Iowa Receives Presidential, SBA Disaster Declarations

Iowa HSEMD received notification on May 5 that President Obama has authorized a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for six counties impacted by severe storms, tornadoes, and straight-line winds that occurred on April 9-10, 2011.

The declaration by the President will provide federal funding to Buena Vista, Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Pocahontas, and Sac counties under the Public Assistance (PA) Program. PA program funds are available to public entities and select nonprofit agencies to rebuild damaged infrastructure that may include roads, bridges, culverts, and other public facilities, and to cover costs of emergency work and debris removal during the storms.

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Homeland Security Conference Dates Set

The 8th Annual Governor’s Homeland Security Conference will be held Nov. 1-2, 2011, at the West Des Moines Sheraton. There will also be a special free Essential Records Management training available on Monday, Oct. 31. Early bird registration is $125 until Oct. 1, and $150 after Oct. 1. More information will become available in the coming weeks. Registration will be available soon online via www.iowa-homelandsecurity.org. Ω
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"I am pleased to see the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for these six counties came through," Branstad said. "This will provide Iowans the resources we will need to recover from this recent round of tornados and severe weather."

Applicant briefings for Public Assistance will be held next week:

For applicants in Buena Vista, Cherokee, Ida, Pocahontas & Sac counties
When: Tuesday, May 10 at 9 a.m.
Where: Buena Vista Law Enforcement Center
411 Expansion Blvd.
Storm Lake
Contact: Aimee Barritt
(712) 221-0526

For applicants in Buena Vista, Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Pocahontas and Sac counties
When: Tuesday, May 10 at 1 p.m.
Where: Buena Vista Law Enforcement Center
411 Expansion Blvd.
Storm Lake
Contact: Aimee Barritt
(712) 221-0526

The Governor also received notification that the Presidential Disaster Declaration includes funding to conduct hazard mitigation activities for the entire state. With this funding, Iowa will be able to minimize the impact of future natural disasters by taking steps now to strengthen existing infrastructure.

This follows an announcement earlier this week that the Small Business Administration (SBA) had issued a disaster declaration for 14 Iowa counties. The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available to citizens and businesses in the Iowa counties of Buena Vista, Calhoun, Clay, Crawford, Harrison, Humboldt, Ida, Kossuth, Monona, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Sac, Webster and Woodbury.

Residents and business owners in these counties affected by the storms on April 9-10 may now apply for low-interest loans from the SBA. Disaster loans up to $200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to $40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private, non-profit organizations may borrow up to $2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to homeowners and businesses to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Interest rates can be as low as 2.563 percent for homeowners and renters, 3 percent for private, non-profit organizations and 4 percent for businesses, with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are based on the needs of the individual borrower.

Storm damage to a home in Mapleton. Photo taken by Tracey Epps, HSEMD.

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HSEMD Participates in International Symposium on Agroterrorism

Food and agriculture security specialists from the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship explored many facets of readiness and response regarding threats to the food and agriculture sector April 26-28 at the International Symposium on Agroterrorism in Kansas City, Mo. The mission of the symposium was to bring together public and private partners interested in identifying and discussing relevant topics related to the protection of the global food supply.

Attendees expanded their knowledge in the areas of foreign animal disease readiness and response, economically motivated adulteration of food products, public/private partnerships and the Food and Drug Administration’s new Food Safety Modernization Act.

HSEMD will continue to partner with federal, state, local and private stakeholders to protect this vital food and agriculture sector, through HSEMD’s preparedness programs as well as in its involvement in the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture.

Iowa Receives Two Disaster Declarations

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set by SBA and are based upon each applicant’s financial condition.

Impacted homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations in the designated counties may apply for assistance at the following SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers:

**Monona County Disaster Loan Outreach Center**
Mapleton City Hall
513 Main St., Mapleton
Open now through May 26
Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

**Pocahontas County Disaster Loan Outreach Center**
American Legion Hall
207 Main St., Varina
Open May 11, 18 and 25
10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling SBA toll-free at 1-800-659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Hearing/speech impaired individuals may call 1-800-877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is July 5, 2011. The deadline to return economic injury applications is Feb. 6, 2012.

New Mitigation Project Gains Approval

**Sub-Applicant:** Dallas County  
**Award Amount:** $100,000  
**Award Date:** April 27, 2011  
**Funding From DR-1880**

The approval of this grant application provides funding for Dallas County to complete a local hazard mitigation plan (a multi-jurisdictional plan that includes the cities of Adel, Bouton, Clive, Dallas Center, Dawson, DeSoto, Dexter, Granger, Grimes, Linden, Minburn, Perry, Redfield, Urbandale, Van Meter, Waukee, West Des Moines and Woodward) that complies with federal requirements. Upon FEMA approval of the plan, Dallas County will be eligible for disaster assistance funding for each of the jurisdictions which adopt by resolution their section of the plan. With the FEMA approved mitigation plan, they will be eligible to carry out mitigation projects using the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and other federal grant opportunities.
Training Opportunities

Emergency Planning (IS-235)

When: May 18-19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Where: Camp Dodge
Johnston, Iowa

This course is designed for emergency management personnel who are involved in developing an effective emergency planning system, and offers training in the fundamentals of the emergency planning process, including the rationale behind planning.

To register, go to www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and click the “HSEMD Course Registration” link on the left side of the page. There is no cost to attend this course.

Working the Streets, Jails and Schools to Fight Gangs

When: June 15-17, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Where: Camp Dodge, Bldg. B-57
Johnston, Iowa

Presented by the Iowa Association of School Resource Officers, with retired New York City Police Department Sergeant Lou Savelli. This conference is for police officers, school resource officers, investigators, school administrators and educators.

To register, contact Shia Cruciani at officershia@yahoo.com or (563) 659-3145. Registration fee is $75.

Personnel Changes

HSEMD’s Brian Lewis will be leaving his position in the Radiological Maintenance Facility and transferring to the Homeland Security and Grants Bureau effective May 13, 2011. He will work as the Division’s information security specialist in the Threat Infrastructure and Information Protection Program (TIIPP) office.

Congratulations, Brian!

Retiring...

Ed Farley has retired from his duties as Henry County Emergency Management Coordinator effective April 29, 2011. Deb Goettig has been hired to replace Ed.

Congratulations, Ed!

[Photo submitted by Janet Riley.]