



# SECURE & PREPARED

July 2, 2009

## Volume 5, Issue 13

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## Important Information

### HOLIDAY CLOSING

HSEMD offices will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. Iowa State Patrol Dispatch will be taking emergency calls that come in via the Division's main number, 515.725.3231.

### REGISTER NOW!

The Governor's 6th Annual Homeland Security Conference will be **Oct. 5-7, 2009**, at the Sheraton West Des Moines. To learn more and to register for the conference online, visit [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org).

### DISASTER FUNDING

For the latest in disaster funding information, visit the Rebuild Iowa Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov).

## Iowa 911 Call Center First in Nation to Trial Text Messaging

The Black Hawk County Consolidated Public Safety Communications Center has become the first



911 call center in the country to successfully receive text messages sent directly to 911. This groundbreaking effort allows those with speech and hearing impairments to use

text messaging to communicate directly with a 911 operator in an emergency. Currently, those with speech

and hearing impairments must use a relay center or specialized communications device to communicate with 911 operators.

HSEMD's Barbara Vos, the state's E911 program manager, said while this is an important advancement, a phone call is still the best way to contact 911 when possible. "Text messaging can cause a delay because it is not sent instantly like a phone call," said Vos.

"The state of Iowa has a long history of pioneering advancements in 911 technology as a way to enhance the safety of all our citizens," said

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## CERT Classes Announced

Sign up now for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training!

CERT is a 2.5 day course designed to give basic knowledge 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 accident can save lives.

When and where: Aug. 10-12 Hoover Building, Iowa State Capitol Complex, Des Moines.

Sept. 21-23 Ankeny Labs, Ankeny.

Oct. 19-21 Department of Public Safety Building, Des Moines.

How to sign up: Go to [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org), click on Training in the Quick Links section, then select Events Management System.

Questions: Contact Erin Mullenix at [erin.mullenix@iowa.gov](mailto:erin.mullenix@iowa.gov).

Space is limited, so sign up now! Ω

## HSEMD Participates in Next Grand Rounds Session

HSEMD's Bret Voorhees, Communications and Technology Bureau chief, will discuss emergency management at the state level and how individuals can prepare for emergencies during the July 15 Grand Rounds session at the Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness, College of Public Health, University of Iowa.

The presentation will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at 2117 Medical Education and Research Facility at the University of Iowa. This presentation will also be available via streaming video on the Web and will be archived for future viewing. Registration is required to view the video and is available through the Prepare Iowa Learning Management System at <https://prepareiowa.learnpublichealth.com>.

The Safeguard Iowa Partnership is a co-sponsor of the July 15 session, along with a July 9 session on steps emergency responders and concerned citizens can take to care for pets during a disaster. For more information on this session, *Animals in Disasters: What Can You Do?*, visit the Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness Web site at [http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icphp/grand\\_rounds](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icphp/grand_rounds). Ω



## Black Hawk County Text Messaging Trial

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HSEMD Administrator David Miller. "We are proud to be part of this initiative to assist the speech and hearing impaired."

"The successful testing of text messaging to 911 from a wireless telephone is a tremendous emergency services advancement for individuals who have sensory disabilities," said Richard Ray, chair of the National Emergency Number Association's Accessibility Committee. "I urge public safety agencies to accelerate the deployment of this technology and to encourage, support and celebrate efforts such as this."

The trial solution in Black Hawk County is restricted to test mode with plans to go live in July of 2009.

A broad team of communications companies including I Wireless, Intrado Inc., Positron Public Safety and RACOM Corporation were involved in this effort. Ω

## Next Generation 911 RFI Issued

The State of Iowa E911 Program has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to assist with the development and implementation of a Next Generation 911 solution. Next Generation 911(NG-911) is a nationwide initiative that will connect the state's Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) to a statewide Emergency Services IP Network. The current 911 system is designed around telephone technology and cannot handle the text, data, images and video that are increasingly common in personal communications. The NG-911 initiative will establish the foundation for public emergency communications services in a wireless mobile society.

HSEMD is applying for a \$668,545 grant from the U.S. Departments of Transportation and Commerce to be used for migration to an IP-enabled emergency network as part of the NG-911 initiative. The grant, which is a 50/50 match, will be used to improve Iowa's E911 network and benefit all the PSAPs within the state.

For information on this RFI, visit the HSEMD Web site at [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org) under Quick Links. Ω

## Follow HSEMD on Twitter!

To find out how to join and start receiving HSEMD's updates, go to [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org) and click on the "Follow us on Twitter" link. Ω

## National Weather Service Debuts Web-based Weather Briefing

The National Weather Service in Des Moines, IA, will be broadcasting Web-based briefings prior to significant weather, flood and extreme winter weather events. The Web-based briefings, known as Hazardous Weather Briefings (HWB) will be found in the *In the News* section of the NWS Des Moines Web site. The HWBs will include information about upcoming significant events including a meteorological or hydrologic discussion, what the threat is, and when and where it will occur. HWBs will include graphics with a meteorologist narrating the information. Most HWBs will be less than five minutes in length. Look for the HWB in the hours leading up to a potentially significant event.

