



Secure & Prepared

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Volume 12, Issue 6

June/July 2016

Iowans urged to report suspicious activity

In the wake of recent violent acts in the United States and abroad, Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds have urged Iowans to pay attention to and report suspicious activity.

“The recent mass shooting in Orlando and other violent acts have underscored the importance of being vigilant and reporting suspicious behavior,” said Branstad at a June 20 press conference. “All Iowans can contribute to the safety of their communities, state and nation.”

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), along with the Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS) have joined together to increase public awareness of the “If You See Something, Say Something™” campaign, which is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In late June public service messages began airing on



radio stations throughout Iowa. The radio messages talk about what to watch out for and how citizens can report suspicious activity or behavior.

“This doesn’t mean we should stop living our lives, or live in fear,” said Branstad. “But we do need to pay more attention, and if we do see something, we need to speak up. As individuals, we can make a difference.”

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, suspicious activity is any ob-

Continued on Page 2...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Des Moines County completes IEMC.....2
Annual conference.....3
Training opportunities.....4

New HSEMD employee.....5
Preparedness Month.....5
On the Calendar.....5

Des Moines County completes Integrated Emergency Management Course

Representatives from a variety of Des Moines County agencies participated in FEMA's Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) the last week of June.

Des Moines County Emergency Management Coordinator Gina Hardin, along with 76 individuals from organizations throughout the county, took the course at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Md. The course, which lasts four days, is designed to place local emergency operations center personnel under realistic crisis situations within a structured learning environment.

During this course, participants

Continued on Page 3...



Des Moines County participants in the Integrated Emergency Management Course held at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Md.

Iowans urged to report suspicious activity as part of national campaign

...Continued from Page 1

served 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/luggage is unattended, a window/door is open that is usually closed, or other out-of-the-ordinary situations occur.

- Eliciting information: A person questions individuals at a level beyond curiosity about 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 (e.g., with binoculars or video camera); taking notes or measurements; counting paces; sketching floor plans, etc.

Some of these activities could be innocent—it's up to law enforcement to determine whether the behavior warrants investigation.

The activities above are not all-inclusive, but have been compiled based on studies of pre-operational aspects of both successful and thwarted terrorist events over several years.

"It is our responsibility as Americans to be vigilant and to act when we see something that isn't right, that could endanger the safety of our citizens and communities," said HSEMD Director Mark Schouten at the governor's June 20 press conference.

For additional information, visit www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov. Ω

Des Moines County completes Integrated Emergency Management Course

...Continued from Page 2

had the opportunity to test their response if a tornado were to tear through the city of Burlington, review emergency planning for a large-scale community event, and were provided training on public information dissemination, mass care situations, recovery operations, railroad safety, and much more.

“The fact that everyone was there together and got immersed in what we were doing was invaluable,” said Hardin. She said plans, policies and procedures at all levels were reviewed and tested as part of the course.

Participants in the course included elected officials and representa-

tives from hospitals, public health, law enforcement, educational institutions, volunteer groups, private organizations, and state agencies. Joyce Flinn represented HSEMD as a participant in the course. The Des Moines County delegation was also accompanied by three representatives from local media.

Hardin said EMI sent a representative to Des Moines County in March of this year to meet with her and other local responders to determine areas to address during the course. “The course was totally formatted around their needs based upon our local hazard analysis and FEMA’s core capabilities,” she explained.

“In Des Moines County we always work well together and have built good relationships over the years,” said Hardin. “By the end of this course we had built new relationships that will help us to work together even better in the future.”

Hardin applied for the course in January 2015 and her application was approved in June 2015. Des Moines County is one of only 10 entities that were chosen to participate in an IEMC this year. The jurisdiction had to agree to work together to improve its emergency management capabilities, correct any deficiencies noted in the exercise, and provide a written report to FEMA of actions taken or planned by December 2016. Ω

13th Annual Iowa Homeland Security Conference set for Oct. 12-13

The 13th Annual Iowa Homeland Security Conference will be Oct. 12-13, 2016. This year’s conference will be held at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center at Veteran’s Memorial, 833 Fifth Ave., Des Moines.

