



# Secure & Prepared

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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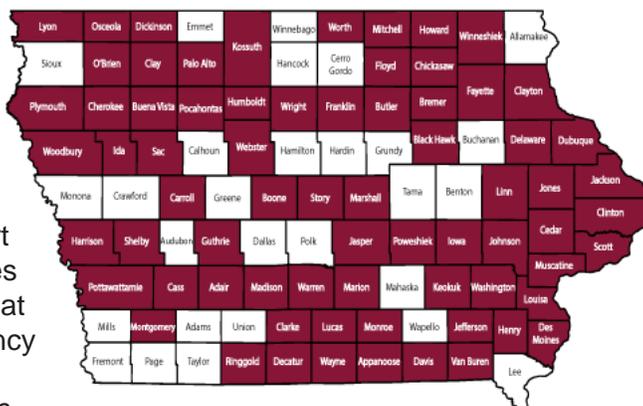
January 2015

## 71 Iowa counties apply to use statewide emergency notification system

The Alert Iowa statewide emergency notification system was launched just three months ago, and already more than two-thirds of Iowa counties have signed up to use it.

HSEMD developed Alert Iowa to provide a cost-free option for local public safety officials to disseminate emergency messages to their residents. In a 2013 HSEMD survey, 31 counties reported that they were not using any emergency messaging system; nearly 75 percent of those counties are now planning to use Alert Iowa. Of the 28 counties that have not yet signed up for Alert Iowa, only eight of those counties reported in the same survey that they did not have an emergency notification system in place.

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**The 71 counties (in red) that have signed up to use the Alert Iowa system.**

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# State 911 program manager retires

Iowa E-911 Program Manager Barbara Vos will retire on Jan. 29, 2015, after working 30 years for the State of Iowa.

Vos spent three years working for the ISU Extension office in Adel, Iowa, before beginning her career with the State in 1985, with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's (IDALS) Division of Soil Conservation. She spent about 12 years at IDALS before taking a position working for the director of the Iowa Department of Management.

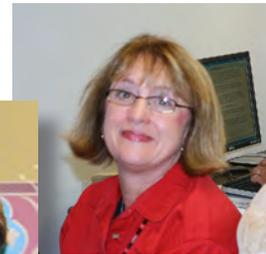
Vos has worked for HSEMD for 16 years. She came to HSEMD in December 1998 as the program planner for the state 911 program. After eight years, she was promoted to program manager.

Vos said she will miss everyone in the 911 community.

"I've become very passionate about 911. With some jobs, you wonder if what you do makes a difference," she said. "Working with the 911 program, I've felt like every day what I did mattered."

Vos said she and her husband eventually plan to move to a warmer climate in North Carolina, where her oldest son and his wife live, "to play golf" and continue one of her favorite pastimes: traveling.

Congratulations on your retirement, Barbara! Not only is the 911 program losing a very valuable asset, but your presence will be greatly missed. Ω



**L-R: Steven Ray and Barb at a proclamation signing in 2013; Barb at a training exercise in 2008.**

## ***What her colleagues had to say...***

"While I am saddened that Barb is retiring, I do wish her the best as she starts this new phase of her life. I look back at the work we did together in 911 and can honestly say it would not have happened without her help."

*—John Benson, HSEMD communications bureau chief and former 911 program manager*

"It's been a joy to work with Barb. She's a consummate professional and I've learned a great deal by working with her."

*—Laurie Hickok, TeleCommunication Systems, Inc.*

"Barb Vos will be sorely missed within the Iowa 911 community. Barb has a vast amount of knowledge about the state's E-911 program, on both the wireline and wireless platforms. Her attention to detail has always been a source of pride for her and the thorough work she conducts on every endeavor she's embarked on.

"On a personal note, it has been a pleasure to work with Barb as an E-911 Council member for the past eight years, six of those as the Council's chair. Barb has been a true mentor of mine in the area of E-911 services, more importantly as we brought on an IP-based wireless system for the state of Iowa. I appreciate immensely everything she has done for me, and for the Council as a whole. I wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement."

