HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT[605]

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 605—Chapter 9
"Iowa Comprehensive Plan"

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 29C.8
State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: 2024 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2370

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

September 9, 2025 8:45 a.m.	Geode Room 7900 Hickman Road, Suite 500 Windsor Heights, Iowa meet.google.com/oqm-wujn-dif Or dial: (US) +1 475.277.0077 PIN: 619 998 977#

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

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Windsor Heights, Iowa 50324
Phone: 515.323.4232
Email: blake.derouchey@iowa.gov

Purpose and Summary

Pursuant to Executive Order 10, the Department proposes to rescind Chapter 9 and adopt a new chapter in lieu thereof. The proposed chapter describes the structure and guidelines in which local emergency management is administered throughout the State.

The new chapter omits language that is overly restrictive or obsolete and, as a result, is a shorter chapter.

Analysis of Impact

1. **Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:**

- **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**

There is no direct cost associated with the proposed rulemaking.

- **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**

All individuals within the State benefit from a well-run and well-planned emergency management program.

2. **Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:**

- **Quantitative description of impact:**

The Department qualifies for various federal funding programs through the Robert T. Stafford Act because of the documented Iowa Comprehensive Plan. Much of this funding is passed through to local jurisdictions. Without these plans, Iowa would be ineligible for various federal funding programs.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

Well-documented emergency planning is integral to emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. Countless lives are saved and damage to property is prevented by an all-hazards emergency response, recovery, and hazard mitigation plan. This proposed chapter outlines the State's response to disasters. These proposed rules lay out the baseline for local emergency management programs so that local jurisdictions are well-prepared, able to respond, and capable of assisting in the recovery from disasters.

3. **Costs to the State:**

- **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

There are no costs to the State or the Department associated with this proposed rulemaking aside from the staff time to manage and maintain the plans.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

There are no anticipated effects on State revenues. However, by having these rules in place, Iowa becomes eligible for federal funding assistance.

4. **Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:**

This proposed rulemaking ensures the State is prepared and able to respond and recover from disasters. Inaction could lead to death, loss of property, and devastated communities. Not implementing these rules would lead to federal funding disqualification.

5. **Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:**

The Department proposes these rules as the least intrusive and prescriptive method for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking. Where intrusive or prescriptive methods remain in this proposed rulemaking, the Department is following federal grant and program guidelines to ensure funding qualifications.

6. **Alternative methods considered by the agency:**

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

There were no alternative methods that were seriously considered.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

Not applicable.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.
- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.
- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

This proposed rulemaking has little to no impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 605—Chapter 9 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 9
IOWA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

605—9.1(29C) Description and public access.

9.1(1) Iowa Code section 29C.8 requires the director of the homeland security and emergency management department to prepare a comprehensive plan for homeland security, disaster response, recovery, mitigation, and emergency resource management for the state. This comprehensive plan is comprised of the following parts:

a. Iowa Emergency Response Plan.

b. Iowa Hazard Mitigation Plan.

c. Iowa Disaster Recovery Plan.

d. Iowa Critical Asset Protection Plan (confidential per Iowa Code section 22.7, Confidential records).

9.1(2) Digital copies of plans referenced in paragraphs 9.1(1)*"a"* through *"c"* will be provided to the state library located in the Ola Babcock Miller Building, 1112 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa.

9.1(3) Plans referenced in paragraphs 9.1(1)*"a"* through *"c"* shall be distributed to state agencies and departments that have been assigned emergency functions and to all local emergency management agencies.

9.1(4) Plans referenced in paragraphs 9.1(1)*"a"* through *"c"* shall be available for public viewing at the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department, 7900 Hickman Road, Suite 500, Windsor Heights, Iowa.

605—9.2(29C) Iowa Emergency Response Plan. The Iowa Emergency Response Plan is developed in accordance with Iowa Code section 29C.8 and has been adopted, published, and maintained by the department. This plan details the state government response to a wide range of natural, technological or human-caused disasters. The Iowa Emergency Response Plan serves as the state disaster emergency response document.

605—9.3(29C) Iowa Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Iowa Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed in accordance with Iowa Code section 29C.8 and was adopted on September 18, 2023, and published, and has been maintained by the department. This plan details the state government's goals, objectives, and strategies to mitigate a wide range of natural, technological, or human-caused disasters in accordance with Section 322 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5165 as of October 1, 2025.

9.3(1) The Iowa Hazard Mitigation Plan serves as the state hazard mitigation document and demonstrates the state's commitment to reduce risks from natural, technological, and human-caused hazards and serves as a guide for the commitment of resources to reducing the effects of natural, technological, and human-caused hazards.

9.3(2) The Iowa Hazard Mitigation Plan shall be reviewed and amended as appropriate at a minimum of every five years.

605—9.4(29C) Iowa Disaster Recovery Plan. The Iowa Disaster Recovery Plan was developed in accordance with Iowa Code section 29C.8 and was adopted on September 17, 2018, and published, and has been maintained by the department. This plan details the state government's goals, objectives,

and strategies to recover from a wide range of natural, technological, or human-caused disasters. The Iowa Disaster Recovery Plan serves as the state disaster recovery document.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 29C.8.