



SECURE & PREPARED

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HSEMD/FEMA Programs Top \$1.3 Billion

While the year 2008 will go down as the year of the floods, 2009 will be noted as the year of recovery. As 2009 comes to a close, it is important to note that over \$1.3 billion has been administered by state and federal partners at the Joint Field Office and now the Iowa Recovery Center. These program dollars have helped individual Iowans, aided cities and counties in rebuilding efforts, and have started programs designed to minimize the impact of future events. Further federal and state dollars coordinated through the Rebuild Iowa Office, the Iowa Department of Economic Development and others have also helped the state recover.

“Ensuring that Iowa receives every eligible dollar under the grants administered by the Iowa Recovery Center is a primary focus,” said State Coordinating Officer Pat Hall. “Our success in meeting that goal has been through the coordinated efforts of governmental agencies, businesses, and voluntary agencies.”

“The 2008 tornado and floods dealt a serious blow to Iowa and many of its citizens,” said Kay Phillips, director of the Iowa Recovery Center. “We know some things will never be the same, but Iowans are restoring and rebuilding their communities with not just financial assistance but a determination that is remarkable.”

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HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

HSEMD offices will be closed **Friday, Dec. 25** and **Friday, Jan. 1, 2010**. Iowa State Patrol Dispatch will be taking emergency calls that come in via the Division's main number, 515.725.3231.

Cedar Falls Passes Flood Plain Regulations

On December 14, the Cedar Falls city council adopted new regulations to limit building in the flood plain. While there are many details in the ordinance, in essence, it restricts new construction within the 500 year flood plain. That's a more preventive measure when compared to other cities that mandate restrictions in the 100 year flood plain.

City Council Member Kamyar Enshayan explained that the ordinance was drafted based on comments heard at several public hearings. “Those affected by last year's floods were very vocal,” Enshayan stressed.

“Our recent devastation drove home the need for this ordinance,” he added.

Enshayan explained that a 12 member task force comprised of developers, and others impacted by the ordinance, was also created to review waiver requests and the impact of the new law.

The ordinance, which goes into effect Jan. 1, 2010, also reinforces current National Flood Insurance Program standards and means people living in the 500 year flood plain would have to get flood insurance. Ω

Statewide Interoperable Communications Plan Adopted

Recently the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board formally adopted the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) Master Plan.

Implementing ISICS will provide benefits far beyond its main purpose of achieving statewide interoperability. The ISICS architecture provides a statewide framework to address future communication system directions and enhancements, such as future movement to more stringent narrowband requirements (6.25 kHz equivalency).

With the unified communication architecture ISICS will provide for the consolidation of resources while maintaining independence and autonomy during day-to-day operations. This cooperative use of assets will provide interoperability among agencies as well as potential future cost saving opportunities.

The ISICS common standards-based platforms can leverage equipment costs across a multitude of state and local agencies in Iowa, and can benefit from utilizing nationwide standard equipment.

The unification of the statewide communication offering through ISICS during a time of fragmented and limited funding, can minimize the need for the construction and maintenance of multiple disparate communications networks. In ad-



dition, ISICS interconnectivity can be available to non-public safety entities such as schools, hospitals, and other private enterprises, fostering an environment of collaboration and unity around the common goal of interoperability.

The Board was able to complete this plan due to funding received from the Public Safety Interoperable Communications grant program. These funds were used to hire Federal Engineering of Fairfax, Va. Federal Engineering was selected after winning a competitive RFP (request for proposal) process.

The master plan can be viewed at http://isicsb.iowa.gov/documents/federal-reports/11-08-2009_ISICS%20Master%20Plan_V1.pdf. Ω

Ames, Benton County to Receive EOC Funding

Benton County and the City of Ames recently were awarded funding under the FY 2010 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The Benton County Emergency Management Commission was allocated \$500,000. The allocation for the City of Ames was \$600,000. This funding is to be used for construction or renovation of emergency operations centers.

The FY 2010 EOC Grant Program is intended to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable EOCs. Nearly \$47.5 million has been appropriated for designated EOC projects around the nation. Ω

Homeland Security Educational Opportunities

The Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) provides a wide range of educational opportunities.

CHDS offers several programs for leaders in the homeland security field, including a Master of Arts degree, a program to develop and enhance the capacity of homeland security leaders, and a mobile seminar for governors and other executives.

To learn more about CHDS, visit www.chds.us. Ω

Multi-State Partnership Holds Joint Meeting with Southern States

Agriculture and emergency management representatives from 22 states convened in Raleigh, N.C., for the joint meeting between the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture (MSP) and the Southern Agriculture and Animal Disaster Response Alliance (SAA-DRA).

