



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2006**

Welcome

On behalf of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), we are pleased to submit the annual report on the agency's performance for 2006. This report is the record and reference of agency performance in support of the state and local emergency management program and the state's homeland security program.

When collectively we look back on the year, within NEMA and a large portion of the state, this will be remembered as the year of the wildfires. 2006 saw one of the largest outbreaks of wildfires in recent history with the communities of Valentine, Chadron and Harrison being threatened. It was through coordination, planning, training and exercising that the emergency response community was able to effectively respond and utilize their expertise to effectively save their communities without a loss of life and minimal loss of property in relation to the size of the fires.

As one reads this report, they will see the tremendous effort and work ethic exhibited by NEMA staff on a daily basis to carry out the emergency management and homeland security program for the state. High levels of energy have been, and continue to be expended to support our state's planning, training and exercising programs that are continually put into play during our state's response and recovery to disasters and emergencies. NEMA continues to work with her partner agencies at the state and local level to progressively enhance the professional level of emergency managers across the state and the overall level of state preparedness.

We are extremely proud of the quality of work performed every day by the women and men of NEMA, and impressed by their dedication and professionalism as emergency managers for the State of Nebraska.



Major General Roger P. Lempke
The Adjutant General
and NEMA Director



Al Berndt
Assistant Director
NEMA

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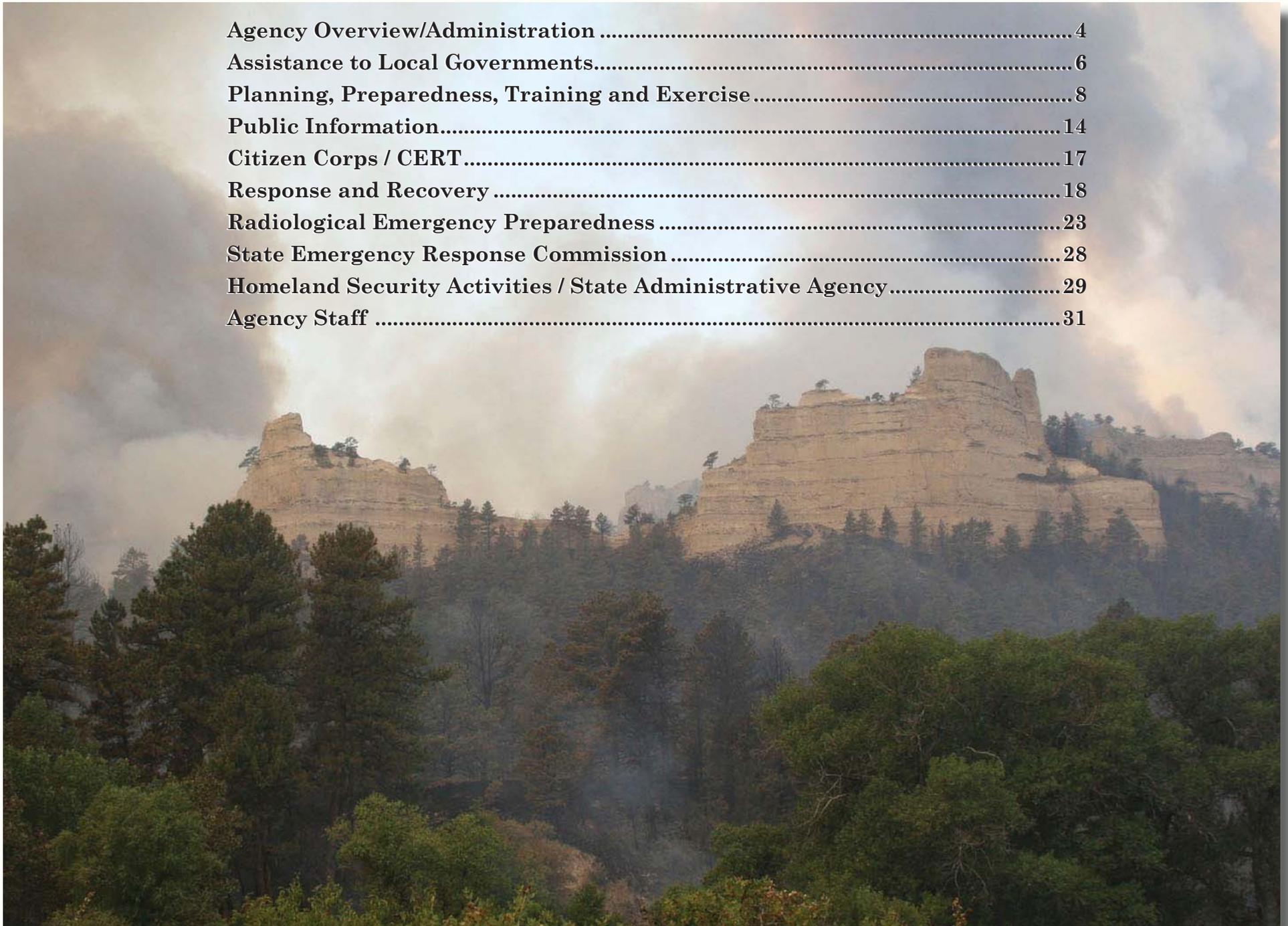
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Agency Overview/Administration

