



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- On April 9-12, the Iowa Department of Public Health sponsored a pandemic influenza exercise. See article on page 3.
- Jefferson County Emergency Management sponsored the county's first full-scale exercise. See article on page 4.
- Fifty-seven Iowa applicants received CEDAP grants. See article on page 7.

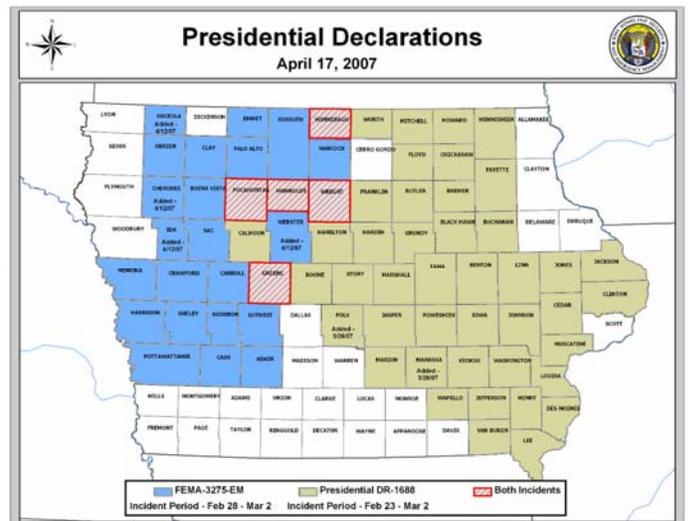
The Fourth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference is July 16-18

See article on page 7 and visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org for more information.

Iowa Receives Snow Emergency Declaration

On March 31st, Iowa received a Presidential Emergency Declaration for Iowa counties affected by recent record snowfalls. This presidential declaration enables public entities to receive federal aid. Public entities in the declared counties are eligible for reimbursement of 48 continuous hours of snow removal expenses incurred as the result of record and near record snowfalls during the period of February 28 to March 2, 2007.

Counties included in the declaration are: Adair, Audubon, Buena Vista, Carroll, Cass, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Emmet, Greene, Guthrie, Hancock, Harrison, Humboldt, Ida, Kossuth, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Pottawattamie, Sac, Shelby, Webster, Winnebago, and Wright. Applicants must submit a Request for Public Assistance form by April 29, 2007.



To obtain a Request for Public Assistance form go to www.iowahomelandsecurity.org, click on Winter Storm Information/Assistance, and select Public Assistance forms. Completed forms should be faxed to the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division at 515-725-3260.

In addition, on March 14th following back-to-back snow storms, Iowa received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for the following counties: Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Calhoun, Cedar, Chickasaw, Clinton, Des Moines, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Greene, Grundy, Hamilton, Hardin, Henry, Howard, Humboldt, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Marion, Marshall, Mitchell, Muscatine, Pocahontas, Poweshiek, Story, Tama, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington, Winnebago, Winneshiek, Worth, and Wright. An April 13 deadline has already passed for eligible applicants in these counties. Mahaska and Polk Counties were added later and face an April 25th deadline. The declaration provides Public Assistance, Debris Removal and Hazard Mitigation programs.

The assistance is available to state and eligible local governments on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures (Continued on page 2)

Iowa Receives Snow Emergency Declaration

Continued from page 1

that were undertaken to save lives and protect public health, safety and property over a continuous 48-hour period during or proximate to the incident period.

HSEMD was also informed on April 11, that the USDA/FSA approved Iowa's request for an Administrator's Declaration. The entire state, with the exception of six counties, is eligible for USDA Emergency Loans. Producers who sustained physical damages as a result of the storms should work through their county FSA offices. The following counties were not included in the USDA Declaration: Dickinson, Emmet, Fremont, Mills, Page, and Wayne. For more information, visit <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/USDAEMLoan.asp>.

April 20th is the application deadline for the Iowa Individual Assistance Program. On March 6, Governor Culver signed into law this \$1 million grant program for low-income Iowans who suffered losses due to the winter storms. Under this program, low-income Iowans may apply for state grants to replace storm-caused losses. For additional information visit: http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/financial_support/Winter_Storm_Help.html.

Iowa is also pursuing the possibility of requesting a Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Declaration. The deadline to apply was on April 16th and HSEMD received enough applications to request an SBA Declaration. More information on the Iowa Individual Assistance Program and the request for an SBA Declaration will be forthcoming.

