



# SECURE & PREPARED

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## Volume 5, Issue 19

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Homeland Security Conference</i>	2
<i>CERT Symposium</i>	2
<i>Homeland Security Strategy</i>	3
<i>Special Needs Symposium</i>	4

## Important Information

For the latest in disaster funding information, visit the Rebuild Iowa Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov).

## THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

The 6th Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference will be held **Oct. 6-7, 2009**, at the Sheraton in West Des Moines. Although early registration has closed, there's still time to register. More information on page 2.

## HSEMD Teams Up for Preparedness Month

This year an unprecedented number of private and public organizations stepped up to help promote September's Family Preparedness Month message – have a plan, make a kit and be aware. Here are a few examples:

- Twenty-two Walmart stores in central and southeast Iowa have table displays with items that can be used for an emergency supply kit along with brochures that explain the importance of preparedness.
- All of Iowa's 420 Casey's stores are displaying a flyer with the family preparedness message and promoting the [www.bereadyiowa.org](http://www.bereadyiowa.org) Web site.
- The Iowa Lottery is printing the Web site and a simple message on the on-line tickets for one week.



### Family Preparedness Month display at the Indianola Walmart.

- The Safeguard Iowa Partnership helped to promote preparedness with its members.
- Mid-American Energy, Hy-Vee, Des Moines Water Works, Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Iowa Department of Transportation and a number of other public and private

*Continued on Page 3...*

## Iowa Runs First State-Managed Disaster

Following a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Black Hawk County on Aug. 13, 2009, Iowa is running its first state-managed disaster.

The Black Hawk County Presidential Disaster Declaration (Disaster 1854) was the result of damage caused by high wind and severe storms on July 10. The Declaration activated the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program to assist local entities in repair of public infrastructure.

Normally following a Presidential Declaration, FEMA will execute the management and administration of the PA program. For this disaster, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) will manage and administer the program, performing many of the tasks FEMA staff or FEMA contractors would perform, in addition to those tasks typically done by state PA staff.

*Continued on Page 2...*

# State-Managed Disaster

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"Iowa is uniquely capable of doing this as a managing state because of the qualifications and competencies of the current PA staff and the continuing effort to maintain training and on-the-job training to ensure program staff are up to date," said State Public Assistance Officer Dennis Harper.

For Disaster 1854 Iowa has dedicated a team of 13 staff to manage and execute the PA Program working from an office location in Waterloo. As Iowa has always maintained an active role in the management and monitoring of the Public Assistance Program, the biggest change for program staff is the management of data to the federal data system, as well as the actual writing, reviewing and performing the data entry and quality control of all project worksheets.

Harper said the advantage of a state-managed disaster is the cohesive nature of the grant support that will occur when state staff is engaged from the damage assessment process through the final closeout of the projects. Another advantage is the cost savings real-

ized by not deploying FEMA staff and contractors to Iowa to support the grant operations and to provide the necessary personnel and logistical support. For Disaster 1854 FEMA has engaged technical staff to provide assistance in the form of data entry and insurance expertise but does not deploy significant numbers to Iowa as they would in a typical operation.

Ten local applicants currently have been identified with estimated eligible damages of \$13.8 million (not including insurance coverage). The largest applicant in the 1854 PA Program is Cedar Falls Utilities which experienced PA-eligible damages in excess of an estimated \$11 million during the disaster incident period. Harper estimates state PA staff will write a total of 88 projects. Iowa staff has been working with local officials to gather actual cost documentation with a goal of writing all projects by Oct. 31, 2009. The long-term goal is to complete all project work under this disaster and financially closeout all applicants within three years of the declaration date. Ω

## Governor's Homeland Security Conference Rapidly Approaches

The Sixth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference will be held Oct. 6-7 at the West Des Moines Sheraton.

The registration fee is \$150. Online registration will close Oct. 2.

The conference agenda is posted online, as well as speaker biographies and links to book your hotel room.

A free training session will be held Oct. 5, Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings and Prevention of and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents.

This year's keynote speaker on Oct. 6 is retired Maj. Gen. Steve Saunders, now the assistant administrator for the National Integration Center of FEMA's National Preparedness Directorate.

General session presentations include Dr. Grady Bray who will discuss psychological reactions to mass fatalities, intervention strategies and coping with stress related to mass-fatality incidents. Preparedness challenges for modern ag production centers, H1N1 and new communication technology will also be discussed during general sessions.

Daily breakout sessions will cover a variety of topics relevant to the fields of homeland security and emergency management.

