



Secure & Prepared

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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FEMA approves disaster loans for cities of Rock Rapids and Rock Valley 'Forgives' loan for City of Mapleton

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) announced on Feb. 5 that the cities of Rock Rapids and Rock Valley in northwest Iowa have each been granted a Community Disaster Loan (CDL) to assist in recovering from devastating flooding last summer.

The amount of the loan approved for Rock Rapids is \$513,220. The amount of the loan approved for Rock Valley is \$939,094.

"Community Disaster Loans are a valuable tool to help communities maintain essential services in the aftermath of a disaster," said Patrick Hall, HSEMD Recovery Division chief and State coordinating officer (SCO) for the disaster. "We will continue to



June 2014 flooding in Rock Rapids, Iowa.

work diligently to assist these communities in recovering from this disaster."

Following the declaration of a major disaster, interested applicants may request assistance through the Governor's authorized representative. The State (HSEMD) can make the request to activate the Community Disaster Loan program. An evaluation is conducted by

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Disaster loans

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FEMA with local government officials to determine eligibility.

Community Disaster Loans are administered by FEMA and can be made to any local government in need of financial assistance to perform essential services. CDL applicants may include fire and police departments that provide critical community services during and in the immediate aftermath of disasters, as well as school boards, district court offices, and local governments. The maximum award for a CDL is \$5 million.

City of Mapleton loan cancellation

HSEMD was also notified that a Community Disaster Loan the City of Mapleton received in 2012 for \$295,571 will not need to be repaid. The loan was made to help the city recover from a tornado that ripped through the county on April 9, 2011. The tornado was part of a storm system that resulted in a Presidential Disaster Declaration for six Iowa counties.

FEMA may cancel repayment of all or part of a CDL if it is determined revenues for three fiscal years following a disaster are insufficient, as a result of the disaster, to meet the operating budget for the local government.

For more information about Community Disaster Loans, visit the [FEMA website](#). Ω

Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 23-27

Severe Weather Awareness Week will be held March 23-27 this year. The goal of Severe Weather Awareness Week is to provide Iowans a better understanding, and to increase awareness, of the state's spring weather hazards.



The highlight of Severe Weather Awareness Week is the annual tornado drill, scheduled for Wednesday, March 25. Schools, businesses, state and local governments, the military, and individuals are strongly encouraged to participate in the drill. Addi-

tional information on the tornado drill can be found on local National Weather Service websites.

Visit www.beready.iowa.gov for information on preparing for spring's severe weather. Ω

IDHRC to hold annual meeting

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) will hold its annual meeting March 19, 2015, at Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston.

This year's meeting will feature Janay Stargell, who will speak on Georgia's Praise and Preparedness Program. The program is designed for use by all houses of worship to help prepare their facility and plan for emergencies. Also speaking at the meeting will be Dr. David Myers, director of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Dr.

Myers will give an overview of the center's activities and efforts at major disasters.

To register, visit https://iavoad.communityos.org/cms/IDHRC_ANNUAL_MEETING_REGISTRATION. Funding assistance for travel may be available.

The IDHRC is comprised of faith-based, non-profit, volunteer, private, and governmental organizations active in disasters. For more information, visit www.homeland-security.iowa.gov/programs/IDHRC.html. Ω

Training opportunities

Basic Public Information Officer Training (G290)

March 5-6, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

West Burlington City Hall
122 Broadway
West Burlington

March 7-8 (Sat/Sun), 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

West Burlington City Hall
122 Broadway
West Burlington

March 24-25, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Northwest Iowa Community College
Room 118A
603 West Park St.
Sheldon

April 23-24, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Methodist Jennie Edmundson
Hospital
933 E. Pierce St.
Council Bluffs

Learn the basic skills needed to be a public information officer (PIO).

Training covers oral and written communication, understanding and working with the media, and other tools and techniques.



Target audiences: Public information officers, local elected officials, emergency management.

To register, visit [HSEMD's training website](#). Contact **Beth Lewis** at **515.725.3204** or beth.lewis@iowa.gov with any questions.

Public Information in an All-Hazards Incident (MGT318)

When: Feb. 24-25, 2015
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Where: Mason City Police Dept.
78 S. Georgia Ave.
Mason City

This course examines the role of public information in all-hazards incident management and provides practical training in crisis communication techniques. In a major incident, it is imperative that community leaders, incident managers, and public information officers (PIOs) are able to communicate with the public through traditional and social media.

If you have any questions or would like to register, please contact Cerro Gordo County Emergency Manager **Steve O'Neil** at **641.421.3665**.

EOC Operations & Planning for All-Hazards Events

When: March 10-12, 2015
Where: Johnson County EMA
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

This three-day course provides insight into and practical experience with emergency management and decision-making skills necessary to effectively manage an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the overall response to a large-scale Weapons of Mass Destruction/terrorism incident or all-hazard event.

Target audience: Fire services, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, law enforcement, public health, public works, emergency management, government administrative, and non-government organizations

Prerequisites: Participants must be actively employed or tasked to work in an EOC and are expected to have at least an intermediate level of understanding of ICS and some experience in incident management.

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Training opportunities

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For more information, contact **Dave Wilson** at **319.356.6761** or dave.wilson@jecc-ema.org. [Click here to register.](#)

Dealing with the Media for Rural First Responders (AWR 209)

When: April 7, 2015
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Where: Southwestern CC
1501 W. Townline St.
Creston

This six-hour course provides rural first responders with skills needed to communicate with the public through the media. Learn how to give media interviews, write news releases, and more.