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency is charged by state statute to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of the damage, injury and loss of life and property resulting from natural, technological or man-made disasters and emergencies.

NEMA focuses on maintaining an effective emergency response system through an emphasis on pre- and post-disaster programs that continues to build an effective emergency response system across the state.

NEMA as an agency is housed under the Nebraska Military Department. Within the agency, NEMA is structured into four performance areas: Administration; Preparedness, Exercise and Training; Response and Recovery; and Radiological Emergency Preparedness. NEMA also functions as the State Administrative Agency for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and administratively supports the Lt. Governor in his role as State Homeland Security Director.

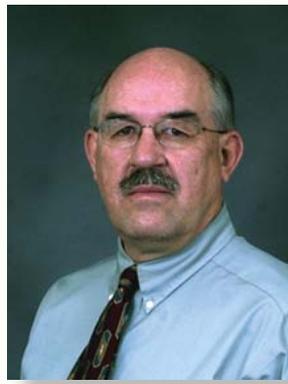
Recognizing that no program can be sustained without the full cooperation and support of its peers at the state level, and constituency at the local level, NEMA has relied extensively on and utilized the local emergency management programs in Nebraska's counties to facilitate the carrying out of homeland security activities and programs on a statewide basis.

NEMA is currently staffed with a staff of 33 full-time employees and one GIS support position from the CALMIT/ University of Nebraska to carry out the state emergency management and homeland security program. It is the dedicated staff of NEMA that carries out the workload of the agency that is being expended to prepare us for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the future disasters, emergencies and hazards facing us as a state.

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Major General
Roger P. Lempke



Al Berndt



Phyllis Rathjen



Deb Kai



Larry Nedrow

Agency Overview/Administration (continued)

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The Administrative Division of NEMA is composed of the **Major General Roger Lempke**, Agency Director; **Al Berndt**, Assistant Director; **Phyllis Rathjen**, Accountant I/Secretary; **Deb Kai**, Budget Manager; and **Larry Nedrow**, Administrative Assistant.

The Division is responsible for oversight of the total agency program that is encompassed in the following areas:

State Administrative Agency for all U.S. Department of Homeland Security grants and programs.

Support of the Lt. Governor in his role as Homeland Security Director and the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group.

Oversight of NEMA Division

Agency Strategic Plan, integration into the Emergency Management Performance Grant

Membership in the Nebraska Radio Interoperable Advisory Board

Agency budget, interface with the Nebraska Unicameral for legislative issues

Interface with and support of state agencies and local emergency management programs on a state-wide basis

Functional operation of the state Emergency Operations Center and supporting directives and SOPs

Interface with and integration into the Nebraska Military Department

The Administrative section continues to assess the needs of the state, the future direction of the Federal emergency management and homeland security programs to move the agency forward based upon guidance from the Governor, Lt. Governor as Homeland Security Director, and the Legislature.



Assistance to Local Governments

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) is the core program within NEMA for supporting local county emergency management agencies in the enhancement of their programs. In 2006 NEMA provided \$1,219,858.00 to 35 counties and regional emergency management agencies on a 50/50 cost-share basis. The EMPG program is primarily a formula grant providing direct support for essential expenses including salaries, benefits, equipment, supplies, maintenance of facilities, and other necessary costs of state and local emergency management departments and agencies. Local participants must maintain and expand the capabilities necessary to have an effective emergency management program.

Participating agencies are required by NEMA to have either a certified, full-time director, deputy director or be part of an inter-jurisdictional organization. Each participant must submit a statement of work and a budget showing the local financial commitment. Throughout the performance year, local participating agencies work closely with and are monitored by NEMA for adherence to program guidelines.

