



SECURE & PREPARED

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Administrator's Column</i>	2
<i>Bill Introduced</i>	3
<i>Grant Purchasing Update</i>	4
<i>WMD Course</i>	4
<i>AFG Grant</i>	4
<i>NIMS Update</i>	5
<i>EMI Courses</i>	5
<i>Kirkwood Ag Course</i>	6
<i>Vet Teams</i>	6
<i>Personnel Update</i>	6

Special points of interest:

- Newly introduced bill would create the option of a county-wide levy directly imposed by a local emergency management commission to fund the commission budget. See article on page 3.
- Region One is hosting a Weapons of Mass Destruction Threat and Risk Assessment course for local jurisdictions February 1-2, in Marshalltown. There's still time to register! See page 4.
- There have been a lot of questions concerning NIMS compliance. Find some frequently asked questions and the answers on page 5.

Iowa's Strategic Plan Approved

Iowa's homeland security strategy was recently approved by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants and Training. The Iowa strategy represents a strategic vision for the strengthening of Iowa's capabilities for the prevention of, protection from, response to and recovery from man-made and natural disasters in Iowa. The strategy serves as the strategic plan for the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division.

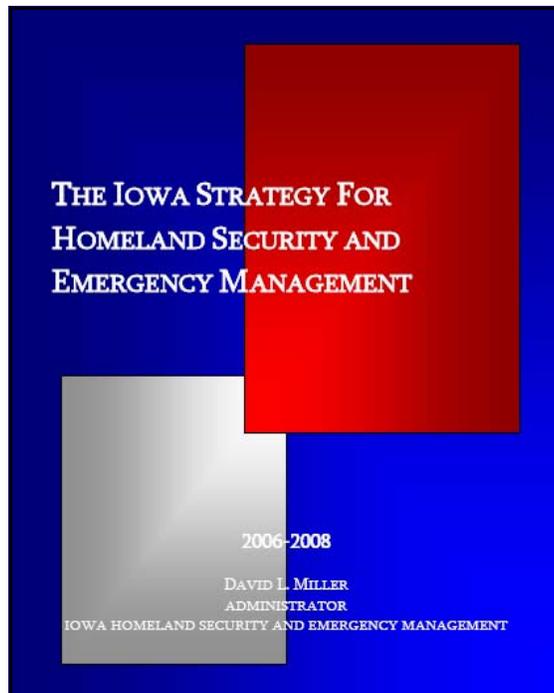
A board of federal and state officials reviewed the plan and provided recommendations to improve it. The board commended Iowa for its incorporation of mutual aid agreements through the establishment of the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact. In particular, board members identified the strategy's presentation of qualitative and quantitative performance measures in Annex A as a potential model that other states and urban areas may find useful in their efforts to improve their strategies.

Annex A is the implementation plan for the following three goals. The goals outline Iowa's commitment to prevention, protection, response and recovery.

Goal 1: Ensure that Iowa is prepared for disasters and terrorist attacks.

While we invest funding and effort into prevention and deterrence capabilities and capacities, we must also invest to have the necessary pieces in place in case the worst does occur, whether it is a natural or man-made incident. Through this goal, by 2008 Iowa will meet all of the annual requirements released by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and will implement the seven national priorities found in the National Preparedness Goal. We have also not forgotten our first responders; we will continue to provide training, exercising and equipment dollars as necessary to ensure that our first responders are ready and able to respond to any natural or man-made disaster or terrorist attack.

Goal 2: Minimize the impact, loss of life, loss of property and suffering caused by disasters and terrorist attacks. We live in a world where disasters happen naturally; no amount of effort on our part will (Continued on page 2)



Iowa's Strategic Plan Approved

(Continued from page 1)

stop them from occurring. We recognize this fact; while we will do everything in our power to prevent incidents from happening, we will ensure that we have the mechanisms in place to respond to naturally occurring or man-made incidents if and when they occur. We will also do everything in our power to facilitate a strong recovery and leave affected areas stronger than before. Under this goal, we will facilitate continuity of government and continuity of operations planning, and provide this information to our local partners in template format for their own use.

