



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- June 30 is the last day to receive the early bird registration discount for the Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference. Register now! See article on page 3.
- Following a year of planning, Poweshiek, Jasper and Marshall Counties held a full-scale, regional school terrorism exercise on June 10th. See article on page 4.
- Stratford Fire Chief Grant Carlson recently received the 2005 Governor's Volunteer Award.. See article on page 5.
- Iowa's Urban Search and Rescue Team was deployed to the scene of an explosion at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown. See article on page 5.

Pandemic Exercise Dates Announced

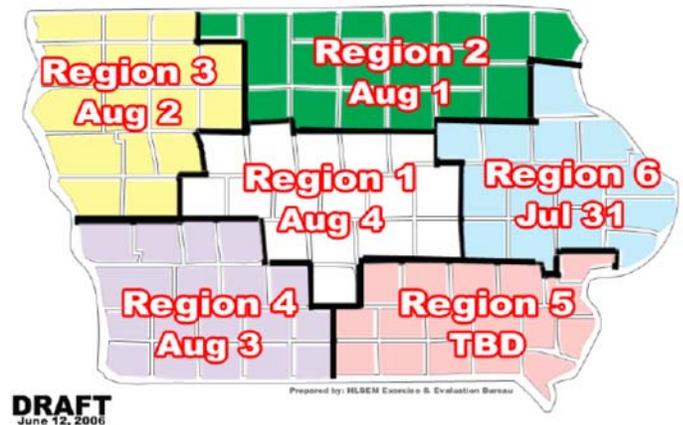
Some dates have changed for the pandemic influenza exercise series scheduled for later this summer and fall. The most significant change is the date for the functional/full-scale exercise, which will now be on September 27.

Also, the next exercise-planning meeting has been moved from June 22 to July 12. The location will remain in the Des Moines area. Each county emergency operations center playing in the functional exercise on September 27 should select their own controller/evaluator. This controller/evaluator is encouraged to attend the July 12 exercise-planning meeting, where the format and function of the September 27 exercise will be laid out in detail. Controller/evaluator attendance is not required, but strongly encouraged.

Below are the tentative dates for the regional tabletop phase (July 31-Aug 4):

- Region 1: Aug 4
- Region 2: Aug 1
- Region 3: Aug 2
- Region 4: Aug 3
- Region 6: Jul 31

2006 Regional Influenza Tabletop Exercises



The ability to hold five regional tabletop exercises in one week will help reduce the cost at the state level and minimize potential attendance conflicts due to RAGBRAI or the Iowa State Fair. The regional CDC/HRSA

educator will be asked to make the logistical arrangements for each event by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Following are major exercise goals and possible gaps that were identified during an initial planning meeting on May 31st.

Exercise Goals:

- Test and improve Strategic National Stockpile operations and coordination.
- Test use of incident command under the National Incident Management System. *(Continued on page 2)*

Pandemic Exercise Dates Announced

(Continued from page 1)

- Test Iowa's emergency communication systems/technologies
- Test risk communication to the public
- Test and improve surge capabilities in healthcare and public health
- Test disease surveillance and containment

Identified gaps from previous exercises:

- Joint Information Center/System (JIC/JIS)
- Integration of SNS assets into local systems
- Surge preparedness throughout health care

For additional questions about the pandemic influenza exercise series, please contact; DeAnne Sesker from the Iowa Department of Public Health at Deanne.sesker@idph.state.ia.us, 515-242-5037; or Pete Grandgeorge, from the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division at Peter.grandgeorge@hlsem.state.ia.us, 515-725-3282.

It's Still a Lot of Money

By HLSEM Administrator, David L. Miller



By now you've heard the news about Iowa's allocation under the '06 federal homeland security grants. When you add up our four major grants, this state will receive just under \$13.5 million. While that is a cut of just over 30 percent from the '05 allocation, it is important to remember, that's still a lot of money.

Thanks to all who worked on developing our 15 initiative packages. Hundreds of Iowans contributed their time, working under very tight deadlines. That work paid off. Iowa's overall package was ranked in the top 25 percent and five of our 15 packages were deemed exceptional, which meant the review teams put them in the top 15 percent. We did our part, we showed the need in our state and I thank you all for the help in getting that accomplished.

Lets get in the way-back machine and pick a date before our world changed with the attack of 9/11. If we would have received news of a \$13.5 million federal grant program, we would have been ecstatic. Remember the first terrorism grants, which were under the Department of Justice, amounted to just over \$2 million.

Yes, I know, our workloads and the expectations of our customers and partners have increased dramatically, so comparisons back before 9/11 are difficult. But the point remains; \$13.5 million is still a lot of money.

While we won't be able to fund every initiative and we won't be able to move ahead at building capacities at the level we had hoped, we still can and will be able to advance our efforts in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Our efforts to think regionally will move forward. Our efforts to build specialized teams will move forward. And our efforts to protect responders and the public will move forward.

