



SECURE & PREPARED

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HSEMD Holds Spring Flood Briefing

With spring just around the corner, the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) brought together local, state and federal partners to assess and prepare for potential flooding.

During a Feb. 18 briefing at the State Emergency Operations Center in Johnston, the Des Moines National Weather Service provided a spring flooding outlook to agencies that are instrumental in a flood response, including local emergency management and federal agencies.

“At this point, the outlook does not indicate we are facing the kind of flooding we had last year, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t prepare,” said HSEMD Administrator J. Derek Hill. “The information the National Weather Service shared with us



today highlights the importance of working with our response partners to plan for the possibility of flooding.”

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March is Flood Awareness Month

March is Flood Awareness Month in Iowa and several state agencies are working to ensure Iowans are aware and prepared.

Throughout the month, the Rebuild Iowa Office, the Iowa Insurance Division, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division will share flood-related information and safety tips with the media and the public.

“While it is the responsibility of government to ensure Iowa is prepared

to respond to disasters, citizens have a role, too, through making sure they know how they will take care of themselves and their families,” said HSEMD Administrator J. Derek Hill.

The month-long public information campaign will educate Iowans about family and individual preparedness, flood insurance, disaster precautions and other safety measures.

To learn more about Flood Awareness Month, visit www.bereadyiowa.org.

Be Ready Iowa!

Learn more about family and individual preparedness at www.beready-iowa.org.

Proposed Emergency Management Performance Grant Allocation Change Prompts Public Hearings

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) has undertaken a formal rule-making process in response to input provided by the Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) with regards to the distribution formulas used within the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). The Notice of Intended Action, ARC 9345B, was formally published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on Jan. 26, 2011.

The proposed changes specify that the 50-percent pass-through amount will be allocated to local emergency management commissions using a combination of the existing formula and a new formula in which 60 percent of available funds are allocated based on an equal-share for all applicants, 20 percent of available funds are allocated based on population, and

20 percent of available funds are allocated based on the assessed value of property.

Over the course of five years, the allocation process will completely migrate to the new formula. It is important to note that this proposed change will impact each emergency management commission that participated in the EMPG program.

HSEMD is conducting a series of six public hearings to collect comments. Three hearings have been held in Cherokee, Red Oak and Ottumwa. Three additional hearings will be conducted:

Feb. 28, 7 p.m., Floyd County Courthouse, 101 S. Main St., Charles City

March 1, 7 p.m., Johnson County Emergency Operations Center, 4529 Melrose Ave., Iowa City

March 8, 7 p.m., Polk County Emergency Operations Center, 1907 Carpenter Ave. (east entrance), Des Moines

Consideration will be given to all written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendments received on or before March 8, 2011. Written materials will be accepted and should be sent to:

Administrator
Iowa HSEMD
7105 N.W. 70th Ave.
Camp Dodge, Bldg. W-4
Johnston, Iowa 50131
OR Fax (515) 725-3260

Additional information on the proposed changes to the EMPG allocation can be found on the HSEMD website at www.iowa-homelandsecurity.org/about_HSEMD/legislative_updates.html. Ω

Anhydrous Ammonia Awareness Training Tour

Submitted by Rodney Tucker, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

With anhydrous ammonia being a large part of American agricultural, manufacturing, commercial, and transportation industries, and with incidents occurring in the past across the United States, there is always a possibility that at some point a large ammonia incident may occur. A high-quality hands-on training that would help prevent and or mitigate such an incident would be a great advantage to emergency responders in communities where anhydrous ammonia

is manufactured, stored, shipped, transported, or used in high-volume quantities.

With that in mind, the Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response (TRANSCAER) group, in conjunction with a number of national, regional, state and local partners, earlier this month began a free 25-state awareness training program targeting anhydrous ammonia and ammonia safety.

Dubbed the "2011 TRANSCAER Anhydrous Ammonia Awareness

Training Tour," the program is intended to focus on safety training topics including:

- Transportation of ammonia (modes, routes, volume identifiers)
- Nomenclature of transport equipment (such as nurse tanks, tank trucks, and rail tank cars)
- Hands-on training with transport equipment (valves, hoses, gauges, fittings, and response measures)
- First aid for ammonia releases, who to call for help
- Opportunities for emergency response exercises to reinforce concepts and practice use of information covered.

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2011 HSGP Grant Application Update

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) has recently distributed the application forms for the FFY 2011 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). To date the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not published written grant guidance nor is any expected prior to April 2011. However, DHS is encouraging states to begin the application, review, and selection process based on the FFY 2010 HSGP guidance. Once the federal FFY 2011 HSGP guidance is released there will be a 30-day application period. In order to meet the anticipated 30-day deadline, HSEMD is beginning the application, review, and selection process now. Based on a conference call with DHS-FEMA on Feb. 14, 2011, there is a strong probability that states will not receive FFY 2011 grant funds until Sept. 30, 2011.

Following is a timeline of the 2011 HSGP application and selection process.

Feb. 10, 2011-HSEMD Investment Justification (IJ) template (application/work plan) is electronically distributed to all stakeholders.

April 4, 2011-IJs are due to HSEMD by 4 p.m.

April 5, 2011-HSEMD grant staff will review submitted applications to ensure that all required information has been included in the IJs. After the initial review the IJs will be forwarded to the First Responder Advisory Committee (FRAC) for review.

April 5, 2011-State Administrative Agent (SAA) begins to schedule applicant presentations.

April 8-18, 2011-FRAC members will review the application and assign a preliminary score after reviewing all IJs. FRAC members will bring the score sheet to the meeting to use as a base for presentations and recommendations. Scores on the score sheet can be changed after presentations.