Goal 3: Ensure that the statewide homeland security and emergency management team provides a world-class service to the State of Iowa that meets the needs of its citizens. Homeland security and emergency management are concepts that are bigger than any one agency can handle. We see the concepts as a team effort, and across the state we strive to strengthen the partnerships we already have and build new ones as appropriate. It is only by coordinating as a team with our public and private sector partners that we will be successful. Under this goal, we will ensure communications interoperability to provide a mechanism for first responders of all disciplines to communicate with each other. We will strengthen information sharing between state and local partners and the private sector.

To view Iowa's Homeland Security Strategy, visit the Iowa Homeland and Security and Emergency Management Division's Web site at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/CoEM_FR/Grant/HLSEM06_Strategyt.pdf.

We Have to Play the Game

By HLSEM Administrator, David L. Miller



Do you remember when the kid with the best baseball equipment threatened to take his ball and go home? Well, sometimes we all wish that we could just go home and call it quits instead of following the process established to apply for and justify homeland security dollars. That's especially true for the '06 grant with its "quasi-competitive" nature.

But now is not the time to shrink back and sit on the bench. There's too much at stake. More than ever, we now have an obligation to the public, to our responders and our other partners to do everything in our power to maximize the number of federal dollars that come to our state.

With the frustrations associated with the homeland security grant program, sometimes we fail to look back and see the improvements we've made with these funds. Since the program started in 1999, over \$85 million has been used in our state to plan, train, exercise, and purchase equipment to improve our overall preparedness efforts. While the focus has been on terrorism, we've also leveraged these funds to help us within a multi-hazard outlook. None of this would have been possible if we did not actively pursue federal grants and funding. It has not been easy, but we have made a difference, a big difference.

And that's also true with the '06 grant. Our job is harder and the return does not look as promising but we'd hate to look back and say, "I wish we would have...." you finish the sentence in terms of actions we could have taken.

We have a long way to go before we reach the last inning and the ball game continues. Thanks for all you've already done, and thanks in advance for the work you will do as we move ahead. Although federal dollars are being shifted to more populated states, Iowa's allocation remains a substantial amount that we can use to improve our programs. This is the time to play the game for all involved.

Bill Introduced to Establish Levy Option

On January 19, Representative Don Shultz of Black Hawk County introduced House File 2090, which creates the option of a countywide levy directly imposed by a local emergency management commission to fund the commission budget.

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Administrator David Miller stated, "Although the bill was not introduced by HLSEM, we support its concept and will be tracking its progress."

Following is the proposed language:

House File 2090

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1 1 Section 1. Section 29C.17, subsection 2, unnumbered
1 2 paragraph 1, Code 2005, is amended to read as follows:
1 3 For the purposes consistent with this chapter, the county
1 4 emergency management agency's approved budget ~~may~~ shall be
1 5 funded by one or any combination of the following options as
1 6 determined by the commission:

1 7 Sec. 2. Section 29C.17, subsection 2, Code 2005, is
1 8 amended by adding the following new paragraph:
1 9 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. A countywide levy imposed directly by
1 10 the commission.
1 11 Sec. 3. Section 29C.17, Code 2005, is amended by adding
1 12 the following new subsection:
1 13 NEW SUBSECTION. 6. If the commission chooses the funding
1 14 option in subsection 2, paragraph "e", the commission is not
1 15 required to submit its budget to the county board of
1 16 supervisors and the cities as required in subsection 5, and
1 17 the commission shall be considered the certifying board and
1 18 the levying board for purposes of chapter 24.
1 19 Sec. 4. APPLICABILITY DATE. This Act applies to fiscal
1 20 years beginning on or after July 1, 2007.

1 21 EXPLANATION

1 22 Current law provides that a local emergency management
1 23 commission may fund its budget using one or a combination of
1 24 any of four options. This bill provides that the budget shall
1 25 be funded using the statutorily authorized options and it also
1 26 provides a fifth option. The fifth option for funding is a
1 27 countywide levy imposed directly by the commission. If this
1 28 option is chosen, the commission is not required to submit its
1 29 budget to the cities and county, and the commission shall be
1 30 considered the certifying board and the levying board for
1 31 purposes of statutory requirements relating to most local
1 32 budgets.

