

EdTrAC Connect is distributed electronically every month. It provides preparedness training-related news and information to EdTrAC members and other individuals or organizations interested in receiving the updates. All of the information can be republished or distributed to other parties. Submissions can be made any time, but must be received by the first week of the month in order to be published in the new month. To submit items for the EdTrAC Connect, or to subscribe/unsubscribe, please contact Mat Willey at 515-243-2000 or [mwilley@sppg.com](mailto:mwilley@sppg.com).

EdTrAC, the Education and Training Advisory Committee, serves as a coordinator, link, and information clearinghouse about issues, training, and exercises that benefit those in the state who are responsible for ensuring the safety and health of Iowans on a day-to-day basis. Bringing together members who represent a wide array of preventers and first responders, EdTrAC takes an innovative and multidisciplinary approach to coordinating preparedness training priorities for Iowa. More information about EdTrAC can be found at [www.edtrac.us](http://www.edtrac.us).

EdTrAC is convened and funded by The University of Iowa College of Public Health, Center for Public Health Preparedness. Partnering agencies include the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, the Iowa Department of Public Safety, and the Iowa Department of Public Health. State Public Policy Group serves as the coordinator and staff for EdTrAC.

## **Upcoming EdTrAC Quarterly Meeting Schedule:**

**Thursday, March 6**

9am-Noon

Ankeny Laboratory Facility

Des Moines Area Community College Ankeny Campus

Des Moines, Iowa

*SPPG would like to wish a Happy New Year to all EdTrAC members and their families!*

## **Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division Newsletter**

**Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division**

Two new HSEMD newsletters (December 18, 2007 and January 8, 2008) have been posted at:

[http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/news\\_room/newsletters.asp](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/asp/news_room/newsletters.asp)

## **Three highlights from the January 8, 2008 issue:**

### **Iowa Receives Presidential Disaster Declaration**

On January 4, 2008, Iowa received a Presidential Disaster Declaration as a result of the ice and snow storms that affected southern and eastern Iowa in early December.

The Governor requested and received federal public assistance funding for the following 30 counties: Adair, Adams, Appanoose, Cedar, Clarke, Clinton, Davis, Decatur, Fremont, Iowa, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Linn, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Page, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, and Wayne. The public assistance program is designed to help public and certain non-profit organizations rebuild damaged infrastructure that may include roads, bridges, culverts, and other public facilities. Emergency work of clearing the ice and snow is also included. Preliminary damage assessments for potential eligible expenses under the federal program were set at

\$16.5 million.

### **Iowa First Responders Awarded More Than \$800,000**

On December 21, 2007, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the award of \$33.7 million to fund equipment and training for first responders across the nation as a part of the fiscal year 2007 Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). Iowa will receive \$800,198.64. Of the 92 applications HSEMD received for this year's program, 47 received awards. Since the program's inception in 2005, DHS has provided roughly 5,800 direct assistance awards worth more than \$103 million for all hazards in smaller jurisdictions nationwide.

### **Department of Natural Resources Unveils a New Database for Tier 2 Reporting**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has purchased a software application to assist facilities with Tier 2 chemical inventory reporting submissions. Legislation that passed during the 2007 session transferred the Tier 2 program to the DNR from Iowa Workforce Development. The two agencies are working closely together to ensure a smooth transition.

This software will allow facility managers to keep a historical record of their submissions and make changes to the facility information at anytime throughout the year. In addition, the data from the 2006 submission will be pre-loaded into the system. The system will be ready for use on January 21.

### **Three highlights from the December 18, 2007 issue:**

#### **Update on NIMS Compliance for 2008**

According to a recent FEMA NIMS Alert, responses to the FY 2007 compliance metrics will be considered to shape the future of the NIMS compliance program. This came from discussion at the NIMS Point of Contact Workshop in October.

Based on input from stakeholders at the workshop, FEMA's Incident Management Systems Division (IMSD) has decided to eliminate the use of the term "tiering" in future NIMS compliance requirements. Additionally, the requirement to complete ICS-400: Advanced ICS in FY 2008 will now actually be a FY 2009 requirement. (Note: ICS-300: Intermediate ICS will remain a FY08 requirement.) We encourage those persons who are required to take the ICS 400, to complete it by September 30.