County emergency management coordinators, please note: Presidential Disaster Declaration received for Iowa's severe winter storms triggered an Iowa Code review requirement for county emergency plans. For more information, see <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/1688ReviewLetter.pdf>. As a point of clarification, the Snow Declaration some counties received is a Presidential Emergency Declaration and does not require review of the operations plan, although it is recommended.

Spring Has Sprung, So Now What?

By HSEMD Administrator, David L. Miller



There's nothing like the wonders of spring, be it sitting on your deck with your shoes off, or hitting a little white ball around the pasture, or simply taking a walk around the park. All remind us of a great time of the year to put Old Man Winter behind us and think of more pleasant, warmer days ahead.

This is a good time to plan longer-term strategic activities for the coming months. It is easy to get sucked into day-to-day operations and lose track of the bigger goals and missions we face. I've asked my staff to review our Strategic Plan to judge our progress, make changes as necessary and set some mileposts to gauge our progress. This review does two things.

First it gives us a chance to see the progress we've made in advancing our programs. It is important to remember that we are making improvements and our work does make a difference. And second, it helps you focus on some bigger steps to take.

It is also a good time to set your exercise plans for the warm months ahead. We've had a very busy exercise schedule with scenarios involving a pandemic flu and a security threat at a nuclear power plant. Now is a good time to take a minute to think about portions of your plans you'd like to test with exercises, especially those that involve any full scale response activity.

I'd like to close by thanking everyone for all the work that you do – most of it unnoticed by the general public. We are working to complete an after action report on the ice storm/blizzard. While we have already identified a number of areas to improve, it is important to remember because of our actions, the actual damage to our state in terms of deaths and injuries was minimized. That's the bottom line that counts the most.

State Agencies and 10 Counties Participate in Pandemic Influenza Exercise

On April 9-12, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) sponsored Operation SPRING, a pandemic influenza exercise, which included involvement with most state agencies, including HSEMD, and multiple local jurisdictions. Counties participating in the exercise included: Cass, Clay, Chickasaw, Dallas, Dubuque, Lucas, O'Brien, Polk, Pottawattamie and Wayne.

During the functional and full-scale days of the exercise, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the Joint Information Center, and the IDPH Emergency Coordination Center were activated and partially staffed. The state Receipt, Storage, and Staging facility received and distributed the Strategic National Stockpile and Iowa assets. At the county level, regional distribution nodes focused on receiving Strategic National Stockpile and State caches. County Point of Dispensing sites practiced asset distribution. The last day of the exercise consisted of a recovery-based tabletop at the local and state levels.

Involvement from the county level included the following disciplines: emergency management, emergency medical services, public health, hospitals, public information, elected officials, animal services, law enforcement, environmental health, schools, and businesses.

Thank you to everyone who participated. As with any exercise, there were valuable lessons learned. Following are a few examples. An after-action report will be issued at a later date.

- Requests for assistance should come by phone to the State EOC because they may get missed on WebEOC. Even if the request is in Web EOC, the State EOC will still need to call the local EMA to get more details.
- Avoid use of acronyms, especially on WebEOC. Plain language is strongly urged due to the complexity of medical terms and abbreviations that many responding agencies are not familiar with and it's a rule of NIMS.
- More training in WebEOC is needed. Having skilled and experienced support staff to operate WebEOC was cited by multiple participating counties. In other words, having someone other than the emergency management coordinator makes it much easier to handle WebEOC in a crisis. The next course is scheduled for May 9 in Johnston. Visit the HSEMD training website at <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar> for more information.



From top to bottom, Wayne County exercises its distribution node, the state EOC was opened, and members of the simulation cell keeps participants on their toes providing exercise injects.

Jefferson County Holds First Full-Scale Exercise

On April 7, the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency sponsored the first full-scale exercise ever held in that county. The exercise dubbed "Operation Twisted," included a scenario where a tornado had hit the city of Fairfield.

Over 350 people from 25 different agencies participated in the exercise including emergency management, law enforcement, fire, first responders, and public health. Local elected officials from the cities of Batavia, Libertyville, Lockridge, Ottumwa, Packwood, and the counties of Jefferson, Mahaska, Monroe and Van Buren also participated. The Civil Air Patrol, Ottumwa Salvation Army, Southern Prairie Red Cross, and medical helicopters from Burlington, Ottumwa, and Cedar Rapids were also involved in the exercise.