During 2006, the participating agencies focused on addressing Program Enhancement Activities and Program Maintenance Activities. Program Enhancement Activities included those activities identified in the Capability Assessment for Readiness (CAR). The CAR was an assessment methodology to focus on strengths and weaknesses within a local program and allow the targeting of funds for improvements. Program Maintenance Activities included functions necessary for the every-day operation of the local agency.

Since 2003, the Lt. Governor, the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group and NEMA have utilized local emergency management organizations as the focal point at the



Local emergency managers learned the intricacies of the 2006 grant program at workshops presented by NEMA across the state.

local level for carrying out the state's homeland security program. Homeland security assessments, strategy development, grant applications and program guidance for all homeland security programs have run through local or regional organizations since 2003. NEMA has recognized the strong ties between all-hazards emergency management planning and the new realities of homeland security/terrorism preparedness and has called upon local emergency managers to be the lead at the local level. Because of strong relationships developed over the years by the EMPG program, local agencies have stepped forward and taken a strong leadership role.

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Assistance to Local Governments (continued)

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The EMPG program continues to pay dividends to the state and local communities as local managers continue to guide planning, training and exercising at the local level to ensure a strong, cohesive emergency response system is developed

and sustained. These local Directors are the delivery system throughout Nebraska for emergency management programs and Department of Homeland Security activities.

In Nebraska, 64 of the State's 93 counties are represented by full-time emergency managers. Nebraska Emergency Management Directors and their jurisdictions include:

Loren Uden, Hastings/Adams County; **Faythe Petersen**, Region 11 (Antelope, Pierce and Madison Counties); **Bill Simpson**, Arthur County; **Sherry Blaha**, Banner and Scotts Bluff Counties; **Alma Beland**, Region 26 (Blaine, Garfield, Greeley, Loup, Sherman, Thomas, Wheeler and Valley Counties); **Bob Carey**, Boone County; **Nan Thornton**, Region 23 (Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan and Sioux Counties); **Douglas L. Fox**, Region 24 (Boyd, Brown and Rock Counties); **Darrin Lewis**, Kearney/Buffalo County; **Bill Pook**, Region 5/6 (Burt, Dodge, Washington and Saunders Counties); **Rick Schneider**, Butler County; **William M. Cover**, Cass County; **Kevin W. Garvin**, Cedar County; **Paul Kunnemann**, Chase County; **Eilene Brannon**, Cherry and Keya Paha Counties; **Larry J. Collins**, Region 21 (Cheyenne, Deuel, Garden, Kimball and Morrill Counties); **Bob Rose**, Clay County; **DeWayne Kracl**, Colfax County; **David Kindschuh**, Cuming County; **George Rhodes**, Custer County; **Pat Foust**, Dakota County; **Brian Woldt**, Dawson County; **Bruce Blatchford**, Dixon County; **Paul W. Johnson**, Douglas County; **Elaine Frasier**, Dundy County; **Terry Marshall**, Fillmore County; **Jerry Archer**, Franklin County; **Patrick Gerdes**, Region 15 (Frontier, Gosper and Phelps Counties); **Roger Powell**, Furnas County; **Mark Meints**, Gage County; **Pete Peterson**, Grant and Keith Counties; **Lela Lowry**, Grand Island/Hall County; **Randall Warner**, Hamilton County; **Chris Becker**, Harlan County; **Charlynn Hamilton**, Hayes County; **Robert Sutton**, Hitchcock County; **Carol Poesse**, Holt County; **Lynn Nichols**, Hooker County; **Jackie Mayberry**, Howard County; **John McKee**, Jefferson County; **Bob Lueders**, Johnson County; **Jeff England**, Kearney County; **Laura Hintz**, Knox County; **Doug Ahlberg**, Lincoln/Lancaster County; **James Nitz**, Lincoln County; **Richard Cook**, Logan County; **John Haller**, McPherson County; **Anthony D. McPhillips**, Merrick County; **Davis Moore**, Nance County; **Bob Cole**, Nemaha County; **Dan Jantzen**, Region 13 (Nuckolls, Thayer and Webster Counties); **Greg Goebel**, Otoe County; **Michael Wilcox**, Pawnee County; **James Brueggeman**, Perkins County; **Tim Hofbauer**, Platte County; **Dwaine W. Ladwig**, Polk County; **Gene Mahon**, Red Willow County; **Jim Gerweck**, Richardson County; **Bruce "B.J." Fictum**, Saline County; **Don LaPointe, Jr.**, Santee Sioux Tribe; **Joe Mastandrea**, Sarpy County; **Gary Petersen**, Seward County; **Sanford Goshorn**, Stanton County; **Tom Perez**, Thurston County; **Deanna K. Beckman**, Wayne County; **Clinton J. Free**, Winnebago Tribe; **Herb Heiden**, York County.

