-382-4268

Decorah Police Department: (563) 382-3667

Calmar Police Department: (563) 562-3224

Local Fire Departments

Castalia: (563) 567-8316

Calmar: (563) 562-3575

Decorah: (563) 382-3472

Fort Atkinson: (563) 534-7333

Frankville: (563) 267-8121

Ossian: (563) 563-532-9006

Ridgeway: (563) 737-2579

WinnMed Emergency Department

563-382-2911

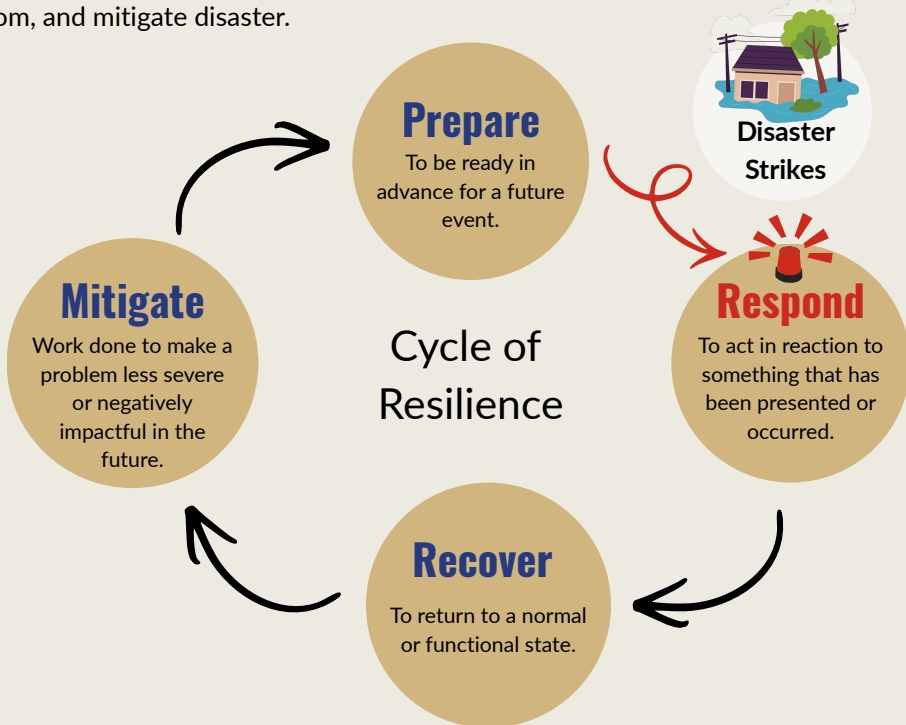


To receive emergency alerts, register for AlertIowa.

Text **WINNALERTS** to **67283**

WHAT IS RESILIENCE?

Resilience can be defined as the ability to bounce back after a stressor or disaster. When a natural or human made stressor hits, how does you, your household, or your community respond and rebuild? Winneshiek County has multiple resources, agencies and organizations who help local residents prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate disaster.



PREPARE

Emergencies don't happen at a convenient time. A few simple steps can improve your ability to respond to a natural or man-made emergency.

Get Connected, Stay Informed

Stay Informed

Sign up for emergency alerts!!
Text WINNALERTS to 67283 and
receive important notifications.



SEVERE WEATHER
ALERTS



EMERGENCY
NOTIFICATIONS



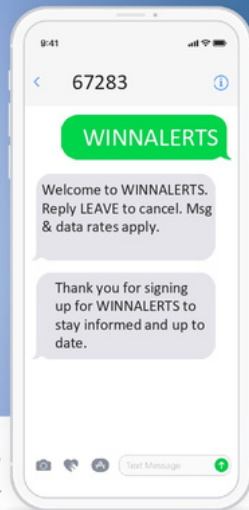
You can opt out at anytime



POWERED BY:



Message and data rates may apply. Text messages are sent on an as-needed basis. Go to smart911.com for privacy and terms info. Text LEAVE to 67283 to cancel or HELP for tech support.



Emergency Shelters

Emergency shelters may be opened after local disaster by emergency management.