Jefferson County Emergency Management Coordinator Jerry Calnon said he was "thrilled" with how the exercise played out and by the number of entities who wanted to participate. "There were many lessons learned. Everyone had things to work through, but after the initial chaos everyone fell into a routine and did an extremely good job of completing their tasks."

According to Calnon, one of the biggest issues that came out of the exercise had to do with communications. "We had the equipment and frequencies needed to communicate, but we had a human shortage in the number of people trained to use the equipment."

"This exercise showed the great dedication and teamwork of emergency response in Iowa," said Jack Briggs, HSEMD Region V liaison, who provided technical assistance for the exercise and helped facilitate the after-action briefing. "The cooperation between helicopter services, the Civil Air Patrol, and over 300 total air and ground participants was exceptional, as was the ability to coordinate this type of participation for an exercise of this magnitude."

Objectives of the exercise were to:

- Test response activities of local agencies to a natural disaster.
- View general operational controls under Incident Command and National Incident Command System approved procedures.
- Test agency mutual aid and other support structures of local agencies when their capacity is exceeded.
- Verify interoperable communications capability between agencies and command levels.
- Exercise most or all annexes of the overall county response plan.



Members of medical helicopter services Air-Evac from Ottumwa, Lifeguard from St. Luke's in Cedar Rapids, Med Force from Burlington, and the Civil Air Patrol coordinate missions at the Fairfield airport during the exercise.

HSEMD to Host HSEEP Train-the-Trainer Course

The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) train-the-trainer course will be held June 5-8 in Altoona, Iowa. Graduates will be expected to provide HSEEP training at the local and regional levels.

The target audience for this class includes: exercise program managers, exercise planning team members, controllers/facilitators, evaluators, and senior officials. Prerequisites include IS-120a, An Introduction to Exercises. This course provides an orientation to the types of exercises used to test and evaluate a community's emergency plan. To access the IS-120a course, go to: <http://hseep.dhs.gov>. To register for the HSEEP course online, visit <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>.

Quad Cities Anti-Terrorism Drill Deemed a Success

On April 4, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Iowa Department of Public Safety, and other state agencies along with Clinton and Scott Counties participated in a newly-developed threat-based drill with the Exelon Quad-Cities Generating Station. Around 1,000 people from Iowa and Illinois participated.

The drill tested the cooperation and communication between local emergency response teams in the event of a terrorist incident at the Exelon Quad-Cities Generating Station. It was deemed a successful learning experience by Exelon officials. While pilot drills of the threat-based scenario were conducted in 2006, this was the first time the scenario was used at a nuclear facility to test guidelines developed in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.



HSEMD Operations staff and members of special tactical teams coordinate information in the state emergency operations center during the threat-based Quad Cities Power Plant exercise.

Although the drill wasn't graded, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will grade future drills. Within three years, every nuclear power facility in the country will hold similar drills, using scenarios such as terrorists crashing a hijacked airplane into a nuclear plant or intruders with bombs forcing their way into a plant.

HSEMD to Host Infrastructure Protection Summit

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division will host an Infrastructure Protection Summit May 23 and 24, 2007 at Prairie Meadows in Altoona, Iowa.

The goal is to provide representatives from government and industry the opportunity to learn about efforts and strategies to secure critical infrastructure and key resources not only within Iowa but the nation. Speakers will share National Infrastructure Protection Plan roles, federal enforcement of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan, information sharing and threat integration, and sector specific infrastructure protection.

This is an opportunity for county emergency management coordinators, first responders, local, tribal, and state entities, law enforcement, the private sector and others to share and discuss current issues related to the National Infrastructure Protection Plan.

Additional information and registration details will follow as logistics are finalized. Please check back as information will be posted to the HSEMD Web site at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org. For more information contact Vicki Morris at 515-725-3231. Please note that an Iowa Public Safety seminar is being held at the same location on the same day, and is not part of the Infrastructure Protection Summit.

FFY 2006 CEDAP Grants Awarded

Fifty-seven Iowa applicants have received grants under the FFY 2006 Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) administered by the Preparedness Directorate's Office of Grants and Training. Congress established CEDAP in FFY 2005 appropriations to ensure that law enforcement and emergency responder agencies, departments, and task forces can acquire, through direct assistance, the specialized equipment and training they require to meet their homeland security mission.

