



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- HLSEM grants management staff members are holding workshops around the state to discuss possible changes to the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) allocation formula. For more information and a schedule, see page 2.
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently announced it is seeking applications for the FY 2006 Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). See article on page 3.
- The 2006 Iowa Hazardous Materials Symposium will be held October 26 and 27 in Ames. See article on page 5.

Please note that HLSEM's main office/24-hour contact phone number has changed to 515-725-3231.

Family Preparedness Week is August 28-September 1

HLSEM, the American Red Cross and the Animal Rescue League are partnering to promote Family Preparedness Week August 28-September 1.

"Developing a family communication plan and emergency kit are the key messages we have for Iowans," says HLSEM Administrator David L. Miller.

The www.BeReadyIowa.org Web site has been updated and features eight ways people can prepare for a disaster as well as updated information on pet preparedness and preparing for those with disabilities.



**Be Ready
Iowa!**

In addition to useful preparedness information, a free drawing for an emergency supply kit will be featured on the www.BeReadyIowa.org Web site. The American Red Cross donated 20 kits for the drawing. HLSEM will also be advertising with Radio Iowa statewide to reinforce the emergency preparedness message. The radio spots are paid for by Citizen Corps funding.

Three press conferences will be held around the state in conjunction with Family Preparedness Week that will involve local and state partners. The first will take place the morning of August 28 in Des Moines; the second will take place the afternoon of August 28 in Cedar Rapids; and the third will take place in Sioux City the afternoon of August 29.

Please take the time during Family Preparedness Week to prepare your family for disasters. Make a supply kit and have a plan. Don't be afraid, be ready!

Join Us for Responder Night at the I-Cubs

On August 26, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and the Iowa Cubs will sponsor Responder Recognition Night. Responders with a proper credential will receive a free general admission ticket to that evening's Iowa Cubs game. Upgrades to reserve grandstand seats will be available for \$2.

"We thank the Iowa Cubs for helping to recognize all of the individuals who have been working to prepare and protect Iowans," said David Miller, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Administrator. *(Continued on page 2)*

Join Us for Responder Night at the I-Cubs

(Continued from page 1)

"This will also be a chance to honor all who have made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our freedom," he added. Miller will throw out the first pitch and he noted that this recognition includes emergency management, firefighters, law enforcement, emergency medical services, National Guard and military personnel, public health and public works personnel.

"The Iowa Cubs are honored to be able to be part of this recognition," said Sam Bernabe, General Manager of the Iowa Cubs. "This is one small thank you that we gratefully offer," he added.

August 26th will also be Family Preparedness Night at the Iowa Cubs. Boy Scout Troop 133 from Carlisle will pass out family emergency preparedness brochures explaining the steps families can take to prepare for emergencies.

This event is funded by Citizen Corp grant dollars. Since 2003, Minor League Baseball teams across the nation have supported the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign in an effort to promote emergency preparedness to their fans.

So mark it down on your calendars and join us! As a final bonus, it will also be Wonder Bread Night, which means fans will receive a free loaf of bread as they leave the stadium. We hope to see you there!

HLSEM to Hold EMPG Workshops

HLSEM grants management staff members are holding workshops around the state to discuss possible changes to the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) allocation formula. Currently, the allocation formula is based on the emergency management coordinator's salary and benefits.

Over the last two years there have been a number of questions raised about the effectiveness of the current formula. HLSEM decided to review possible options to see if there was one that better fit the needs of Iowa's EMPG counties. The review process began with an analysis of what other states were doing. From that research, six options were developed which ranged from a formula that divided the pass-through funding equally among all counties to a formula based on equal share, percent of population, and part/full-time status of the coordinator.

The workshops are designed to provide an overview of the decision process and explain each of the options along with its possible impact on the counties. In addition, the workshops will help ensure that viable options are not overlooked and will provide opportunity for county coordinators to participate in the decision process that will affect all EMPG counties. Following the workshop, coordinators in each region/district will discuss issues and concerns and arrive at some consensus regarding recommendations. Those recommendations will be submitted to HLSEM project officers by September 30, 2006.

In October, all recommendations will be forwarded to the IEMA Board and HLSEM Administrator David Miller for consideration and discussion. In November, Miller will make the final decision. That decision will be announced in November 2006. In January 2007, administrative rule changes will take place and by October 1, 2007 the new allocation formula will be implemented.