The HWB will be ideal for emergency managers, spotters, the media and others who are interested in preparing for a significant weather event.

The HWB will be located at [www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/briefing](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/briefing). When a HWB is valid, the HWB Web site will be linked to the *In the News* section of the NWS Des Moines Web site. When there is no valid HWB, a message will direct viewers back to the NWS Des Moines Web site.

If you have questions, please contact Jeff Johnson at the National Weather Service in Des Moines at 515.270.4501 ext. 726. Ω

## HSEMD Grant Update

### FFY 2009 EMPG Reports Due

The third quarter report for the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) is due to Tricia Boggs no later than July 30, 2009. In order to expedite the processing, HSEMD must have original signatures on the request. Submit your EMPG expenditure documentation (auditor's report) as hard copy with your signed request for reimbursement. This will ensure that the request for reimbursement and documentation arrive at the same time rather than earlier or later than electronic documents which might delay reimbursement. As a reminder, you must have an original signature on your hard copy request for reimbursement. Performance reports may still be sent as electronic copies to Tricia at [tricia.boggs@iowa.gov](mailto:tricia.boggs@iowa.gov).

### FFY 2007 HSGP Extension

HSEMD has not granted or requested an extension of the 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). HSEMD cannot request an official extension from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security until 90 days before the end of the State's performance period. However, HSEMD will consider an internal extension for sub-grantees within the State's performance period. Extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis for up to six months, which will be December 31, 2009. For additional information and forms needed to request an extension, contact Lynda Wessel at [lynda.wessel@iowa.gov](mailto:lynda.wessel@iowa.gov). Ω

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## Local PIO Workshops to be Held

County emergency management public information officers (PIO) will have an opportunity to participate in training and exercise activities as part of a series of workshops funded by the 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP).

The goal of the workshops is to develop and coordinate emergency management PIOs at the local and state levels of government. This will be accomplished by holding regional training and exercise activities. These sessions will demonstrate the importance of identifying and training PIOs at the local level and the need for PIOs at every level to communicate with colleagues.

The workshops will be conducted by Chris Kramer and Frank Cowan, experts in emergency public information and the Joint Information System and Joint Information Centers.

The PIO workshops will be held at locations throughout Iowa over the next 18 months to two years. The first workshop will be held in Mason City Aug. 19-20 for Region 2 emergency management agency PIOs. Additional workshop dates and locations have yet to be determined. Ω

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**Secure & Prepared** is published  
by the Iowa Homeland Security &  
Emergency Management Division  
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**HSEMD Mission**

Lead, coordinate, and support  
homeland security and emer-  
gency management functions  
in order to establish sustain-  
able communities and ensure  
economic opportunities for Iowa  
and its citizens.

**We're on the Web!**

[www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org)

## HSEMD Employee News

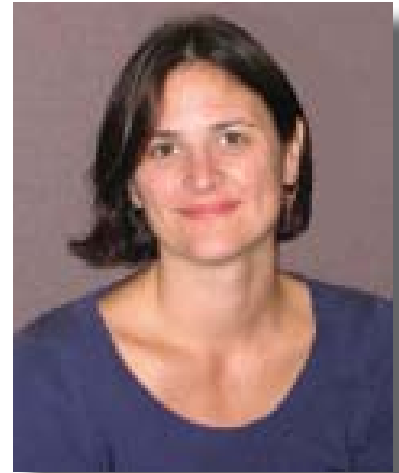
### Communications and Technology Bureau

Michelle Matthes joined the HSEMD Communications and Technology Bureau on June 22, 2009. She will serve as the office manager/administrative assistant to David Miller, with one of her main tasks being designing and implementing a records keeping procedure.

Michelle came to HSEMD from Sacramento, Calif., where she worked as a project administrator for California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA). CUWA is a non-profit organization whose members provide drinking water to more than two-thirds of California, and represents those urban water interests in public policy forums and manages research into issues related to drinking water. Her responsibilities at CUWA included monitoring state and federal policy, project/budget management, and office management.

In her time away from the office, Michelle enjoys spending time with her family hiking, boating and swimming. She and her family have recently moved to the area and are excited to find out what Des Moines has to offer.

Welcome, Michelle! Ω



**Michelle Matthes**

### Preparedness Bureau

HSEMD's Janean Soroka retired on June 30.

Janean had been with the Division since 1996. During her tenure at HSEMD she worked on many disaster and non-disaster programs and projects, including Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, hazard mitigation, the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture, and the Division's fund raising efforts for the Food Bank of Iowa. Her most recent assignment had been with the Preparedness Bureau.

Janean said she and husband Alan plan to spend more time with their three children, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, in addition to traveling, reading, horseback riding, sewing and swimming.

Congratulations to Janean on her retirement. She will be missed! Ω



**HSEMD Administrator David Miller (right) thanks Janean Soroka as Steve Zimmerman, Preparedness Bureau chief and interim chief of staff, looks on.**