



# SECURE & PREPARED

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Information on Missouri River flooding and the July 10-11 storms can be found at [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org)

Save the Date!

The 8th Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference will be held Nov. 1-2 in West Des Moines.

## Flooding Hits Western Iowa, Six Counties Receive Presidential Declarations

Persistent flooding in the Missouri River basin hit areas in South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri this summer, forcing many communities to undertake sustained prevention and protection efforts.

Heavy storms in May and lingering snow pack in northern portions of the river basin resulted in a substantial rise in water levels at South Dakota reservoirs in late May and early June. This rise compelled the Army Corps of Engineers to increase the amount of water released, bringing much of the Missouri River and its tributaries to flood stage. In response, state and local emergency management partners began undertaking flood prevention and protective efforts.



Flooding of the Missouri River at Highway 2 and I-29 in Fremont County. Photo by Major Tim Leinen

Since the flooding is predicted to remain a concern for many weeks, local and state officials continue to monitor the river, protective structures and other factors that could affect flood levels.

Due to the flooding, six counties in western Iowa have already received a Presidential Disaster Declaration. *Continued on Page 2...*

## Governor Issues Disaster Proclamation for Four Counties Following Severe Storms

Governor Terry Branstad has issued disaster proclamations for four counties following severe storms July 10 and 11.

The proclamations make state resources available to Benton, Marshall, Story and Tama counties, which sustained damage from a severe thunderstorm during the overnight hours of July 10 and into the

early morning hours of July 11.

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD), which is responsible for the coordination of State disaster response activities, has provided to the impacted counties assistance that includes debris removal through the Department of Transportation, *Continued on Page 4...*

## Western Iowa Receives Presidential Disaster Declaration

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The declaration provides federal funding to Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury counties under the Public Assistance Program. Eligible public entities and select nonprofit agencies can utilize funds to cover costs incurred for implementing emergency protective measures, debris removal, and other supplies and activities. The declaration also provides Direct Federal Assistance, which may include sheltering supplies and swift-water rescue teams if needed.

HSEMD Administrator Brig Gen Derek Hill noted that the federal declaration came at a beneficial time for Iowa communities. "Communities along the Missouri River are exhausting their budgets as they battle the rising floodwaters. This declaration not only provides Direct Federal Assistance for the continued response efforts, but also provides funding to help replenish local budgets and assist with debris removal when the flood waters recede."



**A farm in western Iowa taken over by the Missouri River.**

*Photo courtesy of Iowa Department of Public Safety*

HSEMD continues to evaluate the flood's impact on Iowans. At this time, the declaration does not include aid to individuals and businesses. However, HSEMD is working with local emergency management agencies, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration to determine if the damages warrant the inclusion of the Individual Assistance Program in this declaration.

This declaration is the 12th Major Presidential Disaster Declaration Iowa has received since March 2007.

For continued information regarding the flooding in Western Iowa, including daily updates, visit HSEMD online at [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org), or the Governor's Office flood website, <https://governor.iowa.gov/news/missouri-river-flooding>. Ω

## Upcoming Training and Courses

### Basic Public Information Officer course (G290) - July 26-27, 2011

This two-day session is designed for new public information officers (PIOs) from local public health departments, hospitals and emergency management agencies.

The training will give attendees the basic skills and knowledge needed to provide emergency information to the media and the public on

a daily basis and during fast-breaking emergencies.

The course will be held at the Chariton Fire Station, 115 S. Main St., Chariton, Iowa. To register, visit <http://www.prepareiowa.com>.

### Essential Records Course - Oct. 31, 2011

During this full-day course, participants will learn to identify and protect essential records,

distinguish between nonessential and essential records; identify and evaluate hazards and risks; identify mitigation strategies; and incorporate into continuity of operations plans.

This training will be held the day before the HSEMD annual conference at the Sheraton Hotel, 1800 50th St., West Des Moines. To register, visit <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/>. Ω

## Counties Receive Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Designation

In response to Governor Branstad's June 28 request, U.S.D.A. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack signed an agricultural disaster designation on July 8 for six Iowa counties due to damages caused by recent flooding along the Missouri River and its tributaries.

