

# IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Annual Report  
SFY 2015



Mark J. Schouten  
Director

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# A Message from the Director

I am pleased to present the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) Annual Report and Performance Measures for SFY 2015.

During state fiscal year 2015, HSEMD coordinated the response to several small disasters and one disaster that resulted in a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Of note this fiscal year was the Department's role in the response to a disaster we had never before encountered: highly pathogenic avian influenza. Recovery work for those, and disasters dating back to 2007, continued into SFY 2015. At the close of the fiscal year, HSEMD was overseeing the recovery activities for 17 Presidential disasters. It is anticipated nearly \$2 billion in recovery funding for those disasters will be delivered to the state.

HSEMD focused on several projects during SFY 2015 that have had a statewide impact. From launching the statewide emergency notification system, to improving the State's cybersecurity capabilities, to upgrading our state's E-911 network, HSEMD has worked to increase the safety and security of citizens throughout Iowa.

You will also find in this report 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.

I urge you to learn more about HSEMD on our department's website, [www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov).

Sincerely,

**Mark J. Schouten**  
Director



**Mark Schouten**

# HSEMD Mission, Vision and Authorities

## HSEMD Mission

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunity for Iowa and its citizens.

## HSEMD Vision

A state prepared, with coordinated capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from all hazards.

## HSEMD Authorities

Code of Iowa, Chapter 29C, establishes the responsibilities of the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management which are to 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. HSEMD 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 requirements and regulations.



# HSEMD Overview

## Department History

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has seen many changes since its inception in 1965 when Governor Harold Hughes created the State Civil Defense Agency, with 10 staff members who focused on the threat of nuclear war. In the 1970s, the agency became the Office of Disaster Services to reflect its focus on management of naturally-caused emergencies and disasters. The 1980s saw the office expand its focus from fallout shelters and natural disasters to an all-hazards approach that included radiological and hazardous materials incidents.

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 whenever they occurred.

The terrorist attacks in 2001 redefined the state's emergency management focus. Following Sept. 11,

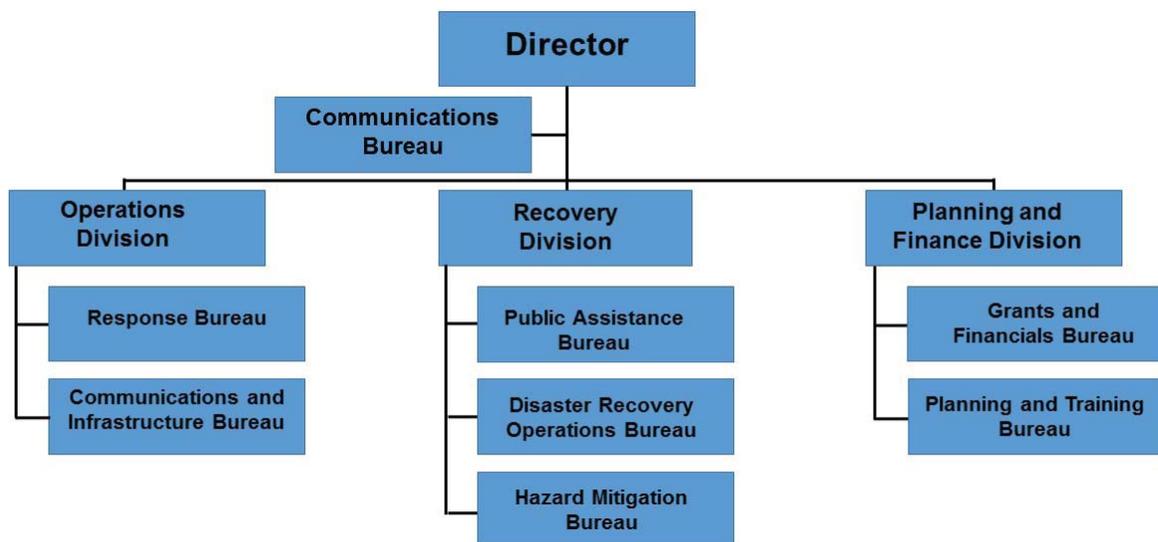
2001, homeland security responsibilities were integrated into the duties and responsibilities of the Emergency Management Division and in 2003, the Division's name was formally changed to Homeland Security and Emergency Management to reflect its new duties and responsibilities.

In July 2013, HSEMD became a stand-alone department after being signed into law by Gov. Terry Branstad.

## 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 Mark Schouten, and is comprised of three divisions, a communications bureau and an executive assistant.

*Operations Division: Joyce Flinn, Administrator*  
The Operations Division focuses on first-line agency response to disasters and emergencies. Operations houses the department's 24x7 duty officer



# HSEMD Overview

program, resource and volunteer management activities, radiological planning, capabilities assessment and strategic planning, exercise coordination and support, communications, E-911, critical infrastructure protection and information sharing, special response teams, statewide mass notification and emergency messaging, and geographic information systems (GIS) activities.

*Recovery Division: Pat Hall, Administrator*  
The Recovery Division focuses on short- and long-term recovery from disasters and emergencies. Recovery houses the Public Assistance program, disaster recovery operations, disaster grant management, and administers hazard mitigation programs.

