



# Secure & Prepared

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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## Cerro Gordo County hosts Integrated Emergency Management Course

More than 50 people representing a variety of organizations participated in an exercise-based training course hosted by Cerro Gordo County Emergency Management Feb. 12-15.

The Community-Specific Integrated Emergency Management Course was delivered by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The course is designed to place local emergency operations center (EOC) personnel in realistic crisis situations in a structured learning environment.

During this course, participants had an opportunity to test their response to multiple incidents, including torrential rains, flooding, and a tornado. The training brought together participants from Mason City and Cerro Gordo County government, health, fire and law enforcement agencies, along



**EMC participants, standing left to right: Chief Bob Platts, Captain Dick Paulson, and Captain Jack Odegaard, all of the Mason City Fire Department. Seated at right is a course instructor from EMI.**

with emergency management coordinators from several nearby counties and representatives from state government agencies, including the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) and Iowa Department of Public Health.

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## ***Integrated Emergency Management Course***

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"The course was fantastic," said Cerro Gordo County Emergency Management Coordinator Steve O'Neil, who hosted the course and worked with EMI and FEMA on the planning. "It was great to have so many EOC staff and responders from Cerro Gordo County show up for four days of training. Everyone left feeling they had learned a tremendous amount about the purpose and functions in the EOC during a disaster. The instructors were top of the line. I would highly recommend this to any county to participate if they can."

O'Neil said to prepare for the course, EMI sent representatives to Cerro Gordo County to meet with local responders, hospital

personnel and representatives of city and county facilities. O'Neil also provided EMI the county's comprehensive emergency operations plans, standard operating procedures, policies and other documents that would be referenced during a disaster. Although EMI staff brought quite a lot of the equipment used in the course, O'Neil said he also had to provide some equipment and a facility where the course could be conducted.

HSEMD provided equipment that was used for the course and guidance on the application process. Additionally, several HSEMD staff participated in the course itself. Ω

## **Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 25-29**

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) and the National Weather Service (NWS) are recognizing the week of March 25-29 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa.

The goal of Severe Weather Awareness Week, which in past years has been held in April, is to provide Iowans a better understanding, and to increase awareness, of the state's spring weather hazards.

The highlight of Severe Weather Awareness Week is the annual tornado drill, scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, at approximately 10 a.m. Schools, businesses, state and local governments, the military, and individuals are strongly encouraged to participate in the drill. Additional information on the tornado drill can be found on local NWS websites.

For each day during Severe Weather Awareness Week, a different subject will be highlighted:  
Monday--Flash Floods  
Tuesday--Weather Warnings  
Wednesday--Tornadoes  
Thursday--Severe Thunderstorms  
Friday--Family Preparedness

Look for details on Severe Weather Awareness Week in the March issue of "Secure & Prepared." For more information about severe weather and family preparedness, visit [www.BeReady.iowa.gov](http://www.BeReady.iowa.gov). Ω

## **Homeland security conference will be Oct. 8-9**

Mark your calendars for the 10th Annual Iowa Homeland Security Conference, which will be held Oct. 8-9, 2013, at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center in Des Moines.



held Oct. 10, at the conference location.

We already have some great speakers lined up, so look for more details in upcoming issues of "Secure & Prepared," and

on the HSEMD website at [www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov). Ω

In addition to the conference, the state Training and Exercise Planning Workshop will be held Oct. 7 and a free training will be

# Multi-State Partnership addresses livestock movement

A wide-area, high-consequence livestock disease remains one of the biggest threats to the economic stability of the food and agriculture sector.

The Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture agreed last month to continue a nationally recognized project to permit movement of livestock between states during the early stages of a disease disaster. Project coordinator Susan Dixon of HSEMD's Preparedness Bureau said the project has produced templates, resource materials and workshops designed to facilitate interstate agreements that keep commerce moving during a disease outbreak.

Dixon and fellow Partnership project coordinator Mark Shearer, also of HSEMD's Preparedness Bureau, organize communications and projects for the 14-state consortium, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Iowa

has been the lead state for the Partnership since its inception.

