



Secure & Prepared

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Nearly all Iowa counties sign on to use Alert Iowa mass notification system

The Alert Iowa statewide mass notification and emergency messaging system was first introduced just five months ago, and already to date, 84 of the state's 99 counties have signed up to utilize the new system.

Alert Iowa was launched at the Iowa Homeland Security Conference on Oct. 21, 2014, by Governor Terry E. Branstad. The State will pay \$300,000 annually for the system, which is funded by the State through an appropriation by the Iowa Legislature and available free of charge for all 99 counties to use. Prior to its implementation, nearly half the state's counties were spending more than a combined \$600,000 annually for multiple emergency notification sys-

tems, and approximately one-third of counties had no emergency notification system in place at all.



Now, 46 of the 84 counties that have signed up are fully operational – meaning they are able to register users

and issue alerts – although many of those counties are still training their staff on the system's use.

Alert Iowa allows citizens to sign up for the types of alerts they want to receive. Messages can be issued via phone, text messaging, email, FAX, TDD/TYY, and social media. Messages may contain photo, video and audio attachments to help subscribers better understand the situation at hand, or to find additional information.

To learn more, visit the [HSEMD website](#). Ω

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April is 9-1-1 Education Month

Governor Terry Branstad has again designated April as 9-1-1 Education Month in Iowa.

Each year, both the U.S. Congress and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) recognize April as National 9-1-1 Education Month.

In Iowa, this month-long campaign is aimed at helping Iowans of all ages recognize the importance of 9-1-1 and the role they play in ensuring effective and efficient emergency response in times of crisis.

As consumers utilize new communications technologies and devices, 9-1-1 education takes on an increased importance. Another

reason for 9-1-1 education is that as people get older, they tend to forget how and when to use 9-1-1.

9-1-1 should only be called in an emergency. If you need police, fire or emergency medical services, that's the time to dial 9-1-1.

If you dial 9-1-1 by mistake, don't hang up! Instead, stay on the line and explain to the call taker that you dialed 9-1-1 by mistake.

Remain calm when dialing 9-1-1. Speak clearly and follow any instructions the call taker may give. Do not hang up until the call taker tells you it's OK to hang up.



Know where you are. When you call 9-1-1, the call taker will ask your location. It's always good to be aware of your surroundings in case the need to call for help arises.

For additional 9-1-1 facts and helpful hints, visit the [Ready Iowa website](#). Ω

Individual and Community Preparedness Awards application period now open

The application period for the **2015 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards** is now open. The awards highlight innovative local practices and achievements by recognizing individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions toward making their communities safer, stronger, better prepared, and more resilient.

Help spread the word about the 2015 FEMA Individual Community Preparedness Awards! Download an [application form](#), and apply or nominate an individual or organization who inspires you today. Applicants can be individuals or organizations, as they align with the awards categories listed below. To be considered for this year's

awards, all applications must be sent to citizencorps@fema.dhs.gov by April 10, 2015, at 10:59 p.m. Central time and must feature program activities occurring between Jan. 1, 2014–April 10, 2015.

Once all applications have been received, a panel of representatives from the emergency management community will select winners in each of the following categories:

- Outstanding Citizen Corps Council
- Community Preparedness Heroes
- Awareness to Action
- Technological Innovation
- Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness

- Preparing the Whole Community
- Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiatives
- Outstanding Citizen Corps Partner Program
- Excellence in Volunteer Sustainability

Winners will be announced in fall 2015, and they will be FEMA's honored guests at a community preparedness roundtable event. As candidates prepare their applications, it is helpful to take a look at [previous winners](#) on FEMA's Ready website.

For more information on how to apply, visit: www.ready.gov/citizen-corps/citizen-corps-awards. Ω

HSEMD welcomes new employees

Lindsey Mosher is the new Alert Iowa program manager. Her first day with HSEMD was March 13.

Lindsey comes to HSEMD from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), where she worked for seven years. She served as a master coordination center officer at the TSA's main communication hub for Iowa, where she was responsible for emergency management and operations support as well as video production. Lindsey also has experience as a network administrator for the TSA Alert Warning System and WebEOC.

In addition, Lindsey is a member of the Air National Guard's 132nd Fighter Wing in Des Moines, and is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree from Grand View University.

Lindsey, her husband and two daughters are very active and look forward to "shaking off cabin fever and getting outside."



Lindsey Mosher



Cristie Duric

Cristie Duric joined HSEMD on March 16. Her main responsibilities will be to develop, coordinate, and deliver the HSEMD training program for local and state partners in Iowa.

