



# Secure & Prepared

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Volume 9, Issue 6

June 2013

## Governor issues disaster proclamations for 53 counties Iowa receives second Presidential Disaster Declaration

Iowa's weather woes that began in April continued into May and June with widespread flooding.

Gov. Terry E. Branstad issued proclamations of disaster for 53 counties impacted by severe storms and flooding that began on May 19. Counties covered by governor's proclamations are: Appanoose, Benton, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Butler, Cedar, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Clay, Clayton, Clinton, Crawford, Davis, Decatur, Delaware, Des Moines, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Greene, Grundy, Hardin, Henry, Ida, Iowa, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Lyon, Mahaska, Marshall, Mitchell, Monona, Monroe, Muscatine, O'Brien, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Poweshiek, Sac, Sioux, Story, Tama, Wapello, Wayne, Webster, Winnebago and Wright.

The Governor's proclamations activated the Iowa Individual Assistance Program in 32 counties: Black



**Flooding over County Road D-15 in Ida County.**

Hawk, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Butler, Cedar, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Clay, Davis, Decatur, Delaware, Des Moines, Fayette, Floyd, Greene, Grundy, Henry, Iowa, Jasper, Johnson, Linn, Marshall, Mitchell, Monroe, Muscatine, Plymouth, Poweshiek, Sioux, Story, Tama, Wapello and Wright.

On June 3, HSEMD, FEMA and local government teams began joint preliminary damage assessments in 52 impacted counties. The results will be used to determine if the amount of damage warrants the governor asking for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for the most recent flooding and storms.

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## Five years after 2008 disaster HSEMD's recovery work continues

In the five years since Iowa's widespread flooding in 2008, significant progress has been made toward recovering from the extensive damage that was the result.

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division has played an important role in that recovery by overseeing the delivery of federal and state funding to rebuild damaged and destroyed infrastructure and to put in place measures to mitigate the effects of future disasters.

It began May 25, 2008, when an EF-5 tornado struck the cities of Parkersburg, Dunkerton and New Hartford, killing eight people. A few days later, a series of severe storms began passing through Iowa, leading to flooding that affected much of the state. On June 11, an EF-3 tornado struck the Little Sioux Scout Ranch in Monona County, killing four Boy Scouts. By the time the flooding subsided at the end of June, approximately 21,000 housing units were impacted, 38,000 people had been evacuated and hundreds of millions of dollars in damage had been reported to public buildings, infrastructure, transportation and utilities. During this time, HSEMD activated the State Emergency Operations Center to coordinate state



**Union Pacific Railroad Bridge in Cedar Rapids, June 2008. FEMA photo.**

assistance to the impacted areas, bringing together numerous state, federal and private-sector agencies to carry out the massive task. This set the stage for a Presidential Disaster Declaration that included 85 counties and put into motion the most extensive recovery effort Iowa had ever undertaken.

The Presidential Disaster Declaration brought two federal assistance programs that were, and continue to be, the primary focus for HSEMD's recovery work: Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation. In terms of the amount of funding that has been approved for projects under these two programs, this is the costliest disaster in Iowa history.

FEMA's Public Assistance Program provides funds to state and local governments and certain nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, debris removal and repair, and replacement or restoration of disaster-

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## Presidential disaster declarations

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Iowa has received two Presidential Disaster Declarations in 2013. The most recent declaration was awarded May 31 for 19 counties impacted by severe weather during the period of April 17-30. The first Presidential Disaster Declaration was received May 6 for five counties that were affected by severe weather April 9-11.

Both declarations will provide federal funding under the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation programs. Public Assistance program funds may be used for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities and may include debris removal, emergency protective measures, repair of damaged public property, loans needed by communities for essential governments and grants for public schools. Hazard Mitigation program funding is used to minimize the impact of future natural disasters by taking steps to strengthen existing infrastructure.

