

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 2, 2011

Contact: State Joint Information Center
515-725-3231 or HSEMDPIO@iowa.gov
Contact: Governor's Office
515-725-3518

State of Iowa Joint Information Center Update

DES MOINES – This update is provided by the Joint Information Center at the State Emergency Operations Center. For comprehensive disaster-related information and resources, visit the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) website at www.iowahomelandsecurity.org.

This release includes the latest updates for the following severe weather events:

DR-1998 - Missouri River flooding

DR-4016 – Severe storms, straight-line winds, and flooding

NEW – DR-4018 – Severe storms and flooding

WEEKLY MEDIA CONFERENCE CALLS SUSPENDED

As of Aug. 17, the weekly media calls have been suspended. Should response and recovery activities increase, the calls will again be held.

For information relating to the Missouri River flooding and summer storms, contact the State of Iowa Joint Information Center at 515-725-3231 or HSEMDPIO@iowa.gov.

OTHER INFORMATION

Donations: Donations of items such as clothing, food, furniture, etc, are NOT needed at this time. If you want to help, cash is best. To donate cash, visit www.aidmatrixnetwork.org/CashDonations/Default2.aspx?ST=Iowa.

Volunteers: Those wishing to volunteer in a disaster-related capacity may sign up to do so at www.volunteeriowa.org.

Scams: Iowans should be aware of the potential for disaster-related scams and price gouging. For information, visit the Iowa Attorney General's website at: www.iowaAttorneyGeneral.gov.

Additional links

- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division: www.iowahomelandsecurity.org.
- Governor Branstad's flood page: <https://governor.iowa.gov/news/missouri-river-flooding>.

MISSOURI RIVER FLOODING

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/disasters/disaster2011.html

DR-1998: May 25 - Continuing

Counties: Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury

Federal Public Assistance – All six counties

Federal Community Disaster Loan (CDL) Program – All six counties

State Individual Assistance – All six counties

News and Updates:

NEW – FEMA Approves Gov. Branstad’s Request for Extension to Appeal Individual Assistance Denial

Gov. Branstad has received notice that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved Iowa’s request for an extension to the time period to appeal the denial of Iowa’s request for Individual Assistance under FEMA-1998-DR. Gov. Branstad made the request for an extension on Aug. 12, 2011, for Fremont, Harrison, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury counties.

FEMA granted the extension, in part, because additional time is needed to allow for flood waters to recede, safe access to damage homes be restored and more damage assessments be conducted. FEMA has extended the deadline to Oct. 7, 2011, which will allow Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division the time needed to work with local officials to bolster Iowa’s appeal by capturing damages and associated impacts.

On Aug. 4, 2011, Gov. Branstad received notification that FEMA had denied his request to make the Individual Assistance Program available to residents of Fremont, Harrison, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury counties. The State of Iowa had 30 days to appeal FEMA’s denial of the Individual Assistance Program. However, since the flood water will recede slowly, the Governor asked FEMA for an extension of the appeal.

The FEMA Individual Assistance Program is made available to homeowners, renters and businesses and can include 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.

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) is coordinating the appeal, working closely with the local emergency management agencies to determine additional damages and impacts caused by ongoing flooding.

Stay Aware, Be Prepared. Iowa HSEMD reminds Iowans that flooding along the Missouri River is continuing, and river levels are projected to remain high for many more weeks. It is important that residents in threatened areas remain prepared in case conditions change. Keeping a bag packed with essential items and establishing a family evacuation plan will help Iowans be ready to evacuate if an order is given.

DNR Provides Sand and Sandbag Disposal Information. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has posted information on their website concerning disposal of sand and sandbags. The DNR provides guidance for cities, counties, residents and businesses. Visit www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/SocialMediaPressRoom/DisasterAssistance.aspx, scroll down the page to the “Sand and Sandbag Disposal” link. There is a variety of useful information and resources at this site.

State Response Summary:

NEW – Iowa Army National Guard

- Completed levee patrol mission in Pottawattamie and Mills counties on Aug. 30.

NEW – Iowa Department of Corrections

- Removing sandbags from critical facilities in Blencoe weekend of Sept. 3.

NEW – Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

- Americorps levee patrol mission completed in Fremont County.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD)

- HSEMD continues to work closely with various local, state, federal, voluntary and faith-based organizations as well as private partners, and continues to field calls and provide assistance to local emergency management officials.

SUMMER 2011 SEVERE WEATHER AND WIND STORM EVENTS

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/disasters/storm2011.html

DR-4016: July 9-14

Counties: Benton, Clay, Dickinson, Marshall, Story and Tama

Federal Public Assistance – All six counties

State Individual Assistance – Benton, Dickinson, Marshall, Story and Tama counties

News and Updates:

President Obama Authorizes Major Disaster Declaration for Six Counties. On Aug. 24, Gov. Branstad received notification that President Obama has authorized a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance for six counties impacted by severe storms, straight line winds, and flooding that occurred from July 9-14, 2011. The counties included in this declaration are Benton, Clay, Dickinson, Marshall, Story and Tama.

