



SECURE & PREPARED

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Important Information

For the latest in disaster funding information, visit the Rebuild Iowa Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

REGISTER NOW!

The Governor's 6th Annual Homeland Security Conference will be **Oct. 5-7, 2009**, at the Sheraton West Des Moines. Learn how to register on Page 4!

ICS Used for Ed Thomas Funeral

Butler County Sheriff Jason Johnson is all too familiar with the value of the Incident Command System (ICS). The system was set up with the help of an Iowa Incident Management Team following the tornado that ravaged Parkersburg, where Johnson served as the incident commander for that response. With the death of legendary Parkersburg high school football coach Ed Thomas, and news that thousands of mourners, media and dignitaries could be expected, Johnson quickly realized he needed to set up ICS to help plan and manage the funeral.

A simple structure was set up for the Monday funeral, following a six-hour planning session held the day before.



Mitch Nordmeyer, who was the coordinator for thousands of volunteers after the tornado, served as co-incident commander along with Butler County Deputy Sheriff Curt Lubben, who also acted as the safety officer. Parkersburg Police Chief Chris Luhning, who completed multiple interviews during the tornado, served

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Investment Packages Receive Top Scores

Seven of Iowa's 15 homeland security investment packages for 2009 ranked in the top 15 percent on a national basis and four more topped the national average. Overall, Iowa's investments were ranked with an 83 percent effectiveness score, up 13 percent from two years ago. That's a testament to the hours of work put in by state and local partners who developed the packages.

As part of the Homeland Security Grant Program, states are required to submit "investment justifications." In a nutshell, these are packages that describe how much money is needed and how the funds will be used to support state and national strategies. These packages are developed by local and state partners and submitted to the federal Department of

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Investment Packages Receive Top Scores

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Homeland Security (DHS). They are reviewed by DHS and peer groups from around the country.

Here's a quick snapshot of Iowa's investment packages and their total investment scores. Bolded investments ranked in the top 15 percent nationally:

Investment	Score
EOD – Iowa's Bomb Squad Task Force	91
National Infrastructure Protection Plan	91
WMD-SWAT – Iowa's Tactical Task Force	91
Iowa's Type 3 Incident Management Team	89
Intelligence and Information Sharing	89
Citizen Corps	88
Multi-State Partnership for Security in Ag	85
WMD – Hazardous Materials Response	80
Animal Health and Food Safety	74
NIMS/National Response Framework	73
Des Moines MMRS	71
Enhanced Chemical Detection	70
Urban Search and Rescue	69
Continuity of Operations	69
National Initiatives, Requirements	69

"That is quite an accomplishment," noted HSEMD Administrator Dave Miller. "Thanks to all who worked so diligently to put these packages together. All of these packages are very important." Ω

ICS Used for Ed Thomas Funeral

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as the public information officer. An operations branch was established to coordinate activity with an EMS unit from Cedar Falls and the 22 law enforcement officers who provided security and traffic control.

Nordmeyer is very familiar with ICS. He has taught 86 ICS classes as an instructor for the Fire Service Training Bureau. He says the system worked without a hitch. The officers working the event met at 8 a.m. for a briefing. They came from Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Grundy County Sheriff's Office, Butler County Sheriff's Office and the City of Greene. Officers received a safety briefing and were given their assignments and communication information. They all also had experience with the ICS from the tornado and worked well as a team. The funeral started at 10:30 a.m. and concerns about protecting the family of Mark Becker, who has been charged with the murder, proved unfounded.

The route was kept a secret, mainly to help control media attention. "We didn't even tell the funeral home director the route until the service started," Nordmeyer noted. He added that the press followed directions and were no problem.

While ICS is normally associated with emergency events, the funeral of Ed Thomas is one example of how it can be used for many other activities. Ω

Got Flood Insurance Questions?

The good news: More than one year after the floods of June 2008, close to 3,000 Iowans have signed up for flood insurance. The bad news: More than 98 percent of the structures in Iowa are not insured, many of which sustained flood damage last year, according to officials from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Additionally, NFIP officials report less than 20 percent of single family homes in Iowa located in high-risk flood areas have flood insurance.

With Iowa being the only state which has two rivers as borders—the Mississippi and the Missouri—and with hundreds of small streams, creeks and rivers, Iowa is highly susceptible to flooding. The NFIP and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have teamed up to provide Iowans with answers to frequently asked questions:

How can I get flood insurance and how much will it cost?

