



# SECURE & PREPARED

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## Food and Ag Security Focus of Symposium

The 2010 Symposium on Food and Agriculture Security, hosted by the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture, was held in Madison, Wis. on Oct. 18-20, 2010.

Over 230 representatives from federal, state and local government, together with industry, came from over 30 states and Canada to network and share ideas to reduce threats, minimize impacts, and more quickly recover from a food and agricultural security event.

Speakers at the symposium shared information and expertise on a variety of topics, including protecting food and agriculture, Wisconsin's approach to integrating industry into food and agriculture response, and innovative strategies to keep prod-



***HSEMD's Mark Shearer, coordinator for the Multi-State Partnership, addresses symposium participants.***

ucts moving in the face of disease or disaster.

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## Winter Weather Info

Are you ready for winter weather? Visit [www.bereadyiowa.org](http://www.bereadyiowa.org) for cold weather tips.

## Holiday Closures

**HSEMD offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday Nov. 25-26.**

## HSEMD Hosts Citizen Corps Conference

HSEMD hosted the first Statewide Citizen Corps Conference on Tuesday, Nov. 2, in conjunction with the Governor's Homeland Security Conference.

A wide range of people, representing the many aspects of Citizen Corps, were in attendance. Conference topics included Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and other types of disaster volunteer programs.

Approximately 50 people attended the conference which included a

presentation of a model CERT program in Grand Island, Neb., a report from FEMA Headquarters, and a panel presentation of Citizen Corps Program (CCP) leaders in Iowa. The conference was designed to bring both CCP leadership as well as volunteers together to learn more about the various programs.

HSEMD will continue to host Citizen Corps conferences, but may slightly alter the format based on the feedback received.

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## Hazard Mitigation Measures Pay Off for City of Ames

Squaw Creek and the Skunk River surround the City of Ames. When major storms bring heavy rains to the area, both waterways flood the city's low-lying communities, including the South Riverside neighborhood.

The Great Midwestern Floods of 1993 drenched several states when four major storms caused the Mississippi River, the Des Moines River and nearly every tributary in the area to swell and flood. Iowa was declared a federal disaster area; flood damage occurred in all of its 99 counties.

James L. Graham, 78, recalls waking early morning on July 9, 1993, to the sound of trucks and noisy commotion outside his South Riverside home, located with downtown Ames on one side, Iowa State University on the other and Squaw Creek abutting his backyard. Outside, workers were unloading and positioning sand bags. Graham could see how heavy rains had already forced Squaw Creek to escape its banks. And the water was moving quickly towards his house.

"The floodwaters rose about three feet higher than the highest flood I could remember. In the past, heavy rains would saturate the ground and push rushing water about two feet up to our patio, but never inside the house," said Graham.

After the ordeal of seeing neighbors rescued from the floodwaters and homes washed off slab foundations, Graham was grateful that his house, located on the higher



**James Graham visits the South Riverside community where flood-prone homes have been bought out and cleared from the land. Graham points to estimated height of floodwaters during the July 2010 flood.**

side of the bank, remained. Fortunately, sandbagging and two sump pumps helped to lessen the water intake. Two feet of water invaded his home. Had it not been for help from his neighbors, it could have been much worse. Even so, the Grahams lost furniture and appliances and their property sustained extensive damage.

A federal home buyout program offered hope. The acquisition (buyout) program, which is voluntary, offers the homeowners pre-flood, fair market value of their properties to relocate outside the flood-prone area. Existing structures are cleared from the floodplain and the properties are returned to their natural state. Deed restrictions limit the property's use so that loss from flooding – if any at all – is minimal.

"Our goal as well as that of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is to promote

safety. It's best that people are not living in the flood-prone area," said Vanessa Baker-Latimer, the housing coordinator with the City of Ames Department of Planning and Housing.

"We received a Presidential Disaster Declaration and funding became available locally and from the State of Iowa, FEMA and Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) to buy homes that were severely affected by the flood," added Latimer.

When offered the chance to participate in the buyout program, Graham first refused. After all, he and his wife Hazel had lived there for nearly 35 years. Their kids grew up there. The family could sit on the back deck overlooking Squaw Creek and watch children float along in rubber boats, beavers build dams, and the fish practically jump from the water. They could

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## Hazard Mitigation Success Story

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hear the water racing between the pebbles.

By the time the second buyout offer came a few weeks later, Graham was ready.

“At first I didn’t want to sell, I really liked the area. When I was given a second chance to participate in the program, I began to think that this is going to happen again; we would worry about the house whenever it rained,” said Graham. “We decided to go for it.”

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*“At first I didn’t want to sell, I really liked the area. When I was given a second chance to participate in the program, I began to think that this is going to happen again...”*

*James Graham*

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“I never want to go through a flood again,” added Graham. “Now, we have a much nicer home in the Top - O - Hollow Community. Hollow means the bottom and top is the opposite, we are at the top.”

With combined funds from FEMA through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, CDBG, the State of Iowa and local resources, \$2 million was awarded to the city for the buyout and demolition of 28 homes in the flood-prone area. Iowa Homeland Security and

Emergency Management Division administered the funds.

Since then, the homes have been demolished and property is now an extension of the adjacent Stuart Smith Park. There are trails for biking, jogging and walking.

The buyouts pay off by eliminating future threats from disaster, as well as recovery costs. Storms, tornadoes and three nights of downpours and extensive flooding resulted in four federal disaster declarations in Iowa in 2010.

“In some areas, the 2010 storms pushed floodwaters higher than 1993. Some of the houses and businesses that were not damaged then were flooded this time,” stated Latimer. “We are in the process of assessing area damages and seeking available funding resources for additional buyouts.”