Cristie is originally from Topeka, Kan. She earned a bachelor's degree in respiratory therapy as well as a master's in public health from Kansas University. After completing grad school in 2006, Cristie worked for nearly four years as an emergency preparedness education and training coordinator at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. She then spent two years managing the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant for local government, as well as responding to emergencies.

In addition, Cristie has practiced respiratory therapy on and off for approximately 10 years, and is a Master Exercise Practitioner.

Cristie and her husband, Vanja, live in Urbandale with their two children.

Welcome, Lindsey and Cristie! Ω

Connect with us on social media!

We add new content every week! Get the latest information on grants, programs, training, and more. Ask us a question. Find answers. Click on the links below to get started. Ω



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Follow us on Twitter!



Watch us on YouTube!

**Build a kit.
Make a plan.
Be aware.**



www.beready.iowa.gov

Training opportunities

Basic Public Information Officer Training (G290)

When: April 23-24, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: Jennie Edmundson
(Methodist) Hospital
933 E. Pierce St.
Council Bluffs

Learn the basic skills needed to be a public information officer (PIO). Training covers oral and written communication, understanding and working with the media, and other tools and techniques.

Target audiences: Public information officers, local elected officials, emergency management.

To register, visit [HSEMD's training website](#). Contact **Beth Lewis** at **515.725.3204** or beth.lewis@iowa.gov with any questions.

Intermediate ICS (ICS 300)

When: April 29-30, 2015
8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: Law Enforcement Center
4514 14th Ave. NE
Le Mars

Prerequisites: ICS-100, 200, 700, 800

Target audience: For those who would respond to an incident (command staff, section chiefs, unit leaders, division/group supervisors, branch directors, and multi-agency coordination system/emergency operations staff)

To register, visit [HSEMD's training website](#). Contact **Beth Lewis** at **515.725.3204** or beth.lewis@iowa.gov with any questions.

A Shelter Story: Integrating Functional Needs Support Services into Emergency Shelter Plans

1 hour; online

The Upper Midwest Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center (UMPERLC) has recently released this new training. The course has been created by UMPERLC in collaboration with the University of Iowa's Center for Disabilities and Development.

Goal: To master the knowledge and skills needed to collaborate with community stakeholders on integrating Functional Needs Support Services into local emergency shelter plans.

Audience: Emergency managers, planners, and mid-level public health professionals responsible for community preparedness

This video-based course tells the story of one community's efforts to improve its emergency shelter plans.

To register for this course, visit: <http://go.prepareiowa.com/te>

Slackwater Rescue Course for Companion Animals

When: May 2-3, 2015
9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Where: Johnson County EMA
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

Join the ASPCA for this FREE course. Space is available for team or individual registrations. The course is available to dive teams, fire/rescue, police, animal control, or anyone who may perform water rescue for people or animals. Lunch will be provided both days. (All other related costs are the responsibility of the student.)

To participate, each student needs:

1. Personal floatation device
2. Helmet (no brim)
3. Gloves
4. Boots (or tennis shoes you can pitch)
5. Dry or wet suit

The course will meet at the Johnson County EMA office the first morning, and move to Lake McBride for all remaining class time.

To register, please email **Liz Dominguez** at elizabeth.dominguez@aspc.org no later than April 20. You will need to provide each participant's name, email, phone number, and any special dietary or health considerations the instructors should be aware of. You may also call Liz with any questions at **646.942.8939**.

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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.

Secure & Prepared is published for those involved in the homeland security/emergency management system in the state of Iowa. For more information, contact Stefanie Bond at stefanie.bond@iowa.gov.

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IDHRC honors HSEMD's DeRouche

Members of the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) honored HSEMD's Blake DeRouche at their meeting on March 19. DeRouche, who has served as the Council's secretary since 2008, was recognized for his years of service and outstanding service to the volunteer group.

Board members Janna Diehl (Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging) and Rick Wulfekuhle (Buchanan County COAD) presented a plaque to him at the meeting.

DeRouche has accepted a new position with HSEMD as the state's E911 program manager. His successor has not yet been named. Ω



ON THE CALENDAR

APRIL

National 9-1-1 Education Month
National Volunteer Week (12-18)

MAY

Public Service Recognition Week (3-9)
National Nurse's Week (6-12)
National Police Week (10-16)
National EMS Week (17-23)
National Public Works Week (17-23)
Memorial Day (25)*

JUNE

National Safety Month
National CPR & AED Awareness Week (1-7)
Heat Awareness Day (11)
Lightning Safety Awareness Week (21-27)

*State holiday. HSEMD offices will be closed.