*Planning and Finance Division: Angela Chen, Administrator*  
The Planning and Finance Division focuses on general planning and non-disaster grants. Planning and Finance houses local and state comprehensive emergency plan development and support, training support, administration of the State Emergency Response Commission, Iowa State Capitol Complex planning, continuity planning, agriculture planning, and non-disaster grant management and accounting services.

*Communications Bureau: John Benson, Bureau Chief*  
The Communications Bureau provides public information support, website and social media management, publication writing and design, speech writing and presentation development, public awareness campaign development and media relations and interfaces with the Iowa General Assembly.

## 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 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.

The Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) is an advisory body convened by the HSEMD director. The HSAC provides guidance and input on important decisions related to implementation of homeland security and emergency management efforts in Iowa. HSAC membership includes representatives from the following organizations:

- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Iowa Department of Education
- Iowa Department of Human Services
- Iowa National Guard
- Iowa Department of Public Health
- Iowa Department of Public Safety
- Iowa Department of Transportation
- Iowa Court System
- Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council
- Iowa Drug Policy Advisory Council
- Iowa Emergency Management Association
- Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board
- Quad Cities Area Maritime Security Committee
- Safeguard Iowa Partnership
- Local Emergency Management

# HSEMD SFY 2015 Disaster Response and Recovery

## Disaster Response

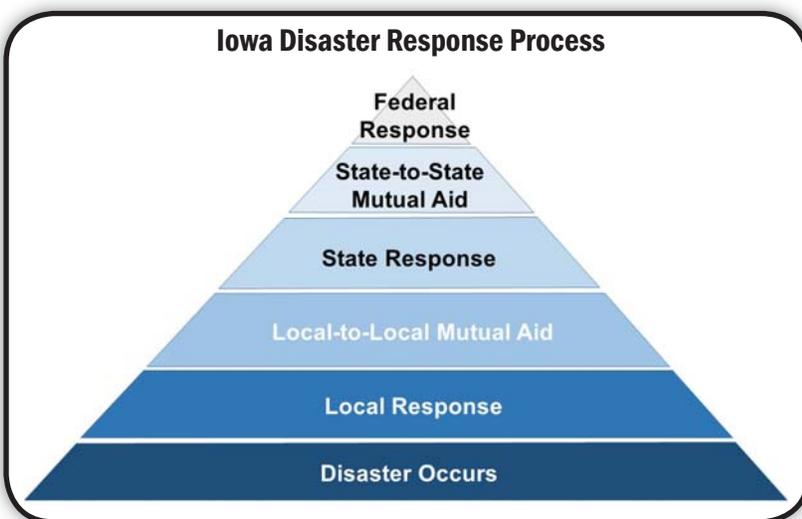
Disasters have touched the lives of many Iowans. When disasters strike, the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is prepared to provide assistance to local emergency managers. HSEMD's response activities range from full activation of the State Emergency Operations Center at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston, where the Department and other government and private sector partners coordinate state and local response and recovery efforts, to monitoring of local incidents by the Department's duty officers.

Because disasters start locally, county emergency management coordinators and agencies have a vital role in preparation for, response to, and recovery from disasters, both natural and human-caused. 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 the disaster. County emergency management agencies are the backbone of the state's emergency management system. They act on behalf of their local emergency management commission and provide

coordination of local resources as well as work in partnership with HSEMD to ensure the emergency management and response communities have adequately planned and are well equipped, trained, and exercised.

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, an intra-state mutual aid agreement that 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 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. A Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency enables state resources to be used. State resources may include equipment, personnel, technical guidance, supplies, and assistance in the form of debris removal, traffic control, levee patrol, security, and transportation. HSEMD coordinates the state's response activities, including interaction with federal government, non-profit, faith-based, volunteer, and private-sector partners.



When a disaster or incident goes beyond the capabilities of state government, the governor may request outside assistance 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 applicants. Iowa has received 19 Presidential Disaster Declarations since 2008.

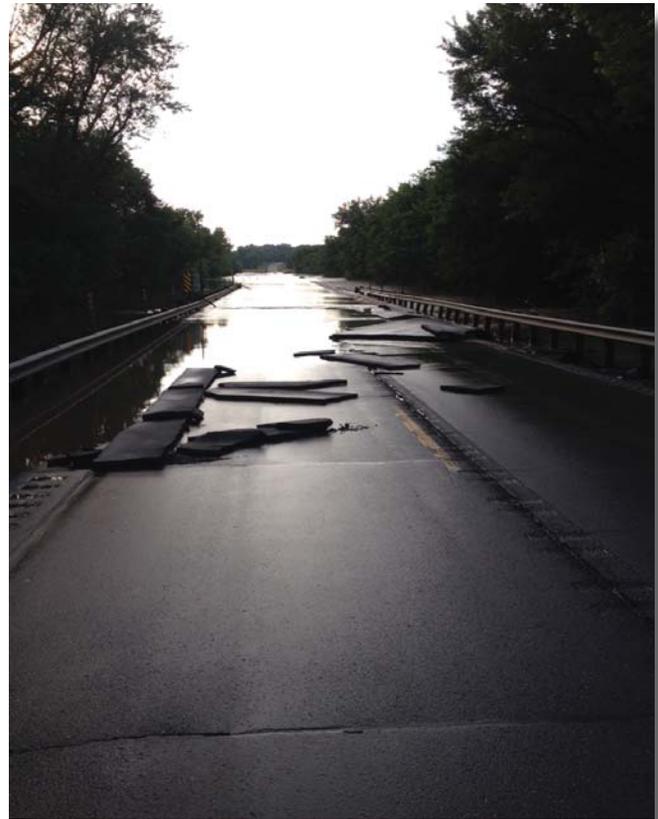
# HSEMD SFY 2015 Disaster Response and Recovery