Winneshiek County has three emergency shelters:

- 1 Winneshiek County Fairgrounds Community Building**
900 E Main Street, Decorah

- 2 Fort Atkinson Community Center**
303 3rd Street NW, Fort
Atkinson, IA 52144

- 3 Festina Community Center**
2351 Co Rd B32, Fort Atkinson,
IA 52144

During an emergency,
additional community
spaces may be opened
to the public.



Sunflower Child Development & Discovery Center Resilience Hub



The Sunflower Child Development & Discovery Center serves as more than a childcare and educational facility, it is also designed to function as a **community resilience asset during emergencies**. Located in Decorah, the 28,000-square-foot facility is equipped with a 210-kilowatt rooftop solar array, a 60-kilowatt battery storage system, and a natural gas-powered backup generator. Together, these systems provide reliable backup power for critical building functions including emergency lighting, communications equipment, internet connectivity, and limited heating and cooling, even during extended power outages.



During utility disruptions, the building automatically transitions to backup operation. Unlike traditional solar installations that shut down during grid outages, Sunflower's resilience system continues generating solar energy, storing power in on-site batteries and supplementing with generator power when needed. This capability allows the facility to maintain essential operations and serve as a potential gathering location or support site during emergencies.

In coordination with Winneshiek County Emergency Management and local response agencies, parts of the facility may be opened to the public during emergency or disaster situations. Public access during emergencies will be determined based on the nature of the incident, building occupancy needs, staffing availability, and guidance from local emergency management officials. **Residents should monitor official emergency communications for information regarding facility availability and operating hours during disaster events.**

Build an Emergency Supply Kit

Natural and man-made disasters can disrupt the ability to access normal goods and services. Make a kit that can last your household 3-5 days.



Recommended items include:

- ☐ First aid kit, with a 3-5 day supply of medications. *Talk to your doctor about obtaining an emergency supply.*
- ☐ Money
- ☐ Battery-operated flashlight and radio, and extra batteries for each
- ☐ Extra clothing and blankets (including sturdy shoes)
- ☐ Personal hygiene items
- ☐ Water and non-perishable foods
- ☐ Charging cords, cables, battery packs, or solar charger
- ☐ Copies of important documents such as driver's licenses, birth certificates, insurance policies and financial information (can be stored on a flash drive).
- ☐ Specialty items like children's toys, diapers, formula, medical supplies and/or pet supplies and food.



Print a supply kit checklist at ready.iowa.gov

Make an Emergency Plan

When an emergency strikes, you and members of your household may not be together so knowing what to do, where you will go, and how to get in touch with family members is important. **Use the prompts below to start the conversation:**

- How will we receive emergency alerts and warnings? (Text alerts, radio, etc.)
- Where is the nearest emergency shelter?
- What is the best evacuation route? (Consider flooding, down trees, etc.)
- How will we communicate if cell service and/or internet are not available?
- Where will we meet if we cannot meet at home?
- Do I/we need to update or refresh my emergency preparedness kit?



Start your plan today at www.ready.gov/plan-form/

Consider Backup Power Supply

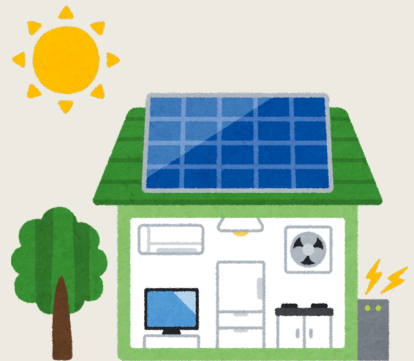
It's not uncommon to keep an extra gas can around for emergencies (or lawn mowing). However, in today's digital world many devices rely on electrical power.

When planning for an emergency, consider: ***What critical items do you need to power to stay safe during power outages? And how might you power them?***

A small solar power bank offers rechargeable energy for small communication devices, is relatively inexpensive and can be handy year-round for portable power needs. However, households with larger critical power needs (i.e. refrigeration for medicine, mobility devices, etc.) might consider installing an in-home battery or generator.

Homes with an existing solar array can install an in-home battery to store excess electricity production for future use. Many electric vehicles offer bi-directional charging, meaning that EV batteries can feed power back to the house - thus acting as a mobile home battery.

See an example of solar + battery storage in [Winneshtiek County's mobile solar generator](#) (p. 8).



To learn more about energy storage systems, reach out to your local energy district: www.energydistrict.org.

