



# SECURE & PREPARED

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## Volume 6, Issue 16

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## Disaster Assistance Contacts

Contact information for state and federal disaster assistance, page 3.

## Office Closure

HSEMD offices will be closed Monday, September 6 in observance of Labor Day. Iowa State Patrol Dispatch will be taking emergency calls that come in via the Division's main number, 515.725.3231.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

## Presidential Disaster Declaration Brings Assistance to Iowa

President Obama has authorized a Presidential Disaster Declaration for areas of Iowa impacted by spring and summer flooding and severe weather. The declaration makes affected individuals, businesses, government and certain private nonprofit entities eligible to apply for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



*Intersection of Division and Wall Streets in Colfax, August 16, 2010. Photo by Jace Anderson, FEMA.*

### Assistance for Individuals and Businesses

Individuals and businesses in 32 counties are eligible to apply for Individual Assistance, which can include grants for temporary housing and

home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other

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## Iowa Receives Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Designation

On Aug. 24 Governor Chet Culver announced that U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack had designated 20 Iowa counties as disaster areas, making assistance available to agriculture producers in those counties, as well as 32 contiguous counties.

In July, Governor Culver sent a letter to Secretary Vilsack requesting his disaster designation as the result of severe storms and flooding that occurred from April 25 to July 18, 2010. The designation was made after assessments on crop and agriculture losses were done throughout the state.

The 20 primary counties included in the Secretarial Disaster Designation are Appanoose, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Des Moines, Fremont, Guthrie, Humboldt, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Lucas, Marion, Monroe, Ringgold, Taylor, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne and Woodbury.

The 32 contiguous counties included in the Secretarial Disaster Designation are Adair, Adams, Audubon, Carroll, Cass, Cherokee, Crawford, Dallas, Greene, Hancock, Henry, Ida, Iowa, Jasper, Kossuth, Louisa, Madison, Mahaska, Mills, Monona, Mont-

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# Presidential Disaster Declaration Brings Aid to Iowans

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programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

The counties included in the declaration are: Black Hawk, Cherokee, Clayton, Decatur, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Mahaska, Marion, O'Brien, Osceola, Polk, Ringgold, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Union, Warren, Webster and Wright.

To register with FEMA, call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for hearing/speech impaired. Or go to [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) to register 24 hours a day/7 days per week.

Three Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) have opened to offer assistance to registrants:

- Des Moines-1740 Garfield Ave.
- Colfax-114 N. Walnut
- Oskaloosa-Corner of 3rd and 11th Streets

Applicants are encouraged to complete registration online or via telephone prior to visiting the DRC. Additional DRCs will open as locations are finalized.



**The Ames Target store was inundated by flooding of the Squaw Creek. Photo by Jace Anderson, FEMA.**

In addition, residents in several Iowa counties can apply for the State Individual Assistance Program. For more information on that program, visit [www.dhs.state.ia.us](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us) and select the Storm Help link.

## Assistance for Governments and Non-Profit Organizations

Currently, 57 counties are included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance. The Public Assistance Program, administered by HSEMD and funded by FEMA, is designed to help state

and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations recover from disaster. Private nonprofits may qualify for assistance to restore certain types of facilities, including educational, utility, emergency, medical, custodial care and other facilities that provide essential government types of services. The Public Assistance Program provides aid to rebuild damaged infrastructure such as roads and bridges and other public facilities, or to cover the costs of debris removal or emergency work during storms. Ω

## Disaster Unemployment Assistance Now Available

Iowans living or working in the 32 counties declared presidential disaster areas for Individual Assistance may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits under the federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance program.

Claims need to be filed by September 17, 2010. The benefits cover self-employed workers not usually entitled to unemployment insurance, including Iowa farmers. People applying for DUA need to provide proof of past earnings,

such as business records or bank statements and their most recent income tax form, at the time they file their claim.

Any Iowa Workforce Development Center can accept DUA claims. Ω

## New Program Helps Iowans Impacted by Disasters

Governor Culver recently rolled out the “Iowans Helping Iowans” flood assistance program, meant to help families and businesses get back on their feet after this summer’s floods.

Up to \$7.5 million will be provided for homeowner assistance, up to \$7.5 million for business assistance, and up to \$5 million for unmet needs totaling up to \$20 million.

Who is eligible for Iowans Helping Iowans program:  
Anyone affected by the natural disasters in a county that has been Presidentially Declared for Indi-

vidual Assistance is eligible for the “Iowans Helping Iowans” program.

Homeowners must first register with FEMA and be awarded some form of FEMA housing assistance to be eligible for “Iowans Helping Iowans”. Businesses must first be approved for a disaster-related loan by eligible lender, including conventional lenders, to be eligible for “Iowans Helping Iowans”.

Register for FEMA assistance online at **www.DisasterAssistance.gov** or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. Hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Ω

## Disaster Food Assistance Available

*Deadline to apply is Aug. 30*

People who have experienced storm-related expenses may be eligible for disaster food assistance even if they do not qualify for the regular food stamp program.

Unlike the regular food assistance program, formerly known as food stamps, the emergency program provides a single benefit that is not renewable.

Benefits are determined by household size. The benefit for a family of four is \$668, for example. For a two-member household, the emergency benefit is \$367.

Benefits are available only for residents in the 32 counties declared presidential disaster areas for Individual Assistance.

**Applications will be accepted Aug. 25 through Aug. 30 at:**

- Any county DHS office that is normally open full time. Regular office hours apply. Applicants may apply at offices outside their county of residence.
- DHS part-time county offices. Monitor local media for schedules.
- Federal disaster recovery centers.

