



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- Public information officers from Iowa and its bordering states met in Des Moines Nov. 13-14 for a two-day workshop. See article on page 2.
- A computer game called Incident Commander offers a unique simulation training opportunity. See article on page 4.
- Region 1 will host a briefing for newly elected/re-elected public officials on homeland security, emergency management, and public health issues. See article on page 6.

HLSEM's 2005 annual report is available online at:
www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/news_room/publications.asp

HLSEM/Several State Agencies Host First Special Needs Summit

The 2006 Everyone Survives Special Needs Populations Planning Summit was held November 6-7 in Des Moines. About 130 participants representing a vastly diverse audience attended the Summit. A dinner meeting attended by persons with disabilities was held the evening before the summit.

David Miller, HLSEM Administrator, provided opening remarks and Anthony Cahill, Director of the Center for Development and Disability at the University of New Mexico, gave the keynote speech. Cahill spoke on integrating disability into the state emergency planning process and provided guidance on improving services to people with disabilities before, during and after emergencies.

"The summit was an important first step in creating dialogue between those with special needs and the first responder community," said Miller.

Thank you to the following individuals who provided interesting and informative presentations during the Summit: Alice Holdiman, Olmstead Consumer Taskforce; Roberta Victor; Jane Gay, Iowa Program for Assistive Technology; Sandy Tigges, Department for the Blind; HLSEM's Joyce Winningham; Jill Avery, Armando Villareal, and John Tenpas, Department of Human Rights; and Marlys DeVries, American Red Cross.

Attendees expressed interest in attending additional meetings that will allow them to continue the networking and planning begun at the Summit.



Over 100 people attended the first ever special needs planning summit, which engaged first responders and those involved in special needs issues in Iowa's emergency planning process.

HLSEM Hosts Border-State PIO Workshop

Public information officers from Iowa and its bordering states met in Des Moines Nov. 13-14 for a two-day workshop. During the workshop, a first of its kind for this region, participants learned about the importance of the joint information system, and the functions of and equipment, facility, and personnel needed to form a joint information center.

Attendees included PIOs from state agencies in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and South Dakota. Public affairs staff from FEMA Regions V, VII, and VIII also participated in the workshop, along with the PIO for the Linn County Board of Supervisors.

In addition to receiving instruction from experts in the field of risk and crisis communication, participants in the workshop also had an opportunity to meet face-to-face and work together during a series of break-out sessions and exercises. HLSEM is spearheading efforts to continue interaction between attendee states, by holding quarterly conference calls and developing mechanisms to distribute and share information.

HLSEM also recognizes the importance of enhancing collaboration with local PIOs. Stay tuned for information on possible activities in early 2007.



Above, PIOs from seven states participate in a JIC exercise. At left, class instructors Frank Cowan, Media Survival Group and Chris Kramer, Argonne National Laboratory Risk Communication Program interview PIO Terri Durdaller, Missouri Department of Public Safety.

FFY 04 Reallocation Update

In all 71 packages totaling \$3,143,000 were submitted under the '04 HSGP reallocation process. A wide range of requests were made from GIS equipment, to interoperable communications to back-up generator equipment. Now the difficult process begins to determine how the \$400,000 in local unspent dollars will be allocated.

First all of the requests will be reviewed to determine which are eligible under the '04 grant guidance. Then the six regional chairs, or their designees, will grade the packages based on how completely and clearly the package is described, its link to local and state strategic goals, impact and risk reduction. To avoid a conflict of interest, regional representatives will only grade packages from outside their areas. A team from the HLSEM Grants Management Bureau will also review the packages.

A final decision is expected by December 8. An extension has been granted for '04 funds, which now have to be encumbered by May 15.

Pre Disaster Mitigation Grant Funding Now Available

Communities may now apply for the FY 2007 Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program, which provides funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, and communities for hazard mitigation planning and mitigation projects prior to a disaster event.

PDM grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Congress has appropriated \$100 million for competitive grants, technical assistance, and program support for the FY 2007 PDM program. The PDM program was reauthorized through September 30, 2008. For 2007, each state will receive at least \$500,000 for sub-applications that meet all eligibility requirements of the program as stated in the guidance. All remaining eligible sub-applications will compete nationally for the remaining PDM funds.

