



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division has been following several bills this legislative session. See article on page 4.
- A Soft Target Awareness Course for front-line personnel will be held June 12-15. See article on page 5.
- Applications for the 2007 Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program are due by May 29. See article on page 6.

Governor Requests Presidential Disaster Declaration

On May 18, Governor Culver sent a letter to President Bush requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration as a result of flooding and severe weather that affected the south central and western portions of the state that started on May 5th.

The Individual Households Program is being requested for the following 11 counties: Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Ida, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Shelby, Taylor, and Union. The Individual Households Program would provide Other Needs Assistance, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Hazard Mitigation (Statewide), Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Programs, and all appropriate U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance programs. Individual assistance damage assessments for potential eligible expenses under federal programs totaled \$4.5 million.

“I had the opportunity to see first hand the extensive damaged caused by spring rains,” said Governor Culver. “I am asking President Bush to declare sections of south central and western Iowa disaster areas, so that lowans whose homes sustained major damage can receive federal help.”

In addition, public assistance is being requested for (*Continued on page 2*)



Above, about 77 homes were flooded in Missouri Valley. Photo provided by the Civil Air Patrol. At left, Governor Chet Culver visits with residents in Missouri Valley during his tour of the damage in western Iowa. Photo provided by the Iowa National Guard.

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

Register early and receive a discount. For more information visit: www.iowahomelandsecurity.org.

Governor Requests Presidential Disaster Declaration

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the following 18 counties: Audubon, Cass, Clark, Crawford, Decatur, Fremont, Harrison, Ida, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Sac, Shelby, Taylor, and Union. The public assistance program is designed to help public organizations rebuild damaged infrastructure that may include roads, bridges, culverts, and other public facilities. Emergency work during the time of the flooding would also be included. Public assistance damage assessments for potential eligible expenses under federal programs totaled \$21.6 million.

The Governor is also requesting Hazard Mitigation "Statewide" and Direct Federal Assistance in the form of debris removal.

Additional counties can be added to the Presidential Disaster Declaration request if additional damage reports warrant their addition.

In addition, the 18 counties covered under the Governor's Proclamation (the same counties mentioned on page one under public assistance) are also eligible for the Iowa Individual Assistance program, which was approved by the last legislative session to aid the neediest of Iowans. This is a reimbursement program meaning receipts are needed. Applications are available at the Iowa Dept. of Human Services Web site at www.dhs.state.ia.us. Look for the Spring Storm Help link.

There is also information on the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Web site at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org under the link Spring Storm/Flooding Assistance.



Photos from top: Cars were flooded in a hotel parking lot near Missouri Valley on I-29. In Red Oak, flood waters surround homes. On May 7, nearly 1,600 people had been advised to evacuate, *photo provided by FEMA*. In Council Bluffs damage assessors survey a private driveway that gave way to a mudslide, which in turn fell on a house below.



Ice Removal Guidelines Clarified

New guidelines have been issued regarding eligible costs associated with cleaning up from the ice storm that hit Iowa in late February and early March. Under the guidelines applicants can be reimbursed for ice removal at main intersections under these conditions:

- The county can certify that the ice was posing an imminent danger to the public. Certification can be by a local expert such as the county engineer or road supervisor.
- The costs only apply to main intersections.
- There is no 48-hour requirement for these specific removal costs.
- Note this is only for counties declared under Disaster 1688, the Ice Storm Declaration which covered parts of central and most of eastern Iowa.

For more information, or if you have questions, contact Mike Hanson at the Joint Field Office, (515) 645-8904.

Winter Storm Disaster Update

Even though we are now approaching summer and are working a new disaster due to spring flooding, we continue to work through the federal aid process associated with response and recovery efforts for the late winter ice and snow storms.

For counties covered under the Presidential Disaster Declaration for the ice storm and severe winter weather, federal funding was made available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe winter storms. As of May 17, there have been 483 applicants and \$4,112,544 obligated. Counties under the Presidential Disaster Declaration include: 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, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Mitchell, Muscatine, Pocahontas, Polk, Poweshiek, Story, Tama, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington, Winnebago, Winneshiek, Worth, and Wright.