#### **Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Guidance Announced**

FEMA has announced the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program for FY 2008. The PDM grant program will provide funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, and communities for hazard mitigation planning and mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. FEMA has established the application deadline for states to submit their application by January 31, 2008. In order to meet FEMA's deadline, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management must receive local sub-applications via E-grants (<https://portal.fema.gov>) by January 14, 2008.

#### **FEMA Offers Independent Study Course on ESF 15**

FEMA is offering a new online independent study course: IS250 "Emergency Support Function ESF 15 External Affairs: A New Approach to Emergency Communication and Information Distribution."

This course provides basic training on the concept and practical application of the ESF 15 standard operating procedures to support federal domestic incidents requiring a coordinated federal response. An optional conference call session is also available to students on a weekly basis who have additional questions. The course is available through the EMI Independent Study Web site at:

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/IS250.asp>

#### **Upcoming events:**

Risk Communications For Special Populations  
Iowa Department of Public Health and the Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness

**Date:**

This is an online course.

**Cost:**

Free. For more information, or to register for this course, please visit the web-site at [www.prepareiowa.com](http://www.prepareiowa.com) or contact Angela Harding at UMCPHP at 319-335-8451 or e-mail [angela-harding@uiowa.edu](mailto:angela-harding@uiowa.edu)

This specialized course is intended for anyone responsible for communicating risk to special populations during an emergency situation. The goal of the course is to make sure every member of the community understands the information needed to prepare, cope and recover from health emergencies. (Note: A basic understanding of the principles of risk communication is a prerequisite for this course. For those who need this information, the NPHA Program: Risk Communication is also available on the Prepare Iowa LMS.)

Here are a few comments regarding what users liked about this course: "information was very comprehensive;" "ease of navigation and lack of repetition. Well organized;" "liked the reference material, the go-to pop up pages, and the scenarios set up;" "one page synopses on each of the nine special populations that included barriers, best communications methods, who best to deliver, and technical or content issues concise and easy to understand;" "flexibility of taking the course and the ability to stop and reenter the program where you left off;" "very timely and important information;" "forced me to think about how to communicate with special populations;"

**Introduction to Disaster Services**

American Red Cross Online Course

**Dates:**

This is an online course.

**Cost:**

Free.

Introduction to Disaster Services is an online course

consisting of three separate learning modules that will introduce learners to American Red Cross Disaster Services and allow them to discover how volunteers support this critical mission and to explore ways they can become involved in their local chapter. The course takes approximately 45 minutes to complete Web Link:

[http://www2.redcross.org/flash/course01\\_v01/](http://www2.redcross.org/flash/course01_v01/)

**Senior Officials Workshop for All Hazards Preparedness**

Texas Engineering Extension Service, National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center, and the Texas A&M University System

**Dates:**

Workshop is typically delivered at a time and place determined by the requesting jurisdiction.

**Cost:**

Free. To get more information call Phil Crosbie at 979.458.8161 or email him at [Phil.Crosbie@teemail.tamu.edu](mailto:Phil.Crosbie@teemail.tamu.edu). Also, you may contact Diane Walters at 979.458.8877 or email her at [Diane.Walters@teemail.tamu.edu](mailto:Diane.Walters@teemail.tamu.edu).

The Senior Officials Workshop is for local-jurisdiction elected and appointed senior officials. Its purpose is to provide a forum to discuss strategic and executive-level issues related to disaster preparedness, share proven strategies and best practices, and enhance coordination among officials responsible for emergency response to a disaster.

**Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

January 15; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Comfort Inn in Maquoketa, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

2008 marks the 3rd year the Iowa Pipeline Association will sponsor "Pipeline Awareness & Education Meetings"

for all emergency responders throughout the state. These member companies have joined together in a collaborative outreach effort to ensure a common and consistent message is communicated to emergency response personnel. Efforts such as these help fulfill the requirements set forth by the Federal Department of Transportation as well as continue the liaison efforts and sharing of information between operators and emergency responders. To register, RSVP online at [www.iowa-pipeline.com](http://www.iowa-pipeline.com)

<http://www.iowa-pipeline.com/>

(click the Event RSVP button), call (888) 383-8324 or email at [ipa@celeritas.com](mailto:ipa@celeritas.com)

### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

January 16; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Holiday Inn in Amana, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

2008 marks the 3rd year the Iowa Pipeline Association will sponsor "Pipeline Awareness & Education Meetings" for all emergency responders throughout the state. These member companies have joined together in a collaborative outreach effort to ensure a common and consistent message is communicated to emergency response personnel. Efforts such as these help fulfill the requirements set forth by the Federal Department of Transportation as well as continue the liaison efforts and sharing of information between operators and emergency responders. To register, RSVP online at [www.iowa-pipeline.com](http://www.iowa-pipeline.com) (click the Event RSVP button), call (888) 383-8324 or email at [ipa@celeritas.com](mailto:ipa@celeritas.com)

### **Incident Command System 100**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Date:**

January 16; 6pm to 10pm in Johnston, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact Jim Krohse at (515) 276-5182 or via email at [jkrohse@ci.johnston.ia.us](mailto:jkrohse@ci.johnston.ia.us)

The Incident Command System (ICS) has been proven effective for responding to all types of incidents. It has been widely adopted as a standard for incident response. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

### **Fulfilling Our Mission: Translating Your Compassion into Community Action**

American Red Cross Central Iowa Chapter

**Date:**

January 17, 2008; 6-9pm in Des Moines, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

This is a basic, entry level instructor-led course, which introduces potential disaster volunteers and members of other local agencies to the role of the Red Cross in the community's actions in preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies and disasters. The course will enable individual volunteers to translate their care and compassion for their community into action and provide information to other community agencies on Red Cross work and possible partnership in preparation for and response to a disaster. Pre-registration required. Contact Dean Sweberg, at (515) 471-8333 or [swebergd@desmoines-redcross.org](mailto:swebergd@desmoines-redcross.org) for more information.

### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

January 17; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Best Western in Fairfield, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

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### **Incident Command System 200**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Date:**

January 18; 8am to 5pm in New Hampton, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact Ken Rasing at (641) 394-2406 or via email at [chiras@iowatelecom.net](mailto:chiras@iowatelecom.net)

This course is designed to enable personnel to operate efficiently during an incident or event within the Incident Command System (ICS). This course focuses on the management of single resources. This course provides information on ICS organizational structure, initial organizational development at an incident, organizational expansion and contraction, incident action planning process, and transfer of command.

### **Principles of Emergency Management**

Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

**Dates:**

Jan 22 and 23 at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact David Hempen at 515-725-3281 or Beth Gathercole 515-725-3231

This course is designed to provide a basic framework for

understanding emergency management.

### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

January 22; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Holiday Inn in Sioux City, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

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### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

January 23; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Boulder's Conference Center in Denison, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

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operators and emergency responders. To register, RSVP online at [www.iowa-pipeline.com](http://www.iowa-pipeline.com) (click the Event RSVP button), call (888) 383-8324 or email at [ipa@celeritas.com](mailto:ipa@celeritas.com)

### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

January 24; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Cass County Community Center in Atlantic, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

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### **19th Annual Winter Fire School**

Fire Service Training Bureau

**Date:**

January 26 and 27; Registration begins at 7:30am on January 26 in Ames, Iowa.

**Cost:**

Before January 11, two-day registration will cost \$60 and a one-day registration will cost \$45. After January 11, a two-day registration will cost \$70 and a one-day registration will cost \$70. To register visit <http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb/conferences.shtml> for more information.

The Fire Service Training Bureau is Iowa's designated state fire academy. Located in Ames, the Bureau provides training and education for Iowa's fire and emergency services.

The Fire Service Training Bureau is committed to meeting the needs of Iowa's fire service by emphasizing up-to-date, recognized training, partnerships with the community college districts, as well as in-house training opportunities.

### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

January 29; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Dubuque Regional ER Response Training Center in Dubuque, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

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### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

January 30; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Waverly Community Center in Waverly, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

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such as these help fulfill the requirements set forth by the Federal Department of Transportation as well as continue the liaison efforts and sharing of information between operators and emergency responders. To register, RSVP online at [www.iowa-pipeline.com](http://www.iowa-pipeline.com) (click the Event RSVP button), call (888) 383-8324 or email at [ipa@celeritas.com](mailto:ipa@celeritas.com)

### **Incident Command System 700**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Dates:**

January 30; 6pm to 9pm in New Hampton, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact Ken Rasing at (641) 394-2406 or via email at [chiras@iowatelecom.net](mailto:chiras@iowatelecom.net)

This course will describe the key concepts and principles of NIMS and the benefits of using the system for domestic incident response. At the end of this session participants will be able to describe these key concepts, principles and benefits.

### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

January 31; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Copper Creek Golf Club in Pleasant Hill, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

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call (888) 383-8324 or email at [ipa@celeritas.com](mailto:ipa@celeritas.com)

### **Foreign Animal Disease Response**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Date:**

February 2; 1pm to 5pm in Iowa City, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact Vicki Fiedler at (515) 574-1264 or via email at [fiedler@iowacentral.com](mailto:fiedler@iowacentral.com)

Responders are vital to containing and recovering from a foreign animal disease outbreak. Responders assess the local situation; assist state, federal and tribal agencies; coordinate local resources; and may remain on scene to control and prevent future contamination.

This Department of Homeland Security certified Foreign Animal Disease Response course focuses on best practices and safety issues in the event of outbreak. Learn the importance of preparing for a potential outbreak, prevention, containment, euthanasia, disposal and recovery.

### **Incident Command System 300**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Date:**

February 5 and 6; 9am to 5pm in Ottumwa, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact Robyn Reese at (319) 213-5872 or via email at [epc@q.com](mailto:epc@q.com)

This 2-day course provides training and resources for personnel who require advanced application of Incident Command System (ICS). It is designed to elevate the student's understanding of the ICS from a basic level up to an intermediate level. Target audience is for individuals who may assume a supervisory role in expanding incidents where some or all of the Command and General Staff positions may be activated and extend into multiple operational periods. Pre-requisites: ICS-100 and ICS-200 must be completed prior to participating in ICS-300.

### **Incident Command System 300**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Dates:**

February 5 and 6; 9am to 5pm in Ames, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact Jennifer Dane at (515) 281-0354

This 2-day course provides training and resources for personnel who require advanced application of Incident Command System (ICS). It is designed to elevate the student's understanding of the ICS from a basic level up to an intermediate level. Target audience is for individuals who may assume a supervisory role in expanding incidents where some or all of the Command and General Staff positions may be activated and extend into multiple operational periods. Pre-requisites: ICS-100 and ICS-200 must be completed prior to participating in ICS-300.

### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

February 5; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Arrowhead Restaurant in Okoboji, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

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### **Incident Command System 700**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Date:**

February 6; 6pm to 10pm in Johnston, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact Jim Krohse at (515) 276-5182 or via email at [jkrohse@ci.johnston.ia.us](mailto:jkrohse@ci.johnston.ia.us)

This course will describe the key concepts and principles of NIMS and the benefits of using the system for domestic incident response. At the end of this session participants will be able to describe these key concepts, principles and benefits.

### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

February 6; 6pm to 8:45pm at King's Point Convention Center in Storm Lake, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

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### **Incident Command System 400**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Date:**

February 7 and 8; 8am to 5pm in Ottumwa, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact Robyn Reese at (319) 213-5872 or via email at [epc@q.com](mailto:epc@q.com)

This 2-day course provides advanced application of Incident Command System (ICS) for senior personnel who are expected to perform in a management capacity in an Area Command or Multi-agency Coordination Entity. It includes an emphasis on large-scale organization development, roles and relationships of the primary staff, the planning, operational, logistical and fiscal consideration related to a large and complex incident and event management. It describes the application of Area Command and the importance of interagency coordination on complex incidents and events. Pre-requisites: ICS-100, ICS-200 and ICS-300 courses and must be completed prior to participation of ICS-400.

### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

February 7; 6pm to 8:45pm the City Hall Auditorium in Boone, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

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### **Incident Command System 300**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Dates:**

February 9 and 10; 8am to 5pm in Dallas Center, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Mike Price at (515) 491-7291 or via email at [dcoem81@hotmail.com](mailto:dcoem81@hotmail.com)

This 2-day course provides training and resources for personnel who require advanced application of Incident Command System. It is designed to elevate the student's understanding of the ICS from a basic level up to an intermediate level. Target audience is for individuals who may assume a supervisory role in expanding incidents where some or all of the Command and General Staff positions may be activated and extend into multiple operational periods. Pre-requisites: ICS-100 and ICS-200 must be completed prior to participating in ICS-300.

### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

February 11; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Red Coach Inn in Red Oak, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

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### **Incident Command System 300**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Dates:**

February 12 and February 13; 8am to 5pm in Webster City, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Mike McConnell at (515) 832-9166 [chief@wcpolice.com](mailto:chief@wcpolice.com)

This 2-day course provides training and resources for personnel who require advanced application of Incident Command System. It is designed to elevate the student's understanding of the ICS from a basic level up to an intermediate level. Target audience is for individuals who may assume a supervisory role in expanding incidents where some or all of the Command and General Staff positions may be activated and extend into multiple operational periods. Prerequisites: ICS-100 and ICS-200 must be completed prior to participating in ICS-300.

**Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

February 12; 6pm to 8:45pm at Terrible's Lakeside Casino in Osceola, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

2008 marks the 3rd year the Iowa Pipeline Association will sponsor "Pipeline Awareness & Education Meetings" for all emergency responders throughout the state. These member companies have joined together in a collaborative outreach effort to ensure a common and consistent message is communicated to emergency response personnel. Efforts such as these help fulfill the requirements set forth by the Federal Department of Transportation as well as continue the liaison efforts and sharing of information between operators and emergency responders. To register, RSVP online at [www.iowa-pipeline.com](http://www.iowa-pipeline.com) (click the Event RSVP button), call (888) 383-8324 or email at [ipa@celeritas.com](mailto:ipa@celeritas.com)

**Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

February 12; 6pm to 8:45pm the River City Convention Center in Davenport, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

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**Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

February 13; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Comfort Suites in Burlington, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

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**Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

February 13; 6pm to 8:45pm at the William Penn University Memorial Union in Oskaloosa, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

2008 marks the 3rd year the Iowa Pipeline Association will sponsor "Pipeline Awareness & Education Meetings" for all emergency responders throughout the state. These member companies have joined together in a collaborative outreach effort to ensure a common and consistent message is communicated to emergency response personnel. Efforts such as these help fulfill the requirements set forth by the Federal Department of Transportation as well as continue the liaison efforts and sharing of information between operators and emergency responders. To register, RSVP online at [www.iowa-pipeline.com](http://www.iowa-pipeline.com) (click the Event RSVP button), call (888) 383-8324 or email at [ipa@celeritas.com](mailto:ipa@celeritas.com)

**Incident Command System 400**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Date:**

February 14 and 15; 8am to 5pm in Iowa City, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact Vicki Fiedler at (515) 574-1264 or via email at [fiedler@iowacentral.com](mailto:fiedler@iowacentral.com)

This 2-day course provides advanced application of Incident Command System (ICS) for senior personnel who are expected to perform in a management capacity in an Area Command or Multi-agency Coordination Entity. It includes an emphasis on large-scale organization development, roles and relationships of the primary staff, the planning, operational, logistical and fiscal consideration related to a large and complex incident and event management. It describes the application of Area Command and the importance of interagency coordination on complex incidents and events. Pre-requisites: ICS-100, ICS-200 and ICS-300 courses and must be completed prior to participation of ICS-400.

**Incident Command System 200**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Date:**

February 19 and 20; 6pm to 10pm in Allison, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Steve Ulrichs at (319) 267-9967 or via email at [sulrichs@butlercoiowa.org](mailto:sulrichs@butlercoiowa.org)

This 8 hr. course is designed to enable personnel to operate efficiently during an incident or event within the Incident Command System. This course focuses on the management of single resources. This course provides information on ICS organizational structure, initial organizational development at an incident, organizational expansion and contraction, incident action planning process, and transfer of command.

