



SECURE & PREPARED

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Special points of interest:

- HSEMD's David Miller welcomes the new IEMA president. Read his remarks on page 2.
- The Civil Air Patrol is a valuable resource during emergencies and disasters. Read more about the CAP and its services on page 3.

Holiday Closings

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division of offices will be closed Tuesday, December 25 and Tuesday, January 1.

Happy Holidays!

Multi-State Agro-Terrorism Workshop Provides Training, Education

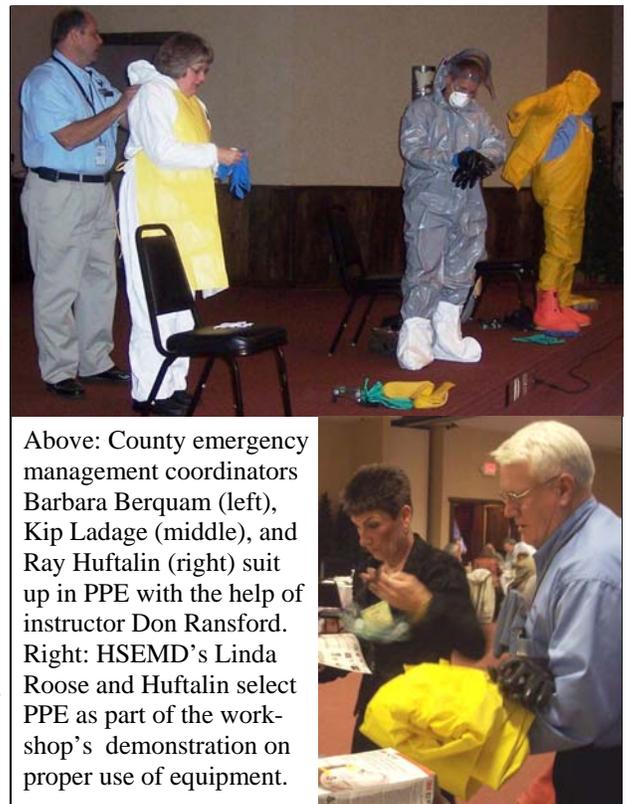
Partners from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa interested in agro-terrorism prevention, protection, response and recovery met in La Crosse, Wisconsin November 14 -15. Approximately 125 attendees from a variety of disciplines, including federal, state, and local governments, along with law enforcement, extension offices, private sector, and elected officials participated in the workshop. Participants received educational training, heard about the experiences of featured speakers and took part in networking activities that included a guided scenario and panel discussion on activities associated with agro-terrorism.

The training, a collaborative effort between Iowa Central Community College and Kirkwood Community College, focused on best practices and safety issues in the event of a foreign animal disease (FMD) outbreak. Participants discussed the importance of preparing for a potential outbreak, prevention, containment, euthanasia, disposal and recovery. At the end of the first day attendees were able to participate in a hands-on FMD scenario activity which incorporated the learning objectives, knowledge, information and skills that were discussed in the morning training program.

The goal was to provide responders with an awareness of the logistical needs required during an FMD outbreak response.

The second day of the workshop began with a presentation on the Upper Midwest Area Maritime Security Committee and continued with speakers from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa sharing best practices.

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Above: County emergency management coordinators Barbara Berquam (left), Kip Ladage (middle), and Ray Huftalin (right) suit up in PPE with the help of instructor Don Ransford. Right: HSEMD's Linda Roose and Huftalin select PPE as part of the workshop's demonstration on proper use of equipment.

Changing of the Guard

By HSEMD Administrator David L. Miller



Last week there was a hand-off involving the presidency of the Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA), which is comprised of and represents county emergency managers. There was a running gag around the state as Rick Wulfekuhle counted down the days to the end of his two-year term and prepared to hand over the reins to Dave Morlan.

I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Rick for the energy and positive attitude he brought to this difficult job. Rick did a masterful job of representing county emergency managers to a number of audiences around the state. He, and the members of IEMA's Executive Committee, moved the group forward in a number of areas, while improving the program in his and their own counties.

I know that Rick will be the first to tell you that to successfully head an organization, you must have the support and dedication of its members. Nobody does this work alone. Serving as the head of an association is a serious challenge because it is often like herding cats; you find yourself leading folks in a direction with no direct authority. Rick deserves a round of applause for his efforts. The good news is, as past president, he will remain a member of IEMA's team and will continue to contribute.

At the same time I welcome Dave to his new presidency. One thing we know about our business, it is going to change – the challenges will be many. As we face our challenges, I promise to keep my ear and door open to Dave. This last year proved that we can and must work together to protect the safety of Iowans before and during times of disaster. I know Dave will bring his strengths to this position and will continue the tradition of Rick and past presidents.

