

**History:**

Through the Thomas T. Stafford Act of the 1950's and the Iowa Code Chapter 29C, Congress formed the **Civil Defense Agency**. The original purpose of the Agency was to prepare the citizens of the United States for nuclear attack and survival following such an attack.

Much has changed since that initial mission. Since September 11, 2001, our nation and our county have identified new challenges and implemented new procedures to make our homes and families safe. Many of these initiatives are being coordinated by the Shelby County Emergency Management Agency.

**Organizational Structure:**

We are governed by a 19 member **Commission** which consists of the 11 mayors in our county, Myrtue Memorial Hospital, Shelby County Sheriff, Shelby County Engineer, E-911 Board, an Emergency Services Representative, Board of Supervisors, Harlan Police Department and a representative from the Local Emergency Planning Committee. The Commission meets twice each year to oversee the actions of the Agency and to certify the budget. A five-member Executive Committee, composed of the Sheriff, Harlan Police Chief, Board of Supervisors, City of Harlan and Emergency Services Association, meets monthly to assist in planning for emergency response and coordination of the daily activities of the Coordinator.

**Added Position:**

Created with State of Iowa EMS Grant funds, we have been allowed to add the position of EMS Coordinator. Our EMS Coordinator is able to offer first aid and CPR programs. He coordinates public planning for emergency medical response and assists departments with day-to-day activities. This allows our cadre of volunteers to spend more time training and responding to real-life emergencies.