



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- Now you can call HLSEM staff direct after hours and leave a voicemail. See article on page 3.
- Over 3,000 students were trained under the HMEP Grant for FFY 05. See page 5.

'06 Homeland Security Grant Preparations Underway

Progress continues to be made as Iowa prepares information to apply for the 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program. The 15 team leaders working on the grant received training on January 5th and learned that teams will be expected to turn in two basic pieces of information -- an Initiative Plan and an Investment Justification.

The Initiative Plan is a long-range plan for the specific area that answers three basic questions:

- How prepared are we?
- How prepared do we need to be?
- How do we prioritize efforts to close the gap?

Teams are being asked to look at ways to close the gap in terms of equipment, personnel, training and exercises and to include all funding sources. For example, the team working on Medical Surge will include funding Iowa is expected to receive from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Initiative Plan is a long range plan, and will be a living document that can change from year to year.

The Investment Justification is a specific request that outlines what piece of the Initiative Plan needs to be funded with '06 Homeland Security dollars. The Justification shows how the funding will be utilized over the 2-year life of the grant.

The 15 teams are working in these areas:

1. Intelligence and Information Sharing
2. Law Enforcement Investigation and Operations
3. Interoperable Communications
4. CBRNE Detection
5. Explosive Device Operations
6. WMD/Hazardous Materials Response and Decontamination
7. Medical Surge
8. Mass Prophylaxis
9. Critical Infrastructure Protection & Implementation of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP)
10. Food and Agriculture Safety and Defense
11. Animal Health and Emergency Support
12. Critical Resource Logistics and Distribution
13. Economic and Community Recovery
14. Expanded Regional Collaboration
15. Implementation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Plan (NRP)

It is recognized that the grant methodology is not perfect and the deadlines are extremely tight. "We're asking teams to come up with their best 80 percent solution," stressed HLSEM Chief of Staff Mike Beaman. "Teams will have to stay very general to complete this task, and we're asking them to do the best they can," Beaman added.

'06 Homeland Security Grant Preparations Underway

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There is still time to join a team. If you are interested, send your name, your contact information, the team you want to work with and a paragraph or two on your background/experiences with that capability, to Kyle Karsjen at kyle.karsjen@hlsem.state.ia.us.

Many teams have been formed and are already underway. They are expected to be following this timeline:
January 20: Well underway in completing Initiative Plan
February 3: Well underway in finishing the Investment Justification
February 15: Both pieces turned into Kyle Karsjen

Karsjen and Dutch Geisinger will develop what is called an Enhancement Plan from the team information; the Enhancement Plan will be a comprehensive plan showing how Iowa will reach all of our target capability levels. The goal is to turn that into the Office of Grants and Training (OGT) with the federal Department of Homeland Security by February 28. This will give OGT a chance to do a quick review and provide some feedback before the absolute final deadline for all states which is March 2, 2006.

Resolve to be Ready in 2006

This year, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management would like to encourage Iowans to make emergency preparedness their New Year's resolution. This resolution is one that is important, yet easy to keep.

As seen in recent events such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, fire, police and emergency medical services may be delayed or unable to respond for a matter of days. With a plan and a supply kit, you can help to protect yourself and your family. Whether it's tornadoes, flooding, winter storms or an act of terrorism -- emergencies occur quickly and without warning. Although we cannot prevent emergencies, we can prepare for them.

Everyone should have an emergency plan in place at home and at work. To learn more about how to assemble an emergency supply kit and a family communication plan, visit www.BeReadyIowa.org or www.iowahomelandsecurity.org. More useful information can be found at www.ready.gov.

SBA Announces Availability of Loans for Central Iowa Tornado Victims

In mid-December, the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) declared Dallas and Hamilton Counties a disaster area due to damage caused by tornadoes and severe weather on November 12, 2005. Also included in the declaration are the neighboring counties of Adair, Boone, Franklin, Greene, Guthrie, Hardin, Madison, Polk, Story, Warren, Webster, and Wright.

This disaster declaration will make affected homeowners, renters, business, and private non-profit organizations eligible to apply for SBA low-interest home and business loans.

For more information, applicants may call 800-659-2955. Hearing impaired individuals may call 800-877-8339. Information may also be obtained at www.sba.gov/disaster. The deadline to return applications for property damage is February 14, 2006. The deadline to return economic injury applications is September 18, 2006.

