



SECURE & PREPARED

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Important Information

OFFICE CLOSURE

HSEMD offices will be closed **Friday, Dec. 25** and **Friday, Jan. 1**. Iowa State Patrol Dispatch will be taking emergency calls that come in via the Division's main number, 515.725.3231. Ω

Be Ready Iowa!



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Morrissey Participates in National Forum

Story County Emergency Management Coordinator Lori Morrissey recently had the opportunity to share the local perspective on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) during a two-day listening session in Washington, D.C.



FEMA

Morrissey, the only local emergency management representative at the Nov. 5-6 session, was selected by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to participate. During the session, representatives from a variety of organizations and disciplines, including government, flood plain management, emergency management, public works, engineering and insurance, were asked to provide feedback on topics ranging from flood mapping to repetitive loss.

"Story County has received six Presidential Disaster Declarations for flooding in the last 16 years. I was pleased to see that the participants at this listening session were not all from the coastal states or major metropolitan areas," said Morrissey. "I believe that FEMA received a good national overall perspective and am hopeful that we will be able to resolve or mitigate some of these issues."

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2010 EMPG Guidance Expected Next Week

The 2010 EMPG Guidance is expected to be released to the states on Tuesday, Dec. 8.

The 2010 EMPG application is due Jan. 11, 2010. The date was moved so that prospective applicants have a full 30 days to complete the application. This later date will not affect when you receive your funding since Iowa HSEMD must wait for its notice to proceed from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(DHS). Usually that is received by the end of March. The review and award documents will be completed before HSEMD receives its notice of award from DHS.

On Dec. 1, the 2010 EMPG Application Form, Application Instructions, 2010 Compiled Project List, and project work plan examples were distributed to all county emergency coordinators by email.

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Morrissey Participates in National Forum

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Morrissey participated in breakout sessions pertaining to mapping risk/identification and communication, mandatory purchasing/affordability, and the NFIP and environmental issues.

The listening session kicked off a 30-day comment period. Approximately 175 stakeholders participated. To submit comments on the National Flood Insurance Program and related issues, visit www.fema.gov/nfipcomments. Ω

Tell Us What You Think!

Your opinion matters! HSEMD wants to know how we can make our Web site more useful to our customers.

Please take a few minutes to complete a short survey at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org. HSEMD will use survey results to improve the content and design of the Web site.

We appreciate your feedback and suggestions. The survey will be available through Dec. 9. Ω



2010 EMPG Guidance Expected Next Week

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Since the performance period has already started, please remember to track your accomplishments during the first quarter (Oct. 1–Dec. 31, 2009). Also, be sure you separate expenses for 2010 EMPG (Oct. 1, 2009–Sept. 30, 2010) with unique expenditure codes.

Deadlines

Dec. 1, 2009 – EMAs must have submitted and HSEMD received their Intent to Apply for 2010 EMPG Funding to be eligible for 2010 EMPG funding.

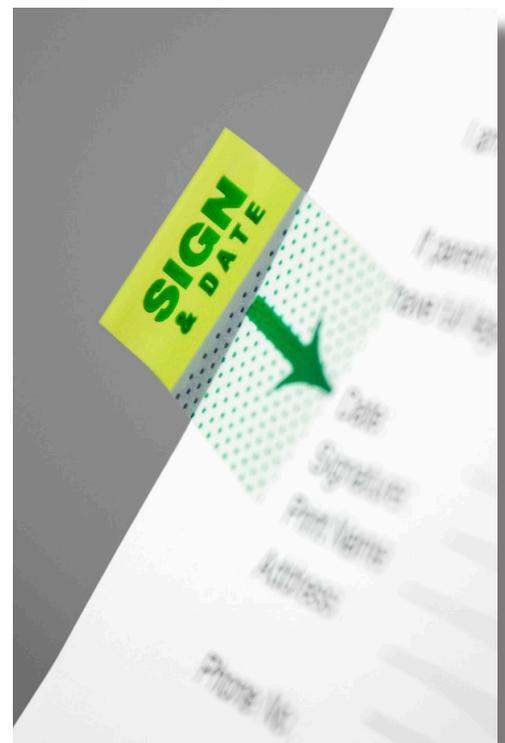
Jan. 7, 2010 – Eligible EMAs who want to receive 2010 funding must submit completed application via e-mail to Tricia Boggs.

Jan. 30, 2010 – First Quarter Project Reports and Reimbursement Requests are due.

This will hopefully curb the delay in reimbursements in May and June with the push for first and second quarter reimbursements. By submitting the first quarter reimbursement requests can be in the accounting system in advance, so as soon as HSEMD receives the authority to draw down federal funds in March/April, reimbursements can be issued.