If you live in a community that participates in the NFIP, you are eligible to purchase flood insurance. To buy a flood insurance policy and determine your costs, contact your insurance company or call floodsmart.gov at **1.888.379.9531** to find an insurance agent near you.

How is my flood insurance premium calculated?

A number of factors are considered, including: the amount and type of coverage being purchased, location and flood zone, and the design and age of your structure. For homes in high-risk areas built after the first Flood Insurance Rate Maps were drawn for that community, the elevation of the building in relation to the base flood elevation is also required.

Will there be a waiting period for my policy to take effect?

There is generally a 30-day waiting period from the time an insurance policy is purchased to when it actually goes into effect.

For more information about NFIP, the types of policies available, and a list of agencies that sell flood insurance, visit www.floodsmart.gov or call **1.888.379.9531**. Ω



Important Notice from EMI Regarding Exam Submissions

If you requested the final exam questions for teaching courses IS-100.a and IS-200.a to submit answer sheet forms to the Independent Study Program (ISP), please be sure to check the version you are currently using.

Beginning Aug. 1, 2009, only Version 4 exams will be accepted. If the exam does not say “Version 4” in

the upper right corner, it will not be accepted.

Any prior versions of the exam, if postmarked after July 31, 2009, will be returned to you by the ISP Office. If you are currently using an earlier version, please call the ISP office to request Version 4 questions. You can call the ISP Office at 301.447.1200, Monday through

Friday, 7:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m. Eastern Time to request the Version 4 questions, or for more information.

If your students are submitting their final exams online (<http://training.fema.gov>), they should use the online final exam questions; this notice only pertains to those who are submitting final exams by postal service on opscan answer sheets. Ω

Update on HSGP, EMPG Deadlines

All subgrantees under the 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) are reminded that the deadline for budget and work plan submittals is past. Delinquent budgets, and especially work plans, cause delays in Articles of Agreement and the release of '08 funds to all subgrantees. If you or someone you know have yet to submit an '08 budget and/or work plan, or if you have questions regarding the same, please contact Doug Rossell at doug.rossell@iowa.gov.

All FFY 2009 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) third-quarter reports and 2009 award adjustment documents need to be submitted no later than July 30, 2009. If you have questions, contact Tricia Boggs at tricia.boggs@iowa.gov. Ω

HMGP Planning Funds Available

The State of Iowa has Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds available for developing Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA) requires communities to have a FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plan in order to receive HMGP project funds. DMA 2000 also requires that jurisdictions update their FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plans every five years.

The State encourages counties and cities to work jointly to create multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans. This would encompass more areas of the county in a shorter period of time which will make a greater number of jurisdictions eligible for federal mitigation funding. This would also make the planning process more streamlined and efficient.

The state intends to fund all multi-jurisdictional requests for planning,

including funding those communities that are not currently National Flood Insurance Program compliant. This will encourage those communities to become compliant and thus be eligible for federal mitigation project funding.

For additional reference regarding multi-jurisdictional planning please review the guidance dated July 1, 2008, at www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3336.



To view the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan status, visit the HSEMD Web site at www.iowa-homelandsecurity.org/Partners/CountyCoordinators/Planning/tabid/108/Default.aspx.

To begin the process, a Notice of Interest (NOI) must be completed. A copy of the NOI can be requested from **Lisa Behrends** at lisa.behrends@iowa.gov. You may also contact Lisa for additional information at **515.254.2122**. Ω

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Sixth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference Oct. 6-7, 2009

FREE training session on Oct. 5:

- *Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings*
- *Prevention of and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents*

REGISTER NOW for the conference online! Visit www.iowa-homelandsecurity.org. The conference registration fee is \$125 on or before Sept. 21 and \$150 after Sept. 21. A link to the Sheraton West Des Moines' special hotel registration page for this event is available on the conference Web site.

QUESTIONS? Contact us at **515.725.3231** or governors.conference@iowa.gov.

