

ANNUAL REPORT SFY 2023



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

John R. Benson
Director

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Letter from the Director

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) is pleased to present the State Fiscal Year 2023 annual report, a snapshot of the year's activities and accomplishments.

Disaster response and recovery are core responsibilities of HSEMD. During SFY 2023, the Department coordinated the State's response to, and recovery from, flooding along the Mississippi River, a building collapse that impacted residents and businesses in Davenport, and numerous severe weather incidents. The Department also assisted the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship in the State's fall 2022 and spring 2023 response to highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Although coordination of disaster response and recovery are the areas where we are most visible, the Department is involved in numerous programs and initiatives to make certain Iowa and Iowans are better prepared for any emergency or disaster. Many of those activities are highlighted in this report, including our work to increase the safety of Iowa's schools, assess the status of our state's levees, and improve how assistance is delivered to individuals following a disaster.

In addition to our disaster work and numerous other projects and initiatives, we also performed our important day-to-day work of preparing responders and Iowans and assisting communities in recovering from and preventing disasters. In SFY 2024 we will continue our work to ensure that Iowa and Iowans are better prepared for all emergencies and disasters.

At the end of this report you will find the Department's performance measures for the past fiscal year. As you will see, HSEMD has continued to support our many partners and strengthen our department and state through our commitment to excellence in homeland security and emergency management.

We have only been able to touch upon a few of HSEMD's activities in this report. Please visit our department's website, homelandsecurity.iowa.gov, to learn more.

Sincerely,



John R. Benson, Director



Director John R. Benson

HSEMD Authorities

Iowa Code Chapter 29C establishes the responsibilities of the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. These responsibilities ensure the state is adequately prepared for disasters through administration, preparation, and execution of emergency management and homeland security programs.

HSEMD is charged with supporting local entities as they plan and implement mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery strategies. The Department provides technical assistance, training, exercise facilitation, communications, and other support necessary for establishing and maintaining local capabilities. HSEMD is the coordinating entity that ensures consistency and compliance with numerous federal and State legal requirements and regulations. The Department also is responsible for overseeing and implementing Iowa's homeland security activities.

HSEMD Core Values, Purpose, and Focus

HSEMD Core Values

Mission Oriented – We are resolute in our service to Iowans.

Integrity – We conduct ourselves with honesty and are transparent in our actions.

Distinguished – We are leaders in our field.

One Team – We collaborate, connect, and share.

HSEMD Core Purpose

Enhancing the quality of life for Iowans

HSEMD Core Focus

Preparing our state and building resilient communities

HSEMD Strategic Vision

In 2021 HSEMD redefined its core values, purpose, and focus. At that same time, the Department developed a three-year strategic plan that represents a transition, as well as growth, from previous years and expands the traditional operational focus to incorporate the organizational structure and internal strategic goals of the agency. This shift toward a broader departmental ethos seeks to improve not only the services we provide to Iowans, but also the manner in which those services are provided.

HSEMD identified five strategic priorities to ensure the department will be able to provide Iowans the very best service and our employees an environment where they can excel. Those priorities are: increase the agility of our response operations; ensure recovery programs are rapidly implemented and provide clear-cut benefits; provide all staff with opportunities and resources to be leaders in their fields and within State government; create collaborative, transparent, and creative teams; and operationalize equity in emergency management. Significant and steady progress has been made in these priority areas, providing a foundation for future successes and innovations. Details on the progress we have made toward reaching these goals are contained in this report.

About HSEMD

In 1965 Iowa Governor Harold Hughes created the State Civil Defense Agency with a focus on the threat of nuclear war. Since that time, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has undergone many changes to evolve into an organization that is prepared for multiple natural and human-caused hazards.

In the 1970s the focus expanded to include the management of naturally caused emergencies and disasters. Management of radiological and hazardous materials incidents were added in the 1980s and the office adopted an all-hazards approach to emergency management.

In 1992 the office became the Emergency Management Division of the Iowa Department of Public Defense. The focus of the Division became one of protecting people and property from the effects of all types of disasters, and to speeding the recovery from disasters.

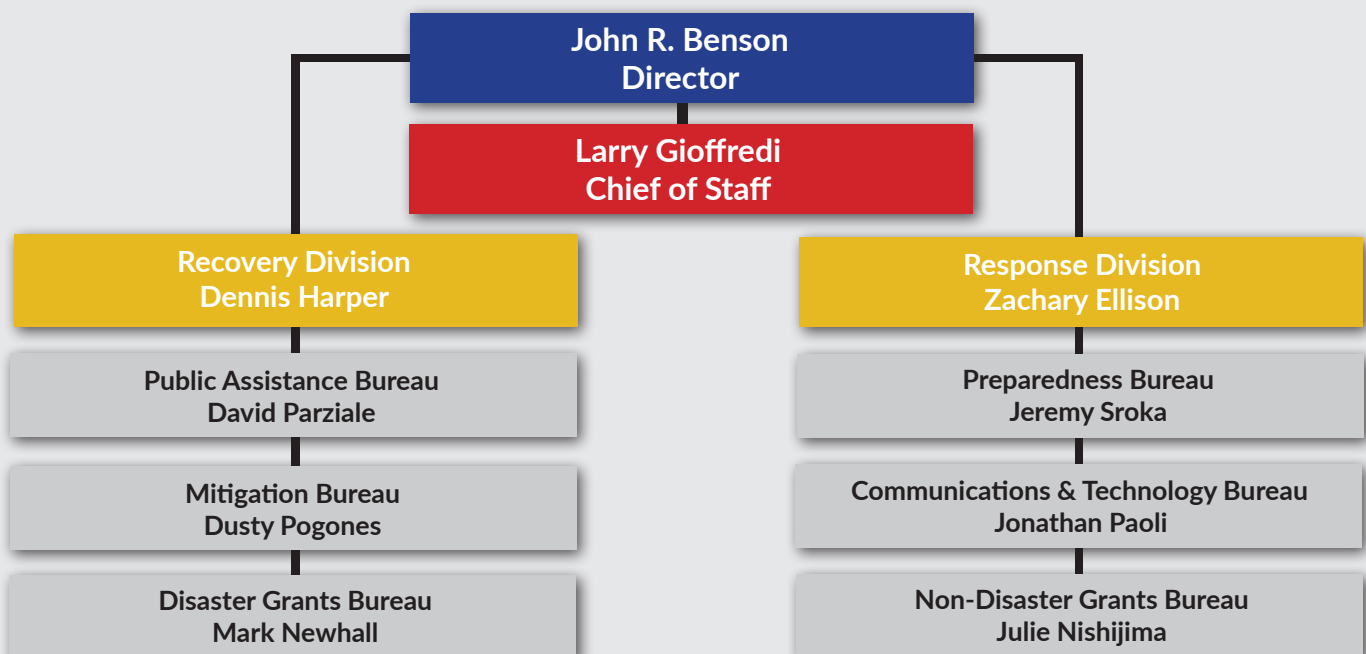
The 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States once again redefined Iowa's emergency manage-

