



SECURE & PREPARED

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Important Information

Save the Date

The Governor's 6th Annual Homeland Security Conference will be **Oct. 5-7, 2009**, at the Sheraton West Des Moines. More information to follow as the date gets closer. See you there!

Holiday Closing

HSEMD offices will be closed **Monday, May 25**, in observance of Memorial Day. Iowa State Patrol Dispatch will be taking emergency calls that come in via the Division's main number, 515.725.3231.

\$21.9 Million of Community Disaster Grant Paid to Iowa Cities and Counties

HSEMD has processed more than \$21.9 million in payments to recipients of Community Disaster Grant funding. The Division is currently processing the remaining applications and anticipates having the process complete within the next few weeks.

The \$22 million grant is part of the \$56 million Rebuild Iowa bill that was approved by the Iowa Legislature and signed into law by Governor Culver in February. The intent of the legislation was to help Iowans recover from the disasters of 2008. Of the 903 eligible jurisdictions, 543 submitted applications.

A complete list of all the jurisdictions, their allocations and projects is available at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org.



Community Events Mark Anniversaries of '08 Storms

Commemoration events over Memorial Day weekend in the communities of Parkersburg and New Hartford to mark the one-year anniversary of the devastating tornado that struck both communities on May 25, 2008, will be followed by events in Palo and Waterloo a week later to mark the floods.

Parkersburg - May 23-25

Parkersburg's event, called "Renewal with Remembrance," will take place May 23-25 with activities all three days. For entire listing of event details, visit the city's Web site at www.parkersburgiowa.info.

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Iowa Disaster Human Resources Council Members Recognized

Members of the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) were treated to a recognition luncheon on May 6 for their hard work and dedication throughout the previous year. The luncheon was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston. IDHRC members are active in long-term recovery and special needs planning for the state. The past year was especially busy due to the floods and tornadoes that the state sustained. The IDHRC recognition luncheon is a yearly tradition, however, the luncheon was not held in 2008 due to the severe weather that plagued the state in the spring and summer months.

The IDHRC is comprised of faith-based and voluntary agency representatives as well as representatives from key government agencies. The concept for the IDHRC was developed at the request of the Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA). The mission statement of the Council is to "Coordinate a holistic approach to disaster recovery by maximizing public and private resources, thereby providing an efficient system that can address immediate and long-term physical, spiritual and emotional needs of impacted citizens."

Council members seek to identify available resources to address the unmet needs of Iowa's citizens impacted by disaster during both declared and non-declared events. The group meets from 10 a.m.-12 noon on the third Thursday of each



Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division Administrator David Miller presents IDHRC co-chair Gayle Strickler with an HSEMD coin in recognition of the work the Council performed during the floods of 2008.

month at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston, Iowa.

Volunteers play a crucial role in disaster response, supplementing the efforts of emergency responders who provide immediate relief and care to individuals and communities following a disaster. The IDHRC encourages organization and identification of volunteers before a disaster occurs. Once identified, these volunteers are able to provide needed assistance in response efforts. If your group would like to learn more about the Council, contact the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division at **515.323.4210**. Ω

New Training Sessions Available for County Coordinators

The June training session for WebEOC is now posted on the Events Management System.



This is your invitation to attend the next scheduled WebEOC training on June 29, 2009, at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston. The training will be held from 10 a.m.–noon in the State Emergency Operations Center.

The training will **not** be held unless at least six participants sign up for the training sessions.

Please log on to the Events Management System to register for WebEOC training. You will need to create an account before registering. This system will better track those that attend and will add the training to participants' transcripts. Go to <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar> to register, or click the "Training" link on the home page of the HSEMD Web site, www.iowahomelandsecurity.org.

If you cannot make it to the June training, another session will be held in July.

