Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

SECURE & PREPARED

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On the Calendar...

December
Christmas Holiday observed (26)*

January
National Blood Donor Month
National Radon Action Month
New Year's Day observed (2)*
Last day to register for Individual Assistance (DR-1998) (3)
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (16)*
Hazardous Materials Awareness Week (Iowa) (22-28)

**State holiday.*
HSEMD offices will be closed.

Iowa Disaster Assistance Registration Deadline Extended by Two Weeks

Iowans in five western counties impacted by severe flooding from May 25 to Aug. 1, 2011, will have two more weeks to register for disaster assistance, state and federal recovery officials announced Dec. 16.

Flooded home in western Iowa. Photo by Terry E. Brown, Iowa HSEMD.

The new deadline to register for assistance is Jan. 3, 2012, and applies to residents in the Iowa counties of Pottawattamie, Mills, Monona, Fremont and Harrison.

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to extend the registration period, which was set to end Dec. 19, 2011, because disaster recovery officials began getting information suggesting that some Iowans weren't aware they could be applying for help.

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FOR THE LATEST information and updates about recovery efforts along the Missouri River, visit **www.MoRiverRecovery.iowa.gov.**

Disaster Assistance Registration Deadline Extended

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The cases generally involve individuals and families whose homes did not sustain actual flood damage but were unlivable because of outages involving essential utilities or severe, prolonged flooding that made the house inaccessible.

"We know some Iowans incurred costs to temporarily live somewhere else until they could get back home," said HSEMD's Pat Hall, state coordinating officer for the disaster. "Those folks may not know it's possible to get financial assistance to help cover the costs of that temporary housing. That's why we are urging anyone in those five counties who was impacted to call and register before the deadline passes."

Temporary housing assistance can be provided if a FEMA inspector verifies that the home was inaccessible due to road closures, floodwaters or if essential utilities such as power, water and gas were temporarily turned off for safety reasons. FEMA is reviewing current registrations for assistance to determine if there are persons who might be eligible under those circumstances.

"Iowans who visited our Disaster Recovery Centers or called the FEMA Helpline inquiring about reimbursement for these temporary expenses helped us realize there was a need that was not being met," said FEMA's Michael Scott, federal coordinating officer. "We reviewed those inquiries and determined that we may be able to help with some of these costs."

(Above) Sept. 27, 2011 – Damage assessments were taken in several counties the last week of September as flood waters receded. This home was still surrounded by flood waters in Mills County. (Below) Nov. 21, 2011 – This home in Council Bluffs was almost entirely under water during the peak of flooding. Photos by Terry E. Brown, Iowa HSEMD.

Persons who think they might have eligible temporary housing costs that have not already been reimbursed can call FEMA's Helpline at **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** to check the status of their case and to find out what kind of documentation is required to submit a claim.

Others who were impacted by the flooding but have not yet registered at all, also should apply to FEMA before the Jan. 3 deadline in one of the following ways:

- Call FEMA's toll-free Registration Helpline **1-800-621-FEMA (3362**). Hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Central time, seven days a week. Those with a speech disability or hearing loss who use a **TTY** can call **1-800-462-7585**, or use **711** or Video Relay Service (VRS) to call **1-800-621-3362**.
- Register online at **www.DisasterAssistance.gov**, or by smartphone at **m.fema.gov**.
- Information on SBA programs can be obtained by calling: **1-800-659-2955**; those with a speech disability or hearing loss who use a **TTY** can call **1-800-877-8339**, or visit the SBA website at **www.sba.gov/services.disasterassistance**. Ω

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

Administrator
Mark Schouten

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

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. For more information contact Stefanie Bond, 515.725.3271 or stefanie.bond@iowa.gov.

News Team

Stefanie Bond
Laura Carlson
Tara Dowd
Beth Lewis
Amy Meston
Lucinda Robertson

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

Upcoming Training

Community Mass Care Management (G108)

When: Feb. 8–9, 2012
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Where: Black Hawk County EMA
1925 Newell St.
Waterloo, Iowa

This course is designed to provide training to communities about mass care. By making more communities capable of planning for and managing mass care, professional mass care organizations like the Red Cross will find resources better organized and more abundant and communities will be more self-sufficient.

Contact: Beth Lewis or **Susan Green**, HSEMD, **515-725-3231**. Register online at **http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/**. Ω

Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS 300)

When: Feb. 21–22, 2012
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Where: Polk County EMA
1907 Carpenter Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa

This course is designed for those disciplines that would respond to an incident:command staff, section chiefs,unit leaders, division/group supervisors, branch directors, and multi-agency coordination system/emergency operations center managers.

Contact: Beth Lewis or **Steve Warren**, HSEMD, **515-725-3231**. Register online at **http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/**. Ω

Advanced ICS Command and General Staff-Complex Incidents (ICS 400)

When: Feb. 23–24, 2012, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Where: Polk County EMA, 1907 Carpenter Ave., Des Moines, Iowa

This course targets command or general staff, select department heads with multi-agency coordination system responsibilities, emergency managers, and multi-agency coordination system/emergency operations center managers.

Contact: Beth Lewis or **Steve Warren**, HSEMD, **515-725-3231**. Register online at **http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/**. Ω