ment approach. Following Sept. 11, 2001, homeland security responsibilities were integrated into the duties and responsibilities of the Emergency Management Division, and in 2003 the Division's name was formally changed to Homeland Security and Emergency Management to reflect its new duties. In July 2013, HSEMD became a stand-alone department after the Iowa General Assembly approved legislation that was then signed into law by the governor.

Structure of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in Iowa

The structure of homeland security and emergency management in Iowa begins with the governor, who holds the responsibility for protecting Iowa's citizens. The governor appoints the Iowa homeland security advisor and the director of the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Currently the HSEMD director also serves as the governor's homeland security advisor. The HSEMD director relies on State- and

HSEMD Organizational Chart



About HSEMD

local-level advisory bodies, executive-level State policy makers, State and local agency points of contact, local first responders, regional representatives, and other community organizations and representative bodies, for information to assist in shaping policy and making decisions.

Department Structure

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is the coordinating body for homeland security and emergency management activities across the state. The Department is led by Director John Benson, and is comprised of a Recovery Division and a Response Division. The director is supported by Chief of Staff Larry Gioffredi.

Response Division: Zachary Ellison, Administrator

The Response Division coordinates the State of Iowa's response to disasters and emergencies. The division also coordinates emergency management planning initiatives during steady state times. The division is comprised of three bureaus: Preparedness, Communications and Technology, and Non-disaster Grants and Administration. This division maintains and oversees the readiness of the State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Dodge in Johnston where the state's response to disasters is coordinated. Other responsibilities of the division include:

- resource management
- volunteer and donations management
- radiological emergency preparedness
- emergency management plan development for preparedness, response, and recovery

- training coordination
- exercise coordination
- core capabilities assessment and strategic planning
- 911 system administration
- special security operations
- critical infrastructure protection and information sharing
- public and private sector partnership coordination
- specialized emergency response teams
- statewide mass notification and emergency messaging
- geographic information systems
- financial management of non-disaster grants
- accounting and financial transactions
- procurement
- strategic communication
- legislative and congressional relations
- administration of the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program and Disaster Case Advocacy Program

Recovery Division: Dennis Harper, Administrator

The Recovery Division coordinates short- and long-term recovery and hazard mitigation activities related to Iowa disasters. This division is comprised of three bureaus: Hazard Mitigation, Public Assistance, and Disaster Grants and Administration.

About HSEMD

The Recovery Division's duties include:

- administering the federal Public Assistance Program
- administering state and federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs
- providing technical and administrative support to the Iowa Flood Mitigation Board
- administering the Office of Levee Safety
- coordinating damage assessment of disaster-impacted individuals, businesses, and public infrastructure to support State of Iowa requests for federal disaster assistance
- coordinating the State's implementation of recovery assistance programs for disasters that have been declared at both the State and federal levels

- working closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to fulfill recovery operations responsibilities following a disaster
- maintaining Iowa's Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan and Iowa Recovery Plan

HSEMD is involved in numerous programs and initiatives to benefit Iowa's citizens, communities, businesses, and governments. In this report we will highlight a few of the Department's activities as they relate to the emergency management cycle, which consists of preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Detection and prevention are often included as a fifth phase of emergency management, which we will highlight as well.



Preparedness

The preparedness phase of emergency management requires HSEMD to ensure the Department, our partners, and the citizens of Iowa are prepared for disasters.

Planning, Training, and Exercise

Planning, training, and exercise are the foundation of Iowa's emergency preparedness efforts.

HSEMD's Planning, Training, and Exercise Program has a goal to better prepare partners at all levels to respond to disasters. Planning for emergencies ensures that emergency services, local authorities, and other organizations better communicate and coordinate efforts, improving disaster response and post-disaster recovery. Federal, State, and local planning provides safety and security for the public for a full spectrum of potential disasters. HSEMD takes a strategic, all-hazards approach to planning. The Department is required by Iowa law to prepare a comprehensive plan for disaster response, recovery, and mitigation. The Iowa Comprehensive Emergency Plan is comprised of four separate plans for emergency response, hazard mitigation, disaster recovery, and critical asset protection. HSEMD regularly updates these plans to ensure they remain timely and relevant for Iowa's hazards.

Successful planning is built on partnerships. HSEMD works closely with county emergency managers to complete yearly updates of key components of local response plans, promotes and provides training to support those plan components, and conducts exercises that test the plans and training. The Department also engages with local partners on recovery and hazard mitigation planning efforts. HSEMD is involved in planning efforts with other State agencies, including the Iowa De-

partment of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for animal disease and drought response and the Iowa Office of Secretary of State for election security.

