



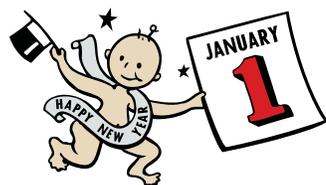
SECURE & PREPARED

Dec. 16, 2010

Volume 6, Issue 24

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Mason City Success Story</i>	2
<i>Training Opportunity</i>	3
<i>IMT-EOC Course</i>	4
<i>Personnel Update</i>	5



Happy New Year!

Watch for the next issue of Secure & Prepared in early January 2011!

Holiday Closings

HSEMD offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 31. Iowa State Patrol Dispatch will be taking emergency calls that come in via the Division's main number, 515-725-3231.

Workshop Tests Tri-State Capabilities

The Iowa/Minnesota/Wisconsin Tri-State Group gave participants an opportunity to test cross-border communications capabilities at an exercise in La Crosse, Wis. on Dec. 1.



Phil Fordyce, Captain of L.E.I.N. Region 3 (standing), along with Lt. Larry Grant (seated) of the Iowa Highway Patrol, presented on state and local communications capabilities.

The exercise was sponsored by the Regional Exercise Support Program on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The purpose of the exercise was to provide participants an enhanced interoperable communications experience through information sharing and public information coordination between the jurisdictions of the Tri-State region.

The exercise was an opportunity to evaluate organizational, interagency, and intrastate response, along with tactical interoperable communications plans, procedures, and equipment. Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin emergency response personnel were also familiarized with their critical incident roles and responsibilities.

There were 75 participants representing four functional disciplines; communications, emergency management/public information, fire/hazardous materials/emergency medical services and law enforcement. An after-action meeting will take place on Jan. 6, 2011, in La Crosse. Following this table-top exercise, there will be a functional exercise or full-scale exercise in spring 2011. Ω

Smart Planning Includes Hazard Mitigation

In April of this year, the Iowa General Assembly passed legislation that requires communities and state agencies to consider Smart Planning principles when planning for the future.

the important elements that should be included in local plans.

The legislation also created The Smart Planning Task Force, which was asked to consider how best to:

With the goal of improving community resiliency following the 2008 disaster, the legislation provides guidance on

1. Integrate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles into appropriate state policies and programs;

Continued on Page 5...

Mason City Buyouts Get Residents Out of Harm's Way

During the first week of June 2008, heavy rains flooded major rivers and tributaries forcing the Winnebago River and Chelsea Creek to fill area homes in Mason City with up to 10 feet of floodwaters. In addition, the city's water plant located near the banks of the Winnebago River was inundated and the city was without clean water for five days.

Several intervals of excessive precipitation were a major contributor for flooding as heavy rain continuously pounded most of central and eastern Iowa between May and early June of 2008, causing rivers and creeks to dramatically extend beyond their bounds.

"Floodwaters came early in the morning and caught everyone by surprise," said Susan Mertes, buyout administrator with the planning department in Mason City. "The city-built levee that runs along the river was topped by the rushing water. The water came up really fast, in a matter of a couple of hours. Neighbors were calling neighbors. There were no warnings and no time for official evacuations. Some people left everything. When they returned home, the floodwaters were up to the rafters."

According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), statewide flood damage in Iowa communities in 2008 has been estimated to be \$10 billion and January through June was the wettest period on record in the state. August through December 2007 was the second wettest period.



Severely damaged houses in Mason City slated for demolition. FEMA photo.

After the 2008 floods, the governor made housing the priority in the state's flood recovery efforts, but ran into a problem when it was determined not all the properties that were damaged from the catastrophic flood event would be eligible for acquisition through the state's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

To find a solution, the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) partnered with the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) and developed a property acquisition program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through a Community Development Block Grant (CDGB).

This partnership formulated a team effort to address the housing needs and developed a strategy to move people out of the flood hazard areas and reduce or eliminate the

long-term impact that the state's flood disasters have on families, communities and the economy.

The team effort resulted in the largest federally-funded buyout project in the state's history.

The CDBG funds were used to acquire properties in special flood hazard areas that would not qualify for the HMGP, according to John Wageman, hazard mitigation officer for HSEMD.

