



# SECURE & PREPARED

Feb. 10, 2012

## Volume 8, Issue 3

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Get the latest information on the recovery efforts along the Missouri River by visiting [www.MoRiverRecovery.iowa.gov](http://www.MoRiverRecovery.iowa.gov).

## On the Calendar...

### February

National Burn Awareness Week (5-11)

### March

Flood Awareness Month

American Red Cross Month

National Poison Prevention Week  
50th Anniversary (18-24)

### April

National 9-1-1 Education Month

Severe Weather Awareness Week (2-6)

National Volunteer Week (15-21)

## Revamped Course Receives Thumbs Up

The exercise and training staff of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division's (HSEMD) Preparedness Bureau completed a major project milestone recently when they rolled out a test run of a newly-revamped course.



*Students work in small groups to build and conduct a functional exercise. From left to right: Joann Boyer, Fayette County Public Health; Jim Sparks, Jasper County Emergency Management Agency; Michael Peters, VA Central Iowa Healthcare System; Jeff Ritzman, Iowa Department of Public Safety.*

Over the past three years HSEMD's exercise staff has been teaching a four day program that merges the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation

Program course with FEMA's Exercise Design course (IS-139). Even though this combination received

good reviews, it was redundant and time consuming for participants. Over

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## Coordinating Infrastructure Assessment is Key to Federal, State Ag Preparedness

State and federal partners recently met to discuss infrastructure assessment and the key role it plays in agriculture preparedness.

Assessing infrastructure in the food/agriculture sector presents unique challenges. Production agriculture is a network of systems while post-harvest manufacturing can usually be analyzed using "bricks and mortar" tools. The challenge is to work with

industry in a secure, trusted relationship to gather data and provide value to industry with the result of improving overall security and preparedness.

Representatives from DHS and 22 states discussed how they document and secure assessment data when they met in Atlanta, Ga., for a three-day workshop Jan. 30 – Feb. 1. The value of working with industry

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## Tri-State Group Holds COML Training

Members of a tri-state group focused on improving cross-border communications recently had an opportunity to become more familiar with their critical incident roles and responsibilities.

Members of the Iowa/Minnesota/Wisconsin Tri-State Group gathered in Dubuque Jan. 10-13 for Communications Leader (COML) Training. The training, sponsored by HSEMD and the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board, provided National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant instruction to ensure that trained personnel are capable of coordinating on-scene emergency communications during a multi-jurisdictional response.

The training was the result of a December 2010 Tri-State Communications tabletop exercise held in La Crosse, Wis. An after-action report from the exercise recommended COML training as a corrective action, along with holding a full-scale exercise to enhance the tri-state region's ability to respond to and recover from all-hazards events. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has provided assistance in holding the full-scale exercise, which is scheduled for March 1, 2012.



*Clair Franzen, Buchanan County, leads a group discussion during COML training.*

Those from Iowa attending the COML training in Dubuque were:

- Chris Dahlstrom, Allamakee County Emergency Manager
- Joel Biggs, Clayton County Emergency Manager
- Tom Berger, Dubuque County Emergency Manager
- Randy Frank, Fayette County Emergency Manager
- Clair Franzen, Buchanan County Emergency Management Agency
- Troy Cory, Ankeny Fire Department
- Jim Bogner, State of Iowa Interoperability Coordinator
- Ryan Johnson, Deputy Sheriff, Clayton County

Vicki Morris, HSEMD's assistant homeland security coordinator, was instrumental in the planning and facilitation of this training and other Tri-State Group Activities. Ω

## HSEMD Revamps Exercise Course

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the past year this curriculum has been under an internal review. With support from the University of Iowa's Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness, HSEMD staff were able to update the visual aids and remove the redundancy in the two courses while still meeting the required course objectives from both courses.

This work would not have been possible without the dedication of HSEMD's Steve Warren and Dena Fife of the Upper Midwest Center who worked very hard to deliver a high-quality product for participants.

"Without their dedication to the project we would not have received so many positive comments from participants," said John Halbrook, HSEMD exercise program planner.

Comments from participants of the test run include:

- "100 percent better than the old training so Kudos!"
- "Done well + very interactive. Great for a beginner in exercise"

With such positive results HSEMD will be offering this course as a best practice to our partners at the National Emergency Training Center.

