



SECURE & PREPARED

Oct. 28, 2011

Volume 7, Issue 17

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Winter Weather Awareness Day</i>	2
<i>Homeland Security Conference</i>	2
<i>Nationwide EAS Test</i>	3
<i>FEMA Individual Assistance</i>	3
<i>Iowa Individual Assistance</i>	3
<i>Disaster Recovery Centers Open</i>	3
<i>HSEMD Participates in Wellmark Preparedness Fair</i>	4

Nationwide EAS Test to be Held Nov. 9

FEMA and the FCC will conduct the first ever nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System on Nov. 9. Learn more on page 3.

On the Calendar...

November

- EAS Nationwide Test (9)
- Winter Weather Awareness Day (10)
- Veteran's Day (11)*
- Thanksgiving Day (24)*
- Day after Thanksgiving (25)*

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

FEMA Grants Individual Assistance to Five Counties More than \$1.25 Million in Assistance Approved

In just one week, more than \$1.25 million in assistance has been approved to help Iowans begin their recovery from the Missouri River flooding.

The assistance has been made available through FEMA's Individual Assistance Program. On Oct. 18 Governor Terry Branstad received notification that FEMA had granted Iowa's appeal to make Individual Assistance funding available to eligible homeowners, renters and businesses in Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona and Pottawattamie counties.

As of Oct. 26, FEMA had received 431 applications. Of the \$1.25 million approved, the total amount disbursed is \$1.1 million.

"That is a significant amount of funding that has gone to Iowans who were impacted by the flooding along the Missouri River," said Pat Hall, who is overseeing the state's joint disaster recovery activities with FEMA. "Residents who sustained damage in those five counties should register now if they haven't already."

The FEMA Individual Assistance program can provide homeowners, renters and businesses 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.

Continued on Page 2...

Governor Forms Missouri River Recovery Task Force

Governor Branstad has created the Missouri River Recovery Coordination Task Force to oversee the state's recovery efforts.

The Governor announced the creation of this task force on Oct. 17 and appointed Derek Hill, HSEMD administrator, as the chairman.

"Recovery from disaster is not only about rebuilding roads and buildings, but is ultimately about rebuilding communities and the lives of those who were changed by a disaster," said Hill. "That is why the Governor has created this task force and why its members will work to ensure communities and people are able to rebuild their homes, businesses,



Levee near Hamburg in Fremont County, June 13, 2011.

public property and, most importantly, their lives."

Continued on Page 2...

Missouri River Recovery Task Force

...Continued from Page 1

Hill said the task force has two goals:

- To coordinate the immediate and sustained disaster response to help individuals, families and businesses return to normal activities
- To reduce the continued loss of economic opportunities.

The task force will accomplish its goals through coordinating assistance, sharing information, monitoring progress, providing technical support, recommending recovery program funding needs, and reporting program recommendations or changes to the Governor.

The task force is comprised of members from local, state and federal governments, voluntary and non-profit agencies and private-sector business organizations.

The task force has been organized into 10 working groups:

- **Interagency levee**--will coordinate efforts related to flood control works
- **Transportation**--will coordinate recovery efforts related to city, county and state routes and the federal aid highway systems and railroad systems
- **Agriculture**--will coordinate recovery efforts directly to

agriculture and soil and water conservation programs

- **Health and human services**--will coordinate the various human services recovery programs
- **Education**--will evaluate the impact of school districts and the potential loss of students within the affected districts due to parents' job loss or job relocation
- **Economic development**--will coordinate efforts related to economic development programs and training
- **Housing**--will coordinate efforts related to housing and economic development
- **Natural resources**--will coordinate efforts related to the management and regulation of the state's natural resources
- **Communications**--will coordinate and provide information to citizens on the Missouri River flood recovery efforts

- **Utilities**--will coordinate efforts related to repair and restoration of utilities services.

The task force has been meeting weekly to discuss progress and ensure recovery efforts are coordinated to avoid duplication and provide assistance in the most efficient way. Ω

Winter Weather Awareness Day Nov. 10

HSEMD, in partnership with the National Weather Service (NWS) in Des Moines, has declared Nov. 10, 2011, as Winter Weather Awareness Day in Iowa.

This fall's warm weather may have fooled us into believing that winter storms are not a pressing concern. However, it's a matter of when, not if, winter weather will set in, so it's good to prepare in advance.

Winter Weather Awareness Day is an opportunity to remind Iowans there are steps they can take to be prepared for winter. HSEMD urges all Iowans to learn how to be prepared at home and on the road by visiting www.beready.iowa.gov.

