



SECURE & PREPARED

August 20, 2007

Volume 3, Issue 14

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Clayton County Receives Governor's Disaster Proclamation for July Flooding

On August 9, Governor Culver issued a proclamation of disaster emergency for Clayton County due to damages from severe weather and flooding that occurred on July 17 and 18. This declaration automatically launches Iowa's individual disaster assistance grant program, which means low-income residents in Clayton County may now apply for state grants of up to \$3,319 to replace losses caused by the heavy rains. Residents have until September 24 to apply.

Applications may be completed by households whose annual income is 130 percent or less of federal poverty guidelines, which is \$13,273 for a single individual, \$17,797 for a family of two and \$26,845 for a family of four.

An application form with instructions is available on the front page of the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) Web site at www.dhs.iowa.gov. Look for the words "Summer Storm Help" in the Frequently-Visited Links area. Residents may also call the DHS toll-free hotline at 866-434-4692 for assistance.

Special points of interest:

- HSEMD's Threat Information and Protection Program (TIPP) will host two training opportunities in September. See page 2.
- Mahaska County recently held a large full-scale exercise and learned some valuable lessons. See page 3.
- HSEMD's Vicki Morris participated and won in a few Iowa State fair competitions. See page 4.

HSEMD Creates Guidebook for Local Officials

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) recently published the Introduction to Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Local Officials. This guidebook provides basic, introductory information to officials at the local level on how homeland security and emergency management functions within the state and how local, state and federal emergency management partners work together to keep Iowans safe.

The document provides information on the phases of homeland security and emergency management, recognized hazards in Iowa, local emergency management commission responsibilities, homeland security regions, countywide comprehensive emergency planning, emergency management functions and responsibilities, the incident command system, emergency operations centers, chief elected official functions and responsibilities, continuity of government, local emergency management declarations, state and federal assistance, and statewide capabilities.

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HSEMD Creates Guidebook for Local Officials

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The "Introduction to Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Local Officials" is available on HSEMD's Web site at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/resource_room/info_library.asp.

Printed copies of the document will be distributed at the Iowa Emergency Management Association's booth at the Iowa League of Cities annual conference this fall. If you have any questions about the contents of the book, please contact your local emergency management coordinator, or contact Kyle Karsjen at (515) 725-3237 or kyle.karsjen@iowa.gov.

September is National Preparedness Month

In September, Lt. Governor Patty Judge, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, the American Red Cross, the Iowa Emergency Management Association, Hy-Vee, the Iowa Lottery and the National Weather Service will promote National Preparedness Month. A kick-off event will be held September 4 in Des Moines and will focus on the importance of emergency preparedness planning.

To help Iowans with their preparedness efforts, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division has established a Web site at www.bereadyiowa.org, which provides easy-to-follow tips on preparing for emergencies. Those visiting the Web site will also have a chance to enter a drawing for an American Red Cross emergency supply kit. In addition, anyone can enter the free, random drawing by sending an entry to the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division at 7105 N.W. 70th Avenue, Camp Dodge, Building W-4, Johnston, IA 50131. One entry per person. Entry deadline is September 27, 2007.

TIPP Hosts Training

The HSEMD Threat Information and Protection Program (TIPP) recently hosted a training session on Special Events Security Planning and Preparedness offered via Web cast and the Iowa Communications Network (ICN). The session was recorded and is currently archived on a secure Web site. If you would like to access the archived Web cast or to request a copy of the companion "Special Events Security Guidebook," contact Jeff McKinney at tipp@iowa.gov.

The TIPP office will host the following training opportunities in September:

- September 10, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Buffer Zone Protection Planning: Protecting Iowa's Critical Assets
- September 19, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., the Iowa Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) and The Iowa Health Alert Network (HAN): User Training

Both sessions will be offered via Web cast and the ICN. All participants will receive a training certificate. Contact Jeff McKinney or Curt Sullivan (tipp@iowa.gov) to request additional information and registration instructions.

