



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- HSEMD participated in a two-day Upper Midwest Interagency Flood Mitigation Workshop recently, hosted by the Army Corps of Engineers. See page 2.
- Iowa has identified the 15 investment areas that will move forward into the Homeland Security Grant Program funding request for 2008. See page 3.
- HSEMD is teaming with the League of Cities and the Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) to offer training to local elected officials during the League's academies for new mayors and officials. See page 4.

Deteriorating Roads: Clarifying the Disaster Assistance Process

Recently a number of counties have issued local disaster proclamations in response to the deteriorating condition of secondary roads resulting from our adverse winter weather. Some local officials have asked the Governor to consider issuing a disaster proclamation and encouraged him to ask for a Presidential Disaster Declaration. This article will explain the process for requesting disaster assistance, as well as provide an explanation of the authorities under which assistance may be requested, and the limitations on the assistance that may be provided.

The Process

Although not required, a good first step is for local jurisdictions to pass a local disaster proclamation. This establishes that local resources are overwhelmed and unable to respond to the emergency event.

Local officials can request state resources **through their county emergency management coordinator**. A Governor's Disaster Proclamation can then be issued, which allows state resources, including equipment and technical advice, to be deployed at no cost to local jurisdictions. If your jurisdiction needs help in terms of Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) trucks to haul rock, for example, please pass that request through your county emergency management coordinator to HSEMD and we will work with the DOT and other state agencies to help fill your need. While equipment and personnel are available, direct financial assistance is not part of a Governor's Proclamation.

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Fifth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference to be Held in September



This year's annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference will be held Sept. 30 to Oct. 1, 2008 at the Embassy Suites in downtown Des Moines. A special training session on current trends in terrorism will be held September 29. This year's theme is "Building a Culture of Preparedness."

Due to conflicts during the summer vacation months, the conference was moved from July to September.

Watch for the latest information on the conference, including registration, at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org. If you have questions, e-mail them to governor-sconf@iowa.gov. Save the date cards will be sent out in the near future.

Road Maintenance Not Eligible for Disaster Assistance

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When state resources are overwhelmed by a disaster, we send out preliminary damage assessment teams to determine whether the damages are eligible for federal assistance and whether they are high enough to meet the minimum thresholds needed for federal aid. Then the Governor can request a Presidential Disaster Declaration. That request is then reviewed and either approved or denied at the federal level.

Road maintenance not eligible

Last year was a record year in terms of Presidential Disaster Declarations. Starting with the ice storm of late February and ending with the ice storm in December, with a few floods and blizzards in between, we have had five approved Presidential Declarations. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been in Iowa working hand-in-hand with state and local officials to identify and obligate federal dollars to help rebuild our infrastructure. FEMA has provided superior service to Iowa and through its efforts, and those of state and local officials, over \$130 million in federal aid will flow into our state to rebuild infrastructure.

If FEMA could help us repair roads, they certainly would, but **damages caused by a harsh winter are not eligible under the Stafford Act**, the legislation that establishes the boundaries for federal disaster assistance. Disaster assistance is normally tied to a single disaster event – a flood, a tornado, an ice storm – and involves a start and end date. Wear and tear on roads from an unusually harsh winter simply does not qualify for federal aid. We've researched this question with our staff and with FEMA and both agree that these types of maintenance costs are not eligible. If these costs were eligible we would start the process of damage assessments, but since it is not, there is no need to start gathering this information.

HSEMD stands ready to assist with state resources, if needed, and we'll be happy to answer questions about this process and the services we can provide. Thank you for your continued help and support!

HSEMD Attends Flood Mitigation Workshop

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management representatives participated in a two-day Upper Midwest Interagency Flood Mitigation Workshop recently, which was hosted by the Army Corps of Engineers in the Quad Cities. Officials from surrounding counties and states, the National Weather Service, and FEMA Region VII participated.

On the agenda were the spring flood forecast and agency presentations on roles, responsibilities, and capabilities related to flood mitigation, response, and recovery. Officials were also presented with scenarios at five different levels of a flood event: pre-event, moderate flooding, major flooding, subsiding flood waters, and post-event.

As a result of the workshop, agencies were able to share knowledge with neighboring states on resources that may be needed during a flood event. The workshop proved so useful that it may become an annual event.

"It was an excellent opportunity to partner with neighboring states, to get to know each other and connect resources and faces," said HSEMD's Preparedness Bureau Chief Steve Zimmerman. "Now we know who to go to right away, instead of having to work through a maze to get to the right resources."

The National Weather Service presented its spring outlook and shared Web-based tools for monitoring, which can be found at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>. The trend flow charts show a slightly elevated risk of flooding, which will depend on how fast thawing takes place and on rain cycles. "Luckily for Iowa, Minnesota has a low snow pack; however, Wisconsin and Illinois received significant snowfall," said Zimmerman.

County emergency management coordinators remain the points of contact for requesting state resources when local resources are overwhelmed. Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management's duty officer is available 24/7 at 515-725-3231. An Army Corps of Engineers flood fight handbook and sandbag information can be found at http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/CoEM_FR/co_em.asp.