*—Steven P. Ray, Iowa E-911 Communications Council chair*

# Training opportunities

## Wide Area Search (PER 213)

**When:** Jan. 30–Feb. 1  
8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Where:** Western Iowa Tech CC  
Security Institute Bldg.  
4647 Stone Ave.  
Sioux City

For jurisdictions that would need to conduct wide-area searches due to a natural disaster or terrorist incident. Participants will learn practical search methods and skills.

**Prerequisites:** IS 100-200

**Target audience:** Fire services, emergency medical services, law enforcement, emergency managers

**To register,** visit [HSEMD's training website](#). Contact **Beth Lewis** at **515.725.3204** or [beth.lewis@iowa.gov](mailto:beth.lewis@iowa.gov) with any questions.

## Basic Public Information Officer Training (G290)

**Feb. 24-25, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.**  
HazMat Regional Training Center  
1925 Newell St.  
Waterloo

**March 5-6, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.**  
West Burlington City Hall  
122 Broadway  
West Burlington

**March 7-8 (Sat/Sun), 9 a.m.–4 p.m.**  
West Burlington City Hall  
122 Broadway  
West Burlington

**March 24-25, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.**  
Northwest Iowa Community College  
Room 118A  
603 West Park St.  
Sheldon

**April 23-24, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.**  
Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital  
933 E. Pierce St.  
Council Bluffs

Learn the basic skills needed to be a public information officer (PIO). Training covers oral and written communication, understanding and working with the media, and other tools and techniques.

**Target audiences:** Public information officers, local elected officials, emergency management

**To register,** visit [HSEMD's training website](#). Contact **Beth Lewis** at **515.725.3204** or [beth.lewis@iowa.gov](mailto:beth.lewis@iowa.gov) with any questions.

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

**When:** Feb. 24-25, 2015  
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Mason City Police Dept.  
78 S. Georgia Ave.  
Mason City

This course examines the role of public information in all-hazards incident management and provides practical training in crisis communication techniques. In a major incident, it is imperative that community leaders, incident managers, and public information officers (PIOs) are able to communicate with the public through traditional and social media.

If you have any questions or would like to register, please contact Cerro Gordo County Emergency Manager **Steve O'Neil** at **641.421.3665**.

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# Training opportunities

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## EOC Operations & Planning for All-Hazards Events

**When:** March 10-12, 2015  
**Where:** Johnson County EMA  
4529 Melrose Ave.  
Iowa City

This three-day course provides insight into and practical experience with emergency management and decision-making skills necessary to effectively manage an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the overall response to a large-scale Weapons of Mass Destruction/terrorism incident or all-hazard event.

**Target audience:** Fire services, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, law enforcement, public health, public works, emergency management, government administrative, and non-government organizations

**Prerequisites:** Participants must be actively employed or tasked to work in an EOC. It is also expected that participants will have at least an intermediate level of understanding of ICS and some experience in incident management.

**For more information,** contact **Dave Wilson** at **319.356.6761** or [dave.wilson@jecc-ema.org](mailto:dave.wilson@jecc-ema.org).

[Click here to register.](#)

## Dealing with the Media for Rural First Responders (AWR 209)

**When:** April 7, 2015  
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Southwestern CC  
1501 W. Townline St.  
Creston

This six-hour course provides rural first responders with skills needed to communicate with the public through the media. Learn how to give media interviews, write news releases, and more.

**Target audience:** First responders, rural public information officers, emergency management, fire services

**To register,** visit [HSEMD's training website](#). Contact **Beth Lewis** at **515.725.3204** or [beth.lewis@iowa.gov](mailto:beth.lewis@iowa.gov) with any questions.

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## A Shelter Story: Integrating Functional Needs Support Services into Emergency Shelter Plans

**1 hour; online**

The Upper Midwest Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center (UMPERLC) has recently released this new training. The course has been created by UMPERLC in collaboration with the University of Iowa's Center for Disabilities and Development.



**Goal:** To master the knowledge and skills needed to collaborate with community stakeholders on integrating Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) into local emergency shelter plans.