"The CDBG funding covered 100 percent of the non-federal share for both the IDED acquisition program and the HMGP program buyouts. The program reflects the HMGP program and holds the same deed restriction requirements as HMGP for properties located in the special flood hazard area," Wageman said.

Because people and property located in low-lying areas of rivers and creeks are the most vulnerable

Continued on Page 3...

Hazard Mitigation Success Story: Mason City Buyouts

...Continued from Page 2

to flooding, the partnership allowed a solution that made the most sense. It provided homeowners the option to move out of the flood hazard areas permanently through federal property buyout programs, often referred to as acquisitions.

To qualify for buyout approval through HMGP, all projects reviewed must be consistent with state and local hazard mitigation plans and strategies: solve a problem, provide a beneficial impact, cost less than potential future damages, present environmentally sound results and comply with state and federal laws, rules and administrative requirements.

“Once all acquisitions are finalized, we will have added nearly 25 acres of green space to the landscape.”

Susan Mertes, buyout administrator, Mason City

The state receives and reviews information from communities to apply for federal funding and submits it to FEMA for approval. Once approved, the state begins the acquisition process. Communities conduct the purchase of property and title transfer. Buyouts are strictly voluntary and communities may offer homeowners who agree to participate in the buyout project up to the fair market value of the home and property.

Mason City applied to IDED and has been approved for CDBG funds to purchase 69 properties that did not qualify for HMGP fund-

ing. CDBG allotted \$8.5 million to the purchase of the properties. Of the 173 properties FEMA reviewed for acquisitions in Mason City, 104 were approved at a purchase cost of \$10 million. HMGP is a cost-share program with FEMA paying 75 percent and state and local governments responsible for the remaining 25 percent.

“Most of the buyout participants plan to remain in Mason City, some of the seniors have moved to a nearby housing cooperative and a handful of others are living in outlying areas,” Mertes said. “All the buyout properties in Mason City resulting from the 2008 floods will be deed-restricted to open space.

“We are hoping to move a couple of historical homes to a new community. The outcome will be based upon the results of feasibility studies currently under way. There have been preliminary talks on possibly creating a dog park on part of the property.

“Once all acquisitions are finalized, we will have added nearly 25 acres of green space to the landscape,” said Mertes.

Of the statewide property acquisitions through FEMA and CDBG funds, to date, nearly 2,500 property owners volunteered to join the buyout program in more than 35 communities and an estimated \$300 million have been allocated for the acquisitions.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency approved \$79.6 million toward the purchase of 973 properties. The Iowa Department

of Economic Development obligated up to \$230 million to purchase nearly 1,500 properties. Local and state government along with supplemental funds of an estimated \$20 million from CDBG will pay the balance, which is a 25 percent match requirement of HMGP.

“The buyout program helps to get people out of harm’s way. Many of the structures in the program are repetitive loss properties. It reduces the need for the city to send emergency services out. Buyouts help home owners and the city,” said Mertes.

Article submitted by FEMA. See more best practices stories at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/bestpractices/index.shtm. Ω

Training Opportunity

IS-230 Principles of Emergency Management

Date: Jan. 19, 2011

Location: Camp Dodge, Johnston

This two-day course introduces the fundamentals of emergency management as an integrated system, surveying how the resources and capabilities of all functions at all levels can be networked together in all phases for all hazards.

Target Audience: HSEMD staff, county coordinators, first responders.

More training information at: <http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/>. Ω

Nearly 40 Attend EOC-IMT Interface Course in DSM

Last week, the Polk County Emergency Management Agency hosted the Emergency Operations Center-Incident Management Team Interface course at their new Emergency Operations Center in Des Moines. From Dec. 7-10, instructors from FEMA's National Emergency Training Center/Emergency Management Institute presented the course to Iowa responders.

The four-day IEMC: EOC-IMT Interface course is designed to provide an exercise environment for Emergency Operations Center (EOC) members and Incident Management Team (IMT) responders to practice communications and coordination between the EOC and field operations command during simulated incidents, both planned and unplanned. The course describes the roles, responsibilities and relationships of local EOCs and IMTs. It trains participants on effective management of domestic incidents and exercises the interfaces between EOC personnel and all-hazards IMTs. This IEMC clarifies the difference between resource management at the EOC and on-scene command.