Iowa received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for one disaster that occurred during SFY 2015 and produced severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding from June 20-25, 2015. Nineteen counties were included in the declaration: Allamakee, Appanoose, Butler, Clayton, Dallas, Davis, Des Moines, Guthrie, Howard, Jefferson, Lee, Lucas, Marion, Mitchell, Monroe, Warren, Wayne, Winneshiek and Wright. The Presidential Disaster Declaration made available funding for these counties through the Public Assistance Program. The Public Assistance Program provides funding for public entities and select non-profits for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities. The declaration also includes funding to conduct hazard mitigation activities for the entire state to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards.

Following this disaster, the State Individual Assistance Program was made available to residents in impacted counties. This program provided grants of up to \$5,000 for households with incomes of up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level to be used for home or car repairs, replacement of clothing or food, and for the expense of temporary housing.

Over the past few years, HSEMD has improved the state's disaster response capability by prepositioning vital equipment throughout the state. At the end of SFY 2015, 19 pumps were ready to be deployed at locations throughout the state. The pumps are pivotal tools for fighting floods, so proximity to disaster areas enables local emergency management to more quickly respond. In addition to the pumps, HSEMD has prepositioned 17 generators throughout Iowa to increase the speed and accessibility of these resources during times of disaster.

A crucial component in the response to and recovery from any disaster is volunteers. The Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) en-



**June 2015 flooding near Knoxville, Iowa.**

courages organization and identification of volunteers before a disaster occurs. Once identified, these volunteers are able to provide needed assistance in response and recovery efforts. The IDHRC is comprised of faith-based and voluntary agency representatives from throughout the state as well as representatives from key government agencies. HSEMD developed the council at the request of local emergency management coordinators to identify and address the unmet needs of Iowa's citizens impacted by disaster events. In addition, group members assist with the coordination of volunteers and donations during activation of the State Emergency Operations Center as requested, and continue to promote cooperation among all volunteer and faith-based organizations. The IDHRC plays a key role during all of the state's disasters by coordi-

# HSEMD SFY 2015 Disaster Response and Recovery

nating and providing volunteers to assist Iowans throughout the state. The IDHRC also assists citizens impacted by disaster who have unmet needs.

The IDHRC most recently rolled out the Iowa Praise and Prepare Program. The program has been put together based on best practices from the State of Georgia's Praise and Preparedness Program, the FEMA Faithful Readiness program, and the Iowa School Safety Alliance. The IDHRC is asking

the faith-based communities to help educate and engage their members and other houses of worship. The materials supplied in the Iowa Praise and Prepare Program will help inform congregants about the relevance of emergency preparedness and empower them and their community to take the necessary steps to protect themselves should an unexpected disaster occur.

Iowa is subject to numerous disasters every year, so this preparedness effort is relevant to individual houses of worship, the future of the congregants and the community served. Together, through awareness, education, and action, vulnerabilities can be minimized. It is the intent of the program to assist individuals and houses of worship with the development of their facility emergency operations plan.

HSEMD administers the federal Citizen Corps grant program that provides funding for communities that want to identify and train disaster volunteers. Citizen Corps program activities vary from county to county, but include providing trained volunteers to work as call center operators, volunteer radio operators, emergency operations center



**June 2015 flooding of Middle River near the town of Casey.**

support, shelter support and weather spotters. Employees at the Iowa State Capitol Complex were recently trained and are now part of the CERT program, and have been provided with 'go kits' that contain first aid and response equipment.

HSEMD continues to remain actively engaged in the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Operations Division Administrator Joyce Flinn remains on the EMAC Executive Task Force to provide historic knowledge and expertise for review and development of educational materials. A member of the Operations Division staff is currently the Lead State Representative for FEMA Region VII, coordinating with the other Region VII states of Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri and reporting on EMAC activities during monthly EMAC Executive Task Force calls.

## Disaster Recovery

HSEMD oversees recovery efforts following a disaster, including working with federal agencies to obtain and deliver assistance made available with a

# HSEMD SFY 2015 Disaster Response and Recovery

Presidential Disaster Declaration. The Department oversees and is involved in recovery projects from beginning to end—from notification of eligible applicants to completing final paperwork and satisfying state and federal requirements once the project is complete.

During SFY 2015 HSEMD began recovery work for the June 20-25, 2015, disaster, while continuing recovery work for 17 disasters dating back to 2007. It will take several years to complete all work associated with these open disasters.

