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Emergency Information

In any emergency Fire/Ambulance Dial 911 (Then notify the command center immediately)

Independence Fire Station – 319-334-3404

Dispatch 319-334-2568

Iowa State Patrol 319-266-2677

Buchanan County Health Center /Urgent Care– 319-332-0999

First Aid/Medical

Fire Station / Command Center (East Side): Thursday: 12p.m.–12a.m. Friday: 6-10 a.m.

West Elementary/Main Campground Center (west side): Thursday: 12p.m.–12a.m. Friday: 6-10 a.m.

Direct people straight to medical services in situations that warrant first aid. If an individual cannot get to the first aid station, use the radio system and a first aid representative will come to the individual in need of assistance. If a situation is life threatening, call 911.

Basic first aid supplies are available, and the tent will be staffed with medically trained personnel. For anyone needing non-life-threatening services after these hours: contact area urgent care or hospitals for assistance.

Emergency Management Severe Weather Plan

Storm/Tornado Safety Areas Shelter locations depend on the area in which side of the river you are on. On the following pages there are shelter location sorted by East and West side of the river. The designated shelters will have a sign on their door so that they can be identified.

In an emergency situation the downtown businesses have assured us they will open their doors as shelter to as many as they can accommodate, during their business hours. Also, residences will have front porch light on during an emergency to show their home is a place of shelter only in the event of an emergency.

Calling 319-334-2567 or 319-334-2520 or (911 for Emergencies) reaches the main switchboard at the Buchanan/Independence Communications Center in Buchanan County, which will be staffed at all times. These numbers can be used to activate the calling tree for the emergency shelter plan.

On the next page is a list of the designated emergency storm safety area locations that will be utilized during the day that RAGBRAI is in Independence.

See Emergency Operations plan towards the back for more information.

Outdoor Warning System

Outdoor Warning Sirens shall be activated if the City of Independence is placed into a SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING with threats of 70 MPH winds, and/or hail larger than a quarter. Outdoor Warning Sirens shall be activated if the City of Independence is placed into a TORNADO WARNING.

Emergency Shelter Locations

<u>West Side</u>	<u>Locations</u>	<u>Address</u>
Main Campground	Independence High School	700 20th Ave SW
	Independence West Elementary	1301 1st Street W
	Independence East Elementary	1103 1st Street W
	Buchanan County Public Health/ Emergency Management	1210 1st Street W
Downtown area	River's Edge Sport & Fitness	206 2nd Ave SW

East Side

Downtown area	Independence Fire Department	113 4th Ave SE
	Indee Community Bible Church	301 2nd Street SE
	St. John's School	314 3rd Street NE
Fairground area	Buchanan County Courthouse	210 5th Ave NE
	Buchanan County Senior Center	400 5th Ave NE
	Falcon Civic Center	1305 5th Ave NE
East side	Independence Public Library	805 1st Street E
Quiet Campground area	Independence Swimming Pool	514 5th Ave SE
	Vern's True Value	901 3rd Ave SE

AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) Meeting:

Thursday July 23rd at 7pm River's EDGE Sport & Fitness 206 2nd Ave SW

ATMs:

Bank Iowa Drive up –	331 2 nd St NE	Veridian CU / Caseys S	1906 3 rd Ave SE
Caseys West	816 1 st St W	Walmart	302 Enterprise Dr
NE Security Bank Drive up	231 1 st St E	Bank Iowa South	305 Enterprise Dr
Kwik Star	100 5 th Ave NE	Music Station	709 1 st St W
Caseys North	1200 5 th Ave NE	The Spot	112 2 nd Ave SW
Dupaco	131 2 nd Ave NE		

Automotive Repair/Service

Bagby's Automotive Repair	801 5 th Ave NE, Independence	(319) 334-7285
Boubin Automotive Service	817 5 th Ave NE, Independence	(319) 334-6058
Cy & Charley's Inc	1001 5 th Ave NE, Independence	(319) 334-2565
Dunlap Motors Chevrolet Buick Pontiac	520 1 st St E, Independence	(319) 334-7103
Hilltop Motors	512 20 th Ave SW, Independence	(319) 334-3761
Hunter Auto Sales & Body Shop	1607 1 st St W, Independence	(319) 334-6714
Iowa Transmission Rebuilders	302 Enterprise Dr, Independence	(319) 334-2040
Mike Auto Service	1716 1 st Street W, Independence	(319) 334-4879
Rydell of Independence –	2000 Enterprise Dr East, Independence	(319) 334-6033