Schedule of Workshops:

Region/District 1	9-07-06	Nevada
Region/District 2	8-16-06	Mason City
Region/District 3	8-24-06	Primghar
Region/District 4	8-31-06	Red Oak
Region/District 5	8-30-06	Fairfield
Region/District 6	8-08-06	Cedar Rapids

\$32 Million in Equipment Available to First Responders

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently announced that it is seeking applications for the fiscal year 2006 (FY 2006) Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). The FY 2006 program is slated to provide more than \$32 million in equipment to first responders in selected rural and smaller communities who are typically not eligible for funding through the department's Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant program. The application period officially opened August 16 and will close September 22, 2006.

CEDAP provides smaller communities and rural areas with technology and equipment, together with training and technical assistance, to help enhance first responder capabilities throughout the nation. CEDAP provides resources such as communications interoperability equipment, information sharing technology, chemical detection devices, sensors, personal protective equipment, and rescue tools and training in how to use the equipment, devices, and technology.

Eligible applicants include law enforcement agencies, fire, and other emergency responders who demonstrate in their application that the equipment will be used to improve their ability and capacity to respond to a major critical incident or improve their ability to work with other first responders.

Since its inception in FY 2005, more than \$35.2 million worth of equipment and training have been awarded to nearly 2,000 law enforcement and fire departments through CEDAP. With over 5,400 organizations competing for one of 2,000 awards during FY 2005, CEDAP is highly competitive.

To submit an application for an FY 2006 CEDAP award, applicants should visit www.rkb.mipt.org/. Once submitted, the application undergoes several steps, including approval by the applicant's respective State Administrative Agency (SAA), and a review board composed of subject matter experts.

HSEEP Update

On October 1, the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) methodology will be implemented. All exercises must be consistent with HSEEP to receive exercise approval and to be eligible under FY06 Homeland Security Grant Program funds.

HLSEM is holding orientation sessions in each region to provide an overview of HSEEP and to discuss regional exercise priorities over the next year. 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 coordinate questions through the region chairs.

Schedule:

- District 1 – September 7 – Nevada – Lori Morrissey
- District 2 – September 5 – Mason City – Kip Ladage
- District 3 – September 18 – Cherokee – Aimee Barritt
- District 4 – August 31 - Red Oak – Bob Seivert
- District 5 – September 25 - Best Western, Fairfield – Steve Cirinna
- District 6 – September 12 – Cedar Rapids – Frank Magsamen

Appeal Denied for Johnson County

Governor Tom Vilsack's appeal for federal disaster assistance to Johnson County was denied on August 10. The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division continues to work with local officials in Johnson County to recover from the tornado damage.

Local officials will now consider whether to apply for State Contingent Loans to help with the costs they incurred in the response and recovery of the tornadoes. State Contingent Loan funds are available for application by local communities to receive zero percent interest loans, if approved by the State Executive Council.

Clarification on Avian Influenza in Michigan

This information was summarized from materials compiled and presented by USDA/APHIS and was approved by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

Recently, routine surveillance testing indicated the possible presence of H5 and N1 avian influenza subtypes in wild mute swans in Michigan. It is possible that these birds were not infected with an H5N1 strain, but instead with two separate avian influenza viruses, one containing H5 and the other containing N1. Confirmatory testing is underway at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, which will clarify whether one or more strains of the virus are present, the specific subtype, and pathogenicity. Results are expected in the next two weeks and will be made public. It should be noted that wild birds are known to harbor many influenza viruses, and the finding of one or more of these viruses during routine testing is not unusual.

Initial testing has ruled out the possibility that this is the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus that has spread through much of Asia, Europe and Africa. Officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture do not believe this virus poses a risk to human health.

Why some are concerned about the finding:

One of the characteristics of influenza viruses in general is their ability to mutate and mutate quickly, and it's for that reason the flu shot that you obtained last year won't protect you from the flu viruses that we'll encounter next year or the year after. It's no different in birds. In fact, these viruses do mutate quickly.

It's only the H5 and H7 subtypes, low pathogenic H5 and H7 subtypes, that have ever been known to mutate into a highly pathogenic form. So the fact that we are dealing with what looks like a low pathogenic H5 virus would be reason for concern simply because any H5 or H7 virus has that potential.