Mahaska County Holds Full-Scale Exercise

Mahaska County recently held a large full-scale exercise with participation from the local fire departments, hazmat team, hospital, public health, sheriff's office, 911 center and emergency management. The scenario involved 20 people accidentally being sprayed with fungicide by a low-flying crop duster.



The scenario was remarkably similar to an actual incident that happened a few weeks prior in Marshall County. The similarities were coincidental, as Mahaska County had been planning this scenario since spring, but the recent news was in responders' minds during the three-hour exercise.

The scenario was particularly challenging as initial responders learned of some victims evacuating themselves prior to the responders' arrival. The incident commander had to divert units from two fire departments to provide decontamination, medical care and transport to a secondary scene – a local medical clinic. Hospital staff also had to react quickly as more victims arrived unannounced at the emergency room. Good communication between all the agencies involved was key to clearly identifying the three exercise locations that developed over the course of 20 minutes.

“This exercise took four months of planning and it really tested our response to a hazardous material spill in Mahaska County,” said Mahaska County Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Elder.

“It was a good way to find out what we did right and what we did wrong,” added New Sharon Fire Chief Steve Gerard.

The responding agencies learned valuable lessons – including the first field deployment of a new decontamination shower. The challenging scenario had several key lessons learned that may apply to other communities:

- Hospital participants restricted access to the emergency room immediately and posted a staff member outside the entrance. It was noted that a SECURITY vest would have made the staff member's role clear to more arriving victims and medical transport units.
- The fungicide contaminant was identified early in the scenario by the 911 Center. This allowed the incident commander to take two key steps, getting material safety data sheet (MSDS) information from the 911 Center and directing the initial entry team to bring bottles of water to the victims. Victims were then directed to flush their faces to reduce contamination.
- A best practice for future exercises was also noted by participants - the casualty cards told victims that they would “die” in x-number of minutes if they hadn't received medical treatment from responders. The victim actors noted this was a key piece of information they hadn't had in previous exercises.



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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

Morris Competes at State Fair



Vicki Morris knows the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. She understands the importance of form, focus, and strategy. Her tools are hammers, rubber chickens, and cow chips. Her arena--the Iowa State Fair.



Above, HSEMD's Vicki Morris gets into position for the rubber chicken toss. Right, Vicki, joined by her great-niece and nephew Brook and Aiden McQuiston, is awarded 2nd place for the chicken toss.

Morris, HSEMD's assistant homeland security coordinator, is a veteran of State Fair competitions, having competed since 1988. Just this past week, she reclaimed the title of the Fair's ladies' nail driving champion by driving five 3-inch nails into a piece of wood in just 20 seconds. Winning this year's competition by just two hammer strokes, she won the nail driving contest in 1988-1995, 1997-2002, and in 2004. Her secrets to success: Fierce concentration on hitting the nails, adrenalin, and holding the nails between her teeth as she wields the hammer with one hand.

Morris also placed second in the rubber chicken toss, and third in the cow chip throwing contest during this year's Fair.

"Competing is in my blood, whether it was in high school sporting events, local events, or at the State Fair," said Morris. "State Fair competition, whether it's myself or another family member, is a tradition which makes our State Fair adventure a family affair."

A faithful fair-goer for the past 50 years, Morris camps with her family each year at the Fair.

Personnel Notes

Linda Roose has accepted a contract transfer from her current position as a Program Planner 3 in planning to the Multi-State Partnership/Agriculture Program Planner 3 position in the Preparedness Bureau. Linda will begin her new duties on August 24.

Stu Turner has accepted the position as the lead planner for HSEMD. Stu will retain his Region 4 responsibilities until a replacement is found. He began his new duties on Aug 10.

On September 1, **Jack Briggs** will return to HSEMD's main office on Camp Dodge and will no longer be housed in the region. Due to significant reductions in Homeland Security funding HSEMD must discontinue the Regional Liaison position for Region 5; however, Jack will remain the Region 5 planner.

Kathy Karn is now working solely for the Homeland Security Coordinator. She had shared responsibility to support both the Homeland Security Coordinator and the Grants Bureau. With some of the new requirements on homeland security programs, it became necessary for her to return to the Homeland Security section full-time.