



SECURE & PREPARED

June 6, 2007

Volume 3, Issue 9

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Tornadoes Hit Eastern Iowa

On June 6th, Governor Chet Culver sent a letter to President George Bush requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Louisa and Muscatine Counties as a result of tornadoes and severe weather that affected the area on June 1st.

"After surveying the area, it has been determined that there is enough damage to request a presidential disaster declaration," said Governor Culver. More counties may be added to the Presidential Disaster Declaration request if damage reports warrant their addition.



Above, all that remains of a farm near Grandview following a tornado on June 1, is the foundation. At right, a truck is overturned in Grandview. Photos provided by FEMA.

Preliminary damage assessments for Public Assistance were estimated at \$2.7 million, with most of the damage to electrical utilities. Individual Assistance assessments for underinsured loss were estimated at \$457,574. In addition, tornadoes damaged or destroyed more than 110 homes in Muscatine, 86 in Fruitland, and 51 in Grandview.

On June 4th, Lt. Governor Patty Judge and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division Administrator David Miller toured the damage firsthand in Fruitland and Grandview. "It is tough to put into words the devastation faced by families here in Eastern Iowa," said Lt. Governor Judge. "I am extremely proud of the clean-up efforts by the people of these communities and the swift response to the tornados by the local emergency management teams. Like they always do in a time of crisis, Iowans have shown their strength and commitment to this state by coming together to help their neighbors."

Currently, state assistance is available to low-income Iowans living in counties under the Governor's Disaster Proclamation, Jackson, Louisa, and Muscatine, to replace storm-related losses. For more information, applicants may visit the Iowa Department of Human Services Web site at www.dhs.state.ia.us and click on Spring Storms or call toll-free 866-434-4692.

The Fourth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference is July 16-18

See article on page 7 and visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org for more information.

Iowa Receives Presidential Declaration for Spring Flooding

On May 25th, Governor Chet Culver received confirmation that Iowans affected by severe weather and flooding in May will be eligible to receive federal disaster aid under a Presidential Disaster Declaration authorized by President Bush.

The Governor received notification that residents in 11 Iowa counties are eligible to apply for assistance for damages from flooding and severe storms that began on May 5. Those counties are Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Ida, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Shelby, Taylor, and Union.

Residents in these counties are eligible to apply for Individual Household Assistance programs. These programs include Disaster Housing, Individual and Family Grants, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, and assistance from the Small Business Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Disaster Recovery Centers Open—Bret Voorhees, HSEMD Communications and Technology Bureau Chief and Public Information Officer, Butch DuCote, FEMA External Affairs Officer, and Charles Henderson FEMA Public Information Officer, announce the opening of Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in western Iowa. *Photo provided by FEMA*

The declaration also makes available Public Assistance program funds to 18 counties, including: Audubon, Cass, Clarke, Crawford, Decatur, Fremont, Harrison, Ida, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Sac, Shelby, Taylor, and Union. Public Assistance program funds are available to public entities to rebuild damaged infrastructure that may include roads, bridges, culverts, and other public facilities or to cover costs of emergency work during the time of the flooding.

The disaster assistance process allows the State to request the addition of counties to the declaration if damages warrant. Iowans whose homes, businesses, and property were damaged by the severe storms and flooding may apply for disaster assistance by phone. Citizens may call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. This phone line will be available from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., seven days a week. Residents with agricultural damages should contact their county Farm Service Agency.

Citizens who sustained damage during recent storms but who do not live in a declared county are also encouraged to call the toll-free line. This information will be used to determine if their county should be added to the disaster declaration. For more information on federal disaster assistance, visit www.fema.gov/assistance/process/index.shtm.

On June 1, Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) were opened to assist residents who suffered damage. The DRCs will be open from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday until further notice at the Missouri Valley High School and the Jack & Jill Preschool in Atlantic. Residents are encouraged to register via the above mentioned toll-free phone numbers prior to visiting a DRC. DRC staff can help answer questions about registration for disaster assistance and hazard mitigation, help with disaster loan applications, and provide information and contacts for other programs. In addition, two mobile Disaster Recovery Centers are making visits to affected counties. Below is the remaining schedule:

- June 7 - Council Bluffs Fire Station #4
- June 7 - Shenandoah Fire Station
- June 8 - Avoca Fire Station
- June 8 - Fremont County Emergency Operations Center, Sidney
- June 9 - Bedford City Hall
- June 9 and 11 - Union County Fairgrounds in Afton

Terrorism Dollars Paying Dividends

By HSEMD Administrator, David L. Miller



Maybe all those terrorism dollars are having an impact after all. Just look at the results from our most recent response and recovery efforts.

With our latest Presidential Disaster Declaration, Iowa is on a historic track. We've never had three Presidential Declarations before in a single year, much less in four months, and the tornado season is just starting. We've weathered, hope you don't mind the pun, a severe ice storm that knocked out power to one third of the state, a blizzard that dropped more than a foot of snow in many counties, and our more usual round of spring flooding. Through the extraordinary efforts of responders and cooperation between local, state and private organizations, we managed to minimize impact on Iowans for all three of these events.

Would our efforts have been as effective if you turned the clock back and all of these events happened before 9-11? From where I sit, many of the improvements made with "terrorism" dollars -- the training, planning, equipment purchases, and the chance to understand each others' importance and roles, the ability to broaden our partnerships at all levels, the ability to leverage limited emergency management and other grant dollars -- paid dividends for the disaster events we have had in the first five months of this year. Although we can agree to disagree on some topics, when the bell rings and we need each other, we are stronger because of all the efforts and steps we've taken over the past six years.

We are in this together and I want to thank all of our partners for your hard work in helping Iowa through an historic four months. Your work makes a difference in terms of saving lives, protecting our citizens and communities, and in speeding the recovery from these disasters.

HSEMD to Host Security Planning for Special Events

HSEMD will host a Security Planning for Special Events training session from 9 a.m. to noon on June 21. This practical training course is designed for event planners, security managers, and public safety officials.

In anticipation of seasonal and election-related events, this course provides participants with the information and tools needed to build an effective event security plan. During this broadcast, instructors from HSEMD, the Iowa Department of Public Safety, and the Des Moines Police Department will discuss security planning strategies and concepts. We will review roles, responsibilities and common security issues addressed in effective event security plans.

Participants will:

- learn how to create a special event security plan,
- become familiar with protocols for handling threats and suspicious materials,
- discover methods for managing and monitoring large events, and
- receive a course certificate from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Participation Options:

- Room 5236 Westlawn Bldg., University of Iowa, Iowa City
- ICN (Des Moines and Sioux City)
- Webcast (requires Realplayer and high-speed Internet connection)

To register, visit: www.prepareiowa.com/Public/Catalog/Description.aspx?CourseID=473. Visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/SpEvents.asp for an agenda. For additional information contact: Jeff McKinney at 515-323-4312 or by e-mail at jeffrey.mckinney@iowa.gov or Tim Beachy at 319-353-5955 or by e-mail at tim-beachy@uiowa.edu.

State Agencies Participate in IEMC

On May 15 and 16, about 145 state agency directors, senior operational staff and public information officers attended the Iowa Emergency Management Course (IEMC) hosted by HSEMD. Following a day and-a-half of training and discussion, the group held a discussion exercise based on the state agencies' continuity of operations plans. The purpose of the exercise was to engage department heads and key personnel in the discussion of policy-level issues that may arise from a disaster that effects the capitol complex and key state infrastructure.

Topics covered in the classroom portion included:

- An overview of emergency management
- National Incident Management System
- Local emergency management roles from Polk County Emergency Management
- The State Emergency Operations Center and how it works
- Severe weather presentation from the National Weather Service
- Public information officer roles and the joint information center
- State plan reviews and agencies' responsibilities with a focus on emergency support functions
- State Agency continuity of operations and continuity of government plans
- Capitol Complex Plan and how we handle emergencies on the Capitol Complex

The course was originally scheduled to prepare new leadership in Governor Culver's administration for disasters. While the new administration gained valuable experience during the February ice and snow storms and more experience during the May flooding and June 1st tornadoes, the course still had significant value for the broader discussion of the emergency and disaster processes. The IEMC was also valuable for those agencies that may be involved in a disaster on a less frequent basis.

The exercise gave agencies the opportunity to discuss key policy issues regarding critical state infrastructure and processes. HSEMD and the participating agencies will be following up by reviewing and adjusting plans and procedures.

CERT Returns to Capitol Complex

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is being offered once again for employees who work on the Capitol Complex. The first CERT course of the year will be held June 25-27 at the Ola Babcock Miller Building in room 310.

