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PRESS RELEASE

On Friday, June 19, the Sioux County Emergency Management Office took part in a statewide exercise called Vigilant Guard. Members of the Sioux County Sheriff's Office, Sioux County Board of Supervisors, and the Iowa National Guard were involved in a disaster scenario that tested the county's ability to develop plans and solutions to injects provided by the Iowa Department of Homeland Security.

Sioux County's scenario involved severe weather, including flooding and tornados. County officials discussed how local resources would be used to assist in a disaster effort and how to procure resources from the State of Iowa.

Two members from the National Guard were present and informed officials how they could assist the county. They also discussed how the county should contact them, and what information they would need to allow for a more efficient response.

Sioux County was also able to test equipment which was purchased with Homeland Security funds in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which is located at the Sioux County Public Safety Complex. The EOC is opened when there is a large scale disaster that requires the need for additional resources and resource tracking. Emergency Management personnel can communicate with the State Homeland Security Office on the internet and make requests for things like sandbags, pumps, special response teams, hazmat equipment, etc.

The Vigilant Guard Exercise continued this week, involving area hospitals and public health officials. All of the exercises are designed to improve emergency preparedness throughout the state.