



# SECURE & PREPARED

May 6, 2010

## Volume 6, Issue 9

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## Important Information

### HMEP DEADLINE

Hazardous Materials Emergency preparedness (HMEP) Grant third quarter reports are due to HSEMD no later than July 5, 2010.

### OFFICE CLOSURE

HSEMD offices will be closed **Monday, May 31**. Iowa State Patrol Dispatch will be taking emergency calls that come in via the Division's main number, 515.725.3231.

### SAVE THE DATE!

The Governor's 7th Annual Homeland Security Conference will be **Nov. 2-4, 2010**, at the Sheraton West Des Moines. More information to follow as the date gets closer. See you there!

## ICVS Can Help Emergency Managers with Volunteer Coordination

During and after a disaster, people naturally want to help and will flock from all over to help their neighbors, friends, and complete strangers. A good volunteer management plan should be in place to mobilize these unaffiliated/spontaneous volunteers. Good volunteer organization and coordination is done best at the local level. However, there are resources that can help you develop a plan and respond in times when local efforts and resources are exhausted. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS) can help emergency managers with their volunteer management needs.

ICVS is a state agency responsible for building an ethic of service in Iowa.



This is accomplished in various ways including AmeriCorps\*State programs and encouraging more Iowans to get involved in volunteering and national service, as well as helping organizations such as the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC)

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## CERT Instructor Course Offered in June

A CERT Instructor (Train the Trainer) Course will be held June 28–29, 2010, at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston.

To register for the course, go to <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/CalDetails.aspx?EventID=285&CourseID=141>.

You will need to create an account if you do not already have one.



Please contact **Blake DeRouchey** at **515.323.4232** or [blake.derouchey@iowa.gov](mailto:blake.derouchey@iowa.gov) if you have any questions. Ω

## ICVS Can Help Emergency Managers with Volunteer Coordination

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promote their volunteer opportunities. The commission is also responsible for coordinating unaffiliated volunteers statewide during times of disaster by responding to requests for assistance by emergency management officials and by directing pre-registered disaster volunteers to local volunteer reception centers.

The ICVS is member of the IDHRC, which identifies and addresses the unmet needs of Iowa's citizens impacted by disaster events, and encourages organization and identification of volunteers before a disaster occurs. The IDHRC was developed and is administered by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD).

Additional resources ICVS can offer to local communities and county emergency managers include:

**Volunteer Solutions System.** ICVS will work with Iowa HSEMD and the IDHRC to encourage unaffiliated, potential volunteers to go to the Volunteer Iowa Web Portal (Volunteer Solutions) to register or get instructions on how to volunteer through an affiliated agency or volunteer reception center. The statewide Volunteer Solutions System will be used to develop a disaster skills bank that coordinating agencies would be able to access after local efforts have been exhausted. County emergency managers with agency accounts on the system would be able to post disaster trainings, projects, and time shifts and run reports for volunteers on the Web site. Emergency managers or their designee will also be

able to access a list of registered volunteers willing to volunteer in their county. Volunteers may submit their hours for an opportunity or an agency may log hours for them. This system benefit allows the volunteer and the agency to maintain accurate records for volunteer hours by volunteer, agency and opportunity. Thousands are currently registered for areas across Iowa with various skill sets.

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*“The commission already funds and supports numerous local volunteer referral and support organizations that may be useful to you in times of disaster.”*

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The benefit for local jurisdictions, including emergency managers, to utilize the Volunteer Solutions System (in addition to records keeping) comes into play when it's time to apply for federal disaster assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program. According to **FEMA's Disaster Assistance Policy** 9525.2, applicants “will be credited for volunteer labor, donated equipment, and donated materials used in the performance of eligible emergency work – Categories A and B.” While “the federal government is not required to credit the value of ‘in-kind’ contributions toward cost-share arrangements...FEMA has determined that the value of ‘in-kind’ contributions by third parties may be credited toward the calculation of the non-federal share for eligible emergency work following declared disasters.”

### Volunteer Reception Training (VRT) development and training.

If requested, ICVS will assist local emergency managers

in establishing a volunteer reception center or aid local designated agencies responsible for establishing volunteer reception centers. If/when disasters occur in Iowa, the Governor will direct volunteers to [www.volunteeriowa.org](http://www.volunteeriowa.org), for referrals to local volunteer reception centers or other posted volunteer opportunities. In addition to notifying local media about volunteer needs it would be the local emergency manager or their designee's responsibility to post those opportunities to the state system or provide instructions on where we should direct volunteers for that particular county. The commission would like to make this transition and referral process work as smoothly as possible for all parties involved. The commission already funds and supports numerous local volunteer referral and support organizations that may be useful to you in times of disaster. You are encouraged to forge relationships where they do not already exist with entities such as volunteer centers, RSVP programs, college civic engagement offices or local AmeriCorps programs. These groups were major assets during the disasters of 2008 and could



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## Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

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)

## HSEMD Hosts Midwest CI/KR Workshop

On April 8–9, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management hosted a Midwest Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (CI/KR) workshop at Prairie Meadows with CI/KR subject matter experts from Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and the federal level.

The goal of the workshop was to network and openly discuss challenges, issues and best practices and to learn from those who attended. Workshops of this nature can be innovative, dynamic tools for those tasked to ensure the critical task of protecting their citizens and states' against all hazards can manage those programs as efficiently and effectively as possible.

With so much going on in the CI/KR world, it's easy to get distracted. Almost everyone who attended this workshop wears multiple hats and struggle daily to balance an ever increasing workload. The workshop once again proved to be very beneficial for participants to hear and document best practices, and to experience first-hand what is problematic in this arena and what didn't work. The open dialogue which took place clearly demonstrated each participant had special, in-depth knowledge of their business areas and enhanced this group's learning process. Ω



**HSEMD's Tom Baumgartner addresses the CI/KR workshop attendees at Prairie Meadows in April..**

## ICVS and Volunteer Coordination

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be very helpful to you in dealing with and utilizing spontaneous/unaffiliated volunteers. If/when you activate your VRC please notify the ICVS, so the staff can be ready to assist you.

**Network of AmeriCorps programs and members.** Through a cooperative agreement with FEMA, ICVS can deploy AmeriCorps resources to assist

in times of disaster upon request from local emergency managers. AmeriCorps members can be utilized for assistance in disaster for many activities from managing unaffiliated volunteers to assisting with an affiliated organization's efforts.

For more information, contact **Volunteer Iowa** at [icvs@iowa.gov](mailto:icvs@iowa.gov) or **1.800.308.5987**. Ω