During the Partnership's January planning meeting in Oklahoma City, the group toured the Oklahoma Stockyards, the largest surviving livestock auction that moves 10,000 or more cattle every week from feeding operations to finishers. Auctions are critical infrastructure in disease management because they are a mixing pot for livestock that are sold and sent to dozens of states within 24 hours.

While in Oklahoma, members of the Partnership reviewed and prioritized projects and planned future priorities. Besides permitted movement, high-profile projects of the Partnership include crisis communication workshops, "just-



**Multi-state Partnership members toured the Oklahoma Stockyards, which moves 10,000 or more head of cattle through the sale ring each week.**

in-time" training, an all-hazards community preparedness guide, and a new social media toolkit.

For more information on the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture, visit [www.multistate-partnership.org](http://www.multistate-partnership.org). Ω

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## Projects receive funding through hazard mitigation grant

Hazard mitigation projects are 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 non-profits).

The following projects have been recently funded through HMGP:

**Lake Mills Community School Award:** \$1,130,010  
**Date:** Jan. 31, 2013  
**Project:** Tornado Safe Room

Construction to add a safe room to the school for the students/staff/visitors. Multi-use/pre-school and elementary activities and community functions with restrooms.

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## HSEMD Legislative Update



John Benson

The 85th Iowa General Assembly began their 2013 session on Jan. 14. In the early weeks of the session Governor Branstad delivered his

State of the State speech, Major General Timothy Orr addressed the condition of the Iowa National Guard, and Chief Justice Mark Cady spoke on the Condition of the Judiciary. As always, the first weeks of the session are about getting the protocols in order and the process of legislating started for the new year.

However, now that the formalities are out of the way, the Capitol building has begun to fall into a familiar rhythm. We have already seen a number of policy bills that will impact the emergency management community. The first of these is House Study Bill (HSB) 40/Senate Study Bill (SSB) 1033, which would convert HSEMD to a stand-alone state department. This is similar to a bill that passed the legislature last year but was vetoed by the governor for issues not related to the conversion.

Another bill that has returned from last year, Senate File (SF) 9, would create a public safety training and equipment trust fund. Last year this bill did not pass

both chambers but it is expected to engender vigorous discussion.

Other bills of interest include; HSB 44, dealing with extending disaster liability to architects that assist during disaster response and recovery; House File (HF) 74, dealing with firearms lawfully owned by citizens during a state of emergency; SF 147, dealing with drug testing for those receiving state financial aid; and HF 11, which would eliminate smart planning requirements from the Code of Iowa.

Finally, discussion has started about mass public notification. Some of the talk has centered around notifying hunters of possible missing persons in areas where they are hunting, notification to the public when a mentally-disabled or cognitively-impaired individual is absent from a care facility, and crime-related notifications dealing with situations similar to the young girls being abducted last year in Evansdale. I would expect to see this topic gain more steam as we move deeper into the session.

As always, you can view these bills and get a better understanding of what is happening at the Capitol at [www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx](http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx).

**Submitted by John Benson,  
HSEMD legislative liaison. Ω**

## Mitigation projects

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### Adair County Conservation Board

Award: \$444,663  
Date: Jan. 11, 2013  
Project: Tornado Safe Room

Construction of a tornado safe room, with dual use as a bath house at Lake Orient.

### Grundy Center Community School District

Award: \$803,411  
Date: Jan. 29, 2013  
Project: Tornado Safe Room

Construction of multi-functional safe room in the high school.

### Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative

Award: \$2,190,000  
Date: Jan. 7, 2013  
Project: Electric Utilities

Retrofit and harden 72 miles of overhead single-phased line.

### Nishnabotna Valley REC

Award: \$1,111,440  
Date: Jan. 24, 2013  
Project: Electric Utilities

Retrofit and harden 29 miles of electrical distribution line and poles.

