

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 11, 2011

Contact: State Joint Information Center
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Contact: Governor's Office
515-725-3518

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. 17, 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:

- **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.

- **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** – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has posted information on their website concerning disposal of sand and sandbags. The DNR provides guidance for cities, counties, residents and businesses. Visit <http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/SocialMediaPressRoom/DisasterAssistance.aspx>, scroll down the page and choose the "Sand and Sandbag Disposal" link. The DNR has a variety of useful information and resources at this site.

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

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 -- Gov. Branstad adds counties to request for Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance**

Governor Branstad has added additional counties to an earlier request to President Obama to declare a Major Disaster for Public Assistance in four counties.

Governor Branstad is now asking that Clay and Dickinson counties be included in a request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance for Benton, Marshall, Story and Tama counties. The Governor is making the request in response to the severe weather and windstorms that began on July 9 and continued through July 14. The windstorms caused widespread damage and resulted in large amounts of debris in the four counties.

A Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance puts into motion long-term federal recovery programs, some of which are matched by state programs, and designed to help public entities and select non-profits. Public Assistance funds may be used for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities and may include debris removal, emergency protective measures, repair of damaged public property, loans needed by communities for essential government functions and grants for public schools.

For more information, please visit www.governor.iowa.gov.

- **NEW - Gov. Branstad requests Major Disaster Declaration for Dubuque and Jackson Counties/Assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration requested for Dubuque County**

Governor Branstad has asked President Obama to declare a Major Disaster for Public Assistance for two Iowa counties. The two counties in the request are Dubuque and Jackson.

The Governor is making the request in response to the severe storms and torrential rains that impacted the area beginning July 27 through July 29.

A Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance puts into motion long-term federal recovery programs, some of which are matched by state programs, and designed to help public entities and select non-profits. Public Assistance funds may be used for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities and may include debris removal, emergency protective measures, repair of damaged public property, loans needed by communities for essential government functions and grants for public schools.

The State may ask for additional counties to be added if the damage warrants such a request.

In addition, the Governor is requesting that the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) grant a Physical Disaster Declaration for Dubuque County. A Physical Disaster Declaration would make available to Dubuque County residents the Disaster Loan Program, which would allow low-interest loans to be made available to those impacted by flash flooding that occurred July 27 and 28.

On Aug. 3, state, local and federal officials conducted a joint preliminary damage assessment along with representatives from the SBA and determined there was sufficient damage to homes and businesses to warrant a request for a Physical Disaster Declaration.

For more information, please visit www.governor.iowa.gov.

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 at the Benton County Conservation Nature Center.

- **Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT)**
 - Debris removal assistance continues in Benton County.

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