Training Opportunities



ALERT Training

Two additional ALERT courses (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training – a.k.a. Response to Active Shooter) have been scheduled:

- Aug. 7-8 in Council Bluffs
- Nov. 7-8 in Fort Dodge

These classes are **FREE** and are available to all law enforcement, corrections and military officials in good standing with their agencies. Registration is available online at: www.iowaresponder-training.com. Click on the “ALERT” link at the top of the page.

For more information, contact Kelli Bloomquist at **515.574.1264** or bloomquist_k@iowacentral.com.

Iowa CERT Symposium

The CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) symposium is for emergency management professionals, current CERT volunteers or participants, those who want to start a CERT program or individuals interested in learning more about CERT. CERT educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills.

The symposium will be held Aug. 29-30 at North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City. The workshop fee is only \$10. To register, go to www.iowahome-landsecurity.org and click on the link on the right side of the page. If you have any questions, contact **Steve O’Neil** at **641.421.3665** or soneil@cerro-gordo.ia.us. Ω

HSEMD Releases More County ESF Prototypes

HSEMD has distributed to all counties seven of 15 pieces of the State Emergency Response Plan (ESF) conversion. ESFs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 have been released to date. Prototypes for the Basic Plan and ESF 10 (Hazardous Materials) have also been distributed to all counties.

The only planning requirement for counties for 2009 is ESF 10. The deadline for submission of ESF 10 to HSEMD is Aug. 1, 2009. HSEMD will still accept Annex P for 2009, but encourages everyone to reformat to the ESF 10 format.

HSEMD will continue to distribute to the counties a minimum of two ESFs per month. Ω

Making the Most of Twitter: Mobile Updates



Have you signed up to follow IowaHSEMD’s Twitter updates? Would you like to receive those updates via your mobile device, but don’t know how? Here are the few simple steps to get you started.

1. Sign up to follow IowaHSEMD. While logged into Twitter, click the “Find People” link at the top of the page. Type “IowaHSEMD” in the box labeled “Who are you looking for?” When you click the search button, our logo and bio should pop

up on your screen. All you have to do is click the “follow” button and you’re following our tweets! That means, you’ll get our updates on your Twitter Home page.

2. Set up your mobile device. Click the “Settings” tab at the top of the page, then the “Devices” tab once you’re in Settings. For U.S. texters, input your phone number with “+1” at the beginning and no spaces (e.g. “+15155550000” for 515-555-0000).

3. Send IowaHSEMD updates directly to your mobile device. Text “ON IowaHSEMD” to “40404”. This will enable you to receive all of IowaHSEMD’s updates on your mobile device (phone, Blackberry, etc.). If you want to stop receiving our updates, simply text “OFF IowaHSEMD” to the same number. If you want to follow someone else on your mobile device, you can repeat these steps using anyone’s Twitter name in place of “IowaHSEMD”. Ω

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A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

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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

Emergency Management Coordinator Wanted

The Pottawattamie County Emergency Management Commission is accepting applications for an emergency management coordinator. This full-time position is responsible for planning, implementing and coordinating disaster preparedness and emergency management programs. A bachelor's degree and two years responsible experience in emergency management, public or business administration, public relations, military preparedness or related work is required; or an equivalent combination of experience and education. Must possess valid driver's



license and reside within a 40-minute response time of the Pottawattamie County Courthouse. The starting salary range is \$45,000–\$55,000, depending upon experience. Applications may be obtained at www.pottcounty.com or at the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors Office, Second Floor, Courthouse, 227 South Sixth Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa. Please submit application, resume and cover letter to the same address. Closing date is Friday, July 31, 2009.

The applicant also must successfully complete pre-employment screenings including a drug test and background check. EOE. Ω

New Award Honors Government Employees

The Iowa Business Council (IBC) announces the "Iowa Partners In Efficiency Award" which has been created to annually recognize employees or work units in any political subdivision of local, county, or state government that, through the use of "Lean Enterprise" tools and techniques, significantly and measurably increase productivity and promote innovation resulting in the improvement of delivery of public services to the benefit of the citizens of Iowa and the private sector.

Representatives of the Lean Government Collaborative will judge

the entries. Award nominations will be accepted until Sept. 30, 2009.

Finalists will be selected in November, and the winner will be

announced during IBC's 24th Annual Partnership Meeting in Des Moines on Jan. 25, 2010. An application and additional details can be obtained at <http://lean.iowa.gov/> or www.iowa-businesscouncil.org. Ω