Automotive Parts/Supplies

Advance Auto Parts	1414 1 st Street West	(319) 334-9095
NAPA Auto Parts	216 1 st Street East	(319) 334-6008
O'Reilly Auto Parts	1821 1 st Street West	(319) 334-5055

Baggage Truck

Location: Main Campground behind East Elementary (East of West Elementary)

- Pickup hours on Thursday: approximately 11am - 6pm (No one is allowed in the fenced-in area before approximately 11am or until both trucks are unloaded for safety issues)
- Baggage security ends at 6pm
 - Then the bags are left in the place they were dropped for people to pick up when they arrive. We will not put a bag back on the truck the next morning. If it is left the night before, it will be there when we leave.
- Friday morning drop-off hours: 5am - 8am, A warning horn sounds 15 minutes before truck's departure 8am, and if you aren't loaded, you will have to find a way to get your bag to the next town.

Beverage Garden -

Hours: 3pm - 10:30pm

The Downtown District will be your beer garden where you will find multiple bars and restaurants offering you food and beverages throughout. The outdoor beverage garden will be located on 2nd Avenue NE between 1st Street E and 2nd Street NE. The Main Stage will be located at 1st Street East and 2nd Avenue NE. No alcoholic beverages may be taken out of the Downtown District. All beverages \$6.00 at the Beverage Garden.

Bike Repair /Shops

South of the Baggage Truck at West Elementary – 1301 1st St W

Circle Eight Cyclery – 330 1st St E. – 563-380-7430

Downtown Vendors – Black Tire, Bike Guy, Bike World

Campgrounds

General Information

- Open at 7am and will close at 9pm.
- No vehicles will be allowed in after 9pm.
- Once parked in a campground, we request vehicles to only exit if it is an emergency.
- Plan ahead and stock up on supplies before entering the campground.
- Ice will be for sale (See ice section).
- Only vehicles with official passes will be allowed to enter the campgrounds.
- No open fires will be allowed.
- Portable toilets will be situated at various locations throughout the campground areas.
- Support vehicles are allowed on marked roads and designated areas.
- RAGBRAI Main, Quiet, and RV/Support campsites are on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Charter/Team locations: See charter list on next page.
- Renegade/Pirate riders (riders without a wristband) are not allowed to stay in any of the city's official RAGBRAI campgrounds.
- Official city's RAGBRAI campgrounds:
 - 4th Ward Park (601 4th Ave NE)
 - Orchard Park (behind Dairy Queen)
 - Malone Creek Park (900 2nd St NE)
 - 3rd Ward Park (600-698 4th Ave SW)
 - Jaycee Park (1100 1st Street E)
 - Lone Oak Park (Across from Veterans Park)
 - Freeman Park (700 7th Ave NW)
 - Yundt Park (201 3rd St SE)

Main Campground:

- Independence Elementary School Campus
- RAGBRAI baggage truck, information center, medical tent, lost and found.
- Meals/Shower in West elementary

Quiet Campground:

- south of the Independence Aquatic Center
- No generators are allowed
- quiet conditions will be in effect once the sun begins to set
- no food available for purchase

RV parking:

- Independence Jr/Sr High School Campus
- overflow at the Buchanan County Fairgrounds.

Charter Camping/locations:

