



SECURE & PREPARED

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Administrator's Comments</i>	2
<i>New HSEMD Assignments</i>	2
<i>2008 Legislative Session</i>	3
<i>HSIN Upgrade</i>	3
<i>2008 EMPG Applicants</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- What are your New Year's resolutions? HSEMD Administrator David Miller shares his on page 2.
- What bills under consideration in the 2008 legislative session might impact those in the homeland security and emergency management fields? See article on page 3.
- The Homeland Security Information Network is being upgraded, not dismantled. Find out more on page 3.

FY08 HSGP Application Deadline Extended

The deadline for interested parties to submit applications for FY08 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funding has been extended to February 14.

After considering input from a variety of homeland security partners, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) has granted an extension of the due date for applications for inclusion in the FY08 Investment Justification. The Investment Justification is the mechanism through which states request funding and within it must describe specific funding and implementation approaches.

The extension was granted to allow for the additional coordination and collaboration applicants said they needed in order to submit quality, well-thought-out packages.

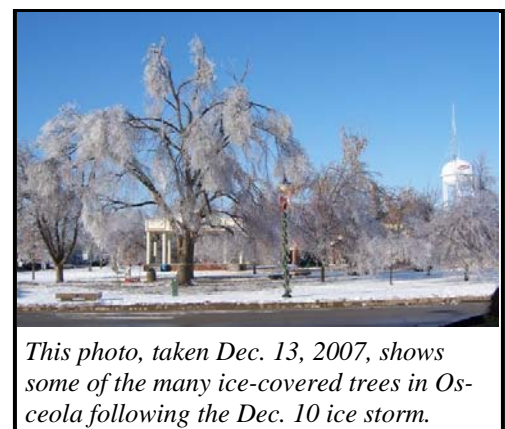
Application information can be found on the HSEMD Web site at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org. Applications must be submitted to Kyle Karsjen by 4:00 p.m. on February 14. If you have any questions, please contact Kyle at 515-725-3237 or via e-mail at kyle.karsjen@iowa.gov.

Public Assistance Deadline Nears

As of January 18, 185 Request for Public Assistance (RPAs) forms have been submitted for the December ice storm. These initial RPA forms are a preliminary indication that a jurisdiction is interested in requesting Public Assistance funds. There is no obligation and it is understood that jurisdictions won't know potential projects and costs until further along in the process.

RPAs are due 30 days after the Presidential Declaration is made, so the deadline for Disaster 1737 is February 3. The forms are available on the HSEMD Web site. Click on the December 10, 2007 Ice Storm header on the front page.

FEMA and State public assistance officers will begin gearing up and visiting the 30 counties declared under this disaster starting on Tuesday January 22. The preliminary damage estimates for eligible PA costs were set at \$16.5 million. A better damage estimate will be made in the next weeks as projects and damages are more fully identified.



This photo, taken Dec. 13, 2007, shows some of the many ice-covered trees in Osceola following the Dec. 10 ice storm.

New Year's Resolutions

By HSEMD Administrator David Miller



For some of us, our New Year's resolutions may already be placed on the back burner. Forgive me for being a bit late, but because of the cycle of our newsletter, this is my first chance to share with you my ideas for resolutions for 2008.

Strengthening and building partnerships continues to be my main focus. We passed the five-year anniversary of the creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security earlier this month, and that reminded me how far we've come in terms of improving our relationships within the public "response" community and most recently in terms of reaching out to private companies through the Safeguard Iowa Partnership. Sometimes you have to look back to see how far you've come. There certainly is much more to accomplish, but I hope you agree that we have come a long way and truly understand that we are all in this

together.

To improve our partnerships with all, I offer these three basic guidelines:

- ***Treat everyone with respect.***

The emphasis here should be on everyone. We all have a role to play and the best way to bring people and organizations on board is to treat them with respect.

- ***Do the right thing.***

This is one of those easy to say and not always easy to do phrases, especially given the myriad of grant restrictions and guidance that we have to work within. Regardless of those guidelines, however, we all need to remember to back-up and look at a situation in terms of what is fair and right for all involved.

- ***Have some fun.***

Life without a bit of humor can get awfully boring and stale. If we don't remember to laugh, we are in pretty sad shape. I encourage everyone to remember to smile and pass it on.

Sometimes you have to look back to see how far you've come.

If these sound familiar, I first presented these guiding principles last year. I think they are important enough to repeat and rejuvenate and hope you join me in applying them throughout our lives.