“This declaration by the President will help the impacted cities and counties recover from these disasters,” Branstad said. “Unfortunately, Iowans have experienced several disasters this summer. I am proud of the way the citizens of Iowa, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and all state and local agencies have worked together to bring relief to the disaster affected communities. Lieutenant Governor Reynolds and I remain committed to seeking as much aid as possible to assist with the recovery of our communities.”

The declaration by the President will provide federal funding to the declared counties under the Public Assistance Program. A Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance puts into motion long-term federal recovery programs, some of which are matched by state programs, and designed to help public entities and select non-profits. Public Assistance funds may be used for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities and may include debris removal, emergency protective measures, repair of damaged public property, loans needed by communities for essential government functions and grants for public schools.

The Governor also received notification that the Presidential Disaster Declaration includes funding to conduct hazard mitigation activities for the entire state. With this funding, Iowa will be able to minimize the impact of future natural disasters by taking steps now to strengthen existing infrastructure.

This Presidential Disaster Declaration is the 13th Major Presidential Disaster Declaration Iowa has received since March 2007.

State Response Summary:

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD)

○ HSEMD continues to work closely with various local, state, federal, voluntary and faith-based organizations as well as private partners, and continues to field calls and provide assistance to local emergency management officials. HSEMD conducted briefings for prospective applicants for the Public Assistance Program on Aug. 31.

June 26: Severe Storms

State Individual Assistance: Marion County

NEW – DR-4018 July 27-29: Severe Storms and Flooding

Counties: Dubuque and Jackson

Federal Public Assistance – Dubuque and Jackson counties

State Individual Assistance: Dubuque County

News and Updates:

NEW – President Obama Authorizes Disaster Declaration for Dubuque and Jackson Counties

On Aug. 30 Gov. Branstad received notification that President Obama has authorized a Major Disaster Declaration for two counties impacted by severe storms and flooding July 27-29, 2011. The counties included in this declaration are Dubuque and Jackson.

The declaration by the President will provide federal funding to the declared counties under the Public Assistance Program. A Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance puts into motion long-term federal recovery programs, some of which are matched by state programs, and designed to help public entities and select non-profits. Public Assistance funds may be used for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities and may include debris removal, emergency protective measures, repair of damaged public property, loans needed by communities for essential government functions and grants for public schools.

The Governor also received notification that the Presidential Declaration includes funding to conduct hazard mitigation activities for the entire state. With this funding, Iowa will be able to minimize the impact of future natural disasters by taking steps now to strengthen existing infrastructure.

This Presidential Disaster Declaration is the 14th Major Presidential Disaster Declaration Iowa has received since March 2007, and the third since June. The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division administers the federal funding provided by the declaration and oversees disaster recovery activities.

Earlier this week the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) implemented a freeze on some types of disaster aid in order to extend the remaining balance of the Disaster Relief

Fund (DRF) while awaiting passage of appropriations legislation. Federal funding from the DRF is still available for removal of debris and emergency protective measures and to meet the immediate needs of disaster survivors. It is unknown at this time what impact the freeze will have on recovery efforts in Iowa.

Small Business Administration Loans Available in Five Counties. The Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest federal disaster loans are available to Iowa residents and business owners affected by the severe storms and flash flooding that occurred July 27–28, 2011. The loans are available in the counties of Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson and Jones.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling SBA toll-free at (800) 659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visiting SBA's website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **Oct. 11, 2011**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **May 12, 2012**.

NEW – SBA Makes Assistance Available to Private Nonprofit Organizations in Two Counties

The SBA has made low-interest disaster loans available to certain private, nonprofit organizations (PNPs) in Dubuque and Jackson counties. All interested PNPs should begin the process by registering with FEMA. At the time of registration, FEMA will initially determine if the PNP qualifies to immediately apply for a grant from FEMA's PA program.

All other eligible PNPs will be referred to the SBA for a low-interest disaster loan to cover property damages. If SBA cannot approve a low-interest disaster loan or meet all of the PNP's needs, SBA may refer the PNP back to FEMA.

SBA may lend PNPs up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery, equipment, inventory and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For certain private, nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA also offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster.

PNPs may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Disaster loan information and applications are also available by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or on the SBA website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **Oct. 31, 2011**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **May 30, 2012**.

State Response Summary:

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD)

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Aug. 22: Severe Storms and Hail

News and Updates:

Governor Branstad Requests Crop Assessment. Governor Terry E. Branstad requested that the FSA (Farm Service Agency) conduct a crop assessment from the rain and hail storm that passed through Iowa on Monday, Aug. 22.

State Response Summary:

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD)

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