<u>Charter Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Adaptive Sports	Falcon Center
Air Force	Rebecca Court
Out of Staters/ACE/Pandas	Swan Lake
Bicycle Ride Across Georgia	Swan Lake
Bicyclists of I.C.	Riverwalk Park
Bike Burlington	Riverwalk Park
Bike World	Jr/Sr High School
Brancel Charter	Riverwalk Park
Cedar Valley Cyclists	5th Ward Park
Central Iowa Charters	Riverwalk Park
Chain Gang	Riverwalk Park
C.U.B.S.	Inside Heartland Acres
Dream Team	West Elementary
Dubuque Bike Club	Teacher's Park
Good Beer	Jr/Sr High School
Hawkeye Cycling	Immanuel Lutheran Church
Iowa Valley Bike Club	Riverwalk Park
Joe's Bunkhouse	Sign N More Parking Lot
Legacy Adventure & RAGBRAI InStyle	Brett & Hilary Weber residence - 210 9th Ave. SE
Lost & Found Adventures	Riverwalk Park
Moore's Portable Toilets	Norby's Distributing
North Iowa Touring Club	Swan Lake
Padre's Cycle Inn	Jr/Sr High School
Pella Cycling Club	First Presbyterian Church
Pork Belly Ventures	Jr/Sr High School
Powered By Plants	Jr/Sr High School
Quiet Campground	Aquatic Center
Riverbend Cycling & Quad Cities	Old High School Field (southeast of the pool)
Siouxland	Swan Lake
Tall Dog Bike & Whiners	1st Ward Park
Team Me Off	Jr/Sr High School
Team Skunk	Roger Kremer - 801 9th Ave. SW

Car Washes

Indee Car Wash /Dog Wash Central	124 2 nd Ave SW
Indee Car Wash North (by railroad tracks)	1000 5 th Ave NE
Laser Car Wash	110 20 th Ave SW

Cell Phone Charging Station

- There will be electrical outlets available at the Football Field Mezzanine (West Elementary).
- Phones or other equipment plugged in and left there will not be monitored by volunteers.

Command Center/Communications

Staffed hours – Thursday July 23rd – 6am-midnight / Friday July 24th – 5am-2pm

Main (East) Location - Independence Fire Station - 113 4th Avenue SE

Secondary (West) Location - Emergency Management Center – 1210 1st Street West

Convenience Stores

Kwik Star	100 5 th Ave NE	(319) 334-4812
Caseys North	1200 5 th Ave NE	(319) 334-9584
Caseys South	1906 3 rd Ave SE	(319) 334-7220
Caseys West	816 1 st St	(319) 334-9413
Music Station	709 1 st St West	(319) 334-9770

RAGBRAI Information

- RAGBRAI Information Trailer in Main Campground (West Elementary)
 - Hours: 11am - 7pm (Thursday)
- RAGBRAI Information Trailer in Downtown:
 - Hours: Noon - 9pm (Thursday)
- RAGBRAI is Cashless

Email & Internet Access

E-mail /Internet access will be available at the following locations:

- Independence Public Library
- McDonald's
- Em's Coffee Co
- City of Independence – City Guest (password-independence)
 - City Hall
 - Independence Aquatic Center
 - River's Edge
 - Falcon's Civic Center

Entertainment Line-up

Main Stage Entertainment:

- 3:00-4:00pm 34th Infantry Band
- 4:15-5:45pm PlugNickel
- 6:15-8:15pm Dirty Champagne
- 8:45-10:45pm Not Quite Brothers

Grocery / Hardware Stores

Dollar Fresh Market	1975 3 Elms Park Rd	Cole's Ace Hardware	312 1 st St E
Fareway	1400 3 rd Ave SE	Vern's True Value	901 3rd Ave SE
Walmart	302 Enterprise Dr		
Dollar General	1304 1 st St W		

Hotels / Motels

Comfort Inn & Suites

Rush Park Motel

Super 8 Motel

Housing

- Private Pre-Arranged Housing information of matched riders/teams will be available at the information centers – Main Campground West Elementary
- Housing information will be emailed to all riders prior to the event.
- There will be no walk-up housing available on the day of the event.

Ice (bags of Ice)

- Independence Fire & High School Wrestling will be selling Ice bags at Jr/Sr High School and all campgrounds.
- 20lbs for \$8.00 and 10lbs for \$5.00.
- Location – Will deliver to you. Scan QR code at any information tent or call 319-332-0024.

Information Centers

- Main RAGBRAI information center is located near West Elementary. 10am to 7pm.
- Information Center will be open from Thursday 7:30am to 12am and Friday 5am-10am.
- Downtown Information center will be open from 11:30am to 10pm.

Laundromats

Whitewater Laundromat 401 E 1st St. (OPEN 24/7)

Lost & Found

Will be located at the Main RAGBRAI tent at West Elementary.