The following will receive CEDAP grants: Ames Police Department, Ankeny Police Department, Atkins Fire and First Responders Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office, Boone Fire / Rescue, Bremer County Sheriff's Office, Britt Police Department, Canton/Benton/Shellsburg Fire Department, Carroll Police Department, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, City of Dunlap, Coralville Police Department, Eastern Iowa Airport Police/Fire, Elkader Police Department, Estherville Police Department, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Garnavillo Police Department, Garner Police Department, Guttenberg Police Department, Hancock County Sheriff's Office, Harlan Police Department, Henry County Sheriff's Office, Humboldt Police Department, Iowa City Police Department, Iowa State Fire Marshal's Office, Johnson County Sheriff's Office, Johnston Police Department, Lake View Police Department, Linn County Sheriff's Office, Maquoketa Police Department, Mason City Police Department, Mitchell County Sheriff's Office, Muscatine Police Department, Nevada Police Department, Norway Volunteer Fire Department, Onawa Police Department, Osage Police Department, Osceola County Sheriff's Office, Region V Hazardous Materials Response Team, Sac County Sheriff's Office, Sergeant Bluff Police Department, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, Sheldon Police Department, Sioux County Sheriff's Office, Tripoli Police Department, University of Iowa Police Department, Van Meter - Law Enforcement, Wapello Fire and Rescue, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Waverly Police Department, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Webster County Sheriff's Office, West Branch Police Department, West Burlington Police Department, Williamsburg Police Department, Winterset Police Department.

Applicants were able to request commercial equipment from the general categories of: personal protective equipment; rescue tools; thermal imaging, night vision and video surveillance tools; chemical and biological detection tools; information technology and risk management tools; and interoperable communications gateways.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security also recently announced the schedule for the FFY 2007 CEDAP grant application period. Applications may be submitted via the Responder Knowledge Base (www.rkb.mipt.org) from April 25th to May 29th. To assist applicants, a sample application is available at the Responder Knowledge Base. Questions regarding the CEDAP sample application should be referred to the Centralized Scheduling & Information Desk (CSID) at 800-368-6498.

First Responders Gain Online Training Resource

Iowa first responders now have an online resource that offers a collective listing of training and exercises scheduled throughout the state on one Web site: www.IowaResponderTraining.com. This site is designed to help save time and effort in searching for training relevant to their needs. There are multiple training partners within Iowa offering training as it relates to homeland security and emergency management; each with its own schedule and calendar of events.

First responders can search for upcoming training by region, discipline, date or exercises and training providers can submit their schedule of classes to be posted on this site. First responders can also submit a training request if they are unable to find the classes they need. The request will be forwarded to the corresponding training provider.

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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 Iowa and its citizens.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

Homeland Security Conference July 16-18

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division will host the fourth annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference, July 16-18 at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. This year's theme is "Teaming for Success."



**TEAMING
FOR SUCCESS**

Plenary sessions on day one include presentations from: Richard Hainje, regional administrator, FEMA Region VII on The New FEMA; Anthony Cahill, director, Division of Disability and Health Policy, Center for Development and Disability, University of New Mexico School of Medicine on Planning for Special Needs People; Dr. Haven Simmons, associate professor, Salisbury University on The Need for Public Information Officers; and John Metzgar, primary firearms instructor and Firearms Training Systems Simulation instructor from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy on Planning for School Terrorism.

Breakout sessions on day two include: developing training; special needs planning; utilization of the public information officer; automated critical management systems; Safeguard Iowa; the hazards of e-85 production; National Incident Management System requirements and compliancy issues; alert notification systems; homeland security grants; exercise issues; and lessons learned information systems.

For more information or to register, visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and click on the conference link at the top of the page.

Personnel Notes

District/Region Planners - Paul Sadler will be the new IEMA District 3/ Homeland Security Region 3 liaison from HSEMD. Jack Briggs will assume full duties of the IEMA District 5/Homeland Security Region 5 liaison from HSEMD to include meeting attendance and county emergency operation plan review. Susan Dixon, HSEMD's newest planner, will be the planning assistant to District/Region 3 while also providing assistance to other Districts/Regions as needed. A region map is located on HSEMD's Web site under the Map Gallery at http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/resource_room/info_library.asp and reflects the above changes.

On Special Assignment - Mary Stephens is on special assignment at the Joint Field Office. A temporary employee will be filling in for her helping answer the phones while she's away.

Best Wishes to Tom Hansen, Johnson County emergency management coordinator, on his retirement the end of April. Hansen has been with the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency since 2000. Retirement plans include working at the visitor's center at Custer State Park in South Dakota over the summer.