The program guidance provides critical information about eligibility, the national evaluation process, e-grant instructions, and other key aspects of the program. FEMA has established a February 5, 2007 application deadline. In order to meet FEMA's deadline, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HLSEM) must receive local sub-applications via E-grants (<https://portal.fema.gov>) by January 21, 2007. HLSEM is required to review, provide comments on, and to rank each local application that it submits to FEMA. For the FY 2007 PDM grant guidance and other supporting documents, visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/grants.asp.

NIMS Update

Congratulations to everyone on the state wide implementation of NIMS. Iowa is over 80% compliant. Few states can match these numbers.

Now for the next steps...the FY07 NIMS Implementation came out on October 31, 2006. There are seven new required compliance actions for the state and six for the local jurisdictions. The biggest challenge will be to determine who needs to take the ICS-300 and ICS-400 courses. There are also a couple of compliancy issues that we need further clarification on from the NIC. Once we receive clarification, we will issue the compliancy standards with recommendations.

Many of you may remember the NIMCAST tool from a year ago. This tool will be returning with new questions to determine compliancy. At this point, we are not sure if Iowa will be using this tool since we already have a program in place. We hope to have the compliancy standards and recommendations out by the first part of December. If you have any questions, feel free to call HLSEM's Cathleen Atchison or David Hempen at 515-725-3231.

Special Events Survey

HLSEM's Threat Infrastructure Protection Program (TIPP) is currently distributing a special events survey to capture information concerning special events. Survey results are used to promote situational awareness and direct security resources. The identified point of contact for each event will receive a security resource package and will be notified about relevant training and technical assistance opportunities.

Participation in this survey is critical to the development of a statewide special security events calendar. Using the survey form, state, local, and private entities can submit special events in their jurisdiction to be included in the calendar. HLSEM will select qualifying events to submit for federal designation, based on criteria provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

To request a copy of the survey, please e-mail the TIPP office at tipp@iowa.gov. This is an ongoing survey. Please submit surveys 30 days prior to an event.

FFY 07 Homeland Security Grant Update

Planning for the FFY07 Homeland Security Grant is underway and HLSEM is still awaiting arrival of the grant guidance, which we now expect to receive the first part of December. The first workgroup meetings should be completed by December 7. The 11 groups include:

- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Detection
- Communications Interoperability
- Intelligence and Fusion
- Regional Response Team Coordination
- Expanded Regional Collaboration
- Animal Health/Food and Agriculture Safety and Security
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)/National Response Plan (NRP) Implementation
- Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource (CI/KR) Protection Planning
- Program and Planning
- Medical and Health Preparedness
- Citizen Preparedness

If you would like to be involved in the process or have questions, please contact Kyle Karsjen at Kyle.Karsjen@hlsem.state.ia.us or at 515-725-3237.

Computer Game Offers Crisis Management Training

In late August, game developer BreakAway Games Ltd. released the final version of Incident Commander free of charge to municipal emergency departments as part of an agreement with the Justice Department, which invested \$350,000 in game development.

The PC-based software simulation models real-world situations within a community, allowing for training at the management level for a critical incident. It is based upon the command structure mandated by FEMA in its rules for National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance, notably the Incident Command System.

The simulation offers a realistic representation of crisis management with realistic scenarios, realistic time delays and realistic resource limitations, all set in the arena of the players' county or local region.

Focusing on smaller (less than 500,000 residents) jurisdictions, players will face the problems of dealing with a school hostage situation, a chemical spill, the aftermath of a severe storm, and a possible terrorism incident, as they fill the roles of the incident commander and his or her command team. At the same time, players also control the various agencies responding to the incident, including police, fire, EMS, public works and school personnel.

Multiple simultaneous roles for player interaction are available, allowing independent action in any role or as a part of a group of players over the Internet or on a local network. Solo play is also possible.

Cities interested in obtaining a free copy may visit: www.incidentcommander.net.



Flood Mitigation Assistance Funding Available

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced the FY2007 Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA) guidance and funding availability. The FY07 FMA priority is to fund flood mitigation activities that reduce the number of repetitive loss structures currently insured by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). However, FY07 target allocations may be awarded for eligible, cost-effective flood mitigation activities that will reduce the risk of flood losses to any property currently insured under the NFIP, whether repetitive loss or not.

