



# Secure & Prepared

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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## HSEMD's Flinn named to EMAC leadership position

Joyce Flinn, chief of the Readiness and Response Bureau for the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD), was named chair of the Executive Task Force (ETF) for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) in March.

"I am pleased to have the support of our division administrator, which allows me to serve in this capacity," said Flinn. "The success of the EMAC system has been proven time and time again during catastrophic disaster events. I look forward to working with the Executive Task Force as we continue to enhance the Compact in support of our member states."

As the ETF chair, Flinn oversees work on national policies that impact EMAC member states and, when requested, represents NEMA at speaking engagements.

Along with Flinn's one-year service as the chair of the ETF, Iowa is serving as the National Coordinat-



**HSEMD's Joyce Flinn (center) with EMAC Committee Chair John Heltzel (Ky.) and EMAC Legal Counsel Committee Chair Brenda Bergeron (Conn.).**

ing State (NCS) for EMAC for one year. As the NCS, HSEMD is the initial point of contact for EMAC operational activities. In this role, HSEMD will serve the operations coordination function, overseeing EMAC response and recovery operations.

EMAC is administered by the National Emergency Management Association and facilitates the effective sharing of resources among member states when they are impacted by catastrophic disaster events. Ω

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## Legislative update

The Legislature is now moving toward the end of the session after some 14 weeks of effort.

Of course they still have some heavy lifting to do on the state budget, Medicare reform, and education funding. At this point, no one has a real good idea when the session might close. However, bills are still moving and being worked on in both chambers.

On April 5, the Governor signed into law the bill that converts the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division into a stand-alone department. This change will go into effect July 1, 2013.

On the Governor's desk are bills dealing with penalties for remov-

ing a radio from a peace officer and dam reconstruction standards.

Bills still being considered by the Legislature include:

- SF 304, which deals with public safety equipment and training
- SF 376, which deals with disaster liability immunity for architects
- HF 510/SF 421, which would equalize the wire and wireless E911 surcharges at \$1.

To view these bills and others, visit the Iowa Legislature's website at [www.legis.iowa.gov](http://www.legis.iowa.gov).

All of these bills are "funnel-proof," which means they can be considered until the Legislature adjourns



**John Benson**

for the year. The only unknown is how much time is available until adjournment.

**Submitted by John Benson, HSEMD legislative liaison. Ω**

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## Construction trade workers can be a volunteer resource

Learning how to utilize members of the construction trades in disaster response is a topic that will be covered during this year's Iowa Homeland Security Conference.

Mike Matejka, governmental affairs director for the Great Plains Laborers District Council, will discuss how union construction trade workers can be a vital potential volunteer resource in disasters because of their skills and training.

The 10th Annual Iowa Homeland Security Conference will be held Oct. 8-9, 2013, at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention



**Mike Matejka**

Center at Veteran's Memorial in downtown Des Moines.

In addition to the conference, the state Training and Exercise Planning Workshop will be held Oct. 7 and following the conference on Oct. 10, a training titled *Social Media for Natural Disaster Response and Recovery* will be offered.

Registration for this training will be available soon at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>.

We have more great speakers lined up, so look for more details in upcoming issues of this newsletter and on the HSEMD website at [www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov). Ω

# Hazard mitigation project updates

## Palo

Since the floods of 2008 devastated the City of Palo in Northeast Iowa, the city has been working hard to recover. Another milestone was reached when the city's community center tornado safe room project was recently submitted to FEMA for project closeout concurrence.

Designed to provide near-absolute life protection for 1,158 people from the effects of a tornado sustaining winds of up to 250 mph, the safe room located at the new community center and city hall complex doubles as a gym for community events. At a total eligible cost of a little more than \$276,000, the 8,064 square-foot safe room was specially designed and built to tornado safe room standards set forth by FEMA. Tornado safe room requirements include concrete reinforced walls, specially engineered doors, specially designed louvers, emergency operations planning specific to the safe room, specific signage, and a reinforced concrete roof. These stringent standards are set forth in FEMA publication 361, and the International Code Council publication 500. Additionally, once



**Palo's Community Center Tornado Safe Room.**  
Photos by Kurt Hoffman, HSEMD.

designed, the safe room plans are reviewed by FEMA engineers before construction commences on the structure.

The community center safe room project was brought as an idea to HSEMD's hazard mitigation section in 2009, and came to reality with the ribbon cutting just this past summer, with the closeout of the hazard mitigation grant being submitted to FEMA on March 8, 2013.

