

CHAPTER 1
ORGANIZATION

[Prior to 4/18/90, Public Defense Department[650], Ch 5]
[Prior to 5/12/93, Disaster Services Division[607], Ch 1]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 1/14/31

605—1.1(29C) Description. The department of homeland security and emergency management is created in Iowa Code chapter 29C. The department of homeland security and emergency management shall be under the management of a director appointed by the governor subject to senate approval. The director shall be vested with the authority to administer homeland security and emergency management affairs in this state and is responsible for preparing and executing the homeland security and emergency management programs of this state subject to the direction of the governor. The director, upon the direction of the governor, shall carry out the duties and responsibilities detailed in applicable Iowa Code provisions, including Iowa Code chapters 29C; 29D as enacted by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate Files 583 and 619; 30; 34A; and 418. The director shall also carry out duties and responsibilities of applicable federal code and regulations. The director, with the approval of the governor, may employ a deputy administrator and such technical, clerical, and other personnel and make such expenditures within the appropriation or from other funds made available to the department for purposes of homeland security and emergency management, as may be necessary to administer the purposes of Iowa Code chapters 29C; 29D as enacted by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate Files 583 and 619; 30; 34A; and 418.

[ARC 9815C, IAB 12/10/25, effective 1/14/26]

605—1.2(29C) Definitions. The following definitions are applicable to the homeland security and emergency management department:

“Comprehensive countywide emergency operations plan” means documents that describe the actions to be taken to lessen the effects of, prepare for, respond to and recover from a disaster by county and city governments, quasi-government agencies, and private organizations that have emergency operations responsibility. The plan is multihazard in scope (covers all hazards for the county) and provides for a coordinated effort. It references authority, assigns functional responsibilities, provides for direction and control, and ensures the effective use of resources.

“Department” means the same as defined in Iowa Code chapter 29C.

“Director” means the same as defined in Iowa Code chapter 29C.

“Disaster” means the same as defined in Iowa Code chapter 29C.

“Emergency” means a sudden, generally unexpected occurrence or set of circumstances demanding immediate action to protect life or property. Such actions are normally handled in a routine manner by law enforcement, fire protection, public works, utilities, and emergency medical services.

“Emergency management” means lessening the effects of, preparations for, operations during, and recovery from natural, technological or human-caused disasters. These actions are broad in scope and include but are not limited to disaster plans, mitigation, preparedness, response, warning, emergency operations, training, exercising, research, rehabilitation, and recovery activities.

“Emergency management performance grant program” means a program by which federal funds are utilized to pay no more than 50 percent of the salaries, benefits, travel, and office expenses incurred in the administration of the state and local emergency management program.

“Homeland security” means the detection, prevention, preemption, and deterrence of and protection from attacks targeted at state territory, population, and infrastructure.

“Joint commissions” means two or more local emergency management commissions acting as a joint commission for the coordination and administration of emergency management as described in Iowa Code section 29C.9.

“Local commission” means the local emergency management commission as defined in Iowa Code section 29C.9.

“Mitigation” means any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. Examples of mitigation activities include building codes, land use management,

floodplain management, building of protective structures such as flood walls, public education, research, risk mapping, safety codes, and statutes and ordinances.

“Preparedness” means any activity taken in advance of an emergency or disaster that improves emergency readiness posture and develops or expands operational capabilities. Examples of preparedness activities include but are not limited to continuity of government, emergency alert and warning systems, emergency communications, emergency operations centers, comprehensive countywide emergency operations plans, emergency public information materials, exercise of plans and systems, hazard analysis, mutual aid agreements, resource management, and the training and equipping of personnel.

“Recovery” means short-term activity to return vital life support systems to minimum operating standards and long-term activity designed to return the affected people and areas to their predisaster conditions. Examples of recovery activities are crisis counseling, damage assessment, debris clearance, decontamination, disaster insurance payments, disaster loans and grants, disaster unemployment assistance, public information, community outreach, temporary housing, and reconstruction.

“Response” means any action taken immediately before, during, or directly after an emergency or disaster occurs, which is intended to save lives, minimize injuries, lessen property and environmental damage and enhance the effectiveness of recovery. Examples of response activity include rendering of assistance by emergency responders, activation of the emergency operations center, emergency alert system activation, emergency instructions to the public, emergency plan implementation, public official alerting, evacuation, sheltering of victims, search and rescue, resource mobilization, and warning system activation.

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605—1.3(29C) Facilitating business rapid response to state-declared disasters. The implementation of business rapid response to state-declared disasters is addressed in the rules of the secretary of state in 721—Chapter 12 and the department of revenue in 701—Chapter 276.

[ARC 9815C, IAB 12/10/25, effective 1/14/26]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 29C; 29D as enacted by 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate Files 583 and 619; 30; 34A; and 418.

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