



# SECURE & PREPARED

August 27, 2009

## Volume 5, Issue 17

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## Important Information

### CERT SYMPOSIUM POSTPONED

The Aug. 29-30 CERT Symposium has been postponed until October. See page 4 for more 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 on page 5.

## Public Information Officer Workshop Deemed "Excellent" and "Engaging"

Last week, the first of a series of regional Public Information Officer (PIO) workshops took place at the Cerro Gordo County EOC in Mason City. Sixteen local participants from several counties came together for the training and exercise activities, funded by the 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP).

The goal of the workshops is to develop and coordinate emergency management PIOs at the local and state levels of government. The sessions will demonstrate the importance of identifying and training PIOs at the local level and the need for PIOs at every level to communicate with colleagues.



**Frank Cowan instructs PIOs on the joint information system.**

Workshop attendee Marlene Freeden of the Elderbridge Agency on Aging in Mason City said the most effective part of the workshop was the chance

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## Black Hawk County Receives Presidential Disaster Declaration

Black Hawk County has received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for damage caused by severe storms on July 10.

The declaration provides Black Hawk County federal disaster assistance for damage to public infrastructure that was caused by the July 10 storm. Governor Culver requested the Presidential Disaster Declaration on July 29 after an initial assessment

determined more than \$5 million in damage to public infrastructure throughout the county. The declaration also makes all counties eligible for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for measures to reduce or prevent long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards.

### *State Individual Assistance Program*

Residents of Black Hawk, Adair, Hardin, Sac and Webster Counties  
*Continued on Page 2...*

## September is Preparedness Month

The tornadoes and floods of 2008 taught us that disasters can strike any time, anywhere. In fact, the summer of 2008 will go down as Iowa's biggest disaster. Although we don't know when the next disaster will strike, we do know emergencies will happen. That is why the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) is asking Iowans to take some simple steps to be prepared for any emergency or disaster during Family Preparedness Month in September.

### Make a plan

- Talk with your household members about the primary dangers you face. Fire, severe weather and flooding are major disasters in Iowa. Discuss two different ways to get out of your house and identify an outside meeting place. In the case of severe weather, be sure everyone knows the safe room for your home.
- Plan for your pets. Be ready to take them with you and prepare a list of family, friends, boarding facilities and pet-friendly hotels. Most public shelters do not accommodate pets.
- Think of any special needs you might have including medicines.
- Establish an out-of-town relative or close friend who can serve as a communication point if your family is scattered.

### Make a kit

- Have enough water – one gallon per day per person – and food to sustain each person for at least three days.
- First aid kit
- Extra clothing and blankets
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Unique family needs such as prescription medicines, infant formula or diapers



For more tips go to [www.bereadyiowa.org](http://www.bereadyiowa.org). When you're ready, Iowa is ready! Ω

## Iowa Individual Assistance Program

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are eligible to apply for the State Individual Assistance Program following damage from storms July 10-Aug. 9. Under the program, Iowans with household incomes of up to 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines may apply for a reimbursement grant of up to \$5,000 to help recover from storm damage. A variety of expenses are covered including home repair, replacement of appliances and the

cost of temporary housing.

To find out more, visit the Department of Human Services Web site at [www.dhs.state.ia.us](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us) and click on the "Storm Help" link. The deadline for Black Hawk and Adair County residents to apply for this program is Sept. 1, 2009. The deadline for residents of Hardin County is Sept. 23, 2009, and Sac and Webster Counties Sept. 27, 2009. Ω

## Be Sure Your Own are Ready

David L. Miller, HSEMD

Administrator

In September we'll kick off our family preparedness messaging. We're developing a number of partnerships to help spread the word about the need for Iowans to take the basic steps to prepare themselves and loved ones for disasters. We give these basic points:



- Make a plan by talking with your household about primary dangers of fire and severe weather and the steps everyone should take. Plan for pets and think about special needs like medicine.
- Make a kit with enough water, food and other supplies to take care of everyone for two to three days.
- Go to [www.bereadyiowa.org](http://www.bereadyiowa.org) for more details.

All of this is great and should be a good reminder to most who read our newsletter.

Here's the point of my column; Don't get caught in the "shoemaker's shoes" syndrome, where we preach preparedness to others and fail to prepare our own. When we are activated and asked to respond during emergencies, we all will do a much better job if we know our families and loved ones are also ready. Please make sure your loved ones know the basic steps to take. The life you save could be someone very close to you. Ω

## Storm Damage Prompts Governor to Request Additional Agriculture Designation

Governor Chet Culver has requested a Secretarial Disaster Designation to provide assistance to farmers in eight additional counties that were hit hard by severe weather this spring and summer.

On Aug. 20, the Governor requested U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack grant a disaster designation for agricultural producers in eight counties that sustained damage to plants and significant production losses from the severe storms between Aug. 1 and Aug. 9, 2009. These eight counties are in addition to an Aug. 11 request for a Secretarial Designation for 23 counties that sustained damage between May 15 and July 31, 2009.