The event, held Nov. 2–4, provided the organizations with a forum to share information and strategies on agriculture emergency preparedness and response.

“In the food and agriculture sector, it’s important to understand the systems, response capabilities,

“While each region has different characteristics, this collaboration will help us work together efficiently.”

and communications pathways that will help both regions respond effectively to a national-scale disaster,” said Mark Shearer, coordinator for the Partnership states. “While each region has different characteristics, this collaboration will help us work together efficiently.”

“When you look at some of the threats and challenges facing the states in the [Multi-State] Partnership, things like floods, droughts,



and foreign animal diseases, you start to realize every bit of this can and does happen in the South,” said Dr. Jimmy Tickel, a veterinarian with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and North Carolina’s representative to SAADRA. “So we saw a great opportunity to bring the two groups together to talk about what’s been done to solve these problems and how we can work together to solve them in the future.”

Much of the discussions were based on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) response planning. FMD has been identified by both organizations as a considerable threat to the nation’s agricultural economy. Future collaborations for both groups will hit on a number of initiatives, including bio-security standards, improving communications and IT capabilities, and resource sharing. Ω

IDHRC Hosts Webinars

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) recently hosted webinars aimed at helping establish and maintain local Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD).

The IDHRC worked with partners from FEMA, local emergency management agencies, established COADs, and HSEMD to present these COADs in an educational format. The webinars lasted approximately one hour and were attended by 41 participants.

Many of the local COADs have been established since the 2008 floods. FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons (VAL) have worked hard to transition community longterm recovery committees into more sustainable and permanent COADs. As the statewide Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster (VOAD), the IDHRC has also taken up the responsibility of helping to train, sustain, and prepare local COADs.

A special thanks to Michael Stadie, the IDHRC COAD community relations chair, and all of the FEMA VALs in the state for working to put this together. After the new year, we will again be holding the COAD development training, this time in conference call format.

Look for information regarding the training after the new year! Ω

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

Administrator
David L. Miller

7105 N.W. 70th Avenue
Camp Dodge, Bldg. W-4
Johnston, IA 50131

Phone: 515.725.3231

Fax: 515.725.3260

Web site:

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

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For more information contact Stefanie Bond, 515.725.3271 or stefanie.bond@iowa.gov.

News Team

Whitney Baethke

Tricia Boggs

Stefanie Bond

Laura Carlson

Tara Dowd

Beth Gathercole

Erin Mullenix

Lucinda Robertson

Doug Rossell

Bret Voorhees

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

Disaster Aid Tops \$1.3 Billion

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Committed to long-term recovery efforts in Iowa, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are slated to maintain a strong presence within the state at the Iowa Recovery Center in Urbandale until at least June, 2011.

Recovery to date from the 2008 disaster has included assistance from many sources:

- Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have obligated \$889.9 million under the Public Assistance Program to fund repairing and rebuilding public facilities Iowa. These projects include public buildings, roads and bridges, and other facilities owned by governmental agencies and certain non-profit organizations.
- Under the Individuals and Households Program more than \$122.4 million has been paid out in emergency housing and grants to 23,289 households whose homes were damaged or destroyed.

- Another \$16.3 million was paid out through the Other Needs Assistance program to 8,526 households whose unmet needs were not covered by other assistance or insurance. This program is coordinated by the Iowa Department of Human Services and FEMA.

- The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved more than \$272.4 million in federal low-interest disaster loans to individuals and businesses to repair and rebuild flood damaged structures.

- Disaster Unemployment Assistance funded by FEMA and administered by Iowa Workforce Development paid out \$6.8 million to 2,280 individuals who lost work due to the disaster.

- The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which is administered by HSEMD, provides necessary funds to reduce damages from future hazards. To date there are 82 approved projects valued at \$102.5 million.

While the storms and floods of 2008 struck in a relatively short time, the recovery efforts will go on for years to come. Ω

Training News

The Homeland Security Training Center at Iowa Central Community College will be hosting AWR-186 Emergency Responders and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community: Taking the First Steps to Disaster Preparedness April 16, 2010, in Ames. This course will provide participants with an understanding of the tools and knowledge needed to prepare a community response, as

well as respond to and recover from emergencies ranging from weather-related emergencies to a terrorist attack, for deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and deaf-blind individuals.

This course is free of charge to all law enforcement and public safety personnel. To register, log on to www.IowaTrainingNow.com. Ω