



SECURE & PREPARED

February 21, 2006

Volume 2, Issue 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Resource Management</i>	2
<i>PARs</i>	2
<i>Speaker's Bureau</i>	2
<i>Severe Weather Week</i>	3
<i>Training Opportunities</i>	3
<i>NIMS & Plain English</i>	4
<i>Annual Conference</i>	5
<i>UIU Course Offerings</i>	5

Special points of interest:

- HLSEM wants to be of help to local agencies to comply with federal standards for PARs and to ensure they have the tools and resources they need to do their job. See article on page 2.
- April 3-7 is Severe Weather Awareness Week. See article on page 3.
- Beginning in the fiscal year that starts on October 1, 2006, federal preparedness grant funding is contingent on the use of plain English. Find out more on page 4.

Iowa to Receive Over \$2.3 Million in EMPG Funding

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness recently approved Iowa's application for funding under the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2006 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) in the amount of \$2,397,025.

On December 30, 2005, Public Law 109-148 was signed into law, enacting a government-wide rescission of one percent to be applied to all FY 2006 appropriations. As a result, the FFY 2006 EMPG award to Iowa of \$2,421,236 originally published on November 14, 2005, was amended to reflect this rescission. Even though it is not a requirement, Iowa usually passes 50 percent of the EMPG allocation to local jurisdictions. However, this year, HLSEM elected to take the one percent reduction from the state share of the EMPG funding and maintain the local share at the same level before the rescission was announced.

Local jurisdictions will receive a total of \$1,210,618 for FFY 2006. HLSEM uses the same formula from previous years for the allocation of funds based upon the number of eligible applicants and the coordinator's salary and benefits. Local jurisdictions will be notified of their awards this week.

EMPG funds are used to support comprehensive emergency management at the state and local levels to encourage the improvement of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities for all hazards. Funding is passed through to local emergency management organizations to assist with emergency planning, training local emergency management personnel, exercising and testing emergency response plans, public education and outreach, assessing hazards and capabilities, and funding day-to-day program operating expenses including salaries, benefits, equipment, supplies, travel, maintenance of facilities, and other necessary administrative costs.

Eighty-seven counties applied for FFY 2006 EMPG, up from 78 applicants last year. Last year, Iowa received \$2,345,389 in EMPG funding.

Resource Management Update

Emergency Services integrators (Eci), the company that designed WebEOC, has come out with its resource management module. This add-on piece of software is the IT answer we've been looking for to help with resource management. As part of WebEOC, this resource management tool is available through the Internet on the HLSEM server. The module already includes the 120 resources that have been typed at the federal level and it includes an "Other" section that will allow state and local jurisdictions to inventory other important response equipment.

By September 30, 2006, Iowa is required to inventory the 120 federally-typed resources in order to be NIMS compliant and to be eligible for federal preparedness grants. This module will help accomplish that mission and it will enable state and local responders to inventory and view available equipment during a disaster.

Personnel Activity Reporting is Required

There have been many questions regarding local requirements to do Personnel Activity Reporting (PARs) and to provide documentation related to payroll or other expenses. New federal regulations require PARs from state, county, and city agencies that receive federal grant money from HLSEM to support eligible personnel-related activities.

Starting July 1, 2005 HLSEM staff were required to report time by the "activity." When this was implemented, HLSEM went from about 20 percent of personnel completing PARs to 100 percent. The PARs, combined with regular payroll documentation and accounting records, are all required by federal regulation (OMB Circular A87) for HLSEM to utilize federal grant funds to support staff.

According to federal requirements, local and state agencies that do not provide PARs will be audited and found not compliant. Some states have even had money taken back. HLSEM has also been told directly by the auditors what they will be looking for and that will include PARs at state and local agencies, so it is important for local agencies to have a system in place.

HLSEM wants to be of help to local agencies to comply with the federal standards for PARs and to ensure they have the tools and resources they need to do their job. If you have questions, please contact Dennis Harper at 515-281-6477.

Speaker's Bureau Now on HLSEM Web Site

If you know of a business, civic organization, or professional association in need of a speaker for a meeting or conference on topics related to homeland security or emergency management, please contact our office at 515-281-3231 or via e-mail at webmaster@hlsem.state.ia.us.

This information is also located on our Web site at http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/about_HS/speakersbureau.asp.

Severe Weather Awareness Week April 3-7

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and the National Weather Service have designated April 3-7 as Severe Weather Awareness Week. In March, Severe Weather Awareness Week information will be posted to the www.BeReadyIowa.org Web site.

Following are topics that will be highlighted during the week:

April 3: NOAA Weather Radio
April 4: Severe Thunderstorms
April 5: Tornadoes
April 6: Heat
April 7: Family Preparedness.