Public entities located in counties under the Presidential Emergency Declaration for heavy snowfall, were eligible for reimbursement of 48 continuous hours of snow removal expenses and other emergency protective measures incurred as the result of record and near-record snowfalls (see removal update article above). As of May 17, there have been 220 applicants and \$673,033 obligated. Counties under the Presidential Emergency Declaration include: Adair, Audubon, Buena Vista, Carroll, Cass, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Dickinson, Emmet, Greene, Guthrie, Hancock, Harrison, Humboldt, Ida, Kossuth, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Pottawattamie, Sac, Shelby, Webster, Winnebago, Woodbury, and Wright.

Under the state's emergency stop-gap legislation, low-income Iowans were able to apply for state grants to help replace losses in counties covered under the Governor's Emergency proclamation, which included all 99 counties. According to the Iowa Department of Human Services, 615 applications were given grants totaling \$238,964.28. The average pay out was about \$220. Food and temporary housing are the two areas that received the largest number of claims.

Meanwhile, under an Economic Injury Disaster Declaration, the Small Business Administration (SBA) offered disaster assistance to small businesses in the form of low-interest loans. On May 10, Clayton County was added to the declaration, making Clayton and its contiguous counties of Allamakee, Buchanan, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, and Winneshiek eligible for SBA assistance. For a complete list of the counties covered under the SBA declaration, visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/SBA.asp.

2007 Legislative Round Up

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division has been following several bills this legislative session. Following are bills of interest that have passed both the House and Senate.

House File 896 – Disaster Aid Individual Assistance Grant Fund: This bill, in new Code section 29C.20A, created a disaster aid individual assistance grant fund for the use of the Executive Council. The fund may be used to make financial grants of up to \$1 million in a fiscal year following a governor's disaster proclamation to meet the needs of individuals affected by the disaster. However, within the same fiscal year, additional funds may be specifically authorized by the Executive Council to meet additional needs. The fund will be administered by the Department of Human Services, which shall adopt appropriate rules. In addition, the Executive Council shall use grant funds to reimburse the Department of Human Services for its expenses in administering the fund. Grants are limited to applicants who have an annual household income of less than 130 percent of the federal poverty level. The grant amount is limited to 25 percent of 130 percent of the federal poverty level and may be used only for replacement of personal property, home repair, food assistance, and temporary housing assistance. **Status-- Effective 07-01-07.**

House File 353 – Interoperable Communications: This bill concerns public safety communications and enhancement of statewide communications interoperability efforts. The bill establishes a statewide interoperable communications system board, under the joint purview of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation. The bill specifies that the board shall develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local level, coordinate with similar efforts at the federal level, and ultimately develop and oversee the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system. **Status – Effective 07-01-07.**

House File 587 – Emergency Services Agreements: Under current law, a municipality that agrees to provide fire protection service or emergency medical service to another municipality may create an advisory board comprised of one member of the governing body of each municipality that is a party to the agreement. The advisory board is required to prepare an annual budget, and this budget is required to be a part of the budget of the municipality providing the services. This bill allows an existing board to continue to prepare an annual budget until the agreement creating such board is canceled, or expires. The bill makes the board's budget a proposal and subject to the budgeting authority of the municipality providing the services. **Status – Effective 07-01-07.**

House File 925 – Health Related Activities & Regulations on Immunity for Emergency Response: The bill provides legal immunity for persons and entities, or employees or agents of such persons or entities, who in good faith and at the request of or under the direction of the Department of Public Health or the Department of Public Defense render emergency care or assistance during a public health disaster to a victim of such disaster. Such immunity does not apply in the event of recklessness or to a person or entity, or employee or agent of such person or entity, whose act or omission caused the public health disaster and who would otherwise be liable therefore. **Status – Effective 07-01-07.**

Senate File 90 – Emergency Response Communication Services: This bill provides that local emergency management commissions may provide joint emergency response communications services through an agreement entered into under chapter 28E. This legislation allows a local emergency management commission to utilize the local emergency management fund and funding options, as provided for in chapter 29C.17, for the provision of the services up to and including buildings and other infrastructure. **Status – Effective 07-01-07.**

Infrastructure Protection Summit Deadline Extended

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 registration deadline has been extended, so there is still time to register!