RESPOND

If a disaster occurs, call 9-1-1 if there is a life-threatening emergency. Other tips are included here for quick reference.

Storm Damage Response: 5 Steps

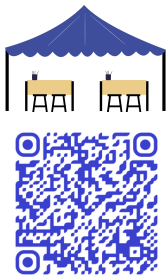
- 1) **Ensure your safety & call 9-1-1 if there is a life-threatening emergency**
911 dispatch will alert the appropriate response team (law enforcement, EMS, etc.)
- 2) **Alert your utility of power outages or down power lines & stay away**
Down power lines and utility outages should be reported to your utility provider. Keep yourself, others, and pets 30-50 feet away from down power lines (about the length of a school bus).
- 3) **Document damage - safely!**
Take photos of damage and/or loss from a safe distance.
Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, and long sleeves.
- 4) **Report damage or loss of personal property**
Submit a claim(s) to your insurance for damage or loss to personal property. Storm damage should also be reported using Emergency Management's online reporting form.
- 5) **Stay Informed**
Stay informed of changing conditions via local radio and alert systems.



Local Asset: Mobile Solar Generator Trailer

Winneshiek County Emergency Management's SunTitan solar generator trailer provides a source of rechargeable, mobile power during outages or when off-grid power is required. The trailer is powered by eight solar panels. Renewable electricity can be instantly deployed or used to charge the trailer's 60 kilowatt hours of battery capacity. That's enough to power a small home for a day!

The trailer's primary purpose is disaster response deployment. Applications include powering emergency command centers, providing lighting for search and rescue, powering critical infrastructure during power outages, and powering remote flood pumps.

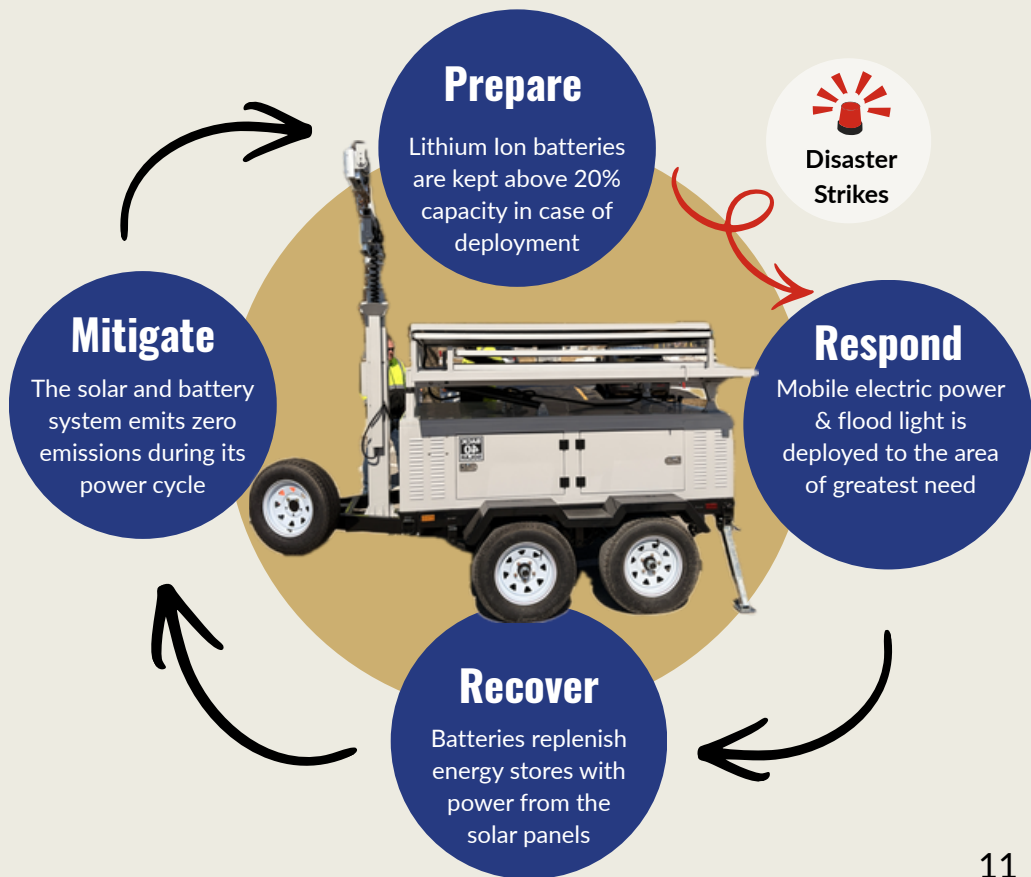


When it's not being used for disaster deployment, **community groups can request use of the the mobile power trailer** on Winneshiek County Emergency Management's website.



