



SECURE & PREPARED

June 15, 2012

Volume 8, Issue 11

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On the Calendar...

June

National Safety Month
National Home Safety Month
Lightning Safety Awareness
Week (24-30)

July

National Fireworks Safety Month
Independence Day (4)*

*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.

Iowa's Urban Search and Rescue Team aids in Maquoketa Caves rescue

Twenty members of the Cedar Rapids division of Iowa Task Force One (IA-TF1) Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team recently helped rescue an Illinois man from a cave at Maquoketa Caves State Park.

Logan Eliassen, 20, of Port Byron, Ill., was freed from the cave around 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, after being stuck in a narrow passage of the cave for more than 20 hours.

Rescue workers from a number of different agencies throughout north-east Iowa worked continuously to free Eliassen, including chiseling rock to widen the passage. He was given oxygen and intravenous therapy while in the cave to prevent dehydration.

Eliassen had become stuck while crawling through a narrow part of Wye Cave. The 323-acre state park is northwest of Maquoketa, about



Cedar Rapids Firefighter Justin Jensen surveying the last tunnel used to reach the man lodged in Wye Cave. Photo provided by Iowa Task Force One.

halfway between Des Moines and Chicago. It features more than a

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IDHRC members receive Governor's Volunteer Awards

The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) has for many years provided assistance to Iowans impacted by disasters. In recognition of the important role of the IDHRC, three members recently received Governor's Volunteer Awards for their service.

Loren Bawn, Pastor Jody Dickhaut and Gayle Strickler were nominated

for the awards by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD).

Bawn, from Des Moines, received the 10-year Individual Length of Service Award, which recognizes an individual's long-term volunteer commitment. He provided leadership to the IDHRC and served as the chair of the Functional Needs Committee since its

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USAR assists in Maquoketa Caves rescue

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dozen caves visitors can explore on their own, either by walking or crawling, based on their own ability and comfort level, according to the park's website.

The IA-TF1 USAR team is comprised primarily of the Cedar Rapids and Sioux City fire departments. For the rescue at Wye Cave, Cedar Rapids firefighters and other civilian specialists were deployed and arrived on scene around 10 a.m. on May 19 to assist local responders.

The rescue involved getting multiple technicians at a time into the cave to aid the victim. Oxygen levels in the cave were measured at 13 percent. Normal oxygen levels are 20.9 percent. The decreased oxygen levels made it difficult for rescuers to exert themselves as they wedged their way through the narrow openings. IA-TF1, alongside other response agencies, worked in shifts and utilized pneumatic chisels in efforts to free Eliassen. IA-TF1 was proud to be part of this multiple-jurisdiction operation that resulted in a successful outcome.

"This is a clear demonstration of the valuable assistance the homeland security and emergency response teams provide to the State," said HSEMD Administrator Mark Schouten. "In this instance, the Urban Search and Rescue Team had the required equipment and training to be of assistance."

The urban search and rescue capability has been built utilizing federal homeland security grant funds. Funding for the team has been used to train and equip members to locate, rescue and provide medical stabilization to victims in collapsed structures, confined space, trench and transportation accidents.

For additional information on Iowa Task Force One, visit www.iowa-homelandsecurity.org/programs/special_teams.html.

Information for this article was submitted by Greg Buelow, Public Information Officer, Fire Dept., City of Cedar Rapids. Ω

Application period opens for firefighters grants program

The FY 2012 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program application period opened June 11 and will extend through July 6.

The FY 2012 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act provides \$337,500,000 for the AFG Program and authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to help fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency management service organizations meet their firefighting and emergency response needs.

The AFG Program seeks to support organizations that lack the tools and resources necessary to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public and their emergency response personnel with respect to fire and all other hazards.

Grant guidance for this program is available at www.grants.gov, and at www.fema.gov/firegrants/afg-grants/index.shtm. For additional information, visit www.fema.gov/grants. Ω

Homeland Security Grant Program 2012 Important Dates to Remember

- June 29, 2012 - Application closing date
- July 1 - Aug. 15, 2012 - Application review period
- Aug. 30, 2012 - Announcement of local awards
- Sept. 30, 2012 - Anticipated award date from DHS-FEMA
- Oct. 1, 2012 - June 30, 2014 - Performance period for 2012 HSGP



Governor's Volunteer Awards presented to IDHRC members

...Continued from Page 1

inception in 2001. Although he is stepping aside from his leadership role, he will continue to be involved in the Council.