Target audience: First responders, rural public information officers, emergency management, fire services

To register, visit **HSEMD's training website**. Contact **Beth Lewis** at **515.725.3204** or beth.lewis@iowa.gov with any questions.

A Shelter Story: Integrating Functional Needs Support Services into Emergency Shelter Plans

1 hour; online

The Upper Midwest Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center (UMPERLC) has recently released this new training. The course has been created by

UMPERLC in collaboration with the University of Iowa's Center for Disabilities and Development.

Goal: To master the knowledge and skills needed to collaborate with community stakeholders on integrating Functional Needs Support Services into local emergency shelter plans.

Audience: Emergency managers, planners, and mid-level public health professionals responsible for community preparedness

This video-based course tells the story of one community's efforts to improve its emergency shelter plans.

To register, for this course, visit: <http://go.prepareiowa.com/te>

FEMA offers Assistance to Firefighters Grants forums

FEMA Region VII has a new tool for those interested in the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG).

The FEMA Region VII grants team will be hosting a series of AFG informational forums. The forums will be an opportunity to discuss challenges and ask questions about the AFG program in order to help applicants be better prepared for, and manage, their applications and awards.

The next forum will be held March 18, 2015, via Adobe Connect webinar.

For information on the forums, and other resources that can assist those interested in applying for the AFG program, contact Region VII AFG program specialists **Linda Davis** at linda.davis@FEMA.dhs.gov or **Rex Jennings** at rex.jennings@fema.dhs.gov.



OMB reforms, consolidates federal financial assistance regulations

A recent change in federal financial assistance regulations may necessitate changes in grant recipients' policies and procedures.

The Super Circular is an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) reform of regulations that apply to federal financial assistance that streamlines the language from eight existing OMB circulars into one consolidated set of guidance in the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.).

The Super Circular is more than just consolidation of the existing financial assistance circulars; it contains substantive changes. Be sure to review it carefully! Share it with all persons who are responsible for ensuring compliance with awards of federal financial assistance to determine if your policies and procedures will need to be changed.

The Super Circular applies to awards of federal financial assistance to all non-federal entities. Non-federal entities are states, local governments, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, or nonprofit organizations that carry out federal awards. The definition does not include individuals. Additionally, federal entities may apply subparts A through E of the Super Circular to for-profit entities.

You can access the new regulations for the 2 C.F.R. Part 200 at [this link](#). Additional resources can be found at:

- Crosswalk of Changes: www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_docs
- Council on Financial Assistance Reform Frequently Asked Questions: <https://cfo.gov/cofar/>
- FEMA Grants Information: www.fema.gov/grants

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has adopted the Super Circular through regulation at 2 C.F.R. Part 3002.10.

For federal financial assistance from FEMA, this means:

- The Super Circular will apply to all new non-disaster grant awards FEMA makes on or after Dec. 26, 2014.
- The Super Circular will apply to all disaster grant awards FEMA makes for emergency or major disaster declarations issued on or after Dec. 26, 2014.
- The Super Circular will not apply retroactively to existing awards, with two exceptions:

1. The audit requirements in subpart F of the Super Circular will apply to all Single Audit Act audits performed for any recipient or sub-recipient fiscal year that begins on or after Dec. 26, 2014. This includes audits performed under existing awards.

2. OMB has stated that recipients and subrecipients who wish to implement entity-wide system changes to comply with the new guidance after the effective date will not be penalized for doing so.Ω

Application period for HSGP and EMPG closes March 13

The application period for those eligible to apply for Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funding for the federal fiscal year 2015 will close March 13, 2015, at 4 p.m. Central time.

Specific information and resources for EMPG and HSGP are available within the specific funding opportunities posted in IowaGrants.gov.

For additional information visit the [Iowa HSEMD website](#), and click the appropriate grant under "Grants." Ω

National Weather Service offers spotter training

Each year, National Weather Service meteorologists provide spotter training throughout Iowa.

The classes cover information about severe weather climatology in Iowa, how to identify severe weather in the field, thunderstorm types and threats, how to report severe weather, severe weather spotter networks, safety and more.

Spotter training classes will be offered at locations throughout the state. For more information, contact your local National Weather Service office. Ω

ON THE CALENDAR

MARCH

American Red Cross Month
National Poison Prevention Week (15-21)
Severe Weather Awareness Week (23-27)

APRIL

National 9-1-1 Education Month
National Volunteer Week (12-18)

MAY

Public Service Recognition Week (3-9)
National Nurse's Week (6-12)
National Police Week (10-16)
National EMS Week (17-23)
National Public Works Week (17-23)
Memorial Day (25)*

JUNE

National Safety Month
National CPR & AED Awareness Week (1-7)
Heat Awareness Day (11)
Lightning Safety Awareness Week (21-27)

**State holiday. HSEMD offices will be closed.*

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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.

Secure & Prepared is published for those involved in the homeland security/emergency management system in the state of Iowa. For more information, contact Stefanie Bond at stefanie.bond@iowa.gov.

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HSEMD staff departure

Rob Casto, who had worked as a disaster project specialist in the Public Assistance Bureau, retired on Feb. 12.

Rob had worked for HSEMD since August 2011.

Best wishes to Rob in his retirement! Ω