Governor Vilsack requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Boone, Dallas, Hamilton, Story, and Webster Counties in November. His request was denied.

Now Call Direct and Leave a Message

HLSEM recently made a change to its voice mail system to make it easier for customers to leave messages.

In the past, unanswered calls rolled over automatically to the front desk. Front desk staff could then help the customer or offer the option of transferring them back to voice mail. While this ensured that callers had access to a staff person, it delayed access to voice mail and complicated the process of leaving a message. Calls made after hours will automatically roll over to State Patrol Dispatch.

Now HLSEM has switched to the more traditional voice mail option. Callers will be able to leave a message without rolling over to the front desk, or they can choose to talk to a staff person by using the zero - # option to reach the front desk. Calls made to a staff person after hours will now be "answered" by voice mail and customers will be able to leave a message. Calls to the main number after regular business hours, (515) 281-3231, will continue to be answered by the Patrol's dispatch.

A listing of HLSEM staff and their direct phone numbers is available on the Division's Web site at http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/about_HS/contact_us.asp

Continuing Education for Coordinators

As you are aware, there is a continuing education requirement in the Iowa Code (605) for emergency management coordinators. Per this requirement, you must have 24 hours of continuing education per year once you have successfully completed the baseline courses consisting of 10 independent study courses and seven Professional Development Series courses within the first five years of your employment.

For those who have completed the baseline courses, we will be tracking the 24-hour continuing education requirement to follow the federal grant year (Oct. 1st to Sept. 30th). We realize not everyone's hire date or completion date of base line courses starts Oct. 1st, but we feel we need to follow the federal grant dates since compliancy will be a condition of receiving EMPG grants.

Once you have completed the baseline courses, you will have until the end of the next fiscal year to complete the 24-hour requirement. For example, if you complete your baseline courses on July 15th, 2006, you will have until Sept. 30th of 2007 to complete the 24 hour requirement.

In order to track your educational requirements, please send proper documentation, (i.e. certificates and or transcripts) with the number of credit hours to HLSEM, Exercise, Evaluation and Training Bureau. Keep in mind, this must be emergency management / homeland security training, or other training that assists you with your official job duties. If you have a question on allowable training, please contact David Hemen or Lisa Sexton.

Attendance at conferences, such as Iowa's Homeland Security Conference, count toward meeting this requirement.

HLSEM Speaker's Bureau

In need of a homeland security/emergency management speaker for a conference or community group meeting? Contact Tracey Epps for your speaking needs at 515-281-6397.

NWS Des Moines Receives Silver Medal Award

The National Weather Service at Des Moines was selected by the U. S. Secretary of Commerce to receive a Silver Medal Award for customer service. The honorary recognition was granted for meritorious contributions in providing life saving tornado and flood warnings during the central Iowa severe weather outbreak of May 21-24, 2004. This included the tornado outbreak from Rolfe to Bradgate and a Humboldt Scout Troop near Bradgate seeking shelter.

The award was presented at the 57th Annual Honor Awards Program on December 6, 2005, in Washington, D.C.

Karl Jungbluth, Science and Operations Officer for NWS, Des Moines, is pictured at right with the Silver Medal Award.



Agroville Overview

In November, over 300 people participated in six sessions of Agroville Part II. The Agroville training focused on foreign animal disease response. The audiences included public health and health care representatives, local law enforcement and fire officials, and representatives from several state and federal agencies.

Dr. Patrick Webb, representing the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) provided a condensed version of Kirkwood Community College's agriculture terrorism course that was recently approved by the Office of Grants and Training as an agriculture terrorism course for first responders.

Also during the training, the County Emergency Response Planning Template For Infectious Animal Disease Emergencies was reviewed and presented to county emergency management coordinators. There were a lot of comments on the templates and they are being incorporated into the revised templates.

Delivery of the training was a cooperative effort of Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the Department of Natural Resources.

HLSEM will now work with county coordinators to determine future needs for training including training directed towards producers.

Governor's Volunteer Award

If you know someone you would like to nominate for the Governor's Volunteer Award, visit HLSEM's Web site at http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/CoEM_FR/password/resources.asp and complete the nomination form. There is a nomination fee of \$8.50 for state agencies, \$15 for non-profits and cities. Return nomination forms to HLSEM's Tracey Epps by January 31, 2006.

