The role we all play in community safety

As the world continues its dialogue about the horrific events that unfolded in Paris on Nov. 13, old wounds are opened, reminding us of the tragedy of 9/11. Many again speculate if such a hostile event could happen here in Iowa, and also, what mechanisms are in place to ensure that they don’t?

The reality is, those who wish to do us harm are constantly plotting, planning for additional opportunities that may or may not come. So what are we as Americans—as Iowans—to do?

If you witness any type of suspicious activity, it is wise to report such activity to your local law enforcement agency. An alert public helps to keep our communities safe. Suspicious activity is any observed behavior that could indicate terrorism or terrorism-related crime. This includes, but is not limited to:

Unusual items or situations. A vehicle is parked in an odd location, a package or some luggage is unattended, a window or door is open that is usually closed, or something else out of the ordinary.

Eliciting information. A person questions individuals at a level beyond curiosity about...
Community safety

Continued from Page 1

a building’s purpose, operations, security procedures and/or personnel, shift changes, etc.

Observation/surveillance. Someone pays unusual attention to facilities or buildings beyond a casual or professional interest. This includes extended loitering without explanation (particularly in concealed locations); unusual, repeated, and/or prolonged observation of a building (for example, with binoculars or video camera); taking notes or measurements; counting paces; sketching floor plans, etc.

While some of these activities may be innocent, it’s ultimately up to law enforcement to determine whether the behavior warrants investigation. Factors such as race, ethnicity, and/or religious affiliation are not suspicious.

When reporting suspicious activity, remember to describe specifically what you observed, including what you saw, when you saw it, where it occurred, and why it is suspicious.

It all boils down to one simple phrase: If you See Something, Say Something™. Call 9-1-1, and notify your local law enforcement.

Police, security guards, and other officials cannot be everywhere, all the time. In the end, it is up to all of us to protect our friends, our family, and our neighbors, as well as the community as a whole. Ω

North Iowa CERT raises $60K for new equipment

The North Iowa Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been extremely busy the past couple of months. Through some aggressive fund-raising by the team, they were able to raise nearly $60,000. With these funds they were able to purchase a new vehicle: a 2016 Ford F-350 four-door flatbed with a tommy lift, winch, flood lights and other accessories. The vehicle will be used as the frontline response vehicle for the team. It is capable of pulling any of the team’s 14 trailers and can carry several pallet-ized mission packages on the flatbed. The team also purchased folding animal cages of various sizes for the animal response team, which will enable the team to house up to 100 animals in a disaster shelter. The remaining funds that the team raised will be used to purchase additional cots for the mass care trailer.

Submitted by Steve O’Neil, Cerro Gordo County EMA

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Submitted by Steve O’Neil, Cerro Gordo County EMA
Training opportunities  December

Hospital Incident Command System (ICS) Forms

When: Dec. 1, 2015 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Where: Marshall County Sheriff  
2369 Jessup Ave. 
Marshalltown

Target audience: Health care personnel who have a responsibility in emergency preparedness/response efforts.

This course provides a comprehensive overview of how to interpret and correctly complete common ICS forms.

To register, visit HSEMD’s training website. Contact Beth Lewis at 515.725.3204 or beth.lewis@iowa.gov or Cristie Duric at 515.725.3243 or cristie.duric@iowa.gov with questions.

ALERRT Level 1

When: Dec. 14-15, 2015 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: 2300 Lincoln Way Clinton

This course is designed to prepare the first responder to isolate, distract and neutralize an active shooter. The course will cover shooting and moving, threshold evaluation, concepts and principles of team movement, improvised explosive devices, and post engagement priorities of work. The 16-hour course will culminate with dynamic “force on force” scenarios.

To register, please email your name, organization, contact information and class number to Amanda Pearson at emergencymanagement@clintoncounty-ia.gov by Nov. 9. For more information, call 563.242.5712.

Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS 300)

When: Dec. 15-16, 2015 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: Henry County EMA 900 West Washington Mt. Pleasant

Target audience: Individuals who may assume a supervisory role in expanding or Type 3 incidents.

This course provides training on and resources for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System. This course expands upon information covered in ICS 100 and 200.

To register, visit HSEMD’s training website. Contact Beth Lewis at 515.725.3204 or beth.lewis@iowa.gov or Cristie Duric at 515.725.3243 or cristie.duric@iowa.gov with questions.

Emergency Management Program Development, Session 4

When: Dec. 17, 2015 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: Polk County EOC 1907 Carpenter Ave. 
Des Moines

Target audience: New and experienced emergency managers.

This course is delivered in four sessions, and provides a comprehensive overview of the statutory requirements and professional duties of today’s emergency manager. Sessions can be taken in any sequence, however, all four sessions are required for a full course certificate.

