



# SECURE & PREPARED

July 1, 2010

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## Office Closure

HSEMD offices will be closed Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day. Iowa State Patrol Dispatch will be taking emergency calls that come in via the Division's main number, 515.725.3231.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

## 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!

## Iowa Communities Statewide Feel Effects of June Flooding and Severe Weather Governor Issues Disaster Proclamations for Impacted Counties

In response to flooding and severe weather that has impacted Iowa since June 1, Governor Chet Culver has issued disaster proclamations for 29 Iowa counties, with more additions possible. The proclamation allows state resources to be deployed to the affected counties.

In a majority of the proclaimed counties, the State Individual Assistance Grant Program has been authorized. The state's Individual Assistance Program provides eligible residents in declared counties up to \$5,000 in reimbursements for damages incurred for individuals and families whose income is below 200 percent of the poverty level. Application information is available at the Iowa Department of Human Services Web site at [www.dhs.state.ia.us](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us) by clicking on the Storm Help link or by calling 877.937.3663.

The counties now under Governor's proclamations are: Buena Vista, Butler, Clay, Davis, Emmet, Hamilton, Howard, Humboldt, Jefferson, Lee, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Van Buren, Webster, Cherokee, Decatur, Franklin, Hancock, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Polk, Ringgold, Sioux, Taylor, Union, Warren, and Wright.

The counties in which the State Individual Grant Program has been



**Aerial view of the Butler County town of Dumont where a section of the town was evacuated after the Cedar River flooded. Photo courtesy of Mitch Nordmeyer, Butler County Emergency Management.**

authorized are: Buena Vista, Butler, Cherokee, Clay, Davis, Decatur, Emmet, Franklin, Hamilton, Hancock, Howard, Humboldt, Jefferson, Lee, Marion, Monroe, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Polk, Ringgold, Sioux, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Webster and Wright.

HSEMD continues to work closely with county emergency management, Governor Culver's office, state and local officials and the private sector to provide requested resources to counties. HSEMD coordinates with the National Weather Service and Army Corps of Engineers to monitor

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## Presidential Disaster Declaration Requested for May Storms

In response to damaging storms in May, Governor Culver has made a request to President Barack Obama for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for two southeast Iowa counties.

On June 22 Governor Culver requested a Major Disaster Declaration for damages sustained in Des Moines and Lee Counties following severe weather, flooding and flash flooding on May 12-13. The Presidential Declaration would provide funding under the Public Assistance Program to rebuild damaged infrastructure for public and certain non-profit agencies.

An assessment by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and local emergency management staff found that the severe weather caused an estimated \$4.8 million in Public Assistance Program eligible damages in Des Moines and Lee Counties.

The declaration request first goes to the FEMA Regional Office in Kansas City. It then will be forwarded to FEMA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., where it will be reviewed before going on to the White House and the federal Office of Budget and Management.Ω

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## New PIO Course for Rural Responders

Many rural first responder organizations do not have a full or part-time public information officer (PIO) on staff. Therefore, in the event that a first responder is thrust into the role of PIO, whether it be roadside at the scene of an emergency or detailing directions to the public in a crisis situation, it is important to understand how the media works and how best to work with the available media outlets.

Dealing with the Media: A Short Course for Rural Responders is designed to provide rural first responders with the skills and knowledge to quickly adopt the role of PIO if/when needed and to communicate with the public through the media. The course was developed by the Iowa Central Homeland Security Training Center at

Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge, Ia.

Note: This is a basic PIO course designed for first responders that might have to adopt the role of PIO in an emergency situation. This course precedes the Federal Emergency Management Agency's two-day G-290 Basic Public Information Officer course.

The course is being offered nationwide and prior to being approved had more than 20 requests throughout the country. Anyone wanting to bring this course to their local jurisdiction – for free – can do so by contacting Kelli Bloomquist at [bloomquist\\_k@iowacentral.edu](mailto:bloomquist_k@iowacentral.edu). Additional information is available at [www.iowatrainingnow](http://www.iowatrainingnow).

## June Flooding

*...Continued from Page 1*

weather conditions and flooding potential and share vital information with county emergency management coordinators.

As recovery begins, HSEMD and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) teams have begun damage assessments in counties impacted by recent severe weather and flooding. The joint state-federal preliminary assessments estimate the extent and impact of the disaster on individuals and public facilities. This information will be used in the Governor's request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration, to demonstrate that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and local governments. If granted, a Presidential Disaster Declaration could provide assistance to affected citizens and communities. Ω

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## Last Flood Victims Leave FEMA Housing

On June 29, Governor Chet Culver congratulated HSEMD Administrator David Miller, Rebuild Office Executive Director Lt. General Ron Dardis, as well as their staffs, for working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to find permanent housing for 564 households displaced by the 2008 floods and tornadoes. On June 28, FEMA announced the last two families living in temporary mobile homes in Iowa have now found alternative housing.

The FEMA temporary housing program officially ended on June 27, 2010.Ω

## 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)

## Personnel Updates

**Pebble Holland** returned to the HSEMD Readiness & Response Bureau on Friday, June 25, 2010. Please welcome her back to our Division.

**Susan Dixon** has returned to HSEMD from the Rebuild Iowa Office. Her primary duties will be working on agriculture-related issues along with Mark Shearer.

HSEMD welcomes new county emergency management coordinators:

- **Ron Marolf**--Wayne County.
- **Lorraine Glover**--Black Hawk County.
- **Dan Bechler**--Osceola County Ω

## Cherokee County Seeks Coordinator

The Cherokee County Board of Health and the Emergency Management Commission are seeking applicants for the combined position of Emergency Management Coordinator/Environmental Health Director.

Highly qualified applicants will have a Bachelor's Degree in a science field, an emergency response background, strong communications skills (oral and written) and the ability to deal with diverse groups of people in stressful situations. The salary range is \$28,000 to \$43,000 depending on education and experience. The position will be open until filled, and the BOH and EMC

reserve the right to close the application period when a suitable candidate is found. Please send a cover letter and resume to:

Cherokee County BOH/EMC  
c/o Cherokee County Emergency Management Agency  
520 W Main St  
Box D  
Cherokee, IA 51012

Inquiries for a job description can be obtained from the Cherokee County Emergency Management Agency via mail, email at: [cherema@iowatelecom.net](mailto:cherema@iowatelecom.net), or phone at 712-225-6721. Cherokee County is an equal opportunity employer. Ω

## Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP) quarterly reports are due July 11.

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) quarterly

reports and reimbursement requests are due July 30.

HSGP Quarterly reports are due July 15. Ω