



SECURE & PREPARED

June 29, 2012

Volume 8, Issue 12

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On the Calendar...

July

National Fireworks Safety Month
Independence Day (4)*

September

Family Preparedness Month

*State holiday.

*HSEMD offices will be closed.
Iowa State Patrol Dispatch will be
taking emergency calls that come
in via the Division's main number,
515.725.3231.*

Federal audit puts U of I recovery in limbo

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General (OIG) published a report online yesterday, calling into question FEMA's interpretation of one of its own policies concerning the decision to fund the replacement of the Hancher Voxman Clapp and Art Building East facilities at the University of Iowa.

The buildings were damaged by floodwaters in 2008. As a result of the record flooding, President Bush issued a disaster declaration for 85 of Iowa's 99 counties including Johnson County, where the University is located.

Ultimately, the 33-page report recommends that FEMA deobligate millions of dollars in funding to replace the buildings, which reside in a floodplain, and "put those federal funds to better use." The OIG asserts FEMA should fund



Hancher Auditorium. (Photo by Marlys Svendsen, HSEMD project officer.)

repairs of those buildings instead of replacing the buildings.

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Don't let record temps spoil your summer



In Iowa, summer means two things: heat and humidity. Both combine to create conditions which tax the human body beyond its natural cooling abilities. Heat is a silent killer, and knowing the dangers of summer heat and how to prepare for it can save lives.

This summer has seen record high temperatures across the country in a dangerous heat wave that doesn't seem to have an end in sight. Don't ignore the dangers of heat exhaustion! For tips and information on heat safety, visit www.BeReady.iowa.gov. Ω

July is National Fireworks Safety Month

Independence Day is just around the corner, and the smell of brats, burgers and dogs on the grill is often matched by the distinct aroma of gunpowder. That's because many Americans will partake in celebrating our nation's birth with an explosive tradition: fireworks.

The National Council on Fireworks Safety's (NCFS) mission is to educate the public on the safe and responsible use of consumer fireworks in the effort to eliminate injuries. The NCFS has some tips for those of us who do enjoy an explosive display on the 4th:



- Obey local laws. If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them. (The only fireworks legal in Iowa are the ones you can purchase in Iowa stores, such as sparklers, poppers and "snakes." Roman candles and firecrackers are illegal.) Remember, there are plenty of official fireworks displays for you to enjoy for free, and at a safe distance.
- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Always have water handy.
- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter or combine them.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Use common sense. Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter and the shooter should wear safety glasses.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."
- Only persons over the age of 12 should be allowed to handle sparklers of any type.
- Do not ever use homemade fireworks or illegal explosives—they can kill you! Report illegal explosives to the fire or police department in your community.

For additional information on fireworks safety, visit the National Council on Fireworks Safety's website at www.fireworksafety.com. Ω

Federal audit puts U of I recovery in limbo

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HSEMD Administrator Mark Schouten commented, "FEMA officials have repeatedly affirmed their decisions to replace the Hancher Voxman Clapp and Art Building East facilities and the University has relied upon FEMA's decisions since the first analysis was completed in December 2008. In addition, minimizing future flooding costs by effective floodplain management is a sound long-term risk management approach that protects precious taxpayer dollars.

"FEMA should implement policy in respect to the replacement or repair of buildings of this nature, not OIG."

FEMA has 90 days from the date of the report to respond. If the agency does not accept the OIG's findings, the final decision regarding repair vs. replacement will be made by the undersecretary of management for the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security. Ω

HSEMD website gets new address

HSEMD's website has officially moved to its new online address: www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov.

The site's former address, www.iowahomelandsecurity.org, will be active into 2013, however, those with links to pages on HSEMD's site should make the change prior to the new year. Ω

HSEMD recognizes FEMA staff efforts

On Friday, June 15, 2012, HSEMD's Iowa Closeout Center staff honored the FEMA mitigation team for their hard work and assistance to the state of Iowa following the Presidential Disaster Declaration for the 2008 floods (DR-1763). Pat Hall, the state coordinating officer, and John Wageman, the HSEMD hazard mitigation program supervisor, presented Chris Rolleston, FEMA's mitigation director, with a plaque commemorating their service to the State of Iowa.

