



Secure & Prepared

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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Governor proclaims March 24-28 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa

Governor Terry E. Branstad has proclaimed March 24-28, 2014, as Severe Weather Awareness Week (SWAW) in Iowa.

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) and the National Weather Service (NWS) have joined together to promote severe weather awareness and preparedness.

The goal of SWAW is to provide Iowans with a better understanding and to increase awareness of the state's spring weather hazards.

For each day during Severe Weather Awareness Week, a different subject will be featured:



- **Monday** – Flash floods
- **Tuesday** – Weather warnings
- **Wednesday** – Tornadoes
- **Thursday** – Severe thunderstorms
- **Friday** – Family preparedness

An important activity during Severe Weather Awareness Week is the annual tornado drill. The drill is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26,

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Severe Weather Awareness Week

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at approximately 10 a.m. Schools, businesses, state and local governments, and individuals are strongly encouraged to participate in the drill. Additional information about the tornado drill can be found on local NWS websites.

During Severe Weather Awareness Week, HSEMD will post information on individual and family

preparedness at www.beready.iowa.gov. The NWS will promote severe weather safety on its websites and by issuing informative public information statements.

Additional information about severe weather, emergency preparedness and family safety and links to local NWS websites serving Iowa can be found at www.beready.iowa.gov. Ω

FEMA updates Simplified Procedures thresholds

The Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA) of 2013 included significant changes to the way the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will deliver federal assistance in the future.



FEMA

One important change included in the SRIA is the modification of thresholds in the Public Assistance (PA) Program. In 2013 the range for what FEMA refers to as a small project was from \$1,000 to \$67,500. These small projects are eligible for Simplified Procedures, which work to expedite the processing of eligible project worksheets to reduce the administrative burden. The SRIA raises the minimum threshold to \$3,000 and the maximum to \$120,000 for small projects on disasters declared on or after Feb. 26, 2014. These thresholds will be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index, and FEMA is also tasked with review of the thresholds every three years.

Historically, small projects consisted of approximately 88 percent of projects by number, but only 15 percent of project dollar amounts. Raising the thresholds for small projects will provide administrative benefits to federal, state, and local entities while shifting more time and effort to large projects where more dollars are at stake. Ω

Flood Mitigation Board approves Cedar Falls project

The Iowa Flood Mitigation Board recently approved a \$6.6 million levee improvement project in Cedar Falls.

The board's approval of the project will allow the City of Cedar Falls to use tax increment funding to build up the city's downtown levee to protect the wastewater plant, utilities headquarters and other properties located in the area.

The Iowa Flood Mitigation Board was created by the Iowa General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Branstad in 2012. The board is charged with creating a flood mitigation program for Iowa. This program will allow certain governmental entities to submit flood mitigation projects to the board for review and possible approval for funding. The funding will come from either sales tax increments or funds appropriated by the General



Assembly. The application period for this funding is open through Jan. 1, 2016.

In December, the board approved six flood mitigation projects using sales tax increments for the cities of Cedar Rapids, Coralville, Dubuque, Iowa City, Storm Lake and Waverly.

For additional information about the Flood Mitigation Board, visit www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov. Ω

April is 9-1-1 Education Month

Governor Terry E. Branstad has proclaimed April as 9-1-1 Education Month in Iowa.

Sponsored by the Iowa 9-1-1 Communications Council and the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), 9-1-1 Education Month is an opportunity to help all Iowans recognize the importance of 9-1-1 and the role they play in ensuring effective emergency response.

“Iowa’s 9-1-1 Education Month is our opportunity to remind citizens of the importance of this powerful safety tool,” said HSEMD’s Barbara Vos, Iowa’s 9-1-1 program coordinator.



Both the U.S. Congress and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) have recognized April as National 9-1-1 Education Month.

Information and resources about 9-1-1 are available on the Ready

Iowa website at www.beready.iowa.gov, and also on the NENA website at www.nena.org under the “Education” tab.

“When calling 9-1-1, remember, stay calm, and be aware of your location so you can help 9-1-1 dispatchers locate you during an emergency,” said Vos.

HSEMD will post information on 9-1-1 throughout the month of April on both of its websites, www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov and www.beready.iowa.gov. You can also link to HSEMD’s Facebook page and Twitter feed for updates during April. Ω

FEMA updates Public Assistance Donated Resources Policy

Recently, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Donated Resources Policy was updated. The update broadened the allowability of volunteer hours to be counted toward the non-federal cost share for a Public Assistance grant.