New HSEMD Region/District Assignments

In order to give HSEMD managers a better statewide perspective, the Division is changing the assignments of managers to Regional and IEMA District meetings. HSEMD is also making this change to allow county emergency management coordinators a chance to get to know all of the Division's management team. Beginning March 1, here are the new assignments:

Region/District 1—Bret Voorhees
 Region/District 3—Pat Hall
 Region/District 5—Jerry Ostendorf

Region/District 2—Steve Zimmerman
 Region/District 4—Mike Beaman
 Region/District 6—Tom Baumgartner

2008 Legislative Session Convenes

The 2008 session of the Iowa General Assembly kicked off on January 14. According to HSEMD legislative liaison John Benson, it looks to be an interesting session.

With this being the second year of a two year session, bills that did not meet deadlines for consideration last year can be reintroduced this year. We have seen several bills from last year regaining life already this year.

Two bills from last year that have been reintroduced are House File (HF) 689 and HF 247. HF 689 would allow the local emergency management commission to impose a county wide levy as one of its authorized methods of funding its budget. The bill is presently in a subcommittee of the House Local Government Committee made up of Representatives Olson, Frevert, and Windschitl. HF 247 seeks to amend the E911 service board membership language found in *Code of Iowa* Chapter 34A. It passed out of the Local Government Committee on January 16 and is headed for the floor of the House for debate.

We also saw new bills introduced during the first week. HF 2022 deals with roads that are closed during inclement weather and specifies that it would be a misdemeanor for unauthorized vehicles to be on a closed road. Benson said he expects that as we move through the session, we will see more bills introduced that could have an impact on homeland security and emergency management.

HSEMD intends to have a fairly quiet session, with our main focus being working through the appropriation process to ensure our funding remains level in accordance with the Governor's wishes. Of course, we will work on any issues for which the Legislature seeks our guidance.

2008 Session Iowa General Assembly

Important Deadlines

January 14

First day of session

March 8

Final date for Senate bills to be reported out of Senate committees and House bills out of House committees

March 28

Final date for House bills to be reported out of Senate committees and Senate bills out of House committees

April 22

100th calendar day of session
(Per diem expenses end)

National Information Sharing Network Upgraded

The Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) is a counterterrorism communications system used by all 50 states, including Iowa. Recently, national media outlets have incorrectly reported the HSIN is being dismantled. These reports are incorrect. HSIN is simply being upgraded to improve user access and value.

The efforts to develop a next generation of HSIN is not a dramatic departure from the current version of HSIN, rather this effort is intended to improve overall information sharing capabilities. The current HSIN platform is several years old while commercial technology has continued to improve. The current activities are part of the planned evolution of HSIN. The HSIN portals HSEMD uses will remain in place and the transition to the new HSIN should be seamless for most users.

During HSIN system upgrade, Iowa's secure information sharing portals will remain operational. We do not anticipate disruptions or loss of content or capabilities. If you have any problems with HSIN access, please contact the help desk at 1-866-430-0162 or HSIN.Helpdesk@dhs.gov.

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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

Eighty-eight Counties Apply for EMPG

Eighty-eight counties met the January 18 deadline for submission of applications for 2008 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding to HSEMD.

Although HSEMD staff will complete review of the applications by February 20, at this time we do not know when the allocation will be announced by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In the past, once states were notified of their allocations, there was a 45-day application period. Following that, DHS took 30-40 days to review the applications before they sent a Notice of Award. So it could be the end of March before HSEMD releases EMPG funds.

The following counties submitted 2008 EMPG applications:

- ADLM Joint Commission (Appanoose, Davis, Lucas, and Monroe Counties)
- Allamakee
- Audubon
- Benton
- Black Hawk
- Boone
- Bremer
- Buchanan
- Buena Vista
- Butler
- Calhoun
- Carroll
- Cedar
- Cerro Gordo/Franklin Joint Commission
- Cherokee
- Chickasaw
- Clay
- Clayton
- Clinton
- Dallas
- Delaware
- Des Moines
- Dickinson
- Dubuque
- Emmet
- Fayette
- Floyd
- Fremont
- Grundy
- Guthrie
- Hamilton
- Hancock
- Hardin
- Harrison
- Henry
- Howard
- Humboldt
- Ida
- Iowa
- Jackson
- Jasper
- Jefferson
- Johnson
- Jones
- Keokuk
- Kossuth
- Lee
- Linn
- Louisa
- Lyon
- Madison
- Mahaska
- Marion
- Marshall
- Mills
- Mitchell
- Monona
- Montgomery
- Muscatine
- O'Brien
- Osceola
- Page
- Palo Alto
- Plymouth
- Pocahontas
- Polk
- Pottawattamie
- Poweshiek
- Ringgold
- Sac
- Scott
- Shelby
- Sioux
- Story
- Tama
- Union
- Van Buren
- Wapello
- Warren
- Washington
- Webster
- Winneshiek
- Woodbury
- Worth

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org