If granted, the Secretarial Designation will expand eligibility for individuals in the affected and contiguous counties for additional USDA assistance, including resources available through the SURE permanent disaster program, created



in the 2008 Farm Bill. Iowans are encouraged to contact their local Farm Service Agency for further information.

Counties included in the request are: Allamakee, Benton, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Clarke, Clay, Clayton, Decatur, Delaware, Fayette, Grundy, Hamilton, Hardin, Howard, Ida, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lucas, Mahaska, Sac, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne, Webster, Winnebago and Woodbury.

For more on the agriculture designation process, see story at right. Ω

## Community Emergency Response Training, Refresher Courses Offered

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training will be held in September and October. The 2.5 day class is designed to give basic knowledge in several important emergency response areas to people who may be at an emergency scene.

Dates and locations:  
Sept. 21-23, Ankeny Labs, Ankeny

Oct. 19-21, Department of Public Safety Building, Des Moines

Also on Oct. 21, participants in past CERT classes can attend a three-hour refresher training. This refresher session will be held from 1-4 p.m. at the Department of Public Safety Building in Des Moines.

Sign up at [www.iowahomeland-security.org](http://www.iowahomeland-security.org), click on "Training" in the Quick Links section, then select Events Management System. Contact [Erin Mullenix@iowa.gov](mailto:Erin.Mullenix@iowa.gov) for additional information. Ω

## Agriculture Disaster Designation Process

In recent weeks, HSEMD has been working with our federal partners on agriculture damage from several severe storms. The agriculture designation process differs from the "normal" disaster declaration process. Below is a summary of the agriculture designation process.

Storm damage to the agriculture sector can be severe, yet will likely not qualify for Stafford Act (Presidential declaration) assistance. Most agriculture disaster assistance programs flow through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which has its own unique set of qualifiers. When events like recent hail storms occur, the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will reach out to counties and request Loss Assessment Reports (LARs). Producers must work with their county FSA office to properly capture data for the LAR. LARs are compiled and reviewed by the State Emergency Board which recommends (or declines to recommend) a USDA Secretarial Declaration be sought by the Governor.

If a Secretarial Designation is granted, disaster application intake starts the following Nov. 1 (producers apply in November 2010 for 2009 losses). Benefits are paid approximately six months later. The process takes a minimum of 18 months, approximately 22 months from the July 2009 event.

For more on Secretarial Disaster Designations, visit: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/emerdisproc07.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/emerdisproc07.pdf). Ω

## PIO Regional Workshops

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to “[work] with actual scenarios to test our ability to get information out to the public.” Julie Huiskamp of Northeast Iowa Community College said “the opportunity to meet regional PIOs” was one of the most useful components.

Cerro Gordo/Franklin County Emergency Management Coordinator Steve O’Neil said, “Frank and Chris were fantastic.”

Chris Kramer and Frank Cowan, who are experts in emergency public information and the Joint Information System and Joint Information Centers, conducted the training in Mason City and will lead future workshops. The workshops will be held at locations throughout Iowa over the next 18 months to two years. Additional workshop dates and locations have yet to be determined.

The workshops are free to participants. The goal is to hold a workshop in each of Iowa’s homeland security regions. County emergency management coordinators who are interested in hosting a workshop for their region should contact



**PIO workshop instructor Chris Kramer talks to participants.**

Bret Voorhees at [bret.voorhees@iowa.gov](mailto:bret.voorhees@iowa.gov), 515.725.3207 or Lucinda Robertson at [Lucinda.robertson@iowa.gov](mailto:Lucinda.robertson@iowa.gov), 515.725.3239.

Chris Kramer is also scheduled to be a presenter at the Sixth Annual Governor’s Homeland Security Conference, which will be Oct.6-7. For more information on the conference, visit [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org) and click the conference link on the right side of the page. Ω

## Haz Mat Symposium, Save the Date

The 2009 Haz Mat Symposium will be held Oct. 22-23, 2009.

On Oct. 22, participants will be able to choose classes from several tracks, including case studies, incident management, instrumentation, transportation, back-to-basics, and Iowa’s statewide special teams. A general session will be held Oct.

23 and will cover topics including the National Hazardous Materials Fusion Center and Safeguard Iowa Partnership.

Additional details will be available soon at [www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb](http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb). Sign up for e-mail notification of training opportunities at <https://dpsemailnotify.iowa.gov>. Ω

## CERT Symposium Date Changed

The Iowa Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Symposium, which was scheduled for Aug. 29-30 in Mason City, has been postponed until October. The second day of activities has been dropped from the agenda, shortening the symposium to one day, Oct. 17.

Emergency management professionals are encouraged to register, along with key CERT participants, current CERT volunteers, those who wish to start a CERT program, or individuals interested in learning more about Citizen Corps and CERT in Iowa.

CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team. As part of Citizen Corps, CERT educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Using their training, CERT members can assist in their neighborhood or workplace following an event and can take a more active role in preparing their community.

