



SECURE & PREPARED

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Homeland Security Conference</i>	2
<i>SBA Declaration</i>	3
<i>Iowa City Receives Grant</i>	3
<i>Training Opportunity</i>	3
<i>NIMS Update</i>	4
<i>Grants Update</i>	4
<i>LLIS.GOV</i>	4
<i>Happy Retirement Connie</i>	5

Special points of interest:

- Join us for the Third Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference July 18-20. For more details see page 2.
- The SBA is providing low-interest federal loans for Johnson County and the neighboring counties of Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Linn, Louisa, Muscatine and Washington. See article on page 3.
- Congratulations to several jurisdictions and agencies who have become NIMS compliant. See article on page 4.
- HLSEM Exercise, Evaluation and Training Bureau Chief Connie Gilbert is retiring. See article on page 5.

New on the Web

The NIPP is now on the Web and linked to HLSEM's Web site. Go to http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/resource_room/info_library.asp. Scroll down to the header: National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP).

HLSEM to Combine Bureaus

A veteran and valuable member of the HLSEM team will be retiring on July 27. Connie Gilbert, the Exercise, Evaluation and Training Bureau Chief will be retiring after almost 13 years with the Division. Her expertise and leadership will be greatly missed.

"Connie's energy and work ethic will be sorely missed," explained Administrator David Miller. "She is an invaluable member of our Division who cannot be replaced," he added. (See the last page for a special feature on Connie.)

As a result of Connie's retirement, the Division will combine the exercise and training functions into the Planning & Recovery Bureau to create a new Preparedness Bureau headed by Steve Zimmerman. "Exercise and training will remain priority areas," Miller explained, "and this shift will allow closer coordination with planners," he said.

The consolidation will also help the Division meet a management-to-personnel ratio of not less than 12:1 that is being mandated by the Iowa Department of Management, and it will reduce the Division's overall personnel costs.

The new Preparedness Bureau and will consist of the following sections: Planning with Ken Brink as chief; Training with Dave Hempen as chief; Exercise with Ann Garvey as chief.

In another personnel change, Tracey Epps has moved from Communications and Technology to the new Preparedness Bureau to take over program planner duties for Region 2. John Wageman was serving in this capacity and will now be able to focus more on his responsibilities in the Grants Bureau.

Homeland Security Conference July 18-20

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division is hosting the Third Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference July 18-20 at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. This year's theme is *Learning From Yesterday, Planning for Tomorrow*.

Day One speakers include:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Under Secretary for Preparedness George Foresman, who will deliver the keynote address; (*Continued on page 2*)

Governor's Homeland Security Conference

(Continued from page 1)

General Dennis Reimer, President of Government Services for DFI International and retired Chief of Staff for the US Army: *Lessons Learned from Katrina*; Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, State Epidemiologist, Iowa Department of Public Health and Mary Jones, Director, Division of Epidemiology, Emergency Medical Services and Disaster Operations, Iowa Department of Public Health: *Pandemic Influenza: What is the Threat?*; and Heather Adams, Assistant Attorney General, Iowa Attorney General's Office and Dr. David Schmitt, Acting State Veterinarian, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship: *Quarantine and Isolation*.



Third Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference

Learning from yesterday, planning for tomorrow

Day two begins with a general session followed by a wide array of break-out sessions. The general session will feature Michael Dorn speaking on *Innocent Targets: When Terrorism Comes to School*. Break-out sessions on day two include the following topics: Intelligence Gathering in Iowa, State Special Weapons and Tactics Team, State Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Emergency Operations Planning for Schools, Animals in Disaster, Public Health Response Team's Hurricane Katrina Response, Civil Air Patrol, Search and Rescue in Iowa, and many more.

