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Special points of interest:

- Iowa is eligible to receive \$10,935,974 from the PSIC Grant Program. See article on page 2.
- Members of HSEMD's Grants Bureau and the State Fiscal Office for the Iowa Department of Public Defense recently received a Governor's Golden Dome Award. See article on page 3.
- The 2007 Iowa Hazardous Materials Symposium will be held October 25 & 26 in Ames. See article on page 4.

Iowa Leads EMAC Coordination Group

On September 28, Iowa assumed duties as the National Coordination Group (NCG) for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), making HSEMD the lead on activating EMAC and coordinating state to state resources when an emergency or disaster is anticipated or occurs.



In addition, HSEMD's Readiness and Response Bureau Chief Jerry Ostendorf became chair of the EMAC Executive Task Force (ETF). The NCG is collocated with the current Chair of the EMAC Operations Subcommittee and Executive Task Force. Because the Chair of the EMAC Operations Subcommittee changes every year, the NCG changes every year as well.

The NCG is the operational arm of EMAC and is responsible for oversight of all EMAC emergency response and recovery operations. The NCG ensures that operational procedures are followed, coordinating teams are adequately staffed, and that timely status reports on EMAC deployments are issued. In coordination with other ETF members and the EMAC committee chair, the NCG leader resolves any policy or procedural issues during the activation and implementation of EMAC functions within the emergency management systems command and control structure. *Continued on page 2.*

Iowa Denied Individual Assistance

On October 10, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division received word that the State's request for Individual Assistance due to severe storms and flooding that occurred in August was denied. This assistance would have provided Individual Household Assistance programs to residents in 14 counties. Iowa has 30 days to appeal the decision.

Also on October 10, Montgomery, Union and Winneshiek Counties were added to the Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance. These three counties join a list of 14 counties originally declared on September 14.

The Public Assistance program supplements state and local recovery efforts, making federal funds 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 storms and flooding. Counties previously declared eligible are Allamakee, Appanoose, Boone, Calhoun, Cherokee, Davis, Humboldt, Mahaska, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne, and Webster.

Iowa Leads EMAC Coordination Group

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EMAC is a national interstate mutual aid agreement that enables states to share resources during times of disaster. Since the 104th Congress ratified the Compact in 1996, EMAC has grown to become the nation's system for providing mutual aid through operational procedures and protocols that have been validated during disasters where assistance was provided under the Compact. Iowa passed EMAC legislation in 1997.

Iowa Eligible for PSIC Grant Program

In July, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced they would make \$968,385,000 in grant awards through the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program. Iowa is eligible to receive \$10,935,974 from this grant program. All grant funds must be expended by September 30, 2010.

The PSIC Grant Program will assist public safety agencies in the planning and coordination with, acquisition of, deployment of, or training for the use of interoperable communications equipment, software, and systems. The program requires that a defined portion of the funds (for Iowa \$846,979) be set aside for the creation of a Strategic Technology Reserve (STR). The STR must be capable of re-establishing communications when existing critical infrastructure is damaged or destroyed in an emergency or major disaster.

The eligible applicants for this program are the 56 States and Territories. The State Administrative Agency (SAA) is the only agency eligible to apply for PSIC funds. In Iowa, the SAA is HSEMD.

Applications for PSIC funds must contain the following three elements:

- Applications for PSIC funds were due by August 22, 2007. Iowa submitted the application on August 20.
- The State needs to develop a plan that is consistent with SAFECOM guidance. These plans must include information on how public safety agencies will interoperate within and to 700 MHz, interoperate with and to reallocated radio spectrum, how a strategic technology reserve will be established and implemented, how local and tribal government needs will be met, and how non-governmental response organizations needs will be addressed. This is due on December 3, 2007.
- The SAA may submit up to 10 justifications. One justification must be for the Strategic Technology Reserve. 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. The justification package is due on December 3, 2007.

Each state will make no less than 80 percent of the total award amount available as a pass through to such local or tribal government or authorized nongovernmental public safety agencies. By statute, each public safety agency receiving PSIC funds is required to provide a 20 percent match. These match funds cannot come from federal sources. Match can be met by in kind and cash from non-federal sources.

Funds will be made available in spring of 2008 to the SAA based on approval of plan and investment justifications. The newly created Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board has the responsibility the planning for, funding of, implementation of, and ongoing operation of a statewide interoperable communications system. Accordingly, the Board will play a major role in determining which projects to submit as part of the Investment Justification process.

Public Defense/HSEMD Receives Golden Dome Award

Members of HSEMD's Grants Bureau and the State Fiscal Office for the Iowa Department of Public Defense recently received a Governor's Golden Dome Award for the team effort of combining fiscal and accounting processes into one function under the Department of Public Defense. This action has provided a more functional and accurate method for managing multiple federal grant programs, as well as eliminating duplicate accounting processes.

