



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- In 2006, 52 state employees were trained during four Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training sessions. See article on page 2.
- On November 9, HLSEM and the National Weather Service will sponsor Winter Weather Awareness Day. See article on page 3.
- On November 6-7, HLSEM will host a special needs planning summit. See article on page 3.
- HLSEM officials recently met with Iowa's new Protective Security Advisor. See article on page 4.

Please note that HLSEM's main office/24-hour contact phone number has changed to 515-725-3231.

FFY 07 EMPG Roll-Out and Training Coming Soon

The Emergency Management Performance Grant program supports comprehensive all-hazard emergency management programs at the state and local levels by providing funding for essential expenses including salaries, benefits, equipment, supplies, maintenance of facilities, and other necessary costs for local emergency management agencies.

This year's training will focus on three major areas: use of the new web-based electronic application, developing a concise and effective performance-based scope of work, and preparing the EMPG budget so that EMAs are report and audit ready.

| FFY07 EMPG Rollout and Training | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------|-----------------------------|
| District | Date | Time | Location |
| 1 | 11/2 | 9 a.m. | Story County EMA |
| 2 | 10/25 | 1 p.m. | Cerro Gordo County EMA |
| 3 | 10/23 | 9:30 a.m. | Pocahontas County EMA |
| 4 | 10/24 | 1 p.m. | HLSEM SEOC |
| 5 | 10/19 | 12:30 p.m. | Jefferson County Law Center |
| 6 | 10/26 | 9 a.m. | Linn County EMA |

The new Web-based electronic system called the Universal Grant System (Ugrants) is the product of a partnership between the Iowa Grants Network (Department of Management) and Iowa Interactive. Iowa Interactive offers eGovernment solutions to state government agencies. The purpose of the Ugrants project is to develop a Web-based grant application/review process for state agencies and local governments to use when awarding grants.

Five state agencies have been selected to work with Iowa Interactive to develop and test this new paperless Web-based system. The pilot agencies are the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, the Office of Drug Control Policy, and the Departments of Cultural Affairs, Education, and Human Rights.

HLSEM will be the first state agency to use the Ugrants system and will be using it for the EMPG program. The new system will be rolled out on October 19 at the first 07 EMPG training workshop. (*Continued on page 2*)

FFY 07 EMPG Roll-Out and Training Coming Soon

(Continued from page 1)

When complete, this Web-based system will include:

- a grant application form that is customizable to meet the needs of individual agencies;
- a mechanism to identify qualifications of applicants as a first step in the application process;
- an on-line grant evaluation process;
- an on-line scoring system which also allows for re-scoring;
- a bulletin board to allow evaluators to share comments;
- a process for the electronic distribution of award letters to applicants; and
- a system to manage the grantee reporting requirements and evaluate the reports

NIMS Update

Congratulations to everyone who has become NIMS compliant. As of October 16, we have received nearly 1,400 compliancy letters. This is a prime example of why Iowa is one of the leading states in the nation for NIMS compliancy.

The FY07 criteria is expected by the end of October. At this point, it does not sound like there will be many changes. As a reminder, the IS 300 and IS 400 courses will be part of the criteria for FY07, but only for select individuals.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will be moving away from the self compliancy and towards a Web-based compliancy, similar to NIMCAST. HLSEM does not have specifics, but expect to see it out around the first of the year.

State Employees Train Through CERT Program

In 2006, 52 state employees were trained during four Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training sessions on the Capitol Complex and at the Division of Criminal Investigation Criminalistics Laboratory in Ankeny. The classes were taught by CERT trainer and Cerro Gordo and Franklin County Emergency Management Coordinator Steve O'Neil. The CERT program trains state employees as well as citizens around the state in basic disaster response skills that can be used in the workplace and communities.

Participants learn skills such as fire suppression, urban search and rescue, and medical operations to help them take a more active role in emergency preparedness. These teams can help respond to immediate needs following a major disaster, when emergency services are not immediately available or are delayed.



CERT trainer Steve O'Neil instructs a recent CERT class on the Capitol Complex in Des Moines.

This year, HLSEM began to branch out beyond training only state employees, with participation from the Des Moines Police Department and ING (a private investment/insurance firm). Other companies/agencies are also starting to show interest in the program.