**Incident Command System 700**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Date:**

February 20; 1pm to 4pm in Newton, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact Joanne Rossler at (641) 792-5086 ext. 2231 or via email at [jrossler@skiffmed.com](mailto:jrossler@skiffmed.com)

This course will describe the key concepts and principles of NIMS and the benefits of using the system for domestic incident response. At the end of this session participants will be able to describe these key concepts, principles and benefits.

**Basic Public Information Officer Training**

Iowa Central Homeland Security Training

**Date:**

March 3 and March 4; 8am to 5pm in Iowa City, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact Vickie Fiedler at (515) 574-1264 or via email

at [fiedler@iowacentral.com](mailto:fiedler@iowacentral.com)

This 2-day course assists participants with building the skills needed to be a full or part-time Public Information Officer (PIO); such as oral and written communications, understanding and working with the media, and the basic tools and techniques PIOs need. It covers the latest technology available, so that PIOs can use those tools comfortably, and to their advantage.

This course is comprised of a blend of content from expert sources in the public information field, some FEMA program information and guidance, individual and small group activities, and classroom discussion about PIO roles and strategies for working with the media.

### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

March 4; 6pm to 8:45pm at Oaks Steak House in Decorah, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

2008 marks the 3rd year the Iowa Pipeline Association will sponsor "Pipeline Awareness & Education Meetings" for all emergency responders throughout the state. These member companies have joined together in a collaborative outreach effort to ensure a common and consistent message is communicated to emergency response personnel. Efforts such as these help fulfill the requirements set forth by the Federal Department of Transportation as well as continue the liaison efforts and sharing of information between operators and emergency responders. To register, RSVP online at [www.iowa-pipeline.com](http://www.iowa-pipeline.com) (click the Event RSVP button), call (888) 383-8324 or email at [ipa@celeritas.com](mailto:ipa@celeritas.com)

### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

March 5; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Best Western Holiday

Lodge in Clear Lake, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

2008 marks the 3rd year the Iowa Pipeline Association will sponsor "Pipeline Awareness & Education Meetings" for all emergency responders throughout the state. These member companies have joined together in a collaborative outreach effort to ensure a common and consistent message is communicated to emergency response personnel. Efforts such as these help fulfill the requirements set forth by the Federal Department of Transportation as well as continue the liaison efforts and sharing of information between operators and emergency responders. To register, RSVP online at [www.iowa-pipeline.com](http://www.iowa-pipeline.com) (click the Event RSVP button), call (888) 383-8324 or email at [ipa@celeritas.com](mailto:ipa@celeritas.com)

### **Pipeline Safety and Emergency Responder Meeting**

The Iowa Pipeline Association

**Date:**

March 6; 6pm to 8:45pm at the Fire Station in Iowa Falls, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

2008 marks the 3rd year the Iowa Pipeline Association will sponsor "Pipeline Awareness & Education Meetings" for all emergency responders throughout the state. These member companies have joined together in a collaborative outreach effort to ensure a common and consistent message is communicated to emergency response personnel. Efforts such as these help fulfill the requirements set forth by the Federal Department of Transportation as well as continue the liaison efforts and sharing of information between operators and emergency responders. To register, RSVP online at [www.iowa-pipeline.com](http://www.iowa-pipeline.com) (click the Event RSVP button), call (888) 383-8324 or email at [ipa@celeritas.com](mailto:ipa@celeritas.com)

### **Emergency Planning**

Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

**Date:**

May 13 and 14 at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact David Hempen at 515-725-3281 or Beth Gathercole 515-725-3231

This course is designed to provide a practical knowledge in how to develop emergency plans using Hazard analysis in the planning process.

**Fulfilling Our Mission: Translating Your Compassion into Community Action**

American Red Cross Central Iowa Chapter

**Date:**

March 13, 2008; 6-9pm in Des Moines, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free.