Planning, Preparedness, Training and Exercise

Grants Management

The State of Nebraska applied for and received the following federal grants for FY2006:

- State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)
- Law Enforcement Terrorism Preparedness Program (LETPP)
- Citizen Corps Program (CCP)
- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) for Omaha Urban Area
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG),
- Metropolitan Medical Response System Program (MMRS).

This is the second year Omaha received a UASI Grant. This group was not eligible for the SHSGP grant funds. However, the law enforcement agencies could apply for the LETPP grant.

The FY2006 grant year application procedure was drastically changed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). States had to update the State Homeland Security Strategy, complete a Program and Capability Assessment, and write

up to fifteen Investment Justifications.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) held two justification workshops, one with the State Homeland Security Planning Committee to complete the assessment and determine the justifications to be included in the State's application.

The second workshop, a joint session with the Committee and local first responders, was held to write the justifications. After the application was submitted to the Department of Homeland Security, state agencies and local jurisdictions submitted their justifications to apply for grant funds. Their applications were reviewed by the Homeland Security Planning and Advisory Committees, who forwarded their recommendations to the Governor's Policy Group, based on the total award from DHS.

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Mardell Hergenrader



Lynn Marshall



Jackie Maly



Leo Larkin



Steve Myers

Planning, Preparedness, Training and Exercise (continued)*(continued from page 8)*

The Governor then made awards based upon the Policy Group recommendations. The FY2006 grants continued the mandate of 80% pass-through to local jurisdictions. The breakdown by category for local jurisdictions and the State are as follows:

CATEGORY	SHSGP		LETPP		UASI	
	Local	State	Local	State	UASI	State
PLANNING	1,475,060.00	650,000.00	1,800.00		837,000.00	20,050.00
EQUIPMENT	7,188,284.00	870,000.00	1,217,753.00	280,496.00	6,115,800.00	
TRAINING	178,500.00	65,000.00	3,300.00		741,200.00	
EXERCISE	114,356.00	515,000.00	9,147.00		165,300.00	
MNGMT & ADMIN	3,800.00	140,000.00		27,504.00	333,200.00	63,250.00
MOU FOR P.E.T.	1,400,000.00					
ORGANIZATION				54,200.00		
TOTAL	\$ 10,360,000.00	\$ 2,240,000.00	\$ 1,232,000.00	\$ 308,000.00	\$ 8,246,700.00	\$ 83,300.00

The MMRS grant was split equally between Omaha and Lincoln at \$232,330 each as directed by Congress. The Citizen Corps Program funds were sub-granted to the Nebraska Volunteer Services Commission, who administers the grant. They will sub-grant CCP funds to local Citizen Corps Councils and Emergency Management Agencies for their local programs.

Interoperable communications was again the top priority for Nebraska. From the 2006 grants, a total of \$15,713,204 was allocated to this category. Working with the Department of

Administrative Services/Division of Communications: a total of 16 communication regions have been established. A state-wide communications assessment and frequency study were begun in 2006 with completion by the end of May 2007.

Another grant administered by NEMA is the SARA Title III, HMEP grant from the Department of Transportation. For 2006, a total of \$183,399 was granted in this area. Of that, \$88,136 was earmarked for planning and \$95,263 was for training. The grant supports LEPC activities, LEOP plan-

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Planning, Preparedness, Training and Exercise (continued)

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ning revisions and updates, and hazardous materials training. NEMA makes the training funds available to the State Fire Marshal Training Division for hazmat awareness and operations training for first responders. The State Emergency Response Team's (S.E.R.T) quarterly training is also supported with this grant, and is coordinated through the Nebraska State Patrol.

As grants and grant years are closed out, reallocation funds are being used to write Tactical Interoperable Communication Plans for Lincoln/Lancaster County; the CNRI 1 group of Adams, Buffalo, Dawson, Hall, Hamilton, Kearney, Gosper, Frontier, Harlan and Phelps counties; Scottsbluff/Scotts Bluff county; NNCTER including Antelope, Knox, Pierce, Madison, Stanton, Cuming, Burt, Wayne, Thurston, Dakota, Dixon and Cedar counties.