The FEMA mitigation staff reviewed 178 applications for DR-1763; 169 of those projects were awarded funding, totaling more than \$332.6 million in assistance

to local governments and eligible non-profits. Additionally, the FEMA team also coordinated the Aug. 2009 Presidentially-declared disaster for Black Hawk County storms (DR-1854) with HSEMD, resulting in six projects awarded funding worth more than \$1.6 million. Through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program,



L-R: Pat Hall, Danette Kobalt, Melissa Madison, Cathy Mallard, Chris Rolleston, John Wageman and Clark Patterson. Photo by Patrick Antonen, HSEMD project officer.

these projects will reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters throughout Iowa. Ω

FEMA calls for Preparedness Awards submissions

The Individual and Community Preparedness (ICP) Awards application window is open through July 31, 2012, for activities taking place from Jan. 1, 2011, through June 1, 2012.

Winners of the 2012 FEMA ICP Awards will be chosen from 10 categories and will be announced

in September during National Preparedness Month. The winners will also be FEMA's honored guests at a community preparedness roundtable event in Washington, D.C.

At last year's event, winners were able to share their ideas, experi-

ences and solutions as well as their advice on how to keep their communities prepared for emergencies. For example, honoree Michael Smith, fire chief for the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians, helped San Manuel develop a "Send Word Now" system which provides text messaging, email and voice alerts to tribal members during emergencies.

Several of last year's honorees also distinguished themselves by involving their entire community in emergency preparedness. Herman Schaeffer, the director of community outreach for the New York City

Office of Emergency Management, helped oversee the NYC Citizen Corps program, which collaborated with more than 60 community organizations, government agencies, private sector organizations and volunteer programs to promote emergency preparedness.

Do you know someone who is a preparedness trailblazer like these two individuals? Send your nominations to citizencorps@fema.gov by **July 31, 2012, at 11:59 p.m.** Visit the Awards page on the Citizen Corps website for information on how to apply: www.citizencorps.gov/newsevents/awards/2012/2012app.shtm. Ω



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Secure & Prepared is published by the Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division for those involved in the homeland security system in the state of Iowa.

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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.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov

Training opportunities

Fundamentals of Emergency Management (IS 230.a)

When: July 25–26
8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: Camp Dodge
7105 NW 70th Ave.
Johnston

All communities are vulnerable to a variety of hazards. Emergency management provides a structure for anticipating and dealing with emergency incidents.

Planning for the Needs of Children in Disaster (G366)

When: July 27
9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Where: 106 Milwaukee Hall
Charles City

The purpose of this workshop is to provide guidance for emergency managers and other agencies, organizations, and those who implement children's programs on meeting the unique needs that arise among children as a result of a disaster or emergency.

Donations Management Workshop (G288)

When: Aug. 8, 1–4:30 p.m.
Aug. 9, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Where: Manchester Fire Dept.
400 E. Main St.
Manchester

The goal of this workshop is to learn the key requirements for managing masses of unsolicited donated goods and large numbers of unaffiliated or spontaneous volunteers.



Intermediate Incident Command System (ICS 300)

When: Aug. 28-29
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Where: 260 E. Prospect St.
New Hampton

This course is targeted toward those disciplines that would respond to an incident. Prerequisites: ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800.

Advanced Incident Command System (ICS 400)

When: Aug. 30-31
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Where: 260 E. Prospect St.
New Hampton

This course is targeted toward command or general staff, select department heads with multi-agency coordination system responsibilities, emergency managers, and multi-agency coordination system/emergency operations center managers. Prerequisites: ICS 100, 200, 300, 700 and 800.

For more information or to register for any of these courses, visit www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov and choose "HSEMD Course Registration" under the "Quick Links" tab. Q