



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board held their first meeting recently. See article on page 2.
- HSEMD is in the process of preparing a State Preparedness Report. See article on page 3.
- The Safeguard Iowa Partnership recently appointed an executive director. See article on page 4.

EMPG Training Addresses Issues

The FFY 2008 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) was rolled out during the month of October to emergency management coordinators with presentations in all six Iowa districts.

This year, training addressed some issues that needed improvement. The agenda included a discussion of expectations, accountability, and proper reporting methods along with help for improving performance-based work plans, setting proper codes for financial reporting. Examples of effective performance measures were included and a focus on what constitutes a good report.

The new allocation formula will be used for the first time. This formula strikes a balance between equal share and overall equity for small counties and the needs of more densely populated areas. It includes an equally shared base, population size but with a cap to offset disparity between large and small counties. The formula also takes into consideration the part/full time status of coordinators and serves to reward counties with full-time coordinators in the hope that other counties will be encouraged to move towards full-time coordinator status.

Local jurisdictions must develop a performance-based/results-oriented work plan. The work plans must demonstrate how the day-to-day operations contribute to the long-term goals outlined in the local jurisdiction's strategic plan and HSEMD's strategic plan. Quarterly reporting and financial reimbursement requests are tied *Continued on page 2.*

Iowa Hosts Veterinary Stockpile Exercise

Article by Tess Capps, IDALS

During the week of October 29, Iowa hosted the first-ever deployment exercise for the National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS). The stockpile deployment focused on one element of what would be incorporated in a full-scale response to a foreign animal disease incident and how the stockpile could be delivered to Iowa in a disaster.



About 65 people participated in the NVS exercise at the state's emergency operation center in Johnston.

The main objectives of the exercise were to ensure that state personnel understand the NVS Program and its capabilities, test deployment process and procedures, test in-transit cold chain management procedures, and identify potential NVS document updates. *Continued on page 2.*

Happy Thanksgiving!

Please note that HSEMD's offices will be closed November 22 & 23 to observe the Thanksgiving holiday.

EMPG Training Addresses Issues

Continued from page 1

to the local jurisdiction's work plan. The reports must address the goals, objectives, and performance measures of the plan. At a minimum, the work plans must state what activities the sub-grantee will undertake and a description of the what, why, when, where, who, how, and how much for each planned activity.

Applications are due December 20, 2007.

Iowa Hosts Veterinary Stockpile Exercise

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The exercise tasks were accomplished along with a successful demonstration of communications capability in rural areas, the flexibility of field staff to manage field operations, and coordination between state and federal agencies at the highest levels.

"This exercise demonstrated the strength of IDALS relationships with HSEMD and other agencies," said Mark Shearer with the Center for Agriculture Security. "The next step will be to coordinate with county emergency management in case a stockpile deployment should ever happen for real."

Shearer along with Dr. David Schmitt, Dr. Randy Wheeler, Dee Clauson, Erinn Sprouse, and Sara Albrecht with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) helped to coordinate the effort. IDALS district veterinarians and field staff, USDA Veterinary Services, employees from the Iowa Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), the Iowa Poultry Association, industry, state veterinarians from Nebraska and Michigan, and a representative from the University of Minnesota also participated in the exercise.

Interoperable Communications System Board Meets

On October 29, the newly created Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board held their first meeting. Lt. Governor Judge convened the meeting with an introduction of the 15 board members followed by an election of the chair and vice chair for the board. Captain Todd Misel of the Iowa State Patrol was elected chair while Dina McKenna of the Story County Sheriff's Office was elected vice chair.

The board was brought up to speed on the history of interoperable communications within Iowa and what the enabling law requires the board to accomplish in order to move communications forward within Iowa. An immediate issue will be the completion of the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant requirements by December 2, 2007. For Iowa, the PSIC Grant provides \$10.9 million for improving interoperable communications within the state. The grant requires that 80 percent of the available funds pass through to the local level to support their interoperability efforts. Additionally, the grant requires that the state submit a statewide interoperable communications plan. The board is tasked with aiding in the completion of this document.