Projects Chosen for Homeland Security Grant Program

Iowa has identified the 15 investment areas that will move forward into the Homeland Security Grant Program funding request for 2008. Full investment justification packages must be completed before receiving final approval. Some of the initial applications have been combined within investment areas, since Iowa is limited to 15 investment areas. Also, some of the initial state and regional applications were considered to be noteworthy enough that they were identified as areas that should be addressed with more of a state-wide approach than might be addressed regionally.

- 1) All Regions Emergency Operations Center Standardization
- 2) National Incident Management System/National Response Framework Implementation
- 3) All Regions Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource Protection Planning
- 4) Strengthen Information/Intelligence Sharing and Collaboration Capabilities
- 5) Urban Search and Rescue
- 6) Weapons of Mass Destruction Explosive Ordinance Disposal
- 7) Weapons of Mass Destruction Hazardous Materials
- 8) Weapons of Mass Destruction SWAT Task Force
- 9) Agriculture and Food Security
- 10) Local/Regional/State Public Information Officer Exercise and Planning
- 11) Regional Special Needs Planning
- 12) Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture
- 13) Citizen Corps
- 14) Metropolitan Medical Response System
- 15) National Initiatives and Requirements of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and FEMA

Once the full investment packages have been completed and approved, they will become part of the FY 2008 HSGP application that is due May 1, 2008. For questions concerning the above-mentioned projects, contact HSEMD's Lynda Wessel at 515-725-3259 or Tom Baumgartner at 515-725-3214.

Training Coming to a Region Near You

The following **Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Train the Trainer** courses are scheduled. Participants must first complete a two-day HSEEP course. For times and locations, along with information on the two-day HSEEP course, visit www.prepareiowa.com under the Bioterrorism Competencies section.

Mar. 28	Region 6 in Waterloo	Apr. 16	Region 5 in Washington
Apr. 2	Region 4 in Atlantic	May 22	Region 3 in Cherokee
Apr. 11	Region 3 in Cherokee		

The following **Disaster Assessment Train-the-Trainer** courses will be held. The course will assist county emergency management coordinators in training their assessment teams. A representative from the Department of Human Services will provide information on Iowa's Individual Assistance program. For more information, visit www.prepareiowa.com/Public/Calendar/.

Mar. 18	Region 6	Apr. 17	Region 3
Mar. 27	Region 2	Regions 1 and 5 have not yet been scheduled	
Apr. 8	Region 4 (tentative)		

To register, please e-mail Beth Gathercole at beth.gathercole@iowa.gov. Include which training session you plan to attend. If you are unable to attend in your own region, you may participate in another region. Regions 1 and 5 please coordinate your training through your regional planner.

The following **G775 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Management and Operations** training sessions will be conducted regionally. For more information, contact Joyce Flinn at joyce.flinn@iowa.gov.

Mar. 26-27	Burlington	May 20-21	Waterloo
Apr. 23-24	Ottumwa	June 3-4	Dubuque

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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

Local Elected Officials Training Offered

HSEMD is teaming with the League of Cities and the Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) to offer training to local elected officials during the League's academies for new mayors and officials. This is an opportunity to explain the role of officials during emergencies and the part played by county coordinators and HSEMD.

HSEMD has approached IEMA to help schedule a local coordinator for these events. These academies are attended by an average of 100 officials at each of the locations. Unfortunately time is very limited and we only have 30 minutes to talk to the officials.

The dates and locations of the series are:

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Red Oak
Red Coach Hotel
1200 Senate Ave
4-8 p.m.

Saturday, April 12, 2008

Des Moines
Holiday Inn Downtown
1050 6th Ave
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, April 5, 2008

Webster City
The Links at Webster City
405 Des Moines Street
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, April 19, 2008

Waterloo
Ramada Inn
205 W 4th Street
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Spencer
Clay County Regional Events Center
800 W 18th Street
4-8 p.m.

Thursday, April 24th, 2008

Oskaloosa
The PepperTree
2274 Hwy 63
4-8 p.m.

April 7-11 is Severe Weather Awareness Week

Is your family prepared for severe weather and the challenges it brings?

As we enter the tornado and storm season this is a good time to check severe weather plans with your loved ones and at work. Do you know where your tornado shelter is located? Do you have a method to find out when the all clear is sounded? Does your office test those plans at least annually?

On April 9th the National Weather Service will conduct a full test of their systems during a statewide tornado drill from 10-10:30 a.m. That means all NOAA weather radios will be activated and the weather service will also test notifications to media sites. This is a good day to check out your level of preparedness at home and at the office. For more information visit www.bereadyiowa.org.

This message has been provided by the Safeguard Iowa Partnership, a private, non-profit organization bringing businesses and public agencies together to quickly, efficiently and effectively respond to emergencies for the benefit of all Iowans. For more on Safeguard Iowa, go to <http://safeguardiowa.org>.