For the purposes of training in Des Moines, a planned event scenario brought an IMT to Polk County to assist with events surrounding the annual Iowa State Fair. Just some of the things that occurred during the exercise on day one: a child went missing, contaminated hot dogs were blamed for some fair-goers' illnesses, and a suspicious backpack was found at the airport, snarling traffic for hours. At the end of the first day and continuing on day two, teams were required to reassess their mission, reallocate/redistribute staff, and make some



Participants in the EOC-IMT course, held Dec. 7-10 at the Polk County Emergency Operations Center.

difficult decisions when the “unplanned” part of the exercise kicked in: the front of the Marriott building in downtown Des Moines was destroyed by an explosive device.

In addition, the exercise simulated that a cadre of officials, representing the National Emergency Management Association (to include FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate), was visiting Des Moines, presumably attending a conference at the Marriott. When the exercise wrapped up on Dec. 10, nearly 100 people were “killed” in the Marriott and Ruan buildings and nearly 500 more were “injured.”

The exercises are built so the experience is as realistic as possible. Meaning, all aspects of the scenario could very well happen in Polk County, rather than a worst case scenario, “the sky is falling”-type training.

What did the participants learn during this particular class?

“The course work and exercise gave us opportunity to better define

effective working relationships between agency administrators (elected officials), the incident management team, and the emergency operations center(s),” said Roger Jensen, incident commander for the IMT Blue Team and deputy chief of the Iowa City Fire Department. “Each plays an important role in mitigating an emergency and the course work helped all of us to better understand each other.”

“I think one of the important pieces was that the Incident Management Team realized that they need more experience [in dealing with] with the expectations of an EOC,” said Susan Green, HSEMD training officer. “And that the operations center [participants] realized they need to have a clearly-defined role [in mind] when they request [assistance from] an IMT. So I think that on both sides there was some learning.

“The other piece that came out of it was that the incident management team members also looked at other training and courses they want to pursue. We’re going to work with

Continued on Page 5...

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

Administrator
David L. Miller

7105 N.W. 70th Avenue
Camp Dodge, Bldg. W-4
Johnston, IA 50131

Phone: 515.725.3231

Fax: 515.725.3260

Web site:

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

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.

News Team

Stefanie Bond
Laura Carlson
Tara Dowd
Beth Lewis
Amy Meston
Lucinda Robertson
Lynda Wessel

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

Smart Planning

...Continued from Page 1

2. Determine an effective and efficient coordination and information sharing system to support local and regional planning;
3. Suggest appropriate technical and financial incentives to support local and regional planning; and
4. Develop a framework for regional planning.

Of particular interest to the emergency management community is the task force's focus on hazard mitigation, which was highlighted as one of 13 elements that may be included in a city or county comprehensive emergency plan. This task force recommendation highlights what the emergency management community has known for a long time: Planning is fundamentally a risk management tool that can be utilized to enhance community resiliency.

While the legislation states that a municipality may include hazard and risk

information in its plan, the task force recommended that a hazards section become standard in the approval of comprehensive plans. This legislation and the task force recommendations set a clear path for municipalities to follow in order to fulfill the FEMA requirement regarding local hazard mitigation plans. This requirement specifically requires local governments to include a process to incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, such as comprehensive plans, when appropriate.

The task force submitted its recommendations to the governor and the legislature on Nov. 15, 2010. HSEMD's lead planner participated in the task force.

The full Smart Planning Task Force report can be found at: www.rio.iowa.gov/resources/reports/2010-11_Smart_Planning_Task_Force_Report.pdf.

HSEMD Personnel Update

Erin Mullenix departed HSEMD in November. Any issues relating to Region 1 or Capitol Complex planning can be addressed to Dave Johnston.

Kent Farver resigned as HSEMD's Homeland Security & Grants Bureau

chief. Until HSEMD has filled the bureau chief position, please direct questions to the project leads within the bureau. If you have concerns that need the attention of a supervisor, please contact Steve Zimmerman or David Miller. Ω

EOC-IMT Course

...Continued from Page 4

them to get the training that they need, either delivered locally, in Iowa, or by sending them someplace such as the National Emergency Training Center."

Those interested in bringing a FEMA training course to their area, or attending

a FEMA training course at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Md., may contact Susan Green at 515-725-3231 or susan.green@iowa.gov. For information on courses available through FEMA, visit <http://training.fema.gov>. Ω