To register, visit HSEMD’s training website. Contact Beth Lewis at 515.725.3204 or beth.lewis@iowa.gov or Cristie Duric at 515.725.3243 or cristie.duric@iowa.gov with questions.

Continued on Page 4...
Training opportunities

...Continued from Page 3

Sport Event Risk Management (AWR-167)

Where: Kinnick Stadium
825 Stadium Drive
Iowa City

Prerequisites: AWR-140. It is also recommended, but not required, that participants be certified hazardous material technicians.

Target audience: Secondary screeners such as law enforcement, EMS, fire service, governmental administrative, HazMat, health care, public health, public safety communications, public works, and other skilled personnel that provide immediate support services during prevention and deterrence of radiological/nuclear detection and interdiction operations.

Visit the Center for Radiological Nuclear Training at the Nevada National Security Site at http://www.ctosnnsa.org/pages/resident_calendar.htm for a full list of dates. Contact the registration desk at ctosreg@nv.doe.gov for more information or call 1.877.963.2867 or 702.295.3224.

Mitigation for Emergency Managers (G-393)

Where: Polk County EOC
1907 Carpenter Ave.
Des Moines

Prerequisites: IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800 are recommended.

Target audience: Secondary screeners such as law enforcement, EMS, fire service, governmental administrative, HazMat, health care, public health, public safety communications, public works, and other skilled personnel that provide immediate support services during prevention and deterrence of radiological/nuclear detection and interdiction operations.

Visit the Center for Radiological Nuclear Training at the Nevada National Security Site at http://www.ctosnnsa.org/pages/resident_calendar.htm for a full list of dates. Contact the registration desk at ctosreg@nv.doe.gov for more information or call 1.877.963.2867 or 702.295.3224.

In preparation for NCAA championship games and other events, Iowa HSEMD, Polk, Johnson, and Story county emergency management agencies, and the University of Iowa and Iowa State University are hosting a series of sport/special event courses offered by Texas A&M Engineering and Extension Service that focus on risk and incident management, and evacuation during major sporting events. Participation in all three courses (AWR-167, MGT-412, and MGT-440) is recommended, but not required. The courses are geared toward campus staff involved in athletics and facility management as well as local disciplines who have a role in emergency management.
Continued from Page 4

Target audience: State, local, and tribal government emergency program managers, other emergency management staff, and other local government employees responsible for mitigation.

This advanced professional series course focuses on mitigation activities fundamental to reducing and eliminating long-term risk from hazards, creating strategies for disaster-resilient communities, identifying local mitigation opportunities, selecting mitigation solutions to hazard risk problems, and finding resources to carry out mitigation activities in a post-disaster environment.

To register, visit HSEMD’s training website. Contact Beth Lewis at 515.725.3204 or beth.lewis@iowa.gov or Cristie Duric at 515.725.3243 or cristie.duric@iowa.gov with questions.

ICS Forms Review with Intermediate ICS (ICS-300)

When: Feb. 2-4, 2016 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: The Security Institute 4647 Stone Ave. Sioux City

Target audience: Emergency responders including other responder levels, command staff.

Prerequisites: IS-100, IS-200, ICS-700, and ICS-800

This course provides training for personnel who have a responsibility to function in a command post in managing an expanding incident.

You must have a student ID (SID) number to complete the TEEX application.

To register, visit HSEMD’s training website. Contact Beth Lewis at 515.725.3204 or beth.lewis@iowa.gov or Cristie Duric at 515.725.3243 or cristie.duric@iowa.gov with questions.

Volunteer & Donations Management (G288)

When: Feb. 4-5, 2016 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: ISU Extension Office 212 North I Street Oskaloosa

Target audience: Local elected officials, emergency coordinators, faith-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, public/private businesses, law enforcement, fire departments, health care officials.

The goal of this workshop is to learn key requirements for managing masses of unsolicited donated goods and large numbers of unaffiliated or “spontaneous” volunteers.

To register, visit HSEMD’s training website. Contact Beth Lewis at 515.725.3204 or beth.lewis@iowa.gov or Cristie Duric at 515.725.3243 or cristie.duric@iowa.gov with questions.

Sport & Special Event Evacuation, Training & Exercise (MGT-412)

When: Feb. 4-5, 2016 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: Iowa State University Jacobson Bldg. 1800 S. Fourth St. Ames

Target audience: Athletic facility administrators, campus police, emergency medical services, fire/hazmat, local emergency managers at Division I, II and III institutions.

Prerequisites: None. IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800 are recommended.

This course provides assistance to sport venue managers to prepare and/or enhance an evacuation plan to assist emergency responders in implementing flexible and scalable evacuation activities.