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

### ON THE CALENDAR

#### JUNE

National Safety Month  
Lightning Safety Awareness Week  
(23-29)

#### JULY

Independence Day\* (4)

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

## 2008 disaster recovery work continues

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damaged facilities. For the 2008 disaster, HSEMD Recovery Bureau staff have worked on nearly 9,000 Public Assistance projects that total more than \$1 billion. Along with Public Assistance funding, the Presidential Disaster Declaration brought to Iowa nearly \$400 million in funding to conduct hazard mitigation activities to minimize the impact of future natural disasters. Hazard mitigation projects include construction of tornado safe rooms, retrofitting of public facilities or utilities, flood control, multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans and property acquisitions. Nearly 200 mitigation projects have, or are still being, conducted with the hazard mitigation funding that came to Iowa after the 2008 disaster.



**A home in Oakville, June 2008. FEMA photo.**

HSEMD partners with FEMA to manage the assistance programs and guides applicants through all steps of recovery work. This work includes notifying potential applicants of the availability of funding and assisting them with applications, providing technical assistance to community elected and professional staff as they develop their projects, reviewing projects for eligibility and submitting to FEMA for award and obligation, and monitoring the progress of projects and compliance with state and federal regulations. This work has required a tremendous amount of staff time and resources.

“Our staff has done exceptional work, especially considering we have had to perform recovery work for 11 additional disasters since 2008,” said HSEMD Recovery Bureau Chief Pat Hall.

While much has been accomplished, HSEMD still has work to

do. Many major projects, including the rebuilding of infrastructure at the University of Iowa and in Cedar Rapids, and construction of tornado safe rooms and property acquisitions throughout the state have yet to be completed. It is estimated it will take another few years to finish all Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation projects from the 2008 disaster.

One of the major Hazard Mitigation Program projects HSEMD is involved in is the acquisition or relocation of properties, which permanently removes flood-prone properties from harm’s way. In

Iowa, the acquisition and relocation of properties has been tremendously successful, as was shown by recent widespread flooding in the state. Through hazard mitigation funding that came to Iowa as a result of the 2008 disaster, 933 properties have been acquired for a total cost of \$72 million. During the latest flooding event that began May 19, 2013, 226 of those acquired properties would have flooded. Because these properties were no longer in the flood hazard area, it’s estimated nearly \$8.8 million in damage was avoided.

“The numbers tell an impressive story of Iowa’s past flood mitigation efforts and investments.”, said Dennis Harper,

HSEMD Hazard Mitigation Program supervisor. “The use of federal, state and local funding to complete projects to remove structures and citizens from high hazard flood areas is not always the easy thing to do, but these efforts are yielding huge financial benefits in terms of avoided damages and maybe just as notable, these projects are reducing the number of Iowa citizens and communities at risk to future flooding events.”

Learn more about HSEMD’s recovery work on pages four and five of this newsletter and at [www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov).

## Motor Mill Bridge: a survival success story

In June 2008, the Turkey River in Clayton County saw record flooding like much of eastern Iowa. In the middle of the night, high water took out the surviving span of the historic Motor Mill Bridge about seven miles southeast of Elkader. The first span of the 1899 iron bridge was destroyed in an earlier flood. After considering various options FEMA agreed to fund reconstruction of a replica of the destroyed span as an improved project under the Public Assistance Program. FEMA's obligation would be capped at \$435,081 or about 40 percent of the total bridge replacement cost estimated at more than \$1 million. Officials and bridge supporters raised the remaining \$640,902 to carry out the project. HSEMD administered the project and provided technical support for historic preservation mitigation measures included in a memorandum of agreement for other flood damage at the Motor Mill site.

Motor Mill Bridge takes its name from the six-story limestone flour mill located immediately upstream that is the centerpiece of the Motor Mill Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. Motor Mill, four other stone buildings, and 100 acres of surrounding land were purchased by the Clayton County Conservation Board in 1983.

Early in the bridge reconstruction project, historic preservation requirements and local officials agreed that the new bridge



**New Motor Bridge completed in November 2012.**

should be based on its historic twin-span, pin-connected Pratt through-truss design. Construction began on Oct. 11, 2012.