Drought Plan

Just as Iowa prepares for floods, tornadoes, and winter storms, it must also be prepared for the impacts of a drought. During SFY 2023 HSEMD partnered with other agencies to develop a plan to guide Iowa's response to drought disasters. The Iowa Drought plan, a tool to help state agencies better identify the slow-moving phenomenon of drought and will serve as a blueprint to ensure the state is able to address the challenges of drought preparedness, response, and recovery. HSEMD collaborated on the plan with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Department of Agriculture Midwest Climate Hub, and National Drought Mitigation Center. The plan was completed in January 2023.

Training prepares responders, local officials, school personnel, and others to prevent, protect, respond to, and recover from a variety of emergency situations. HSEMD has worked with its many partners in the delivery of courses to thousands of people at all levels of government throughout the state. In SFY 2023 1,358 people trained on a variety of topics in order to prepare for a wide array of hazards.

Exercises are designed to test the ability of participants to respond to a variety of hazards, use equipment, and test skills learned through planning and training. HSEMD conducts, participates in, and/or supports many exercises each year that are designed to test and refine local, State, private sector, and federal response to emergencies.

Preparedness

During SFY 2023 HSEMD staff participated in 53 exercises to test response plans and to identify areas for improvement. These exercises focused on key components of response and recovery, including economic recovery, emergency management, mass care, hazardous materials, agriculture and natural resources, and long-term recovery.

Citizen Preparedness

Citizen preparedness is an important component of Iowa's overall preparedness. Each year, HSEMD public information staff conduct awareness campaigns to educate Iowans on the hazards that impact our state and how to prepare for them. These campaigns provide information on general emergency preparedness and how to prepare for specific hazards, such as winter weather and severe storms. HSEMD's public awareness initiatives also focus on informing citizens about the importance of reporting suspicious activity and how to properly use 911. In SFY 2023 HSEMD public information staff developed and delivered six public awareness campaigns using social media, traditional media, and the Department's websites to disseminate information to citizens statewide. Through the use of multiple message delivery methods, the Department was able to provide information to large segments of the public to encourage them to be more prepared for emergencies and disasters. HSEMD's preparedness website, Ready Iowa (ready.iowa.gov) provides easy-to-understand information to help Iowans be better prepared for any emergency or disaster.

HSEMD developed and executed a campaign in SFY 2023 to increase the public's awareness of, and provide tools to combat, false information delivered via social media. The "Check the Source, of Course" campaign promoted the use of online critical thinking skills as a tool to assess the validity of information available through social media

platforms and to encourage social media consumers not to engage in the proliferation of false information. As part of the campaign, HSEMD aired TV and cable ads in markets across the state and also on social media platforms. A website was created to provide information and resources to help social media users understand the dangers of false information, along with tools to help mitigate potential risks.

Check the source, of course! campaign materials



School Safety

In June 2022 Gov. Kim Reynolds announced a \$100 million school safety initiative for Iowa's public school districts and nonpublic and independent schools. The initiative is being carried out by HSEMD, the Iowa Department of Public Safety, and the Iowa Department of Education, with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. The program has funded facility vulnerability assessments, digital critical incident mapping technology, two-way radios, threat reporting and monitoring software, and capital improvements for security enhancements through the School Safety Improvement Fund.

Preparedness

Because of the Department's expertise in critical infrastructure protection and threat assessments, HSEMD was given oversight of the initiative's facility vulnerability assessments. HSEMD worked with federal and private-sector experts to develop assessment methods and tools. The assessments began in July 2022 and were completed in January 2023. Nearly 500 school districts or systems requested assessments of more than 1,200 buildings. In addition, 32 districts or systems conducted vulnerability assessments in conjunction with local law enforcement and submitted their findings to the department.

HSEMD was also tasked with administering the capital improvement grants provided through the School Safety Improvement Fund. Through this grant, schools are able to apply for up to \$50,000 per school building to implement the recommended capital improvements that were identified through the vulnerability assessment process. As of June 30, 2023, 300 school districts or systems had submitted applications. The deadline for schools to apply for these grants is Dec. 31, 2024.

Radiological Emergency Preparedness

Regulatory guidance from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency directs state and local authorities to develop, implement, and maintain plans and procedures to prevent the public from being exposed to harmful radiation. HSEMD's Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program ensures that emergency preparedness, planning, training, and exercise activities are in place for the nuclear power facilities near Iowa. The REP program ensures the facilities meet or exceed standards and guidelines set by the federal government for the protection of the citizens of the state.

Nuclear power facilities are required by the NRC to support local and state preparedness activities and are required to hold full-scale exercises that involve county and state agencies every other year. In SFY 2023 HSEMD executed a full-scale exercise in July 2022 and participated in multiple nuclear power plant preparedness activities, to include a complete rewrite of State REP plans. Currently, there are two nuclear facilities operating near Iowa; the Quad Cities Generating Station in Cordova, Illinois, and the Cooper Nuclear Station near Brownsville, Nebraska.

Whole Community Engagement

In an effort to improve how Iowa prepares for, responds to, and assists all Iowans recovering from disasters, HSEMD has launched the Whole Community Engagement Project.

The project is a multi-phased effort that will assess existing emergency plans, obtain feedback from communities and stakeholders, and identify best practices in order to develop a framework for executing the disaster management process in a way that is equitable for all Iowans, including those in underserved communities and historically marginalized populations.

During SFY 2023, HSEMD engaged emergency management professionals, volunteer organizations, advocacy groups, and other participants to discuss disaster response and recovery through a lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion. In SFY 2024, HSEMD will work with internal and external stakeholders to determine how to best incorporate whole community principles into disaster response and recovery moving forward.

Disaster Response

During the response phase of emergency management, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management serves as the coordination point for the deployment of State resources. When disasters strike, HSEMD is prepared to provide assistance to impacted communities through county emergency management agencies. HSEMD's response activities range from full activation of the State Emergency Operations Center, where the Department works with other government and private-sector partners in support of State and local response efforts, to monitoring of incidents by the HSEMD 24/7 duty officers. Response activations may last for only a few hours in a small incident, or may extend for several weeks or months for large-scale disasters.

