



# SECURE & PREPARED

April 22, 2010

## Volume 6, Issue 8

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## Be Ready Iowa!

Learn more about the three simple steps you and your family can take to be more prepared for any emergency or disaster at [www.bereadyiowa.org](http://www.bereadyiowa.org).

## 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 Sponsors COAD Training

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) recently hosted a Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) training in western Iowa.

The training, held April 13 in Cherokee, taught participants how to organize a COAD, as well as how to provide training to and sustain the groups. Twenty-eight people attended from many types of organizations, including emergency management, councils of governments, and representatives from voluntary and faith-based organizations. In addition to the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council, the training was hosted by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, Iowa Department of Human Services and the Rebuild Iowa Office.

The goal of COADs is to bring together voluntary and faith-based



**Bryan Crousore, with Church World Services, at COAD training.**

organizations, along with government leaders and private businesses, to ensure local communities are pre-  
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## Iowa Hosts Regional Flood Risk Management Team Meeting

On April 8, HSEMD Administrator David Miller welcomed participants to a meeting of the first-ever Regional Flood Risk Management Team (RFRMT) in Cedar Rapids.

The RFRMT, which addresses regional flood response and recovery issues, met to discuss the spring flood risk, following record snow over the winter and the potential for spring

rain in the Upper Mississippi River basin.

"It is significant that as a group, we have come together for the purpose of recognizing that flood risk management is a shared responsibility among all levels of government and private property owners," said Miller.

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## HSEMD's Joyce Flinn Receives Recognition

On March 30, 2010, Simpson College celebrated the 30th anniversary of its Evening, Weekend and Graduate (EWG) Program. As part of the festivities, the college recognized 30 outstanding students. Joyce Flinn, HSEMD's Readiness and Response Bureau chief, was one of the 30 recognized that evening.

Those recognized were known as the "Thirty Over 30" because they were selected from among all of the students who attended Simpson College's EWG Program over the last 30 years. The "Thirty Over 30" were top academic students who best exemplified Simpson through their significant professional, community or volunteer efforts since graduation. At an open house celebration, each honoree was greeted by the college president and presented a plaque by Simpson's senior vice president of academic affairs. Honoree pictures and accomplishments were placed on display for all to see.

Joyce attended Simpson College's EWG program from 2003-2006 while working full-time and raising two children. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice with a minor in management.

Joyce joined the Division in May 1997 as an emergency management specialist working with the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. Among her many accomplishments is serving as the program manager for the expansion of NOAA Weather transmitters, ensuring coverage for the entire state. At the same time she developed course material and trained on Individual Assistance damage assessment.

In March 2000 Joyce became a member of the Readiness and Response Bureau and served in several capacities, but most notably organized voluntary and faith-based partners into what is now known as the Iowa Disaster Hu-



**HSEMD's Joyce Flinn**

man Resource Council (IDHRC). Joyce remains active in the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), serving as the lead state representative for FEMA Region VII states. In August of 2008, Joyce became the chief of the Readiness and Response Bureau and has since served Iowa as the chief of operations during four presidentially-declared disasters.

Congratulations Joyce! Ω

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## Regional Flood Risk Management Team Meets in Iowa

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The flood risk management effort actually started after the 2008 flooding when federal and state partners came together as the Regional Interagency Levee Task Force to discuss better management of flood waters and reduction of future risks.

"As a result of that group's initial efforts, we are here today to talk about how we can work better together, produce better results, and

form a stronger partnership," Miller told the group. "So while this is not our first effort, it is a more comprehensive effort toward reducing the threat, vulnerability and consequences of flooding in our states and as a region."

The RFRMT is comprised of representatives from the states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin. Other team members include representatives from

the Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Resource Conservation Service, National Weather Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Learn more about the Regional Flood Risk Management Team at [www.mvd.usace.army.mil/rfrmt/](http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/rfrmt/). Ω

## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding and Application Update

The State of Iowa will receive Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as part of the Presidential disaster declarations resulting from the December 2009 and January 2010 winter storms. In addition, the State recently received notification that a request to extend the HMGP application deadline for funding that was awarded as the result of the 2008 tornadoes has been approved.

The State is opening up HMGP funds availability to those eligible project types that will reduce or eliminate losses from future natural disasters, including, but not limited to:

- Construction of tornado safe rooms
- Acquisition, structural relocation or elevation of buildings

- Structural and non-structural retrofitting of existing public buildings, facilities or utilities to protect against wind, ice or flood hazards
- Minor structural hazard control or protection projects
- Localized flood control projects

Potentially eligible applicants include:

- State agencies and local governments
- Federally recognized Indian tribal governments, including State-recognized Indian tribes, and authorized tribal organizations
- Certain private nonprofit organizations.

Currently, the State has several HMGP funding opportunities open. Additional information and application instructions can be found at [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/Programs\\_Hazard\\_Mitigation.html](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/Programs_Hazard_Mitigation.html). Ω

## Mitigation Planning Workshop April 26-27

This two-day workshop discusses the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 which amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act by, among other things, adding a new section, 322-Mitigation Planning.

Section 322 requires local governments to prepare and adopt jurisdiction-wide hazard mitigation plans as a condition of receiving Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

funds to “brick and mortar” mitigation projects.

**When:** April 26-27

**Location:** Dubuque

**Target Audience:** local government, elected officials, planners, emergency program managers, mitigation project staff.

More information and registration at <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>. Ω

## Call for Homeland Security Award Nominations

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, a federal government agency, is now accepting nominations for four \$25,000 2010 Homeland Security Awards.

The awards will be presented by the Foundation and Agusta Westland North America, Inc., one of the largest helicopter manufacturers in the world. Recipients will be individuals or companies making measurable contributions to homeland security research.