Day three is a half day and features the following topics and speakers: *Emergency Management Assistance Compact and How it Works*, Jeffrey Phillips, Chief, Response and Emergency Operations Bureau, Office of Emergency Management, New Mexico Department of Public Safety; *Special Needs Populations: What You Need to Know*, Jane Mobley, Owner and CEO, Jane Mobley Associates; *Building a NIMS Compliant Joint Information Center*, Christopher Kramer, Risk Communication Program, Decision and Information Sciences Division, Argonne National Laboratory; *Military Support to Civilian Authority*, Brigadier General Mark Zirkelbach, Deputy Adjutant General, Iowa Army National Guard.

Exhibitors will also be on hand throughout the conference to display state-of-the-art equipment and offer training and other services. This conference offers a rare opportunity to view hands-on demonstrations of equipment you may need in your area.

For a full list of speakers, topics, and exhibitors, please visit <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/> and click on the red link at the top of our homepage. For questions, e-mail governor-sconf@hlsem.state.ia.us or call Mary Ann Lee at 515-243-2000.

Join us for an Open House!

Following the conclusion of the conference on July 20, HLSEM will host an open house from 1:00-3:30 at our new location at Building W-4 at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. For directions, please visit <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/images/HLSEMmove.pdf>. You will need to present a photo ID/driver's license at the security gate.

We hope you will join us!

SBA Declares Disaster in Johnson County

The Governor's Office and the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division by working closely with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), have been able to secure funding in the form of low-interest federal loans for Johnson County and the neighboring counties of Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Linn, Louisa, Muscatine and Washington.

Following the June 16 denial of the state's request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration due to damages caused by tornadoes and severe storms on April 13 and 14, SBA acted under its own authority to declare these counties a disaster area and make SBA assistance available. Jones County was also included in the request for assistance, but did not qualify.

The SBA loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the tornadoes and severe storms. SBA representatives will be available to issue loan applications and help with the application process until July 15 in Iowa City. The office will be open 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturdays at the County Administration Building at 917 S. Dubuque Street.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit SBA in person may call toll-free (800) 659-2955. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications may be mailed to SBA at 14925 Kingsport Road, Ft. Worth, TX 76155. The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is August 21, 2006. The deadline to return economic injury applications is March 22, 2007.

Iowa City Receives \$50,000 Grant

On June 16, the Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce accepted a \$50,000 grant from Grainger, North America's leading distributor of facilities maintenance supplies, to help small businesses recover from the April 13 tornadoes. The contribution is part of the Grainger Rebuilding America® program, designed to help local businesses rebuild following disasters.

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division and Johnson County Emergency Management helped provide background information for the grant. Information on the grant process is posted at <http://www.iowacityarea.com>.

Training Opportunity Via Web Cast

The Center for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP), at the University of Albany School of Public Health, will broadcast a program via satellite downlink titled "Risky Business: Communication During Crisis" with speaker Kristine A. Smith, MA, Director of Public Health Risk Communication, Office of Science & Public Health, New York State Department of Health on July 13 from 10-11 a.m. EST.

The Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness will Web cast this program on July 13 from 10-11 a.m. and from 4-5 p.m. EST. An archive of this Web cast will also later be made available on the University of Albany CPHP Web site. For more information visit: <http://www.ualbanycphp.org>.

Congrats on Becoming NIMS Compliant!

HLSEM would like to congratulate the following jurisdictions and agencies for accomplishing the goal of becoming NIMS compliant! Your hard work and dedication will ensure that our state is prepared for natural or human-made disasters and that our citizens are afforded the protection they deserve.

Counties: Fremont, Palo Alto and Poweshiek County Emergency Management.

Cities: Cedar Falls, Plymouth, Clear Lake, Farragut, Sidney, Hamburg, Northboro, Graettinger, Emmetsburg, Montezuma, Brooklyn, and Searsboro.

