



Secure & Prepared

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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Ready Iowa Student initiative helps fifth graders be prepared for emergencies

Nearly 2,700 fifth-grade students from across Iowa are learning how to be prepared for emergencies and disasters through a new initiative sponsored by the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD).

Ready Iowa Student combines a turn-key preparedness curriculum with a starter emergency kit for students. The curriculum, Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP) was developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and made available for states to use in their training and public education efforts. HSEMD provided each participating student with a starter emergency kit that included a flash light and first aid kit.

"These kits are so meaningful to my students," said Elizabeth



Fifth-grade students from South Tama Middle School display the starter emergency supply kits they received as part of the Ready Iowa Student program.

Weitzell, fifth grade teacher, South Tama Middle School in Toledo, Iowa, which had 112 students participate in Ready Iowa Student.

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Student preparedness program

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“They are able to really grasp the idea of somewhere special to store items and what it means to be prepared not just scared. It was also a great step to get parents involved in activities from school in a meaningful way. What a great conversation starter.”

Diana Symanowicz, fifth grade teacher at Walnut Elementary School in Walnut, Iowa, said the program was of great value to her 11 students. “I really liked the program,” she said. “We tweaked it to fit our area and focused mostly on

what was important to take in the event of an emergency.”

Students from 52 schools statewide participated in the program. Many of the state’s local emergency managers partnered with participating schools to give students a local perspective on emergencies and to deliver the emergency supply kits to the schools.

Lucinda Robertson, HSEMD public information officer, said this is the first year the department has carried out a student prepared-

ness project of this kind. She said if funding is available, they hope to offer Ready Iowa Student again next year.

“We’re thrilled that so many teachers saw the value of helping their students learn and practice emergency preparedness,” said Robertson.

Robertson also commended FEMA for making the STEP curriculum available for states to use and for their great partnership in getting the STEP materials to the participating schools. Ω

Below, fifth-grade students from Walnut Elementary School, along with teacher Diana Symanowicz, show off the starter emergency supply kits they used for the Ready Iowa Student program. Right, students in Elizabeth Weitzell’s South Tama Middle School fifth grade class learns about emergency preparedness.



Governor Branstad issues proclamation of disaster emergency for Clinton County

On April 17, Governor Terry E. Branstad issued a proclamation of disaster emergency for Clinton County in response to severe weather that impacted the area on April 9.

The governor's proclamation allows state resources to be utilized to respond to and recover from the effects of the severe weather. In addition, the proclamation also

activates the Iowa Individual Assistance Program for Clinton County.

The **Iowa Individual Assistance Program** provides grants of up to \$5,000 for households with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or a maximum annual income of \$40,180, for a family of three. Grants are available for home or car repairs, replacement of clothing or food,

and for the expense of temporary housing. Original receipts are required for those seeking reimbursement for actual expenses related to storm recovery.

The grant application and instructions are available on the **Iowa Department of Human Services** website. Potential applicants have 45 days from the date of the proclamation to submit a claim. Ω

Focus on preparedness for emergencies during Older Americans Month

Each May, the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department for Health and Human Services, celebrates Older Americans Month to recognize older Americans for their contribution to the nation. It's also a perfect opportunity to remind older Iowans, their families, and their caregivers, how important it is to be prepared for emergencies and disasters.

Last year, a University of Iowa Public Health study showed that a great many older adults in the United States are not prepared for disasters and that they are more vulnerable when disasters hit.

Like all of us, older Iowans need to be aware of, and take action through, three simple steps to preparedness: being aware, making an emergency plan, and building an emergency supply kit. But

the senior members of our families and communities have additional considerations, including the need for transportation assistance and specialized medical equipment. Each should carefully examine their own personal needs and ensure those needs are able to be met during a disaster.

There are many resources available for older citizens with good information and ideas to make preparedness personal and tailored to the needs of each person.

Some resources:

- **Federal Emergency Management Agency**
- **Administration for Community Living**



- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

We urge everyone to talk with the senior members of their family and community about the need to be prepared and the steps they can take together.

For more information on personal preparedness, visit **HSEMD's Ready Iowa** website. Ω

Training opportunities

Intermediate ICS (ICS 300)

When: April 29-30, 2015
8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Where: Law Enforcement Center
4514 14th Ave. NE
Le Mars

Prerequisites: ICS-100, 200, 700, 800

Target audience: For those who would respond to an incident (command staff, section chiefs, unit leaders, division/group supervisors, branch directors, and multi-agency coordination system/emergency operations staff).

To register, visit [HSEMD's training website](#). Contact **Beth Lewis** at **515.725.3204** or beth.lewis@iowa.gov with any questions.