Response Process

Because disasters start locally, county emergency management agencies have a vital role in preparation for, response to, and recovery from disasters. The county emergency management coordinator facilitates local government and volunteer response operations such as sandbagging, traffic and access control, resource management, cleanup efforts, and sheltering for citizens affected by a disaster. County emergency management agencies provide coordination of local resources and work in partnership with HSEMD to ensure local emergency response partners have adequately planned and are well equipped, trained, and exercised for a response. County emergency management agencies work for, and act on behalf of, their local emergency management commissions. When a community's ability to respond to a disaster exceeds its capabilities, the county emergency management coordinator may

request assistance through the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC), an intrastate mutual aid agreement. IMAC provides the mechanism for political subdivisions and emergency management commissions to share resources with one another during a disaster that has been declared either by the local jurisdiction or the governor. If local mutual aid is not sufficient, the county emergency management coordinator will work with local officials and HSEMD to request a governor's proclamation of disaster emergency to allow State resources to be used for response and recovery. When a disaster or incident goes beyond the capabilities of State government, the governor may request response resources from FEMA and/or from other states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. If the impacts of the disaster are beyond the State's capability to recover, a Presidential Disaster Declaration may be requested. If granted, this declaration can provide financial assistance to eligible individuals and public entities.

During SFY 2023 the governor issued 16 proclamations of disaster emergency. Also, during SFY 2023, the governor issued 10 proclamations for the State's response to highly pathogenic avian influenza. A governor's proclamation of disaster emergency enables State resources to be used at no cost to local jurisdictions. State resources may include equipment, personnel, technical guidance, supplies, and assistance for missions such as debris removal, traffic control, levee patrol, security, and transportation.

A governor's proclamation may activate the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program and the Disaster Case Advocacy Program for residents in counties impacted by severe weather. The Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program provides grants for households with incomes of up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Each eligible

Response

household may receive up to \$5,000 for items that qualify under one of four categories: temporary housing, food assistance, personal property, and home repair. The Disaster Case Advocacy Program addresses serious disaster-related needs. Through this program, disaster case advocates work with clients to coordinate services and resources to address disaster-related unmet needs, build a recovery plan, and access available resources. This program closes 180 days from the date of the governor's proclamation. There are no income eligibility requirements for the Disaster Case Advocacy Program. (Note: HSEMD was assigned administration of the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program and Disaster Case Advocacy Program effective July 1, 2023, as part of the State of Iowa government alignment. The Iowa Department of Health Human and Services had previously administered these programs.)

SFY 2023 Disaster Response

HSEMD coordinated the State's response to several severe weather incidents during SFY 2023, including flooding along the Mississippi River from April 24-May 13, 2023, when near record levels of flooding impacted Allamakee, Clayton, Des Moines, Dubuque, Jackson, Lee, and Scott counties. HSEMD also assisted Scott County and the City of Davenport in the response to the partial collapse of an apartment building on May 28, 2023. In fall 2022 and spring 2023, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was detected in Iowa, affecting millions of birds. HSEMD assisted the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and other State agencies in the coordination of the response to HPAI, including mobilizing department-owned mobile foaming units to depopulate infected birds. HSEMD also monitored and shared incident information with State and local public and private-sector partners.



Partial apartment building collapse in Davenport in May 2023

Response

Pre-Positioned Equipment

Over the past several years, HSEMD has improved the state's disaster response capability by pre-positioning vital equipment. At the end of SFY 2023, 73 pumps, which are pivotal tools for fighting floods, were staged and ready to be deployed at locations throughout the state. In addition to the pumps, HSEMD has pre-positioned 22 generators throughout Iowa to increase the accessibility and timely deployment of these resources during times of disaster. The Department also maintains three sandbag machines, along with a supply of sandbags, and portable flood barriers that are immediately available for use by local jurisdictions. HSEMD has recently invested in six portable barrier packages and three mobile light towers as a measure to increase security for soft targets and crowded places. These resources are also pre-positioned in locations throughout the state.

Social Media

HSEMD public information staff use social media to widely disseminate and receive information during disasters and emergencies and on a day-to-day basis. Social media is an especially vital tool during disaster response. HSEMD public information staff utilize social media to collect information on local activities and conditions during emergency situations. This information helps Department staff to better understand local conditions and the type and extent of damage that has occurred to public and private property. In addition, HSEMD utilizes social media to disseminate information to the public during the response to a disaster. During SFY 2023, 514 Facebook posts reached nearly 890,000 people. More than 304,000 people

were reached by 377 Tweets issued by HSEMD in that period. Those messages provided information and resources related to Iowa's response to severe weather incidents, highlighted programs and initiatives of HSEMD and our partners, and promoted preparedness actions Iowans can take during specific incidents and for all hazards.

Facebook post on Winter Weather Awareness Day 2023



Recovery

During the recovery phase of emergency management, HSEMD activities focus on assisting affected communities and citizens. Recovery begins immediately after, and sometimes during, response to a disaster. HSEMD staff work closely with local officials to determine the extent and amount of damage. If damage is sufficient, the governor may request federal assistance through a Presidential Disaster Declaration and if granted, HSEMD administers the federal recovery programs that are activated by a declaration.

The Department is involved in all facets of recovery, from assessing damage and formally requesting federal assistance, to ensuring applicants meet all State and federal regulations when developing and completing projects. HSEMD also works with other State and federal entities, such as the Small Business Administration, to secure recovery assistance.

Iowa was granted a Presidential Disaster Declaration for seven counties for flooding that occurred along the Mississippi River in the spring of 2023. The declaration made federal funding available for eligible local and State governments, and certain private nonprofit organizations, for emergency protective measures that were taken during the response, and also for the repair or replacement of infrastructure damaged by the flooding. Counties covered by the declaration were Allamakee, Clayton, Des Moines, Dubuque, Jackson, Lee, and Scott. At the close of SFY 2022 Iowa had received 47 Presidential Disaster Declarations since 1990.