Remember, the deadline to be NIMS compliant for 2006 is September 30. For 2006 NIMS compliance, the only courses that need to be taken are:

- IS-700 NIMS Awareness
- IS-100 Intro. to Incident Command
- IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS-800 NRP Introduction to the NRP

Not everyone needs to take every course. For guidelines, visit the NIMS Web page at:

http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_compliance.shtm and click on the following pdf file: FY06 NIMS Training Requirements and go to page 5. There have been some concerns over who should take the IS-800 course. Through the guidance from the NIMS Integration Center (NIC), HLSEM has determined that only county coordinators need to take this course.

Also, be sure to check out the NIMS Web Page at www.fema.gov/emergency/nims. New information was recently posted. For additional questions, contact HLSEM's David Hempen at 515-725-3281.

Important Dates From the Grants Bureau

Bi-Annual Strategy Implementation Reports are due to HLSEM no later than July 15, 2006. This should be the final report for most county coordinators on the 2004 grant. Reports will also need to be completed for each region for the 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program. If you have questions concerning the completion of the necessary information, please contact HLSEM's August Geisinger at 515-725-3280.

Third quarter FFY2006 EMPG reports are also due. Performance reports must be submitted to HLSEM's Lynda Wessel by e-mail no later than 8 p.m. July 15, 2006. Hard copy financial reports are due postmarked no later than July 31, 2006. The financial report is to be submitted with original signatures from the coordinator and auditor. The financial report includes the request for reimbursement with actual expenditures broken out by organization, training, planning, exercise, equipment, etc.

Along with the request for reimbursement, the coordinator must submit documentation showing the breakdown of all actual expenditures. This documentation can be the spending plan (form 583-0088C.2) showing all actual expenditures for the quarter or a copy of the quarterly expenditure report from the county auditor. For questions on the EMPG reports, please contact Lynda Wessel at 515-725-3259.

LLIS.gov Shares Lessons Learned

The District 4 functional exercise is featured in June's Lessons Learned Information Sharing newsletter under "10 Lessons Learned." Click on each "lesson learned" for additional information on the exercise.

First-time users must apply for a username and password by clicking on the "Register for LLIS.gov" link. Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS.gov) is the national network of Lessons Learned and Best Practices for emergency response providers and homeland security officials.

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HLSEM 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

Happy Retirement Connie!



HLSEM will regrettably say goodbye to Connie Gilbert when she retires on July 27, after nearly 13 years of service to the Division.

"We're sorry to see Connie go—she's contributed a great deal to this organization," said HLSEM Administrator David Miller. "She has served the Division, and Iowans, well and we thank her for her dedicated service."

Connie began her career with HLSEM in December 1993 as the Division's exercise training officer. Within a few months she was promoted to state training officer, a position she held until becoming chief of the Exercise and Evaluation Bureau (Training was added to her responsibilities at a later time) in March 2003.

During her time with the Division, Connie planned and oversaw the execution of many annual conferences, which grew bigger and became better with each year. These annual conferences, along with the role of providing oversight of the state's Y2K preparedness and planning activities, and participating in the development and delivery of the state's three-year exercise plan, have been some of the highlights of Connie's career at HLSEM.

"There are so many good people here I'll miss," said Connie of her HLSEM co-workers.

Prior to HLSEM, Connie worked for the Iowa Department of Human Services for nearly 10 years in the Medicaid Program, working with clients and providers to resolve payment issues, provide quality control, and develop and provide training on Medicaid issues.

What's next for Connie? She and husband, Dan, plan to start out in Colorado and take their time traveling north along the Rocky Mountains. "We don't have a schedule or a particular destination in mind. This is something we've always wanted to do," she said. Connie also plans to spend more time with her family, including her husband, two daughters, two step-sons, grandchildren, sister, brother-in-law, mother, dog Zach, and cats Lily and Iris. In addition to traveling, she plans to sketch, read, and don her apron to do more cooking.

Connie's Retirement Party

HLSEM will host a retirement party for Connie on July 27 from 1-4 p.m. at Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston. Please help us give Connie a proper send off!

Connie is a valued member of the HLSEM team, and a mentor and friend to many. We will miss her and wish her the best as she embarks on her new adventure.