To register, visit HSEMD’s training website. Contact Beth Lewis at 515.725.3204 or beth.lewis@iowa.gov or Cristie Duric at 515.725.3243 or cristie.duric@iowa.gov with questions.
Social Media for Disaster Response and Recovery

When: Feb. 9 or Feb. 10, 2015 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: Kenny Anderson Community Center
3701 East Third St.
Sioux Falls, SD

This course focuses on the use of social media in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Participants are provided with the knowledge and skills to integrate social media into their current communication plans. The course defines social media and its uses and identifies the tools, methods, and models to properly make use of social media. Participants will need to bring a WiFi-enabled laptop, and have Twitter and Facebook accounts where they can post test messages.

To register, visit https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training. For registration assistance, contact Regan Smith at rsmith@siouxfalls.org or 605.367.8753.

Enhanced Sports & Special Events Incident Management (MGT-440)

When: Feb. 16-18, 2016 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: Polk County EOC
1907 Carpenter Ave.
Des Moines

Target audience: Athletic department, campus police, campus emergency management, campus administration, campus public information officers, campus health and safety, local elected officials, fire, emergency medical services, fire/hazmat, law enforcement, non-government agencies, public health, public works, state/federal agencies.

Prerequisites: None. AWR-167 and MGT-412 are recommended.

This three-day course provides assistance to sport venue managers to prepare and/or enhance an evacuation plan to assist emergency responders in implementing flexible and scalable evacuation activities.

To register, visit HSEMD’s training website. Contact Beth Lewis at 515.725.3204 or beth.lewis@iowa.gov or Cristie Duric at 515.725.3243 or cristie.duric@iowa.gov with questions.

Isolation & Quarantine for Rural Communities (MGT-433)

When: Feb. 25, 2016 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Where: REC Meeting Room
1502 W. South St.
Mt. Ayr

Prerequisites: U.S. citizenship. Students should also review Module 5 content and video prior to class. Click here to access the video.

Sponsored by Ringgold County Public Health, this four-hour management-level course is designed to provide small, rural, and remote communities with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to effectively plan for and respond to events that require isolation and/or
Final applications for both the FFY2016 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and the FFY2017 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grants are due by **Friday, Dec. 18, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. Central time.**

If you have any question regarding your EMPG application, please contact Tricia Boggs at tricia.boggs@iowa.gov.

If you have any questions regarding your HMEP application, please contact Lisa Sexton at lisa.sexton@iowa.gov.

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**Johnson County volunteers use new equipment**

The Johnson County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) team took some time recently to train with some new equipment. The team practiced using multi-frequency radios and other gear. The equipment was purchased for three state-wide interoperability trailers using grant funding from Iowa HSEMD. The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board oversees the units. Photos here were taken by Kyle Olin.

*Submitted by Dave Wilson, Johnson County EMA*

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**EMPG, HMEP applications due in December**

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**ON THE CALENDAR**

**DECEMBER**

- International Day of Persons with Disability (3)
- Christmas Day (25)*

**JANUARY**

- National Radon Action Month
- National Volunteer Blood Donor Month
- New Years’ Day (1)
- Hazardous Materials Awareness Week (17-23)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (18)*

*State holiday. HSEMD offices will be closed.*
Training opportunities

...Continued from Page 6
quarantine of their populations in a variety of low- and high-impact situations.

Please click here to register by Feb. 11, 2016. If you have any questions regarding the local jurisdiction or need directions to the facility, contact Becky Fletchall at bfletchall@rcph.net or 641.464.0691.

Rural Isolation & Quarantine Planning for Public Health & Healthcare Professionals (PER-308)

When: Feb. 25, 2016 1:30–5 p.m.
Where: REC Meeting Room 1502 W. South St. Mt. Ayr

Prerequisites: MGT-433

Sponsored by Ringgold County Public Health, this four-hour management-level course is designed to expand on concepts introduced in MGT-433, and consists of two customized training modules specifically tailored toward course participants in the public health and medical fields. In this session, participants will become familiar with guidance that assists communities in planning for isolation and quarantine, such as the National Response Plan and its implications in the healthcare community.

Please click here to register by Feb. 11, 2016. If you have any questions regarding the local jurisdiction or need directions to the facility, contact Becky Fletchall at bfletchall@rcph.net or 641.464.0691.

More Upcoming Courses

Registration open Dec. 1, 2015:

- AWR 213 Critical Infrastructure Security & Resilience
  March 8, 2016–Iowa City
- MGT 414 Advanced Critical Infrastructure Protection
  March 9, 2016–Iowa City
- MGT 310 THIRA
  March 30-31, 2016–Hampton

Registration open Jan. 25 2016:

- MGT 315 Critical Asset Risk Management
  April 12-13, 2016–Hampton
- ICS 400-Advanced
  April 12-13, 2016–Sioux City

Registration open Feb. 1, 2016:

- PER 334 Wide Area Search in Disasters
  April 27-28, 2016–Iowa City

Visit the HSEMD training website for information on and to register for additional training opportunities at http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/. Ω