Planning, Preparedness, Training and Exercise (continued)

Planning

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency has an active planning section that supports state and local planning efforts. NEMA's second five-year planning schedule began with 2006. Overall, nine LEOPs were updated in 2006 and seven will be completed by early 2007. The Planning Section also completed the Agency's Continuity of Operation /Continuity of Government Plan (COOP/COG). A tabletop exercise was conducted within the Agency to define and test the COOP/COG processes and procedures.

The Department of Homeland Security continues to mandate the States address additional DHS goals and objects and have impacted our Agency greatly. In FY2006 NEMA was required to review and update the State's mass evacuation plan capabilities. The findings were addressed in the full revision of the State Emergency Operation Plan in August. Additions incorporated into the 2006 Generic LEOP were updates to the Mass Prophylaxis Plan, The Agricultural Disease Response Plan, the inclusion of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) standards, and the Homeland Security

Exercise and Evaluation (HSEEP) standards. On the State level, we hold ourselves to the same standards required of local jurisdictions and adhere to a five-year planning schedule. The Planning Section, in conjunction with the Homeland Security Planning Team completed a full revision of the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) two years in advance of the 5 year revision schedule to reflect the change from the Federal Response Plan to the National Response Plan.

The Preparedness Division consists of Mardell Hergenrader, Division Supervisor/Grants Manager; Dan Hiller, Lead Planner; Jim Anderson, Patrick Rooney, and Bill Meyer, Planning Specialists; Jackie Maly, Federal Aid Administrator ; Leo Larkin and Lynn Marshall, Emergency Management Program Specialists; Henry Tamasi, Exercise Training Coordinator; Dave Reisen, Nicole Weber, Mark Robertson, Abby Debus and Misty Ellis Exercise Training Officers; and Tonya Smith, SERC Coordinator;



Dan Hiller



Jim Anderson



Bill Meyer



Patrick Rooney



Tonya Ngotel

Planning, Preparedness, Training and Exercise (continued)

Training and Exercise

Fiscal Year 2006 was a very busy year for the Training and Exercise Section. TERREX 2006 was an Ag-supported state-and-local-level functional exercise, which was also supported on the federal side. The 14-month process included numerous meetings, several workshops and a few tabletop exercises headed up by the State Design Team. Basically, objectives found in the State Strategy were gathered and tested. Lessons learned will help all agencies involved to gather information, analyze the positives, and review and correct problems that may have been generated by the exercise.

FY 2006 was also the beginning of some new direction for the state and local entities. The state was broken up into eight regions. These regions have embarked on a Planning, Exercising and Training (PET) program which will help them identify vulnerabilities, type resources available to them, and eventually test capabilities to help locals improve their response plans in the event of disaster. The regions will be as-

sisted by the Planning, Exercising and Training Team, along with contractual support that was identified in their 2006 grant justifications.

Regions, with the help of the PET Team and contractual support, will put together Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs). These plans include current communication policies and procedures, and lists of equipment within their regions. They are then put together according to Department of Homeland Security guidelines.

NEMA, for FY 2006, continued its support to state and local jurisdictions by holding two Basic Certification Academies and two Advanced Opportunities Courses for Emergency Managers. They were held in North Platte and Columbus. The Basic Academy supports local emergency manager certification as required under Nebraska law (RRS 81-929.46).

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Henry Tamasi



Dave Reisen



Nikki Weber



Mark Robertson



Abbie DeBuse



Misty Ellis

Planning, Preparedness, Training and Exercise (continued)

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Basic training requirements identified by the Department of Homeland Security and Nebraska statute establish the level of training conducted yearly at NEMA. An extended five-year training program for basic and advanced certification has been published for Nebraska.

In Fiscal Year 2006, NEMA continued to support the State's hazardous materials training programs with HAZMAT

awareness, operations, technician and specialist-level training. NEMA coordinated and conducted a HAZMAT Technician Course during FY 2006, with a total of 47 people completing the two 40-hour Hazmat Technician Refresher courses held in Grand Island and North Platte. The following courses were also conducted by the NEMA Training and Exercise Staff:

Exercise Planning
 Nebraska Academy Basic Certification
 Nebraska Advanced Certification
 Nebraska Incident Management System
 Incident Management System Orientation
 National Incident Management System
 Decision-Making and Problem-Solving
 Leadership and Influence
 Effective Communications
 Continuity of Operations
 Presentation Skills

New Director's Workshop
 Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation (HSEEP)
 Nebraska Homeland Security Exercise
 and Evaluation (NeHSEEP)
 State and Local Homeland Security Workshops
 Homeland Security Fiscal Requirements
 Orientation and Workshop
 HAZMAT Awareness
 HAZMAT Technician
 NE Handbook for Emergency Managers Orientation

Public Information

As in prior years, public education efforts from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency in 2006 were headed up by two long-standing programs revolving around weather.

