



# SECURE & PREPARED

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Michigan Joins Partnership</i>	2
<i>New UHL Director</i>	2
<i>National Preparedness Month</i>	3
<i>HSEMD Spotlight</i>	4
<i>Joint Field Office Closes</i>	4

## Special points of interest:

- Thirteen states are now members of the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture. See article on page 2.
- Don't be afraid, Be Ready! Learn more about Iowa's National Preparedness Month plans on page 3.

View presentations from this year's Governor's Homeland Security Conference at [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org). Click on the Conference Presentations link below the conference logo on the right side of the page.

## Iowa to Receive Nearly \$11 Million for Communications Interoperability

The U.S. Department of Commerce has announced a \$968 million national grant to help state and local first responders improve public safety communications and coordination. Iowa's share of the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant amounted to \$10.9 million.

While that is terrific news there are a number of steps that have to be accomplished before equipment will actually be purchased. Here are some of the specifics associated with these dollars:

- The grant will be administered by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division which will prepare an application by Aug. 22, 2007.
- Statewide Interoperable Communications Plan: The State needs to develop a plan that is consistent with SAFECOM guidance. Additionally these plans must include information on how public safety agencies will interoperate within and to 700 MHz, how local and tribal governments needs will be met, and how non-governmental response organizations needs will be addressed. This is due on Nov. 1, 2007.
- Investment Justifications: These will detail how projects selected for funding will advance the goals and objectives of the PSIC grant program and fill the gaps identified in the Statewide Plan. This is due Nov. 1, 2007.
- The grant will only fund projects that support regional solutions, or put another way, communication projects for more than one agency and more than one jurisdiction. The grant includes an 80 percent pass through to local agencies.
- There is a 20 percent match requirement which can be made with local dollars or in-kind services, a so-called soft match.
- The grant runs through Sept. 30, 2010.
- The grant will only support projects that support use of the 700 MHz band.
- Up to five percent can be used for planning activity.
- In addition to equipment, the grant also will fund training and exercise activity.

*Continued on page 3*

## Michigan Joins Agriculture Security Partnership

The number of member states in the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture has grown to 13 with the recent addition of the State of Michigan.

The Partnership, formed in 2003, is a consortium of states working together on agriculture emergency preparedness and response activities. Through this interstate agreement, states collaborate on surveillance of, preparation for, and response to threats to agriculture, whether intentionally introduced or naturally occurring. The Partnership was initiated and continues to be managed by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

"We are very pleased to have Michigan in the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture," said Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division Administrator David Miller. "Michigan's experience with food and agricultural emergencies will bring a valuable perspective to the Partnership."



The Partnership has worked on issues that cross state lines, including development of agricultural emergency response plans, development of risk communication materials, assessment of state training and exercise offerings, and analyzing surveillance capabilities and disease reporting data systems throughout the nation. The Partnership, comprised of state animal health, emergency management, and homeland security officials, coordinates efforts with all levels of government.

## Atchison Named to Lead UHL

University of Iowa Vice President for Research Meredith Hay announced on July 17 the appointment of Christopher G. Atchison as director of the University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL), effective Aug. 1. Atchison has served as interim director at the UHL since October 2006.

Atchison is associate dean for public health practice, and a clinical professor of health management and policy in the University of Iowa College of Public Health. He directs the college's Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness, one of 36 such centers funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and established to bolster the public health workforce's ability to respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. He also chairs the University of Iowa Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Task Force, established in January 2006 to examine the University's readiness and develop a plan in the event of a pandemic flu outbreak.

"I am truly honored to have the privilege to lead the University Hygienic Laboratory," Atchison said. "As interim director for the past several months, I have seen firsthand the dedication and professionalism the UHL staff brings to serving the public health needs of Iowa, the nation and the world. I look forward to continuing to work with them to meet the public health challenges of the 21st century."

Prior to joining the University of Iowa faculty in 1999, Atchison served as director of the Iowa Department of Public Health from 1991 through 1998.

## HSEMD Partners for National Preparedness Month

HSEMD and the American Red Cross are partnering to promote National Preparedness Month in September with additional help from Hy-Vee, the National Weather Service, and the Iowa Lottery.

Throughout September, Hy-Vee will be promoting individual preparedness by printing grocery sacks with a message that urges shoppers to get a kit, make a plan, be informed, get involved. The grocery sacks will also direct individuals to the [www.BeReadyIowa.org](http://www.BeReadyIowa.org) Web site.

The Be Ready Iowa! Web site will be updated for the month and will provide more in-depth preparedness information and a chance to win one of several emergency supply kits donated by the American Red Cross Central Iowa Chapter.

The National Weather Service will broadcast public service announcements on individual preparedness via NOAA Weather Radio. The

Iowa Lottery will promote the Be Ready Iowa! Web site on their on-line tickets for Powerball, Hot Lotto, and Pick 3. Details are still being worked out for a Preparedness Month kick-off news conference.

In addition, many of Iowa's county emergency management coordinators will be hosting local events.

Please take the time during National Preparedness Month to prepare your family for disasters. It is important for each of us to play a part in personal preparedness. Preparing for an emergency in advance can help reduce the fear, anxiety, and loss that accompany disasters.

Make a supply kit, have a plan, be informed. Don't be afraid, Be Ready!



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## Communications Interoperability Grant

*Continued from page 1*

During the last legislative session, a communications interoperability governance board was established comprised of local and state responders. Announcement of the board members is expected soon. One of the first reports the board will hear is from a contractor that has been working to inventory existing radio and communication systems in the state.

"We're excited by this announcement," explained David Miller, administrator for HSEMD. "This will be a major project that will involve close coordination with state and local responders," he emphasized.

HSEMD staff is working closely with federal officials to learn more about this grant and the details associated with it. Watch *Secure and Prepared* for more news about the grant.

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A Division of the Department of Public Defense

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**HSEMD Mission**

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for

**We're on the Web!**

[www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org)

## HSEMD Spotlight: Wade Travis

Wade Travis is HSEMD's legislative liaison and is a member of the Division's executive staff. He serves as the agency spokesperson before the members and committees of the Iowa Legislature and monitors legislative issues before Congress. Among his many duties, Wade also serves as the Division's inter-governmental liaison on matters and initiatives relative to Iowa's Accountable Government Act, the Governor's Leadership Agenda, and the Enterprise Planning Team on Safe Communities.



Wade originally joined the Division in July of 2001 as the Administration Bureau chief. He transitioned to his current job responsibilities when HSEMD's accounting functions were consolidated with those of the Department of Public Defense State Fiscal Office.

Prior to joining HSEMD, Wade worked 15 years for Iowa Workforce Development where he served as the assistant workers' compensation commissioner.

Wade is a graduate and big-time fan of the University of Iowa. (The ring-tone on his cell phone is the Iowa Fight Song!) He is married with four grown children, just recently became a first-time grandpa, and has a second grandchild due in December. When not at work, Wade enjoys spending time with his family, traveling and camping in his motor home, fishing, designing and making hardwood furniture, and of course, Hawkeye sports. All of which he plans on doing a whole lot more of following his retirement from HSEMD this coming October.

## Joint Field Office to Close

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and Federal Emergency Management Agency Joint Field Office (JFO) will close August 10.

On August 9, JFO Public Assistance staff will be relocated to the HSEMD offices in Johnston and may be reached at the Division's main number, 515-725-3231.