This 20-hour course is designed to provide instruction in several important emergency response areas to citizens. The idea behind CERT is that basic knowledge by people who may be at the scene of an incident can save lives. If a major event occurs, first responders may be overwhelmed or cut off from getting to the Capitol Complex or other densely populated areas.

In this situation, CERT training is ideal. CERT provides instruction in the following skill areas:

- Basic First Aid
- Basic Triage
- Proper Carrying/Moving of the Injured
- Search and Rescue Techniques
- Disaster Psychology
- Emergency Organization

Only three CERT classes will be held this year, so the maximum number of students has been increased to 30. However, seats tend to go quickly, so sign up soon! To register for this free course, visit <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/default.aspx>. For questions, contact David Johnston at 515-725-3295 or by e-mail at david.johnston@iowa.gov.

U.S. Postal Service Hosts Des Moines Exercise

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and the St. Louis Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) sponsored a full-scale exercise on May 10 at the USPS Des Moines Processing and Distribution Center to test its response to a positive Bio-Detection System Alert incident. The exercise, done in collaboration with other response partners, involved city, county, state and federal agencies including Des Moines Fire/Hazmat and Police, Metro STAR, Polk County Emergency Management and Public Health, the Iowa National Guard 71st Civil Support Team, Iowa State Patrol, Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa State Patrol Communications, University Hygienic Lab (UHL), FBI, HSEMD, the Salvation Army and others.



Officials set up a secure Unified Command Post where command staff could provide briefings and where supporting technologies were available such as closed circuit TV, two-way radios, and incident command status boards. *Photo provided by Polk County EMA*

Des Moines Postal Inspector Jay Knox, who helped draft the exercise plan, stated "It speaks volumes about the outstanding level of cooperation and training we currently have here in central Iowa, when over 160 personnel from 22 different local, state and federal agencies can come together and successfully execute a unified response to a suspected biological attack."

Polk County Emergency Management Coordinator A.J. Mumm added, "Even though we work with these agencies and their personnel on a regular basis, it was great to see municipal, county, state, and federal entities working collaboratively in a unified command structure to achieve these complex objectives. This full-scale exercise allowed all of us to evaluate several months' worth of joint planning and training and it demonstrates that by not planning in isolation of one another we can realistically work together during the response."

Objectives of the exercise included the evacuation of employees, securing the crime scene, use of the Incident Command System, decontamination of USPS employees, collection of biological evidence, transport and testing at UHL, delivery of post-exposure medication to USPS employees, establishment of a joint information center, and initiation of mail isolation and tracking.

Cerro Gordo/Franklin County EMA Collects Special Needs Data

Cerro Gordo/Franklin County Emergency Management has developed a special needs registration form to help develop a data base, to be used in case emergency evacuations or in-place sheltering or confinement are ever warranted. By having this information, Cerro Gordo/Franklin County Emergency Management will be able to offer assistance in the forms of transportation, shelter, medical supplies and care.

"We need to know what people's needs are in advance of an emergency, so we can properly plan," said Steve O'Neil, emergency management coordinator for Cerro Gordo and Franklin Counties. Area health care providers and city governments are assisting with the information gathering process. It is up to the individual to decide if they want to participate or not. All information will be kept confidential.

O'Neil states, "So far most reactions are quite favorable, with most people thankful that we are taking into consideration their special needs, and that they are not being allowed to slip through the cracks."

Story County Emergency Management Trains Scouts

On May 12th, over 300 Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and leaders from Story, Boone, Greene and Hamilton Counties attended an emergency preparedness event at Iowa State University. The Scouts were working on their Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge, which they need to become an Eagle Scout.

Story County Emergency Management and local first responders conducted training in first aid response to two automobile accident scenarios and two search-and-rescue scenarios. The Scouts also enjoyed sandbag and stretcher races and demonstrations that included an Iowa National Guard Helicopter and an Ames Fire Department ladder truck. All activities were designed with the intention of providing real-life emergency response training.



Scouts practice first aid with the guidance of an Ames Firefighter.
Photo provided by Story County EMA

"This was an excellent opportunity for the Boy Scouts to test their emergency preparedness skills in realistic scenarios," said Story County Emergency Management Coordinator Lori Morrissey. "I was amazed at the leadership and team work that the Scouts showed in emergency situations. I think we have some incredible future emergency managers in our Boy Scouts."

