

# Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Update

## September 2010

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### MEETING

The Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Council met on August 25, 2010 in Mason City. Updates were received from the following representatives: Carl Vogeler (Healthcare Planner), Kip Ladage (Homeland Security Board), Darrell Knecht (Region 2 EM representative, Matt Hobson (Public Health Epidemiologist), Merrill Meese (EMS Regional Representative, Heather Johnston (Public Safety) and Elizabeth Faber (PHEP Director). Individual discipline updates are compiled on this abbreviated update sheet.

Future meetings of the Council will be scheduled quarterly.

### REPORTS

#### EMS

##### *FY 2009 Bureau of EMS Status Report*

The EMS status report has been posted on the Bureau of EMS website. The status report has a different look this year but is full of information. For instance, in FY 2009, 196,711 electronic records were submitted which is 15,000 more than in 2008. Nearly 85% of Iowa's 451 ambulance services submit data electronically. The compiled data that EMS services have been sending IDPH has resulted in other useful

report. Visit the IDPH EMS website at [http://idph.state.ia.us/ems/status\\_report.asp](http://idph.state.ia.us/ems/status_report.asp)

### TRAINING

#### *Upcoming Rural PIO Courses*

There are some upcoming Rural PIO courses available to those interested:

- Sept. 7th – ILCC, Estherville, IA
- Sept. 8th – Waverly Health Center, Waverly, IA

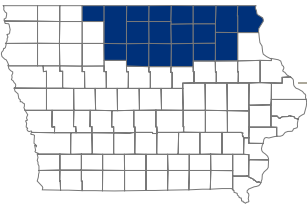
All registrations are available online at: <http://www.iowatrainingnow.com/awr-209.asp>

#### EMS

##### *2010 Service Director Workshops*

The purpose of the Iowa EMS Service Director Workshop is to assist EMS services meet or exceed the state requirements and enhance the ability to provide quality patient care to the communities they serve. This workshop is intended to provide technical assistance for EMS leaders to help with understanding the intent of the rules and to provide ongoing resources to maintain compliance. There is no cost to participants. Formal CEHs are awarded. Pre-registration is required to ensure materials are available. E-mail Merrill Meese, or Ellen McCardle Woods to pre-register.

- Sept 14, 2010 6 - 10 PM IWCC Atlantic, IA
- Oct 21, 2010 6 - 10 PM Fire Station Coralville
- Nov 11, 2010 TBA IEMSA Conf, Des Moines



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### DRILLS/ EXERCISES

#### Healthcare

##### *Exercise documents*

IDPH has released the new grant tools for drill data collection and they are posted on the HAN in the grants folder. They include the following 6-topics to be demonstrated: Bed Tracking, Interoperable Communications, Fatality Management, Evacuation/Shelter-In-Place, Memorandums of Understanding and Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP). A copy of these has been given to local emergency managers so that they can assist hospitals in their exercise planning.

#### Public Health

##### *Drills for public health*

This grant year, local public health agencies receiving preparedness grant funds are required to participate in 5 operational drills that test their established preparedness plans. The exercises must include the special needs population or groups/individuals that represent this population. The 5 HSEEP compliant drills are to test the following operational capabilities: 1. Staff notification (unannounced and outside of normal business hours); 2. Staff Assembly; 3. Interoperable Communications; 4. Dispensing of medical countermeasures 5. Risk Communication with the public. Contact Elizabeth Faber for more information.

### GOALS/PROJECTS

#### All Disciplines

##### *PIO Network Update*

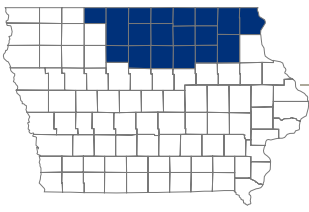
The Region 2 PIO Network has recently been formed for any PIO in any discipline to meet BEFORE a disaster. They have face to face and webinar meetings. They recently had a face to face meeting on August 20, 2010 at the Cerro Gordo/Franklin County EOC. At this meeting, the members worked on the tasks they decided to focus on for the year. They were also able to see the new Cerro Gordo press conference equipment, learn some press conference dos and don'ts and they actually practiced a mock press conference. The next face to face meeting will be on October 1, 2010 meeting. There will be presenters discussing Social Media Use during Disasters. Please contact Elizabeth for more information or to join the Network and/or list serv.

##### *Region 2 Preparedness Website Updates*

<http://www.iowaregion2preparedness.com>

The Region 2 Emergency Preparedness website now contains even more information. Besides the regional calendar, staff calendar, and regional map with partner contact information, there is now more information on the home page to help you find what you are looking for. You can subscribe to the website to receive email updates when there is something new added.

Be sure to visit the website...it has great possibilities for enhancing Region 2 Preparedness!