Applications must be submitted through the Electronic Grants Management System (E-grants) at <https://portal.fema.gov>. This is the first time that FEMA has both the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM) and the FMA program open at the same time. To avoid confusion in the E-grants system, please use "FMA" somewhere in the project title to indicate the grant application is intended for the FMA program.

HLSEM will accept applications until February 12, 2007. HLSEM's deadline to FEMA is February 28, 2007. Anticipated minimum funding for Iowa: Planning \$15,800; Project \$150,660.

For more information, contact John Wageman at 515-725-3225 or at john.wageman@hlsem.state.ia.us. To view the guidance, visit http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/CoEM_FR/grant/07FMA.asp.

Repetitive Flood Claims Program Funding Available

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has announced funding availability for the Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) Program. The RFC grant program provides funding to mitigate the risk of flood damage to structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program that have had one or more claim payments for flood damages. Eligible mitigation projects are limited to acquisition/demolition or structural relocation of properties.

To be eligible, a community must document that it cannot meet the 25 percent non-federal match (due to resources) that would otherwise make the mitigation project eligible under the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. The RFC program provides up to 100 percent federally funded project grants. A local mitigation plan is not required to receive RFC funds. Estimated funding for FY 2007 is \$10 million. Project funding is based on a national competition. For more information, contact John Wageman at 515-725-3225.

IDPH Launches Health Literacy Project

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) recently launched a health literacy project called Plain & Simple. The project aims to help public health workers and partners use easy-to-understand language when writing or speaking about health.

IDPH would like your input in developing the Plain & Simple project Web site. Which tools or information would you like to see there? Share your thoughts by taking a four-minute survey. Go to www.idph.state.ia.us/health_literacy and click on the link at the top of the page. This survey will be available only until Dec. 8.

2007 EMPG Guidance Available

Iowa will receive an allocation of \$2,617,554 for the FFY2007 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), an increase of \$220,529 over last year. The local share of the allocation is \$1,308,777, an increase from last year of \$110,264.

HLSEM received the federal EMPG grant guidance on November 27. Emergency management coordinators can access the web-based application and guidance through a secure site at <https://secure.iowai.org/gems/>. HLSEM is still working out a few kinks in the new application system. If you encounter problems, call Lynda Wessel at 515-725-3259. The deadline for applications is December 20.

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HLSEM 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

Region 1 to Host Briefing for New Officials

Region 1, which includes 16 Central Iowa counties, will host a briefing for newly elected/re-elected public officials on homeland security, emergency management, and public health issues. The briefing, titled "Keeping Central Iowa Safe, Secure and Healthy," will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on January 18, 2007 at Bessie Myers Auditorium at Mary Greely Medical Center in Ames. Displays and refreshments will also be available.

HLSEM Spotlight: Brian Lewis



Brian Lewis, HLSEM's lead radiological calibration technician for the State of Iowa Radiological Calibration Facility, has worked for the Division since 1995. In his position, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the facility and also provides instruction on radiological preparedness to local, state, military, and volunteer emergency workers.

Prior to joining to the Division, Brian worked security for Camp Dodge and the Iowa Air Guard. Following 22 years of military service, Brian retired as a U.S. Army Chemical Officer.

Brian also works as a part-time armed security officer at the Des Moines Federal Building.

Brian and wife Polly, married for 32 years, have two sons and one daughter. His sons, Patrick and Michael, are currently serving their second tours of duty in Iraq with the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division. Daughter Katy recently passed her RN state boards in Nebraska.

Personnel Notes

John Cavanagh's last day with HLSEM was November 9. He has accepted a position as Public Assistance (PA) Coordinator with James Lee Witt and Associates. His first deployment will be to western Louisiana. John had provided PA services for HLSEM off and on since 1993 and was contracted for all but one disaster over 13 years. John most recently served as a contact hire then full-time temporary employee from 2004 to present. John thanks everyone for their friendship and support over the years. He and his family will continue to reside in Iowa.

Todd Brown's last day was October 12. Todd is now a trainer for Geo Learning. Todd was a temporary employee since April 2005. He helped HLSEM in the areas of exercise and critical infrastructure protection through implementation of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan.