



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- HSEMD recently released instructions for interested parties to apply to be included in the FY08 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Investment Justification. See page 3.
- HSEMD has extended the period for making the '08 EMPG application. See article on page 3.
- A guidebook on how to request special response teams is available. See page 6.

Holiday Closings

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division offices will be closed on December 25 and January 1.

Happy Holidays!

Ice Storm Wreaks Havoc in Iowa



An Alliant Energy crew member helps to restore power in southern Iowa. Photo courtesy of Alliant Energy.

Following the December 10th and 11th ice storm, Governor Chet Culver declared Adams, Appanoose, Cedar, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Fremont, Jefferson, Keokuk, Linn, Lucas, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Page, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, and Wayne Counties disaster areas. Other counties may be added if there is a need for state resources. More than an inch of ice fell in some areas of southern Iowa.

The emergency proclamation allows state resources to be deployed to local communities affected by the storm. The Iowa National Guard provided generator support to the cities of Melcher and Lineville to assist in maintaining fire suppression capabilities. In addition, the National Guard Armory in Centerville was used as a shelter. The Iowa Department of Transportation provided assistance with debris removal in De-

catur, Page, Ringgold, and Union Counties. The state emergency operations center was activated on a partial basis with key state agencies and staff from the HSEMD Readiness and Response Bureau. A number of support missions were completed.

The governor's proclamation also made available Iowa's individual disaster assistance program for people with low incomes. 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 storm 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: dhs.iowa.gov. Look for the words "Storm Help" or individuals can call toll-free (877) 937-3663.

Shelters were set up in several counties for those without electricity and heat. Over 365 people stayed in those shelters and at the height of the storm over 90,000 customers were without power. *Continued on page 2*

Ice Storm Wreaks Havoc in Iowa

Continued from page 1

On December 13, Governor Culver visited shelters and surveyed damage in Creston and Osceola. Public Assistance Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments will begin on December 17. Then the decision will be made on whether to seek a Presidential Disaster Declaration. As with the ice storm earlier this year, damages to rural electric cooperatives are severe in Clarke and a number of southern counties.

In addition, the governor issued a statewide emergency proclamation suspending regulatory provisions pertaining to hours of service of motor carriers and drivers of commercial motor vehicles, while transporting propane gas products. This proclamation will be in effect until December 18, 2007.



Ice still lingers on power lines and trees in Osceola on December 13.

Disaster Dollars Hit Record for 2007

Often times the response portion of emergency management receives the most publicity. But as we close out 2007, and look at the potential request for a fifth Presidential Disaster Declaration, let's look back at the dollars brought into the state for recovery. Remember these dollars roll through the economy so actual impact is much higher.

We started with the ice storm at the end of February and start of March. Damages totaled \$80.3 million. Of that amount, hard hit rural electrical cooperatives accounted for \$57.7 million.

Then came the blizzard and an unusual declaration that covered emergency protective measures which amounted to \$3.8 million.

Flooding in southwest Iowa was next on the disaster parade with damages totaling just over \$20.2 million. This was the only disaster that included Individual Assistance which accounted for \$2.2 million. The rest was Public Assistance where bridges and roads led the way with \$8.8 million.



Clockwise from top, a late February ice storm downed power lines in northern Iowa, May flooding damaged homes in Missouri Valley, and flooding in August damaged secondary roads in Webster County.



Unusual flooding in August was our fourth Presidential Disaster Declaration and damages are estimated at \$7.4 million. That brings the total to just over \$111 million. Not counted in this amount are damages sustained in Muscatine and Louisa Counties from a tornado that rolled through in the summer. A request for a Presidential was made but FEMA declared this disaster did not meet the threshold for federal assistance.

HSEMD Releases FY08 HSGP Instructions

On December 14, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division released instructions for interested parties to apply for consideration to be included in the FY08 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Investment Justification. In the past, HSEMD has identified group leads and helped to create the work groups based on the national priority Target Capabilities. This year, HSEMD will again focus FY08 HSGP funding on implementing the seven national priorities identified in the National Preparedness Framework. These priorities are:

- Expanded Regional Collaboration
- NIMS/NRP Implementation
- NIPP Implementation
- Strengthening Information Sharing and Collaboration
- CBRNE Detection, Response and Decontamination
- Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis
- Planning and Citizen Preparedness

Since Iowa is so heavily focused on agriculture as a state, we are also focusing on agriculture protection. HSEMD invites interested applicants to identify their own workgroup leads and develop their own workgroups and projects that help Iowa implement these priorities and their associated Target Capabilities. Interested applicants are requested to fill out a short application describing their projects by January 31, 2008.

Projects will be reviewed based on five criteria that are further defined in the instruction packet – regionalization and scope, feasibility, applicability, timeliness and sustainability. Applications that excel in these areas will be given a higher priority when the Homeland Security Advisor and the HSGP State Administrative Agent are making final decisions on which projects are included in the official Investment Justification. Anyone interested in requesting funding from the '08 HSGP must participate in this process.

