

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Aug. 9, 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](http://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**

- **NEW – Returning to a flooded home.** As flood waters recede, residents will begin returning to their homes. Iowa State University Extension has a great deal of clean-up information on their website, including tips on assessing and repairing a flood-damaged home, hiring a contractor after a disaster, testing water from private wells, how to clean up mold and avoid air quality problems. Visit [www.extension.iastate.edu/topic/recovering-disasters](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/topic/recovering-disasters) and click the “Clean Up” tab for details.
- **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](http://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](http://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](http://www.iowaAttorneyGeneral.gov).
- **Additional links**
  - Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division: [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org).

- Governor Branstad's flood page: <https://governor.iowa.gov/news/missouri-river-flooding>.

### **MISSOURI RIVER FLOODING**

[www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/disasters/disaster2011.html](http://www.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:**

- **Iowa Federal Individual Assistance Denied, Will Request Extension for Appeal**  
Governor Branstad was notified Aug. 4 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 was denied.

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.

The State of Iowa has 30 days to appeal FEMA's denial of the Individual Assistance Program. However, since the flood water will recede slowly, HSEMD will be asking FEMA for an extension so it may include damages that surface beyond that 30-day time period.

- **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](http://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](http://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.

- **NEW – Fund Established to Help Mills County Citizens Affected by Flood**  
The Mills County Community Foundation has established the Mills County Flood Fund. To donate to help Mills County communities affected by the 2011 flood, visit [www.millscountyflood.org/index.php/flood-assistance](http://www.millscountyflood.org/index.php/flood-assistance).

**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 Commission on Volunteer Service**
  - Americorps has volunteers in Mills County assisting with disaster data collection and in Fremont County patrolling the levees.
- **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 Human Services (DHS)**
  - Iowa Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams continue to provide support in all Missouri River declared counties.

**SUMMER 2011 SEVERE WEATHER AND WIND STORM EVENTS**

[www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/disasters/storm2011.html](http://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:**

- **State Individual Assistance Grant Program Available** – Iowans affected by the 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 **Benton, Dickinson, Dubuque, Marion, Marshall, Story and Tama** 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](http://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](http://www.dhs.iowa.gov).
- **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 Corrections**
  - Providing inmate assistance for debris removal in Benton County.
- **Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT)**
  - Debris removal assistance continues in Benton County.

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