



# SECURE & PREPARED

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## Volume 5, Issue 22

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## Important Information

### Grant Deadlines

The guidance from Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is expected out in the first week of December for both 2010 HSGP and 2010 EMPG. This is a change from the originally expected Nov. 5 date.

HSEMD will send out official letters on Nov. 15 including details for submittal of project work plans and budgets for 2009 HSGP.

Quarterly project reports for 2008 HSGP are due Nov. 15. The second quarterly report is due Jan. 15. Ω

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

## DOT Employee Spends 14 Months Performing Disaster Recovery Work

“If you don’t want to live in a hotel and work a lot of overtime, this isn’t for you.” Sage advice from Tim Trick, equipment operator senior in the Spirit Lake garage, who recently returned to northwest Iowa after spending 14 months doing disaster recovery work in Cedar Rapids. While he made the five-hour drive a couple times a month to mow and do other household maintenance chores, Trick says the majority of his focus since July 2008 was assisting public entities in Linn, Delaware, Buchanan, and Jones Counties and cities including Cedar Rapids with obtaining federal disaster funding to repair infrastructure damaged in massive flooding.



*Tim Trick*

So how does a guy from Spirit Lake end up working with flood victims in eastern Iowa? For Trick, the opportunity began in 2000 when his supervisor, Roger Vigdal, approved what

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## Winter Weather Awareness Day is Nov. 12

The National Weather Service and HSEMD have declared Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, as Winter Weather Awareness Day in Iowa.

Blizzards and winter storms over the past few years have demonstrated the need for Iowans to be prepared for winter weather. Winter Weather Awareness Day is an opportunity to learn winter weather preparedness and then take the necessary steps to ensure you and your family are ready for the coming winter.

Learn more about winter weather preparedness, including driving tips, preventing frostbite and hypothermia, and preparing your home by visiting [www.bereadyiowa.org](http://www.bereadyiowa.org).

The Des Moines National Weather Service Web site also features useful links on winter weather preparedness at [www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/). Select the Winter Weather Awareness Day link. Ω

## DOT Employee Performs Disaster Recovery Work

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he thought was a one-day training session provided through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The training turned out to be much more, with several one-week sessions on how to assist public entities in navigating federal disaster recovery assistance and project coordination.

“At first Roger and I weren’t sure this was right for me. It was a lot of time away from the shop,” said Trick. “But when I got into [it], I thought it was something that could be very beneficial in the event of a major emergency.”

Trick, along with several other Iowa DOT employees and others, was trained as state public assistance project officer. Their duties, once deployed, included working with public entities such as cities and counties in completing paperwork for federal financial assistance to repair public infrastructure following a disaster.

Trick was not called into action until 2004 when he was deployed to Bradgate following a tornado in that small city. In 2007, Trick was sent to Newton following a major ice storm and to Creston and Fort Dodge following flooding in those areas. Trick says he learned a lot at these short-term assignments that helped when the major disasters hit in May and June 2008.

“I had been deployed to Parkersburg following the tornado there, but then the flooding came and I was shifted to Cedar Rapids about the time the Cedar River crested,” said Trick.

“My first task was to work out of the emergency operations center as a liaison for DOT activities such as debris removal.”



“Tim has done an outstanding job,” said Dave Miller, administrator for the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD). “We sincerely appreciated the help he provided and the support we receive from the Iowa DOT. The DOT is an agency we can always count on and Tim’s work exemplifies that partnership.”

After time, Trick’s duties shifted to assisting public agencies with the paperwork needed to apply for federal disaster funding. Mark Dean, highway technician associate in the Cedar Rapids garage, worked alongside Trick and assisted public agencies in Iowa and Benton Counties. The two set up shop with FEMA officials and workers from Iowa HSEMD in a portion of a manufacturing facility in Cedar Rapids.

When they were not out meeting with city and county officials, Trick and Dean spent 10 to 12 hours a day in the makeshift offices with

temporary walls covered in maps and other documents. “After a disaster this widespread, I think people get a little overwhelmed by what needs to be done. That’s where we can step in, get the process started and walk them through what needs to be done to get all the assistance possible. The city and county employees really appreciate having someone available to explain what needs to be done. It’s rewarding to me to know we were here to help when they needed us most.”

Trick says some of the things he has learned in the 14 months spent in Cedar Rapids are going to be useful in his DOT job, too. “There is a lot that I can take back,” he said. “Report writing and project administration are just a few of the things...but probably the most beneficial will be the communications skills I learned.”

Trick, who returned to the Spirit Lake shop in early September, looks forward to a “normal” northwest Iowa winter. “I got to push a little snow around last year when I was home a few weekends and a few big storms when they needed me,” he said. “But I’m ready to get back home.” Trick, who says this assignment worked for him because he lives alone, stresses that, while the work is rewarding, it is not for everyone. “I don’t even have a dog, so I can just take off whenever I am needed somewhere else,” he added, “It’s also something I can do part time after I retire from the DOT. It’s very rewarding work.”

**[Photo and article courtesy Tracey Bramble, Iowa DOT.]** 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](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org)

## Training Opportunities

### G-290 Public Information Officer

Nov. 11-12, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Norwalk, Iowa

Dec. 1-2, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Mason City, Iowa

Dec. 10-11, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Atlantic, Iowa

This free 16-hour course will assist participants with building the skills needed to be a full or part-time public information officer; such as oral and written communications, understanding and working with the media, and the basic tools and techniques PIOs need. It covers the latest technology available, so that PIOs can use those tools comfortably, and to their advantage. This course is comprised of a blend of content from expert sources in the public information field, some FEMA program information and guidance, individual and small group activities, and classroom discussion about PIO roles and strategies for working with the media.

Register by contacting **Lindsay Bollard** at 515.574.1263 or [bollard@io-wacentral.com](mailto:bollard@io-wacentral.com). Spots are limited, so please register as soon as possible.

It is recommended that those who plan to attend a regional PIO workshop (see the July 2 issue of **Secure & Prepared** for more information) that this basic course is also taken.

### Iowa HSEMD Schedule of Classes

For those who like to plan ahead, the 2010 training schedule is now available on the Events Management System site: <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>.

Other courses will be added to the site as they become available. Some upcoming courses available for registration at this time are:

**Emergency Management Program Development**  
Nov. 9

**Animal Disease Response Training (pilot course)**  
Nov. 17

**Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools**  
Dec. 1

**IS-240 Leadership & Influence**  
Jan. 20, 2010

**IS-241 Decision Making & Problem Solving**  
March 19, 2010

**IS-139/G120 Exercise Design**  
May 26, 2010

**IS-242 Effective Communication**  
July 22, 2010 Ω

## HSEMD Personnel Updates

Craig Bargfrede, deputy public assistance officer, is on a leave of absence as of Monday, Nov. 2. Craig will be working on Camp Dodge with his National Guard unit until they deploy in July 2010 to Afghanistan.

Public Assistance Project Officer Scott Stanley returned from deployment on Oct. 28. Scott left HSEMD for Iraq more than one year ago, and will return to work after Thanksgiving. Ω