The policy update allows the value of mass care and sheltering activities provided by a voluntary organization to be applied to the non-federal share as a donated resource even when those activities are part

of the organization’s mission. This updated policy applies to Public Assistance grants, categories A and B.

Voluntary organizations are a vital partner in ensuring community resilience. According to FEMA, this change will broaden the ability of state and local communities to play an active role in their own recovery, furthering the National Disaster Recovery Framework principles of empowerment and flexibility in the delivery of government recovery programs.



FEMA

The FEMA Public Assistance Donated Resources Policy can be found on FEMA’s website at www.fema.gov/policies. Ω

Training opportunities

Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents (PER-233)

When: March 24-25, 2014
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Where: Johnson County EOC
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

This course addresses medical preparedness for and response to blast effects through a combination of lectures, small group activities and tabletop participant exercises. Participants will gain an enhanced understanding and awareness of issues and considerations relating to bombing incidents.

To register, go to <http://jcema.eventbrite.com>. For more information, contact **Dave Wilson** at **319.356.6761**.

Disaster Case Advocacy Training

When: March 25, 2014
1–4:30 p.m.

Where: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Family Life Center
8201 Aurora Ave.
Des Moines

Pastor Michael Stadie, program director for Lutheran Disaster Response, U.S., will provide

training for those in the community who may be called upon to provide disaster case advocacy following a disaster.

Attendees will learn the principles and processes of disaster case advocacy, the role of a disaster case advocate and standard forms used for the process.

To register, go to <https://iavoad.communityos.org/cms/DisasterCaseAdvocacyTraining>. Registration deadline is March 10. For more information, contact **Tiffany Keimig** at **515.244.0320** or tmkeimig@iowacaa.com.

Wide Area Search (PER-213)

When: April 8-10, 2014
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Where: Johnson County EOC
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

This three-day course is applicable to jurisdictions that would need to conduct wide area searches due to a natural disaster or terrorist incident.

To register, go to <https://wideareasearch.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, contact **Dave Wilson** at **319.356.6761**.



Public Information in an All-Hazards Incident (MGT-318)

When: April 21-22, 2014
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Where: Johnson County EOC
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

This course examines the role of public information in managing an all-hazards incident and provides practical training in crisis communication techniques. In such an incident, it is imperative that community leaders, incident managers, and public information officers are prepared to communicate with the public through the news and social media. The course focuses on the role of public information in incident management, the information needs of the public in a crisis, and the various means of effectively communicating through the news and social media.

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Training

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To register, go to <https://jcema52.eventbrite.com>. For more information, contact **Dave Wilson** at **319.356.6761**.

Local Volunteer and Donations Management (G288)

When: June 25-26, 2014
10 am.-4 p.m. (June 25)
8 am.-4 p.m. (June 26)
Where: Henry County EOC
900 W. Washington St.
Mt. Pleasant, IA

This one and a half day training will support local governments and their emergency management partners in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disaster events at the local level.

The target audience for this course is local elected officials, emergency management coordinators, faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations, public and private businesses, law enforcement, fire and health disciplines.

Register online at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>. For more information, contact: **Susan Green** (susan.green@iowa.gov) or **Beth Lewis** (beth.lewis@iowa.gov) at **515.725.3231**. Ω

HSEMD legislative update

The second funnel date for the Iowa General Assembly was on March 14, which means the legislature is starting to gain momentum to finish up their work. Several policy bills are still alive but the main focus will now shift to finalizing the state budget.

The House and Senate have agreed to a \$6.97 billion budget for fiscal year 2015. This figure only differs from the Governor's budget by \$29 million. The legislative committees will hammer out the fine details in the coming weeks. It has been many years since we have had the Governor's and General Assembly's budget numbers be that close and settled on so early in the process. Look for the legislature to close up shop prior to their scheduled last day of April 22.

On the policy side, we are tracking several bills of interest. Both of the bills dealing with creating a statewide mass notification and emergency messaging system, Senate File (SF) 2232 and House File (HF) 2371, are alive and in the House Appropriations Committee. Thus far it appears that the Legislature will provide the requested \$400,000 in funding to support the system. HF 2043, which dealt with allowing townships to purchase outdoor warning systems, met some resistance and did not survive the most recent funnel. The architect immunity bill, SF



2255, is eligible for the House to debate on the floor. If the House passes the bill it will move to the Governor for his signature.