### Pella Cooperative Electric Association

Award: \$7,472,555  
Date: Jan. 29, 2013  
Project: Electric Utilities

Retrofit and harden 128.3 miles of electrical distribution line and poles. Ω

## National Weather Service offers spotter training

Each year, National Weather Service (NWS) meteorologists provide spotter training throughout the state.

The classes cover information about severe weather climatology, severe thunderstorm types, different severe weather threats and how to identify them, how to report severe weather, spotter safety and severe weather communications.

This year, the Des Moines NWS office will offer in-person training classes as well as weekly webinars. Spotter training classes are open to the public and are free of charge.

To find a spotter training class near you, visit the website for the National Weather Service office that covers your area:

**Des Moines NWS**  
[www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/)

**La Crosse NWS**  
[www.crh.noaa.gov/arx/](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/arx/)

**Omaha NWS**  
[www.crh.noaa.gov/oax/](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/oax/)

**Quad Cities NWS**  
[www.crh.noaa.gov/dvn/](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dvn/)

**Sioux Falls NWS**  
[www.crh.noaa.gov/fsd/](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/fsd/)



Links to NWS offices may also be found on [www.BeReady.iowa.gov](http://www.BeReady.iowa.gov). Be sure to check back frequently as the schedules are continually updated. Ω

## Emergency Response Guidebook goes mobile

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has announced the creation of a free, mobile web app of its Emergency Response Guidebook 2012 (ERG).

According to the PHMSA, this safety tool will provide emergency responders with fast, easily accessible information to help them manage hazardous materials incidents.

The PHMSA says the mobile ERG will make it easier for firefighters, police and other emergency responders to quickly

locate the information they need, thanks to an electronic word search function, and will ensure easy reading even during nighttime emergencies.



The 2012 version of the ERG includes new evacuation tables for large toxic gas spills and stan-

dard response procedures for gas and liquid pipeline incidents.

Links to download the ERG 2012 mobile app are available from Apple iTunes for iPhones and from Google Play for Android.

PHMSA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Library of Medicine joined forces to produce this mobile app.

Additional information on the ERG mobile app can be found at <http://phmsa.dot.gov/>, including an instructional video for learning how to use the ERG 2012. Ω

## HSEMD says farewell to Vicki Morris

HSEMD recently bid farewell to Vicki Morris, who retired Feb. 1.

Morris had worked as HSEMD's assistant homeland security coordinator for the past nine years.

"Vicki's professionalism and her ability to work with partners at all levels of government and the private sector will be greatly missed," said HSEMD Preparedness Bureau Chief David Hempen.

Vicki had served the State of Iowa for 26 years, including eight years with the Iowa Communications Network and nine years with the Department of Administrative Services. Ω



*HSEMD's Preparedness Bureau Chief David Hempen congratulates Vicki Morris for her 26 years of service to the State of Iowa.*

## North Iowa CERT open house March 2

The North Iowa Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Cerro Gordo County Emergency Management Agency are holding an open house on March 2. At the open house visitors will have an opportunity to meet CERT members and learn about the equipment they use and capabilities they can provide in times of emergency or disaster.

The open house runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be in the Kinney Building at the North Iowa Events Center. Ω

## Winter isn't over yet! Are you prepared?

Winter storms can bring heavy snow, ice, strong winds and freezing rain. Heavy snow and ice can also cause structural damage and power outages. A major winter storm can be lethal.

Preparing for cold weather conditions and responding to them effectively can reduce the dangers caused by winter storms.

HSEMD has posted a variety of information on winter weather preparedness on its Be Ready Iowa website at

[www.beready.iowa.gov](http://www.beready.iowa.gov). Information available on the site includes what to do before and during winter storms, tips on winter driving and information on frostbite and hypothermia. Ω



# Training opportunities



## Intermediate ICS (ICS 300)

**When:** March 12-13  
8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Where:** Vocational Rehab Bldg.  
Grants Room  
510 E. 12th St.  
Des Moines

Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>.

