



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- The NIMS compliancy date is fast approaching. For the latest details, see page 3.
- Save the dates for next year's homeland security conference. See article on page 5.
- Please note that HLSEM's main office/24-hour contact phone number has changed to 515-725-3231. See article on page 6.

HLSEM to Host First Responder/Family Preparedness Night at the I-Cubs

As a thank you for all of their hard work, Iowa's responders will receive a free ticket to see the Iowa Cubs on Saturday, August 26th. The night is sponsored by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management through a grant from Citizen Corps.



Any member of the responder community – fire, law, EMS, emergency management, public health and public works -- will receive a free general admission ticket with a credential proving they are a member of that discipline. The offer applies to the responder and not to friends and family. Tickets can be upgraded to reserve grandstand seats for an additional \$2. The Cubs will play New Orleans and the game starts at 7:05 p.m.

The night will also kick off a family preparedness campaign and a three-week radio campaign. Stations on the Iowa Radio Network will carry ads designed to encourage Iowans to develop family emergency kits and to visit the Web site www.BeReadyIowa.org for more information. Those who go to the site will also be eligible to enter a drawing to win a free American Red Cross emergency kit. HLSEM Administrator David Miller will announce the campaign with a series of press events around the state on August 28 and 29.

The campaign has a theme of "You owe it to the responder." It stresses that all Iowans have the responsibility to prepare both for their families and for the general response community. "We know that our resources will be stretched during a catastrophic event," noted Miller. "Families that prepare and are able to sustain themselves for 48 to 72 hours will be in a much better situation," he stressed.

Miller is also stressing a family preparedness campaign for HLSEM staff. "We've got to practice what we preach," he said.

Family preparedness brochures will be handed out at the Iowa Cubs game and will be inserted into the game's programs. The theme will be stressed with public address announcements and with visuals on the scoreboard. A limited supply of family preparedness brochures are also available on a first come-first serve basis to county emergency management coordinators. Contact HLSEM's Kara Berg for more information.

Regions Hold Pandemic Tabletop Exercises

Regional pandemic influenza tabletop exercises were held July 31-August 4. Seven hundred public health professionals, first responders, emergency management coordinators, local elected officials, and representatives from private businesses, non-governmental organizations, and colleges attended.

Many good ideas and areas that needed improvement were identified and shared. The exercise scenario tested areas that will be reviewed in the functional exercise September 27. Focus areas included Strategic National Stockpile operations and coordination, the use of incident command, communication and public education, Joint Information Systems, emergency communications systems/technologies, surge capabilities in healthcare, and quarantine issues.



Around 170 local officials participated in Region 2's pandemic influenza tabletop exercise August 1. Pictured above is a breakout group of public health professionals.

The Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division hosted the tabletop exercises.

HSEEP Orientations to Take Place Soon

The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) methodology will be implemented as of October 1, 2006. Following that date, all exercises must be consistent with HSEEP to receive exercise approval and to be eligible under FY06 Homeland Security Grant Program funds.

HLSEM will be holding orientation sessions in late August through September to provide an overview of HSEEP and to discuss regional exercise priorities over the next year. To make the orientation sessions as convenient as possible, they may be held in conjunction with a regional, district, or other meeting already scheduled. The sessions will last approximately three to four hours.

Anyone involved in completing exercise reports, such as partners from CDC, HRSA, or regional planners should attend. Please work with the leadership in your region and in your district to coordinate a primary and secondary date. HLSEM's Jack Briggs will be contacting the regional chairs to coordinate logistics. Look for an update on dates, etc., in the next newsletter. Please coordinate questions through the region chairs.

Region 5 to Hold TICP Exercise

On September 21, Region 5 will hold a full-scale exercise to test its Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP). The exercise will help identify communications gaps among first responders and local officials.

Iowa has received direct support from the Department of Homeland Security Office of Grants and Training. This direct support team will assist with the development, conduct, and evaluation of the exercise. The next planning conference for this exercise will be held August 24 in Ottumwa.

Clarification on NIMS Requirements for Funding

The NIMS compliancy deadline is fast approaching. The federal government has stated that in order to receive federal preparedness funds jurisdictions, agencies, or departments must be NIMS compliant by Sept. 30, 2006. Training is one of the key areas in this process. Knowing that at any given time a jurisdiction or agency may fall out of compliancy with training standards because of employee turnover, please keep in mind that there must be some type of process for new employees to obtain NIMS training. There must also be a plan for current employees to obtain higher levels of ICS training as they advance within the organization and are required to become better qualified.