A \$25,000 award will be presented in each of four fields:

- Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Chemical and Explosive Attacks
- Border and Transportation Security
- Cyber Security and Information Sharing
- Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters

The mission of the awards is to promote and encourage cutting edge innovation in the homeland security arena, including, but not limited to, the detection, prevention, or response to threats in the United States.

The deadline to submit entries is May 7, 2010. You may nominate yourself and/or another candidate. For more information on the 2010 Homeland Security Awards, visit [www.ccolumbusfoundation-awards.org/](http://www.ccolumbusfoundation-awards.org/). Ω

## GPD Info Bulletin 336: Impacts For Better, For Worse

What's covered and what's not? It's essential to understand when accepting federal grants. That's particularly true for operating, maintenance and sustainment costs.

Despite efforts by HSEMD to negotiate routine upkeep costs, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency will issue no overall exception to policy as stated in FEMA Grants Program Directorate (GPD) Information Bulletin (IB) 336, November 20, 2009. The decision directly impacts the State of Iowa as grantee and sub-grantees in several ways, both positive and negative.

The subject of IB 336 is maintenance, specifically routine upkeep, maintenance contracts and warranties, repair and replacement costs, upgrades, and user fees. The scope of the IB includes, but is not limited to, the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), Emergency Management Performance Grant Program and the Buffer Zone Protection Program. The impacted grants appear within the bulletin, which is viewable online at [www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/bulletins/info336.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/bulletins/info336.pdf).

The intent of IB 336 is to "provide direct support to critical capabilities developed using FEMA preparedness grants and other Department of Homeland Security support activities. Routine

upkeep (i.e. gasoline, tire replacement, routine oil changes, monthly inspections, grounds and facilities maintenance, etc.) is the responsibility of the [sub] grantee and may not be funded with preparedness grant funding." This means that such costs are immediately non-reimbursable under the grant, as stated in IB 336.

The information in IB 336, however popular or unpopular, is not entirely new. This is especially true under HSGP. This is articulated on page 24 of the FY 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program Guidance and Application Kit, which states, "Consumable costs, such as fuel expenses, are not allowed except as part of the standard National Guard deployment package." The same prohibition on fuel was included in the FY 2008 HSGP grant

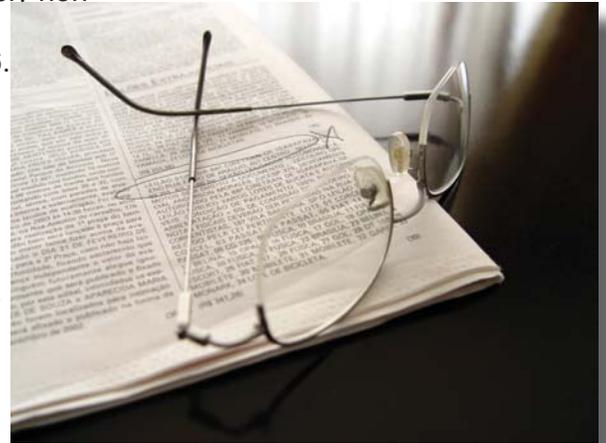
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*"Despite efforts by HSEMD to negotiate routine upkeep costs, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency will issue no overall exception to policy as stated in FEMA Grants Program Directorate Information Bulletin (336, November 20, 2009."*

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guidance on page 19, and again in FY 2009 HSGP guidance on page 37.

There have been only two exceptions to this policy: (1) the National Guard deployment package; and (2) fuel costs that are consumed specifically during the course of an exercise (refer to page 36 of the FY 2007 guidance package).



Conversely the policy provides more flexibility to states and sub-grantees as they are now permitted to use their preparedness grant funds to support maintenance contracts, warranties, repair or replacement costs, upgrades, and user fees under all active and future grant awards (which was previously not the case), for equipment originally supported with DHS preparedness grants. That's good news for obvious reasons.

While this article may raise more questions than answers, answers to many questions are available at [www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/bulletins/info336.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/bulletins/info336.pdf). For additional information or clarification, please contact the grant program officer appropriate to you. Ω

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A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

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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)

## Western Iowa COAD Conference

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pared to respond to and recover from disasters.

Materials from the event are available at [www.iowahomeland-security.org/ProgramsIDHRC.html#coadconference](http://www.iowahomeland-security.org/ProgramsIDHRC.html#coadconference). A special thanks goes out to Bryan Crousore with Church World Services, who provided the primary training sessions and the Cherokee Mental Health Institute for hosting the event.

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council, along with its partners, would be pleased to host more of these events in other areas of the state. If you are interested in hosting an event in your area, or for more information on COAD development,



**IDHRC co-chair Gayle Strickler addresses conference attendees.**

please contact Blake DeRouchey at [blake.derouchey@iowa.gov](mailto:blake.derouchey@iowa.gov) or 515-323-4232.Ω

## Multi-State Partnership to Sponsor Food and Agriculture Security Symposium

The Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture is sponsoring the 2010 Symposium on Food and Agriculture Security on Oct. 18-20. The symposium will highlight how federal, state and local government, together with industry, are working to reduce threats, minimize impacts,

and more quickly recover from a food and agricultural security event.

The symposium will be held at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison, Wis. More details in future issues of "Secure & Prepared."

## Upcoming Deadlines

### August ESF Deadline

The annual ESF-10 Oil and Hazardous Materials, plus three additional plans (20 percent required) are due to the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division office by close of business on Aug. 1, 2010 (four total plans due).

The Basic Plan can be one of the three additional plans.

### EMPG Second Quarter Reports

2010 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) second quarter reports and reimbursement requests are due to Tricia Boggs by April 30, 2010. Ω