**Audience:** Emergency managers, planners, and other mid-level public health professionals responsible for community preparedness

This video-based course consists of five sections (plus post test):

1. Getting Started (5 min)
2. The Hot-Wash Sessions (20 min)
3. Demographics of Disaster (15 min)
4. An Open Conversation (10 min)
5. Invitation to Planning (5 min)

This course tells the story of one community's efforts to make improvements to its emergency shelter plans. You are invited to participate in these efforts, working with the county's emergency manager and other stakeholders to update five-year-old plans.

**To register, visit:**  
<http://go.prepareiowa.com//te> Ω

# Application period open for 2015 EMPG and HSGP grants

The application period for those eligible to apply is now open for Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funding for the federal fiscal year 2015.

EMPG and HSGP are funded via the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The amount of federal appropriations have not yet been announced, however, HSEMD is moving forward with the application phase per FEMA's recommendation for states' project planning for 2015.

Specific information and resources for EMPG and HSGP are available within the specific funding opportunities posted in [IowaGrants.gov](http://IowaGrants.gov). **The deadline to make an application for both EMPG and HSGP is Friday, March 13, 2015, at 4 p.m. Central time.**

There is one EMPG training webinar scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 29, from 9–11 a.m. Central time, and one classroom training scheduled on Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 10 a.m.–noon at the State Emergency Operations Center in Johnston. For additional information about this training and each grant, visit the [Iowa HSEMD website](http://IowaHSEMD.com), and click the appropriate grant under "Grants." Ω

## Connect with HSEMD on social media!



We add new content every week! Get the latest information on grants, programs, training, and more. Ask us a question. Find answers. Click on the links below to get started. Ω



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**"Follow" us on Twitter!**



**"Watch" us on YouTube!**

### ON THE CALENDAR

#### FEBRUARY

National Burn Awareness Week (1-7)

#### MARCH

American Red Cross Month  
National Poison Prevention Week (15-21)  
Severe Weather Awareness Week (23-27)

#### APRIL

National 9-1-1 Education Month  
National Volunteer Week (12-18)

#### MAY

Public Service Recognition Week (3-9)  
National Nurse's Week (6-12)  
National Police Week (10-16)  
National EMS Week (17-23)  
National Public Works Week (17-23)  
Memorial Day (25)\*

#### JUNE

National Safety Month  
National CPR & AED Awareness Week (1-7)  
Heat Awareness Day (11)  
Lightning Safety Awareness Week (21-27)

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

## Statewide emergency notification system

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The cost savings by using the Alert Iowa system will be significant; the reported annual cost of emergency notification systems in use in 2013 was nearly \$640,000, and that was for the 53 counties that utilized paid systems. By comparison the new Alert Iowa system, which runs using software from Inspiron Logistics, will cost the state \$400,000 annually and will potentially cover all 99 counties.

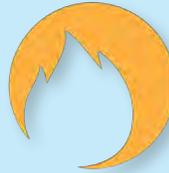
“We expect more counties to join the Alert Iowa system in the near future,” said HSEMD Director Mark Schouten. “Our goal, of course, is that 100 percent of our counties utilize the system that is being provided to them free of charge.”

Check for updates on the participating Alert Iowa counties on [HSEMD's website](#). To quickly link to the most up-to-date list of participating counties, scan the QR code below. Ω



## Feb. 1-7 is National Burn Awareness Week

Burn Awareness Week, observed the first full week in February, is designed to provide an opportunity for burn, fire and life safety educators to unite in sharing a common burn awareness and prevention message in our communities. Burn Awareness Week, celebrated early in the year, is an excellent opportunity to “kick off” a year full of burn awareness education. This year, the focus is again about preventing a specific kind of burn: scalds.



Scald injuries are painful and require prolonged treatment. They may result in lifelong scarring and even death. Prevention of scalds is always preferable to treatment and can be accomplished through changes in behavior and the home environment.

For more information, visit the American Burn Association website at [www.ameriburn.org/preventionBurnAwareness.php](http://www.ameriburn.org/preventionBurnAwareness.php). Ω

## Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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**Director**  
Mark Schouten

### 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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