



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- "This week I attended the funeral of colleague Doug Wood. It seems to me that Doug knew what was important in life – a little fun, family and friends." See more of HSEMD Administrator David Miller's comments on page 3.
- On October 11, Iowa kicked off its participation in a field test of the National Preparedness System. Iowa is one of eight to ten states participating in the field test. See article on page 5.
- The Johnson County Conservation Board was recently recognized as a StormReady® Supporter for severe weather preparedness efforts at F.W. Kent Park. See article on page 6.

9-11 Exhibit Makes Stop in Iowa

Photographs, twisted metal from the World Trade Center, and personal stories of courage and loss in the aftermath of September 11 are part of an exhibition that made a stop at the Iowa State Capitol on October 23.

The National September 11 Memorial and Museum tribute exhibition is traveling the United States to raise funds for and awareness of the memorial and museum that will be built at Ground Zero in New York City. The exhibition honors the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, and the plane crashes at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania in 2001.

At a ceremony to open the exhibition, Lieutenant Governor and Iowa Homeland Security Advisor Patty Judge welcomed former New York Governor George Pataki and thanked him for his leadership during and after the attacks. Pataki praised the bravery of the first responders whose lives were lost on that day and presented David Miller, administrator *Continued on page 2.*



HSEMD administrator David Miller accepts a flag on behalf of first responders from former NY Gov. George Pataki during the 9-11 exhibit ceremony.

Winter Weather Awareness Day is Nov. 8



Photo courtesy of Mid-American Energy from last winter's storms.

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the National Weather Service have declared November 8 Winter Weather Awareness Day in Iowa.

As we know all too well, each year winter returns to Iowa and can produce snow storms, blizzards, ice storms and periods of extremely cold temperatures and dangerous wind chills. Last winter, back-to-back ice and snow storms left at least 265,000 customers without power, Northwest Iowa received 10 to 17 inches of snow, hundreds of motorists were stranded, and damages totaled more than \$84,000,000. Stark reminders of why citizens need to be prepared for winter weather.

To help prepare for the upcoming winter season, informative winter safety information is available at www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/?n=winter and at www.BeReadyIowa.org. Public service announcements are also available on a variety of winter weather related topics on the Des Moines Weather Service Web site at www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/.

9-11 Exhibit Makes Stop in Iowa

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of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, with an American flag that had been flown over Ground Zero.

"I think I can speak for all Iowans and express my gratitude for the heroism of those who responded on September 11, and for first responders across our nation who risk their lives, each and every day, to save and protect ours," said Miller, who accepted the flag on behalf of Iowa's first responder community.

Visitors to the exhibition were invited to sign two steel beams that will be used in the construction of the memorial and museum. The exhibition tour began in August and it is expected to visit 25 states by the end of the year.

Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie, state and local officials, first responders, and the father of a New York City fire fighter who died on September 11, also participated in the opening ceremony. Betty Nielson of Fonda, Iowa, who founded the Freedom Quilt Project that has provided nearly 6,000 quilts to the families of those who died on September 11, donated one of her quilts to the museum during the ceremony.



Above, former NY Gov. George Pataki, Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie, Lt. Gov. Patty Judge, and HSEMD administrator David Miller sign a beam that will become part of the NYC 9-11 memorial. Left, visitors sign the beam.

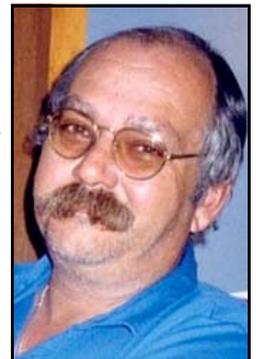
For more information on the memorial, visit www.national911memorial.org.

In Memory of Doug Wood

On Sunday, October 21, the emergency management community suffered a huge loss when Humboldt County Emergency Management Coordinator Doug Wood died of injuries he suffered while assessing storm damage on August 21. Wood was injured when his truck hit a downed utility pole that was hanging, suspended in mid-air, snapped off by high winds.

Humboldt County Sheriff and friend Dean Kruger, said Doug loved his job and was well liked. "He did a wonderful job for Humboldt County. We are really going to miss him," said Dean.

Doug started his emergency management career working for the Pocahontas County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) as the assistant coordinator. Pocahontas County Coordinator Tim McKiernan said Doug began working part time for Humboldt County EMA and then left Pocahontas County to work more hours for Humboldt County. "Doug and I assisted each other as needed," said Tim. "Doug's military background in base operations was an asset in the emergency management field."



Doug was born in 1950 in Fort Dodge. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years including time in Vietnam. He served in the U.S. Air Force and retired in 1989. Following Doug's retirement from the Air Force, he worked for Pocahontas County EMA and was eventually hired as director of the Humboldt County Emergency Management Services. Doug loved motorcycles and was a member of the Humboldt Patriot Guard Riders. He leaves behind wife Vickie of 35 years, two sons, one daughter, and 15 grandchildren.

