



**March-April 2017**

## What's New

### Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 27-31

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) and the National Weather Service (NWS) will again recognize the last week in March (March 27-31), as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa. The goal of Severe Weather Awareness Week is to provide Iowans with a better understanding and to increase awareness of the state's spring weather hazards.

For each day during Severe Weather Awareness Week, a different subject will be featured:

- **Monday** - Severe thunderstorms
- **Tuesday** - Weather warnings
- **Wednesday** - Tornadoes
- **Thursday** - Family preparedness
- **Friday** - Flash floods

The highlight of the week will be the annual tornado drill, which will take place on Wednesday, March 29, at 10 a.m. Schools, businesses, government employees, military, and individuals are encouraged to participate in the drill.

Fact sheets about severe weather will be available on both the NWS and Ready Iowa websites, as well as public service announcements. For more information about Severe Weather Awareness Week, to view the governor's proclamation, and to link to your local NWS website, visit the [Ready Iowa website](#). Follow HSEMD and NWS on social media using the hashtag #IASAWAW.

### April is 911 Education Month

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) and the Iowa 911 Communications Council will sponsor 911 Education Month in April again this year. This month-long campaign is aimed at Iowans of all ages in an effort to educate them on the importance of 911, and the role they play in ensuring effective and efficient emergency response in times of crisis.

It's also important to teach Iowans how 911 technology is evolving. Currently, Iowa is nearing the completion of an upgrade to Iowa's 911 network to an end-to-end Internet Protocol (IP)-based network, which is more robust and capable of handling new messaging technology. Blake DeRouchey, Iowa's 911 program manager, said Text-to-911, for example, is becoming increasingly more available in Iowa, though not yet available everywhere. "For now, you can check with your local sheriff's office to determine if Text-to-911 is available in your area," he said, but added, "We expect statewide availability of Text-to-911 to occur sometime this summer."

In addition, the State has contracted with a company to provide aerial photography for use in all of Iowa's 911 call centers. Data from geographic information systems (GIS) technology is key for call handling, call routing, call delivery, location validation, and emergency response. This information is essential for situational awareness, and when dispatching responders.

For additional information about Iowa's 911 system and 911 Education Month, visit the [Ready Iowa website](#). Follow HSEMD on social media using the hashtag #911education.

# On the Calendar

Special observances can be found on the [Ready Iowa website](#).

## March

- American Red Cross Month
- National Poison Prevention Week (March 19-25, 2017)
- Severe Weather Awareness Week (March 27-31, 2017)

## April

- National 9-1-1 Education Month
- National Volunteer Week (April 23-29, 2017)

## May

- National Public Service Recognition Week (May 7-13, 2017)
- National Nurses Week (May 6-12)
- National Police Week (May 14-20, 2017)
- National EMS Week (May 21-27, 2017)
- National Public Works Week (May 21-27, 2017)
- **Memorial Day - HSEMD offices will be closed** (May 29, 2017)

## June

- National Safety Month
- National CPR & AED Awareness Week (June 1-7)
- Heat Awareness Day, Iowa (June 8, 2017)
- Lightning Safety Awareness Week, Iowa (June 19-23, 2017)

## July

- National Fireworks Safety Month
- **Independence Day - HSEMD offices will be closed** (July 4, 2017)

# Training

The training courses offered on our training website are listed in chronological order. Please [visit the HSEMD training website](#) for full details including prerequisite and contact information, and to register.

### **Maturing Public-Private Partnerships (AWR342)**

- March 7-9, 2017 (Des Moines)

### **Incident Command System, Intermediate (ICS300)**

- March 7-9, 2017 (Muscatine)

### **Search & Rescue in Community Disasters (PER334)**

- March 11-12, 2017 (Humboldt)

**Basic Public Information Officer (G290)**

- March 21-22, 2017 (Waterloo)
- March 23-24, 2017 (Council Bluffs)
- April 13-14, 2017 (Mason City)
- June 13-14, 2017 (Cherokee)

**Joint Information System/Center Planning for Tribal, State, and Local Public Information Officers (G291)**

- March 23, 2017 (Waterloo)

**Wide-Area Search (PER213)**

- March 29-31, 2017 (Kellogg)

**National Emergency Management Basic Academy Train-the-Trainer (E0110)**

- April 3-7, 2017 (West Des Moines)

Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management  
7900 Hickman Road, Suite 500 | Windsor Heights, Iowa 50324  
PH 515.725.3231 | FAX 515.725.3260