Severe weather is just around the corner
Are you ready?

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) and the National Weather Service (NWS) will again join together to promote Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 21-25.

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 the week will be the annual tornado drill, scheduled for Wednesday, March 23. Schools, businesses, state and local governments, the military, and individuals are encouraged to participate in the drill. Additional information on the tornado drill can be found on local National Weather Service websites.

Visit www.berady.iowa.gov for information on Severe Weather Awareness Week and preparing for this spring’s severe weather. Ω
HSEMD exercise staff shares expertise in Kosovo

HSEMD’s Steve Warren had the opportunity recently to travel to Kosovo with members of the Iowa National Guard as part of the State Partnership Program from February 7-13. Warren, an operations officer and exercise training specialist with the department’s Operations Division, Response Bureau, joined the group to assist the Kosovo Security Force, Kosovo Police and the Ministry of Interior (emergency management) with the development of a five-year training and exercise plan as Kosovo continues to build its emergency management program.

During the week-long stay the Iowa representatives shared lessons learned from the recent Iowa National Guard 2016 Vigilant Guard exercise and explained the process to develop and conduct that exercise. Warren also shared HSEMD’s five-year training and exercise plan and explained the process of the workshops that are conducted each year on how to build and sustain a training and exercise plan.

Closing out the week, members of the Iowa National Guard and HSEMD briefed senior members of the Kosovo Security Force, Kosovo Police and Emergency Management Office on the emergency support functions that were selected by the different Kosovo agencies. They also discussed what exercises and trainings will be accomplished over the next five years with a full-scale exercise planned for 2020 involving many government agencies.

HSEMD chief of ops recognized for exceptional service

HSEMD Chief of Operations Joyce Flinn was recently recognized for her efforts and extraordinary support for the Iowa National Guard.

On Dec. 10, 2015, Maj. Gen. Timothy Orr presented Flinn with an award for exceptional service for her dedication to duty, expertise in emergency operations, keen advice and tireless support to the State of Iowa.

“I was surprised and pleased to receive this award,” said Flinn. “Supporting our state and local partners is just one area of my job I take very seriously. I’m honored to be recognized by Gen. Orr and our National Guard partners for those collaborative efforts.”

Congratulations to Joyce!
Training opportunities

Critical Infrastructure Security & Resilience Awareness (AWR-213)

When: March 8, 2016
8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: Johnson County EOC
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

Target audience: Public/private critical infrastructure owners, operators, and managers, government officials and managers, sector-specific agency managers.

This course will introduce participants to key terms, policy, guidance, and preparedness efforts required to safeguard the nation’s critical infrastructure.

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.

Advanced Critical Infrastructure Protection (MGT-414)

When: March 9, 2016
8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: Johnson County EOC
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

Target audience: Public/private critical infrastructure owners, operators, and managers

This course will enhance skills to manage the risk associated with critical infrastructure protection efforts.

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.

Population Monitoring for Community Response Centers (PER-332)

When: March 29, 2016
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Where: Johnson County EOC
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

This one-day course trains emergency responders to operate the radiological monitoring stations within their communities. Participants will learn to operate portal monitors, dosimetry, and various types of handheld monitors. Attendees are taught how to perform both vehicle and personnel monitoring.

Prerequisite: AWR-140.

To register, visit www.eventbrite.com and use the search function to find this course.

Jurisdictional THIRA (MGT-310)

When: March 30-31, 2016
8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: Franklin County EOC
105 Fifth St. SW
Hampton

Target audience: Law enforcement, fire, hazmat, EMS, public works, health care, public health, government agencies, public safety communications, elected officials, private sector officials.

This course will prepare participants to conduct a jurisdictional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA).

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.

WMD Radiological/Nuclear Responder Operations (PER-240)

When: March 30-April 1, 2016
8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: Johnson County EOC
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

Prerequisites: AWR-140 within the last three years

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This course combines individual performance skills required for the response to a radiological WMD incident, with the fundamentals of radiation, radiological health effects, and terrorist use of radiation and radiological material. Basic operation and techniques and tactical employment in realistic scenarios will be explored.

To register, click here, or contact Dave Wilson at 319.356.6761.

Critical Asset Risk Management (MGT-315)

When: April 12-13, 2016
8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Where: Franklin County EOC
105 Fifth St. SW
Hampton

Target audience: Law enforcement, fire, hazmat, EMS, public works, health care, public health, government agencies, public safety communications, elected officials, private sector officials.

This course will prepare participants to conduct a jurisdictional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA).

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.

Quad Cities Disaster Readiness Conference

When: April 7, 2016
8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Where: Waterfront Convention Center
2021 State St.
Bettendorf

What happens when disaster occurs in your community? Participants in this full-day event will gain insight from experts in the field as they discuss lessons learned from actual events and response efforts. Presentations will provide first-hand information to first responders, support agencies, businesses and nonprofits, community partners, and elected officials who will be responding, managing, and recovering from a large-scale disaster.

Register at http://goo.gl/forms/kaKrk7Xdux.

ICS Forms Review w/ICS 300

When: April 12-14, 2016
8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Where: The Security Institute
4647 Stone Ave.
Sioux City

Target audience: Emergency management responders to include other responder levels, command staff.

This course provides training and resources for personnel who have a responsibility to function in a command post in managing and

Prerequisites: ICS 100, 200, 700, 800

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.

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Training opportunities

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EOC Management & Operations (G-775)

When: April 19-20, 2016
8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: Franklin County EOC
105 Fifth St. SW
Hampton

Target audience: Emergency managers, first responders, public/private industry, volunteer organizations active in disasters.

Prerequisites: IS-701a is recommended

This course describes the role, design, and functions of emergency operations centers (EOCs) and their relationships as components of a multi-agency coordination system. This course is part of the Advanced Professional Series.

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.

Debris Management Planning (G-202)

When: April 26-28, 2016
8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: Black Hawk County EOC
1925 Newell St.
Waterloo

Target audience: Emergency managers, public works, finance and environmental officials.

This course is designed to help participants successfully plan for, respond to, and manage debris operations resulting from a debris-generating event.

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.

Search & Rescue in Community Disasters (PER-334)

When: April 27-28, 2016
8 a.m.–5 p.m. (27)
8 a.m.–12 p.m. (28)
Where: Johnson County EOC
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

Target audience: Religious organizations, fire, CERT teams, youth organizations, public/private sectors, emergency management.

Hands-on training will be used to demonstrate best practices for safe and effective search and rescue.

To register, visit www.eventbrite.com and use the search function to find this course. Ω
HSEMD crowns chili cook-off champ

HSEMD cooks recently put their culinary skills to the test at a chili and soup cookoff.

Several staff members cooked up their finest chili and soup recipes for judging by their coworkers at a Feb. 12 lunchtime potluck. Although the results were very close, Linda Roose, Hazard Mitigation Bureau safe rooms lead, took first place with her chili.

Congratulations to Linda and thanks to all who contributed to a good time. ∆

Linda Roose