The majority of counties in Iowa have been declared under at least one Presidential Disaster Declaration since 2008, with many counties being declared multiple times. It is anticipated nearly \$2 billion in disaster recovery funding for these disasters will be delivered to the state.

Projects for these open disasters that fall under the federal Public Assistance Program include repair to public buildings and utilities, debris removal, emergency protective measures such as sandbagging and search and rescue, repair to roads and bridges and water control facilities, and rebuilding parks and recreation areas. Some major recovery projects HSEMD has provided oversight for include major infrastructure damage at the University of Iowa and in Cedar Rapids.

Hazard Mitigation Program projects for these open disasters, designed to reduce or eliminate disaster-caused damage or loss, include property acquisitions, infrastructure projects and tornado safe room construction. The Hazard Mitigation Program has focused its efforts on three primary areas: acquisition and relocation of structures in flood

**Below: Recovery work on Hancher Auditorium at the University of Iowa, which sustained severe damage during flooding in 2008.**



**Left: The outside of the Palo Community Center safe room, constructed with Hazard Mitigation Program funds.**



**Above: The interior of the Palo Community Center safe room, which is also used as a gym for community events.**

hazard areas; tornado safe rooms in schools, community centers and other public facilities; and the hardening of rural electrical infrastructure to better withstand ice, snow and wind storms.

# HSEMD SFY 2015 Highlights

## Alert Iowa

HSEMD launched the statewide emergency notification system, Alert Iowa, in October 2014. At the close of SFY 2015, 81 counties were using the system to provide emergency notifications to residents.



Citizens who sign up for Alert Iowa will be able to choose the types of alerts they receive, such as for severe weather, 911 outages or city-specific alerts. Residents may receive alerts via landline and wireless phone, text messaging, email, FAX, TTY/TDD, and social media. Photo, video, audio and links may be included in the alerts to help recipients better understand the situation or where to get additional information. In addition, Alert Iowa utilizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to send imminent emergency and public safety messages through the Emergency Alert System, NOAA Weather Radio and the Wireless Emergency Alerts system. Using IPAWS for state and local alerts will be another method to ensure the most urgent information is delivered to as many Iowans as possible when an emergency is happening and requires the public to take immediate action.

During SFY 2015, 4,454 alerts were issued, resulting in 1.4 million individual notifications, on a number of subjects, including severe weather, road closures, and during the 2015 influenza outbreak was used to reach out to owners of backyard poultry flocks near infected facilities.

Efforts to launch a statewide mass notification and emergency messaging system began in 2013 with a survey that showed 53 of Iowa's 99 counties were annually expending \$600,000 for individual mes-

saging systems. At that time, 31 counties did not have a messaging system, and 15 used a free system.

Research conducted by the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management showed that a statewide system could operate for less than the total cost local agencies were paying, while at the same time making emergency notification available to counties where it was not being used. HSEMD asked for \$400,000 in its funding request to Governor Branstad for the State Fiscal Year 2015 budget. The funding was appropriated by the Iowa General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor on May 30, 2014, after which time a request for proposal was issued to build a statewide notification system that would provide local control of how and when to disseminate safety messages to residents.

*Please note: At the end of 2015, 86 counties were signed up to use Alert Iowa, with a projected savings to counties of \$574,000.*

## Avian Influenza

HSEMD responded to a new type of disaster in SFY 2015—highly pathogenic avian influenza, also known as the bird flu.

More than 31 million birds at 75 sites were lost to the outbreak that began on April 13, 2015.

Iowa's disasters are most often caused by tornadoes, floods and winter storms. Our state's response to the avian influenza outbreak required all involved to think about and conduct response activities much differently and necessitated an unprecedented level of coordination with our local, state, federal and poultry industry partners.

# HSEMD SFY 2015 Highlights

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) and the United States Department of Agriculture were the lead agencies in this response. As it does in all disasters, HSEMD coordinated requests for and delivery of State resources.

Other state agencies, including the Departments of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Natural Resources, Transportation, Public Health, Inspections and Appeals and the National Guard, provided resources and expertise to carry out activities necessary to the response. More than 300 state employees from several departments participated in the disaster response.

After the avian influenza outbreak came to an end in June 2015, HSEMD worked with IDALS and other agencies involved in the response to determine what improvements could be made and to plan for future outbreaks.

Although the avian influenza outbreak was a disaster without precedent in our state, Iowa's emergency management system worked as it was intended, bringing together state, local, federal and private industry partners.

## Cybersecurity

In Iowa many cybersecurity efforts have been, and continue to be, made at all levels of government and the private sector.

During SFY 2015 HSEMD participated in a state cyber working group that was formed to bring

State resources together with key federal and private partners: the FBI; the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center; the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and private industry. Other State agency partners involved in the working group are the Iowa National Guard, Department of

Public Safety and the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Priorities of the group are to protect the State of Iowa's computer systems and also those of our state's critical infrastructure. The group is working to identify, prevent, detect, respond to and recover from cybersecurity threats in

our state, in order to expand the State's capabilities to prevent and respond to cyberattacks.

