



SECURE & PREPARED

Oct. 26, 2012

Volume 8, Issue 20

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U.S. DHS upholds FEMA decision to relocate damaged U of I buildings

On Wednesday, Oct. 24, Iowa HSEMD received word that U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials had reaffirmed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) previous decisions to replace the University of Iowa's Hancher Voxman Clapp and Art Building East facilities.

Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor Reynolds issued the following joint statement: "We are pleased that this long-standing Federal policy dispute has been settled, as resolution was long-overdue. Thankfully, common sense has

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July 2011 – Hancher Auditorium. Photo by Marlys Svendsen, HSEMD.

On the Calendar...

November

- 9th Annual Homeland Security Conference (6-7)
- Winter Weather Awareness Day (8)
- Veteran's Day (11)
- Veteran's Day observed (12)*
- Thanksgiving Day (22)*
- Day After Thanksgiving (23)*

December

- Christmas Day (25)*

*State holiday.
HSEMD offices will be closed.

Emergency management colleagues say goodbye to Pocahontas County coordinator

Pocahontas County Emergency Management Coordinator Tim McKiernan passed away suddenly last Friday while attending a hazardous materials symposium in Ames, Iowa. He was laid to rest Wednesday in Laurens, Iowa. Tim was 65 years old.

For the past 24 years Tim worked for the Pocahontas County Emer-

gency Management Agency. By all accounts, he loved his job and was a friend to all who knew him.

Tim was a member of the Bethany Lutheran Church, Laurens Fire Department, Laurens Ambulance Service, Grace Lodge #519 and Kiwanis along with any and all organizations that he thought would benefit him in his work.

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Mitigation Projects Receive Funding

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).

The following hazard mitigation projects have been recently funded through HMGP:

Southern Iowa Electric

Award: \$3,508,250
Project: Electric Utilities

To retrofit and harden 48 miles of electrical distribution line.

Winneshiek County EMA

Award: \$25,850
Project: Mitigation Planning

The development of a local multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan that is compliant with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

Muscatine County

Award: \$55,000
Project: Mitigation Planning

The development of a local multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan that is compliant with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Ω

U of I buildings

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prevailed. We appreciate the Iowa congressional delegation's active involvement in this issue and FEMA leadership's openness to discuss our concerns throughout their policy dispute with the DHS Office of Inspector General."

University of Iowa President Sally Mason said: "This final action... clears the way for construction.... Our students and campus can now move forward with certainty that they will have the facilities they need."

HSEMD Administrator Mark Schouten, said, "I am thankful that FEMA's previous guidance to replace these facilities has been upheld. This decision...avoids potentially serious and expensive complications that would have flowed from repairing buildings that have sat vacant for more than four years, including mold removal and foundation stabilization measures." Ω

HSEMD employee attends national roundtable

HSEMD's Steve Warren was part of a group of 18 in attendance Oct. 16-18 for the National Training and Exercise Conference Roundtable.

The purpose was to set the agenda for the National Training and Exercise Conference to be held April 16-18, 2013, at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Md.

Representatives from federal, state, local and tribal govern-

ments discussed setting a mission statement and building objectives for participants, and identified keynote speakers.



The group will continue to meet monthly by webinar until March and then weekly in final preparation for the conference in April to discuss additional topics and to make sure the agenda is set. Ω

Goodbye

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Tim enjoyed playing golf, spending time with his grandchildren, and vacationing with friends. He is survived by his wife Shirley, his daughters Katy and Maggie, grandsons Payton and Eli, granddaughters Nora and Amelia, and his brother John.

Tim, you will be missed. Ω

HSEMD hosts Foundations of Emergency Management course

For 10 days between Sept. 17-28, 2012, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management hosted the Emergency Managers Basic Academy: Foundations of Emergency Management course (L101) at the Stony Brook Inn in Johnston. The course was open for invitees from FEMA Regions V and VII.

“The Emergency Management profession has needed this course for quite some time,” said Lorie Glover, Black Hawk County Emergency Management coordinator. “This course is excellent and well worth the emergency manager’s time away from the office.”

Training was provided by instructors from FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute (EMI). Objectives for this course are based on newly-established competencies that the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), and local, state, territorial, and tribal emergency management professionals have established in coordination with EMI. Topics covered include legal issues, intergovernmental and interagency context, influencing, organizing, social vulnerability issues, managing stress, collaboration, preparedness, team building,

protection and prevention, mitigation, response, ethical decision-making, recovery, technology, administration, and the future.

Cait Purinton, exercise officer with the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, said, “The course was an excellent opportunity to network with partners from other states and share ideas on how to improve our programs.”

For more information on foundations of emergency management courses, visit the EMI website at <http://training.fema.gov>. Ω



HSEMD Recognizes FEMA Personnel

On Oct. 19, FEMA officially closed the Iowa Close-out Center in West Des Moines. HSEMD Recovery Bureau Chief Pat Hall took time that day to recognize three FEMA employees for the support they provided to HSEMD staff and the citizens of Iowa by awarding them the HSEMD Administrator’s Coin for Excellence. The FEMA staff who were recognized were: Christina Boyd, who has worked in information technology since the 2008 tornadoes and floods; Drew Wallace, who has worked in logistics since the floods of 2010; and Jeff



Pictured left to right: Drew Wallace, Patrick Hall, Jeff Rowbotham, and Christina Boyd.

Rowbotham, who worked in hazard mitigation during the 2008 tornado/flood event and then returned in 2010 as the ICC site lead. Ω

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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. For more information contact Stefanie Bond, 515.725.3231 or stefanie.bond@iowa.gov.

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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.

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New communications resources available to agencies statewide

The Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) has recently acquired four assets to make up a new Strategic Technology Reserve (STR). The STR are mobile interoperable communications and 911 assets that can be utilized by Iowa political subdivisions to re-establish or supplement communications in the event of an emergency.

The Iowa STR is composed of four unique assets. There are three stand-alone mobile communications trailers and one mobile 911 vehicle. Each asset is designed to support command and control, as well as tactical communications to provide an effective communications and interoperability solution. The mobile 911 vehicle and one communication trailer are located in western Iowa at the Woodbury County Emergency Management Agency; one communication trailer is located in central Iowa at a Department of Public Safety facility in Polk County; and the third communication trailer is housed by Scott County Emergency Communications.

Eligible users of the STR assets include the following local, county, regional, and state agencies:

- Emergency management
- Emergency medical service
- Law enforcement
- Fire service
- Public Safety
- Corrections
- Transportation
- Public works
- Communications agencies

Applications for the use of STR assets for scheduled events shall be made to the chair of the Iowa State-



The ISICSB and vendor provided training to emergency personnel on the new assets on Oct. 3, 2012.

wide Interoperable Communications System Board through the appropriate local emergency manager. Such requests shall be made a minimum of 60 days and no more than 120 days prior to a scheduled event. All requests shall be made to the Board at the following address:

Iowa Statewide Interoperable
Communication System Board
215 E. Seventh St., Rm. 225
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Fax: (515) 725-6117

The local emergency manager will complete the Deployment Request Form and provide the pertinent information within the request.

The requesting jurisdiction will be responsible for pickup and delivery of the equipment, and the trailers must be towed by vehicles owned by the requesting agency. Ω