As in past years, the conference will feature a variety of speakers and opportunities to network with colleagues.

In addition to the conference, a free preconference workshop will be held Oct. 11. This year’s workshop will focus on leadership and decision making.

Early-bird registration is \$145. Starting Sept. 26, the registration fee is \$175. Registration includes parking fees (except for walk-ins).

Registration will be available soon. Get more information at www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov. Ω



HSEMD training opportunities

To register for these courses, visit [HSEMD's training website](#). Full details on each course are available here as well. Contact **Beth Lewis** at beth.lewis@iowa.gov or **Cristie Duric** at cristie.duric@iowa.gov with questions.

ALERT Active Shooter Response Level I

July 19-20, 2016 – Humboldt
Aug. 22-23, 2016 – Knoxville

ALERT Active Shooter Response Level II

July 21-22, 2016 – Humboldt
Aug. 24-25, 2016 – Knoxville

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Operations & Planning for All-Hazards Events

July 26-28, 2016 – Sioux City

Post Active Shooter - A Unified Response by Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS

July 27-29, 2016 – State Center
Aug. 1-3, 2016 – Storm Lake

Emergency Management Program Development Session #3

Aug. 4, 2016 – Des Moines

ICS 300 Intermediate

Aug. 27-28, 2016 – Nevada Ω

Other available training

Faith Readiness: An Emergency Preparedness Workshop for Faith Communities

July 26, 2016 – Bettendorf

To register, email **Dave Donovan** at dave.donovan@scottcountyiowa.com with "RSVP-Iowa" in subject line, and include participant name, organization, title, email address and phone number.

Post Active Shooter - A Unified Response by Law Enforcement, Fire, and EMS

July 20-22, 2016 – Charles City

To register, contact **Lezlie**



McCrabb at lmccrabb@floydcoia.org.

ALERT Active Shooter Response Level I

Aug. 1-2, 2016 – Calmar

To register, email **Sean Snyder** at ema@co.winneshiek.ia.us and include participant name, law enforcement agency name, cell phone number, and email address.

Emergency Management Standard Training

Aug. 2-3, 2016 – Lexington, Ky.
For more information contact **Lindsey Shafer** (859)244-8223 or lshafer@csg.org.

ALERT Active Shooter Response Level II

Aug. 3-4, 2016 – Calmar

To register, email **Sean Snyder** at ema@co.winneshiek.ia.us and include participant name, law enforcement agency name, cell phone number, and email address. Ω

HSEMD welcomes new employee

Jensen Connor joined the Operations Division of the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management on June 27. He is an information technology specialist and will work to create new, and enhance existing, GIS capabilities and resources while supporting projects. He will also provide technical support for the team.



Jensen Connor

Jensen came to HSEMD from the Iowa Soybean Association in Ankeny, where he worked as a GIS specialist. He attended Luther College in Decorah for his undergraduate degree, studying biology, geoscience and computer science. He then attended Saint Mary's University of Minnesota's graduate program in geographic information systems.

Jensen grew up on Whidbey Island, Wash., and came to the Midwest in 2008 for college. He and his wife, Katherine, live in Des Moines with their dog Kaeda. In his free time he enjoys hiking, kayaking, brewing beer, and hunting.

Welcome, Jensen! Ω

ON THE CALENDAR

JULY

- National Fireworks Safety Month
- Independence Day (4)*

SEPTEMBER

- National Preparedness Month
- Labor Day (5)*

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

September is National Preparedness Month



National Preparedness Month will soon be here!

Each September HSEMD and partner agencies remind Iowans of the importance of being prepared for emergencies and disasters.

Watch for additional information in the August issue of *Secure & Prepared* and at www.beready.iowa.gov. Ω

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management

7900 Hickman Road, Suite 500
Windsor Heights, Iowa 50324
Ph: 515.725.3231
FAX 515.725.3260
www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov

Director

Mark Schouten

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.

Connect with us on social media



Sign up for emergency alerts