Hours: 10am - 7pm

Inquiries after the trailer has closed will need to check at the RAGBRAI Information trailer in the next town.

Message & Emergency Board

Text RAGBRAI to 38276, you will receive:

- * General public information, road closures, event schedules
 - * Real-time weather alerts if storms threaten our temporary visitors
 - * Direct calls for volunteers if we need to mobilize community support or emergency shelter assistance
- Also see LED message board downtown for all event messages and emergencies.

Medical / First Aid

First Aid

Main Campground - 1301 1st St W

Fire Station 113 4th Ave SE (Cooling Shelter /Water filling stations)

Hospital

Buchanan County Health Center - 1600 1st St E

Emergency Room - located on the North side of the building

Urgent Care – (located West Building) Thursday 12pm – 8:30pm - Friday 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Pharmacies / Medical Supplies –

Walmart Pharmacy – 302 Enterprise Dr. (319) 334-7131

Hartig Drug – 201 1st ST W (319) 334-7155

Ryan Pharmacy – 1600 1st St E (319) 334-7171

23rd – 8:30am-1:00pm, 24th – 12pm-5:30pm

Things to do around town:

Heartland Acres Agribition Center (10 AM - 7 PM) 2600 Swan Lake Blvd

Lee Mansion (10 AM - 7 PM) 800 1st ST E

Wapsipinicon Mill (10 AM - 7 PM) 100 1st St W

Cedar Rock State Park will be open from 10 AM-9 PM 2611 Quasqueton Diagonal Blvd

will have a shuttle from Independence to the state park from 4 PM-9 PM.

Painting demos around town on Thursday

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

City Parks with Playground Equipment

First Ward 7th Ave & 2nd Street NE

Third Ward 4th Ave & 5th Street SW

Fourth Ward 4th Ave & 6th Street NE

Fifth Ward 5th Ave & 3rd Street NW

Jaycee Park 1101 1st Street E (across from Police Dept)

Riverwalk Parks 1st Ave & 6th Street NE

Tennis Courts

Third Ward Park

Jaycee Park

High School (west side of town)

Swimming Pool (Price – \$10.00)

514 5th Ave SE (319) 334-7464

Golf Courses

River Ridge Golf Course 1749 Golf Course Blvd (319) 334-6576

Three Elms Golf Course 2074 3 Elms Park Rd (319) 334-4235

Bowling Alley

319 Social House 519 1st St East

Post Office/Packaging/Shipping

USPS

200 2nd Avenue NE

(319) 334-2495

Propane

Cole's Ace Hardware: 312 1st St East
Vern's True Value: 901 3rd Ave SE
Music Station: 709 1st St West
Casey's South: 1906 3rd Ave SE

Casey's West: 816 1st St West
Casey's North: 1200 5th Ave NE
Dollar General: 1304 1st Street West
The Spot: 112 2nd Avenue S

Restaurants

319 Social House Bar 519 1st St E
Arianna's Kitchen 1826 1st St W
Buttermilk Café 1008 1st St W
Burger King 200 1st St W
Choung Garden 105 1st St E
Dairy Queen 807 3rd Ave SE
Del Rio Mexican 323 1st St E
Denali's on the River 1749 Golf Course Blvd
Em's Coffee Co 324 1st St E

Gedney Bakery 118 1st St E
Gibby's Downtown 315 1st St E
Joe's Pizza 300 1st St E
Los Dos Maria's Mexican 220 1st St E
Lucky Buffet 2335 Jamestown Ave
McDonald's 2339 Jamestown Ave
Pizza Ranch 1900 1st St W
Subway 1705 1st St W
The Crowbar Grill 205 2nd St NE

Restrooms/Port-a-Potty

All public parks
Riverwalk Parks

River's Edge
Downtown Entertainment area

All Campgrounds

RV Parking / Dump Station

- RV Parking: Mustang Way (High School Softball/Baseball fields), Bus Barn (near HS tennis courts), overflow at Buchanan County Fair Grounds
- Dump Station: 200 block of 8th St SE

SAG Wagon

- Drop off at the Main Campground near the Information Center.
- For registered riders who break down on the route.
- SAG wagon drivers will patrol the route until 6pm.
- Sag wagons do NOT provide taxi/shuttle service from town to town.
- Riders must arrange their own private ride if unable to ride.

