



SECURE & PREPARED

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Important Information

HSEMD has added podcasts to its Web site. Listen at www.iowahomelandsecurity.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!

Presidential Disaster Declaration Requested for June Flooding

Governor Culver has asked President Obama to declare 35 Iowa counties federal disaster areas.

On July 7, the Governor requested a presidential disaster declaration for counties impacted by flooding and severe weather that began June 1, 2010. If granted, counties included in the declaration could be eligible for aid under the federal Public Assistance and Individual Assistance grant programs.

"The damage is widespread and has affected a large number of citizens and communities," said HSEMD Administrator David Miller of the aftermath of the flooding and severe weather. "Our hope is the President will act quickly to provide Iowans with needed assistance."

If granted, the Individual Assistance Program could provide eligible appli-



The Little Sioux River floods Hwy. 59 in the city of Cherokee. Photo courtesy of Cherokee County Emergency Management.

cants with assistance for temporary disaster housing, repair of damaged homes, and other disaster-related expenses. The Public Assistance Program could fund the rebuilding of damaged infrastructure for public and certain nonprofit agencies that

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State Program Assists Individuals and Families Impacted by Flooding

Affected residents in 37 Iowa counties are eligible for state assistance following severe weather and flooding that resulted from June storms.

Governor Culver issued disaster proclamations for the included counties, authorizing the implementation

of the State Individual Assistance Grant Program. The program provides up to \$5,000 in reimbursements for damages incurred for individuals and families whose income is less than 200 percent above the poverty level.

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HSEMD Expands Use of Social Media Tools

If you've been on the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Web site lately, you may have noticed a few changes.

Earlier this month, a photo gallery was added to the Web site. On Monday, six podcasts were also added. The photos come from counties all over the state, documenting the recent flooding, high winds and tornado damage. HSEMD Administrator David Miller recorded the podcasts - which are meant to inform interested listeners about the proclamation/declaration process, damage assessments and state and federal aid available after a disaster.

Iowa HSEMD has also activated its Facebook page, which features photos of storm damage and HSEMD's senior staff, maps

detailing the counties covered by Governor's proclamations and the ones included in the request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration, and other pertinent updates. Any additions to the Division's Facebook "wall" are automatically updated to the HSEMD Twitter page as well.



"It's 2010. If we aren't adding these features to our Web site or establishing a social media presence, we're falling behind," said Stefanie Bond, HSEMD public information officer.

"It's important to offer updates and information in a variety of ways so

that the information reaches as large an audience as possible - especially in a disaster scenario," said Miller. "Getting the right information to the right people at the right time is key."

Future plans include an HSEMD blog and an updated Web site design, which will include an A-Z index, search engine, and a menu where several subtopics will be visible when the user hovers over a main menu item. "We're working very hard on the new site to make sure it is easy to navigate and provides needed information to all the Division's partners," said HSEMD Public Information Officer Lucinda Robertson.

Look for more HSEMD Web site updates in the coming weeks. Ω

Presidential Disaster Declaration Request

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provide services of a governmental nature.

The following 18 counties are being requested by the Governor for consideration for Individual Assistance: Butler, Cherokee, Clay, Decatur, Emmet, Franklin, Hamilton, Howard, Lee, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Warren, Webster and Wright.

The following 32 counties are being requested for Public Assistance: Adams, Appanoose, Audubon, Buena Vista, Butler, Cherokee, Clay, Davis, Decatur,

Franklin, Howard, Humboldt, Iowa, Lee, Lyon, Madison, Marion, Mills, Monroe, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Ringgold, Shelby, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Wayne, Webster and Wright.

If the request is granted, additional counties may be added to the disaster declaration.

The Governor requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration on June 22 for Des Moines and Lee Counties following severe weather, flooding and flash flooding May 12-



Tornado damage near Sibley in Osceola County. Photo courtesy of Dan Bechler, Osceola County Emergency Management.

13, but no decision has been made on the request.Ω

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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

Training Opportunities

Mass Fatality Incident Response

This course is designed to prepare response personnel and other responsible professionals to handle a mass fatalities incident effectively by properly caring for the dead and the living--both responders and survivors.

Target Audience: County emergency management, medical examiners, public works, fire, law, funeral directors, media

Date: Sept. 14-15

Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: Black Hawk County Fire Training Center, 1925 Newell St., Waterloo

Date: Sept. 16-17

Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: Johnson County Communications Center, 4529 Melrose Ave., Iowa City

Register for these and other training opportunities at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and click on Training in the Quick Links section.

FEMA/EMI Launch New Independent Study Courses

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Emergency Institute have made available several new independent study courses. Learn more on the FEMA training site at <http://training.fema.gov/is/>. Ω

State Individual Assistance Program

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Counties included in the Governor's proclamations are: Black Hawk, Buena Vista, Butler, Clay, Davis, Emmet, Fayette, Hamilton, Howard, Humboldt, Jasper, Jefferson, Kosuth, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Van Buren, Webster, Cherokee, Decatur, Franklin, Hancock, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Polk, Ringgold, Shelby, Sioux, Taylor, Union, Wapello, Warren, and Wright.

Application information in counties where the State Individual Assistance Grant Program has been made available is posted on the Department of Human Services Web site. For more information on the program, visit the Department of Human Services Web site at www.dhs.state.ia.us and click the Storm Help link, or call 866-434-4692. Ω

Upcoming Deadlines

Planning

August 1--County emergency response plan; 20 percent updates due

Grants

July 15--Homeland Security Grant Program quarterly reports due

July 30--Emergency Management Performance Grant quarterly and reimbursement reports due Ω