



# SECURE & PREPARED

May 20, 2010

## Volume 6, Issue 10

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## Important Information

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!

## IDHRC Wins National Award

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) has been recognized for its work following the tornadoes and floods of 2008.

The IDHRC received the 2010 State/Territory VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) of the Year award on May 11. Among its many accomplishments, the IDHRC was recognized for the work it has done to strengthen the ability of local communities and the VOAD to respond to disaster events of any size and for developing a collaborative network of organizations to respond to the needs

of Iowans affected by large scale disasters.

The National VOAD Board of Directors selected the IDHRC for the award from 55 state and territory organizations. The award was presented to IDHRC members in attendance at the 18th National VOAD conference in Orlando, Fla. The conference brings together the organization's national members, the state and territory VOADs, regional and local VOADs, emergency management, and partners from the private sector. National VOAD is a leader for nonprofit orga-

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## IA-TF1 Assists Fire Investigation

The Cedar Rapids Division of Iowa Task Force One, the state's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team, recently assisted in the investigation of a fire in Oelwein, Iowa.

Iowa Task Force One (IA-TF1), Cedar Rapids Division, was deployed through HSEMD to Oelwein on Sunday, May 9 to assist the Iowa Fire Marshal's Office and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agents with a fire investigation by stabilizing two severely damaged buildings. Stabilization was needed to allow agents to gain access to structurally questionable parts of the building to complete their investigation. The buildings, which are part of West Charles Mall and are located near 17 West Charles Street in downtown Oelwein, were heavily damaged by a fire on May 7.



**Iowa Task Force One personnel at Oelwein fire scene.**

Task Force Leader, Cedar Rapids District Chief Brian Giachino, and 14 members of the team arrived at the scene Sunday afternoon and worked throughout the evening and nighttime hours to shore two, 20-foot spans that were destroyed by fire. The rescue personnel constructed various types of shores to support surrogate floor joists positioned by rescue person-

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## State Hygienic Laboratory Dedicates New Building

The State Hygienic Laboratory and the University of Iowa held a dedication ceremony for its new building in Coralville on May 5.

Located at the UI Research Park Campus, the \$37.75 million, 113,900-square-foot facility houses Iowa's environmental and public health laboratory. The State Hygienic Laboratory (formerly the University Hygienic Laboratory) serves all of Iowa's 99 counties.

"Whether it's testing for a disease outbreak, such as H1N1, or in response to a natural disaster, the work done at the State Hygienic Laboratory is a tremendous asset to Iowa," said HSEMD Administrator David L. Miller. "The facility and



**State Hygienic Laboratory. Photo by Tom Jorgenson**

its staff are important partners to HSEMD."

The new building was constructed using LEED (Leadership in Energy

and Environmental Design) principles. LEED is an internationally recognized program that certifies design, construction and operation of green buildings. Ω

## IDHRC Recognized for 2008 Disaster Recovery Work

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nizations and volunteers who work in all phases of disaster—preparedness, response, relief, recovery and mitigation. It is the primary point of contact for voluntary organizations in the FEMA National Response Coordination Center.

"Being honored by peers is one of the highest forms of recognition," said IDHRC Co-Chair Gayle Strickler (Iowa Conference United Church of Christ). "I was grateful there were others from Iowa who joined me on the podium when the award was presented. It was the work of individuals and groups in all the affected areas that made the IDHRC eligible for consideration. But no one had any idea that what was done in 2008 would ever lead to such a prestigious award. I only wish it would have been possible

for all the Iowans who contributed to the effort that led to the award to have shared in the experience."

Strickler was joined in accepting the award by other IDHRC members: Long Term Recovery Chair Don Hampton (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance), Secretary Blake DeRouchey (HSEMD), and members Leslie Wright (United Way, Linn Area Long Term Recovery Coalition), Becky Wood (Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church), Gaylord and Derri Hanson (Adventist Community Service Disaster Response), Seth Gardner (NECHAMA) and Gene Borochoff (NECHAMA).

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council is comprised of faith-based and voluntary agency

representatives from throughout the state as well as representatives from key government agencies. HSEMD developed the council at the request of local emergency management coordinators to identify and address the unmet needs of Iowa's citizens impacted by disaster events. In addition, group members assist with the coordination of volunteers and donations during activation of the State Emergency Operations Center as requested, and continue to promote cooperation among all volunteer and faith-based organizations. The IDHRC is a member organization of the National VOAD and also serves as the state's Citizen Corps Council. For more information on the IDHRC, contact Blake DeRouchey at 515-323-4232 or [blake.derouchey@iowa.gov](mailto:blake.derouchey@iowa.gov). Ω

## Iowa Task Force One

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nel. A demolition phase, ongoing spot fires, and lengthy spans of the building required the task force to work until 4 a.m. to complete the mission.