The automobile accident scenarios were made as real as possible with older Scouts serving as mock victims and a local fire truck and ambulance present at the scene. For the search and rescue scenarios, the Star 1 Search and Technical Rescue Team had Scouts search for mock missing people and apply first aid once they were found.

Infrastructure Protection Summit Draws Crowd

HSEMD hosted an Infrastructure Protection Summit May 23 and 24 in Altoona. About 140 county emergency management coordinators, first responders, law enforcement, local, federal, private sector and state partners, and others came together to listen, share and discuss current issues related to the National Infrastructure Protection Plan.

Lt. Governor Patty Judge opened the first day, followed by Jim Caverly, DHS Division Director for Partnership and Outreach, who shared an overview on the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP). Presentations on Who Does What, Federal Enforcement of the NIPP, and Information Sharing and Threat Integration rounded out the first day.



About 140 people attended the Infrastructure Protection Summit.

The second day began with a presentation and demo on Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS) and Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) along with presentations and discussion on the agriculture, transportation and chemical sectors. The morning ended with Ed Beaman, Executive Director for Safeguard Iowa Partnership sharing facts about the Partnership.

The goal of the summit was to provide representatives from government and industry the opportunity to learn about efforts and strategies to secure critical infrastructure and key resources. To view presentations from the summit, visit: http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/resource_room/info_library.asp.

Cerro Gordo/Franklin County EMA Renovates EOC

Cerro Gordo/Franklin County Emergency Management recently finished the second phase of their emergency operations center (EOC) renovations. An open house/educational forum was held to introduce local media to the new joint information center (JIC) facilities and how they fit into the overall EOC operations. The media were shown a new credentialing system, the PIO/JIC operating procedures and the new technologies added to the system.



Cerro Gordo/Franklin County Emergency Management Coordinator Steve O'Neil speaks during an open house at the counties' emergency operation center. *Photo provided by the Mason City Globe Gazette*

The JIC is a new room within the secure EOC area. The area includes the Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator offices, the logistics room (containing the EOC communications, GIS system, resource management system and backup outdoor warning system), the main EOC operations room, a kitchen and a storage room. The JIC itself has televisions and radios for monitoring news media, a fax machine, two network connected computers, a video projector and screen, four new phone lines, and tables and chairs for 12 people.

"Local media were quite excited that we were including them in the process to develop a plan and a facility to make sure the public is properly informed," said Steve O'Neil, emergency management coordinator for Cerro Gordo and Franklin Counties. "They were very pleased with what they saw and heard and even offered assistance in obtaining and installing special lighting for television coverage."

BCA Workshop to be Held June 20-21

On June 20-21, HSEMD will host a FEMA-sponsored and funded benefit cost analysis (BCA) workshop at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston. The target audience for this course is local planners or project officers who develop project applications for any of the hazard mitigation grant programs: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre Disaster Mitigation, and Flood Mitigation Assistance.

This workshop is important because HSEMD anticipates making project grants available under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program from the late February ice storm (Presidential Disaster 1688) within the next month. All mitigation project applications require a FEMA-approved BCA as part of the application. Project selection for funding is determined, to a large extent, on the validity of the benefit cost analysis.

Participants will receive instruction and conduct practical exercises on completing the BCA process for projects that are typical in Iowa. Participants will also receive the most recent mitigation BCA toolkit and software.

For course technical information, contact John Wageman at 515-725-3225. For enrollment information, contact Kathy Karn at 515-725-3216.

2007 Changes to Iowa Code 29.C

Following are two changes to Iowa Code 29C – Emergency Management and Homeland Security. These changes have been enacted and will become effective on July 1, 2007.

One change came through Senate File 90, an act concerning local emergency management commissions on communications. The new language is underlined and the revised section is, as follows. Section 29C.9, subsection 6, Code 2007, is amended to read as follows:

6. The commission shall determine the mission of its agency and program and provide direction for the delivery of the emergency management services of planning, administration, coordination, training, and support for local governments and their departments. The commission shall coordinate its services in the event of a disaster. The commission may also provide joint emergency response communications services through an agreement entered into under chapter 28E.