On a chilly, sunny Saturday morning in early December 2012, dozens of friends of Motor Mill, local officials, and neighbors from the surrounding countryside celebrated the new Motor Bridge with a ribbon cutting. The winner of a \$50 raffle to benefit the bridge received the honor of being the first car to cross it. Within 24 hours, the bridge saw its first snow. Holiday lighting was soon added by volunteers and within weeks the bridge saw its first marriage proposal (accepted, with a wedding to be held in June 2013). Before year's end, a series of honors for Motor Mill and its volunteers came with selection of Motor Mill for the front-page photo of the 2013 Iowa Travel Guide and People's Choice "Site of the Year," sponsored by Silos & Smoke-

stacks National Heritage Area.

Heavy rains in late May of this year caused the Turkey River to rise quickly, leaving debris midway up the bridge's center pier. Thankfully, no damage to the bridge was reported.

For more information about Motor Mill, check out the Motor Mill Foundation's robust website at: <http://motormill.org/lab/motor-mill-foundation/>. View a Motor Mill History Video (Home page link) in which Marlys Svendsen, historic project specialist, HSEMD, participated. See the Motor Mill Bridge go up in photographs at the link <http://motormill.org/lab/page/2/>.

*Submitted by Marlys Svendsen, Environmental and Historic Preservation Lead, HSEMD Recovery Bureau.Ω*

# Investment in utility mitigation pays off

April showers brought life to a standstill in northwest Iowa with freezing rain and heavy, wet snow with high winds cutting power to thousands in Lyon and Osceola counties. Reports of ice as thick as three inches on Osceola Electric Cooperative lines snapped power lines and shattered utility poles across the cooperative's system.

Lyon County had well over a thousand members without power. Alliant Energy reported another 1,000 customers without power due to damage from the ice storm. Transmission lines were hit hard as well, with L&O Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission provider, sustaining damage to its transmission system.

In examining the damage that occurred in this event, HSEMD's mitigation section looked at recent hazard mitigation investments made within the impacted area and is confident in saying that the \$12 million investment in these two counties by FEMA, the electric cooperatives and HSEMD has already paid for itself in the form of avoided direct damages exceeding \$16 million in just this one event. State officials have concluded that the April ice event would certainly have caused more than \$20.5 million in direct damage to utilities if recent extensive mitigation efforts had not been completed

**Since 2008, more than 3,300 miles of power lines have been strengthened in Iowa.**



**Downed power lines during a winter storm in Iowa.**

by municipal and rural electrical cooperatives within the impacted area. As it stands, current damage estimates to REC facilities and municipal electrical utilities in northwest Iowa is estimated to be around \$4 million.

In the state of Iowa since 2008, more than 3,300 miles of distribution and transmission power lines have been

strengthened using stronger poles and wire and shorter overall spans. Electrical mitigation projects have been completed in 87 Iowa counties, benefitting Iowans served by 30 distribution cooperatives, four generation and transmission cooperatives, and six municipal utilities. The State of Iowa, FEMA and partner utilities have invested more than \$233 million in improving Iowa's electrical infrastructure

through a cost-sharing arrangement of 75 percent federal grant dollars, 10 percent State dollars and 15 percent utility cost share.

In looking at Iowa's overall statewide effort in electrical utility mitigation over the past five years, the investment already made by Iowa electrical utilities through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is expected to prevent future damage exceeding \$415 million over the expected 50-year life span of electrical utility lines. HSEMD continues to work with REC and municipal suppliers across the state through the HMGP to complete an additional 800 miles of mitigation to electrical utility lines for cooperatives across the state.

*Submitted by B.J. Covington, Infrastructure/Utilities Team Lead, HSEMD Recovery Bureau. Ω*

## 2013 HSGP funding announced

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released the FY 2013 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funding opportunity announcement.

Iowa has been allocated \$3,459,364 to support the State Homeland Security Program. To receive funding, HSEMD, as the state administrative agency for this federal program, is required to submit an application to FEMA by June 24. The anticipated award date is Sept. 1, 2013. In anticipation of this allocation, applications have been received and are currently under review for pass-through awards. The application deadline was April 28 via [www.iowagrants.gov](http://www.iowagrants.gov).