Knowing What's Important



This week I attended the funeral of a colleague, Doug Wood. At the same time another friend lost her mother, another a father, and I learned of other friends that had family members that are approaching death. These are indeed emotional and distressing events for close family and friends, but also serve as a reminder to all of us about what is important.

At Doug's funeral, the preacher mentioned something he had learned from Doug's friends. He was told that each work morning Doug would meet with his friends and co-workers for coffee and they would start the day by finding solutions to the world's problems. Reportedly Doug would often finish with something like "You know, if I can't ride my Harley, if I can't enjoy my family, if I can't enjoy my grandchildren, then I don't want to be here." It seems to me that Doug knew what was important in life – a little fun, family and friends.

As I watched and spoke to others dealing with their grief this week, I found the same to be true for all of them. They all knew what was important -- to spend time with loved ones, to have fun was more important than anything else – because without that, what's the point of the work, of the struggle. Too often, in our daily work, in trying to do our best, in struggling through all the issues of the day, we put off or set aside what we say is most important in our lives. Too often, our priorities are a bit backwards. That's not to say that work is not important – that it doesn't have its place. Indeed, we must remember that each thing has its time and place. I am reminded of the words from the Byrds hit song, "Turn, Turn, Turn" written by Pete Seeger and adapted from the book of Ecclesiastes:

To everything
There is a season
And a time for every purpose, under heaven

A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep

A time to build up, a time to break down
A time to dance, a time to mourn
A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together

A time of love, a time of hate
A time of war, a time of peace
A time that you may embrace, a time to refrain from embracing

A time to gain, a time to lose
A time to rend, a time to sew
A time to love, a time to hate
A time for peace, I swear its not too late

So, please remember to ride your Harley, to do what gives you pleasure, to embrace family and friends, to put things in their proper place and time - to take the time to enjoy life and all that it brings.

Disaster Update

On October 11, a Governor's proclamation of disaster emergency was issued for Delaware County due to a storm that moved through the area on October 7. On October 15, Montgomery County was declared a disaster area following heavy rains on October 13, which pushed rivers and streams over their banks. State resources and the State's Individual Assistance program for low-income residents were made available under the proclamations.

Iowans with household incomes of up to 130 percent of federal poverty guidelines may apply for a grant of up to \$3,300 to help recover from flood damage. This is a reimbursement program, meaning that applicants must include receipts when applying for help. The grant application and step-by-step instructions can be found on the front page of the Department of Human Services Web site at dhs.iowa.gov. Look for the words "Storm Help" or individuals can call toll-free (877) 937-3663.

In addition, as of October 25, \$1.1 million in federal funding has been obligated to Iowa to repair and replace public facilities damaged by storms and flooding that occurred in August prompting a presidential disaster declaration for 14 counties on September 14. Three more counties were deemed eligible for Public Assistance (PA) funding on October 10.

The PA grants are provided 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 disaster-damaged facilities. The declared counties are Allamakee, Appanoose, Boone, Calhoun, Cherokee, Davis, Humboldt, Mahaska, Montgomery, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne, Webster, and Winneshiek.

In addition to providing Public Assistance funds to 17 Iowa counties, federal funding is available statewide from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. These funds can be used to reduce loss of life and property from future disasters.

USAR Team Responds to Sinking Storm Lake Dredge

On October 19, Buena Vista County Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Christensen contacted HSEMD and advised that the City of Storm Lake's dredge had somehow gotten water in the pontoon due to high wave action and was taking on water. The dredge weighs 175 tons, is 40x100' and had 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel on board. The initial response plan was to have divers position airbags underneath the pontoons and raise the dredge. Carroll County Underwater Search and Rescue, Inc., a non-profit dive team were on-scene to assist.



Through executive order issued by HSEMD administrator David Miller, Iowa's Urban Search and Rescue Team, Iowa Task Force 1, was activated to respond. Because of proximity to the incident, Division Director Brad Robinson and two additional rescue specialists from the Sioux City Division of Iowa Task Force 1 responded with inflatable lifting bags. Upon arrival at the scene, they found the dredge had continued to sink and there was no way to get the bags under the dredge and inflate them while maintaining a reasonable margin of safety for the divers and other responders in boats on the surface. The Cedar Rapids Division of Iowa Task Force One was placed on stand-by during this time in case additional lifting bags were needed at the scene.

After several days of response by various entities, and multiple different attempts at raising the dredge, dive teams were finally able to seal all openings in the pontoons so they would hold air, allowing the dredge to float. The dredge was towed ashore where it will be repaired this winter.

