



# SECURE & PREPARED

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Join us at the  
**Governor's  
 Homeland Security  
 Conference**

Nov. 3-4, 2010  
 at the  
**Sheraton West Des Moines**

Free training Nov. 2-- see  
 page 2 or visit  
[www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org)  
 for more information.

## OFFICE CLOSURE

HSEMD offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day. Iowa State Patrol Dispatch will be taking emergency calls that come in via the Division's main number, 515.725.3231.

## Three Counties Added to Disaster Declaration

Registration deadline for individuals extended to Nov. 12

Three Iowa counties were recently added to a July Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Boone, Calhoun and Shelby counties were added to the declaration, making residents in those counties eligible to register for federal Individual Assistance. Individual Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of disaster.

Currently, residents in 38 counties are eligible to apply for Individual

Assistance: Appanoose, Black Hawk, Boone, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clayton, Decatur, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, O'Brien, Osceola, Polk, Ringgold, Shelby, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Union, Wapello, Warren, Webster, and Wright.

In addition, the deadline for individuals in those 38 counties to register for Individual Assistance has been extended to Nov. 12, 2010.

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## Miller Begins Tenure as NEMA President

David Miller, administrator of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, began his tenure as president of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) on Oct. 20.

"I am honored to have been chosen by my colleagues and peers to represent them during such an exciting and important time in emergency management," said Miller. "NEMA will continue working with our public and private partners in shaping policy to ensure our citizens are safe and secure and our communities are resilient in the face of any threat or disaster."

Miller will serve as NEMA's president through October 2011. He served



**New NEMA president David Miller with outgoing president David Maxwell. Photo by Joyce Flinn.**

as NEMA's president-elect for one year, beginning in October 2009, and will continue his leadership role with NEMA after his term as president by serving one year as the association's past president.

*Continued on Page 2...*

## Disaster Assistance Deadline Extended

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"If you sustained damage from this summer's flooding and severe weather and have not yet registered with FEMA for assistance, don't delay," said HSEMD Administrator David Miller.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the 38 designated counties may immediately register for assistance online 24/7 at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).

or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing- and speech-impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers are available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, local time, until further notice. Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves, details on insurance coverage, and any other information to help substantiate losses. Ω

## EHP Training a Success

More than 100 participants attended the Environmental & Historic Preservation (EHP) Technical Assistance training, held in early October throughout Iowa.

Program analysts from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) headquarters in Washington, D.C., were on hand to explain the requirements and address specific concerns that HSEMD project officers and sub-grantees might have.

The EHP integrates the protection and enhancement of environmen-

tal, historic, and cultural resources into FEMA's mission, programs and activities; and ensures that FEMA's activities and programs related to disaster response and recovery, hazard mitigation, emergency preparedness, and non-disaster grants comply with federal environmental and historic preservation laws and executive orders.

Anyone who was not able to make it to the training sessions, and/or needs additional information, should contact their grant project officer to request supplemental information. Ω

## Free Training Offered in Conjunction with Governor's Homeland Security Conference

Two free training sessions will be offered on Tuesday, Nov. 2, in conjunction with the Governor's Homeland Security Conference.

Citizen Corps Best Practices and Information Sharing and Critical Employee Emergency Planning

trainings will be offered at the Sheraton in West Des Moines, where the Governor's Conference will be held Nov. 3 - 4.

The training is free. Register online at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/>. Ω

## NEMA President

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NEMA is the professional association of and for emergency management directors from all 50 states, eight U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. As president of NEMA, Miller will be responsible for leading a board of NEMA directors in providing leadership, guidance and direction for the Association, and representing the views of NEMA members to the federal government, Congress and the White House. In addition, Miller will preside over the development and implementation of the organization's strategic plan, assist with training programs for newly-appointed state emergency management directors, and develop and preside over two national NEMA conferences during his tenure.

"David Miller is exceedingly qualified to serve as president of the National Emergency Management Association. He is an experienced state emergency manager who is widely respected by his peers across the nation. David has served in various leadership positions within NEMA including chair of the Legislative Committee, regional vice president and a member of the NEMA Board of Directors. His experience will serve the Association well," said Trina Sheets, executive director of NEMA, following Miller's election in 2009.

NEMA is the source of information, support and expertise for emergency management professionals at all levels of government and the private sector who prepare for, mitigate, respond to, recover from and provide products and services for all emergencies, disasters and threats to the nation's security. Ω

# An Iowa Hazard Mitigation Success Story

More than once Charlene Ostreko has seen floodwaters pour into her home of 35 years as major storm events have forced the nearby Four Mile Creek out of its bounds. She and her husband Mike would always clean up, repair damages and resume life as usual.

“Our 14 by 24 - foot home, located just five miles from downtown Des Moines had a park-like setting with nearly two acres; the house was surrounded by woods, filled with wildlife and animals. A huge oak tree stood in the front yard as well as an assortment of plants and flowers. My husband and I planned on living there for many years to come, along with the three cats and two dogs. We even invested \$20,000 in renovations,” said Ostreko.