Showers

\$10 or \$12 with towel

Jr/Sr High School –10am to 10pm - 700 20th Ave SW
West Elementary – 1pm-10pm - 1301 1st St W
Football Field Multi-Purpose Room 1pm -10pm- 1301 1st St W
Swimming Pool (no towel option)– 601 5th Ave SE
Falcon Civic Center (no towel option)- 1305 5th Ave NE

Shower Trailers:

Riverwalk Park
Swan Lake
Quiet Campground (south of the Aquatic Pool)
Main Campground (Elementary Campus)

Shuttles / Shuttle Routes

One shuttle will run on each route starting at 11:00am. By 2:00pm, two shuttles will run on each route. Two additional floater shuttles will be added by 5:00pm, to be used, if needed, where event needs are highest. Shuttles will stop running routes at Midnight.

Cost: Free

West route Shuttle Stops:

1. 2nd Ave SW in front of School Administration Building
2. Jr/Sr High (North side of the High School)
3. Heartland Acres
4. 3rd Ward Park on 7th Street SW
5. Liberty Park (2nd Ave SW)
6. 5th Ward Park on 3rd ST

East route Shuttle Stops:

1. Swimming Pool 5th Ave SE
2. Pets Unleashed 9th Ave SE
3. Corner of 1st St E & 8th Ave NE on 8th Ave beside old gas station
4. 8th Ave NE & Rebecca Ct
5. Falcon Civic Center parking area on north end of building
6. Buchanan County Fair Grounds South Gate
7. US Post Office on 2nd St NE in front of Crow Bar
8. 2nd St & 4th Ave NE beside Bank Iowa Drive Up
9. 3rd St NE & 5th Ave NE North side of Catholic Church

Street Closures:

Highway 150 will close at 5pm on Wednesday July 22 and will open on Friday July 24 at 12pm
1st West (Downtown area) will close 7am on Thursday July 23.
Soft and mobile barricades will go in place around 1pm on Thursday (see map for locations)

Support Vehicles

Information for Support Vehicles will be at each information tents (main campground, downtown, and 20th St support vehicle entrance)

Towing:

Len's 24hr Wrecker/ Hunter Auto Sales -	319-334-6714
Hilltop Motors	319-334-3761

Veterinarians

Independence Veterinary Clinic – 2329 Jamestown Ave
Premier Animal Wellness & Surgery – 405 Enterprise Dr

Water locations

Main campground and County Secondary Roads Department (leaving town across from Buchanan County Health Center)

Vendors (Food & Non-Food)

Vendors

Downtown	Karens Grill
	Whip Delight
	Hungry Boys Taqueria
	Inspire Health & Wellness
	Stack Wellness
	Canyon Trail Freddie's Popcorn
	Woudstra Market
	Americana Concessions
	Pacific Rim Noodles
	Outside Scoop
	Epic Concessions
	Thyron Mathews BBQ
	Pretzlemaker
	Dutchman's Chuckwagon Pizza's
	Dana Zellar Home Bakery
	Nopal
	Fried Sweets & Treats
	Gibby's Vending
Non-Food (Downtown)	B Fresh Gear
	Revitalize
Jr/Sr High School- 700 20th Ave SW	Band Boosters - \$15 – 4pm -8pm Italian Sausage Spaghetti, Saled, Dessert
	Bake Sale - desserts, baked goods, snack items
	Mat Club –\$6 - Smoothies 10am- 10pm
	All day vending (outside school) – Maidrite & Pork sandwiches, fruit, desserts
West Elementary – 1301 1st ST W	Athletic Boosters \$10 – 4-8pm Lasagna Rollups, Green Beans Garlic Bread & Pulled Pork, Coleslaw
	FCCLA – Pies - Freewill donation – 4-8pm
	Mat Club – \$6 - Smoothies 10am-10pm
	Mustang Basketball Club – Breakfast Sandwiches – Grab and Go items (Friday morning)
	Football Field –\$10 - \$15- 11am-8pm Burgers, Steak Sandwiches, Chicken, Hot Dogs, Potato Salad, Cookies & General Concessions
	Kidsville – Frozen Fruit \$5 -1009 1st St W
Churches	Presbyterian Church – Homemade Pies and Ice Cream 801 9th Ave SW
	Immanuel Lutheran Church – Lasagna Dinner -\$15 / 512 5th ST NE
	St John's Catholic Church – Beef & Noodles - \$15/ 209 5th Ave NE
Offsite	Denali's on the River – Food Truck - Signs and More parking lot

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

Where is the RAGBRAI Campground Information Tent, lost and found, and day passes?

