



SECURE & PREPARED

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HSEMD Bids Farewell to David Miller

After more than 21 years at Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Administrator David Miller has left his position in state government.

The Division said "goodbye" and "thank you" at a standing-room only reception held at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) on Wednesday. Friends, colleagues and family members packed the room to honor Miller for a lifetime of public service. Adjutant General Timothy Orr spoke about Miller's service, and also his personal relationship with the outgoing administrator, which began several years ago when Orr was a lieutenant.

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HSEMD Administrator Dave Miller receives the Commander's Award for Public Service from Adjutant General Timothy Orr.

OFFICE CLOSURE

HSEMD offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 17 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. Iowa State Patrol Dispatch will be taking emergency calls that come in via the Division's main number, 515-725-3231.

Palo Power Plant Receives New License

Iowa's only nuclear power plant, Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) in Palo, Iowa, was recently granted a 20-year operating license extension by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The plant is owned and operated by NextEra Energy Resources, with the Central Iowa Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative also holding minority ownership shares.

DAEC's initial operating license was granted in 1974 and was set to

expire in 2014. The 20-year license renewal ensures that DAEC will continue to operate through 2034. The extension was granted following an extensive 26-month environmental and safety review and an approximately 2,000 page application document submitted to the NRC.

HSEMD works closely with utility partners, including the DAEC, to ensure that emergency planning and response activities are coordinated to protect the

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"We became great friends over the years," Orr said to Miller. "I appreciate your friendship. And I just want to say thank you for all that you've done for the State of Iowa, the Iowa National Guard, and our country."

To the crowd, he said, "I will tell you this man has 'driven the train' for many years. He's nationally recognized for many of the agencies he's worked with. He's been on multiple committees as either a president, as a member or as a chairperson. He's noted for his knowledge in homeland security and emergency management throughout the states, to include the adjutant generals. [They] come to me and speak about Dave Miller by name."

During his tenure at HSEMD, Miller has served as the state's enhanced 9-1-1 coordinator, legislative liaison, public information officer, special projects coordinator, and division chief of staff, before being appointed to his current position in Sept. 2004 by then Governor Vilsack. Governor Culver reappointed Miller shortly after taking office in 2007.

From 1969 to 1974, he served in the United States Navy as a radioman, a position which Orr said he believed "jump started" Miller's career in emergency management. After his service in the Navy, Miller served in positions at the Iowa Department of Public Safety, as a county emergency manager in Oregon, and in a 911 call center in Montana, before joining HSEMD in August 1989.

Miller will be stepping down as the current president of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), but will remain a lifetime member. He also recently served as a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers, the Iowa Emergency
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From top: 1) With Lt. Gov. Judge at a news conference in Sept. 2009; 2) Talking to reporters with Gov. Culver in 2008; 3) At the 7th Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference with speaker Bob Hull from the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools and O'Brien County Emergency Management Coordinator Annie Koontz, Nov. 2010; 4) Sharing a laugh with HSEMD employee Pebble Holland; 5) Being sworn in as President of the National Emergency Management Association in 2010.

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Response Commission, the State Emergency Board, the Iowa Local Government Innovation Commission, the Iowa Water Resources Coordinating Council, the Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council, and FEMA's National Advisory Council.

Miller has had an impact not only on the citizens of Iowa, but on people across the country. Following his election to President of NEMA in 2009, NEMA Executive Director Trina Sheets said he was "an experienced state emergency manager who is widely respected by his peers across the nation."

As he exits the division where he's worked for more than two decades, Miller will be missed by those he leaves behind at HSEMD.

"I cannot say enough about Dave. He is someone who is both super-intelligent and kind all rolled into one. He has stood up to the weathering events this agency has seen, and has brought the division through some very difficult times," said Chief of Staff Steve Zimmerman. "We

need to remember that Dave has been here for 20 plus years, through the '93 floods and everything since. The amount of knowledge he has and will be taking with him is indescribable..."

"What has impressed me most is Dave's knowledge of emergency management at all levels of government," said David Hempen, chief of the Preparedness Bureau. "He always keeps the local coordinators in mind when dealing with state and federal requirements that would affect them."