Visit [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org) and select the conference link on the home page. Ω

## CERT Symposium is Oct. 17

The Iowa CERT Symposium will be held Oct. 17 at the Muse Norris Conference Center, North Iowa Area Community College, Mason City.

The symposium is for county emergency management coordinators, individuals interested in learning more about Citizen Corps, key

CERT participants, volunteers involved in CERT, or those who want to start a CERT program.

Registration information and the agenda are available on the HSEMD Web site at [www.iowa-homelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowa-homelandsecurity.org) under the Quick Links section. Ω

# HSEMD Teams Up for Preparedness Month

...Continued from Page 1

groups, published stories about preparedness in their employee and customer newsletters.

"This was a true team effort," explained David Miller, HSEMD administrator. "We are very pleased with the overwhelming response we had in helping us share this very important message," he added.

The partnerships came at a crucial time as federal funds to promote family preparedness have shrunk. In past years HSEMD has used radio advertisements to promote preparedness and the Be Ready Iowa Web site. This year new avenues were explored.

Lt. Governor Patty Judge joined Miller at a news conference at the Capitol on Sept. 11 for Family Preparedness Month, urging Iowans to make sure their families are prepared for emergencies and disasters.

"We all have a role to play in the preparedness of our communities, state, and nation," said Miller. "As



**HSEMD Administrator David Miller, and Lt. Governor Patty Judge at Family Preparedness Month news conference.**

citizens, your role is to be prepared to keep yourself and your family safe."

Miller urged all Iowans to take time to make a plan, build a kit and be more aware of the hazards that could affect them.

"The time you invest in preparing will pay off in increased safety

for your family and peace of mind knowing you and your loved ones know what to do if there is a disaster," Miller said.

Thanks to all who helped to share the family preparedness message this month. To learn more, visit [www.bereadyiowa.org](http://www.bereadyiowa.org). Ω

## Homeland Security and Emergency Management Strategy Completed

The "Iowa Strategy for Homeland Security and Emergency Management 2009-2014" has been completed and is available online.

The Strategy is a grant requirement to guide the use of grants administered by the Grants Program Directorate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. It guides the state's

homeland security and emergency management efforts over the next five years.

The Strategy was developed with the input of Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Homeland Security Executive Group, the First Responder Advisory Committee, the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council, the Safeguard Iowa Partnership, the

Iowa Emergency Management Association, and representatives from other agencies involved in homeland security and emergency management in Iowa.

The "Iowa Strategy for Homeland Security and Emergency Management 2009-2014" is available at [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org). Ω

## Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

**Administrator**  
David L. Miller

7105 N.W. 70th Avenue  
Camp Dodge, Bldg. W-4  
Johnston, IA 50131

Phone: 515.725.3231  
Fax: 515.725.3260  
Web site:

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

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For more information contact Stefanie Bond, 515.725.3271 or [stefanie.bond@iowa.gov](mailto:stefanie.bond@iowa.gov).

### News Team

Whitney Baethke

Tricia Boggs

Stefanie Bond

Tara Dowd

Beth Gathercole

Erin Mullenix

Lucinda Robertson

Doug Rossell

Bret Voorhees

Lynda Wessel

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

# Special Needs Symposium Brings Together Range of Participants

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council's (IDHRC) Special Needs Committee hosted a Special Needs Symposium in September called "Everyone Survives II." The Committee sponsored the symposium to find out what has been done, what needs to be done and what everyone involved can do to help. The symposium brought together emergency managers, special needs advocates and people with special needs.



The event was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston. More than 100 people gathered to listen to panel presentations on personal disaster experience and promising practices. The keynote address was delivered by Marcie Roth, who is the disabilities coordinator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The afternoon session consisted of breakout groups intended to help develop a work plan. The Iowa Department of Administrative Services helped facilitate the event. A World Café method was used, with breakout groups that rotated every 30 minutes. Using this method, ideas were built and further developed as groups rotated.

Participants were also asked to be on a continuing work group based off the breakout sessions. These work groups will further develop the plans and ideas that were brought to the table at the symposium.

The IDHRC is working to compile the information gathered at the breakout sessions, and will be working with the participant work groups to help develop special needs planning and bridge any gaps in capabilities.

The IDHRC is comprised of faith-based and voluntary agency representatives as well as representatives from key government agencies. The mission of the IDHRC 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.

"Everyone Survives II" built upon the work that was started from the first special needs symposium which was held in 2007. For more information on the symposium or the IDHRC, please contact Blake DeRouchey at [blake.derouchey@iowa.gov](mailto:blake.derouchey@iowa.gov) or 515.323.4232. Ω