Iowa Participates in NPS Field Test

On October 11, Iowa kicked off its participation in a field test of the National Preparedness System. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is testing the system with a wide range of stakeholders, including local, state, and federal homeland security, emergency management, and public health professionals, and representatives from nongovernmental organizations and the private sector. Iowa is one of eight to ten states participating in the field test.

Each participating state will choose one or two capabilities to test from the Target Capabilities List (TCL). There are 37 capabilities in all, including areas such as Citizen Evacuation and Medical Surge. Iowa will test its Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRNE) Detection Capability.

The TCL provides comprehensive guidance on capabilities needed for preparedness. The states will also determine whether to focus the test at the regional or jurisdictional level, and identify participants in the planning process. In Iowa, participants include officials from HSEMD, the Iowa Department of Public Health, University Hygienic Laboratories, HAZMAT teams, and Polk County police and emergency management departments. Representatives from federal agencies will work with the states to provide information about federal roles and responsibilities relating to the capability being discussed. Facilitators will guide participants through the NPS collaborative planning process (using the capability selected by the state) and provide an NPS online tool demonstration.

The NPS process will help identify the requirements for a capability or set of capabilities, and the role of each party in building and maintaining the capability. Participants will benefit by gaining an understanding of how to take advantage of the NPS collaborative planning process and the TCL. As such, the field test will provide a unique opportunity for stakeholders to collaborate with other agencies and disciplines around a specific capability. The NPS field test will also generate feedback on all aspects of the NPS, including the process, the online tool, and a variety of training and communications materials. This feedback will serve as the basis for modifications to the NPS.

Following the field test, DHS will review the lessons learned and stakeholder recommendations and determine whether to implement the NPS nationally. Recommended changes will be made to the NPS process and tool. Assuming full implementation, the NPS is expected to be made available nationally in the spring of 2008. In addition to helping stakeholders define and build needed capabilities, the NPS will help states and local jurisdictions meet a number of federal assessment and reporting requirements. For example, NPS will provide much of the information for future state preparedness reports, as well as several other requirements. DHS is exploring ways to reduce the reporting burden placed on states. DHS will sponsor stakeholder meetings and training, and will provide technical assistance to support the implementation of the NPS.

From a local level perspective, Polk County Emergency Management Coordinator A.J. Mumm says, "While the information is useful and helpful; it will take a large investment of time for the counties to gather information on all 37 capabilities (should DHS implement the NPS) something we don't have a lot of. It's easy to ask the questions, but difficult to come up with the answers." Mumm was chosen to be part of the pilot study due to his involvement with the CBRNE Team and the Biological/Chemical Threat Agent (BCTA) group and pilot study.

The field test is to be completed by December 6.

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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

Johnson County Conservation Board Recognized as a StormReady Supporter

On October 24, officials from NOAA's National Weather Service recognized the Johnson County Conservation Board as a StormReady® Supporter for severe weather preparedness efforts at F.W. Kent Park near Oxford.

StormReady Supporter is a grass roots education program designed to aid businesses, schools, and other organizations in establishing severe weather safety plans and actively promoting weather awareness. Through the efforts of the Johnson County Conservation Board and staff, F.W. Kent Park is the first park in Iowa to be recognized as a StormReady Supporter.

Donna Dubberke, warning coordination meteorologist for the Quad Cities weather forecast office, presented the StormReady Supporter certificate to the Johnson County Conservation Board. "This recognition acknowledges the outstanding commitment of the Johnson County Conservation Board to severe weather preparedness and to the safety of both staff and visitors at F.W. Kent Park," said Dubberke. "The preparedness effort at F.W. Kent Park is a model for other parks and organizations."

The StormReady Supporter program is part of StormReady, the nationwide community preparedness program that helps communities develop plans to handle local severe weather and flooding threats. The program is voluntary and provides communities with clear-cut advice through a partnership with the local National Weather Service office and state and local emergency managers.

StormReady Supporters are local entities that promote the principles and guidelines of the StormReady program through severe weather safety and awareness plans. Entities interested in becoming StormReady Supporters should contact their local National Weather Service warning coordination meteorologist for further information about the program.

Personnel Notes

Congratulations to **Susan Dixon** on accepting the Program Planner 3 position in the Preparedness Bureau. Susan was previously a Program Planner 2 in the bureau.

Jeff McKinney, an Information Sharing and Security Officer for HSEMD, has been appointed as a federal homeland security advisor and special government employee by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In this role, Jeff will serve on the national Homeland Security Information Network Advisory Council. This committee advises DHS leadership and the director of the Office of Operations Coordination on operational requirements for sharing homeland security information with end-users.

Welcome back to **Mary Stephens**. During this year's disasters she helped the Grants Bureau and now returns to the front desk. A special thank you to **Sue Lomica** for taking on additional duties at the front desk while Mary was gone.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org