Drone aircraft are still being discussed in HF 2289. This bill passed the House on an 87-12 vote and is now on the Senate floor. Senate File 2303, which looks to create a task force to study activation procedures for outdoor warning systems, needs to be passed by the House before moving forward for the Governor's signature. Finally, SF 2305, which enables the Governor to sign MOUs with other states that are based on the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, was signed into law by the Governor on March 14.

You can view these bills and get a better understanding of what is happening at the Capitol at www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx. Ω

[Submitted by HSEMD Legislative Liaison John Benson]

Projects receive hazard mitigation funding

Hazard mitigation projects reduce or prevent 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 HMGP in Iowa, 75 percent of eligible project costs is paid for by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 10 percent is paid by the grant applicant (state), and the remaining 15 percent is paid by the sub-applicant (local governments, communities, tribal governments and certain eligible non-profits).

HSEMD serves as the coordination point between entities applying for this assistance and FEMA. Department staff are involved from beginning to end, from guiding applicants through the application process to completing the final paperwork.

The following projects have been recently funded through HMGP:

Access Energy Cooperative

Date: March 4, 2014

Award: \$1,267,696

Counties: Des Moines, Henry and Lee

Retrofit 29.2 miles of electrical conductor and poles.

Access Energy Cooperative

Award: \$1,214,243

Date: Jan. 29, 2014

Counties: Des Moines and Lee

Retrofit 31.5 miles of electrical conductor and poles.

Access Energy Cooperative

Award: \$1,928,749

Date: Feb. 11, 2014

Counties: Henry, Jefferson, Louisa and Washington

Retrofit 48.3 miles of electrical conductor and poles.

Access Energy Cooperative

Award: \$1,655,821

Date: Feb. 11, 2014

Counties: Henry, Jefferson, Lee, Van Buren and Wapello

Retrofit 44.88 miles of electrical conductor and poles.

Cass County

Award: \$53,000

Date: Jan. 3, 2014

Counties: Cass

Multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan update. Communities include Anita, Atlantic, Cumberland, Griswold, Lewis, Marne, Massena, Wiotta and the unincorporated county.

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HSEMD staff departure

Nick Smith, mitigation project officer in HSEMD's Recovery Division, has left the department to pursue a career in writing.

Smith started with HSEMD in November of 2010. Prior to that he had worked at the Iowa Department of Administrative Services since 2006.

Best of luck to Nick in his new endeavor! Ω

Celebrate volunteers during National Volunteer Week



Volunteers are vital during the response and recovery phases of any disaster.

April 6-12 has been designated as National Volunteer Week to celebrate the crucial role of volunteers in across the country.

Learn more about, and find volunteer opportunities, through Volunteer Iowa at www.volunteeriowa.org.

Take this opportunity to celebrate the service of volunteers in your community during National Volunteer Week! 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.

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.

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Hazard mitigation projects

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Farmer's Electric Cooperative

Award: \$3,100,194

Date: Feb. 5, 2014

Counties: Adair, Audubon, Cass, Guthrie, Madison and Union

Overhead electrical retrofit of 123.4 miles.

Jefferson County

Award: \$40,000

Date: Jan. 3, 2014

County: Jefferson

Multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan development. Jurisdictions included are Jefferson County, City of Batavia, City of Fairfield, City of Libertyville, City of Lockridge, Maharishi Vedic City, City of Packwood, City of Pleasant Plain, Fairfield Community

School District, Pekin Community School District, and the Maharishi University of Management.

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative

Award: \$1,288,750

Date: March 5, 2014

County: Davis

Retrofit and harden 39 miles of overhead electrical distribution lines and poles.

City of Spencer

Award: \$2,424,150

Date: Feb. 3, 2014

County: Clay

Retrofit sanitary sewer system, install new pump station and force main to increase the capacity of the system. Ω

ON THE CALENDAR

APRIL

9-1-1 Education Month

National Volunteer Week (6-13)

May

National Nurse's Week (6-12)

National Police Week (11-17)

National EMS Week (18-24)

National Public Works Week (18-24)

More at www.beready.iowa.gov.