



SECURE & PREPARED

December 18, 2008

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Important Resources

2008 Flood Resource Center
www.flood2008.iowa.gov

Holiday Closings

HSEMD offices will be closed **Thursday, Dec. 25** and **Thursday, Jan. 1, 2009**. Iowa State Patrol Dispatch will be taking emergency calls that come in via the Division's main number, 515.725.3231.

The next issue of *Secure & Prepared* will be January 8, 2009.

More Than \$884 Million in Disaster Assistance Funds Obligated

To date, more than \$800 million in funding has been obligated for Iowa residents and governments as a result of the flooding and tornadoes that plagued the state in the spring and summer of this year.

As of Dec. 17, \$884.6 million in disaster assistance has been approved for homeowners, renters, businesses, government and non-profit entities in the following categories:

Housing Assistance \$119 million

For rental assistance grants to homeowners and renters who cannot or should not live in their disaster-damaged homes and grants to

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Aug. 28, 2008 -- The city of Palo was approved for nearly \$1 million in assistance for the removal of flood debris. Above: HSEMD Administrator David L. Miller (left) presents a check to Palo Mayor Jeff Beau regard. Debris removal is a reimbursable expense under FEMA's public assistance program. Photo by FEMA/S. Garrastegui.

Iowa Pipeline Association Offers Free Training

Attention emergency responders! You are invited to attend one of the 2009 "Pipeline Awareness and Education" meetings. This year the program will feature two new hands-on tabletop exercises that will allow you to practice your emergency response knowledge and preparedness. Training will be conducted at various locations throughout the state.

Training will include the following:

- Overview of Pipelines
- Pipeline Safety
- Leak Recognition
- Hazard Awareness
- Damage Prevention
- Detailed Incident Response Information
- Pipeline Safety/Incident Response

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Security Advisor Receives Award

Dr. Phil Pitzen, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Protective Security Advisor (PSA) for the State of Iowa and member of the Iowa InfraGard Board was awarded the prestigious Secretary’s Award for Excellence by U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff at the Secretary’s Awards ceremony on Nov. 20, 2008, in Washington, DC. Dr. Pitzen received this very special recognition for his tireless dedication, highly effective leadership and the superior performance he demonstrated during the catastrophic floods our state experienced this year.

The Secretary’s Award for Excellence recognizes outstanding individual achievement or innovation by an employee engaged in work to advance the mission of the Department of Homeland Security.

Including Dr. Pitzen, only about 100 individuals out of nearly 200,000 DHS employees were recognized.

More information about the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Employees at Annual Awards Ceremony can be found at:

www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1227217063359.shtm. Ω

More Than \$882 Million in Disaster Assistance Funds Obligated

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homeowners to make an owner-occupied structure livable.

Other Needs Assistance \$15.9 million

For grants to those affected with eligible, disaster-related funeral, dental and medical expenses.

Small Business Administration \$253.2 million

For loans to renters, homeowners and businesses of all sizes.

Public Assistance, \$496.5 million

For reimbursement for government related, eligible expenses in the area of emergency response measures, debris removal and repair or restoration of disaster damaged public infrastructure. Certain non-profit organizations providing essential services also may be eligible for reimbursement under this program. Ω

Iowa Pipeline Association Offers Free Training

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Registration and dinner will be from 6-6:30 p.m. The program will be from 6:30-8:45 p.m.

To sign up for a meeting, go to www.iowa-pipeline.com and click on the “Event RSVP” button on the left side of the home page, or call toll free at **1.888.383.8324** and ask for the Iowa Pipeline Association. You can RSVP up to the day of the event.



