



# SECURE & PREPARED

Dec. 9, 2011

## Volume 7, Issue 18

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### Individual Assistance Deadline Dec. 19

Citizens in Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont counties must apply for FEMA Individual Assistance by Dec. 19, 2011. Call **1-800-621-3362** or visit **www.disasterassistance.gov** to register.

### On the Calendar...

#### December

Last day to register for Individual Assistance (DR-1998) (19)  
Christmas Holiday observed (26)\*

#### January

National Blood Donor Month  
National Radon Action Month  
New Year's Day observed (2)\*  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (16)\*

*\*State holiday. HSEMD offices will be closed.*

## HSEMD Welcomes New Administrator

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division welcomed a new administrator on Dec. 9.

Governor Terry E. Branstad appointed Mark Schouten to replace J. Derek Hill as administrator of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division. Hill left his position at HSEMD to serve as the Deputy Adjutant General of the Iowa Air National Guard.

Schouten previously served as the director of the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy. He was appointed to that position by Gov. Branstad in January 2011.

Schouten served in the Iowa Attorney General's Office for five years, where he worked as the head of its transportation division and a member of the state's Medicaid fraud control unit. Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Schouten served as



**HSEMD Administrator Mark Schouten**

an Assistant Ethics Counsel for the Iowa Supreme Court's Iowa Board of Professional Ethics and as the Sioux County Attorney for 20 years.

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## Assistance for Flood Survivors Tops \$20 Million

More than \$20 million in assistance has been approved for individuals, businesses and communities impacted by the Missouri River flooding.

### Individuals & Businesses

As of Dec. 5, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has

approved more than \$3.9 million in Individual Assistance funding for residents of Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona and Pottawattamie counties. In addition, the Small Business Administration has approved nearly \$1.9 million in home and business loans for impacted residents and businesses.

*Continued on Page 2...*

## ***Branstad Appoints New Administrator***

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As the Sioux County Attorney, Schouten helped form the local ODCP-funded drug taskforce, connected the Sioux County Courthouse and its main courtroom to the Iowa Communications Network as part of another ODCP grant, and used a third grant to design an office case management system. Schouten also served as a grant reviewer for ODCP's Byrne-JAG grant applications.

As a county attorney Schouten served as a member of the Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council and as a long-time chairman of the County Attorneys Association's technology committee. He has taught trial advocacy II as a faculty member at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, S.C., and was a governor's appointee to the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission from 1996-2004.

Schouten received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Iowa State University and graduated with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law.

Mark and his wife, Carrie, live in Norwalk. They have one son, Will, who is a medical student at The University of Iowa Carver School of Medicine and a daughter-in-law, Katie, who teaches instrumental music at the West Branch Community High School. Ω

## **Hill Honored for Service at HSEMD**



***On Dec. 6 Iowa's Adjutant General, Major General Timothy Orr (left), presented Derek Hill with the Superior Civilian Service Award for his service as administrator of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division. Hill served as the HSEMD administrator from January through December 2011. In November, Governor Branstad appointed Hill, also a brigadier general in the Iowa National Guard, as Deputy Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard.***

## ***Assistance Tops \$20M***

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### **Public Assistance**

Nearly \$14.6 million has been obligated by FEMA for projects under the Public Assistance Program. Projects funded under this program include repair of roads, bridges and other public infrastructure, along with emergency protective measures that were taken to prevent or mitigate damage from flood waters. Ω

## **Upcoming Training**

### **Exercise Design with HSEEP**

**When:** Jan. 24-27, 2012

**Where:** Joint Forces Headquarters  
Johnston, Iowa

This workshop provides participants an opportunity to review their Homeland Security and Multi-Year Exercise Plan. The Exercise Planning Workshops facilitate the evaluation of, and updates to, existing strategies.

**Contact: Beth Lewis or Susan Green, HSEMD, 515-725-3231.**  
Register online at <http://homeland-security.iowa.gov/training/>. Ω

# Hazard Mitigation Reduces Damage from Disasters

Hazard mitigation projects are very important for reducing or preventing damage from future disasters. Federal funding for hazard mitigation projects is made available after each Presidential Disaster Declaration through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). As part of the HMGP in Iowa, 75 percent of eligible project costs is paid by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 10 percent is paid by the applicant (state), and the remaining 15 percent is paid by the sub-applicant (local governments/communities, tribal governments, and certain eligible private non-profits). Below are three of Iowa's hazard mitigation success stories.