This is a basic, entry level instructor-led course, which introduces potential disaster volunteers and members of other local agencies to the role of the Red Cross in the community's actions in preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies and disasters. The course will enable individual volunteers to translate their care and compassion for their community into action and provide information to other community agencies on Red Cross work and possible partnership in preparation for and response to a disaster. Pre-registration required. Contact Dean Sweberg, at (515) 471-8333 or [swebergd@desmoines-redcross.org](mailto:swebergd@desmoines-redcross.org) for more information.

**Exercise Design**

Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

**Dates:**

March 19 and 20 at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact David Hempen at 515-725-3281 or Beth

Gathercole 515-725-3231

This course is designed to develop exercising skills in designing and conducting exercises.

**Weapons of Mass Destruction – Threat and Risk Assessment**

United States Department of Homeland Security, Texas Engineering Extension Service, Texas A&M University System, Johnson County EMA, and the Coralville Fire department

**Dates:**

March 25-28

**Cost:**

Free. Call 319.248.1835, 319.248.1844 or email [dstannard@ci.coralville.ia.us](mailto:dstannard@ci.coralville.ia.us) for additional details.

This course provides a unique opportunity for individuals to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to help them protect public safety and infrastructure from the threat of a terrorism incident. Course participants, using their extensive professional experience, work together in multi-discipline teams to apply the information presented during the course in a variety of hands-on, small-group activities as well as realistic, multi-media scenarios.

**Grand Rounds Series – Possible Impact of Antimicrobial Use in Agriculture on Public Health**

Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness

**Date:**

April 9 in Iowa City, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. These sessions are available via live and archived web-casts and are free of charge. For more information please visit the web-site at [http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icphp/grand\\_rounds/](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icphp/grand_rounds/) or contact Angela Harding at 319-335-8451 or e-mail [angela-harding@uiowa.edu](mailto:angela-harding@uiowa.edu)

**Grand Rounds Series – Vaccine Safety**

Upper Midwest Center for Public Health Preparedness

**Date:**

April 28 in Iowa City, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. These sessions are available via live and archived web-casts and are free of charge. For more information please visit the web-site at [http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icphp/grand\\_rounds/](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icphp/grand_rounds/) or contact Angela Harding at 319-335-8451 or e-mail [angela-harding@uiowa.edu](mailto:angela-harding@uiowa.edu)

**Leadership & Influence**

Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

**Dates:**

July 15 and 16 at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact David Hempen at 515-725-3281 or Beth Gathercole 515-725-3231

This course is designed to improve your leadership and influence skills

**Decision Making and Problem Solving**

Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

**Dates:**

September 4 at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa

**Cost:**

Free. Contact David Hempen at 515-725-3281 or Beth Gathercole 515-725-3231

This course is designed to improve your decision making skills.

**Introduction to Disaster Services**

American Red Cross Online Course

Introduction to Disaster Services is a free online course consisting of three separate learning modules that will intro-

duce individuals to American Red Cross Disaster Services and allow them to discover how volunteers support this critical mission as well as explore ways they can become involved in their local chapter.

This online course takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. To take the course, visit the website: [http://www2.redcross.org/flash/course01\\_v01/](http://www2.redcross.org/flash/course01_v01/).

## U.S. Department of Homeland Security New Resources on Interoperable Communications Interoperable Communications:

For years, achieving communications interoperability has been a top priority for federal, state, and local jurisdictions across the country. To assist this effort, LLIS.gov has developed the Interoperable Communications Resource page to serve as a one-stop resource for federal, state, and local interoperable communications guidance, research, and plans. The page highlights documents in key areas in interoperable communications such as tactical planning, strategic planning, technology solutions, and the use of common language.

## New Resources on Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan Exercises:

This resource page highlights the lessons learned from last year's Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan (TICP) exercises conducted by more than 76 urban and metropolitan areas. The TICP Exercises Resource page features TICP exercise after-action reports from urban areas across the country, and LLIS.gov's original research highlighting widely applicable TICP exercise lessons learned in areas such as communications protocols, incident command/unified command, and exercise design.

To access these resource pages, please log onto LLIS.gov ([www.llis.gov](http://www.llis.gov)) and click on the links provided under FEATURED TOPICS. Additionally, we encourage you to submit your own plans, reports, or other documents related to interoperable communications at [IOComms@llis.dhs.gov](mailto:IOComms@llis.dhs.gov). As always, we welcome your thoughts, questions, and sugges-

tions.