Public Information Officer Lucinda Robertson offered, "Dave has been a mentor and a friend. I've learned so much from him—I can't thank him enough for all he has taught me. He has been a great boss and I will miss many things about him, not the least of which are his sense of humor and altruistic nature."

Readiness and Response Bureau Chief Joyce Flinn had this to say about Miller: "Dave cares about staff as more than employees. Whenever I had family issues to deal with, he was supportive of me doing what I needed to do for my family."

Indeed, Miller always promoted a "family first" philosophy with his staff, encouraging them to spend time with their loved ones and taking time off as necessary. He also encouraged a "family" atmosphere amongst the staff of HSEMD. One could read "Miller's Pillars" posted in multiple places in the division's main office

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Clockwise from top left:
 1) Being honored at his farewell reception by Jeff Zogg and Brenda Brock of the National Weather Service; 2) Goofing around at the office, January 2011; 3) Presenting an award to Franklin/Cerro Gordo County Emergency Coordinator Steve O'Neil in 2010.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

THROUGH REGION 1

Emergency Planning for Special Needs Facilities - 2 Workshops

Workshop 1

When: Feb. 7, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Where: Fort Dodge Library
424 Central Ave.
Fort Dodge

Workshop 2

When: Feb. 8, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Where: Polk County EMA
1907 Carpenter Ave.
Des Moines

Registration deadline is Jan. 28.

To register, send an email to mmanion@storycounty.com or fax to **515 382-7221**.

Mass Fatalities Management Training (G-386)

When: March 9-10, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Where: Fort Dodge Library
424 Central Ave.
Fort Dodge

Registration deadline is Feb. 27.

To register, send an email to mmanion@storycounty.com or call **515-382-7229**.

THROUGH HSEMD

Developing and Managing Volunteers (IS-244)

When: Feb. 15-16, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Where: Western Iowa Tech CC
4647 Stone Ave.
Sioux City

To register, go to www.iowahome-landsecurity.org and click the “Training” link on the right side of the home page. If you have not taken a course through HSEMD, you will need to register for an account. Contact Susan Green at susan.green@iowa.gov or Beth Lewis at beth.lewis@iowa.gov for additional information.

Exercise Design with HSEEP

When: March 3-11, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Where: Joint Forces Headquarters
Camp Dodge
4647 Stone Ave.
Johnston

To register, go to www.iowahome-landsecurity.org and click the “Training” link on the right side of the home page. If you have not taken a course through HSEMD, you will need to register for an account. Contact Susan Green at susan.green@iowa.gov or Beth Lewis at beth.lewis@iowa.gov for additional information.



Storm Spotter Training

Training 1

When: March 24, 6:30–9 p.m.

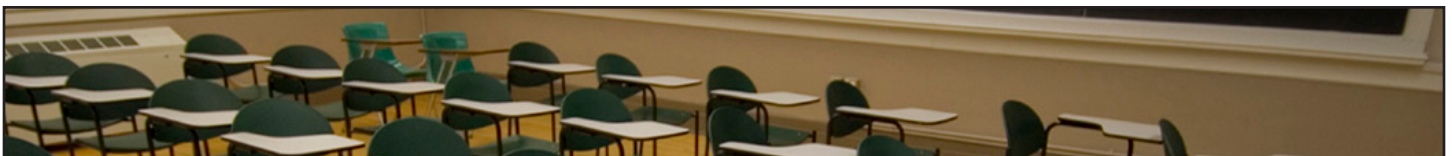
Where: Coralville Public Library
Coralville

Training 2

When: April 5, 6–8:30 p.m.

Where: 3702 S. Center St.
Marshalltown

To register, go to www.iowahome-landsecurity.org and click the “Training” link on the right side of the home page. If you have not taken a course through HSEMD, you will need to register for an account. Contact Beth Lewis at beth.lewis@iowa.gov for additional information. Ω



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health and safety of the public in the unlikely event of an emergency at a nuclear power plant. The HSEMD Readiness and Response Bureau manages the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program in the State of Iowa which also includes emergency planning, response, and exercise activities for DAEC and other nuclear power plants that border the state. Bordering plants include the Quad Cities Nuclear Station near Cordova, Ill., the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Station near Fort Calhoun, Neb., and the Cooper Nuclear Station near Brownsville, Neb.

