



SECURE & PREPARED

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Important Information

For the latest in disaster funding information, visit the Rebuild Iowa Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

Follow us on Twitter!

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management is on Twitter! Log on to follow us – look for **IowaHSEMD**.



Homeland Security Conference Approaches

The Sixth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference is almost here! The conference will be held Oct. 6-7 at the West Des Moines Sheraton. Online registration is open at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/conference/Registrar.aspx. You can also get there by going to the Iowa Homeland Security Web site and clicking the conference link on the right side of the home page.

Hotel rooms at the Sheraton will only be held at the special conference rate until Sept. 13 (that's this Sunday). Also, after Sept. 21, the registration fee will increase.



The conference agenda is posted online, as well as speaker biographies and links to book your hotel room.

Don't forget the free training session on Oct. 5: Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings and Prevention of and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents.

The featured keynote speaker on Oct. 6 will be retired Maj. Gen. Steve Saunders, who is now the assistant administrator for the National Integration Center of FEMA's National Preparedness Directorate (NPD) in Washington, D.C. In this position, he

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Nevada Community School District First HMGP School Tornado Safe Room in Iowa

Nevada Community School District has been awarded a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant to construct a tornado safe room within a proposed addition to the high school building. Hazard Mitigation funds are the result of the 2008 tornado and flood events. HMGP provides grants to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures to reduce the loss of

life and property, lessen the impact to local communities due to natural disasters, and enable recovery after a disaster.

Nevada Schools had planned to add a multipurpose room to use as a gym for physical education classes and the wrestling program. The entire addition

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Homeland Security Conference Approaches

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provides leadership to five critical functions within FEMA including incident management system integration, the national exercise program, the Emergency Management Institute, the Center for Domestic Preparedness, and training and exercise integration. Assistant Administrator Saunders also serves as a primary liaison with key constituency groups with which the NPD interacts on many of the major policy and programmatic activities of the Directorate.

Don't miss Assistant Administrator Saunders and the rest of the fantastic speakers who will be presenting at this year's event!

If you have any questions, you may send an email to gov-ernors.conference@iowa.gov, or call **David Hempen** at **515.725.3281**, **Beth Gathercole** at **515.725.3204**, or **Stefanie Bond** at **515.725.3271**. Ω

Nevada Community School District First HMGP School Tornado Safe Room in Iowa

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will be constructed to provide protection for occupants from wind and debris associated with tornadoes and other high wind events.

In February 2009, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) and FEMA Region VII sponsored workshops to discuss the engineering and programmatic requirements of building tornado safe rooms in Iowa. While a wide variety of local officials and engineering professionals were invited to attend, the State placed an emphasis on including school officials in order to promote safe rooms in future schools designs or additions. The safe rooms are designed and built to the FEMA 361 Guidance to provide near absolute life protection for all occupants during tornado/high wind events.

Presently several schools across Iowa have proposed plans to construct new school buildings or add an addition to existing buildings. Fifteen additional schools are currently working with HSEMD mitiga-



tion staff in the project development and grant application process. The HMGP provides an excellent opportunity for schools to protect its student and staff during high wind events while also creating needed space for school functions.

Nevada Schools is the first school to be awarded the grant, to be followed by the other proposed projects of additional classrooms, auditoriums, and gymnasiums. The possibilities for this grant allows for communities to not only provide protection for the students who are the future of our State, but to also provide long-term solutions to communities by assisting with the funding for new school facilities. Ω

Job Opening at Polk County Emergency Management

The Polk County Emergency Management Commission (EMC) has an opening for an emergency management assistant coordinator. The salary range is \$45,330–\$59,533. We also offer an excellent benefits package. If you are

interested, please submit your application by **5 p.m. on Sept. 25** to:

Polk County H.R. Dept.
111 Court Avenue, Ste. 390
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Please visit the Polk County EMC Web site at www.polkcountyio-

wa.gov for a job description and to apply.

