Major U of I Flood Recovery Projects Move Forward with Additional Funding

The State of Iowa recently received notification that FEMA has awarded an additional $113.2 million for three major University of Iowa 2008 flood recovery projects. The total of federal funding that has been slated to aid the recovery of U of I facilities is now nearly $421 million.

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) has been working with the University of Iowa (U of I) to obtain additional federal funding for the relocation of Hancher/Voxman/Clapp and Art Building East, which were heavily damaged by flooding in 2008. Hancher/Voxman/Clapp received an additional

Continued on Page 2...

Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

Jan. 22-28, 2012, has been designated Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in Iowa. The goal is to provide Iowans a better understanding of hazardous materials, their proper use, storage and disposal, and the emergency response actions that can help minimize accidents and exposure.

“Iowans work and live around hazardous materials every day,” said HSEMD Administrator Mark Schouten. “It only makes sense that we better prepare ourselves for possible accidents involving these materials and learn how to prevent such accidents altogether.”

Brochures and fact sheets about hazardous materials safety will be available to download on www.BeReady.iowa.gov.

Additional information will be posted on HSEMD’s Facebook page and Twitter feed, where updates will be posted throughout Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. Ω
FEMA Disaster Assistance Tops $17 Million

Nearly $17.6 million in assistance has been approved for individuals, businesses and communities impacted by the Missouri River flooding.

Individuals and Businesses

As of Jan. 10, 2012, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved more than $4.4 million in Individual Assistance funding for residents of Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona and Pottawattamie counties.

Public Assistance

Nearly $13.2 million has been obligated by FEMA for projects under the Public Assistance Program in Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury counties. Projects funded under this program include repair of roads, bridges and other public infrastructure, along with emergency protective measures that were taken to prevent or mitigate damage from flood waters.

U of I Recovery Projects

...Continued from Page 1

$74,218,831, bringing the total obligation of federal funds for this project to $198,375,334. The Art Building East received an additional $32,547,414 bringing the total federal obligation for this project to $68,644,460.

FEMA also recently awarded an additional $6.5 million for work at the Iowa Memorial Union. The funding will be used for repairs to the facility and construction of a flood protection system to prevent similar damage as was caused by the 2008 flooding. The total that has been obligated for the Iowa Memorial Union project is now $16.2 million.

“I’m proud of the work the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division has done with the University of Iowa to obtain these funds,” said Governor Branstad. “The relocation of these buildings will benefit not only the University of Iowa community but also the state of Iowa.”

HSEMD has worked closely with the U of I over the past two years to obtain $420,920,843 in federal funding to aid in the recovery of U of I facilities impacted by the 2008 floods.

HSEMD administers FEMA disaster funding and works closely with communities and other public and private entities during disaster recovery. HSEMD staff is responsible for administration of these funds from project application to completion, while also providing technical assistance to applicants to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

For information on the 2008 flood and other Iowa disasters, visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org.

Copper Theft Webinar Scheduled for February

A webinar focusing on the effect of copper theft on critical infrastructure will be held on Feb. 28 from 9-11 a.m.

The webinar is designed for individuals interested in collaborating with public agencies and private-sector organizations to successfully investigate and prosecute copper theft.

Webinar topics include:

- Law enforcement and legal elements necessary for prosecution;
- Case studies on copper thefts and the impacts;
- Profile of a copper theft criminal;
- Law enforcement viewpoint on deterrence measures and reporting elements of copper theft.

The webinar is free, however participants must register at http://www.safeguardiowa.org/events?eventid=420588&EventViewMode=EventDetails.

The deadline to register is 5 p.m. Feb. 24. Registration is required and is limited to the first 400 participants.

Sponsors of the webinar include HSEMD, Safeguard Iowa Partnership, Iowa Attorney General’s Office, Iowa County Attorneys Association, Iowa Department of Public Safety-State Fusion Center and Law Enforcement Intelligence Network, Iowa League of Cities, Iowa Municipal Attorneys Association, and MidAmerican Energy Company.

...Continued from Page 1
2012 Training Opportunities

Following a successful year of training in 2011, HSEMD has scheduled 14 training opportunities for 2012. An additional three trainings will be added to this year’s HSEMD training calendar, so check back for the latest offerings at http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/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.

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.

Register online for both courses at http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/.

National Weather Service Offers Spotter Training

Each year, National Weather Service (NWS) meteorologists provide spotter training throughout the state. The classes cover information about severe weather climatology, severe thunderstorm types, different severe weather threats and how to identify them, how to report severe weather, spotter safety and severe weather communications. Spotter training classes are open to the public and free of charge.

To find a spotter training class near you, visit the website for the NWS office that covers your area.

Who Inspires You?

At this past November’s Governor’s Homeland Security Conference in West Des Moines, HSEMD hosted 233 participants representing a variety of disciplines. With 22 speakers covering an array of topics, we were able to pique the interest of our many public and our private partners.

As HSEMD begins planning for the 2012 conference, we are asking for your help in seeking inspiring, suspenseful, informative and entertaining speakers. If you have suggestions for speakers, please contact HSEMD’s Susan Green or Beth Lewis.