Snow Emergency Workshop

When: May 19, 2015
8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Where: North Iowa Area
Community College
Muse-Norris Conference
Center
500 College Dr.
Mason City

Who: Employees from a variety of disciplines, public sector, private

sector, nonprofits and associations, that would need to reach and respond to a winter weather situation.

What: Tabletop exercise to discuss roles and responsibilities while sharing plans and best practices.

Why: To coordinate with local partners to network and become better prepared for the next disaster.

To register, visit the [Safeguard Iowa Partnership](#) website.

HSEEP (L0146)

When: June 10-11, 2015
8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Where: Joint Forces Headquarters
6100 NW 78th Ave.
Johnston

Prerequisites: IS-120 Introduction to exercise. Additional recommended course: IS-130 Exercise, Evaluation, and Improvement Planning

This two-day intermediate-level course provides a comprehensive overview of HSEEP concepts. Using instructional and applied learning, participants will learn exercise management, design and development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning.

Target audience: Emergency management, law enforcement, EMS, fire services, government administration, health care, public health, public safety communications

Emergency Management Professional Development Course

When: June 23, 2015
9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Where: Polk County EOC
907 Carpenter Ave.
Des Moines

Delivered in a four-part series over a calendar year, the Emergency Management Professional Development course provides a comprehensive overview of the statutory requirements and professional duties of today's emergency manager. The course will benefit new and experienced emergency managers alike. Developed and delivered by practitioners in four separate six-hour sessions, the course is an opportunity for peer-to-peer learning through lecture as well as task-oriented coaching. Technical and soft skill development in the areas of administration, planning,

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Training opportunities

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resource management, training, and exercises is included. Sessions can be taken individually and in any sequence, however, all four sessions are required for a full-course certificate of completion.

Session Schedule

Winter: Governance, Communications and Warning, Public Education, Grants, and Professional Development

Early Spring: Governance, Resource Management, Direction and Control, Damage Assessment, Operations and Procedures, and Professional Development

Late Spring: Governance, Hazard Analysis, Planning, and Professional Development

Fall: Governance, Training, Exercises, Homeland Security, Budgeting, and Professional Development

To register, visit [HSEMD's training website](#). Contact **Beth Lewis** at **515.725.3204** or beth.lewis@iowa.gov with any questions.

A Shelter Story: Integrating Functional Needs Support Services into Emergency Shelter Plans

1 hour; online

The Upper Midwest Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center (UMPERLC) has recently released this new training. The course has been created by

UMPERLC in collaboration with the University of Iowa's Center for Disabilities and Development.

Goal: To master the knowledge and skills needed to collaborate with community stakeholders on integrating Functional Needs Support Services into local emergency shelter plans.

Audience: Emergency managers, planners, and mid-level public health professionals responsible for community preparedness

This video-based course tells the story of one community's efforts to improve its emergency shelter plans.

To register, for this course, visit: <http://go.prepareiowa.com/te>

HSEMD participates in FEMA's hazard mitigation pilot program

Earlier this year, Iowa became the second state in the nation to take part in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) pilot program that is streamlining the grant approval process.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: Program Administration by States (PAS) Pilot Program, provides states and tribes with increased oversight as they implement the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). PAS is part of

the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013, which directed FEMA to streamline HMGP activities and implement the program in a more timely manner. Florida is the only other state taking part in the program.

According to Dan Schmitz, deputy hazard mitigation officer, participation in the PAS program is enabling HSEMD staff to more quickly provide funding to communities. "It's more responsibility and coordina-

tion with FEMA for us, but it does speed up the process," he said. "By reviewing and approving project applications in-house, it allows FEMA to simply obligate the funding and eliminates the FEMA application review, allowing project work to begin sooner."

HSEMD is utilizing its EMGrants Pro, software that has automated the disaster recovery project process from application throughout close-out, to carry out the PAS program. Ω

ON THE CALENDAR

MAY

Older Americans' Month
Public Service Recognition Week (3-9)
National Nurse's Week (6-12)
National Police Week (10-16)
National EMS Week (17-23)
National Public Works Week (17-23)
Memorial Day (25)*

JUNE

National Safety Month
National CPR & AED Awareness Week (1-7)
Heat Awareness Day (11)
Lightning Safety Awareness Week (21-27)

JULY

National Fireworks Safety Month
Independence Day, observed (3)*

**State holiday. HSEMD offices will be closed on May 25 and July 3.*

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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

Kyle Karsjen, an operations officer with the Operations Division, left the department on March 26.

Kathy Bowers, a fiscal manager with the Planning and Finance Division, left HSEMD on April 23.

Kasi Fyfe, a project officer with the Recovery Division, left HSEMD on April 17.