



# Secure & Prepared

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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## Iowa receives third Presidential Disaster Declaration for 2013 Governor requests a fourth declaration for June flooding

On July 2, Iowa received its third Presidential Disaster Declaration for 2013. This declaration was for 47 counties impacted by severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that began May 19, 2013.

The counties included in the July 2 declaration are: Appanoose, Benton, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Butler, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Clay, Clayton, Crawford, Davis, Delaware, Des Moines, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Greene, Grundy, Hardin, Henry, Ida, Iowa, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Lyon, Mahaska, Marshall, Mitchell, Monona, Monroe, O'Brien, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Poweshiek, Sac, Sioux, Story, Tama, Wapello, Webster, Winnebago, and Wright.

The governor made the request for the declaration on June 19 in response to significant damage that was caused by heavy



**Recent flooding damaged this bridge located in Story County.**

rains, thunderstorms and flooding in those counties between May 19 and June 14, 2013.

The declaration by the president provides federal funding to the declared counties under the Public Assistance Program. A Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance puts into motion long-term federal recovery programs, some of

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## HSEMD employees receive Governor's Volunteer Award

Four HSEMD employees were recent recipients of a 2013 Governor's Volunteer Award.

Janet Riley, Laura Carlson, Susan Dixon and Beth Lewis are members of a team that raised \$1,675, primarily for the Food Bank of Iowa. The team received the Governor's Volunteer award in a special recognition ceremony held in Pleasant Hill in June.



**(From left) Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, Janet Riley (HSEMD), Dawn Baumunk (DPD), Laura Carlson (HSEMD), Missy Miller (IDVA), Susan Dixon (HSEMD), Beth Lewis (HSEMD), and Governor Terry Branstad.**

The volunteer group is comprised of employees from HSEMD, the Iowa Department of Public Defense and Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs. Since August of last year, the group's fundraising activities have included an ice cream sundae sale, bake sale, Toys for Tots drive and a spring clean-up challenge.

"Volunteerism is an important part of the state's future and

well-being," said Governor Terry Branstad, who, along with Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, presented the awards. "I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the people of our great state who continue the tradition of neighbor helping neighbor and work tirelessly to improve their communities. Collectively, Iowa's volun-

teers contribute to our ranking among the top three states in the nation for our volunteer rate."

The Governor's Volunteer Awards program was created in 1982 and honors volunteers in government, nonprofit and charitable organizations. Ω

## Presidential disaster declaration

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which are matched by state programs, and designed to help public entities and select non-profits.

Public Assistance funds may be used for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities and may include debris removal, emergency protective measures, repair of damaged public property, loans needed by communities for essential government functions and grants for public schools.

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.

On July 18, Governor Branstad requested that President Obama grant a fourth Presidential Disaster Declaration for 10 counties impacted by flooding June 21-28.

Two earlier declarations were awarded on May 31 for 19 counties impacted by severe weather during the period of April 17-30, and on May 6 for five counties that were affected by severe weather April 9-11. Both of these earlier declarations provide federal funding under the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation programs.

For more information on disasters, visit [www.homesecurity.iowa.gov](http://www.homesecurity.iowa.gov). Ω

# Let's Tackle Preparedness in September

For many, September means football. It's also a perfect time to tackle preparedness.

Each September, Iowa, and much of the nation, promotes emergency preparedness through Preparedness Month activities. This September, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Safeguard Iowa Partnership and the Iowa Emergency Management Association will be launching the "Let's Tackle Preparedness" campaign to give Iowans the tools they need to be more prepared for emergencies and disasters.

Throughout the month of September, citizens and businesses will have the opportunity to learn about the easy steps they can take to be more prepared at home and at work. Tyler Sash, an Oskaloosa native and National Football

League player, is serving as a spokesman for "Let's Tackle Preparedness," sharing his message on the importance of being prepared on and off the field.

You can join the team now by following Let's Tackle Preparedness on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/letstacklepreparedness](http://www.facebook.com/letstacklepreparedness)), Instagram (<http://instagram.com/letstacklepreparedness#>) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/tklpreparedness](http://www.twitter.com/tklpreparedness)).

Watch the Be Ready Iowa website ([www.beready.iowa.gov](http://www.beready.iowa.gov)) for information and updates beginning Aug. 1.

