Fusion Center Receives Award

2010 Law Enforcement Partnership Award given by TSA Iowa

On May 27, Lt. Governor Patty Judge congratulated the Iowa Intelligence Fusion Center on receiving the 2010 Law Enforcement Partnership Award from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Operation of Iowa.

“This award recognizes the extraordinary team of professionals who play a critical role in protecting Iowa,” Lt. Governor Judge said. “As Homeland Security Advisor, a key priority has been our partnerships and cooperative efforts. This award demonstrates the collaboration, communication and networking that have placed the state of Iowa in the national spotlight for the Iowa Intelligence Fusion Center’s importance to the national security stage.”

A fusion center is defined as a collaborative effort of two or more agencies that provide resources, expertise and/or information to the fusion center with a goal of maximizing the ability to detect, prevent, apprehend, and respond to criminal and/or terrorist activity.

Today there are 72 designated fusion centers in the U.S. (one in each state and 22 in major urban areas). The designated fusion center in Iowa is the State of Iowa Intelligence Fusion Center located in the Department of Public Safety. Its mission is to lead and coordinate intelligence and homeland security efforts that protect Iowa, while upholding the Constitution. Ω

2008 Disaster Funding

For the latest in disaster funding information, visit the Rebuild Iowa Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

Important Information

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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.

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June

Home Safety Month
June 1-7
National CPR/AED Awareness Week

June 10
Heat Awareness Day

June 20-26
Lightning Safety Awareness Week

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Pictured L-R: Dave Miller, Iowa HSEMD Administrator; Nicholas Klinefeldt, U.S. Attorney, Iowa Southern District; Lt. Governor Patty Judge; Gene Meyer, Public Safety Commissioner; Russ Porter, Director of the Iowa Fusion Center; Jay Brainard, Federal Security Director (Iowa TSA).
Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that rural communities across 26 states will benefit from enhanced public safety services through the construction of facilities and purchase of equipment funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

“President Obama’s highest priority is to keep the American people safe and the public safety projects demonstrate the Administration’s continued efforts to protect and save lives while also providing necessary infrastructure and creating jobs for rural residents throughout the country,” Vilsack said. “Through the Recovery Act, communities can build and upgrade public safety buildings to improve security while at the same time providing the services needed to attract business and create economic opportunities.”

For example, the City of Fonda has been selected to receive a $134,700 grant to purchase emergency services equipment and a new tanker truck.

In Cantril, Iowa, a $149,000 grant will be used to purchase a new pumper truck.

A $74,250 grant will be used to purchase a new ambulance for the City of Villisca.

To protect the residents of rural communities across the country and provide essential public safety infrastructure to rural families, USDA Rural Development is providing $33 million in funding assistance to 74 community facility public safety projects in local communities across the country.

This Recovery Act funding is provided through USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities program, which helps finance essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include child care centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted-living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Through this program, USDA ensures that such facilities are available to all rural residents. These funds are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes. More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on Feb. 17, 2009. It is designed to jumpstart the nation’s economy, create or save millions of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act includes measures to modernize our nation’s infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

Heat Awareness Day is June 10

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) and the National Weather Service (NWS) have designated June 10 as “Heat Awareness Day” in Iowa.

Heat is one of the most deadly weather phenomena. Each year in the U.S., it causes more fatalities than floods, lightning, tornadoes and hurricanes combined.

The best defense against heat-related illnesses is prevention. Some simple things you can do when the heat index is high:

- Drink plenty of water (or other non-alcoholic fluids);
- Slow down during the heat of the day;
- Dress in light colored, light weight clothing;
- Spend more time indoors;
- Wear sunscreen and prevent getting sunburned.

The elderly, children and pets are especially at risk for heat stroke and exhaustion. Check on them frequently during heat waves.

For more information about the heat index and summer preparedness, visit the Be Ready Iowa Web site, www.bereadyiowa.org, or the NWS Web site at www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=dmx&storyid=52274&source=0.

A Mitigation Success Story
Avoided Losses through Property Acquisition and Relocation

The State of Iowa has acquired over 1,500 properties in special flood hazard areas over the past two decades to mitigate the adverse affects of flooding on property owners and communities. The goal of this study was to evaluate the losses avoided as a result of implementation of these mitigation measures completed in Iowa prior to the catastrophic flooding event that occurred in 2008. These measures removed structures in special flood hazard areas and returned the property to open space through acquisition, demolition and acquisition, and relocation projects.

In this study of 12 Iowa communities, a total of $98,707,041 in losses were avoided due to past mitigation measures that converted property to open or green space. All of these communities suffered from past flood events, and the 703 properties included in these communities, would have flooded again due to the magnitude and severity of the 2008 floods. An average of $140,408 in present day costs was avoided for each property that was converted to open space. This study illustrates the losses avoided due to past mitigation efforts and the importance of continuing to implement mitigation measures in the State of Iowa. Funding sources from these mitigation projects includes the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Flood Mitigation Assistance, Repetitive Flood Claims, Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), and state and local funds.

The State is in the process of acquiring approximately 2,000 additional flood-prone properties through the HMGP, CDBG, and other programs.

The complete study can be viewed at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/Documents/MITIG_PropertyAcquisition-ReportMay2010.pdf.
Upcoming Training Opportunities

CERT Instructor Course Offered

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 if you have any questions. Ω

Public Information Officer Course Available

The Region 1 Homeland Security Board will be hosting a basic Public Information Officer Course Sept. 28-29, 2010. If you are interested in attending please contact Liz Manion at mmanion@storycounty.com or 515.382.7229.

Lunch will be provided. Registration closes Sept. 21, 2010.

What: G-290 PIO Course
When: Sept. 28-29, 2010
8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: Norwalk Public Safety Bldg.
1100 Chatham Ave
Norwalk, Iowa Ω

New PIO Course Available Now for Rural Responders

Iowa Central Community College will begin offering a six-hour PIO course "Dealing with the Media: A Short Course for Rural First Responders" (AWR-209) on July 1.

The course was designed by Iowa Central to focus on rural responding agencies. The target audience of this course is the rural responder. Participants will learn how to deal with the media at the scene of an accident or disaster, and how to write a press release or give an interview.

This course is different than the G-289 which just became available. This course goes into more detail, gives working examples and has numerous hands-on exercises.

If you would like to host a course or for more information, contact Kelli Bloomquist at bloomquist_k@iowacentral.edu or 515.574.1264. Iowa Central's training Web site is www.iowatrainingnow.com. Ω
EMP Funding for FFY2010 Awarded

The Department of Homeland Security and FEMA have approved Iowa’s application for funding under the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) in the amount of $4,398,949 for the State of Iowa. Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division will use grant funding from the FFY 2010 EMPG Program to support all-hazards emergency management mission areas. Fifty percent of the award ($2,199,474.50) will be passed through to the 88 local Emergency Management Commissions which applied for funding.

If you have any questions, please contact Lynda Wessel at lynda.wessel@iowa.gov or 515.725.3231.Ω

Save the Date!

Multi-State Partnership Symposium

The Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture invites you to attend the 2010 Symposium on Food and Agriculture Security, Oct. 18-20, 2010, in Madison, Wis. Early information may be found at www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Meetings/2010-symposium-on-food-and-agriculture-security.php. Bookmark this save the date page and check for future details. Ω

Governor’s Homeland Security Conference

The 7th Annual Governor’s Homeland Security Conference will be held Nov. 3-4, 2010, at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines. A special Iowa Human Resource Council conference will be held Nov. 2.

Registration and additional information about the conference will be available on the HSEMD Web site soon. Ω