The Des Moines NWS has a variety of weather safety information available at www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/ under the Winter Weather Awareness Day link, including the winter weather products they issue for winter hazards. Ω

Disaster Assistance

...Continued from Page 1

In addition, Iowans living or working in those same five counties may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits under the federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program. The benefits cover self-employed workers not usually entitled to unemployment insurance, including farmers. Any IowaWORKS center can accept DUA claims. Visit www.iowaworkforce.org for more information.

Governor's Homeland Security Conference Nov. 1-2



The Eighth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference will be held Nov. 1-2, 2011, at the Sheraton West Des Moines.

To view the conference agenda and information on the presenters, go to www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and click on the Governor's Homeland Security Conference link. Ω

Nationwide EAS Test Scheduled for Nov. 9

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will conduct the first ever top-to-bottom nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on Nov. 9.

The purpose of the nationwide test, which will be held at 1 p.m. CST, is to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the EAS as a way to alert the public during nationwide emergencies. According to the FCC, although local and state components of the EAS are tested on a weekly and monthly basis, there has never been an end-to-end test or national activation of the system.

On Nov. 9, FEMA will transmit the EAS code for national emergencies and the EAS code and alert will be rebroadcast by broadcast stations and other service providers until it has been distributed throughout the entire country and U.S. territories.

According to FEMA, the test may resemble the monthly EAS tests Americans are familiar with, but there will be some differences in what viewers and listeners see and hear. Some differences to note:

- The audio message will be the same for all EAS participants, however, due to limitations, the video test message scroll may not be the same or indicate that "This is a test." This is due to the use of a

Continued on Page 4...

Federal Individual Assistance: How to Apply

Iowans whose homes, businesses and property were damaged during the Missouri River flooding between May 25 and Aug. 1, 2011, may apply for assistance by phone.

Citizens in the five declared counties may now call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) toll-free at **1-800-621-FEMA** (3362) or **1-800-462-7585** (TTY) for the hearing- and speech-impaired. This phone line will be available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week.

Application may also be made online at www.fema.gov, www.fema.gov.

disasterassistance.gov, or via smartphone at m.fema.gov.

When applying, applicants need to have the following information available:

- A phone number and a reliable alternative number
- The address of the damaged property
- Social Security number
- Current mailing address
- Brief description of damages
- Insurance information
- Bank account information Ω

Iowa Individual Disaster Assistance Grant Program

Residents in Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona and Pottawattamie counties may no longer apply for the Iowa Individual Disaster Assistance Grant Program because the federal Individual Assistance Program supercedes the Iowa program. The

Iowa Individual Disaster Assistance Grant Program is still available for families in several counties impacted by the summer's disasters. For more information, visit www.dhs.iowa.gov and select the Storm Help link. Ω

FEMA Opens Disaster Recovery Centers

FEMA has opened three Disaster Recovery Centers to provide face-to-face assistance to those who have suffered damage from the Missouri River flooding.

If possible, applicants should register with FEMA prior to visiting Disaster Recovery Centers.

Disaster Recovery Center Locations

Council Bluffs
American Red Cross Human Services Campus
705 N. 16th St.

Sidney
Emergency Operations Center
2014 290th Ave.

Onawa
Public Safety Office
909 7th St.

Hours of Operation

Monday thru Friday
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Closed Sunday Ω

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

Administrator
J. Derek Hill

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

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

HSEMD Participates in Preparedness Fair

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) staff recently participated in Wellmark's Safety Awareness and Emergency Preparedness Fair in Des Moines.

HSEMD's Vicki Morris, Curt Sullivan and Matt Parrino shared information with Wellmark employees on cyber security, all-hazards preparedness for rural communities, and preparedness steps for individuals and families.

More than 300 members of the Wellmark workforce attended the fair. Other organizations participating in the fair included:

- Safeguard Iowa Partnership
- MidAmerican Energy
- Des Moines Fire Department
- Des Moines Police Department
- Polk County Emergency Government
- Iowa Coalition against Domestic Violence



HSEMD's Matt Parrino talks with a Wellmark employee during the Safety Awareness and Emergency Preparedness Fair in Des Moines.

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Polk County Health Department
- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and Fusion Center
- Wellmark Physical Security, Business Continuity and Travel Management Team. Ω

First Nationwide EAS Test Nov. 9

...Continued from Page 3

"live" code, the same one that would be used in an actual emergency.

- The text at the top of the television screen may indicate that an "Emergency Action Notification has been issued." This notification is used to disseminate a national alert and in this case, the test.
- The background image that appears on video screens during an

alert may indicate that "This is a test," but in some instances there may not be an image at all.

The test is expected to last for approximately three minutes.

For more information, visit www.fcc.gov/pshs. Ω