The '06 allocation is also a wake-up call and notice that we can't rely solely on the federal government. With the funding trend we face, we'll have to explore other avenues and be more willing to approach local and state policy makers.

Homeland Security Conference is Next Month

June 30 is the last day to register for the Third Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference to receive the early bird discount price of \$150 per person. Those interested in attending after this date will have to register at the door the day of the conference at a cost of \$175.

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division is hosting the event July 18-20 at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. This year's theme is *Learning from yesterday, planning for tomorrow*.

"This year's conference will be an opportunity for emergency management and homeland security professionals, including law enforcement, fire, emergency management coordinators, EMS, business and government, to learn from each other and the leaders in this ever-evolving field. Speakers, as well as participants, will have a chance to share their successes, discuss their challenges, and plan together to ensure Iowa is more secure and better prepared for any emergency or disaster," said HLSEM Administrator David L. Miller.

Keynote 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. Topics will range from lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina to pandemic influenza.

Exhibitors will also be on hand to display state-of-the-art equipment and offer training and other services. This conference offers a rare opportunity to view hands-on demonstrations of equipment you may need in your area.

For a full list of speakers, topics, and exhibitors, please visit <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/> and click on the red link at the top of our homepage. For questions, e-mail governorsconf@hlsem.state.ia.us or call Mary Ann Lee at 515-243-2000.

Third Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference



Learning from yesterday,
planning for tomorrow

Join Us for an Open House!

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division will host an open house following the Governor's Annual Homeland Security Conference on July 20 from 1:00-3:30. Please come check out our new location at Building W-4 at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa.

For directions, please visit <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/images/HLSEMmove.pdf>. You will need to present a photo ID/driver's license at the security gate. We hope you will join us!

Grinnell Hosts Regional exercise

Following a year of planning, Poweshiek, Jasper and Marshall Counties held a full-scale, regional school terrorism exercise on June 10th.

The scenario involved armed terrorists taking hostages at Grinnell High School. The exercise tested coordination, communication, and response roles with the “good guys” and the “bad guys” using paintball rounds as ammunition for a realistic experience. The exercise helped in documenting deficiencies and in preparing an ongoing plan to improve any problem areas.

Exercise project lead Jeff Hughes with the Grinnell Police Department said, “This exercise not only tested the capabilities and preparedness of area public safety, but also greatly assisted us in identifying weaknesses and deficiencies affecting a public safety response to a mass casualty disaster.”

Agencies involved in the exercise included the Grinnell Police Department in partnership with the Cities of Grinnell, Searsboro, and Brooklyn; Poweshiek County Sheriff’s Office, Marshalltown Police Department; Jasper, Marshall, and Poweshiek County Emergency Management Agencies; Brownell’s Inc.; Grinnell Regional Medical Center; Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance; Eastern Poweshiek Ambulance; Midwest Ambulance; American Red Cross Iowa River’s Chapter; Grinnell, Searsboro, and Brooklyn Fire Departments; Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division; and several other area partners. Primary funding for this exercise was provided through a School Violence Grant received by the Grinnell/Newburg Community School System and area homeland security funds.



HLSEM Lends a Hand to Special Olympics

The first-ever Special Olympics USA National Games will be held July 2 through July 7 at Iowa State University in Ames. More than 3,000 Special Olympics athletes from all 50 states will compete in 12 Olympic-style sports, and in the process, will promote to all of America the achievements and abilities of persons with intellectual disabilities.

HLSEM will be involved with the 2006 National Games Airlift at the Des Moines International Airport. Approximately 250 Cessna Citation flights are expected to arrive at the airport carrying athletes and their coaches on July 1st with a similar number of flights leaving on July 8th. The additional flight arrivals and departures on each of these days will cause the Des Moines Airport to have a similar amount of traffic as LaGuardia or National Airports.

HLSEM’s Randy Goddard and Tony Crandell will be providing technical expertise, equipment, and staff to support communications interoperability between multiple radio systems. ACU-1000, a communications gateway, will be used to link radios used by volunteer staff, Des Moines Police, Des Moines Fire, Des Moines Airport, Des Moines Airport Rescue and Fire Fighters, and Cessna. Without the ACU-1000, the users of the disparate radios would be unable to communicate with each other.

Stratford Fire Chief Receives Governor's Volunteer Award



Grant Carlson

Stratford Fire Chief Grant Carlson recently received the 2005 Governor's Volunteer Award for his leadership role in the response and recovery efforts following the November 12 tornado that hit the town of Stratford in Hamilton County. Carlson was nominated by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division. Following are the comments that were submitted by HLSEM staff.