If you are interested in this or other training from HSEMD please visit the Division's training page at [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org) in the Quick Links section. Ω

## Wanted: Your Success Stories

HSEMD wants to highlight your emergency management and homeland security success story in an upcoming issue of "Secure & Prepared."

Submit your story, along with a photo, to [HSEMDPIO@iowa.gov](mailto:HSEMDPIO@iowa.gov) for consideration for a future issue of the newsletter. Ω



# Coordination Plays Key Role in Ag Preparedness

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to get useable infrastructure data boils down to measuring resiliency: the ability of a business to resume operations after a contamination or disease incident interrupts production.

Georgia's Protective Security Advisor (PSA) Jim Hardy described a comprehensive dashboard that includes a resiliency index. The readout shows an industry how its risk can be improved by taking certain protective or mitigation measures. Both federal PSAs and state food/agriculture planners work with industry using various tools to document and assess criticality and vulnerability.

"We nominate systems as Level 1 or Level 2 systems so industry can have the benefit of the analysis and a nexus of industry resilience," said Brigid Elchos, Mississippi state public health veterinarian.

"Having this knowledge raises all boats," added Maj. Gen. (ret) Greg Gardner, DHS Infrastructure protection regional supervisor.

In Iowa, PSA Phil Pitzen works with major infrastructure assets and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, along with other agencies and industry leaders, to assess production systems.

Data from these assessments is federally protected but the process helps inform both security and industry leaders as to what steps may be taken to improve overall resiliency.

Also at last week's meeting, members from the Multi-State Partnership and Southern Agriculture and Animal Disaster Response Alliance (SAADRA) discussed regional preparedness and capabilities, joint training and exercises, and how the two groups can work together.

States also learned about the revised national food response template, progress in secure product

Agriculture which is comprised of agriculture, homeland security, and emergency management officials from 14 states. HSEMD coordinates Partnership projects and meetings with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Food Safety Bureau in the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals. HSEMD works in close collaboration with partner states on issues that cross state lines.



*(Left) Food and agriculture emergency coordinators from 22 Midwest and Southern states met in Atlanta to improve regional collaboration in the food / agriculture critical sector. (Right) HSEMD's Mark Shearer presents a report to the joint regional meeting about recent Government Coordinating Council activities in Washington, D.C.*

movement agreements, and lessons learned from the earthquake and nuclear power plant disasters in Japan.

Representing Iowa at the meeting were Assistant State Veterinarian Dr. Randy Wheeler, State Livestock Inspector Curt Ferguson, and Susan Dixon and Mark Shearer from Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Iowa is a key member of the Multi-State Partnership for Security in

The Partnership has addressed preparedness for and response to agriculture emergencies, business continuity, risk and crisis communications, and surveillance issues that may cross state borders and have far-reaching impacts. Learn more about the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture at [www.multistatepartnership.org](http://www.multistatepartnership.org).

*Article submitted by Mark Shearer, HSEMD.*

## NWS Des Moines Makes Changes to Flood Stages and Flood Severity Categories

On March 14, 2012, the National Weather Service (NWS) in Des Moines will make some changes to their warning and forecast services.



NWS, the new values will be more consistent with the intended meanings for each term and the result will be fewer warnings issued.

The NWS in Des Moines will change the values for Flood Stage, Moderate Flood Stage and Major Flood Stage for 44 of its 47 river forecast points. According to the

For more information, visit <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/> in the "Top News of the Day" section. Ω

## Upcoming Training Opportunities

### HazMatIQ Training Class

**When:** Feb. 25, 8 a.m.  
**Where:** Horn Memorial Hospital  
701 E. 2nd St, Ida Grove

HazMatIQ is a patented HazMat/WMD Response System incorporating a set of SMART CHARTS formulated from years of HazMat response experience. There is no cost to participants. Registration deadline is Feb. 17.

For information and to register, email [idaemes@pionet.net](mailto:idaemes@pionet.net) or call **712.364.2533**.

### Essential Records & COOP/COG Planning

**When:** Feb. 29, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Where:** Osage Safety Center  
432 Main Street, Osage

If disaster strikes your place of business, how will you continue the most essential functions and services you provide? If you have

to operate out of another facility, will you have access to all the essential records and resources that you will need? Do you even know what they are?