Note: The intent of this legislation was to allow commissions, under a 28E agreement with its local governmental entities, to fund and provide for joint emergency response communications services and centers, including buildings and equipment, through the Local Emergency Management Fund and its funding mechanisms as set forth in Iowa Code chapter 29C.17.

The second change came through House File 896, an act creating a Disaster Aid Individual Assistance Grant Fund. This legislation created a new section in the Code and is, as follows:
29C.20A DISASTER AID INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND.

1. A disaster aid individual assistance grant fund is created in the state treasury for the use of the executive council. Moneys in the fund may be expended following the governor's proclamation of a state of disaster emergency. The Executive Council may make financial grants to meet disaster-related expenses or serious needs of individuals or families adversely affected by a disaster, which cannot otherwise be met by other means of financial assistance. The aggregate total of grants awarded shall not be more than one million dollars during a fiscal year. However, within the same fiscal year, additional funds may be specifically authorized by the executive council to meet additional needs.

2. The grant funds shall be administered by the Iowa Department of Human Services. The department shall adopt rules to create the Iowa Disaster Aid Individual Assistance Grant Program. The rules shall specify the eligibility of applicants and eligible items for grant funding. The rules shall be adopted no later than January 1, 2008. The Executive Council shall use grant funds to reimburse the department of human services for its actual expenses associated with the administration of the grants.

3. To be eligible for a grant, an applicant shall have an annual household income that is less than 130 percent of the federal poverty level based on the number of people in the applicant's household as defined by the most recently revised poverty income guidelines published by the United States department of health and human services. The amount of a grant for a household shall not exceed 25 percent of 130 percent of the federal poverty level for a household of one. Expenses eligible for grant funding shall be limited to personal property, home repair, food assistance, and temporary housing assistance. An applicant for a grant shall sign an affidavit committing to refund any part of the grant that is duplicated by any other assistance, such as but not limited to insurance or assistance from community development groups, charities, the Small Business Administration, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

4. The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division shall submit an annual report, by January 1 of each year, to the legislative fiscal committee and the legislative government oversight committee concerning the activities of the grant program in the previous fiscal year.

To see the full text of current Iowa Code Chapter 29C visit:

<http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool-ICE/default.asp?category=billinfo&service=iowaCode> and enter "29C" for the entire chapter or "29C.17", for example, to view a specific section of the Iowa Code.

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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. For more information, contact Kara Berg at 515-725-3271 or at kara.berg@iowa.gov.

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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.iowahomelandsecurity.org

Homeland Security Conference July 16-18

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division will host the fourth annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference, July 16-18 at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. This year's theme is "Teaming for Success."



**TEAMING
FOR
SUCCESS**

Plenary sessions on day one include presentations from:

- Richard Hainje, regional administrator, FEMA Region VII on *The New FEMA*;
- Anthony Cahill, director, Division of Disability and Health Policy, Center for Development and Disability, University of New Mexico School of Medicine on *Planning for Special Needs Populations*;
- Dr. Haven Simmons, associate professor, Salisbury University on *The Need for Public Information Officers*; and
- John Metzgar, primary firearms instructor and Firearms Training Systems Simulation instructor from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy on *Planning for School Terrorism*.

Breakout sessions will be held on day two. For an agenda or to register, visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and click on the conference link at the top of the page. Register by June 29 to take advantage of the discounted early bird registration fee!

HMGP Funding Available

The State of Iowa will receive FEMA funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as part of the Presidential Disaster declarations (FEMA-1688-DR, March 14, 2007 and FEMA-1705, May 25, 2007). Notice of Interest forms must be completed and e-mailed to hsemd.mitigation@iowa.gov by July 6, 2007. For a form and other information, visit: www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/CoEM_FR/grant/index.asp and scroll down to HMGP Funding Availability. For questions, contact John Wageman at 515-725-3225.

2007 CEDAP Application Period Extended

DHS recently announced that in order to accommodate all applicants, the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) program application period will remain open until June 29, 2007. This is a 30-day extension. First responder organizations are encouraged to apply. Last year, Iowa was very successful in applying for this program with 156 applicants and 57 awards received.

Applications must be submitted via the Responder Knowledge Base at www.rkb.mipt.org. For questions regarding CEDAP call 1-800-368-6498 or e-mail askcsid@dhs.gov. For questions regarding the Responder Knowledge Base or online application e-mail rkb@terrorism.com. For more information, visit www.dhs.gov.