

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Aug. 17, 2011

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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**

**NEW** – Media conference calls have been suspended at this time.

### **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](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:

- **Gov. Branstad requests extended timeframe to appeal for Individual Assistance**  
Gov. Terry E. Branstad has requested an extension of the time period to appeal FEMA's decision to deny Individual Assistance to five Iowa counties impacted by Missouri River flooding.

On Aug. 4, 2011, Gov. Branstad received notification that FEMA had denied his request to make the Individual Assistance Program available to residents of Fremont, Harrison, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury counties. 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, the Governor is asking FEMA for an extension of the appeal to Nov. 15, 2011, so it may include damages that surface beyond that 30-day time period.

The appeal of the decision by FEMA will be coordinated by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, which will work closely with the local emergency management agencies to determine additional damages and impacts caused by the ongoing flooding.

The FEMA Individual Assistance Program is made available to homeowners, renters and businesses and can include grants and low-interest loans to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance or other aid programs.

- **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.
- **DNR Provides Sand and Sandbag Disposal Information**  
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 [www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/SocialMediaPressRoom/DisasterAssistance.aspx](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.

## 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 Human Services (DHS)**
  - Iowa Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams continue to provide support in 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:**

- **Small Business Administration Loans Available in Five Counties**

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced that low-interest federal disaster loans are available to Iowa residents and business owners affected by the severe storms and flash flooding that occurred July 27–28, 2011.

The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in the Iowa counties of Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson and Jones.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private, non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to homeowners and businesses to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the

disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Interest rates can be as low as 2.5 percent for homeowners and renters, 3 percent for private, non-profit organizations and 4 percent for businesses, with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based upon each applicant's financial condition.

Today through Aug. 26, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at a Disaster Loan Outreach Center to issue loan applications, explain the application process and assist individuals. The center will be open on the days and times indicated. No appointment is necessary.

Disaster Loan Outreach Center  
Federal Historic Building  
350 West 6th Street, 2nd Floor, Room 222  
Dubuque, IA 52001  
Dates of operation: Aug. 16-26  
Hours of operation: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling SBA toll-free at (800) 659-2955, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or visiting SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **Oct. 11, 2011**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **May 12, 2012**.

- **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](http://www.governor.iowa.gov).

- **Gov. Branstad requests Major Disaster Declaration for Dubuque and Jackson Counties**

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 27–29.

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.

For more information, please visit [www.governor.iowa.gov](http://www.governor.iowa.gov).

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