



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- The National Weather Service has declared June 18-24 National Lightning Awareness Week. See article on page 2.
- A special tribute to the life of former HLSEM employee Brenda Boell can be found on page 3.
- FFY '07 HMGP application packets are in the mail. See article on page 4.
- Region I is offering public information officer training this month. See article on page 4.

Iowa to Receive \$13.5 Million

News of Iowa's 2006 allocation from the federal Department of Homeland Security ended up as a mixed bag.

On the upside, the efforts of all those who worked on the teams that developed the state's incentive packages paid off. Iowa's submissions were ranked in the top 25 percent of the nation and five of the 15 proposals were graded as exceptional, meaning they were in the top 15 percent. In short, Iowa's teams did an excellent job of showing the need for funding in our state.

"I'd like to thank all that worked on our application," stressed David Miller, Administrator of HLSEM. "Your work helped our state."

Unfortunately, "need" accounted for 30 percent of the total allocation and "risk/threat," which was determined at the federal level, accounted for the rest. Iowa was graded in the bottom half, or the third lowest of the four categories, in the "risk/threat" category.

As a result, federal funding for Iowa continues to decrease. Here's a quick look at the trend over the past three years:

	2004	2005	2006
SHSGP*	\$22,784,000	\$14,326,334	\$7,520,000
LETPP**	\$6,761,000	\$5,209,576	\$5,470,000
Citizen Corp	\$473,000	\$181,873	\$257,718
MMRS***	\$NA	\$227,592	\$232,330
Totals	\$30,018,000	\$19,945,375	\$13,480,048

* State Homeland Security Grant Program
 ** Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program
 *** Metropolitan Medical Response System

While the \$13.5 million Iowa will receive is a 30 percent cut from 2005, it is quite higher than the best estimates, which ranged from \$10 to \$12 million. It is also a sizeable allocation.

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Iowa to Receive \$13.5 Million

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What's Next?

The announcement gives Iowa its allocation, but it is not the official "award" so the two-year clock on this grant has not started and the 60-day allocation requirement has also not started. A team is now in the process of identifying projects that can be completed with this funding. Note that EMPG dollars are also not included and will come down separately.

The official award date is expected at the end of June. Iowa will then submit an official project-by-project allocation back to federal DHS.

Finally, while federal homeland security dollars are a major grant, it is important to remember that Iowa has other funding sources. "I can pledge to you that we will continue to explore all avenues because of the importance of the work we do," explained Miller. "This year we approached the state legislature, for example, and received funding for two staff to start working in our Fusion Center," Miller added.

Lightning Awareness Week is June 18-24

The National Weather Service has declared June 18-24 National Lightning Awareness Week. In 2005, there were 48 confirmed deaths and 172 confirmed injuries from lightning.

During the past 30 years, lightning killed an average of 67 people per year in the United States based on documented cases. This is more than the average of 65 deaths per year caused by tornadoes and the average of 16 deaths per year caused by hurricanes.

However, because lightning usually claims only one or two victims at a time, and because lightning does not cause the mass destruction left in the wake of tornadoes or hurricanes, lightning generally receives much less attention than the more destructive weather-related killers.



The National Weather Service in Des Moines will issue daily public information statements about lightning safety. For more information on Lightning Awareness Week, visit www.weather.gov/desmoines.

Governor's Homeland Security Conference

Information on the Governor's 3rd Annual Homeland Security Conference, hosted by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, is available on HLSEM's Web site: <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/>. Click on the red link at the top of the page.

This year's conference will be held July 18-20 at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. Key-note speakers include U.S. Department of Homeland Security Under Secretary for Preparedness George Foresman, U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Dennis Reimer (retired), and State Epidemiologist for the Iowa Department of Public Health Dr. Patricia Quinlisk. For a schedule of speakers, topics, and breakout sessions, please visit the Web site mentioned above.

Registration is \$150 per person, if paid by June 30, 2006. After June 30, the registration fee increases to \$175 and must be paid at the door. For questions, e-mail governorsconf@hlsem.state.ia.us or call Mary Ann Lee at 515-243-2000.

Remembering Brenda Lee Boell

A Treasured Life

Brenda Boell came to work at the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HLSEM) through her service with the Iowa National Guard, assisting the Division in the development of the state's critical asset list soon after the September 11 terrorist attacks. She was hired as a receptionist at HLSEM in 2002, and in October 2003 took the position of accounting technician in the Administration Bureau. Brenda left the Division in August 2005 to work for the State Fiscal Office, also in the Iowa Department of Public Defense, as an account technician. She had served in the Iowa National Guard with the 185th Regional Operations Center (ROC) in Jefferson.

Through her work, Brenda made important contributions to the state of Iowa and was a valuable asset to our office. But all this doesn't tell you who she really was.