Located in the West Elementary

Hours: 10am - 7pm

Services Offered: Day Pass Purchase or Pick-up, Lost & Found, Information, Medical Bikes, Merchandise Sales

Where are the RAGBRAI Merchandise Trailers?

RAGBRAI Information & Merchandise Trailer Downtown: 1st Street

Hours: Noon - 9pm

Services Offered: Day Pass Purchase or Pick-up, Information, Customer Service Issues & Questions, Limited Merchandise Sales

Where do the SAG Wagons unload?

Main Campground at behind East Elementary near the Information Center

Where are the baggage trucks?

Main Campground at behind East Elementary near the Information Center

Where are the food vendors?

Food vendors will be downtown on 3rd Ave NE

Churches: Presbyterian Church – Homemade Pies and Ice Cream / 801 9th Ave SW

Immanuel Lutheran Church – Lasagna Dinner -\$15 / 512 5th ST NE

St John's Catholic Church – Beef & Noodles - \$15/ 209 5th Ave NE

Main Campground – High School and West Elementary (non-profit school organizations)

Where is the main entertainment area?

The main entertainment area is at 1st St E at the Bridge in downtown Indee with bands from 3:00 - 10:45pm.

Where are the Bike Vendors?

Downtown area on 1st Street E, east of the food vendors.

Where is the message board located?

Downtown – LED sign on 1st St E

Where is the bike route out of town?

The route will start 1st St W at West Elementary and continue east on 1st St E out of town.

Will there be public Wi-Fi?

Independence Public Library

McDonald's

Em's Coffee Co

City facilities (City Hall, Rivers Edge, Falcon Center, Swimming Pool)

Where are the shuttle routes, and what is the schedule?

Two Routes (One east side of town and one west side). See Shuttles for stops.

Hours – 11am-Midnight

Where is the nearest place to eat besides food vendors?

Downtown Independence has many restaurants to serve you.

SHOWERS: \$10 or \$12 with towel

Jr/Sr High School –10am to 10pm - 700 20th Ave SW

West Elementary – 1pm-10pm - 1301 1st St W

Football Field Multi-Purpose Room 1pm -10pm- 1301 1st St W

Swimming Pool (no towel option)– 601 5th Ave SE

Falcon Civic Center (no towel option)- 1305 5th Ave NE

Shower Trailers:

Riverwalk Park

Quiet Campground (south of the Aquatic Pool)

Swan Lake

Main Campground (Elementary Campus)

Where are the porta-potties?

Spread throughout the campgrounds and on the downtown side streets

Where can I camp?

Registered riders can find a spot in the Main Campground located at Elementary Campus

Or Official city's RAGBRAI campgrounds:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ○ 4th Ward Park (601 4th Ave NE) | ○ Orchard Park (behind Dairy Queen) |
| ○ Malone Creek Park (900 2nd St NE) | ○ 3rd Ward Park (600-698 4th Ave SW) |
| ○ Jaycee Park (1100 1st Street E) | ○ Lone Oak Park (Across from Veterans Park) |
| ○ Freeman Park (700 7th Ave NW) | ○ Yundt Park (201 3 rd St SE) |

RV/support vehicle parking is located at the High School Baseball/Softball fields and Tennis courts with overflow at Buchanan County Fairgrounds.

Where can I fill my water bottle?

Main campground area will have water bottle filling stations and County Secondary Roads Department (leaving town across from Buchanan County Health Center)

Where is the swimming pool?

514 5th Ave SE - southeast side of town.

Independence Emergency Operations

Organizational Structure and Position Responsibilities

An emergency plan organizational structure must be maintained throughout the event to assure the safety of all personnel involved.

