



Marty Kelly
Goodhue County Sheriff

430 West 6th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 267.2600
Dispatch (651) 385.3155

TO: Goodhue County Board of Commissioners
Scott Arneson, County Administrator
Sheriff Marty Kelly

FROM: Chad Steffen, Emergency Services Captain

DATE: May 6, 2025

RE: FEMA MGT-417 Training – Instructor Feedback and Recognition

FYI:

Goodhue County successfully hosted FEMA's MGT-417: Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers in Red Wing over the past two days. This course is designed to strengthen crisis coordination among schools, emergency responders, and public safety officials.

The training was well attended by key partners across the county. The lead instructor, Eric A. Combs, a nationally recognized authority in school safety, had notably positive feedback regarding our local approach to preparedness and interagency collaboration.

In his words, he described our efforts as "impressive," "excellent," and worthy of "kudos." In a direct comment to our Emergency Management Director, Mr. Combs stated: ***"By the way, you guys are head and shoulders above everywhere else I've been."*** He also mentioned that seeing how our team is connecting the dots is *"very, very cool."*

This feedback speaks volumes about the professionalism and dedication of our Emergency Management team. Special recognition goes to Emergency Management Director Earl Merchlewitz, whose leadership continues to elevate the County's preparedness and response capabilities. As Earl noted during the course, *"It's not just us locally – our region has done a lot regionally as emergency managers."*

Please let me know if you'd like additional information or a full training summary.

OFFICE OF THE GOODHUE COUNTY SHERIFF

ADULT DETENTION
CENTER
651.267.2804

CIVIL DIVISION
651.267.2601

RECORDS DIVISION
651-267-2600

EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
651.267.2640

EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS
651.385.3155

An Equal Opportunity Employer