



# SECURE & PREPARED

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### Special points of interest:

- September 30 is the deadline for counties to be compliant with planning, training, exercise, and NIMS requirements in order to participate in EMPG for FFY 2008. See the story on the EMPG rollout on page 2.
- Wright County recently exercised its ability to respond to a mass casualty incident. See story on page 4.

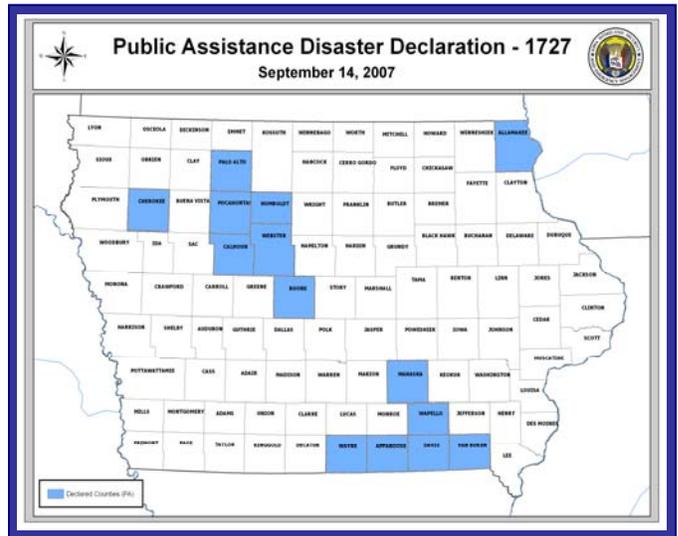
**Don't forget!**  
 September 27 is the deadline to enter HSEMD's drawing to win a disaster supply kit.

## Iowa Receives Presidential Disaster Declaration for August Flooding

On Friday, September 17, Governor Chet Culver received confirmation that Iowa has received a Presidential Disaster Declaration which will make available assistance for Iowa government and non-profit agencies affected by the August flooding and severe weather.

The Governor's request for Individual Assistance, which would make various programs available to affected citizens and businesses, remains under consideration.

The Governor received notification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that a request for Public Assistance programs was approved in the following 14 counties: Allamakee, Appanoose, Boone, Calhoun, Cherokee, Davis, Humboldt, Mahaska, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne, and Webster.  
*Continued on page 2*



## National Preparedness Month Continues

Take time during September, National Preparedness Month, to make an emergency plan, build a disaster supply kit, and learn about the hazards that may affect you and your family.

Visit [www.BeReadyIowa.org](http://www.BeReadyIowa.org) for more information and to enter HSEMD's drawing for a chance to win a Red Cross Disaster Supply Kit. This free, random drawing ends September 27. One entry per person please.

### Be Ready Iowa!



## EMPG Rollout and Training Scheduled for October

The rollout and training for the FFY 2008 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) will be held in October 2007. The Emergency Management Performance Grant program is the cornerstone for strong emergency management programs at the state and local levels. EMPG supports comprehensive all-hazard emergency management programs by providing funding for essential expenses including salaries, benefits, supplies, maintenance of facilities, and other necessary costs for local emergency management agencies.

State and local emergency management agencies use EMPG funds to enhance their emergency management capabilities in a range of areas that include planning, training, conducting exercises, and providing for all-hazards emergency management operations. EMPG differs from other federal grants in that funding can be used for personnel costs such as salaries and benefits.

EMPG is a "performance" grant and federal requirements prescribe that there must be performance in exchange for the funding. The FFY 2008 rollout will focus on developing performance-based work plans and tying the work plans to a grant budget. Part of the training will demonstrate how to set up an accounting system that uniquely accounts for all EMPG revenues and expenditures. In addition, there will be discussion about the new funding allocation formula to be implemented with the FFY 2008 grant. The new formula includes: part/full time status of the coordinator, 50 percent equal share base, 50 percent population with a cap of \$33,000.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** County emergency management agencies must be compliant with planning, training, exercise, and NIMS requirements by September 30, 2007 in order to apply and participate in the FFY 2008 EMPG program. Please contact HSEMD planning, training, and exercise staff if you have questions regarding your compliancy status.