In addition to the Presidential Disaster Declaration, a Small Business Administration (SBA) declaration was granted for the Davenport building collapse. The SBA declaration made low-interest disaster loans available for residents, businesses, and nonprofit organizations in Scott County and the surrounding counties of Cedar, Clinton, and Muscatine. Impacted small businesses, agricultural cooperatives, and nonprofit organizations in the above counties were also eligible to apply for Economic Injury Disaster loans.

Public Assistance Program

When a Presidential Disaster Declaration is granted for an Iowa disaster, HSEMD administers the funding that is used to rebuild communities. Funding from the federal Public Assistance Program is used for replacement or restoration of public infrastructure, removal of debris that is the result of a disaster, and to reimburse impacted entities for emergency protective measures that were taken during the response. Recovery is a lengthy and complex process and because of that, it can take many years for HSEMD's work to be completed. In SFY 2023, work was completed on three disasters that received Presidential Disaster Declarations: the 2017 summer severe storms, 2018 summer severe storms, and 2018 Marshalltown tornado, for which recovery work has been completed.

At the end of SFY 2023 HSEMD was performing recovery work for seven Presidential Disaster Declarations. The bulk of Iowa's recovery and mitigation work during SFY 2023 was focused on three major disaster events: the 2019 Missouri River flood, 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, and 2020 derecho. These three disasters are the second, third, and fourth largest disasters in Iowa's history. These three disasters impacted more than 1,500 separate legal jurisdictions (counties, cities, and nonprofit organizations) and included more than 3,500 separate federal recovery projects.

In order to continue its work to rebuild communities impacted by the 2019 Missouri River flood, HSEMD has secured a two-year time extension, through 2025, to complete more than 50 local recovery projects funded through the Public Assistance Program. Through SFY 2023, more than \$250 million was obligated through the Public Assistance grant program to fund COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery efforts statewide. Recovery efforts for the 2020 derecho, which, along with a Presidential Disaster Declaration for 2021 severe weather, are supported by \$213 million in Public Assistance Program funding.

Mitigation

During the mitigation phase of emergency management, HSEMD focuses on activities to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. Hazard mitigation activities are dedicated to breaking the cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

Since 2008 more than \$635 million has been spent on hazard mitigation projects throughout the state of Iowa. Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs have focused efforts on three primary areas: acquisition and relocation of structures in flood hazard areas; infrastructure projects for flood control and stormwater management; and hardening of rural electrical infrastructure to better withstand ice, snow, and wind storms.

Property acquisition projects occurring statewide have resulted in millions of dollars in avoided loss from subsequent flooding. Since 2018, 336 properties, including residential and business structures, have been permanently removed from the floodplain using federal funding granted to Iowa as the result of Presidential Disaster Declarations and annual Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs. An additional 239 properties have been approved for acquisition and conversion to open space. Damage from flooding events that occurred in the same period was reduced by an estimated \$187 million because more than 1,000 properties had been previously acquired and converted to open space. Damage to residences and small businesses from 2023 flooding alone is estimated to have been reduced by \$6.5 million due to prior property acquisition initiatives which mitigated 155 properties. Since 2008, 3,362 structures have been permanently removed from the floodplain.

Beginning in July 2022, per the federal 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act and in coordination with FEMA Region VII, significant additional funding was made available under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program due to a temporary increase to the federal cost share ceiling from 75 percent

to 90 percent. HSEMD coordinated with more than 80 subapplicants to amend grant budgets to maximize federal project funding available due to the change, resulting in a local cost-share savings to Iowa communities of more than \$10.2 million.

The Department also manages FEMA's competitive pre-disaster mitigation grant program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC). Funding through this program has made millions of dollars available for hazard mitigation. Using this funding, FEMA and the State of Iowa focus on large, innovative projects to mitigate multiple hazards that impact various community lifelines. The Department's success in winning nationally competitive BRIC awards continues to grow. In August 2023 HSEMD's subapplicant, the City of Coralville, was awarded \$19.6 million for an electrical grid resiliency project. Additionally, 10 BRIC 2023 capability and capacity building and planning grants were selected totaling \$2.6 million dollars. Capability and capacity building activities result in a resource, strategy, or tangible mitigation product that will reduce or eliminate risk and damage from future natural hazards, increase resiliency, and promote a culture of preparedness. To date, 21 BRIC projects totaling \$27.3 million have been selected in Iowa, directly supporting the Department's uninterrupted proactive investment in community resilience.

Enhanced Mitigation Planning

The purpose of hazard mitigation planning is to identify policies and actions that can be implemented over the long term to reduce risk and future losses of life and property, and economic injury. The State has its own statewide hazard mitigation plan and counties and cities have local hazard mitigation plans. Iowa is one of only 15 states and territories that has an Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan that has been approved by FEMA. Approval of an enhanced plan qualifies Iowa to receive 33 percent more Hazard Mitigation Grant Program fund-

Mitigation

ing than it otherwise would. This additional grant money becomes available to local governments to fund projects to reduce or eliminate hazards and avoid disaster-caused damage and associated costs.

The Iowa Hazard Mitigation Plan is an interagency plan that integrates local and State planning efforts through agencies represented on Iowa's State Hazard Mitigation Team and Iowa Flood Risk Management Team (also referred to as the Silver Jackets team). The plan includes a statewide hazard analysis and a risk assessment of all of the Iowa's hazards. It also describes the mitigation capabilities in the state, examining all the tools, funding, and resources the state has to advance hazard mitigation throughout Iowa. With this understanding of capabilities and hazard risks, the plan outlines several dozen mitigation actions for the state. These actions include those that state agencies, as well as communities, could take that state and federal agencies can facilitate or assist in implementing.

