



SECURE & PREPARED

June 1, 2012

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On the Calendar...

June

National Safety Month
National Home Safety Month
National CPR & AED Awareness
Week (1-7)
Heat Awareness Day - Iowa (14)
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.*

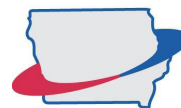
Safeguard Iowa celebrates anniversary

This year, the Safeguard Iowa Partnership (SIP) celebrates five years of strengthening Iowa's capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters through public-private collaboration. To celebrate, SIP is hosting a one-day conference, "Building Community Resilience for the Future," from 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. on June 14 at Des Moines University.

The keynote speakers include MidAmerican Energy Company President William Fehrman, FEMA Region VII Administrator Beth Freeman and FEMA Private Sector Office Director Dan Stoneking. The conference topics include business case: return on investment, understanding today's threat, best practices: preparing and providing for employees impacted by disasters, and first responders: recovering to respond. Registration is

\$25 for SIP partners and \$35 for those who are not SIP partners. Online registration is available at www.safeguardiowa.org/events?eventId=453537&EventViewMode=EventDetails. Ω

[Contributed by Jamie Haberl, SIP]



SAFEGUARD
IOWA
PARTNERSHIP



Above: Beth Freeman.
Right: Dan Stoneking.
FEMA file photos.



Iowa's 9th Annual Homeland Security Conference will be Nov. 6-7, 2012, at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center at Veteran's Memorial in Des Moines. Visit our website for details!

NWS: Fire weather plan for Iowa becomes reality

NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) provides daily fire weather forecasts designed to assist in the assessment of fire danger every day of the year. NWS forecasts ensure the safety of operations and allow responders to plan operations taking into account one of the most changeable aspects of an incident: the weather.

Beginning with the spring 2012 season, the state of Iowa had in place an annual operating plan for fire weather for the entire state. The plan is a result of collaboration with each NWS office serving Iowa, the state fire marshal, and all agencies involved in prescribed burns.

The annual plan for Iowa offers more uniformity in fire weather products between the NWS of-

fices that serve the state and takes into consideration the needs of every customer. During the spring and fall, when grasses are greening up then drying, a fire weather planning forecast is offered twice daily for prescribed burn considerations. During the summer, when grasses are completely green, the planning forecast will be issued once daily.

The major accomplishment of the plan is the inception of the Fire Weather Watch and Red Flag Warning for the entire state of Iowa. Watches and warnings will be issued when wind speeds are greater than 25 m.p.h. and relative humidity is less than 25 percent. Fuel greenness and moisture will of course be considered in this process as well. In the past, only parts of Iowa were getting watches and warnings for fire weather. This new plan elimi-

nates confusion caused when some parts of Iowa had warnings issued and others did not. It also offers uniformity of the parameters involved in the decision process. The involvement of the state fire marshal will ensure that people at the local level will be informed of a fire danger for their area.

Finally, the plan is designed to be one that evolves with customer needs. The plan will be reviewed annually with NWS offices and its customers to determine any needed changes or improvements. Ω

[Contributed by the National Weather Service – Des Moines]



Ethanol safety seminars set in June

Two ethanol safety seminars are scheduled in Iowa during June. The seminars are designed to educate local emergency planning committees, emergency responders and emergency managers on all aspects of ethanol safety and planning. The seminars are free. Registration is limited to the first 100 people per seminar. The seminars will be offered twice per day, from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. and 5:30–10 p.m.



June 13

Dubuque Co. Emergency
Responder Training Facility
14928 Public Safety Way
Dubuque

June 14

Hawkeye Community College
Room 107A
1501 East Orange Rd.
Waterloo

For more information contact
Jen Kracher, (402) 391-1930 or
jkracher@ethanolrfa.org. Ω

Important 2012 HSGP Dates

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

Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

A division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense

Administrator
Mark Schouten

7105 N.W. 70th Avenue
Camp Dodge, Bldg. W-4
Johnston, IA 50131

Phone: 515.725.3231
Fax: 515.725.3260

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

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For more information contact
Stefanie Bond, 515.725.3271 or
stefanie.bond@iowa.gov.

News Team

Stefanie Bond
Laura Carlson
Tara Dowd
Katie Ewing
Beth Lewis
Amy Meston
Lucinda Robertson
Jessica Turba

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

Safe rooms prove effective in Union County

On Saturday, April 14, 2012, at approximately 7 p.m., an EF2 tornado struck the Southwest Community College (SWCC) campus in the city of Creston located in Union County. The college had incorporated tornado safe room designs in two residence halls.

Following the tornado, HSEMD mitigation staff completed a loss avoidance study for the tornado that hit SWCC. It was determined that the tornado directly struck both Spartan Suites

these two safe rooms and none suffered injury. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds were not used for these safe room projects.

The methodology utilized for the loss avoidance study used standardized values from FEMA headquarters. Actuarial tables were used to determine the total cost of injuries, hospitalizations and fatalities that could have occurred. If the safe rooms hadn't existed, potential losses representing

a total loss of life, injuries and damage as a result of the tornado would have been more than \$16 million. The relatively low construction costs of the safe rooms resulted in an estimated

benefit of over 43 times the actual costs created due to the storm.



Students in dormitories on the Southwest Community College in Creston could have sustained injury or been killed had the dwellings not had safe rooms.

and Spartan Hall. Spartan Suites was constructed with a tornado safe room located in the first floor hallway in August 2007. Spartan Hall was also constructed with a tornado safe room located in the first floor hallway, in August 2010. Although there was no advance warning, 70 students utilized

Through the analysis of the SWCC safe rooms, it can be concluded that tornado safe rooms are effective in protecting lives. It can also be verified that tornado safe rooms are a cost-effective method in mitigating losses from tornadoes and high-wind events. Ω

[Contributed by Linda Roose, HSEMD]