



Secure & Prepared

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

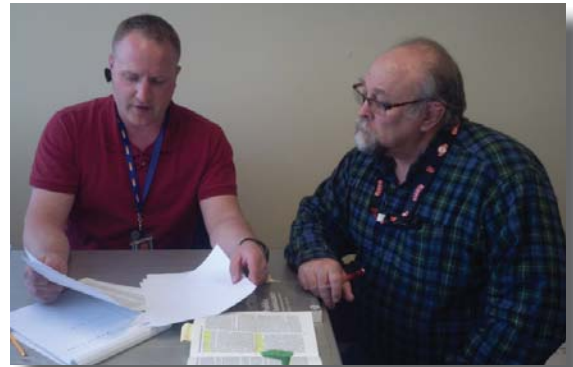
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HSEMD sends three employees to assist in Colorado disaster recovery efforts

Three employees of the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) are assisting the State of Colorado in its recovery from severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides that impacted portions of that state last September.

Through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) the State of Colorado recently requested staff to help state and local governments, and some nonprofit organizations, as they work to repair damaged infrastructure through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Program. HSEMD answered Colorado's request for help and sent three of its staff who have expertise in the Public Assistance Program.



HSEMD's Jordan Moser works with FEMA quality control staff in Colorado.

Jill Smith, Jordan Moser and Bob Lagneaux, who all are members of the HSEMD Recovery Division's Public Assistance Bureau, arrived in Colorado in early January. They have performed a variety of duties during this assignment, including: oversight of and guidance for applicants on required, and some-

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HSEMD employees assist in Colorado

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times complex, paperwork for projects; providing training on the Public Assistance Program to staff of the Colorado Office of Emergency Management; and helping guide impacted entities through the rebuilding process. Moser and Lagneaux will continue their work in Colorado through early March, while Smith will return to Iowa for a short time before going back to Colorado for another one-month deployment.

“The many disasters we have had in the state of Iowa have resulted in a core cadre of HSEMD staff with a great deal of knowledge in disaster recovery,” said Recovery Division Administrator Pat Hall. “We’re pleased that we can share this knowledge to help other states.”

In addition, Joyce Flinn, HSEMD’s Operations Division administrator, has served as chair of EMAC’s Executive Task Force (ETF) since March of 2013. As the ETF chair, Flinn oversees work on national policies that impact EMAC member states. Along with Flinn’s one-year service as the chair of the ETF, Iowa serves as the National Coordinating state for EMAC for one year. As the National Coordinating State, HSEMD serves as the initial point of contact for, and oversees coordination of, EMAC operational activities for disaster

response and recovery. Flinn and HSEMD will serve in these roles until March of 2014.

“As my term as EMAC ETF chair draws to an end, I’m honored to have had the opportunity to serve in this important role,” Flinn said. “Whether sharing best practices or providing critical resources during disaster response and recovery, EMAC provides the mechanism to truly engage and help other states.”

EMAC is administered by the National Emergency Management Association and facilitates the effective and efficient sharing of resources among member states when they are impacted by catastrophic disaster events. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands are members of EMAC. Iowa has been a member of EMAC since 1997. HSEMD and employees of other Iowa state agencies have provided assistance through EMAC for several disasters, including sending staff to New Jersey following Hurricane Sandy, Texas in response to Hurricane Ike, and North Dakota following record flooding in 2009.

For more information, visit www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/programs/emac_imac.html. Ω

Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 24-28

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) and the National Weather Service (NWS) are recognizing the week of March 24-28 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa.

The goal of Severe Weather Awareness Week is to provide Iowans a better understanding, and to increase awareness, of the state’s spring weather hazards.

The highlight of Severe Weather Awareness Week is the annual tornado drill, scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, at approximately 10 a.m. Schools, businesses, state and local governments, the military, and individuals are strongly encouraged to participate in the drill. Additional information on the tornado drill can be found on local NWS websites.

For each day during Severe Weather Awareness Week, a different subject will be highlighted:

Monday—Flash Floods
Tuesday—Weather Warnings
Wednesday—Tornadoes
Thursday—Severe Thunderstorms
Friday—Family Preparedness

For more information about severe weather and family preparedness, visit www.BeReady.iowa.gov. Ω

City of Ames unveils its new emergency operations center

The City of Ames recently completed construction of its new emergency operations center (EOC), improving the city's capability to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

The EOC project was funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that was administered by the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD).