Winter Weather Awareness Day is November 9

On November 9, HLSEM and the National Weather Service will sponsor Winter Weather Awareness Day. The NWS will send out media advisories and statements via weather radio highlighting winter storms, cold temperatures and wind chills, and winter weather preparedness.

Public Service Announcements (PSA) are available on the National Weather Service, Des Moines Web site. Winter Weather topics such as vehicle safety, bitter cold, and National Weather Service products are available in 30 or 60 second recordings. The PSAs can be downloaded as an audio file or just the text for you to use to record.



An additional media advisory will be sent out on October 30th focusing on winter weather driving safety. For more information concerning winter weather visit: http://www.crh.noaa.gov/crnews/display_story.php?wfo=dmx&storyid=3819&source=0 and www.BeReadyIowa.org.

HLSEM to Host “Everyone Survives” Summit

On November 6-7, HLSEM will host a special needs planning summit at the Hilton Garden Inn in Urbandale. The purpose of the summit is to bring together emergency management personnel, healthcare workers, city officials, emergency medical services personnel, and persons with special needs to learn basic information for planning for special needs populations in a disaster.

Day one will consist of several state speakers and national keynote speaker Anthony Cahill, director of the Center for Development and Disability at the University of New Mexico. Topics will include evacuating and sheltering, service animals and assistive technology, and mental health. A Special Needs Populations Planning Workshop will be held on day two.

For more information, contact HLSEM's Tracey Epps or Joyce Winningham at 515-725-3231.

ISAC Meeting to be Held November 29th

Educational opportunities will be offered to county officials November 29-December 1 during ISAC's Fall School of Instruction in downtown Des Moines.

During the general session on Thursday, November 30, instead of one keynote speaker, a keynote panel is being planned to discuss Iowa politics and the outlook for Iowa county government in 2007.

Due to the large number of county officials attending, two affiliate meeting sites will be used: the Marriott (700 Grand) and the Renaissance Savery (401 Locust).

For a meeting agenda, keynote speakers, directions & parking, lodging, seminars, on-line registration, and other information visit: <http://www.iowacounties.org/>.

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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

Protective Security Advisor Visits HLSEM

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management staff recently met with Iowa's new Protective Security Advisor (PSA) for the U.S. Department Homeland Security (DHS), Phil Pitzen. Accompanying Pitzen was Regional PSA for DHS, Major General (Retired) Greg Gardner.

The PSA's mission is to represent DHS in local communities throughout the United States, serving as a liaison between DHS, the private sector and federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal entities; acting as DHS' on-site critical infrastructure and vulnerability assessment specialist; and providing real-time information on facility significance and protective measures.

Responsibilities:

- Provide a critical liaison and outreach function with state homeland security advisors, law enforcement authorities (LEAs), other first responders and private sector owners and operators within PSA's district
- Ensure that there is an adequate flow of programmatic information to community stakeholders
- Support principal federal official responsible for NSSEs within PSA's district
- Provide and coordinate select training, such as BZPP workshops, to LEAs, other first responders, and private sector owners and operators and facilitate coordination.
- Verify assets submitted for inclusion to National Asset Database and validate implementation of protective measures in accordance with PSD program requirements and other congressional mandates.
- Coordination of visits by Protective Security Advisory Teams for Buffer Zone Protection Plan Development.

"The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division is well-recognized in Washington D.C. as a very progressive, professional organization and I feel fortunate to have been assigned to the state of Iowa," said Pitzen. Pitzen previously worked for the Transportation Security Administration and U.S. Department of Justice. He can be contacted by e-mail at Phil.Pitzen@dhs.gov.

Exercise Bureau Makes Web Updates

The Exercise Bureau has updated their portion of the HLSEM Web site at <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/programs/exercise.asp>. Here you will find contact information, requirements, forms, and more.

Also, due to the overwhelming response to the November Exercise Design Course, HLSEM has scheduled another class for December 14-15. This is scheduled in conjunction with the New Emergency Manager Coordinator Orientation Session (scheduled for December 12-13). To register, visit: <http://hls.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/CalDetails.aspx?EventID=117&CourseID=82>.