Members of the board include:

Capt. Todd Misel, Iowa State Patrol, Chair	Dina McKenna, Story County Sheriff's Office, Vice Chair
Randy Thompson, Mills County E911	Sandra Morris, Des Moines Police Department Communications
Mike Williams, Page County Sheriff	Greg Martin, Chief, Sioux City Fire and Rescue
Ron Miller, At Large	Kerry Crouch, Yarmouth Volunteer Fire and EMS Department
Roxanne Warnell, Tama County EMA	Jeremy Logan, Chief, Oelwein Police Department
Mike Dreke, Iowa Department of Corrections	Bob Younie, Iowa Department of Transportation
John Benson, HSEMD	Jason Sandholdt, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Tom Boeckmann, Iowa Department of Public Health	

The next meeting is scheduled for November 19 and 20.

HSEMD Prepares State Preparedness Report

Recently, Congress mandated through the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2007 that each state prepare a State Preparedness Report. This year, the majority of the report will be submitted in narrative form and is due to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security by January 4.

Initially guidance was due to be released in August, but it did not come out until late October. This report will become an annual requirement and will replace our State Enhancement Plan.

The intent of the report is for states to report on progress and showcase capabilities and accomplishments of an all-hazards preparedness program. This report will enable states to communicate to Congress current accomplishments in building national priorities and capabilities and how they will continue to increase statewide preparedness.

Each State Preparedness Report must contain the following four sections:

Executive Summary: Provides an overview of the main sections of the State Preparedness Report

State Overview: Provides background on the state and a summary of the process the state used to collect feedback from stakeholders when creating the State Preparedness Report

Compliance: Assesses the state's compliance with the National Preparedness System, National Incident Management System (NIMS), National Response Framework (NRF), and other related plans and strategies

Priorities: Reports on the state's accomplishments, discusses current capabilities, provides three-year targets for capabilities, identifies initiatives, and discusses monetary and non-monetary resources dedicated to each priority

The priorities section constitutes the majority of the report. In this section, states will report on accomplishments, current capabilities, three-year targets, initiatives, and resources for each priority. States are required to report on each of the eight national priorities and may also report on their own unique state priorities.

National Priorities

- Implement the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Framework (NRF)
- Enhanced Regional Collaboration
- Implement the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP)
- Strengthen Information Sharing and Collaboration
- Strengthen Communications Capabilities
- Strengthen Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Detection, Response, and Decontamination
- Strengthen Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis
- Strengthen Planning and Citizen Preparedness Capabilities
- Other capabilities which support the goals identified in the State's Homeland Security Strategy, as appropriate

HSEMD, working with other state agencies and the homeland security regions, is looking at pulling the primary pieces together by mid-December. For questions on the report, please contact HSEMD's Lynda Wessel at 725-3259.

Safeguard Iowa Appoints New Executive Director

Jami Haberl was recently appointed executive director of the Safeguard Iowa Partnership, a voluntary coalition of Iowa's business and government leaders. Haberl succeeds Ed Beaman, who staffed the Safeguard Iowa Partnership in its early months.

"I am honored and excited to be working with some of the most respected and knowledgeable experts in disaster response and emergency management here in Iowa and around the United States," said Haberl. "Learning from other recent disasters, such as the hurricane in Louisiana and the fires in California, Safeguard Iowa partners are acutely aware of how important it is to our state's citizens and its economy to swiftly restore the operation of civic and commercial functions in the wake of a catastrophic event. As a native Iowan, I look forward to helping develop a comprehensive strategy that engages all levels of business and government."

The Partnership is leading a statewide effort to integrate the resources and expertise of Iowa's businesses with those of government to improve the effectiveness of all stages of disaster management. As executive director, Haberl will be responsible for the administration and operations of the Safeguard Iowa Partnership. She will work in coordination with its Operating Council (comprised of corporate security/business continuity experts and senior managers from relevant state agencies) to implement initiatives that deliver new and highly innovative homeland security/emergency management capabilities.

Under Haberl's leadership, the Partnership will focus on improving communications during crises, developing a database of business resources that could aid in emergency response, and building a permanent, operational relationship between business and government.