## Tornado Safe Room Projects

Tornado safe rooms are designed to provide life safety protection during high wind events. To date, Iowa's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, through the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD), has funded 54 tornado safe rooms totaling more than \$43.8 million. Of the 54 safe room projects, 24 have been approved to be built in school districts, for a total of more than \$33 million.

"Over the past few weeks, HSEMD has been awarded nine tornado safe room Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grants by FEMA totaling nearly \$7.8 million," said HSEMD's State Hazard Mitigation Program Supervisor John Wageman. "Seven of these nine grant awards are to construct tornado safe rooms in schools, which are very important projects to us."

All of the school safe rooms will be multi-purpose rooms to include au-



*The Cedar Rapids Water Pollution Control Facility during the 2008 floods.*

ditoriums, weight/wrestling rooms, classrooms, sports complex areas and school activity rooms. The remainder of the safe room projects have been multi-purpose community centers, public park facilities, and a childcare center.

In Iowa, tornado safe rooms are built and designed to meet the criteria outlined in the FEMA 361 Second Edition/August 2008, Design and Construction Guidance for Community Safe Rooms (to withstand 250 MPH wind speeds).

HSEMD will continue to work with sub-applicants to develop and fund safe room projects through the HMGP.

## Electric Utility Retrofit Projects

HSEMD has partnered with many municipalities and rural electric cooperatives (RECs) to strengthen electrical systems so they can withstand extreme ice loading and winter

storm hazards. These mitigation projects retrofit vulnerable electric utility systems with stronger and heavier grade line to reduce direct damages to the system that result in power outages. To support this line, stronger utility poles are installed and also spaced closer together (a strategy called short spanning), to simultaneously increase the weight that can be carried by the power lines, and decrease the likelihood that any one component will fail during extreme winter weather.

The result of these projects are electrical systems that are far more robust and capable of withstanding the forces of ice accretion and straight-line winds. Consequently, electrical service is maintained to individual households, businesses and farms that count on electrical power to sustain life and economic activity. The state's RECs

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## Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

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**Secure & Prepared** is published by the Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division for those involved in the homeland security system in the state of Iowa.

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### News Team

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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)

## Iowa Hazard Mitigation Projects

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have already seen positive dividends through reduced outages and have avoided physical damages during localized winter storms that would have otherwise caused more severe service interruptions.

### Cedar Rapids Flood Wall Project

In June 2008, the Cedar River crested 10 feet above the 100-year flood level. As a result, the entire Cedar Rapids Water Pollution Control Facility (CRWPCF) was inundated. The CRWPCF services the greater metropolitan area of the City of Cedar Rapids which includes Cedar Rapids, Marion, Robins and Hiawatha. This covers a population of approximately 155,338 people, 3,094 commercial properties, 90 public properties, and five critical facilities served by CRWPCF.

The 2008 flooding caused extensive damages throughout the plant. More than two-thirds of the site was underwater during the flood peak. The flood water also took out the main

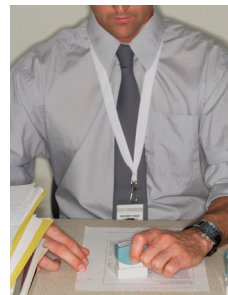
lift station on the property, eliminating the ability of the plant to keep the sewage flowing. This created uncontrolled sewer overflows until pumping could be restored at the plant. Total plant damages were estimated to be around \$75 million.

The HMGP grant will provide funds to construct a flood protection system that will protect the facility from direct physical damages to the facility and loss of waste water services. The major system of protection will be a 1,200-foot concrete flood wall and 3,800-foot earthen berm that will protect the entire facility from riverine flooding up to the 2008 flood level, plus three feet of freeboard. The remaining components to be constructed and/or installed are a necessity so that the facility does not flood from the inside due to backflow issues and the inability to utilize the gravity-fed drainage system as a result of the Cedar River being at high levels. Ω

## Southwest Iowa Recovery Network Taking Applications

The Southwest Iowa Recovery Network has made assistance available to families affected by this year's Missouri River flooding.

Residents affected by the 2011 flood event may receive as much as \$1,000 to assist with recovery efforts, although actual amounts will vary according to need. Applicants may also receive information and referral to other agencies and programs that may be able to provide recovery assistance.



FEMA registration is required prior to granting financial assistance. See page 1 for information on how to register with FEMA.

For more information and application instructions, visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/westpottawattamie/news/Southwest+Iowa+Recovery+Network.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/westpottawattamie/news/Southwest+Iowa+Recovery+Network.htm). Ω