



SECURE & PREPARED

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On the Calendar...

May

- Public Service Recognition Week (2-6)
- National Nurse's Week (2-6)
- National Police Week (12-17)
- National EMS Week (20-26)
- National Public Works Week (20-26)
- Memorial Day (28)*

June

- National Safety Month
- National Home Safety Month
- National CPR & AED Awareness Week (1-7)
- Heat Awareness Day - Iowa (7)
- Lightning Safety Awareness Week (24-30)

July

- National Fireworks Safety Month
- Independence Day (4)*

*State holiday.
HSEMD offices will be closed.

FEMA Administrator requests reauthorization of National Flood Insurance Program

FEMA Administrator W. Craig Fugate has reached out to congressional leadership and members to strongly recommend Congress reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for two years. The NFIP will expire on May 31, 2012.

The NFIP plays a key role in our nation's efforts to prevent and recover from flood disasters. Reauthorization of the NFIP before it expires on May 31, 2012, is essential to those efforts. Floods are the number one natural disaster in the United States in terms of lives lost and property damaged. The NFIP identifies areas of flood risk; it encourages communities to implement measures to mitigate against the risk



FEMA Administrator W. Craig Fugate speaks at a conference earlier this year. (FEMA file photo)

of flood loss; it provides financial assistance to help individuals recover more rapidly from flooding disasters; and it lessens the financial impact of flood disasters on individuals, businesses, and all levels of government.

Continued on Page 3...

Update on Iowa disaster operations

Disaster operations transferred

As of April 13, 2012, FEMA Region VII has closed the Joint Field Office in West Des Moines for disasters 1998, 4016 and 4018. All continued functions necessary for the closeout of these disasters have been transferred to the Region VII closeout center in Kansas City.

Extension deadline approaches

Time extensions for work completion for disaster 1763 (2008 flooding) should be submitted by May 27, 2012, for consideration by FEMA. The May 27, 2012, date marks the end of the original four-year grant performance period. Ω

Legislative update



The vast majority of policy bills are finished for the year and only the budget remains to be finalized in the Golden Dome.

Senate file 2332, the “E-911 Bill,” was quickly moved out of the House and the Governor signed it on May 2. The bill leaves the wireless E-911 surcharge at 65 cents, while eliminating wireless carrier cost recovery and directing more funds to the local public safety answering points (PSAPs). The Governor also has on his desk Senate File 2338. This bill, known as the “Government Efficiency Bill,” has multiple parts, but of main interest for HSEMD is Division V which converts the Division to a stand-alone department. This was not only an effort by HSEMD and the Iowa Department of Public Defense (where HSEMD currently is housed), but also our local partners.

We will now begin the process of amending or creating administrative rules to implement these new laws. Look for this process to begin in the near future. The priorities will be completing the conversion process and standing up the State Flood Hazard Mitigation Program that was created in Senate File 2217. Ω

[Contributed by John Benson, HSEMD legislative liaison and alternate state coordinating officer]

Des Moines County CERT team recognized

The Des Moines County Board of Supervisors recently recognized the Des Moines County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for its five years of service.

CERT teams are made up of volunteers who help respond in times of disaster. They help fill the gap left when emergency responders are unable to immediately respond to every request for assistance.



CERT team members commit to a minimum of 20 hours of training as well as additional monthly training, and provide hundreds of volunteer hours each year. Ω

LEPC workshop scheduled in Sioux City

The Iowa Emergency Response Commission will sponsor a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) workshop on May 22, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC). For information about the facility visit www.witcc.edu/tours/.

The workshop is geared toward LEPC leadership, emergency management coordinators, facility safety coordinators, local elected officials and citizens. It is planned as an orientation to the purpose, duties and legal responsibilities of Local Emergency Planning Committees.

Registration for the Workshop is \$15 and includes snacks, lunch and materials. Seating is limited to 50 people and advance registration is required. Deadline for registration is May 15, 2012. For more information and to regis-



ter, visit www.iowahomeland-security.org/programs/LEPC.html and choose the “LEPC Workshops and Conferences” tab at the bottom of the page.