Most jurisdictions in Iowa are also covered by local hazard mitigation plans, typically created at the

county level and adopted by participating jurisdictions. These plans provide an opportunity for communities to recognize potential natural hazards and create strategies for reducing their impact. Only communities with a current, FEMA-approved plan are eligible for FEMA mitigation grants. In concert with FEMA, HSEMD administers the approval process and funding for plan updates.

Iowa Flood Mitigation Board

The Iowa Flood Mitigation Board was created by the Iowa General Assembly and signed into law in 2012. The board is comprised of members from the public, State agencies, and ex officio members from the Iowa General Assembly and the Iowa Department of Revenue. The HSEMD director serves as the board chair.

When created, the board was charged with developing a flood mitigation program for Iowa that allows certain governmental entities to submit flood mitigation projects for review

Flooding in downtown Cedar Rapids in June 2008



Mitigation

and possible approval for funding from sales tax increments or legislative appropriations.

Nearly \$600 million in tax increment financing has been approved for flood mitigation projects by the Iowa Flood Mitigation Board. Although the application period for funding closed Jan. 1, 2016, the board continues to work with the communities that were awarded funding to review project status reports, approve time extensions or budget changes, and adjust project scopes of work. Ten Iowa communities have been awarded sales tax increment funding for flood mitigation projects by the Iowa Flood Mitigation Board. It is projected that investment in these projects will yield a \$6 billion mitigation benefit. The tax increment funding projects have been approved for the following amounts:

- Burlington \$26,200,000
- Dubuque \$98,494,178
- Iowa City \$8,497,249
- Storm Lake \$4,083,060
- Waverly \$5,647,004
- Cedar Falls \$5,658,673
- Cedar Rapids \$269,411,016
- Coralville \$9,769,000
- Council Bluffs \$57,000,000
- Des Moines and Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Authority \$111,100,273

In addition, the Iowa Flood Mitigation Board has distributed \$36 million from the Iowa Flood Recovery Fund for critical recovery and redevelopment projects in communities impacted by flooding in 2019. The board distributed a \$15 million legislative appropriation to the Flood Recovery Fund in September 2019, followed by an additional appropriation of \$21 million in February 2020. Projects eligible for this funding include emergency work to save lives, protect public health and

safety, and protect public or private property. The Flood Recovery Fund may also be used as match funding against federal awards. Funding has been awarded for multiple projects, including property buyouts and levee construction and repair. Details on these projects are available on the HSEMD website: homelandsecurity.iowa.gov.

Levee Improvement Program/Office of Levee Safety

In 2022 HSEMD conducted a study of the state's levees to identify and recommend where improvements could be made in the governance and funding of levee districts. This work was provided to the General Assembly and during the 2023 session, the data contained in the study was used to develop legislation to fund the Levee Improvement Program and create the Office of Levee Safety.

The Office of Levee Safety was established to reduce the risks associated with a hazardous event caused by a levee's inadequate design, structural performance, or operational control. The Office of Levee Safety will work with the Iowa Flood Mitigation Board and the Iowa Geological Survey, along with other State and federal agencies, to assist communities and levee districts throughout the state.

Beginning in SFY 2024 and continuing through SFY 2028, \$5 million will be allocated annually to a Levee Improvement Fund. Communities benefiting from a levee, including levee districts established pursuant to chapter 468 and subject to levee assessments, are eligible applicants for this program. It is anticipated that funding awards will begin in SFY 2025.

Prevention and Detection/Technology

A fifth component of the emergency management cycle is prevention and detection.

Infrastructure Protection

Critical infrastructure contains systems and assets, both physical and virtual, so important to the functioning of our society that their incapacitation or destruction would greatly affect vital services provided to citizens through the public and private sectors. HSEMD's Threat Information and Infrastructure Program (TIIPP) enhances the overall security and resiliency of Iowa's critical infrastructure by offering services to reduce vulnerabilities and manage risks to critical assets. Partners in the public and private sectors seek guidance and collaboration with HSEMD's TIIPP, especially when establishing emergency preparedness, planning, training, exercise, and response activities associated with critical infrastructure protection.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the TIIPP was instrumental in identifying and coordinating resources to ensure the safety and security of Iowa's communities. Following the pandemic, the TIIPP has focused on re-engaging critical infrastructure stakeholders through planning, partnerships, information sharing, training, and exercises. There are ongoing efforts with partners to update and prioritize State of Iowa critical infrastructure information based on a wide variety of threats and hazards. Additionally, the TIIPP has contributed to securing public gatherings and protecting soft targets through vulnerability assessments, special events planning, and collaborating with local, state and federal agencies.

Technology

In order to most effectively carry out its many responsibilities, HSEMD must leverage available technology.

From its administration of the state's 911 program, to implementation of a statewide emergency notification system, the Department utilizes technological tools to improve the delivery of our services.

Iowa's 911 System and Next Generation 911/GIS

Iowa's 911 system consists of 110 public safety answering points (PSAPs) across 99 counties. This is a decrease of two PSAPs (the Perry and Iowa Falls police departments both consolidated into countywide PSAPs) from the previous fiscal year. The PSAPs answer wireline, wireless, and voice over internet protocol (VoIP) emergency calls, as well as Text-to-911 messages, from across the state. The wireline 911 system was launched in Iowa in 1988. The wireline capability is funded through a wireline surcharge on wireline phone



Prevention and Detection/Technology

users' monthly bills and is managed by local 911 service boards. Wireless 911 capability was added to the system beginning in 1998. This wireless capability is funded through a wireless surcharge on wireless phone users' monthly bills and is managed by the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. 911 calls are delivered using the Iowa Communications Network via an emergency services internet protocol (IP) network (ESInet) referred to as a Next Generation (NG) 911 network. From July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, the NG911 network processed 1,211,501 wireless 911 calls, 102,760 wireline calls, 73,904 VoIP calls, and 6,038 texts to Iowa's PSAPs.

