



SECURE & PREPARED

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Important Information

Severe Weather Awareness Week is Apr. 5-9. Watch for more information in the March 11 issue of *Secure & Prepared*.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Governor's 7th Annual Homeland Security Conference will be **Nov. 2-4, 2010**, at the Sheraton West Des Moines. More information to follow as the date gets closer. See you there!

Iowa Receives Presidential Disaster Declaration

Governor Chet Culver received confirmation Feb. 25 that President Obama has authorized a Presidential Disaster Declaration for 21 Iowa counties impacted by a severe winter storm beginning Dec. 23, 2009. Governor Culver had requested the disaster declaration last month.

"The winter of 2009-2010 has been historic in its severity," said Governor Culver. "We greatly appreciate President Obama's responsiveness in assisting affected areas and I hope that further assistance for areas hit by the ice storm will soon be announced."

This declaration provides assistance to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations (including rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities) for emergency



Photo courtesy of Iowa Department of Transportation.

work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities. Counties included in the declaration are: Adair, Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Emmet, Franklin, Fremont, Guthrie, Harrison, *Continued on Page 2...*

State Prepares for Possibility of Flooding

With recent flood outlooks indicating an increased risk for flooding this spring, HSEMD Administrator David Miller said the State has been preparing for the possibility for the last few months.

"We have flooding traditionally in Iowa in the spring," said Miller dur-

ing a Feb. 18 appearance on IPTV's "Iowa Journal." "The question is, how much damage will it do?"

Miller said HSEMD is using information and data provided by the National Weather Service to help determine the steps that can be taken now. He said HSEMD is also working with the *Continued on Page 4...*

Spring Outlook Shows Increased Flood Risk for Iowa

The most recent outlook from the National Weather Service (NWS) offices serving Iowa indicates there is a high risk of significant flooding in many areas throughout the state.

Saturated soil and a thick layer of snow on the ground could result in many Iowa communities experiencing flooding this spring.

According to the NWS Des Moines office spring flood outlook released Feb. 19, the risk of flooding is highest in the Des Moines, Raccoon, Iowa and Cedar River basins. The time period when flooding is most likely extends from mid March into mid April. The risk of flooding has increased since the NWS issued its first spring flood outlook on Jan. 29.

The NWS Quad Cities office also reports a greater than normal risk of spring flooding in eastern Iowa, including along the Mississippi River, due to above normal snow depths, high soil moisture and above-normal stream level condi-



An Oakville home in 2008 after the Iowa River breached its levee. FEMA Photo

tions. The NWS Sioux Falls, S.D., office reports an increased chance of flooding in the northwest portion of Iowa.

The next NWS spring flood outlook is scheduled for March 5. The NWS offers a variety of informa-

tion on their Web sites, including river observations and forecasts and interactive maps along with weather watches and warnings. Locate your area NWS office by visiting www.crh.noaa.gov/ and selecting your location on the interactive map. Ω

Iowa Receives Presidential Disaster Declaration

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Ida, Monona, Page, Pottawattamie, Sac, Shelby, Sioux and Woodbury.

In addition, the declaration provides for snow removal assistance (reimbursement of costs for 48 hours of continuous operations for emergency snow removal) for the following counties: Cherokee, Clay, Emmet, Fremont, Harrison, Ida, Page, Pottawattamie, Sioux and Woodbury.

Public Assistance program funds are available to public entities and select nonprofit agencies to rebuild damaged infrastructure that may include roads, bridges, culverts, and other public facilities, or to cover costs of emergency work during the storms.

The Governor also received notification that the Presidential Disaster Declaration includes funding to

conduct hazard mitigation activities for the entire state. With this funding, Iowa will be able to minimize the impact of future natural disasters by taking steps now to strengthen existing infrastructure.

Governor Culver has also requested a disaster declaration for counties impacted by an ice storm beginning Jan. 19, 2010. That request is still pending. Ω

Training News

Exercise Design with HSEEP

Date: March 30-Apr. 2

Time: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily

Location: 2809 Daley Dr., Ames

The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) is a capabilities and performance-based exercise program that provides a standardized methodology and terminology for exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation and improvement planning. HSEEP constitutes a national standard for all exercises.