HSEMD has continued to be involved in an effort to assist local and state agencies in increasing the security of their networks. Through a program sponsored by HSEMD and Iowa's chief information security officer, a device is installed on the agency's network to monitor for vulnerabilities and risk. Reports indicate there has been a significant reduction in vulnerability since the program began in 2010. Currently agencies in 47 counties participate in the program.

## HUD Disaster Resilience Competition

HSEMD began work early in 2015 on Iowa's application for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Disaster Resilience Competition. The competition will award nearly \$1 billion to help communities across the United States become more resilient in the face of



**Workers disinfect a truck leaving an Iowa poultry farm infected with avian influenza. Photo by USDA.**

# HSEMD SFY 2015 Highlights

disaster. Iowa's application advanced to the second phase of the competition, and HSEMD, along with the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the University of Iowa Flood Center and the City of Dubuque, submitted a second-round application that proposes a new model for flood resilience. This new model will decrease flood risk and improve water quality. Called the Iowa Watershed Approach, it proposes a program through which Iowans will work together to address factors upstream that contribute to downstream flooding. The proposed program is designed to make Iowa's vulnerable populations more resilient to changing flood hazard conditions and will benefit Iowa today and into the next century.

Iowa's full application request is for \$131 million, with three options to scale the scope of the project with a smaller award. Iowa will know in early 2016 if the project has been chosen to be funded.

## Flood Mitigation Board

In SFY 2015, two Iowa communities were awarded funding for flood mitigation projects after they were approved by the Iowa Flood Mitigation Board, joining eight communities that were awarded funding in SFY 2014.

The communities' tax increment funding projects have been approved for the following amounts:

### SFY 2015 Projects

- Burlington \$26,200,000
- Des Moines and Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Authority \$111,100,273

### SFY 2014 Projects

- Cedar Falls \$6,625,000
- Cedar Rapids \$269,411,016
- Council Bluffs, \$57,000,000

- Coralville \$9,769,000
- Dubuque \$98,494,178
- Iowa City \$8,497,249
- Storm Lake \$4,083,060
- Waverly \$5,647,004

The total tax increment amount approved by the board is \$596,826,780. With the contribution of state and federal funding, the total cost for the projects will exceed \$1.3 billion.

The Iowa Flood Mitigation Board was created by the Iowa General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Branstad in 2012. The board is charged with creating a flood mitigation program for Iowa. This program allows certain governmental entities to submit flood mitigation projects to the board for review and possible approval for funding. The funding will come from sales tax increments. The application period for this funding is open through Jan. 1, 2016.

The board itself is comprised of four members from the public, five members from state agencies, as well as four ex-officio members from the General Assembly. HSEMD Director Mark Schouten serves as the board chair.

## Exercise, Training and Planning

Exercise, training and planning are the foundation of Iowa's emergency preparedness efforts. HSEMD conducts, participates in and/or supports many exercises each year. Department staff participates in a wide variety of radiological, natural hazard, and terrorism exercises involving local, state, and federal response to emergencies. The Department helps coordinate the State agency Exercise Group (SEG), which represents a variety of state agencies and federal partners that have active involvement in emergency exercises. The group meets monthly

# HSEMD SFY 2015 Highlights

to discuss upcoming exercises and provides a forum to build collaboration and prevent duplication of effort. The group has had significant success in combining multiple exercise requirements into common exercises that involve multiple agencies.

HSEMD also provides technical assistance to county emergency management agencies and homeland security regions, as well as other partners in the non-profit and private sectors. HSEMD staff works with county and regional representatives to provide guidance and assistance during exercise development, conduct and evaluation.

The Department is responsible for the implementation of the Iowa Comprehensive Exercise Program. Planning and Training Bureau staff develops and conducts exercises and provides technical exercise and evaluation assistance to state agencies and local jurisdictions. In SFY 2015, 305 homeland security and emergency management exercises were conducted by the State and local entities. More than 12,000 participants were involved in these exercises that covered a variety of topics including response to natural and human-caused disasters.

Training is another important component of HSEMD's preparedness efforts. The Department has worked with its many partners in the delivery of courses to thousands of responders at all levels of government and throughout the state. In SFY 2015 more than 14,000 participants were involved in courses that covered many topics, including snow emergencies, emergency shelter planning for people with special needs, social media for natural disaster response and recovery, and response to incidents involving crude oil transported by rail, all

of which prepared responders to deal with a wide array of hazards.

The third component of disaster preparedness is planning. HSEMD is required by state law to pre-



**First responder decontamination training.**

pare a comprehensive plan for homeland security, disaster response, recovery, mitigation, and emergency resource management for the state. The Iowa Comprehensive Emergency Plan is comprised of four separate plans for emergency response, hazard mitigation, disaster recovery, and critical asset protection. HSEMD continuously updates these plans to ensure they remain timely and relevant to the hazards faced by Iowans. The Department also works with county emergency management

officials, who are required to develop local emergency plans. Annually, HSEMD planners review more than 400 plans.