April 30, 2010 – Second Quarter Project Reports and Reimbursement Requests are due.

If you have any questions during this application process, please contact **Tricia Boggs** at tricia.boggs@iowa.gov or **515.725.3218**. Ω



New ESF-10 Guidance Allows Flexibility

HSEMD is changing the county ESF-10 Hazardous Materials guidance to allow greater flexibility in how certain information is depicted.



Starting in 2010, vulnerability zones and other information may be depicted in the plan in charts, graphs, narrative or maps. Maps will continue to be accepted

The Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) requires hazmat plans to include the area or population likely to be affected by a release of an extremely hazardous substance from a facility. That information is known as the Vulnerability Zone and in the past, HSEMD required it to be shown on a map as a circle which included other hazards analysis information for each facility.

It was found that the usefulness of the maps varied widely from county to county, and methods for developing these maps varied from crude to high tech. Most importantly, it was realized that the original reason for HSEMD to require the maps was no longer valid.

if the county wishes to continue making them. The requirement to depict the vulnerability zones remains as it always has – only the way it has to be shown has changed.

Also, written agreements for coordination of warning, evacuation, containment, traffic control and health and medical services with contiguous planning districts will no longer be required. These kind of agreements, whether formal or informal, should be a part of any good planning process for hazardous materials planning, however, they are not EPCRA requirements and HSEMD will no longer review for them. Ω

Saferooms

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Saferooms are built to specific standards set by FEMA guidance which requires the rooms provide shelter for larger groups of people in extreme-wind events. The criteria specifies the materials, design and construction of a shelter that makes it able to withstand winds up to 250 miles per hour. The Iowa Fire Marshall's Office is also working on recommendations of its own for saferoom standards in Iowa.

Statistically:

- There are currently eight saferooms in use in Iowa. The saferooms are located in Britt, Clear Lake, Des Moines, Duncombe, Mason City, Nashua, Ventura and Vinton.
- There are a total of 67 proposed saferoom projects in some stage of the application process with FEMA. Twenty-five of those applications request saferooms be included in a school building.
- To date, three school-based saferoom applications have been approved by FEMA. They will be constructed in the Waverly, Nevada and Mount Ayr community school districts. Ω

Training Opportunity



Recovery From Disaster: The Local Government Role (G270.4)

- **When:** Jan. 14-15, 2010
- **Where:** Johnson County EMA, Iowa City
- **Course Objective:** Increase local government awareness of disaster recovery issues.

- **Target Audience:** Employees/officials of local government.

This is a required course in the Advanced Professional Series (APS) certificate program. This new course replaces G385, Disaster Response & Recovery Operations.

To register, go to <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>. 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, FEMA Push for More Saferooms

Made to withstand winds up to 250 miles per hour and keep hundreds of people safe during a tornado, the number of high-wind event saferooms in Iowa is on the rise.

The increased interest and number of applications are the result of more funding and a push by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management since the 2008 disasters to promote saferooms, particularly in school settings.

To date, eight safe rooms have been built in Iowa, with the first one constructed at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines in 2003. Now, three more safe rooms, all of which will be incorporated into schools, have been approved for construction. The three school sites are among 67 saferoom proposals that are in some stage of application with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Mitigation funds are designed to minimize the impact of future emergency events by taking steps to protect lives and property. Purchasing frequently flooded property, constructing safe rooms and other measures such as flood walls are typical mitigation examples. HSEMD administers the mitigation program which receives funding based on federal dollars used for disaster recovery. Because of the magnitude of the floods of 2008, Iowa's mitigation program will receive over \$316 million this year alone.

HSEMD specialists like Linda Roose, lead project officer for saferooms, have also helped increase the number of planned saferooms in the state.



The tornado saferoom at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines.

"One of the neatest things about the saferooms is that they can be incorporated into buildings as a useful room," Roose said.

On Dec. 2, there was a groundbreaking ceremony in Waverly for a new Waverly-Shell Rock Community School District middle school which will include a saferoom. The school is being built to replace two school buildings damaged by the 2008 flood.

The saferoom will be the auditorium in the new Waverly school. The auditorium will seat 850 people for events, and will hold more than 1,350 staff, students and area residents during a high-wind event, such as a tornado. The school district will receive \$1.4 million toward the project specifically for the saferoom portion.

The eight saferooms which already exist in Iowa also serve other capacities. The saferoom in Britt is a campground shower house. In Clear Lake, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars building is the community saferoom. At the Iowa State Fairgrounds, the saferoom is used for restrooms, showers, laundry, offices and meeting space.

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