This workshop will help participants find the answers to these questions. Participants will discover the elements needed to ensure continuity of operations (COOP) and continuity of government (COG) under all circumstances, with a special focus on ensuring that essential records are preserved and available. Workshop participants will learn to identify what records are essential and how to protect them. Risks and hazards will be identified and evaluated. Participants will learn mitigation strategies to ensure the availability of essential records and other resources necessary to continue operations even in the face of disaster. By the end of the training, participants will have a clear understanding of what should be in their COOP/COG plan and even have a start on the plan.

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## 2012 Session Legislative Update

Things at the Capitol are now in full swing for the year. While much of the public discussion has focused on property taxes, there are several bills that are of interest to the homeland security and emergency management community.

From last year, **Senate File (SF) 413**, dealing with local emergency management funding, continues to be discussed in the House of Representatives. Also, **Senate Study Bill (SSB) 3130**, which is a new version of last year's **SF 532** seeking to create a hazard mitigation project fund with funds derived from tax increments, has just arrived in the Senate.

Other bills of interest include:

- **SSB 3088** would convert HSEMD from a division to a stand-alone department;
- **SF 2011** would place a member of local emergency management on the Statewide Interoperable Communications Systems Board;
- **SF 2002** would provide funds for the restoration of the Lake Delhi dam;
- **HF 2009** seeks to make changes to the State Individual Assistance Program.

With the General Assembly indicating they would like to finish their work in early April, it certainly will make for an interesting spring.

For more information on legislation visit [www.legis.iowa.gov](http://www.legis.iowa.gov). Ω

*This update is provided by John Benson, HSEMD's legislative liaison.*

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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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Amy Meston  
Lucinda Robertson

### 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)

# Upcoming Training Opportunities

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The target audience for this course is county emergency managers, county supervisors, and other city and county officials. Register online at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>.

## Advanced ICS (ICS 400)

**When:** March 3, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
March 4, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Johnson County EOC  
4529 Melrose Ave., Iowa City

Typical required personnel for this course include all federal, state, tribal, local, private-sector, and nongovernmental personnel, including persons serving as command and general staff in an ICS organization, select department heads with multiagency coordination system responsibilities, area managers, emergency managers, and multi-agency coordination system/emergency operations center managers.

To register for this FREE course, contact **B.J. Dvorak** at **319-356-6762** or [bj.dvorak@jecc-ema.org](mailto:bj.dvorak@jecc-ema.org). Please provide your name, address, organization, email address and cell phone number.

## Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Planning Seminar

**When:** March 6-7  
**Where:** Polk County EOC  
1907 Carpenter Ave.  
Des Moines

The NFPA 1600 Standard establishes a common set of criteria for emergency management and business continuity programs. In addition, the standard provides such programs the criteria to access current programs or to develop, implement, and maintain aspects for the prevention, mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery from emergencies.

This course is normally \$800, but the Region One Homeland Security Board is helping supplement the cost, so registration for this session is only \$100! For more information and to register, contact **Liz Manion** at **515-382-7229** or [mmanion@storycounty.com](mailto:mmanion@storycounty.com).

## Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents: Partnering Rural Law Enforcement and the Local School Systems (AWR 144)

**When:** March 27, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
**Where:** Iowa Valley Continuing Ed  
Room 608 and 610  
3702 S. Center St.  
Marshalltown

Rural schools, law enforcement, and other emergency responders are often limited in resources, so it is imperative that all potentially affected parties collaborate on planning, preparing, communicating, responding, and recovering from a school-based incident.

This FREE course is beneficial for rural police and sheriff's departments, school administrators, resource officers and counselors, and others involved in school safety and security. Topics covered include:

- Introduction to incident planning and preparedness
- Proactive threat mitigation
- Incident response/recovery
- Vulnerability assessments
- Incident defusing and debriefing
- Parent reunification
- Anniversaries, memorials, "copycats"

To obtain a registration form, contact **Liz Manion** at [mmanion@storycounty.com](mailto:mmanion@storycounty.com) or **Andrew James** at [ajames@storycounty.com](mailto:ajames@storycounty.com). If you have any questions, please contact **John Kayser** at **419-434-5814** or [kayser@findlay.edu](mailto:kayser@findlay.edu).