



SECURE & PREPARED

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Continuing drought leads to fire safety concerns during fall harvest

As drought conditions continue across Iowa, the fall harvest brings fire safety concerns.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety State Fire Marshal Office is reminding agricultural producers of the possible danger of fire during harvest. In their "Fall Agricultural Fire Safety Bulletin" the Office of the State Fire Marshal recommends the following safety measures be taken during harvest:

- Have a charged fire extinguisher
- Maintain equipment in good working condition
- Remove chaff and residue from equipment
- Keep debris away from buildings



- Be aware of fire spread in extreme wind conditions
- Be careful with low vehicles driving in fields

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On the Calendar...

September

National Preparedness Month/
Family Preparedness Month (Iowa)

October

Fire Prevention Week (7-13)
America's Safe Schools Week (21-27)

November

Winter Weather Awareness Day (8)
Veteran's Day (11)
Veteran's Day observed (12)*
Thanksgiving (22)*
Day after Thanksgiving (23)*

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

September is Family Preparedness Month Have you pledged to prepare?

September is Family Preparedness Month in Iowa. HSEMD, the Safeguard Iowa Partnership (SIP) and the Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) are encouraging all Iowans to take a pledge to be better prepared for emergencies and disasters.



"We encourage Iowans to 'Pledge to Prepare,' during Family Preparedness Month," said HSEMD Administrator Mark Schouten. "Pledging can be as easy as setting up weather

alerts on your mobile phone or vowing to pick up a few items each week at the grocery store to stock your emergency supply kit."

HSEMD, SIP and IEMA are asking Iowans to Pledge to Prepare by taking just one simple step to be more prepared for emergencies. The pledge can be found at www.beready.iowa.gov.

Iowans may submit their pledge and be entered into a random drawing to win a Target gift card and other

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Fire safety concerns during harvest

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- Be aware of your surroundings when using acetylene torches and welders

In addition to these safety measures, the State Fire Marshal Office urges agricultural producers to watch for red flag warnings. Red flag warnings mean a combination of strong winds, low humidity and warm temperatures will create explosive fire growth potential.

Currently, nearly all of the state is rated as in severe or extreme

drought, with a small section in the northwest corner rated as exceptional drought. Many counties in Iowa remain under open burning bans. A map of Iowa counties under open burning bans can be found at www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/main/burnbans/index.shtml.

For more information about Iowa's drought conditions, visit the Governor's drought website at <https://governor.iowa.gov/drought>. Ω

October workshop focuses on long-term disaster recovery

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) Case-work Management Committee is sponsoring a workshop in October that focuses on long-term disaster recovery.



The workshop, titled "Putting it All (Back) Together," will introduce participants to the best recovery practices that have emerged from decades of lessons learned in disasters of all sizes and types.

The Rev. Dr. Bryan Crousore, an emergency response specialist with Church World Service, will provide training at the workshop and will discuss how long-term recovery groups form, organize and operate and touch on the functions of long-term recovery.

The workshop will be held Oct. 17, 2012, from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The location for the workshop is Plymouth Congregational Church (Waveland Room), 4126 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines.

The cost to attend the workshop is \$20 for IDHRC members and \$25 for non-members.

For information on the workshop and registration, contact **Blake DeRouchey** (515.323.4232, blake.derouchey@iowa.gov), or **Tiffany Keimig** (515.244.0320, tmkeimig@iowacaa.com). Ω

Family Preparedness Month

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prizes. Pledges may be submitted online or via FAX through Sept. 30 and the winner will be announced Oct. 1.

Visit www.beready.iowa.gov, www.safeguardiowa.org or www.iowaema.com for details on the drawing and more information about Iowa's Family Preparedness Month. Ω



Register now for HSEMD's 9th Annual Homeland Security Conference

The 9th Annual Homeland Security Conference is coming soon! The conference will take place Nov. 6-7 at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center at Veteran's Memorial in Des Moines.

You may register, view the agenda, and connect to area hotels through www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/conference/conference.html. Early registration costs \$150 and ends on Oct. 12; after Oct. 12 the registration cost goes up to \$175.

A block of rooms has been saved at three downtown hotels. Connect through the conference page to receive the conference rate. 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.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov

Training opportunities

COURSE CANCELLATION

The CAMEO course scheduled for Sept. 25-27 has been cancelled.

Exercise Design with HSEEP

When: Oct. 9-11, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Where: Henry County EMA
900 W. Washington
Mt. Pleasant

The course teaches exercise designers the systems and methodology associated with the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP). Participants will create exercise objectives and supporting material to conduct an exercise for their organization.

For more information or to register for this course, visit www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov and choose "HSEMD Course Registration" under the "Quick Links" tab.

Citizen Corps for the Future

When: Nov. 5, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center at Veteran's Memorial
730 Third St.
Des Moines

The workshop will include a general session addressing model programs. There will also be afternoon breakout sessions for participants to share and gather best practices on issues, including: questions about the program's future; ideas for funding; recruitment and sustainment of volunteers; Community Emergency

Response Team programs; and the growth of Community Organizations Active in Disaster.

The target audience for this course is county emergency managers, disaster volunteers, Community Emergency Response Team and Citizen Corps Program members.

For more information or to register for this course, visit www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov and choose "HSEMD Course Registration" under the "Quick Links" tab.

Special Events Planning (IS 15b)

When: Nov. 8, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center at Veteran's Memorial
730 Third St.
Des Moines

The course provides event planners with information related to pre-event planning, forming the planning team, event hazard analysis and response to incidents during special community events.

The target audience for this course is emergency managers, law enforcement, fire, medical services, public works, emergency operations staff, non-profit organizations and public/private businesses.

For more information or to register for this course, visit www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov and choose "HSEMD Course Registration" under the "Quick Links" tab. Ω