The designated counties are: Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont. This designation also includes the contiguous counties of Cass, Cherokee, Crawford, Ida, Montgomery, Page, Plymouth and Shelby counties.

The Governor's request for the Secretarial Disaster Designation follows a review of agriculture damages conducted by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The Secretarial Designation makes disaster programs available to eligible applicants in the primary and contiguous counties. These programs include the availability of low-interest FSA emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program, created in the 2008 Farm Bill. Iowans are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for information. Ω

## Assistance Available for Iowa Businesses Impacted by Disaster

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has made assistance available to businesses in Iowa counties impacted by recent disasters.

Small, non-farm businesses in 14 counties are now eligible to apply for low-interest disaster loans from the SBA. Iowa counties eligible for SBA assistance are: Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury. Counties in neighboring states are also eligible for SBA assistance.

Small, non-farm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives,

small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private, nonprofit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans available when the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster (see story above).

For more information, visit [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Ω

## Governor Branstad Issues Proclamation for State Individual Assistance Program

Governor Branstad has approved a proclamation to enact the State Individual Assistance Grant program.

The program is now available to Iowa residents living in the flood affected counties of Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont.

The State Individual Assistance Grant Program provides grants to families with household incomes at or below twice the federal poverty index.

The maximum grant a family can receive is \$5,000. The program is launched with a governor's proclamation and at the request of local officials. Applicants must be legal residents of the United States and need to provide all receipts for replacement items claimed.

For an application and instructions, see [http://www.dhs.iowa.gov/Consumers/Assistance\\_Programs/CashAssistance/DisasterAssistance/StormHelp.html](http://www.dhs.iowa.gov/Consumers/Assistance_Programs/CashAssistance/DisasterAssistance/StormHelp.html) or visit the front page of the Department of Human Services website at [www.dhs.iowa.gov](http://www.dhs.iowa.gov) and choose the "Storm Help" link. Ω

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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](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org)

## HSEMD Welcomes Mitigation Planner

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division welcomes Mathew Noble in his new role as a mitigation planner.



Noble began work in this position on July 8. As a mitigation planner, Noble will be updating and developing the state hazard mitigation plan, and will be working with local jurisdictions and FEMA on local mitigation plans.

Prior to his new position, he worked as a mitigation project officer for HSEMD at the Iowa Closeout Center. In that role, Noble had been on the review panel for the state hazard mitigation plan, assured mitigation applicants were in conformance with mitigation plan requirements, identified and interpreted Hazard

Mitigation Grant Program requirements and represented HSEMD at applicant meetings.

Noble received his Masters of Public Policy from the University of Northern Iowa in 2009, and recently completed his first triathlon. Ω

## Governor Issues Proclamation for Storms

*...Continued from Page 1*

mate assistance with debris removal through the Department of Corrections, and guidance on disposal and sorting of debris through the Department of Natural Resources.

HSEMD will provide resources to the impacted counties as they continue clean-up activities.

Damage Assessments Begin July 18  
State, local and federal teams will conduct joint damage assessments in the four counties on July 18. The teams, comprised of HSEMD, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and local officials, will conduct joint preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) for the federal Public Assistance Program. Data from the joint PDAs could be used by Governor Branstad to request a Presidential Disaster Declaration, which,

if granted, would make Public Assistance funding available in the designated counties. In order to request a Presidential Disaster Declaration, damages incurred must meet criteria set by the federal government.

“These damage assessments are the next step in our efforts to assist Iowans and communities that were affected by the severe weather on July 10 and 11,” said HSEMD Administrator Brig Gen Derek Hill.

The Public Assistance Program provides to public entities and select nonprofit agencies funding to rebuild damaged infrastructure that may include roads, bridges, culverts, and other public facilities, or to cover costs of emergency work during, and debris removal after the storms. Ω