### FFY 2008 EMPG Rollout Schedule

	Date	Time	Location
District 1	TBD	TBD	TBD
District 2	10-15-07	1:00-3:00	Cerro Gordo EMA
District 3	10-19-07	1:30-3:30	Cherokee Location TBD
District 4	10-12-07	10:00-12:00	Creston
District 5	10-11-07	1:00-3:00	Fairfield
District 6	10-16-07	10:00-12:00	Linn County EMA

## Public Assistance Available in Declared Counties

*Continued from page 1*

Public Assistance program funds are available to public entities and select non-profit agencies to rebuild damaged infrastructure that may include roads, bridges, culverts, and other public facilities or to cover costs of emergency work during the time of the flooding that began on August 17, 2007.

Teams from Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management and FEMA will begin conducting briefings for prospective Public Assistance program applicants September 20. Briefings will detail the types of assistance available and the application process.

# Commander's Intent

By HSEMD Administrator David L. Miller



I've recently enrolled in a certificate program at the Naval Post-graduate School in Monterey, California. It has been an interesting, and at times, eye opening experience to learn from national experts on a number of concepts and areas. I've also had the chance to compare notes with my counterparts around the country.

One of the recent class topics was leadership and what the military calls, "commander's intent." In a nutshell this is basic overall guidance a leader gives to staff to help answer the questions -- what does my boss want me to do and how does he or she want me to get there? It's not a motto or a slogan – but represents the governing intent and precepts for all that is done. As an example, the motto for the U.S. Marine Corps may be "Semper Fidelis," but the commander's intent is expressed in these three words: adapt, innovate, overcome.

I've been thinking about the class and as a result have passed on these basic credos to my staff as a means to guide them in all that we do:

1. Treat EVERYONE with dignity and respect.
2. Do the right thing.
3. Have fun.

Now I understand these are simple-sounding guidelines that are easy to say and often hard to carry out. In today's world of instant gratification and needing everything yesterday, it is natural that we have differing viewpoints with key partners, and that can make principle number one hard to carry out. That's why I capitalized EVERYONE, because the idea is to treat internal and external customers and partners the same.

I also know that number two is not as easy as it may seem. The right thing can be a difficult principle to identify when you are working under difficult circumstances and are being pulled in multiple and conflicting directions. Given shifting priorities and sometimes limited resources, the "right thing" can be a difficult item to identify. But in our hearts, this is a principle we can and should always adopt.

*The right thing can be a difficult principle to identify when you are working under difficult circumstances and are being pulled in multiple and conflicting directions.*

The final one is very important. It is too easy for us to get lost in grant deadlines and compliancy requirements to the point they weigh us down and take the fun factor out of our work. While our work may be difficult and at times burdensome, we must find a way to enjoy our work and to take the time to have fun.

I share this with you because everyone that reads this newsletter is a customer or partner and I want you to understand my expectation for my staff. I welcome your comments and appreciate the time many of you take to tell me about times when my staff can improve and times when they excel.

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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)

## Wright County Tests Response to Mass Casualty Incident

Wright County first responders tested their ability to respond to a mock anhydrous ammonia two-vehicle accident at a full-scale exercise in August.

The exercise, held in Goldfield, tested the implementation of the incident command system, the ability to provide effective pre-hospital care to a mass casualty incident, and the evacuation response of area first responders.

"It is important to have these exercises to evaluate how our first responders operate as a team and so they can be prepared in all situations that may arise," said Lisa Peyton, coordinator, Wright County Emergency Management Agency.

The exercise involved 50 participants from 12 agencies, including Dows EMS, Eagle Grove Fire Department, Eagle Grove Police Department, Goldfield Fire Department, Salvation Army, Wright County Emergency Management Agency, Wright Medical Center, Gold-Eagle Co-op, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Iowa Department of Public Health, and Belmont EMS.



Above, Goldfield firefighters apply a protective water fog on a "leaking" anhydrous ammonia tank during a mass casualty exercise testing Wright County response procedures. Right, firefighters carry a "victim" from the scene of traffic accident during a mass casualty exercise testing Wright County response procedures.



## HSEMD Speaker's Bureau

Would a group you belong to like to learn more about homeland security and emergency management activities in Iowa? Whether it's civic groups or church organizations, HSEMD will be happy to speak to your organization about these and other topics.

To find out more, or to schedule a presentation, contact Lucinda Robertson via e-mail at [Lucinda.Robertson@iowa.gov](mailto:Lucinda.Robertson@iowa.gov) or by phone at 515-725-3239.