To view the FY 2013 HSGP funding opportunity announcement, visit [www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7513](http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7513). Ω

### Register now!

Registration for the 10th Annual Homeland Security Conference is now available online! Visit <http://hsemdconference.iowa.gov/> to secure your spot now! Ω



## Dave Hempen departs HSEMD

HSEMD Preparedness Bureau Chief Dave Hempen will be leaving HSEMD in early July for a position with MidAmerican Energy.

Dave has been a valued member of the HSEMD team since April 1, 2002, when he took the position of the division's WMD training coordinator. During his 11 years with the Division, he has also served as the state training officer and NIMS coordinator.

Dave said it has been a challenging 11 years, but well worth the effort.



**Dave Hempen**

Best wishes to Dave on his exciting new opportunity. He will be missed! Ω



**Brenda Brock, center, meteorologist-in-charge of the Johnston National Weather Service office, was recognized on May 31 during flood response at the State Emergency Operations Center for her 46 years of service to the federal government and for her assistance to the state during her time in Iowa. On her last day before retiring, Brock was presented with a tornado sculpture by HSEMD Administrator Mark Schouten, left, and HSEMD Readiness and Response Bureau Chief Joyce Flinn. Ω**

# IDHRC volunteer receives prestigious national award

Don Hampton, a volunteer for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, was recently awarded the prestigious Volunteer of the Year award at the National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) conference held in Portland, Ore., in May.

Hampton, a board member of the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) which serves as Iowa's state VOAD, said it was a wonderful experience to be recognized in front of so many people he works with every day. At the conference he also received the Presidential Award at the Gold level, which was presented to him by David Meyer from the White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives.



**Don Hampton during deployment to Alaska. He is pictured here at Denali National Park.**

Hampton has been deployed to Alaska, New Jersey, and Okla-

homa recently, as well as responding to the Iowa emergency operations center when needed as the IDHRC representative.

Hampton continues to devote endless hours to disaster work across the nation. He continually brings back lessons learned from those deployments but always maintains that the IDHRC is the most organized VOAD he's come across.

Congratulations, Don!

Learn more about the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council at [www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/programs/IDHRC.html](http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/programs/IDHRC.html). Ω

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## Training opportunities

### A.L.I.C.E. Training

**When:** June 27–28  
**Where:** Burlington Memorial Auditorium  
200 Front St.  
Burlington

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

606 NW 7th St.  
Pocahontas

This is a **two-day** course. Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>. For more information, contact: **Susan Green** at [susan.green@iowa.gov](mailto:susan.green@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3243**, or **Beth Lewis** at [beth.lewis@iowa.gov](mailto:beth.lewis@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3204**.

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### EOC Management & Operations (G775)

**When:** June 25, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
June 26, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Pocahontas Community Hospital

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### Effective Communication (IS-242a)

**When:** July 23–24  
8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Where:** Camp Dodge, Bldg. B62  
7105 NW 70th Ave.  
Johnston

Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>. For more information, contact: **Susan Green** at [susan.green@iowa.gov](mailto:susan.green@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3243**, or **Beth Lewis** at [beth.lewis@iowa.gov](mailto:beth.lewis@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3204**.

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### Safe Schools

**When:** July 30  
9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Where:** Buena Vista University  
Schaller Memorial Chapel  
610 W. Fourth St.  
Storm Lake

Join the Storm Lake Police Department and Iowa LEIN Region 1

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## Training opportunities

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Information Sharing Office in welcoming Lt. Col. Dave Grossman for a free full-day presentation of "Safe Schools."

Intended audience includes school staff and educators, emergency managers, campus security, fire, and EMS personnel.

For more information contact **Michelle Skaff** at 712.899.3757 or [miskaff@sioux-city.org](mailto:miskaff@sioux-city.org). Ω

## HSEMD assists with CST exercise



**Members of the Iowa National Guard's 71st Civil Support Team, pictured above, held an exercise on Camp Dodge June 11. HSEMD staff assisted with the exercise. Ω**

## HSEMD Employment opportunities

### Planning Division Administrator

HSEMD is currently accepting applications for the position of administrator for the Planning Division. This position is a key member of the HSEMD leadership team. The successful candidate will be expected to play an important role in strengthening the relationship between HSEMD and county emergency management coordinators and in assisting in HSEMD disaster response operations.