Ames Police Chief Charles Cychoz said on a day-to-day basis the EOC space will be used as a briefing area for the police department, a multi-media training room and as office space for department support staff. He said in the early stages of an emergency, the space is configured into the EOC so staff can monitor the situation and, if needed, "scale up" operations.

"Our citizens have come to expect a rapid and effective mobilization of emergency responses, timely communication, and orderly transition through the various stages of a large-scale emergency," Cychoz said. "An expanded EOC will improve our capability to prepare and respond to an incident."

A key feature of the EOC is the creation of a "smart classroom" that utilizes electronic communications, mapping, field monitoring, and reporting along with conferencing

and collaboration tools. The City of Ames worked closely with Iowa State University to ensure the new EOC's equipment and systems were compatible with those of the university to ensure continued collaboration between the two.

Work on the EOC began in the spring of 2013 and was completed in November. In addition to a \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the City of Ames provided an additional \$552,500 to cover the required grant match, and for additional remodeling and equipment outside of the scope of the EOC remodeling. HSEMD administered, and assisted the city in meeting the requirements of, the grant. HSEMD's Lisa Sexton worked closely with the City of Ames through all phases of the project.

Cychoz said they faced some challenges during the planning and construction bidding of the project, but the assistance from



In top photo, Ames Police Chief Charles Cychoz (left) and Ames Fire Chief Shawn Bayouth at the Jan. 31 open house unveiling the city's new EOC, pictured below.

HSEMD was invaluable. "In addition to the technical assistance we received on EOC capabilities, we found HSEMD and Lisa to be critical in our efforts to understand and comply with Department of Homeland Security expectations on this project," he said. Ω

Training opportunities

Social Media for Natural Disaster Response and Recovery (Two courses offered)

When: March 18, 2014
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Where: Iowa Western CC
2700 College Road
Council Bluffs

AND

When: March 20, 2014
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Where: Coralville Fire Station #1
1501 Fifth St.
Coralville

This course will provide the knowledge and skills in social media and its uses with current tools, methods, and models to properly make use of social media for crisis communication.

The target audience for this course includes government agency personnel, emergency management professionals, first responders, planners, non-profit organization personnel.

Register online at <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training>. For more information, contact: **Susan Green** (susan.green@iowa.gov) or **Beth Lewis** (beth.lewis@iowa.gov) at 515.725.3231.

Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents (PER-233)

When: March 24-25, 2014
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: Johnson County EOC
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

This course addresses medical preparedness for and response to blast effects through a combination of lectures, small group activities and tabletop participant exercises. Participants will gain an enhanced understanding and awareness of issues and considerations relating to bombing incidents.

To register, go to <http://jcema.eventbrite.com>. For more information, contact **Dave Wilson** at 319.356.6761.

Disaster Case Advocacy Training **NEW!**

When: March 25, 2014
1–4:30 p.m.
Where: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Family Life Center
8201 Aurora Ave.
Des Moines

Pastor Michael Stadie, program director for Lutheran Disaster Response, U.S., will provide training for those in the community who may be called upon to provide disaster case advocacy following a disaster.

Attendees will learn the principles and processes of disaster case advocacy, the role of a disaster case advocate and standard forms used for the process.

To register, go to <https://iavoad.communityos.org/cms/DisasterCaseAdvocacyTraining>. Registration deadline is March 10. For more information, contact **Tiffany Keimig** at 515.244.0320 or tmkeimig@iowacaa.com.

Wide Area Search (PER-213)

When: April 8-10, 2014
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Where: Johnson County EOC
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

This three-day course is applicable to jurisdictions that would need to conduct wide area searches due to a natural disaster or terrorist incident.

To register, go to <https://wideareasearch.eventbrite.com>.

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Training

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For more information, contact **Dave Wilson** at **319.356.6761**.

Public Information in an All-Hazards Incident (MGT-318)

When: April 21-22, 2014
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Where: Johnson County EOC
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

This course examines the role of public information in managing an all-hazards incident and provides practical training in crisis communication techniques. In such an incident, it is imperative that community leaders, incident managers, and public information officers are prepared to communicate with the public through the news and social media. The course focuses on the role of public information in incident management, the information needs of the public in a crisis, and the various means of effectively communicating through the news and social media.

To register, go to <https://jcema52.eventbrite.com>. For more information, contact **Dave Wilson** at **319.356.6761**. Ω

HSEMD legislative update

The 2014 session of the Iowa General Assembly is well under way. With the first funnel date, when House bills must be reported out of House committees and Senate bills must be reported out of Senate committees, being moved up a week to February 21, the flurry of activity as people try to keep bills alive, began earlier than normal.