April 19, 2011-The SAA and FRAC will hear presentations by applicants. A representative for each IJ must be available for a presentation of the investment and to answer the FRAC's questions regarding the investment project.

April 20, 2011-FRAC reviews and discusses each IJ based on the application and the previous day's presentation. Final recommended IJs will move forward to the SAA for final review of numbers and compilation. Final investment package is forwarded to Homeland Security Advisor for final IJ selection.

April 22, 2011-Selected IJs are announced by the SAA. Following the announcement of projects, IJs will be returned to the applicant(s) for final editing work and any budget adjustments that are required.

April 29, 2011-Final edited IJs must be submitted to the SAA no later than 4 p.m.

For questions or to request 2011 HSGP applications contact Lynda J. Wessel, grant manager, at Lynda.Wessel@iowa.gov. Ω

'Don't Test the Waters' Program Launched

This week, the Iowa Insurance Division, in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, launched a statewide flood awareness program. The "Don't Test the Waters" public information program will educate Iowans on how to prepare for a flood, protect property from flooding and determine if flood insurance is appropriate for them.

Visit www.DontTestTheWater-Iowa.gov for more information and tips on how to prepare, protect and possibly purchase flood insurance. Ω

Training Opportunity

Exercise Design with HSEEP

This course will cover the purpose, characteristics, and requirements of three main types of exercises: tabletop, functional and full-scale, while following the HSEEP approach.

Target audience: emergency responders

Date: March 8-11, 2011

Time: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: Joint Forces Headquarters, Johnston Ω

Threat Information and Infrastructure Protection Program

Welcome to the second installment of the TIIPP Corner. As you may remember from the last HSEMD newsletter, we provided an overview of the Threat Information and Infrastructure Protection Program (TIIPP) and what we accomplish on a day-to-day basis. For the next few columns, we are going to focus further on the three core function areas for which the TIIPP is responsible: sector protection planning, asset protection planning, and information sharing. For this column, we will discuss sector planning.

At the federal level, the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) identifies specific infrastructure “sectors” that are critical nationally, and even in some cases internationally, to the normal, day-to-day lives of the average American. In Iowa, we’ve taken this list and tailored it, in order for it to better reflect our needs as a state (although there’s not much difference). Iowa’s sectors are agriculture/food, banking/finance, chemical, commercial facilities, dams, defense/industrial, emergency services, energy, government, communications, event venues/icons, education, postal/shipping, public health/health care, information technology, transportation and water.

Sector-specific planning in Iowa revolves around the implementation of the Risk Management Framework, found in the NIPP. The framework presents a continuous process to identify assets, mitigate risk, and prioritize



and implement protective action programs.

As part of our protection efforts under the Framework for the different sectors in Iowa, we bring together sector working groups comprised of public and private industry professionals and work with them to write sector-specific plans. While the risk management framework lays out a continuous process to create sector protection methods, we consider our current sector plans a first step in the overall process; the “meet and greet” portion, if you will. Our process focuses on four main deliverables that we work with the different sectors to provide:

- **Sector profile** – What does the sector’s footprint look like in Iowa?
- **Asset criteria** – What makes a sector asset truly critical?

- **Information sharing** – How do we share information with the sector, from routine to emergency?

- **Interdependencies** – On a VERY high level, how do disruptions in other sectors affect each other?

Once the initial sector plans are developed for each sector, we will then begin focusing on sector issues on a more in-depth basis. Currently, banking and finance, information technology, communications, and energy are in various states of completion, and we’re looking to start work on two to three more sectors in the next 60 days.

If you have any questions for the TIIPP, please give us a call at 515-725-3231, or send an email to tiipp@iowa.gov. Ω

Contributed by Kyle Karsjen

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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

Spring Flood Outlook Briefing

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According to National Weather Service personnel, the greatest risk of significant flooding is along the Mississippi River on Iowa's eastern border, as well as portions of the Big Sioux River along Iowa's border with South Dakota. In addition, the outlook shows the risk of flooding and flash flooding remains higher than normal through at least late spring. An updated outlook will be issued March 3.

"As we do every year with the approach of spring, we are in close communication with our response partners, gathering and sharing information and planning for potential flooding threats," said Hill. "HSEMD's job is to ensure Iowa and Iowans are prepared, ready to respond, and have the ability to recover from flooding and all hazards."

Participants in the briefing had an opportunity to ask questions and dis-

cuss planning and response actions that could be put into place. In addition to HSEMD, other participants in the briefing included county emergency management coordinators, Iowa Departments of Transportation, Natural Resources, Public Health, Human Services, Inspections and Appeals, and Public Safety. Representatives from the Governor's Office and the National Guard also participated. The Army Corps of Engineers had representation from their Saylorville, Omaha and Rock Island offices.

Detailed flood outlook information is available from the National Weather Service Offices servicing Iowa: NWS Des Moines www.weather.gov/desmoines; NWS La Crosse www.weather.gov/lacrosse; NWS Omaha www.weather.gov/omaha; NWS Quad Cities www.weather.gov/quadcities; NWS Sioux Falls www.weather.gov/siouxfalls. Ω

Anhydrous Ammonia Awareness Training

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The target audience for four events includes: emergency responders, agricultural businesses, emergency management officials, public safety representatives, law enforcement agencies, consultants, etc. The training is free to all participants.

Dates and Locations

April 18-20 – Sioux City
April 27 - Mason City
May 2-4 - Cedar Rapids

May 9-10 – Davenport
May 13-14 – Ottumwa
May 18-20 – Des Moines
May 24-26 – Council Bluffs

For more information and registration: <http://www.transcaer.com/state.aspx?ID=28>.

You may also contact Rodney Tucker at 515-725-0387 or rodney.tucker@dnr.iowa.gov. Ω