**Submitted by Kurt Hoffmann,  
HSEMD project officer.**

*Continued on Page 5...*

## Ottumwa Job Corps latest StormReady Supporter

The Ottumwa Job Corps has been recognized by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) as a StormReady Supporter.

To be recognized as a StormReady Supporter, a business or group must meet several requirements, including establishing a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center, creating a system that monitors local weather conditions, and developing a formal hazardous weather plan.

"The Job Corps Ottumwa Center staff devoted a lot of time and consideration during their journey to become StormReady and I am very pleased with their commitment to preparedness," said Josh Stevens, the Wapello County emergency manager. "The Job Corps Ottumwa Center is a great example for other organizations looking to become StormReady."

The Des Moines NWS presented the StormReady Supporter certificate to the Ottumwa Job Corps on April 2.

The Ottumwa Job Corps is the first Job Corps center in the nation to become a StormReady Supporter and joins six other Iowa agencies or businesses as a StormReady Supporter.

The StormReady Supporter program is voluntary and provides businesses and groups with advice from a partnership between local NWS Offices and state and local emergency managers. Ω



# Training opportunities

## Essential Records & COOP/COG

**When:** May 14  
8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Where:** Hoover State Office Bldg.  
Level A, Room 5  
Des Moines

Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>. For more information, contact: **Jim Marwedel** at [jim.marwedel@iowa.gov](mailto:jim.marwedel@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3249**, **Amy Meston** at [amy.meston@iowa.gov](mailto:amy.meston@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3236**, or **Beth Lewis** at [beth.lewis@iowa.gov](mailto:beth.lewis@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3204**.

## A.L.I.C.E. Instructor Training

**When:** May 14–15  
**Where:** Western Iowa Tech  
1st Floor, Room 206  
4647 Stone Ave.  
Sioux City

Contact: **Andrew James**,  
[ajames@storycounty.com](mailto:ajames@storycounty.com).

## Basic PIO Training (G290)

**When:** May 22–23  
8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Where:** Grinnell Police Dept.  
1020 Spring St.  
Grinnell

Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>. For more informa-

tion, contact: **Susan Green** at [susan.green@iowa.gov](mailto:susan.green@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3243**, or **Beth Lewis** at [beth.lewis@iowa.gov](mailto:beth.lewis@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3204**.

## A.L.I.C.E. Instructor Training

**When:** June 3–4  
**Where:** Luther College  
Valders Hall of Science  
Auditorium V-206  
Decorah

Contact: **Liz Manion**, [mmanion@storycounty.com](mailto:mmanion@storycounty.com).

## A.L.I.C.E. Instructor Training

**When:** June 5–6  
**Where:** Area Education Agency  
824 Flindt Drive  
Storm Lake

Contact: **Liz Manion**, [mmanion@storycounty.com](mailto:mmanion@storycounty.com).

## Effective Communication (IS-242a)

**When:** July 23–24  
8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Where:** Camp Dodge, Bldg. B62  
7105 NW 70th Ave.  
Johnston

Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>. For more information, contact: **Susan Green** at [susan.green@iowa.gov](mailto:susan.green@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3243**, or **Beth Lewis** at [beth.lewis@iowa.gov](mailto:beth.lewis@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3204**.

[green@iowa.gov](mailto:green@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3243**, or **Beth Lewis** at [beth.lewis@iowa.gov](mailto:beth.lewis@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3204**.

## Wide Area Search (PER 213)

**When:** Aug. 20–22  
8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
**Where:** Marshall County Sheriff  
2369 Jessup Ave.  
Marshalltown

This course is applicable to those who would need to conduct wide area searches due to a natural disaster or terrorist incident.

Contact: **Kim Elder**, [kelder@co.marshall.ia.us](mailto:kelder@co.marshall.ia.us).

## ICS/EOC Interface (G191)

**When:** Aug. 21  
8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Where:** Grinnell Police Dept.  
1020 Spring St.  
Grinnell

Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>. For more information, contact: **Susan Green** at [susan.green@iowa.gov](mailto:susan.green@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3243**, or **Beth Lewis** at [beth.lewis@iowa.gov](mailto:beth.lewis@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3204**.