Iowa's Preparedness Month is held in conjunction with National



**"Let's Tackle Preparedness" spokesman Tyler Sash, as he records a public service announcement for Iowa Preparedness Month.**

Preparedness Month, which was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in response to the September 11, 2001, in an effort to educate the public on how to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Ω

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## Iowa's hazard mitigation efforts result in millions of dollars of avoided losses

Hazard mitigation has been a top priority of HSEMD for many years. The investment in hazard mitigation can clearly be seen by examining the effect of property acquisition projects that have been undertaken in the past 20 years.

Since 1993, through hazard mitigation programs, 2,579 structures in 45 of Iowa's counties have been removed from flood hazard areas at a cost of \$154 million. A loss avoidance analysis done by HSEMD hazard mitigation staff

in June shows that actual damage avoided as a result of these property acquisitions to date totals \$168 million. HSEMD staff calculated the avoided loss using recorded flood levels and property records.

So far in 2013, more than 900 properties that were removed from flood hazard areas would have been impacted by this year's flooding. The approximate amount of damage avoided just from this year's flooding is more than \$38.4 million.

"The use of federal, state and local funding to complete projects to remove structures and citizens from high-hazard flood areas is not always the easy thing to do," said Dennis Harper, HSEMD Hazard Mitigation Program supervisor. "But these efforts are yielding huge financial benefits in terms of avoided damage and maybe just as notable, these projects are reducing the number of Iowa citizens and communities at risk to future flooding events." Ω

# 10th Annual Iowa Homeland Security Conference will feature speakers on variety of topics

The 10th Annual Iowa Homeland Security Conference will be held Oct. 8-9, 2013, at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center at Veteran's Memorial in downtown Des Moines.

As in past years, we have many great speakers lined up on a variety of topics, including Professor Dean Alexander,



**Dean Alexander**

director of the Homeland Security Research Program at Western Illinois University. Professor Alexander will speak on the implications of extremism and terrorism in families, as evidenced in the Tsarnaev brothers who have been implicated in the Boston Marathon terrorist attack and related incidents. His presentation will focus on the global trend of family-affiliated extremism and terrorism, and he will discuss how the intelligence community, first responders and private security can better prepare for and respond to this phenomenon.

Legal issues and disasters will be discussed by Angelyn Spaulding Flowers, professor and graduate program director for the Homeland Security Program at the University

of the District of Columbia. Emergency managers, planners, first responders and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters will be

empowered with the planning and management-level skills they need to identify key legal issues and potential liabilities that typically arise during emergencies. Using a case study approach, participants will examine legal issues surrounding selected emergency management challenges, be introduced to relevant legal guidance and emerging trends, and through discussion with other participants gain a sense of the larger operational and policy constraints faced by those involved in emergency planning, response and recovery.

Stephanie Brady, director of programs with The Independent Living Center in Joplin Mo., will provide information regarding regulations and best practices for supporting the needs of people with



**Angelyn Spaulding Flowers**



**Stephanie Brady**

access and functional needs in shelters. Brady will also discuss the whole community approach to emergency management, current regulations for emergency shelters and community collaborations to ensure effective planning.

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 on the use of social media for disaster response and recovery will be offered. Registration for this training is available at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>.

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

## **Register now!**

Registration for the 10th Annual Homeland Security Conference is now available online! Visit <http://hsemdconference.iowa.gov/> to secure your spot now! Ω



# FEMA Corps has arrived in Iowa!

In 2012, the White House announced an innovative partnership between the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to establish a FEMA-devoted unit of 1,600 service corps members within AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) solely devoted to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

Although these teams have been deployed by FEMA all over the country to various disasters, Iowa is the first state to specifically invite FEMA Corps teams to assist with state disaster recovery efforts and is striving to serve as a model for other states in using this valuable resource.

On June 24, 2013, the Green 4 Individual Assistance team arrived from the AmeriCorps NCCC FEMA Corps Pacific Region. HSEMD is partnering with FEMA Region VII to conduct a service project in which FEMA Corps volunteers will identify potential disaster recovery center sites on behalf of local emergency management agencies within HSEMD Planning District 6 in eastern Iowa.

The Glacier 5 Public Assistance Team from the AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region arrived on July 10, 2013, and has been assigned to assist the City of Cedar Rapids



**Members of FEMA Corps Glacier 5 Public Assistance Team receive instruction at Seminole Valley Farm Museum in Cedar Rapids.**

in gathering and organizing documentation for the closeout process for the 2008 flooding disaster, DR-1763. They are currently focusing on projects associated with the city's parks and recreation department.