For more information about the Iowa CERT Symposium, contact Steve O’Neil at 641.421.3665 or [Soneil@cerro-gordo.ia.us](mailto:Soneil@cerro-gordo.ia.us), or Blake DeRouchey at 515.323.4332 or [blake.derouchey@iowa.gov](mailto:blake.derouchey@iowa.gov). Ω

## Governor's Homeland Security Conference Fast Approaching

There are less than eight weeks until the Sixth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference, which will be held Oct. 6-7 at the West Des Moines Sheraton. Online registration is open at [www.iowa-homelandsecurity.org/conference/Register.aspx](http://www.iowa-homelandsecurity.org/conference/Register.aspx). Hotel rooms at the Sheraton will be held at the special conference rate until Sept. 13, and after Sept. 21, the registration fee will increase. A tentative agenda is posted online, as well as speaker biographies and links to book your hotel room.

A special training session will also be offered free of charge on Oct. 5 including: Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings and Prevention of and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents. The training will be provided by New Mexico Tech, a member organization of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC). The NDPC is a professional alliance sponsored through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA's National Preparedness Directorate. The consortium is made up of seven members, each which have distinguished themselves nationally as experts in chemicals, explosives,

radiological/nuclear devices, bioterrorism, counter-terrorism, agroterrorism and emergency management systems.

Presenters include Dr. Grady Bray, a disaster psychologist with an international reputation as a lecturer, author, disaster survivor and emergency response authority. Dr. Bray has appeared as a subject matter expert on the TODAY show, The Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel, FEMA's Recovery Channel and was featured in an NBC Dateline segment which focused on surviving high-rise fires.

Speaker Dr. Samuel H. Clovis serves as a fellow at the Homeland Security Institute in Arlington, VA, and is a faculty member at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA. Dr. Clovis has written extensively on homeland security national preparedness and is actively involved in policy development in that area. He has been involved in the development and implementation of national preparedness policy in support of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security since 2004.



Other topics of interest include an update on the H1N1 flu virus, disaster response planning and incident crisis management in the private sector, social media, National Weather Service updates, EdTrAC, the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture, NIMS updates, the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium, preparedness challenges in modern agricultural production centers, and interdependencies in agriculture.

If you have any questions, you may send an email to [governors.conference@iowa.gov](mailto:governors.conference@iowa.gov), or call David Hempen (515.725.3281), Beth Gathercole (515.725.3204) or Stefanie Bond (515.725.3271). Ω

### HSEMD Radiological Instrumentation and Calibration Facility Fee Changes

HSEMD's Radiological Instrumentation and Calibration Facility provides calibration and repair of instruments for the private sector and government agencies. As of Oct. 14, 2009, the following fees will apply to services:

One radiation instrument and one detector \$70  
 Each additional detector \$20  
 Each dosimeter \$10  
 Leak test \$15  
 Repair fee hourly rate \$70  
 Parts Cost plus 15%

Shipping and handling fees are the responsibility of the customer.

For more information, call the facility at 515.242.5317. Ω

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**HSEMD Mission**

Lead, coordinate, and support  
homeland security and emer-  
gency management functions  
in order to establish sustain-  
able communities and ensure  
economic opportunities for Iowa  
and its citizens.

## HSGP '09 Investments Set, FRAC Recommendation Accepted

The amount of funding for the 14 Investment Packages under the 2009 Homeland Security Grant Program has been finalized. This follows an Aug. 18 meeting of the First Responders Advisory Committee (FRAC) where a recommendation to cut \$143,300 was passed.

After reviewing a recommendation to cut three percent across the board from all packages which was quickly dismissed, and discussing cutting the full \$143,300 from the Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Continuity of Government (COG) Investment, the FRAC recommended that three percent or \$10,000 be cut from National Initiatives/Regionalization, and the remaining \$133,300 be cut from COOP/COG. FRAC members recognized the importance of continuity and succession planning but said local officials did not have enough time to devote to this planning requirement. They also noted that \$266,700 was much larger than the amount allocated for that scope of work in previous years.

Lt. Governor Patty Judge and HSEMD Administrator David Miller accepted the FRAC recommendation. Here are the packages and final allocations:

▲ Incident Management Teams	\$40,000
▲ Weapons of Mass Destruction, SWAT	\$213,000
▲ EOD Bomb Squad Task Force	\$541,500
▲ Weapons of Mass Destruction	\$496,000
▲ University of Iowa Hygienic Lab	\$195,000
▲ Animal Health and Food Safety	\$190,000
▲ Local State Official Education	\$13,750
▲ Multi-State Ag Partnership	\$218,213
▲ National Incident Management System/ National Response Framework Implementation	\$1,160,000
▲ National Infrastructure Protection	\$526,750
▲ National Initiatives/Regionalization	\$347,000
▲ Intelligence and Information Sharing	\$1,871,587
▲ Urban Search and Rescue	\$445,000
▲ Continuity of Operations/ Continuity of Government	\$266,700

**We're on the Web!**

[www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org)