## Hazard mitigation projects

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### Iowa City

The City of Iowa City has completed a hazard mitigation project that will mitigate damage and loss of service by elevating loop switches and transformers at three well houses that were sandbagged during flooding in 2008: collector wells 1 and 2 and sand pit pumping station. The grant totaling \$608,576 hardened and flood-proofed all three well houses; elevated the switchboards and process control panels; and reconfigured the variable frequency drives at all three well houses. These actions will provide protection to a minimum of a 500-year recurrence level.



**Sandbagging around the Iowa City Well House during June 2008 flooding. Photo by HSEMD.**

### McGregor

The City of McGregor has completed a hazard mitigation grant project to bury power lines to their wastewater treatment plant located along the Mississippi River. The grant, totaling \$46,000, converted a three-phase electrical line located along

the bluff from overhead service to underground, adding an additional redundancy by increasing the number of conductors from three to six. The project will protect the line from debris falling from the bluff as well as flooding from the Mississippi River.

### Waterloo

The Waterloo project is the acquisition and conversion to open space (demolition) of 80 properties which are susceptible to flooding and

were substantially damaged by the 2008 floods. Properties were deed-restricted to prevent future development and will be maintained as open space perpetually. Doing so offers absolute protection against flooding, ensuring that future flood events do not result in any damage to the properties or cost to individuals or the city. The final cost of the project was \$4,369,933.

### Electrical Infrastructure Best Practices Manual

In response to a request from FEMA Region V due to interest from the states in their region, HSEMD mitigation infrastructure staff developed a comprehensive Electrical Mitigation Project Best Practices manual to assist in the development and execution of electrical mitigation projects. Iowa has been a leader in the use of mitigation dollars to strengthen electrical systems with more than \$200 million in projects affecting 3,110 miles of electrical power lines approved and in progress in the state. To obtain a copy of the manual, contact [wiliam.covington@iowa.gov](mailto:wiliam.covington@iowa.gov).

## Revised FEMA mitigation planning handbook now available

FEMA's Local Mitigation Planning Handbook has been completely revised and is now available for download.

The format has been expanded to encompass guidance that offers practical approaches, tools, work-

sheets and local mitigation planning examples for how communities can engage in effective planning to reduce long-term risk from natural hazards and disasters. A copy of the handbook may be accessed through the HSEMD website at

[www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/disasters/hazard\\_mitigation.html](http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/disasters/hazard_mitigation.html).

The handbook may also be downloaded at [www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7209](http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7209). Ω

## Individual and Community Preparedness Awards

FEMA has announced the application period for the 2013 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards is now open.

These awards recognize outstanding individuals, organizations, Citizen Corps Councils and programs working to make our communities safer, stronger and better prepared for any disaster or emergency event.

To be considered for this year's awards, submissions are required to feature program activities taking place during the period of Jan. 1, 2012, through June 5, 2013. FEMA will review all entries and select finalists. A panel of judges from the emergency management industry will select a winner in each of the following categories:

- Outstanding State Citizen Corps Council Initiatives
- Outstanding Local Citizen

- Corps Council Initiatives
- Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiatives
- Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness
- Preparing the Whole Community
- Awareness to Action
- Community Preparedness Heroes

Winners will be announced in Fall 2013.

Information and instructions for submitting an application are available at [www.ready.gov/citizen-corps-awards](http://www.ready.gov/citizen-corps-awards). The deadline to apply is June 5, 2013.

Questions may be directed to FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at 202.646.3444. Ω

### ON THE CALENDAR

#### APRIL

National 9-1-1 Education Month  
National Volunteer Week (21-27)

#### MAY

Public Service Recognition Week (5-11)  
National Nurse's Week (6-12)

National Police Week (12-18)  
National EMS Week (19-25)  
National Public Works Week (19-25)  
Memorial Day (27)\*

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

### Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

#### Administrator Mark Schouten

7105 N.W. 70th Ave.  
Camp Dodge, Bldg. W-4  
Johnston, Iowa 50131  
[www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov)  
Ph: 515.725.3231  
FAX 515.725.3260

#### 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.

**Secure & Prepared** is published for those involved in the homeland security/emergency management system in the state of Iowa. For more information, contact Stefanie Bond at [stefanie.bond@iowa.gov](mailto:stefanie.bond@iowa.gov).

#### NEWS TEAM

Stefanie Bond  
Laura Carlson  
Katie Ewing  
Beth Lewis  
Amy Meston  
Lucinda Robertson  
Nick Smith  
Kathy Stodola