It is important to note that this will only be the first step in the process. Chosen applicants will still have to fill out full investment justifications, go through peer review and work through final funding allocations based on the funding we receive. The official HSGP guidance has not been released by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security at this time, and from all indications, it probably won't be until early February. Once the official guidance is released, HSEMD will be able to create a timeline for writing the full investment justifications.

As a state, Iowa already knows that there are requirements laid out by the continued implementation of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan and the National Incident Management System, and funding for these requirements will have to come off the top of any allocation that Iowa receives. HSEMD will write the investments for these base requirements, and funding will be distributed through the homeland security regions. HSEMD will work with the regions in the development of these two capability areas.

Copies of the instructions, application, and other materials can be found at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org. For questions concerning HSGP, contact Kyle Karsjen at 515-725-3231 or kyle.karsjen@iowa.gov.

2008 EMPG Application Process Extended

HSEMD has received several requests to extend the period for making the 2008 EMPG application. As a result of the recent ice storm that continues to impact a number of counties, and because we do not expect Congress and the U. S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to act on FY '08 grant funding until after the first of the year, a 30-day extension has been granted for the '08 applications.

Applications will now be due on Friday, January 18, 2008. For those who have already applied, we thank you for being timely with your application and your hard work.

IEMA Selects New Board Members

The Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) has selected new members for its executive board.

David Morlan, Boone County emergency management coordinator, is the new IEMA president. He said supporting local programs and coordinators, and building a stronger association are his main goals for his two-year term.

Morlan said emergency management is experiencing growing pains. "The need for educating local governments on the importance of a strong county program across the state will be difficult in some areas. Funding is an issue in some counties but the requirements that have been placed on the coordinators make it extremely difficult for those part-time people," he said.

Improving communication and building better relationships with partners, including HSEMD, are priorities for Morlan. To accomplish these things, he said he would like to put together a committee to meet with the state on a regular basis to discuss what is working and what is not working, along with trying to develop a strategic plan that works for both local and state governments. "We are hoping to be more united as an association and bring our issues and good comments to the right people as an association instead of doing it on an individual basis," said Morlan.

"The work done by IEMA benefits not only its members, but all of the emergency management and homeland security community," said HSEMD Administrator David Miller. "I look forward to working with Dave and the members of the Executive Board as we move homeland security and emergency management into the future."

New IEMA Executive Board Members:

President - David Morlan, Boone County

Vice President - Gary Brown, Woodbury County

Secretary - William Ziegler, Fayette County

Treasurer - Bob Christensen, Buena Vista County

IEMA District 1 - A.J. Mumm, Polk County

IEMA District 2 - Bridget Moe, Floyd County

IEMA District 3 - Michael Ehret, Dickinson County

IEMA District 4 - Larry Hurst, Mills County

IEMA District 5 - Steve Cirinna, Lee County

IEMA District 6 - Scott Hansen, Benton County

Legislative Representative - Derek White, Carroll County

HSEMD to Offer Training in 2008

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division is pleased to announce that funding has become available to offer the following courses in 2008, which will soon be posted on our Web site at <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>.

Principles of Emergency Management January 22 and 23

Exercise Design March 19 and 20

Emergency Planning May 13 and 14

Leadership and Influence July 15 and 16

Decision Making and Problem Solving September 4

These courses will be conducted in the Des Moines area unless otherwise stated. HSEMD will reimburse for meals and lodging. If you have additional questions, please contact Dave Hempen at David.Hempen@iowa.gov or Beth Gathercole at Beth.Gathercole@iowa.gov.

NIMS Compliance for 2008

According to a recent FEMA NIMS Alert, responses to the FY 2007 compliance metrics will be considered to shape the future of the NIMS compliance program. This came from discussion at the *NIMS Point of Contact Workshop* in October. Based on input from stakeholders at the workshop, FEMA's Incident Management Systems Division (IMSD) has decided to eliminate the use of the term "tiering" in future NIMS compliance requirements. Additionally, the requirement to complete ICS-400: Advanced ICS in FY 2008 will now actually be a FY 2009 requirement. (Note: ICS-300: Intermediate ICS will remain a FY08 requirement.) We encourage those persons who are required to take the ICS 400, to complete it by September 30, 2008.

Due to a significant amount of input from the NIMS workshop, IMSD anticipates releasing the materials in January.

NIMS compliance for FY 2008, will continue to address specific compliance objectives, which will outline necessary actions to be accomplished prior to the end of FY 2008. As with FY 2007 implementation activities, each objective will have corresponding metrics that address expected achievements for FY 2008 and out years, also known as the NIMSCAST. The FY 2008 metrics will clearly outline year-end expectations, where as the out-year metrics will provide actions that can be implemented in FY 2008 and beyond. Providing out-year metrics now will allow stakeholders to work within their current level of NIMS implementation and compliance and move ahead in implementation objectives, where appropriate.

For questions concerning NIMS, please contact Cathleen Atchison at 515-725-3201 or at Cathleen.atchison@iowa.gov. Cathleen will also be attending the region meetings within the next few months, to answer any questions you may have.

FEMA Offers Independent Study Course on ESF 15

FEMA is offering a new online independent study course: IS250 "Emergency Support Function 15 External Affairs: A New Approach to Emergency Communication and Information Distribution."