The mobile solar generator was made possible through partnership between the Winneshiek Energy District, Winneshiek County Emergency Management, & the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

Resilience Cycle: Mobile Solar Generator



RECOVER

Mitigation is taking action now—before the next disaster—to reduce human and financial consequences later by analyzing risk, reducing risk and insuring against risk.

Disaster Assistance Programs

Visit the Iowa Department of Homeland Security's website for...



- **Counties With Active Disaster Proclamations**

Disaster proclamations are declared by the Governor

- **Disaster Case Advocacy (DCA)**

Disaster Case Advocacy is a supportive program involving a partnership between a disaster-impacted household and a disaster case advocate. There are no income restrictions for DCA. All applicants will receive a consultation with a disaster case advocate.

- **Iowa Individual Disaster Assistance Grant Program (IIAGP)**

The Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program offers grants to income qualifying households. Each qualifying household may receive funds for items that qualify under one of the four categories: temporary housing, food assistance, personal property, and home repair.

MITIGATE

Mitigation is taking action now—before the next disaster—to reduce human and financial consequences later by analyzing risk, reducing risk and insuring against risk.

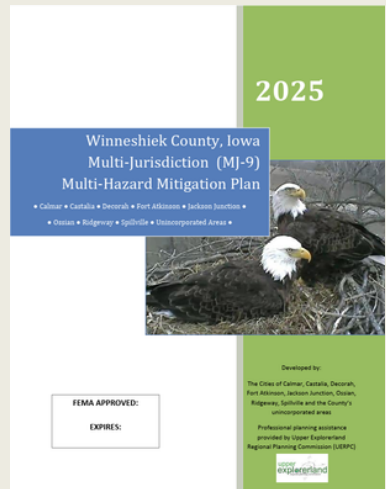
Countywide Hazard Mitigation Planning

Every five years the county updates a Hazard Mitigation Plan through a series of public meetings and input sessions. More than a mere report, this process facilitates important conversations among community leaders and community stakeholders about community resilience.

Hazard mitigation is described as:

- Any action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects – an effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters.
- Hazard mitigation is specifically dedicated to breaking the cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

Find the hazard mitigation plan for Winneshiek County & its municipalities at:
<https://uerpc.org/hazard-mitigation-winneshiek-county/>



Build a Resilient Community



As severe weather events become more common, communities can take action to mitigate the worst impacts by strengthening social ties, investing in public infrastructure, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Below is a short list of collective actions that help foster more resilient communities. ***What are two that you already do well, and one that you would like to work on?***

Know your neighbors

Invest in energy efficiency & renewable energy

Perform software updates on digital devices to decrease cyber-attacks

Learn to grow or gather food(s) to reduce reliance on global supply chains

Advocate for and use pedestrian (walking and biking) transportation routes

Spread awareness of emergency resources & procedures

Maintain and fortify old buildings

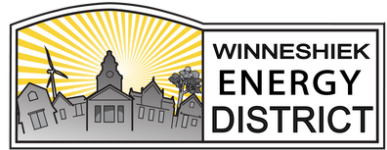
Invest in public infrastructure & community resources



energydistrict.org/audit/

Not sure where to start?

A home energy audit from the Winneshiek Energy District provides practical recommendations for improved home energy efficiency. The result: greater comfort, savings & resilience.



400 W Claiborne Dr, #3

Decorah, IA 52101

(563) 387-4095

winneshiekcounty.iowa.gov/departments/



Emergency Management assists the citizens of Winneshiek County with emergency and disaster mitigation, planning, response and recovery. Our role is to bridge the gap between the local, state and federal levels of government.

217 W Water Street

Decorah, IA 52101

(563) 382-4207

energydistrict.org



The Winneshiek Energy District is a local nonprofit with a mission to lead, implement, and accelerate the locally owned clean energy transition in Winneshiek County, IA.