Chief Giachino emphasized that task force members deployed on Mother's Day and worked tirelessly in an effort to make a real difference in the investigation. The self-sufficient team utilized their own fuel, power-generating systems and communication suite to continue to work unsupported into the morning hours.

This is not the first time that Iowa Task Force One has assisted the ATF. The Task Force and ATF established their relationship at the Burlington Munitions explosion deployment in 2003. "It makes a difficult job progress steadily when agencies know each other and work well in a collaborative effort," noted Chief Giachino.

Iowa Task Force One is a state asset funded with federal homeland security grants and must be requested and deployed through HSEMD. The HSEMD administrator may authorize the use of the Task Force in support of local operations. In addition to Cedar Rapids, the Sioux City Fire Department, along with fire and rescue professionals from across the state, are also members of the Task Force, which was built through the equipping, training and enhancement of local capabilities.

*Information for this article submitted by Greg Buelow, Public Information Officer, Fire Department, City of Cedar Rapids. Ω*

## Grant Update

### 2011 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP)

HSEMD grant staff and the Iowa Emergency Response Commission are reviewing the grant applications submitted by Local

Emergency Planning Commissions (LEPCs). HSEMD will submit the federal application by June 1. The Notice of Awards to the LEPCs are expected to be delivered in the same time frame as in previous years, in October or November. Ω

## Donations Management Tools

In the May 6 issue of "Secure & Prepared," an article on the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services provided information about managing spontaneous volunteers. In this issue, the focus is a related topic--donations management.

Donations during a disaster are often referred to as the disaster within the disaster. The last thing anyone wants are piles of black garbage bags full of miscellaneous old clothes and stacks of cream of mushroom soup that people may have cleaned out of their cupboards to donate. In large disasters, although people mean well, donations will be delivered whether or not they are wanted. However, there are tools that may assist in the management of donations.

The best message for any donations plan is "CASH IS BEST." However, people may feel the need, or only have the means, to donate items other than cash. In order to help manage these in-kind donations, FEMA has developed a tool that can help with donations of goods and cash.

During the 2008 floods, Iowa signed a memorandum of under-

standing with The Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Donations Management Network (NDMN) or AidMatrix as it's more commonly known. (For more information, visit [www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/fema/](http://www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/fema/).)

The NDMN is used to manage donations at the state level, but also allows for management of donations that may be needed in other states. The Web site gives individuals and businesses the opportunity to donate directly towards a published need or offer items that may be needed down the road. Voluntary and faith-based agencies that work in disaster response can also input needs that they may have to help individuals and communities recover. The Web site allows the donor to provide a financial donation to an agency of his or her choosing and also provides a warehouse inventory management tool should a warehouse be needed.

For more information on donations management or the NDMN, please call Blake DeRouchey at 515-323-4232 or [blake.derouchey@iowa.gov](mailto:blake.derouchey@iowa.gov). Ω

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**Secure & Prepared** is published by the Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division for those involved in the homeland security system in the state of Iowa.

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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)

## New HSEMD Employee

**Amy Meston** joined the HSEMD Homeland Security and Grants Bureau on May 14 as an administrative assistant II. She will be performing an array of administrative and programmatic work to sustain bureau and division responsibilities. Amy will be providing assistance to the Homeland Security and Grants Bureau chief, HSEMD administrator, and chief of staff in the fulfillment of federal grant and program requirements.



**Amy Meston**

"I am looking forward to this new learning curve and the opportunity to partner with each of you here in HSEMD," Amy said.

Prior to coming to HSEMD, Amy worked for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for eight and a half years. The first six years of her DNR career were in Urban Forestry, where she was responsible for working in partnership with Alliant Energy in the development and implementation of state-wide residential tree programs and energy conservation education materials. In November of 2007 she transferred to the DNR's Records Center where she was responsible for leading a team of seven, along with interfacing with technical and program staff in their records management, data classifica-

tion, document indexing and retention schedule interpretation. She said working for the DNR Records Center gave her the opportunity to work with all program areas that the department oversees.

When she is not at work, Amy enjoys spending time with her husband, Andrew, and their two Rottweilers, Nine and Daisy. She and Andrew love spending their weekends on the water, canoeing and camping on sandbars (when the water is low), and also enjoy backpacking and traveling throughout the state of Iowa and across the country.

Welcome, Amy! Ω

## Staff Departures

**Cathleen Atchison**, HSEMD exercise training officer, has left the division to pursue other career opportunities in Washington, D.C. Questions or other business relating to the HSEMD exercise program may be directed to John Halbrook, Beth Gathercole and David Hempen.

**Theresa Enright**, HSEMD operations manager, will be leaving the division on May 27. Theresa will be joining her husband as he pursues new career opportunities in Little Rock, Ark. Questions relating to IMAC or other operations business may be directed to Frank Klier or Joyce Flinn. Ω