

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 5, 2011

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Contact: Governor's Office
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State of Iowa Joint Information Center Update

DES MOINES – This update is provided by the Joint Information Center at the State Emergency Operations Center. For comprehensive disaster-related information and resources, visit the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division website at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org.

Please note: The daily update has been newly restructured to include the multiple severe weather events affecting Iowa.

This release includes the latest updates for the following severe weather events:

- DR-1998 - Missouri River flooding
- Summer 2011 severe weather and wind storm events

MEDIA CONFERENCE CALLS

The next weekly media conference call will be held Aug. 10 at 3:30 p.m.

- Conference Call Dial-In Number – 1-800-645-8878
- Conference Code: 003252

Same conference call information to be used on each call.

OTHER INFORMATION

- **Donations:** Donations of items such as clothing, food, furniture, etc, are NOT needed at this time. If you want to help, cash is best. To donate cash, visit www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/CashDonations/Default2.aspx?ST=Iowa.
- **Volunteers:** Those wishing to volunteer in a disaster-related capacity may sign up to do so at www.volunteeriowa.org.
- **Scams:** Iowans should be aware of the potential for disaster-related scams and price gouging. For information, visit the Iowa Attorney General's website at: www.iowaAttorneyGeneral.gov.
- **Additional links**
 - Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division: www.iowahomelandsecurity.org.
 - Governor Branstad's flood page: <https://governor.iowa.gov/news/missouri-river-flooding>.

MISSOURI RIVER FLOODING

<http://iowahomelandsecurity.org/disasters/disaster2011.html>

DR-1998: May 25 - Continuing

- Counties: Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury
- Federal Public Assistance – All six counties
- **State** Individual Assistance – All six counties

News and Updates:

- **NEW – Iowa Federal Assistance Denied, Branstad to Appeal**
Governor Branstad was notified late yesterday by Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Craig Fugate that Iowa's request for activation of the Federal Individual Assistance Program for Fremont, Harrison, Monona, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury Counties has been denied.

"Obviously I am disappointed for the citizens in the impacted counties that my request was denied," said Gov. Branstad. "However, I intend to appeal this issue with FEMA based on the simple facts that the flood is still occurring and as the waters slowly recede, new damages will be revealed which will have further impacts to Iowans already fighting through this unprecedented flooding event."

The appeal of the decision by FEMA will be coordinated by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD). HSEMD Administrator Brigadier General Derek Hill indicated that the Division will be working closely with the local emergency management agencies to determine additional damages and impacts caused by the ongoing flood.

"It is incredibly important to the citizens along the Missouri River that we are successful in this appeal," said Hill. "The aid provided in the Individual Assistance program is a major piece of the puzzle that is needed to help Iowans recover from this flood."

- **NEW – State Individual Assistance Program Activated for Story County --**
Yesterday Governor Branstad signed a proclamation activating the State Individual Assistance Grant program for Story County in response to the severe windstorms that occurred in Story County on July 10 and 11. The program provides grants of up to \$5,000 to income-qualified households and is available to residents in the county. For an application, instructions and program guidelines, visit www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Assistance_Programs/CashAssistance/DisasterAssistance/StormHelp.html or select the "Storm Help" link on the front page of the Iowa Department of Human Services Website, www.dhs.iowa.gov.
- **State Individual Assistance Grant Program Available in Western Iowa –** Iowans affected by flooding in western Iowa may be qualified to receive assistance through the State Individual Assistance Grant Program. The program provides grants of up to \$5,000 to income-qualified households and is available to residents in Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont counties due to flooding in the Missouri River and its tributaries. For an application, instructions and program guidelines, visit

www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Assistance_Programs/CashAssistance/DisasterAssistance/StormHelp.html or select the “Storm Help” link on the front page of the Iowa Department of Human Services Website, www.dhs.iowa.gov.

- **Stay Aware, Be Prepared** – Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) reminds Iowans that flooding along the Missouri River is continuing, and river levels are projected to remain high for many more weeks. It is important that residents in threatened areas remain prepared in case conditions change. Keeping a bag packed with essential items and establishing a family evacuation plan will help Iowans be ready to evacuate if an order is given.

Shelter Summary – Iowa Shelters: On July 29, the American Red Cross opened a shelter at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 611 First Avenue in Council Bluffs. Numerous shelters remain on standby and are ready to receive residents if needed.

State Response Summary:

- **Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD)**
 - HSEMD continues to work closely with various local, state, federal, voluntary and faith-based organizations as well as private partners, and continues to field calls and provide assistance to local emergency management officials.
- **Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC)**
 - Inmates continue to provide the necessary labor to re-cover sun and heat deteriorated poly on Ditch 6 in Hamburg. They are also putting new poly down to further protect the levee.
- **Iowa Department of Public Health (DPH)**
 - DPH is regularly monitoring vector control and abatement issues.

SUMMER 2011 SEVERE WEATHER AND WIND STORM EVENTS

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/disasters/storm2011.html

June 26: Severe Storms

- **State Individual Assistance:** Marion County

July 10-11: Severe Storms and Wind

- Governor’s Proclamation for Resources: Benton, Marshall, Story and Tama Counties
- **State Individual Assistance:** Benton, Marshall, Story, and Tama Counties

July 13: Severe Storms and Flooding

- **State Individual Assistance:** Dickinson County

July 27: Severe Storms and Flooding

- Governor’s Proclamation for Resources: Dubuque County
- **State Individual Assistance:** Dubuque County

Please note: The July 10-11, July 13, and July 27 weather events occurred within the “July 9 and continuing” incident period.

News and Updates:

- **NEW – State Individual Assistance Grant Program Available** – Iowans affected by this storms and severe weather this summer may be qualified to receive assistance through the State Individual Assistance Grant Program. The program provides grants of up to \$5,000 to income-qualified households and is available to residents in Marion, Benton, Marshall, Tama, Story, Dickinson and Dubuque counties due to multiple severe weather events in June and July. For an application, instructions and program guidelines, visit www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Assistance_Programs/CashAssistance/DisasterAssistance/StormHelp.html or select the “Storm Help” link on the front page of the Iowa Department of Human Services Website, www.dhs.iowa.gov.
- **NEW – Governor Branstad to Request Presidential Declaration** – FEMA Region VII will be receiving a letter from Governor Branstad to President Obama requesting a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance for Benton, Clay, Dickinson, Dubuque, Jackson, Marshall, Story and Tama counties.

State Response Summary:

- **Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD)**
 - HSEMD continues to work closely with various local, state, federal, voluntary and faith-based organizations as well as private partners, and continues to field calls and provide assistance to local emergency management officials.
- **Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT)**
 - Debris removal assistance continues in Benton County.