Exercise Planning Workshop Overview

One hundred people attended the December 13, 2005 Exercise Planning Workshop. The Exercise Planning Workshop provided state and local leadership an opportunity to discuss year three of the current Three Year Exercise Plan. This exercise will be a large foreign animal disease exercise that will test the coordination between local, state, federal authorities and private industry, under the coordination from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and HLSEM.

The workshop also provided an opportunity to review program accomplishments to date, identify necessary modifications to the plan, and develop an exercise schedule for 2007 - 2009. Participants included county emergency management coordinators and state agency representatives of Natural Resources, Public Health, Transportation, National Guard, Agriculture, Public Safety, Education, Commerce, and federal agencies. Additional presentations were made on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Infrastructure Protection Program (NIPP).

Over 3,000 Trained under HMEP Grant in 2005

In federal fiscal year 2005, 3,363 students were trained in the areas of awareness, operations, technician, refresher, incident command, and site specialist levels under the Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant (HMEP). These students represented law enforcement, emergency medical service, public works, emergency management, and fire (to include hazardous materials teams) with the majority of students trained from local fire departments.

The Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant is a United States Department of Transportation grant that is overseen by the Iowa State Emergency Response Commission and administered by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division. Eligible applicants include only local emergency planning commissions and allowable expenses of this grant are limited to hazardous materials planning, training, and exercises.

Other areas of work that were completed with this grant are Annex P mapping and updating (County Emergency Operations Plan), hazardous materials exercises, public information and outreach, commodity flow studies, and extremely hazardous substance facility planning.

EMI Course

B301-Radiological Emergency Response Operations (RERO): February 13-17, March 13-17, April 10-14, May 8-12, and June 5-9, 2006. This 4.5 day performance-based course prepares participants to respond to, and manage, radiological incidents.

Prerequisites: G320, Fundamentals Course for Radiological Response. Competency through equivalent education and experience may be substituted for the G320 course. Include with your application a summary of the education and experience to be substituted for the prerequisite G320 course for evaluation. Independent Study courses, Radiological Emergency Management (IS3) and, Radiological Emergency Response (IS301) must be completed prior to enrollment in RERO.

This course is intended for federal, state, local, or tribal radiological/hazardous materials personnel who are responsible for responding and possibly managing a radiation incident, as members of a response team. This course is held at Noble Training Center, Ft. McClellan, Alabama. To apply, complete a FEMA Form 75-5, General Admissions Application with student and supervisor signatures. Submit the application to Dave Hempen, at HLSEM. For further information, visit <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/apply> or contact HLSEM's Dave Hempen at 515-281-6481.

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HLSEM Mission

To support, coordinate, and maintain state and local homeland security and emergency management activities in order to establish sustainable communities and assure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

HLSEM Spotlight: Dave Hempen

Dave Hempen has been with HLSEM since April 1, 2002. As the division's chief training officer, he is responsible for managing homeland security and emergency management training activities, is the lead planner for the division's annual conference, and serves as the lead for the NIMS/NRP implementation and compliance activities.

Prior to HLSEM, Dave was an officer with the Cedar Falls Police Department for 21 years. For 12 of those years he was a police canine handler, and in fact, started the program in Cedar Falls. He was rated 4th in the nation in canine handling competitions. During his service with the Cedar Falls Police Department, he received the Medal of Valor for pulling an unconscious girl from a burning car. He left the department as a lieutenant in charge of training.

Dave has been married for 17 years and has two sons, ages 11 and 13. During his leisure time, he enjoys camping and fishing. He also enjoys woodworking and had a craft business for several years.



Personnel Update

Sam Wong recently resigned from his position as an IT Specialist with HLSEM. Sam's last day was December 29th. He decided to follow his dream and has moved to Minneapolis to pursue his music career as a drummer with his rock band, "Lesser Known Saint." Good luck Sam! We'll miss you.

Mark Dunlop: "One of the Good Ones"

Mark Dunlop, Sioux County Emergency Management Coordinator, passed away on Saturday, December 17, 2005, after a long battle with cancer. Mark had been the Sioux County coordinator for 10 years.

David Miller, HLSEM administrator said, "My experience with Mark is that he was very dedicated to whatever he chose to do .. including his work in emergency management. He was well reasoned and had a calming influence when faced with the challenges and frustrations of the job - always willing to help others and work towards resolving issues and solving problems. Mark was one of the good ones - somebody we should all look to emulate."

Mark will be greatly missed.