RAGBRAI COMMAND POSTS

During the event, we will have two (2) command posts to assist with operations operating from July 23rd, 2026, from 06:00-2400 & July 24th, 2026, from 05:00-14:00. **Command Post East** will be located at Independence Fire Station 113 4th Ave SE. **Command Post West** will be located at Buchanan County Emergency Management 1210 1st Street West.

Weather Monitoring Operations

National Weather Service will be operating out of **Command Post West** during the RAGBRAI event and will be monitoring weather conditions throughout the event. All notifications to the public and emergency responders will be completed by Buchanan County EMA and the Communications Division. In the event that outdoor warning siren activation is needed, this can only be done from the Independence Fire Station.

Weather Related Events

Definitions

- **SEVERE WEATHER** for this event will be defined as a tornado, severe thunderstorm, hail, or flash flooding.
- **WATCH** means that conditions are favorable for the formation of severe weather. Preparations should be made to protect yourself and others around you.
- **WARNING** means that a severe thunderstorm or a tornado has been spotted in the area. Immediate evacuation to a place of safety is necessary.

Procedures / Monitoring Weather Conditions

- RAGBRAI Command will have access to weather monitoring throughout the event by computer and phone.
- Dispatch will monitor teletypes, will follow their normal procedures, and will coordinate with the command post.
- Riders (and RAGBRAI volunteers) will be encouraged to sign up for weather alerts via Alert Iowa or Smart 911.

Severe Weather Watch Procedures

- The RAGBRAI Event Commander will advise all RAGBRAI volunteers working at the event of any severe weather watches issued that encompass the Buchanan County area.
- The RAGBRAI Executive Committees shall be notified of any severe weather watches issued for the area.
- The nature and scope of the watch will be broadcast to all volunteers.
- Dispatch will notify the Police, Fire, EMS, Public Works, and the RAGBRAI Operations Staff that a watch for the area has been issued and its effective time.
- If the watch is issued during event times, the Command Post will request an announcement be made regarding the weather watch at the event stage.
- If severe weather appears it will have an impact on the Buchanan County area all shelters will be notified to immediately open locations and man their main shelter entrances to notify/guide those seeking shelter.
- In the event of a potential impact of severe weather in the area, shuttle buses will immediately transport individuals on the bus to the nearest shelter location and take refuge until released from the shelter.

Severe Weather Warning Procedures

- The Command Post will advise RAGBRAI staff/volunteers working at the event, including the RAGBRAI Executive Committee, of the severe weather warning that has been issued affecting the area.
- A message notifying volunteer workers and other RAGBRAI staff shall be broadcast on all volunteer communications networks.
- An Announcement shall be made at the RAGBRAI venue stage and attendees will be directed to the nearest shelter with available space
- Law Enforcement/Fire in that area will be notified of the severe weather warning and will be using public address systems on their vehicles to announce the following warning:

“A Severe Thunderstorm Warning (or Tornado Warning) has been issued for Buchanan County. You should take shelter immediately.”

- The Outdoor Warning Sirens shall be activated using the normal activation procedures (tornado warning, severe thunderstorm with 70+ mph winds, or golf ball-sized or larger hail).
- The cancelation announcement will be broadcast from the Command Post over all communications frequencies. All persons will be asked to remain in designated shelters until receiving official notification that it is safe to leave the shelters.

Emergency Sheltering

Emergency Shelters are located all over the City of Independence varying in size. Please refer to the map for Emergency Shelter Locations.

Independence is also planning on having a mass text message alert sent out to all local residents to assist with storm shelters for the public.

Outdoor Warning Siren Activation

Outdoor Warning Sirens shall be activated if the City of Independence is placed into a SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING with threats of 70 MPH winds, and/or hail larger than a quarter. Outdoor Warning Sirens shall be activated if the City of Independence is placed into a TORNADO WARNING.

The Outdoor Warning Siren System is meant to be heard outdoors and to warn those not close to shelter. Once sirens are heard, the public should listen to local weather reports and follow instructions.

Non-Weather-Related Incidents

Emergencies should be reported to 9-1-1. Response to all incidents/emergencies will follow normal policies and procedures. If there are any questions or omitted items, the Buchanan County Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan will be implemented. As per Federal Guidelines, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) will be utilized for any incident that might occur in Buchanan County during RAGBRAI's travel through the county.