



SECURE & PREPARED

September 5, 2007

Volume 3, Issue 15

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Special points of interest:

- Iowa has been granted a U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Designation for damages suffered during the late spring freeze. See page 4 for more details.
- On September 27 and 28, Region One will host its Second Annual Multi-Hazard Preparedness Symposium. See page 4 for more information.
- HSEMD will host two training opportunities in September. See page 5.

Enter a drawing for your chance to win an emergency supply kit at www.BeReadyIowa.org!

Governor Requests Presidential Declaration for August Flooding

On September 4, Governor Culver sent a letter to President George Bush requesting a Presidential Declaration for flooding and severe weather that occurred August 17 and continuing in northern and southern Iowa.

The Individual Households Program is being requested for the following 14 counties: Allamakee, Appanoose, Boone, Calhoun, Clarke, Davis, Humboldt, Mahaska, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne, and Webster. The Individual Households Program would provide Other Needs Assistance, Disaster Unemployment *Continued on page 2.*



Above, a section of a gravel road in Webster County was washed out due to recent flooding. Right, the sewage lift station in Lehigh was inundated with water from the Des Moines River. Photos provided by Webster County and the Civil Air Patrol.



Lt. Governor, HSEMD and Partners Kick Off National Preparedness Month in Iowa

On September 4, Lt. Governor Patty Judge, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management and several partners including the Red Cross, Iowa Lottery, National Weather Service and Iowa Emergency Management Association kicked off National Preparedness Month efforts in Iowa with a media event at the State Capitol.



HSEMD Administrator David Miller and Lt. Governor Patty Judge kick off National Preparedness Month on September 4.

“From floods, ice, snow, and wind, Iowa has seen no shortage of disasters this year,” said Lt. Governor Judge. “And as we have seen, events can happen rapidly and without warning. That is why Iowans should take this opportunity to develop emergency plans and ensure that they have supplies on hand for any eventuality. Taking a few proactive steps now could make a huge difference in a time of crisis.” *Continued on page 3.*

Request for Presidential Declaration for August Flooding

(Continued from page 1)

Assistance, and Crisis Counseling, Hazard Mitigation (Statewide), Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Programs, and all appropriate U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance programs. Individual assistance damage assessments for potential eligible expenses under federal programs totaled \$3.1 million. It is estimated that over 2,300 homes were affected by the floods.

In addition, public assistance is being requested for the following 14 counties: Allamakee, Appanoose, Boone, Calhoun, Cherokee, Davis, Humboldt, Mahaska, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne, and Webster. The public assistance program is designed to help public organizations rebuild damaged infrastructure that may include roads, bridges, culverts, and other public facilities. Emergency work during the time of the flooding would also be included. Public assistance damage assessments for potential eligible expenses under federal programs totaled \$7.6 million.



Lt. Governor Patty Judge, HSEMD Administrator David Miller, and Governor Chet Culver give an update on the flooding situation at an August 24 press conference at Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston.

The above damage assessments are preliminary estimates for damages that would be covered by federal programs should Iowa receive a Presidential Declaration. Actual damages are much higher.

The Governor is also requesting Hazard Mitigation "Statewide" and Direct Federal Assistance in the form of debris removal. Additional counties can be added to the Presidential Disaster Declaration request if additional damage reports warrant their addition.

A Governor's Proclamation is currently in place for the following 13 counties: Appanoose, Boone, Calhoun, Cherokee, Davis, Humboldt, Mahaska, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Van Buren, Wayne, Wapello, and Webster. The proclamation made state resources available to the above-mentioned counties. Governor Culver's proclamation also triggered the state's individual assistance program run by the Iowa Department of Human Services. For more information on this program, visit: www.dhs.state.ia.us and click on Summer Storm Help.

Requested state resources included pumps, sandbags, clean-up kits, trucks to assist with debris removal, inmates to help with clean-up at the Humboldt Care Facility, and aerial assessments. A number of state agencies were involved in the response including: the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division; the Iowa Departments of Transportation, Corrections, and Commerce; the American Red Cross; the Civil Air Patrol; the Iowa National Guard and several others. Federal resources of sandbags and trash pumps were coordinated through the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Governor visited many of the affected areas on August 23 and 24. The Lt. Governor and HSEMD Administrator David Miller toured the Mystic area August 25. Damage assessments teams comprised of state, local, and federal officials took place the last week of August.

If granted, this would be an unprecedented fourth presidential declaration in one year.

National Preparedness Month Kicks Off

(Continued from page 1)

To help Iowans with their preparedness efforts, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division has established a Web site at www.bereadyiowa.org, which provides easy-to-follow tips on preparing for emergencies. Those visiting this Web site will also have a chance to enter a drawing for an American Red Cross emergency supply kit. In addition, anyone can enter the free, random drawing by sending an entry to the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division at 7105 N.W. 70th Avenue, Camp Dodge, Building W-4, Johnston, IA 50131. One entry per person, deadline is September 27, 2007.

HSEMD would like to give special thanks to Hy-Vee, the Iowa Lottery, the National Weather Service, the Iowa Emergency Management Association, Des Moines Water Works, and Mid-American Energy for their help in getting the emergency preparedness message out to the citizens of Iowa!

Capitol and Wallace Building Evacuations

Early August 23, the State Capitol and the Wallace Building were evacuated due to electrical issues at the Capitol. A contractor working in the sub-basement of the Capitol Building alerted the Department of Administrative Services to a potential problem.