Iowa's Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan has been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Approval of the plan ensures the State of Iowa's eligibility to apply for federal disaster assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program dollars. 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, property and economic injury in the state of Iowa. States must submit their standard hazard mitigation plans for approval every five years. Iowa's plan is an inter-agency plan that integrates local and state planning efforts through the

# HSEMD SFY 2015 Highlights

State Hazard Mitigation Team. The plan includes a statewide hazard analysis and a risk assessment of all natural and human-caused hazards that may affect the state. This information is used to develop statewide hazard mitigation goals, objectives, and measures implemented through state and local jurisdictions to address priority hazards. This plan completed its five-year review cycle and was approved by FEMA in 2013.

## Crude Oil Transport by Rail

HSEMD works in partnership with many agencies to mitigate hazards from the transportation of hazardous materials, be prepared to respond if necessary to protect life, safety, property and the environment, and effectively recover from any incidents.

During SFY 2015, HESMD increased its support for first responders and local emergency managers in areas of the state where Bakken crude oil was being shipped by rail. This support included training on general railroad safety and the specific hazards associated with this type of crude oil, increased sharing of information as it related to transportation of crude oil, and participation in exercises.

HSEMD is working with the Iowa Department of Transportation to analyze the current state of rail transportation and to develop a State of Iowa crude and biofuel rail transportation action plan.

## Public Awareness

An important component of emergency preparedness is making certain that citizens are ready to take care of themselves during emergencies. HSEMD's Ready Iowa! project focuses on providing tools to Iowans so they may be more prepared to protect and care for themselves and their fami-



**Fifth-grade students and their teacher from Walnut Elementary show off the starter emergency supply kits they used for the Ready Iowa Student Program.**

lies during disasters and emergencies. A website, [www.beready.iowa.gov](http://www.beready.iowa.gov), provides information on Iowa's hazards and how to prepare for them.

HSEMD promotes emergency preparedness during several public awareness campaigns each year. Preparedness Month, held in September, is an opportunity to encourage citizens to be more prepared for any type of emergency or disaster. Each spring, HSEMD, along with the National Weather Service, participates in Severe Weather Awareness Week activities to promote understanding of, and preparation for, Iowa's severe weather. The Department also partners with the National Weather Service to promote Winter Weather Awareness Day each fall. In April, HSEMD and the Iowa E-911 Communications Council promote the importance of 911 as part of Iowa's 911 Education Month. HSEMD promotes hazardous materials awareness, along with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, during Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in January.

During SFY 2015, HSEMD launched the Ready Iowa Student program to teach students how to be prepared for emergencies and disasters. Ready

# HSEMD SFY 2015 Highlights

Iowa Student combines a turn-key preparedness curriculum with a starter emergency kit for fifth-grade students. HSEMD provided each participating student with a starter kit that included a flashlight and first aid kit, items that are frequently found in emergency supply kits. More than 2,700 students from 52 schools participated in the program. Other HSEMD public education efforts include development of educational materials, and a newsletter that highlights the Department's efforts and activities.

## School Security

HSEMD encourages planning and preparing for all hazards, and that includes hazards that can threaten students, faculty and staff in our schools. The Department brought together public safety and education entities to discuss how we could work together to increase the safety of our schools. That group, the Iowa School Safety Alliance, has developed resources for schools, including a planning guide, a flip chart that serves as a quick reference to facilitate quick response actions, and a self-assessment of current plans, procedures and safety measures. Copies of the guide have been distributed to school administrators, nurses, emergency management coordinators and first responders and the materials are available on the HSEMD website at [www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov).

HSEMD has also conducted site visits to many schools to evaluate current emergency plans and identify ways to strengthen them, and to discuss physical security of facilities and ways it can be improved. During those visits, HSEMD discusses ways to improve the safety and security at a specific school as well as provide an assess-

ment of other steps that can be taken. HSEMD has conducted several site visits and stands ready to work with additional schools as requested.

HSEMD continues its work with the Iowa School Safety Alliance, which is comprised of representatives of HSEMD, the Iowa State Fire Marshal, Iowa Division of Intelligence and Fusion Center, Iowa Department of Education, Des Moines Police Department, Iowa State Education Association, Iowa Association of School Boards, School Administrators of Iowa, and American Institute of Architects-Iowa Chapter. During SFY 2015, the group promoted Iowa's School Safety Week with a proclamation signed by Governor Branstad. The Alliance meets regularly to discuss current school security issues and needs. At the Alliance's website, [www.iowaschoolsafety.org](http://www.iowaschoolsafety.org), bulletins on topics such as access control, lockdown and reunification are available as a resource for schools.

## Next Generation 911/GIS

Iowa was one of the first states to complete a statewide upgrade of its legacy wireless E911 network to support the use of Next Generation 911 (NG911) emergency services, an Internet Protocol-based system. This system currently allows for seamless and automatic re-routing and transfer of wireless calls in the case of an outage, maintenance, or a PSAP that is overwhelmed due to high call volume. The upgrade of the network was the first phase of a project that will eventually allow citizens to contact 911 using text, video and picture messaging. HSEMD is now working with the state's 114 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) as they upgrade



Iowa School Safety Flip Chart

# HSEMD SFY 2015 Highlights

their call-taking equipment and with wireless service providers so they are able to utilize this technology and make it available to the public.