1 33 The bill applies to fiscal years beginning on or after July
1 34 1, 2007.

1 35 LSB 5172HH 81

2 1 sc:nh/je/5

For those interested in tracking this bill's progress, visit www.legis.state.ia.us.

Grant Purchasing Update

The 2005 HSGP Grant purchasing process started on January 3. The equipment database has been open for several months for '05 purchases. It will remain open until further notice. The purchasing process for 2004 is down to the remaining bids for the last 190 items out of over 4,000. HLSEM staff hope to have these completed by mid-February. If you have questions or concerns, please call Terry Brown or Becky Barker at 515-281-3231.

Region One to Host WMD Course

Region One is hosting a Weapons of Mass Destruction Threat and Risk Assessment course for local jurisdictions 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., February 1-2, 2006 at Iowa Valley Community College, 3702 S. Center Street, Marshalltown, Door 9 Room 612. The course number is HEP 1231-001 and will satisfy 16 hours of continuing education for EMS, fire, law enforcement, and emergency management participants. Prerequisites include: ICS and NIMS.

This course trains key response personnel within a local jurisdiction who are required to prevent, mitigate, manage, and/or resolve a WMD/terrorism incident. Participants are placed on multidisciplinary teams. Upon completing the course, these teams will be able to conduct comprehensive WMD/terrorism risk (threat and vulnerability) and needs (planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercises) assessments.

Target Audience/Discipline:

Law enforcement, EMS, emergency management, fire service, hazardous material (HazMat), public works, elected/governmental administrative, public safety communications, health care, and public health.

Registration for this course has been extended up to the actual date of the training, so there is still time to register! To register, contact Linda Ellis at 1-800-284-4823, ext. 280 or register online at www.iavalley.com. Hotel rooms are available for \$45 per night at the Best Western Regency Inn by calling 641-752-6321.

AFG Competitive Grant Opportunity

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is a competitive grant opportunity for local fire departments and emergency medical service organizations that are not affiliated with a hospital. The AFG funds activities such as purchasing firefighting equipment, personal protection equipment, training, firefighting vehicles, and firefighter/first responder safety projects.

Hundreds of workshops are held nationwide each year to provide up-to-date program information to applicants. The AFG FY2006 workshop schedule is now online at www.firegrantsupport.com. The free workshops are scheduled and conducted by AFG regional representatives for any fire and/or EMS organization that wishes to submit a 2006 AFG application.

The schedule will provide the locations, dates, times and points of contact for each workshop. If you are unable to attend a workshop offered in your area, the program office will also be providing an electronic copy of the PowerPoint presentation used at the workshops on the Web site mentioned above. In addition, by mid-February, the applicant tutorial, the FY2006 AFG Program Guidance, and a list of FAQs will be available on the Web site. During the application period, there will be an expanded help desk at 1-866-274-0960 and at FIREGRANTS@DHS.GOV.

NIMS Update: Frequently Asked Questions

As you know, NIMS compliancy is just eight months away. There have been a lot of questions and concerns about compliancy. Below you will find some frequently asked questions and the answers.

Q: Do towns or counties have to sign IMAC to become compliant?

A: No, as long as the town/county or agency has a written mutual aid agreement in place.

Q: Do elected officials have to take NIMS courses?

A: It depends if the elected official has an assigned role in the disaster response and recovery. If they do, then IS-700 and IS-100 are the required courses.

Q: If we have a NIMS course, do the participants need a certificate from FEMA?

A: No. Participants do not need a certificate from FEMA. However, participants will need some type of documentation to show they attended the course.

Q: If everyone in my agency takes the NIMS courses, does this make us compliant?

A: No. The courses are only a small section of NIMS compliancy. Other items that are listed on the self-compliancy letter also need to be met. This letter was sent to all city clerks, county emergency management coordinators, and boards of supervisors in the state.