Concern has been raised over compliance for resource management. Currently jurisdictions, agencies or departments must inventory their resources to the 120 federally-typed standards to become NIMS compliant. Bottom line, if you have done this and keep the listing in paper form you are NIMS compliant. In the very near future, HLSEM will have a process in place to capture those resources into a database.

A question that has been brought up is "if a county or city is not NIMS compliant can they participate in the Homeland Security Grant Program?" The answer is no, they cannot receive federal preparedness funds. HLSEM now has a view-only database, linked to HLSEM's home page, (<http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/nims/>) that shows which jurisdictions are compliant. It is the region's responsibility to make sure that jurisdictions are compliant before they purchase or pass grant money to that jurisdiction.

Also remember that EMPG is considered federal preparedness funding. This means that if your agency participates in EMPG, you must be NIMS compliant. EMPG funding is distributed to each county by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Regions have no responsibility for the review of county compliance in this area. HLSEM will collect compliancy letters from emergency management agencies to make sure they are eligible for these grant funds.

NIMS Compliancy Update

Cherokee County is completely NIMS compliant. They have been successful in providing proper documentation from their eight cities, two public health agencies, the emergency management agency, and their county official to meet the requirements of NIMS compliancy. Congratulations and great work!

To date, there are 39 cities that have met compliancy standards with several county/city government and first responder entities that are compliant as well. The federal guideline to be NIMS complaint is September 30, 2006.

*A map showing NIMS compliancy is now available on the HLSEM Web site at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org. Click on the Green NIMS link at right.

NIMS Compliancy for Public Health and Healthcare

Public Health is approaching the end of the FY05-06 HRSA and CDC bioterrorism grant year. A requirement for the FY05-06 HRSA/CDC grant was that hospitals, public health and EMS be NIMS compliant by August 30, 2006.

In order to verify compliancy, copies of the NIMS Compliance letters from public health, hospitals and EMS should be sent HLSEM no later than August 30, 2006. The state health department recognizes that the other agencies have until September 30, 2006 to submit the NIMS compliancy letter so we apologize for adding one more step to this process but ask that you assist us in meeting the CDC/HRSA grant requirements. For questions please contact HLSEM's Dave Hemen.

Vilsack Asks USDA to Assess Drought Damage in Iowa

On August 2, Governor Tom Vilsack sent a letter to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) State Farm Service Agency (FSA) asking the agency to conduct drought damage assessments to crops in all 99 counties in Iowa.

The assessments will provide the Governor, the State FSA, and the State Emergency Board with a more detailed account of the types and amounts of crop damages sustained in the affected counties.

The assessment data will be used to determine whether a request for a U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Declaration is warranted at this time. This type of disaster declaration would provide FSA Emergency Loans to farmers in the affected counties who qualify for the programs.

So, What is the National Infrastructure Protection Plan?

The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) provides the unifying structure for the protection of critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR) into a single national program. The NIPP provides an overall framework for programs and activities that are currently underway in the various sectors, as well as new and developing CI/KR protection efforts. This collaborative effort between the private sector, state, territorial, local, and tribal governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the federal government will result in the prioritization of protection initiatives and investments across sectors. It also will ensure that resources are applied where they offer the most benefit for mitigating risk by lowering vulnerabilities, deterring threats, and minimizing the consequences of terrorist attacks and other incidents.

Sector-specific plans that complement the NIPP and detail the risk management framework will be released around the first of the year. These plans are being prepared by the federal agencies assigned to specific sectors and will address unique characteristics and risk landscapes, and they will be developed in collaboration with sector specific security partners.

The overarching goal of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) is to:

Build a safer, more secure, and more resilient America by enhancing protection of the nation's CI/KR to prevent, deter, neutralize, or mitigate the effects of deliberate efforts by terrorists to destroy, incapacitate, or exploit them; and to strengthen national preparedness, timely response, and rapid recovery in the event of an attack, natural disaster, or other emergency.

Iowa was ahead of the curve in regards to this way of thinking. In October 2001, Governor Vilsack's office announced the identification and protection of Iowa's assets as a top priority of the State's Homeland Security Initiative. By January 2002, a listing of assets in the areas of agribusiness, communication, energy and water, military, government, transportation, tourism, and cyber infrastructure were identified to have state level importance.