Developing and maintaining the various components of a fully operational NG911 system is ongoing. During SFY 2015, \$12 million was expended for network improvements and PSAP equipment upgrades in addition to \$5.65 million in network and annual maintenance costs. A great many Iowans use communication devices that offer text, video, and picture messaging capabilities and it is important that citizens be able to utilize this technology as a tool to increase their safety.

HSEMD has undertaken an ongoing Geographical Informational System (GIS) project working with local jurisdictions to update their Master Street Address Guide, road center lines, and site structure address points in order to have a seamless, state-wide GIS data set. This will provide the critical information for call routing, location validation, and emergency response. The very nature of a wireless call dictates that calls be processed and delivered dynamically and in a standard method. As such, information sharing such as GIS is critical. It is becoming more critical than ever to think of 911 as an IT network, where all the 911 components are part of the statewide system, not just pieces and parts of an independent answering point. All of the NG 911 efforts build toward this concept.

## Radiological Emergency Preparedness

Four nuclear power plants operate in or on the borders of Iowa. Iowa's only nuclear power station is the NextEra Energy-Duane Arnold Energy Center at Palo. Bordering nuclear plants are the Quad Cities Nuclear Station near Cordova, Ill., the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Station near Fort Calhoun, Neb., and the Cooper Nuclear Station



**A Public Safety Answering Point features upgraded emergency call-taking equipment that is a component of Iowa's NG911 system.**

near Brownsville, Neb. Regulatory guidance from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Federal Emergency Management Agency directs state and local authorities to develop, implement and maintain plans and procedures to preclude the exposure of the public to harmful radionuclides.

HSEMD's Radiological Emergency Preparedness program ensures that emergency preparedness, planning, training and exercise activities associated with the nuclear power facilities in or around Iowa meet or exceed standards and regulations set by the federal government for the protection of the citizens of the state. Nuclear power plants are required by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to support local and state preparedness activity and are required to hold full-scale exercises that involve state agencies every other year.

In SFY 2015, HSEMD participated in full-scale exercises and rehearsals for two of the nuclear power plants on the borders of the state, both of which tested planning for and response to a hostile action based incident. HSEMD also participated in multiple drills and table-top exercises with all four power plants.

# HSEMD Funding

Funding for HSEMD comes from state appropriations, the Executive Council, federal disaster and non-disaster funds, and the private sector.

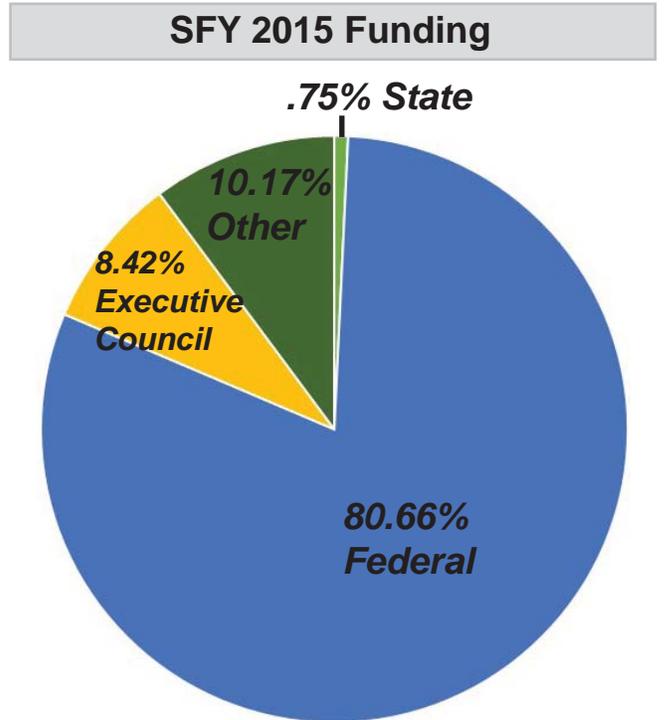
In SFY 2015, HSEMD had revenues totaling \$298,773,015. Of this, \$2,229,623 was from State appropriations, \$240,995,264 was from federal grants, \$25,153,479 from the Executive Council and \$30,058,925 was from other sources.

State appropriations accounted for .75 percent of revenues, while 80.66 percent came from federal disaster and non-disaster grants, 8.42 percent from the Executive Council for the state share of disaster assistance costs, and 10.17 percent from other sources, such as nuclear power plants and the Technology Reinvestment Fund. HSEMD passed through \$285,523,544, or 95.57 percent, of federal, private and State funding 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 for personnel, planning, exercise and training costs;
- Coordination of the state’s critical asset protection planning and infrastructure protection efforts;
- Information and intelligence sharing with public and private partners;
- Implementation of Alert Iowa, the statewide emergency notification system;

- Public outreach to promote individual and family preparedness;
- Staffing and readiness of the State Emergency Operations Center;
- Responding to disasters;
- Recovering from disasters;
- Oversight and administration of the Radiological Emergency Preparedness program to ensure state and local governments are able to effectively respond to radiological incidents at four nuclear power plants in and adjacent to Iowa;
- Oversight and administration of the state E-911 program.