Participants Learn, Share Experiences at Workshop

Continued from page 1

Wisconsin shared their Wisconsin Agro-Security Resources Network (WARN) program, task list for responding to an animal disease incident, and Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture background and overview of 2007 activities.

Minnesota's presentation, "Strike While the Iron's Hot," focused on lessons learned in the southeast Minnesota flood response and the Minnesota Poultry Industry Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Iowa presented on communications interoperability solutions that will better reach veterinarians who are working in the field and receiving and staging the National Veterinary Stockpile.

The day ended with a guided scenario discussion led by Ty Vannieuwenhoven from the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service.

To view presentations from the workshop, go to HSEMD's Web site, www.iowahomelandsecurity.org, and click on the Multi-State Ag Workshop link on the right side of the page.



Mark Shearer, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, briefed workshop participants on Iowa's agro-terrorism initiatives.

Civil Air Patrol Assists During Emergencies

There are many resources available to assist local authorities during emergencies and disasters. One of those important resources is the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

The CAP, the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, is mandated by Congress to fulfill three missions around aerospace education, youth programs, and emergency services. The CAP in Iowa works very closely with professional emergency services organizations across the state and can be a valuable tool for incident commanders, emergency managers, and exercise planners.

The CAP in Iowa has a fleet of seven aircraft, 12 ground vehicles, and more than 400 trained unpaid professionals as part of the single largest volunteer aircraft fleet in the United States. With over 55,000 members nationwide, the members of the CAP dedicate their time and talents to support their local communities, the state of Iowa, and the United States.

CAP has several unique capabilities which can provide a clear understanding of any major incident. Civil Air Patrol crews are equipped with real-time video imaging capabilities which can provide radio-relayed images to a command post or emergency operations center. CAP resources are also equipped with a full communications suite including CAP's unique radio frequencies, state mutual aid, satellite telephone service, and a voice over IP link to the RACOM network. During those situations when a first-person perspective is required, CAP crews can transport municipal officials so they can evaluate the scene.



Above: Members of the Civil Air Patrol participate in an exercise.
 Right: This photo of the Des Moines Waterworks, taken by the Civil Air Patrol during flooding in May 2004, was used as part of disaster evaluation and provided close to "real time" information to state officials and the command center.



The CAP also provides a set of trained mission managers, planners, and responders who are uniquely qualified to support search and rescue operations. The Civil Air Patrol manages over 90 percent of the inland search-and-rescue operations conducted through the Air Force's Rescue Coordination Center.

As a part of its ongoing operational tempo, the CAP participates in at least four full-scale training exercises each year. Those exercises range in complexity from simple single-agency response to large, multi-operational period deployments. Groups of trained exercise planners are available to integrate the CAP's resources into local exercise requirements.

The resources of the CAP are available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week and can be funded through a number of state and federal sources. To make the alerting and activation process as smooth as possible a streamlined request system has been implemented. A local entity needs to simply notify their local emergency management coordinator, who will then contact HSEMD, who will assist local authorities with the activation. Civil Air Patrol crews are dedicated to being on station over any site in Iowa within two hours of an approved mission order.

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HSEMD Mission

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

Hamilton County Receives Radiological Monitors

Members of the Hamilton County Emergency Management Board recently received new personal radiological monitors to be used by the county's fire departments.

Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator Terry Johnston said one of this year's projects of Homeland Security Region 1 was to supply first responders in the region with personal radiation monitors. The monitors are being assigned to fire/rescue units around the county who may be required to respond to calls involving transportation of radiological materials.



HSEMD's Brian Lewis trains Hamilton County responders on the use of newly-acquired personal radiation monitors.

The new monitors may also be used at commercial, agricultural, or residential locations as well. "They are small, can be fastened to the responder's belt, and have more features than the old radiation detectors that we used years ago associated with shelters," Johnston said.

Brian Lewis, a radiological specialist with HSEMD's Radiological Calibration and Maintenance Facility, conducted training for board members on November 15 at the Hamilton County Emergency Operations Center. Lewis said the facility not only conducts training such as that delivered in Hamilton County, but also sets the monitors before they are distributed to responders. Lewis has conducted training on the monitors in three other counties in Region 1 and will conduct additional training for other counties within that region and other entities that have purchased the monitors.

"It's been a few years since we've had equipment like this, and the members of our board were all interested in learning about them," said Johnston. "Our kudos to Brian Lewis who did a good training for us."

Personnel Notes

Claudine Mesecher has joined the staff of Iowa Workforce Development. She had worked in various capacities since she began with the Division in 2003, most recently as a management analyst.