The goal of the summit 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 are located on the HSEMD Web site at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org. For more information, contact Vicki Morris at 515-725-3231.

Soft Target Awareness Course Offered in June

A Soft Target Awareness Course will be held June 12th through the 15th at the Adventureland Inn in Altoona. This course is a basic four-hour terrorism awareness course directed at five specific "Soft Target" areas that include education, places of worship, stadiums/arenas, malls and shopping centers, and hotels/hospitals/large buildings. Five sessions will be held over the four-day period.

This course is designed for front-line personnel to include custodial, maintenance, reception, and entry level security personnel. Property and facility managers, supervisors, first line managers are also encouraged to attend.

Participants will:

- Receive an introduction to terrorism.
- Learn to recognize and prevent terrorist activities.
- Learn the basics of detection, deterrence and defense against potential terrorist attacks.
- Learn to recognize suspicious activities.
- Learn to be proactive and better understand your role in defending your facility.
- Discuss with other attendees issues related to security at your company or business.

The classes will be instructed by representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Class size is limited to 50 per class and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. This course is provided at no cost to all participants, through a U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant.

Pre-registration is required. The registration deadline is June 5, 2007. To register go to: <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>. If you do not currently have an account for this site, you will be required to create an account prior to registering for the courses. The "Create an Account" link is located on the right side of the screen.

For questions concerning registration, contact Beth Gathercole at beth.gathercole@iowa.gov or 515-725-3204. For questions specific to the course, contact August Geisinger at august.geisinger@iowa.gov or 515-323-4262. Attendees, please remember that you must show a driver's license or other government-issued photo ID for entry into the course.

FFY 2007 CEDAP Application Period Ends May 29th

Applications for the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) FY2007 are due by May 29, 2007. As of May 15, only 22 applications from Iowa have been received. First responder organizations are encouraged to apply. Last year, Iowa was very successful in applying for this program with 156 applicants and 57 awards received.

CEDAP complements the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Preparedness Directorate's other major grants programs to enhance regional response capabilities, mutual aid, and interoperable communications by providing technology and equipment, together with training and technical assistance required to operate that equipment, to public safety agencies in smaller jurisdictions and certain metropolitan areas.

CEDAP's equipment offerings include:

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Thermal Imaging, Night Vision, and Video Surveillance
- Chemical and Biological Detection
- Information Technology and Risk Management Tools
- Interoperable Communications Equipment/Technology

Eligible applicants include law enforcement agencies, fire, and other emergency responders who demonstrate that the equipment will be used to improve their ability and capacity to respond to a major critical incident or work with other first responders. Awardees must not have received equipment/funding under the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program for which the Award Date is October 1, 2005 or later. Awardees that have received grant assistance from FEMA under FEMA's Interoperable Communications Equipment (ICE) program are not eligible for interoperable communications equipment under CEDAP. Organizations must submit applications through the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) Web site at www.rkb.mipt.org.

Prospective applicants should direct any questions regarding CEDAP, the application, or the awards process to the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) at 1-800-368-6498 or via e-mail at askcsid@dhs.gov. Questions regarding access to the Responder Knowledge Base or problems with the online application should be referred to the RKB staff, email address rkb@terrorism.com. For more information, visit www.dhs.gov.

Help Us Keep LEPC Appointments Current

Since the early 1990's when computerized databases started to become something ordinary people could maintain, HSEMD has maintained a database of current Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) members. We need to know when there are changes to your local or regional emergency planning committee. Since some of the LEPC members have been on the database since 1996, there is reason to think that maybe we are not getting all the information we need to keep our information current.