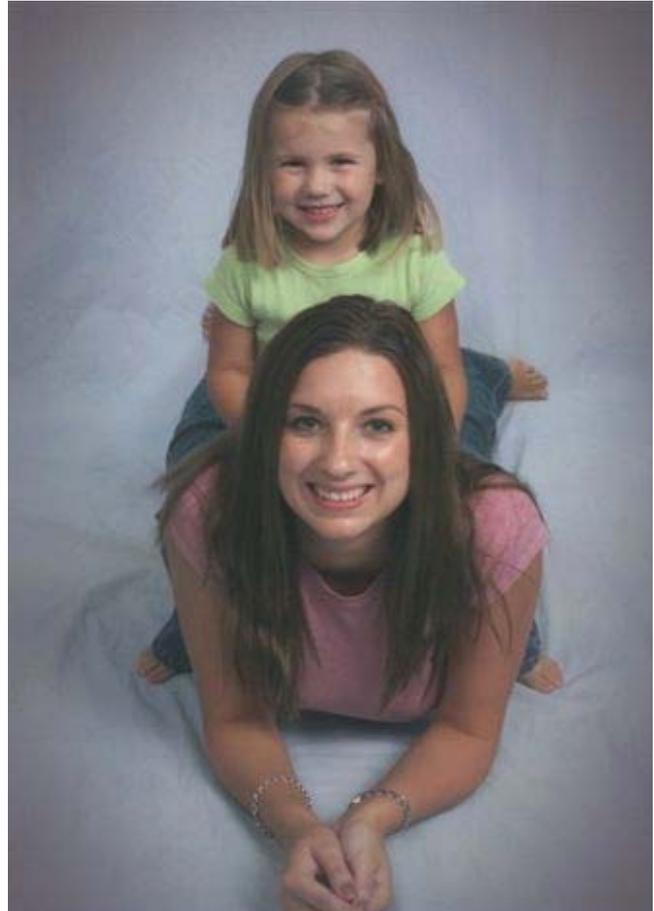
Those of us at HLSEM knew Brenda as a hard-working colleague, who did her job well, no matter what that job was. She was talented, professional, and respected, and even in the toughest of situations, she didn't lose her sense of humor and rarely lost her cool.

We knew Brenda as a friend. Someone you could laugh with; someone you could cry with; someone who could make you laugh when you wanted to cry. She was fun, caring, and understanding. Brenda was someone you could really talk to because she was willing to really listen.

We knew Brenda as a person who was close to, loved, and was loved by her family. She spoke often of her parents and siblings, and it was obvious that family was the foundation of her life. We also knew her as a woman who had found and planned to marry the love of her life. Everyone who knew Brenda was thrilled for the happiness she had found with her fiancé Matt.

We knew Brenda as a devoted mother to her daughter Haley. And it wasn't just the pictures of Haley that were taped to her computer and on her desk, or the pictures Haley had colored that were scattered around her mom's office that let us know how much Brenda loved her daughter. It was also in her face when she talked about Haley—the way her eyes lit up, the love in her smile, the pride in her voice when she talked about the cute, funny, exasperating or mischievous things Haley had done or said.

Since we learned the terrible news of Brenda's death due to a traffic accident on May 29, there have been many tears shed and many memories shared here at HLSEM. Brenda touched all of our lives in some way and even though she no longer worked at HLSEM, we will feel her loss every day. Our hearts and our thoughts are with all those who loved her. Many of us loved her too.



Brenda with daughter Haley.

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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

HMEP Applications in the Mail

Federal fiscal year 2007 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Program (HMEP) application packets will be mailed out June 6 to local and regional emergency planning committees. Please note that there have been a couple changes, so read the information carefully. There is a change in the local matching requirements and a signed statement of NIMS compliance is required to be eligible for this grant and must be included with your grant package. The due date for applications is September 1, 2006.

NIMS Update

NIMS self-compliance letters should be sent to the county emergency management coordinator. The coordinator, in turn, will then send the original compliance letter to David Hemen at Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management. All letters need to first pass through the coordinator, so he or she will know who is or who is not compliant in their county.

Please keep in mind that this is self-compliance and the jurisdiction/agency is self-certifying that they are compliant. The coordinator does not need to sign off or certify that towns or agencies in their county are compliant. Also, make sure that your own agency is compliant. Since the Emergency Management Agency is not part of county government, we will need a compliance letter from the county EMA. For additional questions, contact David Hemen at 515-725-3281.

Follow-up on 2004 and 2005 SHSGP

Jim Wiese will be temporarily helping with some of the 2004 SHSGP grant information, in place of Klaire Stillinger who has left our agency. Coordinators may receive a telephone call from Jim in the near future as he tries to get a handle on what remains outstanding in the 2004 and 2005 SHSGP grant programs. Please help Jim out as he works through some of these issues. For questions, call Dutch Geisinger at 515-725-3280.

HLSEM and Coast Guard Host Conference

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the U.S. Coast Guard co-hosted a Maritime Security Conference on May 24 and 25. More than 100 representatives from more than six states attended the event at the Rivercenter in Davenport.

Topics included: inland waterway security, infrastructure protection, vulnerability assessment tools, Transportation Worker Identification Cards (TWIC), and the Upper Mississippi Maritime Security Plan. For more information on this or future maritime security events, contact Jeff McKinney at 515-323-4312.

Region I Offers PIO Training

Region I is offering public information officer training June 14 & 28 at the Greene County Medical Center in Jefferson and on June 15 & 29 at Iowa Valley Community College in Marshalltown.

There is no cost for this training. HRSA/CDC bioterrorism dollars can be used for staff salaries and expenses for this training. For questions, call Pat Busick at 515-241-6836 or e-mail at busickmp@ihs.org.