HSEMD congratulates DAEC on their license renewal and looks forward to continuing a positive partnership into the future. Ω

[Submitted by Jake Nicholson,
HSEMD REP program planner]

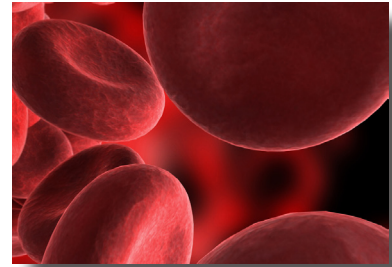
January is National Volunteer Blood Donor Month

In an emergency, blood donations are often critical when it comes to saving someone's life. Blood is needed every two seconds. And although an estimated 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood at any given time, less than 10 percent do so annually. But donating blood is quick and easy.

The National Blood Donor Registry, organized by America's Blood Centers, mobilizes blood donors to respond to critical shortages in their communities. As a member, you will receive:

- Notification when your donation is needed
- Information about upcoming local blood drives and events
- Access to special site features

The registration process is simple and private:



1. Find a local blood center
2. Choose your blood center
3. Enter your contact information and create a profile

Remember, the information you submit is private and will not be shared. Start the process now at on the America's Blood Centers website, www.americasblood.org.

You can also contact the Blood Center of Iowa for details. Visit their website at www.bloodcenterofiowa.org. Ω

[Source: America's Blood Centers]

January is National Radon Action Month

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated January as Radon Action Month. Radon is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that causes no immediate health symptoms, but long-term exposures can cause lung cancer. It comes from the breakdown of uranium in soil. Simple test kits can reveal the amount of radon in any building.

The amount of radon in Iowa soil is among the highest in the nation. Iowa Department of Public Health Radon Program Manager

Rick Welke recommends testing all homes and apartments in the state. "The only way to know if a home or building has elevated radon levels is to test it," said Welke. "Once detected, buildings with high levels of radon can be easily fixed with simple and affordable venting techniques."

Test kits are simple to use and inexpensive. They can be purchased in most hardware stores or by calling the Iowa AIR Coalition of Public Health Officials at 800-206-7818.

Information about reducing Radon hazards in your home can be found at www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/radon.asp. Additional information is available from the Radon Hotline at 800-383-5992 or at www.RadonInIowa.com. Ω

[Source: Iowa Department of Public Health]



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A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

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HSEMD Mission

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

HSEMD Personnel Notes

Two HSEMD employees in the Recovery Bureau were recently promoted.

Dennis Harper was promoted from Public Assistance Officer to Public Assistance Program Supervisor. Dennis has been with HSEMD for 17 years and has served the last five years as the division's Public Assistance Officer. During Dennis's tenure with HSEMD he has held the positions of State Hazard Mitigation Officer, EMPG Grant Program Manager and Homeland Security Grant Manager.

John Wageman was promoted from State Hazard Mitigation Officer to State Hazard Mitigation Program Supervisor. John has been with HSEMD for seven years and spent the last four years as the State Hazard Mitigation Officer. During John's tenure with HSEMD he has held the positions of Hazard Mitigation Grants Coordination Officer and Hazard Mitigation Specialist.

Congratulations, Dennis and John! Ω

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on Camp Dodge: "Respect everyone. Do the right thing. Have fun."

Addressing the HSEMD staff at the SEOC on Wednesday, Adjutant General Orr reminded everyone about Miller's attitude toward them.

"As I sit here today and I talk about Dave, I'm really talking about the team. Because he would be the first one to tell you the commitment to this state, to this agency, is [a] team effort. And it took every one of you to be a part of that team. And I don't know how many times that I've been somewhere and it's always been about the people of this organization. For those of you who may not know it, the credit you get many times is from this man right here. He'll tell you he has the best team in the country to work with and he's very proud of each and every one of you. And we all know that you don't get to where you're at without the team. So I want to say thank you for making Dave successful and making the Iowa team successful."



Before presenting Miller with the Commander's Award for Public Service, General Orr closed his remarks with some well wishes for him. "As you move on to your next ventures, we wish you the very best. You've been a friend, you've been a colleague, and more importantly, you've been a leader. I appreciate your leadership and your friendship, Dave."

Thank you, Dave, from all of the staff at HSEMD. You will be missed. Ω