Iowa's entire Iowa 911 system is undergoing a significant upgrade to a fully end-state, NENA i3 911 system (i3 is an ANSI accredited, commonly recognized standard used throughout the nation). This process began more than 10 years ago when the NG911 network was converted from analog/copper trunking into the local PSAPs to a statewide, IP-based Ethernet network. The second phase of the network upgrade is nearly complete and includes updating individual PSAPs to IP-enabled call-handling equipment and logging recorders. Ninety-nine percent of the state's PSAPs are fully end-to-end IP-enabled. All but one of the local 911 PSAPs were capable of receiving Text-to-911. Work has been progressing toward the State's virtual consolidation efforts, technologically merging the legacy wireline network with the Next Generation IP-based network, as well as sharing technology for call processing equipment at the PSAPs. More than 70 PSAPs in the state now share call handling equipment. During this reporting period, HSEMD implemented geospatial routing, using the device location to route the

call more precisely to the correct PSAP rather than using the cell phone tower face as was the previous call-routing method. Geospatial routing would not be possible without the use of geographical information system (GIS) data. The data is the foundation of Next Generation call routing, location validation, and emergency response. Information sharing is essential to building statewide GIS datasets, as more than 100 different data owners need to share information for the NG911 system. Data sharing work starts with the local jurisdictions updating their master street address guide, road centerlines, and site structure address points to have a seamless, statewide GIS data set. HSEMD entered into a second five-year contract with Geo-Comm to continue the existing statewide aggregation portal, ensuring the data is up-to-date and accurate, which is a critical local responsibility.

Legislation passed in 2017 by the Iowa General Assembly allowed HSEMD to provide local GIS grants to assist local 911 service boards in the creation, improvement, and maintenance of their NG911 GIS information. For SFY 2023, HSEMD granted \$1,302,000 to PSAPs for local 911 services to help facilitate this critical local data.

Also, during this fiscal year Iowa implemented 911 transfers with a number of neighboring states, including Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota. These transfers are similar to in-state transfers where the call-back number and location information is transferred along with the call over the 911 system. Previously, in order to transfer across state boundaries, the call would have to traverse the public switched telephone network and the critical call data would be lost.

Prevention and Detection/Technology

Alert Iowa

HSEMD administers Alert Iowa, the state's emergency notification system. The system is available at no cost for use by all counties and provides those who choose to participate with access to a shared statewide notification system that gives local control of how and when to disseminate emergency and public safety information to residents. Currently, 92 Iowa counties use Alert Iowa.

During SFY 2022 HSEMD completed an upgrade of Alert Iowa, utilizing the newest technology to better facilitate communication during times of emergency. Alert Iowa is an address-based opt-in system that allows residents to sign up for targeted messaging through preferred methods of communication including voice calls, emails, or text messages. In some counties, residents have the option to receive alerts in their preferred language or to provide their information to an access/functional needs registry. Alert Iowa messages are easy to create and send for local officials and allows

them to further communicate with residents by non-traditional communication modes, including app push notifications, social media, and website feeds.

Since the system launched in 2014, millions of emergency notifications have been sent to Iowans on a myriad of hazards, including 911 outages, severe weather, and city- or regional-specific incidents. State of Iowa departments and boards also use Alert Iowa to notify employees of emergencies. The vendor used for Alert Iowa is also the conduit for access to FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning Systems (IPAWS) to send imminent emergency and public safety messages through the Emergency Alert System and the Wireless Emergency Alerts System. Using IPAWS for State and local alerts is another method to ensure the most urgent information is delivered to as many Iowans as possible when an emergency requires the public to take immediate action.

Alert Iowa marketing collateral

The image shows a marketing collateral for Alert Iowa. On the left, a dramatic photograph of a tornado over a landscape is used as a background. Overlaid on this image is the text: "Are you prepared for a TORNADO?" in large, bold, white letters, followed by "Opt-in to weather alerts through your County opt-in page!" in smaller white text. At the bottom left of the collateral is the "ALERTIOWA" logo, which consists of a stylized yellow and blue wave icon followed by the text "ALERTIOWA" in blue and yellow. At the bottom right is the "POWERED BY: Smart911" logo, featuring a green shield icon with a white padlock and the text "Smart911" in green. On the right side of the collateral is a vertical image of a smartphone. The phone screen shows a lock screen with the time "12:01" and the date "Monday, July 29". A white notification bubble is displayed on the screen with a warning icon and the text: "Emergency Alert Tornado Warning in this area until 3:30 PM. Take shelter now." At the bottom of the phone screen, there is a "Swipe up to open" instruction and icons for flashlight and camera.

Funding

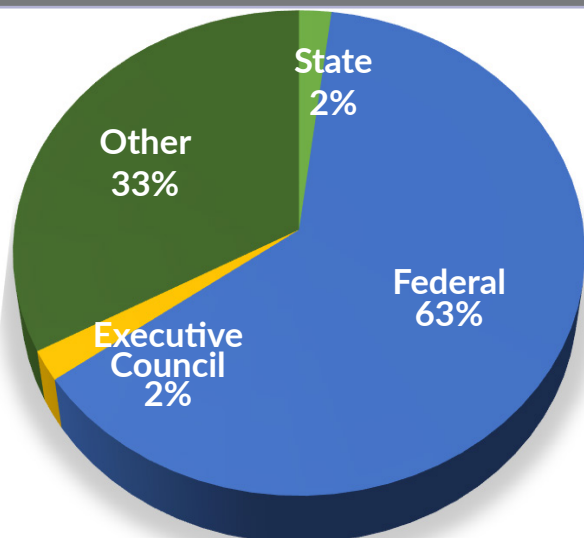
Funding for HSEMD comes from State appropriations, the Executive Council, federal disaster and non-disaster funds, and the private sector. In SFY2023 HSEMD had revenues totaling \$144,639,229. Of this total, \$2,289,389 was from State appropriations, \$90,816,315 from federal grants, \$3,515,229 from the Executive Council, and \$48,018,294 from other sources.