"Grant Carlson is the Chief of Stratford Fire and Rescue working many volunteer hours for his department throughout the year. From the onset of the tornado, he became the incident commander for the event response. Ably supported by a dedicated fire department and many other volunteers, he was the catalyst that held together the response effort in the following week/s virtually working non-stop to accomplish a successful result. This involved search and rescue, restoration of essential services, citizen safety, shelter and debris clearance all in a time frame that due to impending winter weather, was nothing short of phenomenal. Within seven days

the emergency response, debris removal and clean up were virtually complete and the community was able to turn its attention to pulling shattered lives together and rebuilding the community."

Carlson joined the Stratford Fire Department in 1986. He has served as fire chief for the past five years and holds an EMT-B certification. Carlson's grandfather, Harold Larson, also served as Stratford's fire chief for many years. He died in the line of duty in 1962.

USAR Team Aids in Middletown Explosion

On June 15, members of Iowa's Urban Search and Rescue Team, known as Iowa Task Force One (IA-TF 1), were deployed to the scene of an explosion at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown, Iowa, which occurred June 12th. The team's mission was to ensure safety at the facility so debris removal at the plant could begin.

The team was activated through the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division at the request of the U. S. Department of Defense and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms because of the need for specialized equipment and technical assistance at the site of the explosion. IA-TF 1 has the expertise, training, and equipment needed to assist in this type of situation. Four search specialists from the Cedar Rapids Fire Department were deployed to the scene.

The team used specialized camera equipment to search for hazardous substances or situations under the 200 tons of concrete debris at the scene. As a result, military officials were able to move forward with the restoration of operations of this facility.

"This is an excellent example of how Iowa is using homeland security funding to help build capabilities in partnership with local resources to develop specialized teams for use in all types of emergencies," said David L. Miller, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division Administrator. Three years ago, the Cedar Rapids and Sioux City Fire Departments agreed to develop a heavy search and rescue team for Iowa in partnership with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Two Iowa Projects to Receive FMA Funding

HSLEM received a 2006 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) award from FEMA on June 1st for two projects totaling \$261,040. FMA provides funding to assist states and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The two projects to receive the funding are for the City of Sabula to upgrade a flood pump and the City of Dyersville to acquire and demolish two houses located in a special flood hazard area.

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A Division of the Department of Public Defense

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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!

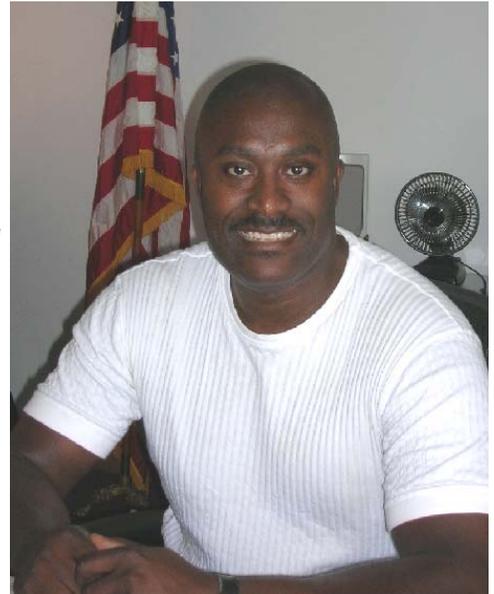
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HLSEM Spotlight: Terry Brown

Many of you know Terry Brown through his work as HLSEM's purchasing agent. He has been with the Division since August 2001 when he started as an accounting technician 3, handling disaster payments. Prior to HLSEM, Terry worked for the Iowa Department of Administrative Services where he headed up the department's infrastructure projects.

Terry's duties currently include purchasing all homeland security equipment for the counties and the Division, managing HLSEM's equipment and supply inventory, and serving as the state's liaison at the emergency operations facilities for the Quad Cities and Ft. Calhoun nuclear power plants.

Terry graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in family finance counseling and was a member of the track team. He has three sons: Cameron, seven; Ashton, five; and Carson, two. He also has a daughter Annisa who is 17. His wife Darla is a social worker with the Iowa Department of Human Services. Away from work, Terry likes to fish, hunt, and tackle home improvement projects.



Allamakee County Seeks Coordinator

The Allamakee County Emergency Management Commission is current accepting applications for an emergency management coordinator. This is a full-time salaried position. Salary based on qualifications and experience. County benefits with non-standard work schedules. Must be available for call-out during emergency situations on weekends and evenings.

Responsibilities include coordinating all components of emergency management for Allamakee County, working in cooperation with law enforcement, fire, rescue, public works, public health, volunteers, and the media. Other essential responsibilities include coordinating with state and federal emergency management agencies.

A training background is helpful. Problem solving abilities are paramount. The qualified individual will be submitted to a personal background investigation. Past experience in law enforcement, EMS, fire services or military are a plus.

To apply, mail a cover letter with resume postmarked no later than June 27, 2006 to: Allamakee County Emergency Management Commission, 110 Allamakee Street, Waukon, IA 52172