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### GRANT FUNDING

#### Public Health/Healthcare

##### *10-11 Grant Year Begins*

As of August 9, another grant year has started for Public Health Emergency Preparedness. The grant roll out was held on August 17, 2010.

The HPP grant year began July 1, 2010 and the grant roll out was held July 20, 2010.

### RECENT NEWS

#### Public Health

##### *Influenza Pandemic “Over”*

The World Health Organization announced last week that the world is no longer in an influenza pandemic...we are now in a “post-pandemic phase”. The H1N1 virus is occurring at very low levels in the world now, although CDC still cautions that all people hospitalized or dying from suspected/diagnosed influenza should be tested for influenza to determine what exact type has occurred. In Iowa, such specimens should be sent to the State Hygienic Laboratory.

##### *H3N2 Influenza in Iowa*

This summer Influenza A, type H3N2 was detected in Delaware and Johnson Counties in Iowa. This is a more typical strain of influenza, perhaps predicting what the dominant form of influenza will be this fall/winter. Fortunately this type of influenza, as well as H1N1, are included in the vaccine being distributed

now for this coming flu season. This means that there should be just one normal flu vaccination this season.

Obviously all those in emergency response duties and health care AND their families should receive the vaccine when available. In fact, it is recommended that ALL people over 6 months of age receive the vaccine yearly from now on.

#### EMS

##### *EMS Field Coordinator Change*

Due to recent changes in EMS bureau staffing at IDPH, through an early retirement and previous changes caused by ordered Reductions in Force, realignment of staff assignments to facilitate local contact/coordination has been made. Each of the five remaining regional coordinators have been re-assigned selected counties to serve as field staff. The EMS Bureau is dedicated to working “lean” and energizing our partners to help IDPH seek solutions to reduce the impact to Iowans.

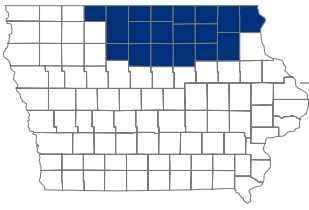
In addition to the 15 northern Iowa counties Merrill Meese already serves, he has been assigned seven more counties (**Audubon, Boone, Carroll, Greene, Guthrie, Marshall and Story**). Merrill asks that the EMS services in those counties contact him anytime with questions or concerns.

Please note that the coordinator contact information included in some auto-generated emails from the EMS System Registry will remain unchanged until final assignments are made later this fall, please disregard that contact information and contact Merrill anytime using the information provided below.

(641) 444-3698 Office  
(641) 444-4895 Fax  
(515) 344-2793 Cell

##### *Egg recall*

The egg recall event starting in Wright County has large ramifications nationwide. The issue has been



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*Salmonella enteritidis* found INSIDE intact chicken eggs raised for human consumption. Although it is unclear

if Iowa has had ANY illness cases related to Salmonella in the eggs recalled, there have been hundreds of cases reported in other states, usually in foods made with raw eggs. The obvious message is to be careful to eat only fully cooked eggs or eggs that are pasteurized. Several other Iowa county egg businesses are now involved in the egg recalls, including businesses in Wright, Fayette, and Chickasaw counties. FDA is in charge of these investigations and IDPH and local health departments are only minimally involved, mostly answering questions from the press.

### *IDPH Regional Epi changes*

Matt Hobson will soon be done covering two regions (2 & 6) and return to normal duties in Region 2. Denyse Gipple will soon take the reins in Region 6 (eastern Iowa), but Hobson will still provide a period of training and oversight in Region 6 for the next few months. IDPH will be delayed in the hiring process for the Epidemiologist in Region 3 (northwest Iowa) until early 2011, and currently, funding is not available for an Epidemiologist in Region 1 (central Iowa).

### **Emergency Management**

#### *Iowa Individual Assistance Program*

The Iowa Emergency Management Association is exploring the possibilities of having County General Relief administer the Iowa Individual Assistance program instead of Local Emergency Management. It is believed by some this organization is better suited to administer this program. Currently local emergency managers are part of the authorization process for identifying appropriate use of the Individual Assistance funds that are distributed in communities with disaster declarations. There is some variability in how General Relief operates in each of Iowa's counties.

### *Code Red Funding*

The Iowa Emergency Management Association is taking a stance of "support" for possible legislation allowing the use of 911 funds to pay for mass notifications systems such as Code Red. Code Red has been successfully implemented in a number of Iowa communities.