Photo courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

A tornado drill will be held on April 5 with a watch issued at 10:00 a.m., a warning at 10:15 and concluding at 10:30. The National Weather Service is also tentatively planning a drill for that evening with a warning to be issued at 6:45 p.m. and concluding at 7:00 p.m. so that families and businesses can practice. In the event of severe weather on the 5th, the drill will be rescheduled for April 6.

Posters, fact sheets, and a press release are available for emergency management coordinators at http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/resource_room/info_library.asp. This is in the Information Library under the subheading Preparedness towards the bottom of the page. HLSEM is also working on having a NOAA Weather Radio giveaway via the www.BeReadyIowa.org Web site. We'll keep you updated on these activities as they become finalized.

Also, the National Weather Service will be holding Flood Awareness Week again March 20-24. For more information, see www.crh.noaa.gov/crnews/display_story.php?wfo=dmx&storyid=1304&source=0.

Spring Training Opportunities

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division is currently offering the following courses. To register, go to <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>.

March 8 WebEOC for County Coordinators

March 14-16 State/Regional WMD Task Force

April 17-18 IS-235 Emergency Planning

April 19-20 New Coordinator Orientation

Please note: WebEOC training for county coordinators is offered the second Wednesday in March, May, September and November. If you have questions, contact call Beth Gathercole at 515-281-4494.

More About 10-Codes and Plain English

From the NIMS Integration Center

In Washington, D.C., if a police officer says 10-50, he or she is talking about a car accident. Across the line in Montgomery County, Maryland, 10-50 means an officer needs help. And that's the way it is across much of the country, 10-codes used in one jurisdiction are not the same as those used in another. That's why it is important that responders and incident managers use common terminology. There simply is no room for misunderstanding in an emergency situation.

The use of plain language in emergency response is a matter of public safety, especially the safety of first responders and those affected by the incident. It is critical that all local responders, as well as those coming into the impacted area from other jurisdictions and other states as well as the federal government, know and utilize commonly established operational structures, terminology, policies and procedures. This is what NIMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) are all about - achieving interoperability across agencies, jurisdictions and disciplines.

The use of common terminology is about the ability of area commanders, state and local EOC personnel, federal operational coordinators, and responders to communicate clearly with each other and effectively coordinate response activities, no matter what the size, scope or complexity of the incident. The ability of responders from different jurisdictions and different disciplines to work together depends greatly on their ability to communicate with each other.

It is required that plain English be used for multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction and multi-discipline events, such as major disasters and exercises. Beginning in the fiscal year that starts on October 1, 2006, federal preparedness grant funding is contingent on the use of plain English in incidents requiring assistance from responders from other agencies, jurisdictions and functional disciplines.

While the NIMS Integration Center doesn't require plain English for internal operations, it is strongly encouraged. We believe it is important to practice everyday terminology and procedures that will need to be used in emergency incidents and disasters. NIMS implementation is a long-term effort and it's probably not possible to persuade everyone to change ingrained habits overnight. But we do hope that over time, everyone will understand the importance of using common terminology, that is, plain English, every day.

For more information on NIMS see <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/programs/NIMS/NIMSindex.asp> or for NIMS alerts see http://www.fema.gov/nims/nims_alert.shtm



Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

A Division of the Department of Public Defense

Administrator
David L. Miller

Hoover State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-281-3231
Fax: 515-281-7539

Web Site:
www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

Secure & Prepared is published by the Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division for those involved in the homeland security system in the state of Iowa. For more information, contact Kara Berg at 515-281-3231 or at kara.berg@iowa.gov.

News Team

Kara Berg
Todd Brown
Tracey Epps
Beth Gathercole
David Johnston
Kathy Karn
Lucinda Robertson
Kathy Stodola
Bret Voorhees
Lynda Wessel

HLSEM 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.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org



THIRD ANNUAL
GOVERNOR'S HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE

Learning from yesterday, planning for tomorrow

July 18 – 20, 2006 at the
Polk County Convention Complex
Convenient street and ramp parking available

Lodging available at the Downtown
Des Moines Marriott (1.800.514.4681)

Visit each of our exhibitors and be eligible for an exciting door prize!



Hosted by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

Registration information coming soon. The door prize will be awarded on the last day of the conference. You must be present to win.

Upper Iowa University Course Offerings

Upper Iowa University's (UIU) Extended University offers courses online, by written correspondence, and face-to-face at its centers in Des Moines, Ankeny and Waterloo.

UIU offers a Bachelor of Science in...

Criminal Justice

http://www.uiu.edu/catalogs/eu/html/undergrad_degrees_criminal_justice.html

Emergency and Disaster Management

<http://www.uiu.edu/catalogs/eu/html/undergrad-degrees-emergency-disaster-management.html>

Public Administration

http://www.uiu.edu/catalogs/eu/html/undergrad_degrees_public_administration.html#general

UIU also offers a...

Master of Public Administration

Online with four areas of emphasis (Homeland Security, Justice Administration, Public Personnel Management and Health and Human Services)

<http://www.uiu.edu/catalogs/eu/html/mpa1.html>