## **“Incident Command System for Executives” Training Materials Available Online**

**NEMA-CDC**

The 2007 “Incident Command System for Executives” training material is now available to all National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) members. The training curriculum and instructional materials were developed by NEMA and IEM, through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control.

For the past three years, NEMA and Innovative Emergency Management (IEM) have been delivering ICS training to state interagency teams comprised of executive-level state officials representing public health, emergency management, fire, law enforcement, governor’s offices, and other state agencies with roles and responsibilities for disaster and public health preparedness and response. The training consists of an overview of ICS and a bioterrorism focused tabletop exercise.

Click on the following link <http://www.nemaweb.org/?1100> to access the training manual and the PowerPoint presentation, or cut and paste the URL address into your Internet browser. Note some of the files are large and may take several minutes to download.

NEMA and the CDC encourage you to make the most of the materials to aid in your bioterrorism preparedness. Feel free to modify the exercise scenario and other training material to meet your agency’s needs. If you have questions about the materials feel free to contact Beverly Bell, NEMA Sr. Policy Analyst, at [bbell@csg.org](mailto:bbell@csg.org).

## **New Electronic Guidebook to Help First Responders Quickly and Safely Respond to HazMat Incidents**

**U.S. Department of Transportation**

Two federal agencies joined forces to give fire fighters and other emergency responders instant access to information

that will help them – in the first critical moments of an incident – determine the best way to safely contain hazardous materials spills and battle chemical fires.

Emergency responders will for the first time have electronic access through laptops and personal digital assistants (PDAs) to the 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) under the new effort between the U.S. Departments of Transportation (DOT) and Health and Human Services (HHS). The guidebook is the go-to reference for first responders to help them quickly identify hazardous material classifications, determine the best response, and protect themselves and the general public immediately after an incident.

“This new digital tool will give our police, fire fighters, and other emergency responders first on the scene the information they need to make the rapid-fire decisions necessary to protect the public and themselves,” said Ted Willke, PHMSA Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

The new electronic guidebook was made possible by a new agreement signed today between DOT’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the HHS’s National Library of Medicine.

The library developed special software to give emergency responders access to the guidebook through PDAs as well as Windows-based laptops and desktops. The software application, called the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER), will be available later this year.

For more information on the ERG, visit <http://hazmat.dot.gov/pubs/erg/gydebook.htm/>.

For information on WISER visit <http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov/>.

For additional questions, contact Patricia Klinger or Joe Delcambre at (202) 366-4831.

## **Providing Mass Medical Care with Scarce Resources: A Community Planning Guide**

## **HHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Shares Resources**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, in collaboration with the Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness, has released Providing Mass Medical Care with Scarce Resources: A Community Planning Guide. This planning guide was developed to provide community planners, as well as planners at the institutional, state and federal levels, with valuable information that will help in their efforts to plan for and respond to a Mass Casualty Event (MCE).

The planning guide examines MCE response and preparedness challenges across a wide range of health care settings and issue recommendations for planners in specific areas. The guide also discusses ethical and legal considerations related to MCE planning in hospital, acute-care, alternative-care sites and pre-hospital.

To access Providing Mass Medical Care with Scarce Resources: A Community Planning Guide go to <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/mce/>. To order a print copy of the guide, contact the AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse at 800-358-9295 or by sending an e-mail to [ahrqpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:ahrqpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov).

## **Websites to Check Regularly for Trainings and Exercises:**

### **AgTerror Preparedness Center**

<http://www.agterror.org/>

### **EdTrAC**

<http://www.edtrac.us>

### **Iowa Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal Division**

<http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb/>

### **Iowa Law Enforcement Academy**

<http://www.state.ia.us/ilea/courses.html>

### **Iowa Responder Training**

<http://www.iowarespondertraining.com/>

## **National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System**

[www.firefightersnearmiss.com](http://www.firefightersnearmiss.com)

## **Prepare Iowa Learning Management System**

<http://www.prepareiowa.com/Public/>