However, there is no known exposure of these birds to commercial poultry and wild bird populations have a number of different avian influenza viruses. It is commonly known that there has been an H5N1 low-pathogenic virus circulating in wild birds in this country for a number of years.

DPS Launches E-mail Notification System

The Iowa Department of Public Safety's Public Information Bureau announced the availability of an E-mail Notification System. This system, which was developed in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Administrative Services - Information Technology Enterprise and with funds provided as part of the Iowa Access Grant initiative, allows members of the media and general public to receive an e-mail notification when selected pages to the Department of Public Safety's Web site change or are updated.

With this free service, subscribers will be able to enroll online for Public Safety information statewide or in a particular region of the state. Subscribers will have the ability to request an e-mail notification on specific information they are interested in or select from a very wide range of information. Types of information available to subscribers include Amber Alerts issued in Iowa, missing person updates, press releases, crash reports, and burn bans.

To enroll simply log on to <https://dpsemailnotify.iowa.gov> and follow the instructions to enroll as a new user.

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

A Division of the Department of Public Defense

Administrator
David L. Miller

7105 N.W. 70th Avenue
Camp Dodge, Bldg W-4
Johnston, IA 50131

Phone: 515-725-3231
Fax: 515-725-3260

Web Site:
www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

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News Team

Kara Berg
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

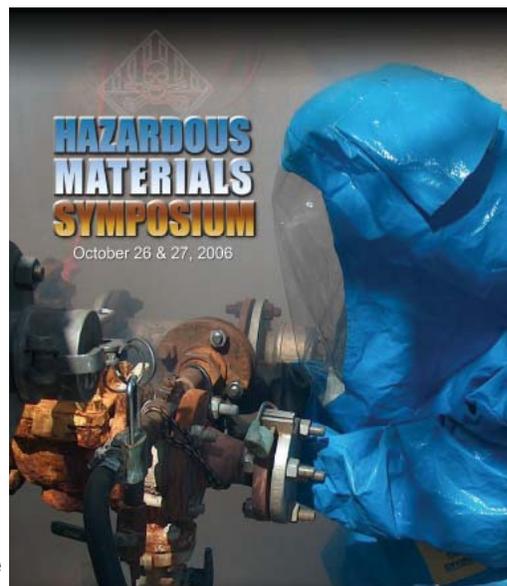
HazMat Symposium is October 26 & 27

The 2006 Iowa Hazardous Materials Symposium will be held October 26 and 27 at the Quality Inn and Suites in Ames. The symposium is presented by the Fire Service Training Bureau and the EHS Resource Group, LLC, and is targeted toward hazardous materials responders, fire, EMS, law enforcement, local government, and industrial personnel who plan for, or may have to respond to, a hazardous materials incident.

The symposium consists of several tracks offered on October 26, followed by a general session held on October 27. The tracks offered include the Case Studies Track, Hazardous Materials Track, Multi-Discipline Track, and the WMD/Terrorism Track. The tracks consist of various sessions allowing attendees to either follow one track throughout the symposium, or attend sessions from multiple tracks.

Cost for the two-day symposium is \$100 per person. Early-bird registration deadline is October 9, 2006. Register early and receive a HazMat Symposium shirt as part of the registration fee.

For more information, visit: <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/training/opportunities.asp>



Emergency Management Mourns Loss of Suiter

Excerpts from Congressional Quarterly

Many consider Lacy Suiter, a former state director and FEMA executive, one of the fathers of modern emergency management. Suiter was integral in forming FEMA in the 1970s and played a significant role in the agency's revival in the 1990s. He reorganized state officials into a strong lobbying body in Washington, and most recently he worked to educate governors on how to prepare and respond to natural and man-made disasters.

Suiter, 69, died of a heart attack on Aug. 8, but he left behind a strong legacy in Washington and across the country. Several changes currently under way at FEMA reflect his vision and passion for responding to disasters — from planning for catastrophes to pre-positioning supplies before a hurricane and promoting an all-hazards approach to emergency management.

Suiter worked in the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency for 30 years and was director from 1982 to 1994. During that time, he emphasized the importance of preparedness for all types of hazards. He worked with local agencies to help build their emergency management programs, and he understood the importance of strengthening emergency management at the grassroots level.