State appropriations accounted for two percent of revenues, while 63 percent came from federal disaster and non-disaster grants, two percent from the Executive Council for the state share of disaster assistance costs, and 33 percent from other sources, such as 911 surcharges, the Flood Recovery Fund, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, nuclear power plants, and the Technology Reinvestment Fund. HSEMD passed through \$124,148,689 or 86 percent to fund local emergency management and recovery activities.

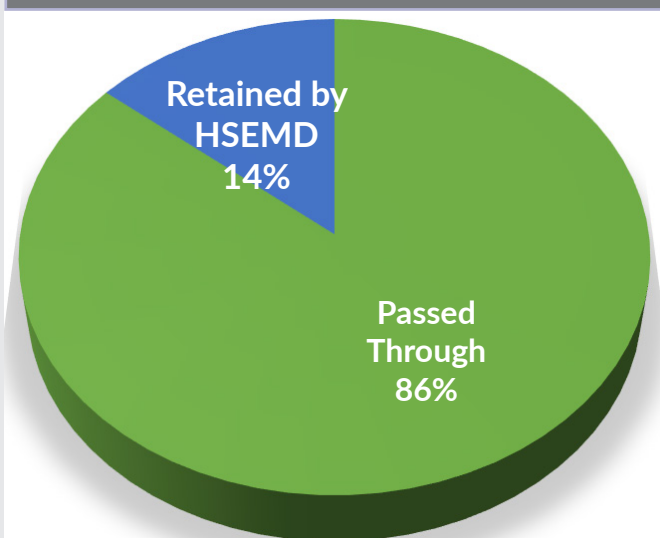
Funding was used by HSEMD for a wide range of projects, including:

- Facilitating and conducting exercises
- First responder training
- State and local response, recovery, and hazard mitigation planning
- Management of grants passed through to local governments
- Administration of Alert Iowa
- Public outreach to promote individual and family preparedness
- Staffing and readiness of the State Emergency Operations Center
- Disaster response and recovery work
- Oversight and administration of 911 and Alert Iowa
- Whole community preparedness

SFY 2023 Revenues



SFY 2023 Pass Through



HSEMD Performance Plan Results SFY 2023

Name of Agency: Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD)

Performance Plan Results

Agency 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.

Core Function: Emergency Management, Domestic Security, Public Health Disaster Preparedness

Performance Measure (Outcome)	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Percent of sustainable local governments	92.5%	89.29%	What Occurred: Performance standard was not met. HSEMD employee training, county emergency management coordinator training, and hazard mitigation project goals were not met, impacting the Department's overall goals. These shortfalls can be noted in the area-specific performance standards. <i>Data Source:</i> HSEMD
2. Percent of sustainable state government	93.5%	89.33%	What Occurred: Performance standard was not met. HSEMD employee training, county emergency management coordinator training, and hazard mitigation project goals were not met, impacting the Department's overall goals. These shortfalls can be noted in the area-specific performance standards. <i>Data Source:</i> HSEMD

Service, Product or Activity: Emergency Planning

Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Percent of jurisdictions with response plans that meet standards	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source:</i> HSEMD
2. Percent of jurisdictions with recovery plans that meet standards	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source:</i> HSEMD
3. Percent of jurisdictions with DMA 2000 mitigation plans that meet standards	80%	84%	What Occurred: Performance standard was exceeded. <i>Data Source:</i> HSEMD

HSEMD Performance Plan Results SFY 2023

Service, Product or Activity: Emergency Training			
Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Percent of Homeland Security & Emergency Management employees trained to standards	90%	60%	What Occurred: Performance standard was not met. Recent hires have not completed their required training. All employees in this group still have time available to complete this requirement. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
2. Percent of county emergency management coordinators trained to standards	90%	49%	What Occurred: Performance standard was not met. Newly hired county emergency management coordinators have not completed their required training. All employees in this group still have time available to complete this requirement. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
3. Number of responders trained in emergency management & homeland security	850	1,358	What Occurred: Performance standard was exceeded. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
Service, Product or Activity: Emergency Exercises			
Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Percent State government exercises completed as required by rule, regulation or agreement	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
2. Percent of local government exercises completed as required by rule or agreement	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
Service, Product or Activity: Emergency Readiness			
Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Percent readiness level of State Emergency Operations Center	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
2. Percent readiness level of the forward command posts	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>

HSEMD Performance Plan Results SFY 2023

3. Percent of Iowa counties participating in Iowa Mutual Aid Compact	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
4. Percent of Iowa municipalities participating in Iowa Mutual Aid Compact	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>

Service, Product or Activity: Disaster Recovery			
Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Percent of funded Public Assistance projects in open presidential disasters that are successfully completed	65%	76%	What Occurred: Performance standard was exceeded. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
2. Percent completed FEMA funded hazard mitigation projects	80%	50%	What Occurred: Performance standard was not met. Unexpected additional awards occurred within the FY that increased the number of funded hazard mitigation projects that were not accounted for when developing the FY 23 performance goal. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>

Service, Product or Activity: Communications			
Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Percent public safety answering points capable of receiving and using wireless phase II 911 calls	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
2. Percent of wireless service customers that have Phase II service in Public Safety Answering Point areas that are capable of receiving and are providing Phase II 911 calls in which they provide service	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>

HSEMD Performance Plan Results SFY 2023

3. Percent of local jurisdictions with interoperable communications capabilities for first responders	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
4. Percent of Iowa first responder agencies with access to the Fusion Center's information system	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source: Iowa Department of Public Safety</i>
Service, Product or Activity: Homeland Security			
Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Percent of five-year Iowa Homeland Security Strategy projects funded and initiated	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
2. Percent of local jurisdictions compliant with the National Incident Management System	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>