“Following the recent storms, homeowners who opted to remain in the flood-prone area incurred damages again this year and some are now readily seeking a buyout offer,” said Latimer. “On the other hand, buyout participants from the 1993 project saw how the recent storm impacted the same South Riverside area. Several phoned to say ‘we got out, we did the right thing.’”

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

## Multi-State Partnership Symposium

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As a critical infrastructure, the food and agriculture sector constitutes one-sixth of the U.S. gross domestic product – over a trillion dollars a year. A food/agriculture security event would have economic, social and psychological impacts.

The Multi-State Partnership, comprised of 14 states, is a collaborative effort to prepare for and respond to agriculture and food safety and security incidents.

In 2001, an animal disease outbreak in Great Britain caused agriculture leaders in the United States to improve disaster planning and risk communications. At that time, Iowa and five other states conceived the multi-state concept.

The partnership continues to be managed by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. HSEMD’s Mark Shearer serves as the Partnership’s coordinator.

The state Partnership members are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

For more information about the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture, visit [www.multi-statepartnership.org/](http://www.multi-statepartnership.org/). Ω

## Region One Training Opportunities

### G-386 Mass Fatalities Incident Response

**Description:** This two-day 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. This course is one of the Advanced Professional Series (APS) Elective courses. For more information on the APS please go to <http://training.fema.gov/emi-web/APS>.

**Who should attend:** This course is designed for a wide audience including all personnel who would have a role in mass fatality incident response. This includes coroners, medical examiners, funeral directors, emergency management personnel, and first response agencies to include fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, 911 dispatchers and communication center personnel. Others who will benefit include volunteer disaster agencies, hospital personnel and mental health professionals, National Guard, and transportation staff.

**Cost:** There are no costs associated with this class. Materials will be provided to each participant and a meal will be provided each day.

There are no prerequisites to attend this course.

**Certification:** Participants who complete a two-day class will be issued a Certificate of Completion.

**Class 1:** Dec. 8-9, 2010  
9 a.m.– 5 p.m.  
Fire Service Training Bureau  
3100 Fire Service Road  
Ames, Iowa 50011  
Registration deadline: Nov. 28

**Class 2:** Jan. 12-13, 2011  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Polk County Emergency Management Agency  
1907 Carpenter Ave.  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Registration deadline: Dec. 30

**Registration:** E-mail **Liz Manion** at [mmanion@storycounty.com](mailto:mmanion@storycounty.com) or call 515 382-7229 to register. Please provide the class date in which you are interested, your name, organization, address, email address and contact phone number. Ω

## Citizen Corps Conference

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Currently in Iowa, 64 counties receive Citizen Corps funding. There are 42 CERT programs, 13 MRC programs, 10 Fire Corps Programs, and 17 Volunteer and Police Services (VIPS) Programs. These Citizen Corps organizations conduct a wide variety of activities including: Youth Days, Community Organizations Active in Disaster

(COAD) development, flu clinics, community nights, NOAA weather radio giveaways, volunteer reception center training, CERT train-the-trainer courses, and disaster response training.

For more information on Citizen Corps, contact Blake DeRouchev at 515-323-4232 or [blake.derouchev@iowa.gov](mailto:blake.derouchev@iowa.gov). Ω

## Western Iowa Tech Training

The Security Institute at Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC), is offering courses of interest to the emergency management community.

**AWR 125 Preparing Communities for Agroterrorism**, provided by the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training.

**Date:** Jan. 12, 2011

**Location:** WITCC's Denison location

**AWR 155 Principles of Response to Agroterrorism and Food Systems' Disasters**, provided by the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security. Class flyer is posted at the bottom of <http://wifss.ucdavis.edu/agroterrorism/classes/classesbydate.php>.

**Date:** Feb. 23, 2011

**Location:** The Security Institute building in Sioux City  
Registration will start at 8:30 am.

**AWR 206-1 Animal Disease Response Training**, provided by the AgPreparedness Center.

**Date:** March 2, 2011

**Location:** WITCC's Cherokee campus

To register, visit [www.the-security-institute.org/tsitraining.cfm](http://www.the-security-institute.org/tsitraining.cfm). For more information, contact Steve Warnstadt, training coordinator for The Security Institute, at [warnsts@witcc.edu](mailto:warnsts@witcc.edu). Ω

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A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

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**Secure & Prepared** is published by the Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division for those involved in the homeland security system in the state of Iowa.

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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)

# HSEMD Personnel Update

**Susan Green** has joined HSEMD's Preparedness Bureau as the division's state training officer.

In her position, she is responsible for coordination and facilitation of training activities. Prior to coming to HSEMD, Susan served as a local emergency management coordinator for 10 years and also as a Red Cross chapter executive.

Susan is a certified emergency manager and has a degree in business administration. Among her hobbies, she lists garage sales, yard work, home remodeling and "spoiling beyond tolerance" her cat and dog.



**Susan Green**

Welcome, Susan! Ω

## Region One Holds PIO Workshop

The fourth in a series of regional public information officer (PIO) workshops took place Oct. 25-26 in Region One.

Polk County Emergency Management hosted the workshop, which took place at the Ankeny Fire Department. Local and state participants came together for the training and exercise activities funded by the 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program through HSEMD.

The goal of the workshops is to develop and coordinate emergency management and partner PIOs at all levels of government. The sessions demonstrate the importance of identifying PIOs at the local level and the need for PIOs at every level to communicate with colleagues.

Participants in the workshop represented a variety of agencies, including law enforcement, fire, hospital, education, public health and city government.



**Participants in the Region One workshop share results of a joint information center exercise.**

Chris Kramer and Frank Cowan, experts in emergency public information and the Joint Information System and joint information centers, conducted the training in Ankeny and will lead future workshops.

The final two workshops will be held in Regions Three and Five over the next few months. Ω