HSEMD staff members assist in Hurricane Sandy disaster operations

Frank Klier, HSEMD operations specialist, has been deployed to the East Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Klier traveled to New Jersey on November 9 following a request for assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). He, along with Daniela Heppard from Missouri, are working in New Jersey’s State Emergency Operations Center to facilitate the securing, documenting and tracking of needed resources from EMAC member states.

Klier is not the only HSEMD staff member involved in East Coast disaster response. Joyce Flinn, HSEMD’s Readiness and Response Bureau Chief, has been actively engaged in daily EMAC conference calls since October 27. On these calls, Flinn and representatives of other EMAC member states receive

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Local coordinators recognized at Homeland Security Conference

Two of Iowa’s local emergency management coordinators were recognized for their outstanding service during this year’s Iowa Homeland Security Conference, held Nov. 6-7 in Des Moines.

Union County Emergency Management Coordinator JoAnne Duckworth and Fremont County Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Crecelius were presented the Emergency Management Service Award by Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor Reynolds at the conference.

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(From left) Governor Terry Branstad, Fremont County Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Crecelius, Union County Emergency Management Coordinator JoAnne Duckworth, Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds and HSEMD Administrator Mark Schouten.
Hurricane Sandy response

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Flinn is currently chair-elect of the EMAC Executive Task Force (ETF) and will assume the role of chair in March 2013. One of her duties as EMAC’s ETF chair will be to serve as the National Coordinating State and provide overall coordination during catastrophic disaster events where the EMAC system is used to ensure requested resources get to where they are needed.

Coordinators recognized at HSEMD conference

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Duckworth and Crecelius were recognized for their expertise and commitment, and for ensuring needed services were provided to respond to and recover from the damage caused by the tornadoes that struck the communities of Creston and Thurman in April of this year.

Learn more about EMAC at www.emacweb.org and on the HSEMD website at www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov. 

HSEMD staff members participate in FEMA benefit cost analysis workshop

On November 6-7, HSEMD’s Mitigation and Public Assistance Staff participated in a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) Training Workshop conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at the State Emergency Operations Center in Johnston.

Twenty-seven HSEMD staff members participated in the training, which focused on updates to the software tool designed to evaluate mitigation project applications for funding. The software is a key mechanism used by FEMA to evaluate hazard mitigation grant applications and determine which mitigation projects are eligible for federal funding. By understanding the new features and updated calculations, HSEMD staff will be better able to help applicants develop successful project applications.

HSEMD has used the BCA tool hundreds of times over the past five years and will continue to use it for future project evaluation. During project development, HSEMD

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9th Annual Iowa Homeland Security Conference a success!

Nearly 300 people attended the 9th Annual Iowa Homeland Security Conference held in Des Moines Nov. 6-7.

Conference participants were able to hear and learn from speakers on a wide variety of topics, including: critical incident stress; a mayor’s perspective on the response to the April 2011 Tuscaloosa, Ala., tornado; the dangers of improvised explosives; the use of search and rescue dogs; and Iowa One Call.

HSEMD staff members also presented on comprehensive planning and the Iowa School Safety Program.

Vendors at this year’s conference provided participants an opportunity to learn more about their products and services. Special thanks to one vendor, Midwest Card and ID Solutions, for providing name badges for conference attendees. Other vendors present were: National Weather Service; Sandry Fire Supply; RACOM Corporation; Grainger; Center for Domestic Preparedness; AMEC Environment and Infrastructure; Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture; Pelican; and Frontline Plus Inc: Whelen Engineering Midwest Region.

During the conference, two local emergency management coordinators were recognized by Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor Reynolds for outstanding service (see story on page 1).

Speaker presentations will be available at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/conference/agenda.html. Ω
### Training Opportunities

#### WebEOC Training for County Emergency Management Coordinators
When: Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Where: State Emergency Operations Center
Johnston

Training is also offered via webinar. For more information, contact Blake DeRouchey at Blake.DeRouchey@iowa.gov or 515.323.4232.


#### WebEOC Training for State Agency Responders
When: Dec. 6, 2 - 4 p.m.
Where: State Emergency Operations Center
Johnston

Training is also offered via webinar. For more information, contact Blake DeRouchey at Blake.DeRouchey@iowa.gov or 515.323.4232.


### Benefit Cost Analysis Training

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staff work with the applicant to gather needed documentation and to help ensure they meet all requirements set in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, through which projects are funded. To be eligible for federal funding assistance, an applicant must conduct a benefit cost analysis and show that the project is cost-effective.

The material presented in the workshop instructed the participants to think of mitigation as an action that uses resources by investing them in current infrastructure in order to reduce loss. To have a cost-effective project in the BCA software, the user must determine the present value of the expected future net benefits from the mitigation action being analyzed.

Learning modules for flooding, tornadoes, and damage frequency assessments, which covered the input of information from historical events or past damages, were covered in this workshop.

Learn more about Iowa’s hazard mitigation efforts at [www.iowahome-landsecurity.org/disasters/hazard_mitigation.html](http://www.iowahome-landsecurity.org/disasters/hazard_mitigation.html).