# HSEMD Performance Plan Results SFY 2015

<b>Name of Agency:</b> Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD)			
<b>Agency Mission:</b> 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.			
<b>Core Function:</b> Emergency Management, Domestic Security, Public Health Disaster Preparedness			
Performance Measure (Outcome)	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Percent of Sustainable Local Governments	80%	81.8%	What Occurred: Performance standard was exceeded. Actual performance increased for eighth straight year. <i>Data Source:</i> HSEMD
2. Percent of State Government that is Sustainable	85%	85.8%	What Occurred: Performance standard was exceeded. Actual performance increased for eighth straight year. <i>Data Source:</i> HSEMD
<b>Service, Product or Activity:</b> Emergency Planning			
Performance Measure	Performance Target	Performance Actual	Performance Comments & Analysis
1. Percent of Jurisdictions w/ Response Plans Meeting Standards	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met. <i>Data Source:</i> HSEMD
2. Percent of Jurisdictions w/ Recovery Plans Meeting Standards	100%	99%	What Occurred: Performance standard was not met. A more aggressive standard was used this year. <i>Data Source:</i> HSEMD
4. Percent of Jurisdictions with DMA-2000 Plans	95%	94%	What Occurred: Performance standard was not met. Starting January 2009 the state started the process of combining mitigation plans into a county wide plan. In the past, 530 plans had to meet this standard, but it has now been reduced to a single county plan. Performance decreased by 1% during the year, however, the last six county plans will be approved in SFY 2016. <i>Data Source:</i> HSEMD

# HSEMD Performance Plan Results SFY 2015

<b>Service, Product or Activity: Emergency Training</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Performance Target</b>	<b>Performance Actual</b>	<b>Performance Comments &amp; Analysis</b>
1. Percent HSEMD State Employees Trained to Standards	85%	73%	What Occurred: Performance standard was not met. However, the Department saw an increase in percent of employees trained to standards for the past three years.  <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
2. Percent of County Homeland Security & Emergency Management Coordinators Trained to Standards	85%	68%	What Occurred: Performance Standard was not met. Ten new emergency managers started at the local level during SFY 2015. They have begun the process of meeting their training requirements.  <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
3. Number of Responders Trained – HSEMD	10,000	14,155	What Occurred: Performance standard was exceeded.  <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
<b>Service, Product or Activity: Emergency Exercises</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Performance Target</b>	<b>Performance Actual</b>	<b>Performance Comments &amp; Analysis</b>
1. Percent State Emergency Exercises Completed as Required	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met.  <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
2. Percent of Local Government Emergency Exercises Completed	94%	94%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met.  <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
<b>Service, Product or Activity: Emergency Readiness</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Performance Target</b>	<b>Performance Actual</b>	<b>Performance Comments &amp; Analysis</b>
1. Percent Readiness Level of SEOC Facility	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met.  <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
2. Percent of Forward Command Post Facilities Maintained at Readiness Level	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met.  <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
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>

# HSEMD Performance Plan Results SFY 2015

<b>Service, Product or Activity: Disaster Recovery</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Performance Target</b>	<b>Performance Actual</b>	<b>Performance Comments &amp; Analysis</b>
1. Percent of Funded Public Assistance Projects Completed	88%	83%	What Occurred: Performance standard was not met. Iowa received one Presidential Disaster Declaration during this period.  <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
2. Percent of Submitted Hazard Mitigation Projects	70%	67%	What Occurred: Performance standard was not met. A significant number of projects await FEMA closeout.  <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
<b>Service, Product or Activity: Communications</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Performance Target</b>	<b>Performance Actual</b>	<b>Performance Comments &amp; Analysis</b>
1. Percent Public Safety Answering Points w/Wireless Phase II	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met.  <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
2. Percent Providers Providing E911 Wireless Phase II Services	100%	100%	What Occurred: Performance standard was met.  <i>Data Source: HSEMD</i>
3. Percent of Local Jurisdictions with Interoperable Communications Capabilities for First Responders	75%	75%	What Occurred: Standard was met due to usage of mutual aid frequencies.  <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>
<b>Service, Product or Activity: Homeland Security</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Performance Target</b>	<b>Performance Actual</b>	<b>Performance Comments &amp; Analysis</b>
1. Percent of Homeland Security Initiatives Implemented	20%	50%	What Occurred: Performance standard was exceeded. A decrease in federal funding has led to the delay in implementing identified initiatives.  <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>

# Final Thoughts

Thank you for taking time to read HSEMD's annual report and learn about a few of the department's highlights and accomplishments for SFY 2015.

The Department continued into SFY 2016 many of the projects included in this report, most notably the Alert Iowa statewide emergency notification system and the deployment of Iowa's Next Generation 911 network. We will have much progress on

these, and new activities, to highlight in next year's HSEMD annual report.

Because this report provides information on only a portion of HSEMD's programs and initiatives, we urge anyone seeking additional information to visit HSEMD's website at [www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov), or to call us at 515.725.3231.