HSEMD's two initiatives survived the first funnel. Senate File (SF) 2232/House Study Bill (HSB) 595 would create a statewide emergency messaging system that could be used by cities and counties at no cost. The governor recognized the benefit of a statewide system and increased HSEMD's departmental budget request to allow for state funding of such a system. The second initiative, House File (HF) 2362/Senate Study Bill (SSB) 3102, seeks to allow the governor to enter into interstate MOUs to be used during times when a localized response is needed and the situation does not rise to the level of an emergency proclamation.

The Department is also supporting several other bills. The first is HF 2043, which would allow townships to provide funding to support the purchase of outdoor warning systems. This bill is of keen interest to local emergency managers as they work to improve public alerting. Also, the Department is supportive of the governor's broadband access initiative, HSB 515.



John Benson

Finally HSEMD is supporting SF 376 which would allow architects to participate in disaster assessment teams that would supplement and aid local efforts during disasters.

Additionally, there are a variety of bills that reach into the homeland security and emergency management arena. SF 2034 seek to create a grant fund to support the building of tornado safe rooms for a variety of buildings. There are three bills dealing with the operation of drone aircraft. Finally, there are SF 2110 and HF 2075, which would appropriate funds to bolster the Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as it deals with rising propane costs brought on by the bitterly cold winter in Iowa.

As always, you can view these bills and get a better understanding of what is happening at the Capitol at www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx. Ω

National Weather Service offers spotter training

Each year, National Weather Service (NWS) meteorologists provide spotter training throughout Iowa.

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 are free of charge.

To find a spotter training class near you, visit the website for the Na-

tional Weather Service office that covers your area:

Des Moines NWS
www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/

La Crosse NWS
www.crh.noaa.gov/arx/

Omaha NWS
www.crh.noaa.gov/oax/

Quad Cities NWS
www.crh.noaa.gov/dvn/

Sioux Falls NWS
www.crh.noaa.gov/fsd/



Check back frequently as the NWS offices may update their training schedules.

For more information on severe weather, visit www.BeReady.iowa.gov. Ω

EMPG and HSGP application deadline is Feb. 28

Funding opportunities for the 2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) are posted online and the application period is open. **The deadline for submission is Feb. 28, 2014, at 5 p.m.**

EMPG and HSGP are funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Federal appropriations and funding opportunity announcements have not been announced this year. HSEMD is moving forward with the application phase per FEMA's recommendation for states to begin planning projects for 2014.

Information and resources for EMPG and HSGP are available within the specific funding opportunity posted at www.IowaGrants.gov. From the home screen, select



“Grant Opportunities,” then select the title of the funding opportunity you wish to access.

Eligible applicants for EMPG are Iowa emergency management commissions meeting criteria identified in Iowa Administrative Code 605-Chapter 7.7(1). For HSGP, eligible applicants include: state government agencies; county, city, municipal and tribal governments; school districts; councils of government and tribal councils; institutions of higher education (colleges, community colleges and universities); and nonprofit organizations, including hospitals.

For more information, contact [Tricia Boggs](mailto:tricia.boggs@iowa.gov) about EMPG, and [Annette Mansheim](mailto:annette.mansheim@iowa.gov) about HSGP, by email, or at **515-725-3231**. 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.

News Team

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HSEMD staff departures

Justine Zimmer has left HSEMD to work for the ACT Foundation. Justine had been with HSEMD since 2009 and was the Public Assistance lead in the area of historical preservation for the Recovery Division.

Emilie Dolphin has left HSEMD to be a stay-at-home mom. Emilie had worked on project close-outs for the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation programs. Emilie had been with HSEMD since 2010. Ω

Fire Prevention and Safety Grants application period is now open

The application period is now open for the FY 2013 Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants.

The primary goal is to reduce injury and prevent death among high-risk populations.

The FP&S grants, part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants, support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards.

The deadline to apply is March 21, 2014. To apply, and for more information, visit www.fema.gov/fire-prevention-safety-grants. Ω

ON THE CALENDAR

MARCH

American Red Cross Month
National Poison Prevention Week (16-22)
Severe Weather Awareness Week (24-28)

APRIL

Iowa and National 9-1-1 Education Month
National Volunteer Week (6-13)

More at www.beready.iowa.gov.