



# SECURE & PREPARED

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## Governor Culver Requests Presidential Disaster Declaration

Governor Culver has requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration for counties impacted by recent winter storms.

The governor has asked President Obama to declare 28 Iowa counties federal disaster areas following the Jan. 19, 2010, ice storm and the winter storm that began impacting the state on Dec. 23, 2009. If granted, the declaration would make counties eligible for funding through the Public Assistance program, which provides assistance to state and local government and certain non-profit organizations.

The Presidential Disaster Declaration request came after completion



Photo courtesy Iowa Department of Transportation.

of joint preliminary damage assessments performed by the Iowa

*Continued on Page 4...*

## Important Information

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

### Haiti Disaster Donations

Learn what you can do to help victims of the Haiti earthquake through links on the HSEMD Web site home page at [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org) under the Quick Links section.

## State Individual Assistance Program Available for Iowans Impacted by Storms

Iowa's Individual Assistance Program has been made available to those affected by the Jan. 19, 2009, ice storm.

The state's Individual Assistance Program provides up to \$5,000 in reimbursements for damages incurred for those whose income is up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. The program is available to those in the counties under the Governor's emergency proclamation for the ice

storm: Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Crawford, Sac and Shelby. In addition, Adair, Cherokee, Guthrie and Monona Counties have been added to the counties eligible for the program.

For more information on the state's Individual Assistance Program, visit the Iowa Department of Human Services' Web site [www.dhs.state.ia.us](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us) and click on Storm Help, or call 877-937-3663.

## HSEMD Grant Updates

### *FFY 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program*

Thank you to the sub-recipients who submitted their quarterly reports on Jan. 15!

### *FFY 2009 Homeland Security Grant Program*

Grant staff will be scheduling small group meetings around the state toward the end of February. The purpose will be to discuss expectations, work plans, budgets, agreement articles, and approval for beginning work.

### *FFY 2010 Homeland Security Grant Program*

Investment Justifications (IJ) for funding are due to HSEMD by Feb. 19, 2010. Follow the quick link "FFY 10 Homeland Security Grant Links" on the HSEMD home page for more information.

### *FFY 2010 Emergency Management Performance Grant*

Quarterly reports and reimbursement requests are due to HSEMD by Jan. 30, 2010.

### *FFY 2010 Emergency Operations Grant*

Applications are due to HSEMD by Jan. 29, 2010. Follow the quick link "FFY 10 Homeland Security Grant Links" on the HSEMD home page [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org) for more information. Ω

## Training News

### IS-241 Decision Making and Problem Solving

#### Course Overview

Being able to make decisions and solve problems effectively are a necessary and vital part of the job for every emergency manager, planner, and responder. This course is designed to improve decision-making skills. It addresses:

- The decision-making process
- Decision-making styles
- Attributes of an effective decision maker

- Ethical decision making and problem solving.

The course will be held on Camp Dodge in Johnston on March 19, 2010. Fifteen students must be enrolled in order to hold the class.

For registration visit <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>. If you don't have an account you will need to create one. For information about registration, contact Beth Gathercole at 515-725-3204 or [beth.gathercole@iowa.gov](mailto:beth.gathercole@iowa.gov).

## 2010 Citizen Corps Program Funding Announced

Iowa will be allocated over \$166,000 for Citizen Corps programs for FY2010.

If a county received funds for the Citizen Corps Program in FY2009, it will automatically be participating in the 2010 grant unless the county specifically opts out.

If a county did not participate in 2009, county emergency management coordinators are asked to send an e-mail to Blake DeRouchey by Feb.10 to indicate interest in the 2010 program.

The main requirement for participation is registration of a county's Council on the Citizen Corps Web site. Citizen Corps dollars are some of the most flexible dollars available. Because of the various programs, there are many different

things this funding can be used to support.

For example, if a county doesn't already have an organized group of volunteers, it can provide funding for an organizational meeting to help in identifying and organizing volunteers who can assist in times of disaster. If a county already has a core group of volunteers, this money can help fund some of their activities.