## MEETINGS

### **Healthcare**

#### *Regional Steering Committee meeting*

#### Region 2 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Steering Committee Meeting

September 21, 2010

9:00 AM

Mercy Hospital, Mason City

RSVP to Carl Vogeler

### **Public Health**

#### *Regional Steering Committee meeting*

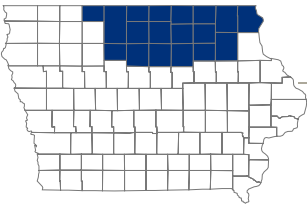
#### Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Steering Committee Meeting

September 21, 2010

1:00 PM

Clarion Hotel (previously Holiday Inn), Mason City

RSVP to Elizabeth Faber



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### *Workplan Workgroups*

The dates and locations for the public health workplan workgroups are as follows:

*West- Monday, September 13- Algona, Kossuth Regional, EMS Room, 9:30 - 2:30*

*Central- Tuesday, September 14- Mason City Pizza Ranch, 9:30 - 2:30*

*East- Wednesday, Sept 15- Chickasaw Community Center, 112 E Spring St, New Hampton, 9:00 - 2:00*

At these workgroups, individual county goals will be set for preparedness based on plan assessment through scenarios discussions, exercises will be planned, and the required workplan will be completed.

## STAFF CHANGES

### Healthcare

#### *EEC position*

The Regional Contract Administrator (RCA) for the HPP (hospital preparedness) grant is Avera Holy Family Health in Estherville and their contract has been approved by IDPH.

The Regional HPP Education & Exercise Coordinator position is currently vacant at this time. The RCA is planning to advertise for the position with the intent to fill it as soon as possible. In the interim, education and exercise needs should be referred to Carl Vogeler.

### Public Health

#### *EEC position*

BJ Hoffman, Region 2 Education and Exercise Coordinator, resigned from his position on the public health side effective July 31, 2010. The PH regional steering committee decided NOT to rehire for this position and instead reconfigured the role of the planner. The new role, with increased job duties, is now currently entitled the Iowa Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director. Elizabeth Faber, formerly the Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planner holds this position, which is contracted through Butler County Public Health. Her contact information is:

Elizabeth Faber

*Iowa Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director  
1420 West 6th Avenue North*

*Clear Lake, IA 50428*

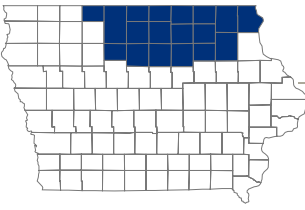
*Phone: (515) 897-3809*

*Fax: (641) 357-5346*

*Email: [efaber.region2@gmail.com](mailto:efaber.region2@gmail.com)*

*Cell Phone: 641-425-7339*

<http://www.iowaregion2preparedness.com>



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### Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Council

*The Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Council was formed in April 2005 in response to a need for increased collaboration and communication among the different agencies focusing on preparedness in the Region. The regional model of collaboration was adopted to model such planning at the local level.*

*Representatives are expected to share pertinent information with local partners, resources, emergency plan details, funding sources, other meeting information, upcoming trainings, educational events, and exercises.*

### 18 Counties We Serve:

- Allamakee
- Bremer
- Butler
- Cerro Gordo
- Chickasaw
- Emmett
- Fayette
- Floyd
- Franklin
- Hancock
- Howard
- Humboldt
- Kossuth
- Mitchell
- Winnebago
- Winneshiek
- Worth
- Wright

This update is published by R2EPC in an effort to coordinate the efforts of emergency preparedness organizations in this region, with the goal of sharing the following: resources, emergency plan details, funding sources, other meeting information, upcoming trainings, educational events, and exercises. For further information contact one of the R2EPC Representatives listed below.

*Please note some contact information changes below!*

### Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Council Representatives

- ◆ **Healthcare (Hospitals) Regional Planner:** Carl Vogeler, [btp2cv@imonmail.com](mailto:btp2cv@imonmail.com)
- ◆ **Public Health- Regional Director:** Elizabeth Faber, [efaber.region2@gmail.com](mailto:efaber.region2@gmail.com)
- ◆ **Region 2 Epidemiologist:** Matt Hobson, [mhobson@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:mhobson@idph.state.ia.us)
- ◆ **EMA - District 2 Representative:** Darrell Knecht, Howard County, [dknecht@co.howard.ia.us](mailto:dknecht@co.howard.ia.us)

- ◆ **EMS - Merrill Meese,** [mmeese@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:mmeese@idph.state.ia.us)
- ◆ **Region 2 Homeland Security Board:** Kip Ladage, Bremer County, [kladage@co.bremer.ia.us](mailto:kladage@co.bremer.ia.us)
- ◆ **Public Safety/LEIN- Heather Johnston,** [hrichard@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:hrichard@dps.state.ia.us)
- ◆ **HazMat - Region V Administrative Coordinator Peg Stickrod,** [regionvlepc@yahoo.com](mailto:regionvlepc@yahoo.com)