## Advanced ICS (ICS 400)

**When:** Feb. 19-20  
**Where:** Buena Vista County EMA  
411 Expansion Blvd.  
Storm Lake

Contact: Aimee Barritt, [aimee.barritt@bvema.com](mailto:aimee.barritt@bvema.com).

## Advanced ICS (ICS 400)

**When:** Feb. 25-26  
**Where:** Clinton Co.  
Community College  
Technology Center  
1951 Manufacturing Dr.  
Clinton

Contact: Chance Kness, [kness@clintoncounty-ia.gov](mailto:kness@clintoncounty-ia.gov).

## Advanced ICS (ICS 400)

**When:** March 14-15  
8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Where:** Vocational Rehab Bldg.  
Grants Room  
510 E. 12th St.  
Des Moines

Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>.

## ICS Overview (ICS-402)

**When:** March 21  
6:30–8:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Upper Iowa University  
Student Center Ballroom C  
605 Washington St.  
Fayette

Contact: Andrew James,  
[ajames@storycounty.com](mailto:ajames@storycounty.com).

## Leadership and Influence (IS-240)

**When:** March 4-5  
10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (3-4)  
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (3-5)  
**Where:** Bldg. M10-3  
Camp Dodge  
Johnston

This course will focus on motivating and leading others so they will commit their energies and expertise to achieving the shared mission and goals of the emergency management system.

Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/>.

## Decision Making & Problem Solving (IS-241)

**When:** March 6  
8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Where:** Bldg. M10-3  
Camp Dodge  
Johnston

This course will focus on making decisions and solving problems, a necessary and vital part of the

job for every emergency manager, planner and responder.

Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/>.

## Emergency Management and Business Continuity (NFPA 1600)

**When:** March 18-19  
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.  
**Where:** Story County Admin.,  
2nd Floor  
900 6th St.  
Nevada

Contact: Andrew James,  
[ajames@storycounty.com](mailto:ajames@storycounty.com)

## Emergency Management and Business Continuity (NFPA 1600)

**When:** March 20-21, 2013  
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.  
**Where:** Marion Co. Public Health  
2003 North Lincoln  
Knoxville

Contact: Andrew James,  
[ajames@storycounty.com](mailto:ajames@storycounty.com).

## Wide Area Search (PER 213)

**When:** Aug. 20-22  
8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
**Where:** Marshall County  
Sheriff  
2369 Jessup Ave.  
Marshalltown

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## Training opportunities

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This course is applicable to those who would need to conduct wide area searches due to a natural disaster or terrorist incident. Participants will learn practical search methods and skills in order to perform systematic searches. The course concludes with a table top exercise.

Contact: Kim Elder, [kelder@co.marshall.ia.us](mailto:kelder@co.marshall.ia.us).

### All-Hazards Incident Commander Training

**When:** March 25- 29  
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Polk County EMA  
1907 Carpenter Ave.  
Des Moines

#### ON THE CALENDAR

##### MARCH

American Red Cross Month  
National Poison Prevention Week (17-23)  
National Flood Awareness Week (18-22)  
Severe Weather Awareness Week (25-29)

##### APRIL

9-1-1 Education Month  
National Volunteer Week (21-27)

Contact: Andrew James,  
[ajames@storycounty.com](mailto:ajames@storycounty.com).

### Managing Lost and Missing Subject Searches

**When:** March 18-21  
8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
**Where:** Linn County EOC  
Kirkwood College  
Campus  
6301 Kirkwood Blvd.  
Cedar Rapids

This is a four-day course designed for those who have the responsibility to plan and prepare for search operations in wilderness, rural or urban environments. The course covers concepts appropriate to both lost and missing subjects. The course provides a comprehensive methodology in search for use by local governments and other land management jurisdictions.

Contact: **Liz Manion**,  
[mmanion@story-county.com](mailto:mmanion@story-county.com). Ω

## Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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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.

**Secure & Prepared** is published for those involved in the homeland security/emergency management system in the state of Iowa. For more information, contact Stefanie Bond at [stefanie.bond@iowa.gov](mailto:stefanie.bond@iowa.gov).

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