Pending approvals from the departments of Management and Administrative Services, starting salary will be negotiated based on experience and qualifications, plus standard State of Iowa employee benefits. The successful candidate will be expected to assume duties on or about Aug. 1, 2013. The home office for this position is located in Johnston, Iowa.

Minimum qualifications: Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university and experience equal to six years of full-time progressively-responsible management-oriented work in homeland security and emergency management or an equivalent combination of education and experience substituting the equivalent of one year of full-time homeland security and emergency management related work experience for one year of required education to a maximum substitution of four years.

Essential functions and capabilities include: ability to work a minimum of 40 hours per week; ability to work any shift during emergency response operations; ability to work professionally under stressful situations; ability to travel in state and out of state; ability to use computer, telephone, and other office equipment/devices; ability to communi-

cate professionally; ability to read and interpret state and federal rules and regulations; ability to obtain Secret Clearance from U.S. Department of Homeland Security within six months of starting employment with HSEMD. The successful candidate will be expected to answer phone calls and emails after normal working hours and along with other members of the HSEMD management team will serve in an at-will capacity.

To apply, please send resumes to Mark Schouten, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, 7105 NW 70th Ave., Camp Dodge Bldg. W-4, Johnston, IA 50131. Please list how many hours you worked per week for each position listed on your resume. Deadline for application is July 1, 2013, or until the position is filled. The State of Iowa is an equal opportunity employer.

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## Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

### Administrator Mark Schouten

7105 N.W. 70th Ave.  
Camp Dodge, Bldg. W-4  
Johnston, Iowa 50131  
[www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov)  
Ph: 515.725.3231  
FAX 515.725.3260

### 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).

### News Team

Stefanie Bond  
Laura Carlson  
Beth Lewis  
Amy Meston  
Lucinda Robertson  
Nick Smith  
Kathy Stodola  
Justine Zimmer

# Employment opportunities

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## Financial and Administrative Services Division, Deputy Administrator

HSEMD is currently accepting applications for the position of deputy administrator for the Financial and Administrative Services Division. Key responsibilities of this leadership position are to assist the division administrator in managing programs and personnel, especially the preparedness grants. This position will also perform supervisory duties including position review, hiring, performance planning, performance evaluation, consultation, personnel investigations, and recommending disciplinary actions. When directed, this position will also represent the division administrator at meetings and make decisions on her behalf.

The successful candidate will be expected to assume duties shortly after July 1, 2013. The home office for this position is located in W-4 on Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa.

Minimum qualifications: Graduation from an accredited four year college or university and experience equal to five years of full-time progressively-responsible management-oriented work in emergency management, grant management, and personnel management.

Essential functions and capabilities include: Ability to work at least 40 hours per week; ability to work overtime occasionally; ability to manage time effectively and productively; ability

to communicate effectively and professionally both in writing and verbally; ability to work under stress and multi-task effectively; ability to meet deadlines without undue stress; ability to use computers and other electronic devices proficiently; ability to read and understand rules, regulations and policies; ability to make sound decisions; ability to deliver top quality customer services; ability to implement policies and provide justifications when needed to vary from the policies; ability to follow through with staff and management to get tasks completed timely and professionally; ability to develop and deliver presentations; ability to work professionally and effectively with both internal and external customers and partners; ability to staff the state's emergency operations center as assigned.

The successful candidate will be expected to answer phone calls and emails after normal working hours and along with other members of the HSEMD management team will serve in an at-will capacity.

To apply, please email cover letter and resumes to [Angela.Chen@iowa.gov](mailto:Angela.Chen@iowa.gov), copy [Amy.Meston@iowa.gov](mailto:Amy.Meston@iowa.gov). Please remember to specify how many hours you worked per week for each position listed on your resume. Deadline for application is July 1, 2013, or until the position is filled. The State of Iowa is an equal opportunity employer. Ω