The efforts of this collaboration have resulted in better utilization of qualified and trained personnel, increased productivity, streamlined and accelerated customer service, gaining more federal grants funds, and exhibiting how the Department is working within the tenets of Accountable Government.



Restructuring of the fiscal and accounting personnel's responsibilities has resulted in fewer individuals performing this function and an annual payroll cost savings of \$84,250. Having a sound fiscal and cash management policy and practice in place, aided Iowa in receiving a federally-approved, Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan. Approval of the enhanced plan means that the state is eligible to receive 20% rather than the customary 15% to fund mitigation activities that lessen the impacts of future disasters.

Team members receiving the Golden Dome Award include: Pat Hall, Bonnie Rieder Michael Powell, Dennis Harper, Sherry McCloskey, Donna Bell, from HSEMD. Steve Lorenz, Paula Zamora, Carsjen Jones, Paula Hutton, Joanne Andersen, Gary Van Lengen, Julie Nishijima, Carmeline Murphy, Connie Hulse, Melissa Horner, Tammy Chalup, Duane Jamison, Becki Barker, and Brenda Boell (Brenda's daughter Haley accepted on her behalf) from Public Defense.

The Golden Dome Awards celebrate the commitment and service of those state employees who have performed exemplary service in their everyday job duties.

Polk County EMA Displays Disaster Support Units

Polk County officials recently unveiled three Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (C.B.R.N.E.) Incident Support Units. The Polk County Emergency Management Agency has assembled disaster support equipment and supplies on three trailers that will soon be staged throughout Polk County.

"This is a remarkable example of the progress we are making to increase our capabilities and capacities to protect our citizens and respond to the complex incidents we face in the 21st century," said A.J. Mumm, Director of the Polk County Emergency Management Agency.



Contents of the trailers include: decontamination tents, showers, and conveyors for immobilized patients; product containment drums and liquid bladders; portable heating, electricity generation, and lighting; as well as personal protective equipment.

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

Secure & Prepared is published by the Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division for those involved in the homeland security system in the state of Iowa. For more information, contact: Kara Berg, 515-725-3271, kara.berg@iowa.gov; or Lucinda Robertson, 515-725-3239, lucinda.robertson@iowa.gov.

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

We're on the Web!

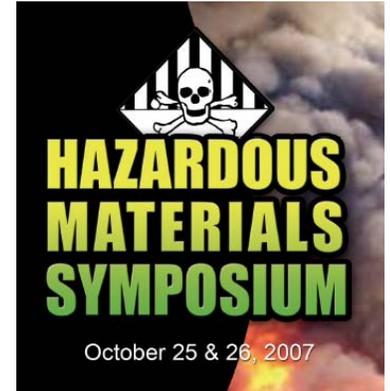
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2007 Hazmat Symposium

The 2007 Iowa Hazardous Materials Symposium, presented by the Fire Service Training Bureau and the EHS Resource Group, LLC, will be held October 25 & 26 at the Quality Inn & Suites in Ames. The target audience for this symposium is hazardous materials responders, fire, EMS, law enforcement, local government, and industrial personnel who plan for, or may have to respond to a hazardous materials incident.

The symposium consists of several tracks offered on October 25, followed by a General Session held on October 26. The tracks consist of various sessions allowing attendees to either follow one track throughout the symposium, or attend sessions on multiple tracks. The General Session on day two, will feature a case study of the ChemCentral incident in Kansas City, MO, presented by keynote speaker, Chief Richard "Smokey" Dyer of the Kansas City Fire Department. There will also be an update of the CBRNE response protocol as a wrap-up on day two.

For registration and additional information, visit the Department of Public Safety's Web site at <http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb/PDFs/2007/HazMatBrochure.pdf>.



Siouxland Responders Participate in Tri-State Exercise

On September 25, emergency responders from Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska held a training event and drill testing the ability to respond across state borders and communicate with each other once on scene.

The event involved: Sioux City HazMat; the Tri State Communications Van; Iowa emergency management from Woodbury, Plymouth and Sioux Counties; Sioux Falls HazMat; South Dakota emergency management from Lincoln and Union Counties; Iowa, South Dakota, and Nebraska Homeland Security and Emergency Management Divisions; Iowa Department of Natural Resources; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; POET Biorefining Plant at Hudson, South Dakota and many others.



The training scenario involved severe weather impacting the main biorefining plant and storage facility in Hudson, South Dakota and the railroad line from South Dakota to Iowa. The exercise defined the need for additional information and training on cross-state border asset sharing.

Woodbury County Emergency Management Coordinator Gary Brown, who participated in the exercise, complimented the planning team lead by the U.S. EPA. "They did an excellent job of planning and executing this exercise."