



Proving that Government and Private Businesses Can Work Together During Disasters



The strong public-private partnership that exists within Iowa once again was tested and proven to be responsive and essential during the state's 2013 floods.

After a very dry and droughty 2012, the spring of 2013 brought the state of Iowa the wettest conditions it had experienced in 141 years of weather recordkeeping, according to state climatologist Harry Hillaker.

As creeks and rivers across the state began to swell, the town of New Sharon was one of many to be affected by flooding. The excessive water closed down the town's pump house, resulting in the city's water tower – and only supply of drinking water – emptying quickly.



On the morning of May 27, 2013, the state duty officer contacted the Safeguard Iowa Partnership to see if assistance would be possible, specifically, bringing bottled water to the residents of New Sharon. After contacting private sector partners, Safeguard Iowa received over 4,000 gallons of potable water donated by Walmart in Pella, Hy-Vee and the Dr. Pepper/Snapple Group, which were immediately delivered and distributed.

New Sharon Fire Chief Steve Gerard stated, "The response of Safeguard Iowa kept New Sharon residents with drinking water. Their turnaround time between the call for help and when we had the water ready to distribute was incredible. I truly believe that Safeguard Iowa's response kept local authorities from having to deal with serious problems that come with not having enough drinking water to serve the public's needs. They are truly an integral part of responding to disasters that impact our communities."



Mahaska County Emergency Manager Jamey Robinson remarked, "The partnerships that Safeguard Iowa has established within the public and private sectors led to the swift response and coordination for the request of bottled water within Mahaska County, and proved to be critical to our response. Safeguard Iowa will always be one of the first calls I make when help is needed."

The connection between the private and public sectors is the driving force and mission behind the Safeguard Iowa Partnership. Recognizing that government cannot provide all of the resources needed by a community during a disaster, Safeguard Iowa works with public and private sector partners across the state to connect the dots and meet the needs of communities during disasters.



Established in 2007 through a joint effort between three state agencies and the Iowa Business Council, the Safeguard Iowa Partnership has answered the call for disaster assistance numerous times since 2007, helping in multiple flooding events, a pandemic flu outbreak and a drought.

To learn more about joining Safeguard Iowa Partnership visit www.safeguardiowa.org.

The Safeguard Iowa Partnership is a 501c3 nonprofit involving government, private-sector, higher education and nonprofit organizations. Our mission is to strengthen the capacity of Iowa to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters through public-private collaboration.

TOGETHER. HELPING IOWANS.

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