This course is based on one important premise: Emergency exercises are worth the effort. Exercises identify areas that are proficient and those that need improvement. Lessons learned from exercises can be used to revise operational plans and provide a basis for training to improve proficiency in executing those plans.

This course is designed to introduce participants to the fundamentals of exercise design and to prepare them to design and conduct a small functional exercise for their organization.

For more information, contact Cathleen Atchison at 515.725.3201 or John Halbrook at 515.725.3280.

Register at <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>.

Debris Management for State, Tribes, Local G202

This two-day course is aimed at providing participants with an overview of issues and recommended actions necessary to plan for, respond to, and recover from a major debris-generating event with emphasis on local and state-level responsibilities.

Date: March 29-30

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Location: Cedar Rapids, Iowa

For more information, contact Randy Frank, Region VI planner at 563.419.1474 or randyfrank@csema.com.

Register at <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>.

WebEOC Training for County Emergency Management Coordinators

Date: March 9

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Location: State Emergency Operations Center, Johnston

Register at <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>.

Apply Now for Master's Program in Homeland Security

Since 2002, the Naval Postgraduate School for Homeland Defense and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security have partnered to offer the premier master's degree program in homeland security. The 18-month master's degree program is offered at no cost to eligible senior and fast-rising local, state, tribal and federal officials with significant responsibilities in homeland security and related disciplines.

The hybrid online and in-residence program is designed to accommodate busy leaders. It requires participants to be in-residence only two weeks of each quarter. All travel and tuition expenses are paid for eligible participants. The remainder of the coursework is delivered via cutting-edge distance learning technologies.

The curriculum and research are focused on current policy, strategy and organizational design challenges. Participants complete research papers and a thesis on actual policy development issues confronting their city, state, or sponsoring organization.

The next deadline for application to the master's degree program for the fall 2010 cohort is May 1, 2010. Application may be done online at www.chds.us/?masters/apply. Additional information is available by calling the help line at 831.656.3829 or via e-mail at chdsmaap@nps.edu.

IDHRC Offering Teleconference

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) is offering communities an opportunity to participate in a Community Organization Active in Disaster teleconference in March.

The teleconferences will be held on March 8, 10 and 22 at 10 a.m. Register by going to the IDHRC Web site at www.IDHRC.com and clicking on the "COAD Community Relations Committee" link. Materials for the teleconference can be downloaded from the Web site. 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

March is Flood Awareness Month

On Tuesday, March 2, Governor Chet Culver will proclaim March "Flood Awareness Month" in Iowa.

A month-long public information campaign is being sponsored by the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO), the Iowa Insurance Division (IID), the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) and the Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

During the month, participating agencies will promote the importance of flood insurance and participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, citizen awareness of flood risk and individual emergency preparedness. Watch for more information on Flood Awareness Month in the next issue of *Secure & Prepared*. Ω

Hazard Mitigation Planning Workshops

HSEMD will facilitate four FEMA-sponsored hazard mitigation planning workshops. The target audience for the one-day workshops is planning professionals engaged in writing or updating local hazard mitigation plans. The purpose of the workshops is to provide planners with guidance in the areas of risk assessment, plan updates, and multi-jurisdictional planning.

Workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is no cost to attend. Travel, food and lodging will be the responsibility of the participant.

Dates and locations:

March 22-Urbandale
March 23-Storm Lake
March 24-Mason City
March 25-Iowa City

For specific course information and to register, visit <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>.

For more information contact Lisa Behrends at lisa.behrends@iowa.gov, or 515.254.2122. Ω

State Prepares for Flooding

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Army Corps of Engineers and talking with communities in risk areas about prepositioning equipment, such as pumps and sandbags, that can help lessen the impact if flooding does occur. The Army Corps of Engineers also provides HSEMD with information about outflows from the reservoirs and flood modeling data,

that in conjunction with data from the National Weather Service, can provide advance warning of potential flooding.

"But that doesn't mean we'll avoid flooding. It just means we have an opportunity to get in front of it and lessen the impact," said Miller. Ω