Applications are subject to the Open Records Law. Equal Opportunity Employer. A criminal background check may be required. Ω

Preparedness vs. Entitlement?

Changing the Culture When it Comes to Disasters

National Emergency Management Association President Nancy Dragani said recently the United States has a “culture of entitlement” when it comes to disasters and it is not the federal government’s role to be a first responder. During her more than 14 years in emergency management, Dragani said there has been a shift from personal responsibility to personal expectation, a course she suggested needs to be reversed. “I have seen a shift from ... ‘when the hurricane winds begin to blow, clean out your bathtub and fill it with water so you have drinking water’ to ‘when the hurricane threatens and the winds begin to blow, find out where [the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s] going to deliver ice, food and water,’” she said. “And we can’t survive that. “We’ve got to begin to remind ourselves as a people of personal accountability,” Dragani told a forum at the Heritage Foundation. “It’s my responsibility, to the best of my ability, to take care of myself, my family, my dog, my cats, my mom who lives down the street and the lady that lives next door. I believe that’s my responsibility. I believe it’s your responsibility.”

Dragani, who also is executive director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, said the United States has lost that mindset as a country and a culture. “We’ve

become a culture of entitlement,” she said. “Within hours of an event the question is, ‘Where’s FEMA? Where’s my check? Where’s my water, food and ice?’”

“That culture is neither sustainable nor defensible,” Dragani said. “I think we need to change that culture,” she said. “I think we need to go back to a message of personal preparedness and an expectation that to the extent possible people take the time, the energy, the money to prepare themselves and their family so that they don’t have to wait on FEMA to come in on their white



charger and fix the day.” Dragani said she agreed with comments Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano made in March when she told attendees at NE-



MA’s mid-year conference that the public perception of FEMA needs to change. FEMA, Napolitano said, is not the first responder; a role she said belongs to local government.... “I think between 9/11 and Katrina, the pendulum shifted to ... this expectation that FEMA would be there in hours, that they would be passing out food, ice and water in hours as opposed to being there after states and locals had begun to provide those services to their capability,” Dragani said.

[From the article “Emergency Management Chief Decries ‘Culture of Entitlement’” by Daniel Fowler, published in the CQ Homeland Security, Aug. 18, 2009.]

OEMA Director/NEMA President Nancy Dragani’s presentation at the Heritage Foundation, “Building the Homeland Security Enterprise: States Must Lead Emergency Management Efforts,” Aug. 18, 2009, can be accessed in an archived video format at: www.heritage.org/Press/Events/archive.cfm. Ω

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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

Zimmerman Named Chief of Staff at HSEMD

In May, HSEMD's **Steve Zimmerman** was named acting chief of staff by HSEMD Administrator David Miller. During this time, he retained his position as the Preparedness Bureau chief.

Steve has now been named the permanent replacement for former Chief of Staff Mike Beaman. Beaman retired as chief of staff on April 27 and now works as a trainer for General Dynamics for the National Training Center at Camp Dodge.



Steve Zimmerman

The search will soon be underway for Steve's replacement as Preparedness Bureau chief. Look for more information in future issues of *Secure & Prepared*.

Congratulations, Steve! Ω

Personnel Dollar Cap Raised for HSGP

On August 25, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security approved the State of Iowa request for waiver of the 15 percent cap on personnel dollars under '08 HSGP. This waiver raised the cap to 35 percent of the total award.

By raising the cap, the waiver enabled continued state and local staffing at existing levels for the duration of the grant period, Sept. 1, 2008, through Aug. 31, 2011. This also enabled continuity of operations for regional fusion offices within Iowa's Law Enforcement Information Network regions and offset local concerns of possible financial liabilities had the waiver not been granted.



Upon notification of waiver approval, the State Fiscal Office originated '08 Articles of Agreement for the subgrantees.

Those articles were subsequently mailed or personally delivered for signatures. As of Sept. 8, multiple signed articles were returned, along with the first request for reimbursement under HSGP '08. Ω