In 2005, the asset list was updated with help from other state agencies. For example, the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship identified assets in the agriculture and food sector and the Department of Economic Development identified assets in the commercial facilities sector. In total, 14 different state agencies worked to identify assets in 17 different sectors.

Current efforts are being guided by the NIPP. This national program makes clear the responsibilities of not only the federal government but state, local, and private sector partners as well. Information on the National Infrastructure Protection Plan is available online at www.dhs.gov/nipp.

Governor's Homeland Security Conference Wrap-Up

Thank you to everyone who attended and to all of the very knowledgeable speakers who made the Third Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference a success! Tentative dates for next year's conference are July 16-18. Those were the only dates available when trying to reserve the Polk County Convention Complex; so next year's conference will start on a Monday instead of Tuesday.

Several presentations from the conference have been posted to the HLSEM Web site at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org. Click on the red link at the top of our home page to access.

And, a big thank you to the following exhibitors who helped support our conference!

ARAMSCO	Motorola
Brown Cargo Van, Inc.	ProPac, Inc.
Armstrong Systems and Consulting Company	RACOM
CentrAlert	RC Systems/Radio Communications Co.
Danko Emergency Equipment Company	Reverse 911
Dodgen Mobile Technologies	Shield Technology Corporation
Electronic Specialties	Streichers
Entisys Solutions, Inc	Tandberg/SKC Communication Products
Galls	Tough Solutions, Inc.
Hazmat Medical Associates	Trauma and Emergency Response Infrastructure, Inc.
Iowa Pipeline Association	Upper Iowa University
Jensen Trailers	Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness, University of Iowa, College of Public Health
JPS/Raytheon	Van Wall Equipment
Med-Media, Inc.	Wacker Corporation
Midwest Breathing Air L.L.C.	Whelen Engineering Company, Inc.
Moducom	

NWS and IEMA Host Booth at Iowa State Fair

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Des Moines and the Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) will host a booth at the Iowa State Fair from August 10 through August 20.

The NWS in Des Moines received a NOAA Mini-Grant this year to enhance the booth to help promote NOAA's 200-year anniversary, which will be celebrated in 2007. The booth will be enhanced with interesting interactive weather, safety and preparedness displays.

Please visit the booth, which will be located in the Hall of Flame under the Grandstand.

WITCC Offers Emergency, Disaster Management Program

Beginning this fall, Western Iowa Tech Community College will offer an emergency and disaster management associate degree. The program has been designed to fill a critical and growing need for emergency and disaster management personnel in the public and private sector. It will prepare individuals for positions in the disaster management profession or enable them to transfer to a four-year college or university.

A degree in emergency and disaster management may be beneficial to those in law enforcement, fire, military and other protective services. Individuals with prior training or certifications in similar fields may be eligible for college credits toward their degree. For more information, contact Denise Brink at 712-274-6400, ext. 1673 or Steve Ebsen at 712-274-6400, ext. 1232

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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

HLSEM Spotlight: Barb Vos

Barb Vos has been with HLSEM since December 1998 as an administrative assistant. She was soon promoted to a program planner 2 in the E911 program where her major duties have been working with local PSAPs (public safety answering points), telephone companies, and wireless carriers on the implementation and operation of the wireless E911 program.



Prior to HLSEM, Barb worked for 2 ½ years with the Department of Management, and 12 years with the Soil Conservation Division of the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. A highlight of Barb's career was receiving the Governor's State Top Achievement Recognition (STAR) award in 1990 for her work on the creation of a recycling program for state offices in Dallas County.

Barb and husband Stu have three children: Brian, 30; Melissa, 28; and Eric, 20. She is a gourmet cook, an avid golfer, and spends as much time as she can with her family. She and Stu love to travel and have been on 15 cruises. They will be celebrating their 25th anniversary this fall with a cruise to the southern Caribbean.

HLSEM's Main Phone Number Changes

Please note that HLSEM's main office/24-hour contact phone number has changed to 515-725-3231. You can still reach us at our old number for the next six months, but please update your files and contact information to reflect the change now. Also, remember to update our address to: Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, 7105 N.W. 70th Avenue, Camp Dodge, Building W-4, Johnston, IA 50131. Thank you!

HLSEM Personnel Highlight

Congratulations to newlywed **Steve Zimmerman**, HLSEM Preparedness Bureau Chief! He and Robin Yeager were married on July 4.