Pastor Jody Dickhaut, now living in Louisville, Ky., received the Individual Governor's Volunteer Award, which recognizes an individual volunteer's exceptional achievement or contribution. Pastor Dickhaut served as the president of the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council, as well as the chair of the Volunteer and Donations Management Committee. He left the IDHRC when he relocated to Kentucky.

Gayle Strickler, from Marshalltown, also received the 10-year Individual Length of Service Award. Strickler served as past chair of the IDHRC and was involved in countless subcommittees of the Council. Strickler is stepping away from the IDHRC to focus on his retirement. "These three really exemplify the dedication that members of the IDHRC have to serving Iowans in need," said HSEMD's Blake DeRouchey, IDHRC coordinator.

"This was HSEMD's opportunity to recognize these deserving men who have made such an important contribution to our state."

The awards were presented on June 5 by Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds at a ceremony in Pleasant Hill. The Governor's Volunteer Awards program was created in 1982, with inaugural awards presented in 1983. What began as a small program only available to state government agencies has expanded over the years and now provides all Iowa nonprofit, charitable and government organizations with an easy way to honor their volunteers with a prestigious state-level recognition award.

This year's awards ceremonies have also taken place in Ottumwa and Storm Lake. Other ceremonies will be held June 27 in Council Bluffs and June 29 in Cedar Rapids and Cedar Falls. For more



Pastor Jody Dickhaut receives Governor's Volunteer Award from Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds.

information on the Governor's Volunteer Awards, visit volunteeriowa.org/awards.

The IDHRC is comprised of faith-based and voluntary agency representatives from throughout the state as well as representatives from key government agencies. Learn more about the IDHRC at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/programs/IDHRC.html. Ω

FEMA seeks ideas for new preparedness campaign

FEMA and its partners recently launched a new campaign on Building and Sustaining National Preparedness Efforts and is seeking contributions.

Our nation's resilience depends on you and your neighbors preparing for potential hazards in your communities. FEMA wants to increase outreach efforts and encourage everyone to take actionable steps to be prepared.

This effort is a major part of Presidential Policy Directive 8 / PPD-8: National Preparedness – and it's one of the most visible ways the whole community will be involved in keeping our nation safe and resilient.

Visit <http://fema.ideascale.com> and click the link to access the topic's page, where you can post your ideas, and read and comment on others' ideas until June 18.

For more information on PPD-8, visit www.fema.gov/ppd8.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov. Ω



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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.

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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

Economic consequences of disaster on agenda for Homeland Security Conference



Iowa State University Economist Dave Swenson will discuss the procedures and problems in determining the economic consequences of disasters at this year's

Iowa Homeland Security Conference. The conference will be held Nov. 6-7 in Des Moines.

Swenson will talk about measuring the economic impacts of the 2008 floods and the economic lessons that

can be learned as a result. He will also discuss the potential impacts of climate change, including how more serious weather-related events could place increasing demands on response systems, and the possible need for significant investment in hardened public infrastructure and better and more coordinated disaster response systems.

For additional information and to register, visit the HSEMD website at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and click the conference logo on the lower left side of the home page. Ω

June 24-30 is Lightning Safety Week

On average, more than 400 people in the United States are struck by lightning and between 55 and 60 people are killed by lightning each year. So far in 2012, there have been three deaths caused by lightning.

To help educate the public about lightning threats, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is sponsoring Lightning Safety Week June 24-30.

NOAA has provided information at www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/. The website houses a variety of resources, including safety brochures, video and audio public service announcements, a coloring book, and tool kits tailored for communities and large venues.



This is the 12th year NOAA has sponsored Lightning Safety Week. Ω

Training Opportunities

Fundamentals of Emergency Management (IS 230.a)

When: July 25–26, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: Camp Dodge
7105 NW 70th Ave.
Johnston

Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters (G 366)

When: July 27, 9 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.
Where: 106 Milwaukee Mall
Charles City

For information and to register, visit www.iowahomelandsecurity.org and choose "HSEMD Course Registration" under the "Quick Links" tab.Ω