As with all grants, budgets and work plans are developed in the areas of planning, training, exercise and equipment. Counties will not have to write an initial Investment Justification (IJ) for this however, as it will be rolled into HSEMD's.

For more details on Citizen Corps, visit their Web site at [www.citizen-corps.gov](http://www.citizen-corps.gov). Ω

# Hazard Assessment and Response Management Course HARM Students Drive Training Procedures

*Submitted by Shannon Arledge,  
Center for Domestic Preparedness  
Public Affairs*

As the citizens of Haiti have witnessed first hand the horrific affects of a devastating earthquake, countries throughout the world have united a response effort to assist Haiti in recovering from this major disaster. Courses provided at the Center for Domestic Preparedness focus on response and recovery, and prepare emergency response providers for both small and large-scale disasters. The training is cost free for state, local and tribal response personnel.

Hands-on training that provides both mental and physical challenges to emergency responders is difficult to duplicate. Few training courses require students to demonstrate solid response skills, while providing parameters and developing plans for a hazardous materials or weapons of mass destruction (WMD) response.

The Hazard Assessment and Response Management (HARM) course is the first course of its kind at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), located in Anniston, Ala. The HARM course provides response personnel with a scenario, but the students determine the tempo, and plan their response.

“All CDP courses have instructors directly involved with training,”

explained Rick Dickson, assistant director of training delivery. “In HARM our instructors step back, let the students make the decisions. Sometimes the students meet with difficulty; other times they succeed immediately; ultimately, the information and learning tools they gain are invaluable,” he added. “This course is about as real as it gets for WMD or hazardous materials training.”



**An emergency responder attending the HARM course samples response personnel for traces of contamination after leaving a decontamination line.**

Course prerequisites include ICS 100 and 200, as well as successful completion of one of the following CDP courses in the previous 36 months: WMD Technical Emergency Response Training, WMD HazMat Technician, or WMD

Hands-On-Training (8 or 16 Hour). The goal of the HARM course is to provide the responders with a realistic operational WMD environment in which the students operate within the incident command system, and decide procedures, equipment, and tactical approach to an emergency event.

“We were forced to work in a unified command,” said Sue McManus, Memphis, Tenn., Fire Department. “If we had a real incident we would work with multiple agencies and jurisdictions,” she added. “Most agencies do not practice like this, and should. Any real event will be similar to this experience.”

This three-day course consists of up to 45 responders from multiple disciplines and multiple jurisdictions, with different levels of training and experience. The students appoint their incident commander and determine response elements based on the number of students and response background of each person.

CDP courses range from one to five days in length and feature interdisciplinary resident and non-resident training courses that promote greater understanding among 10 diverse responder disciplines: Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Service, Governmental Administrative, Hazardous Materials, Healthcare,

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A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

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### News Team

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

# Assessments of Winter Storm Damage Continue

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Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local officials.

While final assessments are still in progress, damage assessments have shown there is at least \$26 million in damage statewide.

"The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, working with FEMA, has done an outstanding job in gathering preliminary damage assessments," said Governor Culver.

Counties included in the request for

federal assistance for the January ice storm are: Adair, Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Crawford, Guthrie, Harrison, Madison, Pottawattamie, Sac, and Shelby.

Counties included in the request for federal assistance for the December storm are:

Adair, Audubon, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Emmet, Franklin, Fremont, Guthrie, Harrison, Ida, Lyon, Mills, Monona, Osceola, Page, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Pottawattamie, Sac, Shelby, Sioux, and Woodbury.

## Personnel Note

Whitney Baethke, administrative assistant for the Homeland Security and Grants Bureau, has departed HSEMD for a position with the Mahaska Health Partnership. Her last day with the Division was Jan. 29.

Whitney had been with HSEMD since September 2008.

Thank you to Whitney for all the good work she had done while with the Division. Ω

## Hazard Assessment and Risk Management Course

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Law Enforcement, Public Health, Public Safety Communications, and Public Works.

The CDP is a component of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Preparedness Directorate in the Department of

Homeland Security. The Anniston training center is the nation's only federally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training facility for civilian responders.

Learn more about the CDP at <http://cdp.dhs.gov>. Ω