“Prior to 2008, major storms would cause the Des Moines River and its tributaries to swell, forcing the creek to pour several feet of floodwater into our basement. The bedroom, the furnace and water heater were located in the basement and had to be replaced several times. After a while my husband and I would move furniture out and shut off the power with advance flood warnings. We learned to down-size and grab-and-run,” added Ostreko.

By early June 2008 the Des Moines River stretched Four Mile Creek more than six feet above flood stage, resulting from nearly two weeks of rain that produced a statewide average of 9.03 inches. Normally the average is 2.45 inches for the period.

“Our house flooded three times in 2008. The water rushed into the house really fast during the storm. By the time I got home, the basement was flooded with over five feet of water. I never expected what I saw, - muck and dirt everywhere. This time the water was much higher, we lost everything down there,” stated Ostreko.

The event resulted in a Presidential Disaster Declaration. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the City of Des Moines mitigation funds to help protect its citizens and lessen the impact of flooding in the community. The solution at Four Mile Creek was “to offer homeowners pre-flood, fair-market value of property and clear the at-risk homes out of the low-lying area.”

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**“After the recent storms, I went back to the old place and could see that floodwaters would have reached over eight feet into the old house.” - Charlene Ostreko**

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“The flood buyout program is extremely important to communities. It gives property owners the option



**Floodwaters filled a Des Moines family's yard as Four Mile Creek overflowed in June, 2008. Photo by FEMA.**

to move from flood hazard areas. It reduces the amount of property damages and expenses from flooding which ultimately impact the city's flood insurance ratings,” said Contracts and Closing Specialist, Eric L. Skinner, with the City of Des Moines' Engineering Department.

Having incurred serious flood damages, the Ostrekos were still a little anxious to participate in the voluntary buyout program.

“Even though we agreed to join the program, I was scared of the idea of starting over. When we bought the house in 1973, we sat in the backyard and shook hands with the seller to close the deal.

The buyout program involved lots of paperwork, time and patience. Local officials were always knowledgeable and were there for me whenever I had questions about anything or just needed to cry,” added Ostreko.

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## Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

**Administrator**  
David L. Miller

7105 N.W. 70th Avenue  
Camp Dodge, Bldg. W-4  
Johnston, IA 50131

Phone: 515.725.3231

Fax: 515.725.3260

Web site:

[www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org)

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For more information contact Stefanie Bond, 515.725.3271 or [stefanie.bond@iowa.gov](mailto:stefanie.bond@iowa.gov).

### News Team

Tricia Boggs

Stefanie Bond

Laura Carlson

Tara Dowd

Beth Lewis

Amy Meston

Erin Mullenix

Lucinda Robertson

Doug Rossell

### 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)

## Iowa Hazard Mitigation Success Story

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"With help from the City of Des Moines, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and FEMA, we bought a much nicer house on higher grounds. We now have two bedrooms and two bathrooms all located on the same floor. And there's a huge old magnolia tree in the front yard," said Ostreko.

In all, the total flood buyout program resulting from the 2008 disaster includes 17 severely damaged properties along the Four Mile Creek area at a total acquisition cost of \$1,082,605. FEMA contributed 75 percent with \$811,954 through Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The remaining funds came from the State of Iowa, the City of Des Moines and the Community Development Block Grant Program. The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division administered the funds.

As part of the federal buyout program, the area is deed restricted and cannot be developed with permanent structures in the future. Homes have been cleared away and an abundance of wildlife is still spotted in the area. The city plans to eventually use the area for conservation purposes or build a public park.

"It's good to see that the city maintains the property," stated Ostreko. In 2010, the state received three additional federal disaster declarations resulting from winter storms in January, severe storms in May, and severe storms, flooding and torna-

does from June 1 through August 31. Rivers and creeks exceeded the flood stage in some areas upwards of six feet and more, contributing to another record flood - another "big one."

The City of Des Moines suffered the most impact during early August 2010. Hundreds of people evacuated their homes, homes and property were destroyed and sadly one fatality occurred in the area. Again, floodwaters inundated the total buyout area along Four Mile Creek and, thankfully, many homes were cleared out. City officials are steadfast with extensive plans to incorporate other flood prone properties in the area for additional buyout programs to help mitigate the hazard.

Since 1993, including the Great Midwestern Floods of 1993 that wrought disaster to the region with astronomical flooding, Iowa has received a total of 21 federal declarations to date.

"After the recent storms, I went back to the old place and could see that floodwaters would have reached over eight feet into the old house. The basement would have been completely covered and part of the main level as well. I hugged the huge old oak tree and somehow being there was not the same," said Ostreko.

"I fought the program at first, and now I feel fortunate the buyout actually happened."

**Article submitted by FEMA. See more best practices stories at [www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/best-practices/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/best-practices/index.shtm). Ω**