Both federal and state laws require that persons who want to serve on their LEPC be appointed by the Iowa Emergency Response Commission (IERC). The real benefit to being appointed is that it affords LEPC members tort liability. That means that the State Attorney General will defend an LEPC member if they are sued for actions in office. Fortunately, this has never been necessary in Iowa.

At every IERC meeting, HSEMD verifies the membership, based on the database. When someone leaves or joins your LEPC, please let us know. Preferably, there is a "nomination" form that we would like you to use to document these changes, but an e-mail would also be welcome. If you want to submit nominations or resignations or just want to know who is listed on the database for your LEPC, please contact Paul Sadler at paul.sadler@iowa.gov.

HSEMD Successful in Meeting Audit Requirements

The State of Iowa's Single Audit Report for fiscal year 2006 has been released. Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management had no findings. Bonnie Rieder, chief budget analyst for HSEMD says "this is the best audit report for our agency that I have seen. We had no non-compliance matters."

The report covers the disbursement of federal funds by all state agencies, institutions and universities and includes a review of internal controls and compliance with federal laws and regulations. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. An audit finding is a deficiency or deficiencies in a grant, found during the audit process, in one or more of several key areas: internal control, compliance, questioned costs, etc.

Congratulations to the HSEMD financial officers, for ensuring HSEMD met the audit requirements.

Food Salvage Training Receives Overwhelming Response

Food safety is one of several critical components of a larger environmental public health system to protect Iowa and the nation's food supply chain. Recent disasters, including Hurricane Katrina and other food supply emergencies like the Spinach and *E. coli* 0157 outbreak, show the need for qualified, credentialed and competent environmental public health responders is greater now than ever. Mass gatherings and mass shelter situations also have the potential to create unique foodborne outbreak events that require intensive food safety and salvage practices.

Through a collaborative effort, 85 participants attended a training on food salvage and food safety in shelters training held on April 19 in Des Moines. The targeted audience was Iowa's state and local environmental health professionals and emergency responders. The collaborative effort to develop this training included the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Food Safety Task Force, and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

"Iowa is on the forefront of offering this type of training," said Cory Frank, Environmental Health Response Team Coordinator for the Iowa Department of Public Health. "This training is greatly needed because currently there is no organized federal training on food salvage."

The two keynote speakers for this training were Captain Cindy Kunkel, Regional Food Safety Specialist with the Food and Drug Administration based in Lenexa, Kansas and Courtney Bock from the City of Houston Health Department. Captain Kunkel's presentation included detailed procedures of food salvage and emergency response, while Bock discussed food salvage and her experience at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston during the Hurricane Katrina evacuations. Robert Haxton, from the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, gave an explanation of how to transport and dispose of adulterated food products. Attendees then participated in an exercise applying what they had learned during the day to several different scenarios involving food safety in a shelter setting or food salvage following a disaster or emergency. Individuals were asked during seven unique scenario discussions, to identify potential risks, mitigation steps and planning concepts to address their unique emergency or disaster event.

"Collaborative training efforts like this are great opportunities to gain valuable knowledge and create and amplify networking opportunities among the food safety community," said Frank. "Sponsoring agencies will continue to explore new and innovative opportunities to build upon the foundation created by this creative training experience."

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
Kyle Karsjen
Lucinda Robertson
Kathy Stodola
Bret Voorhees
Lynda Wessel

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 is 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 Populations;
- 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. To receive the early registration discount, please register by June 29th.

Personnel Notes

Farewell to Ann Garvey - Ann Garvey has accepted the state public health veterinarian position with the Iowa Department of Public Health. Her last day with the Division is June 1st. Ann has been with the division for 4 years working in the areas of agriculture and exercise. She served as a liaison to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and was the State Exercise Training Officer.

Ann has been instrumental in coordinating the Multi State Partnership for Security in Agriculture, and has worked to improve the Small Business Administration (SBA) and Agricultural Secretarial declaration process within the state of Iowa. She has also been very aggressive in coordinating and conducting agricultural training throughout the state.

Best wishes to Ann. We'll miss her very much!