Both teams of eight are being housed in Vinton, Iowa, at the former Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School. This facility currently serves as the AmeriCorps North Central Region campus, one of five regional NCCC centers in the United States. Team members range in age from 19 to 25 and come from as far as Alaska and Massachusetts. Members of the teams have embraced the Iowa culture, enjoying farmer's markets, summer festivals and participating in local events. They have taken up Governor Branstad's Get Fit Iowa Challenge and will be volunteering and participating in

the July 20 Hard Charge obstacle course event in Cedar Rapids as a team building exercise.

FEMA Corps members serve for a 10-month term with an option to extend for a second year. The program will prepare thousands of young people for careers in emergency management and related fields. During their service, they gain significant training and experience in disaster services and provide important support to disaster survivors. Members perform at least 1,700 hours of service during their term, receiving a stipend for living expenses and educational benefits of \$5,500 that may be used for tuition or to pay off college loans.

**Submitted by Justine Zimmerman, HSEMD Recovery Bureau Public Assistance lead. Ω**

# Training opportunities

## 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**.

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## Safe Schools

**When:** July 30  
9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Where:** Buena Vista University  
Schaller Memorial Chapel  
610 W. Fourth St.  
Storm Lake

Join the Storm Lake Police Department and Iowa LEIN Region 1 Information Sharing Office in welcoming Lt. Col. Dave Grossman for a free full-day presentation of “Safe Schools.”

Intended audience includes school staff and educators, emergency managers, campus security, fire, and EMS personnel.

For more information contact **Michelle Skaff** at **712.899.3757** or [miskaff@sioux-city.org](mailto:miskaff@sioux-city.org).



## 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**.

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## Critical Employee Emergency Planning

**When:** Sept. 17  
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Burlington  
Memorial Auditorium  
200 Front St.  
Burlington

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**.

## ICS 300-Intermediate

**When:** Sept. 17-18  
8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
**Where:** Lady Luck Casino  
100 Anti-Monopoly St.  
Lone Wolf Room  
Marquette

Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>. For more information, contact: **Steve Warren** at [steve.warren@iowa.gov](mailto:steve.warren@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3201**, **John Halbrook** at [john.halbrook@iowa.gov](mailto:john.halbrook@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3280** or **Beth Lewis** at [beth.lewis@iowa.gov](mailto:beth.lewis@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3204**.

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## ICS 400-Intermediate

**When:** Sept. 19-20  
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Lady Luck Casino  
100 Anti-Monopoly St.  
Lone Wolf Room  
Marquette

Register at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>. For more information, contact: **Steve Warren** at [steve.warren@iowa.gov](mailto:steve.warren@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3201**, **John Halbrook** at [john.halbrook@iowa.gov](mailto:john.halbrook@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3280** or **Beth Lewis** at [beth.lewis@iowa.gov](mailto:beth.lewis@iowa.gov) or **515.725.3204**. Ω

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### 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

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## HSEMD news

### HSEMD becomes a department

On July 1, the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division officially became the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

This change came as the result of legislation signed into law by the governor to make HSEMD a stand-alone department instead of a division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense.

### Staff departures

Doug Rossell is leaving the HSEMD Grants and Financial

Management Division in August to work for the Iowa Department of Public Defense as an anti-terrorism/force protection officer.

Patrick Antonen, HSEMD Recovery Division, is departing HSEMD in August to serve as the city administrator in Centerville, Iowa.

Mike Raes is leaving the HSEMD Grants and Financial Management Division in August to take a position with the Child Support Recovery Unit of the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Best wishes to all! Ω

## New NWS forecast tool

A new product from the National Weather Service (NWS) will allow users to define their own area forecast.

Jeff Johnson, warning coordination meteorologist with NWS Des Moines, said this tool is ideal for emergency managers and for radio stations that need to create forecasts for specific areas.

The area forecast comes from the National Digital Forecast Database, which is created by the NWS. This is the same database used for the "point and click" forecast available on NWS websites. Johnson said NWS offices create the data for their forecast area. The area forecast tool is available at [www.nws.noaa.gov/wtf/udaf/area/](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/wtf/udaf/area/). Ω

### ON THE CALENDAR

#### JULY

National Fireworks Safety Month

#### AUGUST

National Immunization Awareness Month

#### SEPTEMBER

Iowa Preparedness Month  
National Preparedness Month  
Labor Day\* (2)

#### OCTOBER

Cyber-Security Awareness Month  
Crime Prevention Month  
National Fire Prevention Week (6-12)  
HSEMD Annual Conference (8-9)  
America's Safe Schools Week (20-26)

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