If the workshop has to be cancelled on short notice, the information will be posted at www.iowadnr.gov/spills. Ω

WITCC
Advanced Sciences Bldg.
Rooms L416 & 417
4647 Stone Ave.
Sioux City

National Flood Insurance Program

...Continued from Page 1

In recent years, a series of short-term reauthorizations and temporary suspensions of the NFIP have eroded confidence in the program among stakeholders, including state governments, tribal governments, local communities, individual policyholders, mortgage lenders, and the private insurance industry. In addition to disrupting the program's day-to-day operations, short-term reauthorizations and temporary suspensions create significant uncertainty regarding the federal government's long-term commitment to underwriting and indemnifying flood losses. In the absence of such a commitment, our stakeholders are less likely to make the investments needed to successfully sustain, strengthen, and grow the program — thereby undermining the NFIP's effectiveness and efficiency over time.

A two-year reauthorization will send a clear signal to citizens, communities, and private sector partners that the federal government will

continue to support our nation's efforts to manage flood risk. If Congress does not reauthorize the NFIP before it expires on May 31, 2012:

- The NFIP can issue no new policies, renewed policies, or modifications for existing policies. Although, policies that were already effective when the NFIP lapses will remain in coverage until their expiration date.
- Property owners will be unable to complete new mortgage transactions. Property owners who would normally be required to purchase flood insurance to fulfill lending requirements will be unable to obtain affordable coverage. The National Association of Realtors estimates that a lapse in authorization jeopardizes an estimated 1,300 sales each day or about 40,000 mortgage closings per month nationwide.
- The Disaster Relief Fund will bear additional costs when floods strike. Property owners

who are unable to obtain flood insurance may seek and be eligible for assistance from the Disaster Relief Fund. Consequently, failure to reauthorize the NFIP will result in transferring a portion of the costs of flood losses to the taxpayer through the Disaster Relief Fund.

- The NFIP may have to halt payment of claims for recent events, including Hurricanes Irene and Lee, if a lapse in authorization substantially reduces cash flow into the program from premiums or a significant flood event follows the lapse and drains the remaining, non-renewable funds.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov. Ω

[Distributed by FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division]

Training Opportunities

Developing and Managing Volunteers (IS 244)

When: May 22–23
8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: Camp Dodge, Bldg. M9-2
7105 NW 70th Ave.
Johnston

Donations Management Workshop (G 288)

When: June 5, 1–4:30 p.m.
June 6, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Where: Southwestern Community
College
Creston

Fundamentals of Emergency Management (IS 230.a)

When: July 25–26
8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: Camp Dodge
7105 NW 70th Ave.
Johnston

For more information and to register, visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and choose “HSEMD Course Registration” under the “Quick Links” tab. Contact **Susan Green** at **(515) 725-3243** if you have questions. Ω

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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 welcomes new employees

Two employees joined HSEMD's Grants and Financial Management Bureau on April 27.

Kathy Bowers comes to HSEMD from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), where she worked for more than 21 years—most recently as an accountant. At the DNR, she was responsible for preparing financial reports, advising and implementing financial processes, and acting as a state and federal audit liaison. Before her stint at the DNR, she worked for more than three years as a staff auditor in the State Auditor's Office.

Kathy is a member of the Iowa Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Association of Governmental Accountants. She is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), and will graduate from the Certified Public Manager (CPM) program at Drake in June.

Kathy is an alumna of the University of Northern Iowa, where she earned her BA in accounting. She and her husband David currently reside in Urbandale. Their oldest daughter Krista graduated from UNI in May 2011, and daughter Amy is currently a junior at UNI.

In June, Kathy will celebrate both her 25th wedding anniversary and



Left: Kathy Bowers. Below: Julie Nishijima



25 years of working for the State of Iowa. When she's not working, Kathy enjoys boating, camping, and showing and racing their five Ford Mustangs.

Julie Nishijima returns to HSEMD after seven years. In 2005, she was part of HSEMD's accounting team that was transferred to the State Comptroller's Office within the Department of Public Defense.

Julie began her career working for the State in 1995, when she was hired in the Iowa Department of Transportation's Office of Driver Services as an accountant. She accepted a position at HSEMD in 1997.

Julie and her husband live in West Des Moines with their three children. When she's not at work, she loves to travel and go shopping. Ω