Q: If I have taken Incident Command in the past, do I need to retake it?

A: No. No matter how long ago you took it, as long as you have taken a federal Incident Command Course using curriculum from FEMA, National Fire Academy, Fire Scope, or National Wild Land Fire Group.

One last item of importance...please make sure your emergency management agency is compliant. To show your agency is compliant, we will need a letter of compliance.

EMI Course Vacancies for March: Apply Now

The following Emergency Management Institute courses scheduled for March have vacancies. For more information, go to www.training.fema.gov/emiweb or contact the Admissions Office at (301) 447-1035 or via e-mail at netc-admissions@dhs.gov. Fax completed applications to HLSEM's Dave Hempen at 515-281-7539. If interested, apply immediately! Applications for course vacancies must be received at least six weeks before the course start date for the applicant to be considered for the course.

Held at National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland

E386 Residential Coastal Construction 3/27-30/06 4 Vacancies

E407 Homeland Security Plan for Local Govt. 3/13-16/06 5 Vacancies

E580 Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Govt. 3/13-17/06 6 Vacancies

E905 IEMC/Hurricane: Preparedness & Response 3/13-17/06 7 Vacancies (vacancies - all disciplines)

E906 IEMC/Hurricane: Recovery & Mitigation 3/20-24/06 28 Vacancies (vacancies - all disciplines)E915

IEMC: Homeland Security 3/27-31/06 3 Vacancies (vacancies exist for Public Works and Public Information Officers)

Held at Noble Training Center in Anniston, Alabama

B301 Radiological Emergency Response Operations (RERO) 3/13-17/06 18 Vacancies

B461 HERT for MCI T-T-T 3/6-10/06 24 Vacancies

B960 Healthcare Leadership Course 3/20-24/06 30 Vacancies

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HLSEM Mission

To support, coordinate, and maintain state and local homeland security and emergency management activities in order to establish sustainable communities and assure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

Kirkwood Ag Course Approved by DHS

On December 23, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security approved an agroterrorism preparedness training course at the AgTerror Preparedness Center, Kirkwood Community College. The foreign animal disease response course includes an overview of agroterrorism, plus training modules on quarantine procedures, personal protective equipment, depopulation/disposal of animals, cleaning and disinfection. Other key parts of the training are a foot and mouth disease outbreak scenario/drill and emergency responder field notes.

"This is an awareness course to provide our first response community with a base knowledge to respond to a foreign animal disease outbreak," said Ron Snyder, program director of Kirkwood's AgTerror Preparedness Center. "The local response community will be the ones to deal with the problem up front until state and federal agencies can assist." Upon completion of the course, master trainers will educate training officers at the first response level who, in turn, will teach others in their local jurisdictions.

Information on AgTerror Preparedness Center courses is available at <http://www.agterror.org> or by calling Marsha Willox, office coordinator, at 1-800-464-6874 or (319) 398-5893.

What is a Vet Rapid Response Team?

The Iowa Veterinary Rapid Response Team (VRRT) is made up of volunteers that have come together to protect Iowa's animal industry.

The team has over 280 licensed professionals from 82 Iowa counties and five surrounding states. They will provide assistance to communities and producers should an animal disease emergency occur. A portion of the team was utilized to support the Iowa Animal Rescue League for the New Orleans evacuees and their pets at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in September of 2005. Also, veterinarians from the team were deployed to New Orleans to assist in the processing of 100 animals relocated from the Louisiana State University Lamar Dixon Animal Shelter in New Orleans.

The VRRT members include small and large animal veterinarians, animal technicians, inspectors, biologists, and epidemiologists that will help prevent and control foreign animal diseases and will respond to animal health emergencies. The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship encourages any veterinarian, technician or other animal health professional to join.

For more information on the Iowa VRRT or to obtain a membership form to join the Team, go to www.agriculture.state.ia.us/IVRRT.htm.

Personnel Update

Susan Lomica will join HLSEM as a receptionist on January 27th. She is from Fort Dodge, where she has worked at Iowa Workforce Development. Look for more information about her in our next newsletter.