Prior to this appointment, Haberl most recently served as Senior Program Manager for the Iowa Foundation for Medical Care and worked for six years in the public health arena including Des Moines University, Iowa Department of Public Health, and Iowa Health System.

The creation of the Safeguard Iowa Partnership was sponsored by the Iowa Business Council and the non-profit Business Executives for National Security (BENS). Safeguard Iowa is a voluntary coalition of Iowa's business and government leaders who share a commitment to strengthening the state's collective capacity to prevent, protect, respond to, and recover from natural and human-caused disasters through effective public-private collaboration. Founding partners include over 20 Iowa companies, the three Regent universities, health care organizations, and state government agencies.

For more information on the Safeguard Iowa Partnership, visit www.safeguardiowa.org.

NW IA and Polk Co. Receive LEPC Awards

The Region 7 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Conference was held August 16-19 in Kansas City. Iowa's Region V Emergency Planning District (Calhoun, Carroll, Green, Hamilton, Humboldt, Sac, Pocahontas, Webster, and Wright Counties) received one of the Large Community Awards for "an LEPC that is actively involved in their community of populations of greater than 80,000."

The Region V Hazmat Commission and LEPC were recognized for their dedication to hazardous materials training and response. In the past two years Region V has taken an aggressive pro-active approach to provide equipment and training for ethanol and bio-diesel response in its nine-county region. With close to 10 ethanol and bio-diesel plants in or near Region V's area and over one million gallons transported daily thru the region, the Region V LEPC voted to aggressively prepare for any potential ethanol/bio-diesel response call.

Polk County LEPC members also received one of the Large Community Awards for "an LEPC that is actively involved in their community of populations of greater than 80,000".

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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

HSEMD Spotlight: Beth Gathercole

Beth Gathercole is an administrative assistant for the Training/Exercise group in the Preparedness Bureau. Better known as their "go-to person," Beth helps set up meetings, takes minutes for various groups, plays a major part in assisting with the Governor's Homeland Security Conference, maintains county and HSEMD staff training files, and assists the front desk and executive secretary, as well as various other duties. As Beth says, "Things change on a daily basis here so there really isn't a dull day. Variety is good."



Prior to joining HSEMD, Beth was an intern for the State Fire Marshal's office, was an Intern for the Information Technology Department heading the 100% E by 2003 electronic forms project and eventually became head secretary providing assistance to 23 staff, including five supervisors. Beth joined HSEMD as a contractor in June 2003 and became a full-time employee of HSEMD in June 2005.

Beth holds an AAS degree with top honors from Des Moines Area Community College's (DMACC) Administrative Assistant Program and was voted Most Outstanding Student of the Year in 2000. She also has the following certificates from DMACC; Computer Applications, Office Specialist, Office Assistant, and Information Processing Support.

Outside of work, Beth enjoys a variety of activities: camping, walking, baking, biking, family time, all sports, and watching a good movie. Beth has five children: Samantha 21, Kody 18, Jack 13, Tabetha and Paige 11, and is engaged to "spectacular" fiancé Kevin Lewis.

HSEMD to Upgrade to Microsoft Office 2007

On November 27, HSEMD will upgrade its system to Microsoft Office 2007. The only computers that will not be upgraded, for now, are those located in the operations area of the state EOC that are used by other state agencies. After Office 2007 has been more uniformly adopted by state agencies, the rest of the computers will be updated. We don't want state agency personnel to show up at the EOC during an emergency to be faced with learning Office 2007.

HSEMD also wants to ensure that our partners can use Office 2007 documents. There are a couple of steps being taken to resolve this: 1) Our software will set an automatic default to save documents in an older Office version. 2) For those who receive an Office 2007 document and do not have Office 2007, you will be alerted to download a patch when attempting to open a 2007 Word document.

Personnel Notes

Pete Grandgeorge has accepted a position with Mid-American Energy. Pete worked for several years as a state exercise training officer coordinating exercises at the state and local levels. He had recently transferred to the continuity of operations planner position. Both positions were within the Preparedness Bureau. His last day with the Division will be November 26.

Cathleen Atchison has been hired as a Program Planner 3 within the exercise program within the Preparedness Bureau. She has a background in law enforcement, and most recently has managed the NIMS program for HSEMD.