HSEMD is still looking into alternate training locations and methods. More information will be available soon. If you have any questions, please contact Blake DeRouchey at **515.323.4232** or blake.derouchey@iowa.gov. Ω

Community Events Mark Anniversaries of '08 Storms

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On May 23, the Lions Club will hold an "EF 5K" walk/run. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. The route will make its way through Parkersburg to see the progress made since the tornado struck the community. Later that day, an ice cream social will take place in front of Truax Insurance from 5–8 p.m. The evening will wrap up with a street dance with all proceeds going toward a community memorial site for the people who lost their lives in the tornado.



On May 24, a community picnic will take place from noon–3 p.m. at Miracle Park. At 3:30 p.m., Lt. General Ron Dardis, executive director of the Rebuild Iowa Office, will deliver comments during a playground dedication. Musical entertainment will begin at 4:30 p.m. after the dedication.

The following morning, May 25, the American Legion will hold a breakfast from 7 a.m.–noon at the Veterans Building. A community barbecue will take place from noon–3 p.m. At 4:30 p.m., people are encouraged to gather at the elementary school practice field to remember those who lost their lives on May 25, 2008.

New Hartford - May 25

New Hartford will hold its commemoration ceremony on May 25. The day's activities begin at 9:45 a.m. with a re-dedication ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery. The May 25, 2008, tornado took out all the trees in the cemetery, damaged more than 400 monuments and took down the flag pole and cemetery gates. Since then, much of the damage has been repaired.

Community members will also plant two trees in memory of two rural residents killed in the tornado at 11:30 a.m. at Packwaukee Park in New Hartford. A community picnic follows the ceremony. Attendees should bring their own side dish, table service and beverages.

New Hartford suffered a second disaster one week after the tornado when major flooding hit the town and more than 600 residents had to be evacuated. Many homes were damaged in both the tornado and flood waters and the community continues to rebuild.

Palo – May 30

The Rebuild Palo Fund Inc., which partnered with Anderson-Bogert Engineers & Surveyors, Inc., will be delivering plants to every household in Palo from 9 a.m.–noon on May 30. The group is looking for volunteers to meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Cedar River Garden Center, 2889 Palo Marsh Road in Palo, to load flowers onto trucks and deliver them to households. Interested volunteers should contact Megan Murphy at meganpalo@netins.net or **319.851.2731**.



Waterloo – May 30

The theme for Waterloo's event on May 30 is "Together We Weathered the Storms." The commemoration event begins with a parade from 9:30–11:30 a.m. An Iowa National Guard helicopter will land at Lafayette Park around 11 a.m., and a community picnic will follow from noon–4 p.m.

Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis will deliver comments about the statewide recovery effort around noon in Lafayette Park.

Nearly a year ago, half of Waterloo's downtown was inundated with water from the Cedar River, along with numerous residential areas. Evacuation orders were issued for areas of Waterloo on June 10. The commemoration marking the one-year anniversary is being held during the annual community celebration called "My Waterloo Days," which runs from May 28–31. Ω



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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

HSEMD Welcomes New Employees

Grants Bureau

Stuart Malone joined HSEMD as an emergency management specialist on May 1 and serves as the lead mitigation finance officer for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Division. Before he began his full-time employment with HSEMD on May 1, Stuart worked as a contract mitigation finance officer. As the lead mitigation finance officer for HMGP, he handles budgets, payment requests, reports, monitoring and close outs of hazard mitigation grants.

Stuart worked in the banking and mortgage industry for more than 25 years before joining HSEMD. When he's not working on hazard mitigation projects, Stuart enjoys woodworking.



Stuart Malone



Jerald Ballanger

Jerald Ballanger joined HSEMD on May 1 as the lead Public Assistance coordinator in the Cedar Rapids area field office. Many know Jerald from his time as the emergency management coordinator for Appanoose, Davis, Lucas and Monroe Counties. Before he began his full-time employment with HSEMD on May 1, Jerald worked as a contract Public Assistance coordinator.

Welcome to the division, Stuart and Jerald! Ω