January

- 6 Decatur City
- 7 Indianola
- 8 Boone
- 13 Prairie City
- 14 Iowa Falls
- 15 Humboldt
- 20 Cresco
- 21 Waverly
- 22 Mason City
- 27 Oakland
- 28 Sidney
- 29 Corning

February

- 3 Le Mars
- 4 Onawa
- 5 Audobon
- 10 Rock Rapids
- 11 Spencer
- 12 Sac City
- 24 Hedrick
- 25 Fairfield
- 26 Albia

March

- 3 Davenport
- 4 Vinton
- 5 Dubuque Ω

HSEMD Helps Organize Two Emergency Management Workshops

HSEMD's Homeland Security Bureau hosted two workshops in the month of December. "Weathering the Storm" was held Dec. 3 at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames. The scenario-based workshop brought together first responders from the local community and private sector partners to develop an understanding of how response agencies function during a disaster.

The Tri-State Train Derailment Workshop took place at the Stoney Creek Inn in La Crosse, Wis., Dec. 3-4. The workshop, presented in collaboration with partners in Minnesota and Wisconsin, was aimed at an audience of law, fire, EMS, hazmat, public information officer, area transportation companies, and federal, state, county, local and private sector partners interested in prevention, protection, response and recovery. The training addressed a number of issues including: hazardous materials and how they are transported by the railroad industry, information sharing, railroad right of way and cross-border communication. Ω



Right: Jami Haberl of Safeguard Iowa speaks at the Weathering the Storm workshop in Ames on Dec. 3. Below: Attendees listen to a presentation at the same workshop.



Bottom three photos: Participants at the Tri-State Train Derailment Workshop held in La Crosse, Wisc., Dec. 3-4 learn about prevention, protection, response and recovery in the event of a train derailment incident.



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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 Iowa and its citizens.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

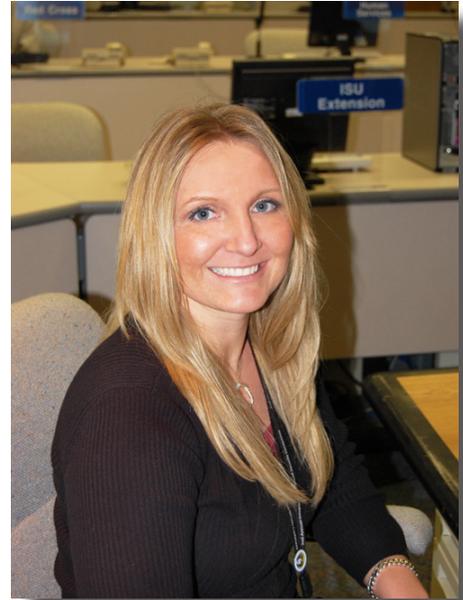
Personnel Changes at HSEMD

Readiness & Response Bureau

Theresa Enright recently left her position as the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) coordinator in the Grants Bureau to fill the vacancy left by Joyce Flinn as the chief of operations of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in the Readiness & Response Bureau. Her duties will include coordination of the state response efforts during an emergency operation, creating standard operating procedures for the SEOC and reviewing after-action reports.

Theresa began working at HSEMD in August 2004 as a contract employee and became a full-time state employee in May 2006.

Theresa is married to Dusty. In her time away from work, she enjoys kick-boxing, reading mystery novels and working on home-improvement and



Theresa Enright

landscaping projects. Ω

Use Caution Before Paying For Courses

Before you register for any training offered by The Grant Institute, please be aware that the Iowa Attorney General's office is currently investigating complaints against the organization.

The Grant Institute has allegedly collected registration fees from attendees and then has either not shown for the scheduled training, or has provided training of questionable quality at best. Refunds seem impossible to obtain and calls are not returned.

Grant training was scheduled for Dec. 3 at the Quality Inn and Suites in Des Moines and no one from The Grant

Institute was present.

Personnel at the Quality Inn indicated that there wasn't a training session scheduled at their facility.

The next Iowa training event is scheduled for Jan. 26-28, 2009, in Des Moines at the Quality Inn and Suites.

If you have information to share about The Grant Institute please contact:

Al Perales

Iowa Attorney General's Office
515.281.6413 or
aperales@ag.state.ia.us. Ω