For more information, contact your local Iowa DHS office: **www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Find\_Help/MapLocations.html**. Ω

## Disaster Assistance Contacts

### FEMA Individual Assistance Program

1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for hearing/speech impaired

Online: **www.disasterassistance.gov**

### State Individual Assistance Program

1.866.434.4692

Online: **www.dhs.state.ia.us** and select the Storm Help link.

### Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Find your local Iowa Workforce Development Center at **www.iowaworkforce.org**, select Office Contact Information

### Food Assistance Program

Find your local Iowa Department of Human Services Office at **www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Find\_Help/MapLocations.html**

### Agriculture Assistance

Farm operators should contact their local Farm Service Agency at **www.fsa.usda.gov**, select State Offices link

To apply for assistance for damage to primary residence under FEMA Individual Assistance Program 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for hearing/speech impaired  
Online: **www.disasterassistance.gov**. Ω

## Dickinson County Proves it is StormReady!

Dickinson County received national recognition recently for preparedness efforts it has made through the StormReady Program.

Through StormReady, an initiative of the National Weather Service, communities become better prepared through planning, education and awareness. Dickinson County was cited on StormReady's national Web site after a July 17, 2010, storm struck the county with no resulting injuries or loss of life.

A community or county has to meet a number of requirements to be recognized as StormReady, including having multiple methods of receiving severe weather forecasts and warnings and providing alerts to the public. For Dickinson County, a new outdoor warning siren, part of a multi-year siren project, that had been installed just hours

before the July 17 storm, provided warning to residents as winds of nearly 100 mph were headed toward the area.

"I credit the National Weather Service's fifteen-plus minute lead time on their warnings, the NOAA weather radio system, the outdoor warning sirens, local media outlets and our storm spotters for the fact that despite the large number of visitors we had in the Iowa Great Lakes area that weekend, no injuries were reported," said Dickinson County Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Ehret.

Dickinson County received its initial StormReady designation in 2005.

See the Dickinson County StormReady story at [www.stormready.noaa.gov/success-iowa.htm](http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/success-iowa.htm). Ω

## Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council Recognized for Recovery Work

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) was recognized in July for the work it had done during recovery from the 2008 disaster. The IDHRC received a certificate of appreciation during the presentation of the Rebuild Iowa Awards, which were presented to individuals and organizations by the Rebuild Iowa Office and Governor Culver.

In addition, the IDHRC received a Governor's Volunteer Award for its disaster recovery work. The awards program, created in 1982, honors volunteers for their commit-

ment, service and time.

Individual members of the IDHRC were also recognized with a Governor's Volunteer award, including NECHAMA, Jewish Response to Disaster, Valley Disaster Relief, and Marla Potts with the Iowa Interfaith Disaster Recovery Network and past co-chair of the IDHRC.

In May, the IDHRC received the 2010 State/Territory Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster of the Year Award for its work following the tornadoes and floods of 2008. Ω

## Training for EHP Rescheduled to October

Trainings for Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) have been rescheduled.

Dates and Locations:

October 5, 1–3:30 p.m. Camp Dodge Theater, Bldg. B-58, 7105 N.W. 70th Ave., Johnston

October 6, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Pottawattamie County Courthouse, 227 S. 6th St., Suite 23-B Council Bluffs

October 7, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Johnson County EOC, 4529 Melrose Ave., Iowa City

WHAT: Technical Assistance provided by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Environmental Protection Agency.

WHY: DHS/FEMA requires a compliance review process to ensure proposed projects comply with applicable federal EHP laws, regulations, and executive orders.

WHO: All current sub-grantees representing Emergency Management Agency Coordinators, Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) members, state agencies using federal grant funds, special teams, Citizen Corps recipients, Iowa HSEMD staff, grant fiscal agents, and any other individuals or groups that are potential homeland security grant applicants.

NOTE: This training is an allowable grant expense.

Register at: [www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/](http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/). Ω

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A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

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**Secure & Prepared** is published by the Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division for those involved in the homeland security system in the state of Iowa.

For more information contact Stefanie Bond, 515.725.3271 or [stefanie.bond@iowa.gov](mailto:stefanie.bond@iowa.gov).

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### 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.

**We're on the Web!**

[www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org)

## Secretary of Agriculture Designation

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gomery, Page, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Polk, Poweshiek, Union, Warren, Washington, Webster and Wright. Additional may be added to the Secretarial Disaster Designation.

This Secretarial Disaster Designation makes farm operators eligible to be considered for certain types of assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), including emergency loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. Producers should contact their local FSA office for additional information.

On August 23, 2010, the Governor requested an additional 11 counties be designated as primary counties: Audubon, Delaware, Dubuque, Hamilton, Henry, Mahaska, Muscatine, Pottawattamie, Story, Warren and Wright. Even though Audubon, Henry, Mahaska, Warren and Wright counties were included in the Secretarial Designation as contiguous counties, designation as a primary county will offer additional opportunities and could make more contiguous counties eligible for assistance.

### Other agriculture assistance

Agricultural producers who reside in the 32 counties now covered by the Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance may also be eligible to apply for assistance for damage to their primary residence and for other types of agriculture assistance. The Individual Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals recover from the effects of disaster.

Application may be made online at **[www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov)** or by calling 1.800.621.FEMA (3362) or 1.800.462.7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves, details on insurance coverage, and any other information to help substantiate losses. Ω

## Automated Critical Asset Management System Training

This one-day training provides participants with an understanding of the general redesign of ACAMS 3.0 and the ability to efficiently navigate the system. The training will show participants how to perform basic tasks and functions.

Prerequisite: Must have completed the full ACAMS training prior to attending.

Target Audience: Current end users of ACAMS.

Date: Sept. 8 and 9 (please note-this is a one-day training, both days will cover the same information)

Time: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: State Emergency Operations Center, Johnston

Register at **[www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/](http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/)** Ω