This course provides basic training on the concept and practical application of the ESF 15 standard operating procedures to support federal domestic incidents requiring a coordinated federal response. An optional conference call session is also available to students on a weekly basis who have additional questions. Students view videos online in conjunction with the participants' guide then complete an online final exam.

Course Objectives:

- Explain the purpose of ESF 15 and its relation to external affairs and the National Response Plan (NRP).
- Understand the benefits of integrated and coordinated communications that are at the core of ESF 15.
- List the key methods of communication and the key tools used to ensure consistency in activation and communications.
- Describe the leadership structure of ESF 15 and the basic responsibilities of the seven components that comprise ESF 15.

The course is available through the EMI Independent Study Web site at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/IS250.asp>. Once you have submitted the test for scoring, you will be notified via email of your successful completion of the course and a link will be included in the e-mail for you to access and print your course certificate. For questions, please contact Chris Yambor at: FEMA-ESF15emi-class@fema.gov or HSEMD's Dave hempen at David.Hempen@iowa.gov.

FY 2008 PDM Grant Guidance Announced

FEMA has announced the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program for FY 2008. The PDM grant program will provide funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, and communities for hazard mitigation planning and mitigation projects prior to a disaster event.

The FY 2007 Congressional appropriation required that each state receive an allocated base amount of \$500,000 provided that the projects submitted meet the eligibility criteria. Should the FY 2008 appropriation contain the same direction, FEMA will review the projects based on the selection criteria defined in the announcement.

The PDM 2008 program guidance provides critical information about eligibility, the national evaluation process, e-grant instructions, and other key aspects of the program. Please review the guidance. FEMA has established the application deadline for states to submit their application as January 31, 2008. In order to meet FEMA's deadline, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management must receive local sub-applications via E-grants (<https://portal.fema.gov>) by January 14, 2008. HSEMD is required to review, provide comments on, and to rank each local application that it submits to FEMA.

For Additional information, visit http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/CoEM_FR/grant/index.asp and scroll to the bottom of the page or contact a member of HSEMD's Hazard Mitigation staff.

John Wageman 515-725-3225

Jim Russell 515-725-3217

Jessica Alaniz 515-725-3247

Sherry McCloskey 515-725-3283

Special Response Teams Guide Now Available

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division is offering a new guidebook on how to request a state special response team. The guidebook, called *Iowa Homeland Security Response Teams: Iowa Guide for request of specialty teams* gives an overview of each of the following special teams including Incident Management Teams, Bomb Squad, Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), Special Weapons and Tactics Teams, Veterinary Response, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams, Hazardous Materials Teams and Urban Search and Rescue.

The guide is available on the right side of the HSEMD home page at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org.

NOAA Audio Available Online

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced that audio from NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) channels is now available online, either as streaming audio or as MP3s and podcasts. Though National Weather Service (NWS) offices are not hosting live streaming audio, many third parties are.

In addition, numerous NWS offices are uploading audio files of weather radio messages to their Web sites. The audio files available vary by site, but typically contain routine messages such as forecasts, hourly weather roundups, and climate summaries. Downloadable NWR channels are another accessible resource individuals with disabilities can use to keep updated not only with weather, but also warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages).

For the list of sites with downloadable audio, visit: www.weather.gov/nwr/streamaudio-d.htm

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!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

HSEMD Spotlight: Cathleen Atchison

Cathleen Atchison recently joined HSEMD as an exercise specialist in the Preparedness Bureau. She had been working on contract with the Division as a NIMS coordinator since September of 2006 and will retain her NIMS duties.

Before working for HSEMD Cathleen served as a police officer in Cedar Rapids and a workplace instructor for the American Red Cross.

Her hobbies include training and participating in triathlons across the state. She has played piano for 30 years; enjoys camping, boating, and fishing; and watching her kids at their activities. Cathleen is married to Donnie and they have four children: Chloe 18, Bryce 16, Chad 14, and Cody 13.



Resolve to Be Ready in 2008!

This New Year's Eve, nearly 50 percent of Americans will make at least one resolution as they look toward the new year. HSEMD is encouraging all Iowans to make a resolution that is both important and easy to keep: preparing for emergencies.

Resolve to be **READY**
Prepare For Emergencies
Before They Happen. **in 2008**



In a recent national survey conducted by the Ad Council, 91 percent of Americans agreed that taking some simple steps to prepare could help protect themselves and their families in the event of an emergency. However, only 54 percent had taken at least one of the three steps recommended by HSEMD and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign, including getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, and being informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.

To learn how to prepare for emergencies visit www.BeReadyIowa.org. Don't wait. Set a date. Resolve to Be Ready in 2008. Wishing you a happy and safe new year!

Personnel Notes

John Benson has accepted the executive officer 3 state legislative and congressional liaison position within HSEMD. He will also work on special projects to include continued work with communications interoperability, and division and enterprise performance measurement. John most recently served as the Division's E-911 program manager.

Lynda Wessel has accepted the executive officer 2 position as the homeland security program manager within the Grants Bureau. She will oversee a number of grant programs and will retain her EMPG responsibilities.