A switch gear had malfunctioned and the electric current was trying to ground itself, which could have led to significant damage to the electrical system and other systems that run through the Capitol Building sub-basement. DAS quickly shut down power to the Capitol, which in turn cut power to the Wallace Building. Without electricity, the HVAC air handling system was offline, and the air quality was not suitable for the buildings to be occupied. Power was restored to the buildings later that same afternoon and people were allowed back in around 5 p.m.

This electrical event highlighted the importance of a project already in the works by DAS. The transformer and switch gears currently in the sub-basement of the Capitol Building are in the process of being moved to a room under the east steps of the Capitol Building. This new location will vent to the outdoors, greatly decreasing the possible effects an electrical event could cause. This project should be completed in October.

Lucas Building Storm Sewer Backs Up

On August 24, due to recent heavy rains, and possibly a blockage in the sewer main under Walnut Street, sewage backed up into the basement of the Lucas Building.

As this was untreated "raw" sewage, there was a legitimate issue with the habitability of the Lucas Building. To minimize the spread of anything in the seeping material, air handlers in the Lucas Building were shut down. With air handling systems offline, the quality of the atmosphere could not be kept at acceptable levels and employees, guests, and visitors to the Lucas Building were sent home for the day.

Clean up began immediately and the City of Des Moines was on scene shortly after they received the report and pumped out the Walnut Street sewer main. The Department of Administrative Services coordinated clean up efforts and worked into the weekend to ensure the Lucas Building was ready for business before Monday August 27.

Iowa Receives USDA Disaster Designation for Late Freeze

On August 21, Iowa was granted a U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Designation for damages vegetable and fruit growers suffered during the late spring freeze from April 4 to April 10. Producers in the following counties may be eligible for low-interest emergency loans through the USDA's Farm Service Agency: Audubon, Crawford, Fremont, Harrison, Monona, Polk, Pottawattamie, and Tama. Producers in the following contiguous counties may also be eligible: Adair, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Carroll, Cass, Dallas, Grundy, Guthrie, Ida, Iowa, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Sac, Shelby, Story, Poweshiek, Warren, and Woodbury.

In addition, a secretarial designation for Missouri for the same event included ten contiguous counties in southern Iowa: Appanoose, Davis, Decatur, Fremont, Lee, Page, Ringgold, Taylor, Van Buren and Wayne.

This designation grants assistance in the form of low-interest emergency loans through the USDA's Farm Service Agency, to those meeting eligibility requirements. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses.

Region One Hosts Multi-Hazard Preparedness Symposium

Iowa's Region One Homeland Security Board in cooperation with Region One Hospital Preparedness Steering Committee and Region One Public Health Steering Committee will host its Second Annual Multi-Hazard Preparedness Symposium September 27 and 28 at the Iowa Events Center/Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines.

Guest speakers include Lt. Governor Patty Judge and Iowa Department of Public Health Director Thomas Newton.

Breakout session topics include:

- Pandemic Flu Update
- Prevention / Responding to Suicide Bombing
- Mass Fatalities
- Iowa's Antiviral Stockpile Program
- Emergency Communications for Public Health and Hospitals
- Special Needs
- Ethical Considerations in Allocating Scarce Medical Resources in Crisis Situations
- Decision Making
- Effective Communication in Disasters – Lessons Learned
- Prevention and Response to School Violence
- Cross Discipline Exercise Updates
- Organizational Preparedness Planning
- Radiation Basics for the Emergency Responder

This is a free event - CEUs pending. More information can be found at <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/training/Region1Symposium.asp>. For more information contact Liz Manion by e-mail at mmanion@storycounty.com or phone at 515 382-7229.

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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

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

TIPP to Host Training Opportunities

The HSEMD Threat Information and Protection Program (TIPP) office will host the following training opportunities in September for law enforcement personnel, security managers, and emergency planners.

- September 10, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Buffer Zone Protection Planning: Protecting Iowa's Critical Assets
- September 19, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., the Iowa Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) and the Iowa Health Alert Network (HAN): User Training

Both sessions will be offered via Web cast and the ICN. All participants will receive a training certificate.

More information is available on HSEMD's Web site at: <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/training/opportunities.asp>. Contact Jeff McKinney or Curt Sullivan (tipp@iowa.gov) to request additional information and registration instructions.

Virginia Tech Report Released

The Governor of Virginia released Virginia Tech Review Panel Report last week. The Report includes valuable information for emergency responders, mental health providers and policy makers.

The Report's size, over 400 pages, seems large. Fortunately, the report is broken up into individual pieces that may be valuable to different audiences. The overall Virginia Tech Report parallels the Columbine School Shooting Report, which laid out response discipline lessons and timelines in a similar manner.

The Report includes details that haven't been widely reported in the press – including the University's use of outdoor warning speakers during the active shooting, that two SWAT Teams were on alert near campus at the time of the shooting and a finding that included developing a University Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Specific parts of the report with direct relationship to preparing for similar events include:

- Emergency Medical Services Response to the shootings
- University of Virginia Emergency Response Plan for an Active Shooter or Violent Incident
- Guidelines for choosing an alert system
- Fatal School Shooting List from 1966-2007

The Report is available online at <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/TempContent/techPanelReport.cfm>.