Both activities are conducted in conjunction with the National Weather Service (NWS). In the spring, these agencies join with the Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers (NAEM) to sponsor Severe Weather Awareness Week. In 2006, Governor Dave Heineman signed a proclamation declaring March 27 through 31 “Severe Weather Awareness Week”. This annual observance ushers in the spring weather season, when thunderstorms and tornados lead the list of hazardous occurrences. For this event, educational and promotional materials were sent to media outlets across the state. Commercial weathercasters throughout Nebraska use materials supplied by NEMA and the NWS to educate their viewers about tornados and thunderstorms and their individual elements of strong winds, lightning, hail, heavy rain and flooding.

A big part of Severe Weather Awareness Week is the annual poster contest for Nebraska fourth-grade students. Sponsored jointly by NEMA and NAEM, this contest encourages teachers and their students to produce educational posters on the subject of severe weather. The four winners of the contest receive cash prizes and appear at the proclamation signing with the Governor.

Winners in the 2006 Severe Weather Poster Contest were:

First Place - **Douglas Johnson**, Fairfield, Clay Center Public School;
 Second Place - **Cody Hoffa**, Wymore, Southern Elementary;
 Third Place - **Kylie Heaton**, Clay Center, Clay Center Public School;
 Fourth Place - **Brittany Wolfgram**, Laurel, Laurel-Concord School;
 Fifth Place - **Alexis Anderson**, Zion Lutheran School, Hastings.

Honorable Mentions went to Nathanael Sass, Hastings, Zion Lutheran; Kelsey Buss, Blue Springs, Southern Elementary; Cassidy Wiese, Laurel, Laurel-Concord School; Jeryn Creek, Blue Springs, Southern Elementary; Justin Washburn, Hastings, Watson Elementary; Kathleen Bartunek, Hastings, Alcott Elementary; Haley Granquist, Laurel, Laurel-Concord School; Lacey Lurz, Hastings, Alcott Elementary; Nita Bohling, Harvard Harvard Public School; Derek Brooks, Fairfield, Sandy Creek; Evan Wemhoff, Battle Creek, Battle Creek Public School; Cheyenne Fielder, Hastings, Alcott Elementary; Eva Malolepszy, Ord, St. Mary’s School; Alex Maresh, Ord, St. Mary’s School.

Each fall, the Winter Weather Awareness Campaign provides information to the citizens of Nebraska about safety and survivability during blizzards, ice storms and other severe winter weather phenomena that affect Nebraska during the winter months.

For 2006, Governor Dave Heineman proclaimed Thursday, November 9th as Winter Weather Awareness Day in Nebraska. NEMA and the National Weather Service, in conjunction with NAEM, issued news releases and public service announcements to help focus public attention

on the rigors of winter weather and the ways in which the public can prepare for the effects of heavy snow, strong winds and cold temperatures.



Jim Bunstock

During 2006 NEMA Public Information Officer Jim Bunstock built upon last year’s foundation to refine Nebraska’s Joint Information Center (JIC). The JIC is a process whereby public information professionals from a wide range of agencies, disciplines

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Public Information (continued)

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and jurisdictions co-locate to provide a single integrated source of information in the event of a major incident. The JIC concept is a part of the National Incident Management System.



The Joint Information Center is formed at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) facilities in Lincoln for exercises and for emergency incidents.

Through an agreement with Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, the NEMA JIC forms at the NET facility for exercises or in the event of an emergency. This makes available an impressive array of capabilities for public information operations, including access to the NET broadcasting facilities and their satellite links.

NEMA and its partner state agencies conduct a wide array of homeland security exercises on levels from tabletop to full-scale. Public information is a large part of those exercises, and NEMA coordinates and operates the state's JIC during these events. NEMA's Public Information Officer is the lead PIO in the JIC, which is staffed by public information professionals from agencies involved in the exercises and other agencies who wish to contribute staff. The JIC concept is used during real-world emergencies when the State Emergency Operations Center is opened, and coordinates information from state agencies to ensure a consistent and coordinated message.

The major exercise during 2006 was entitled TERREX 2006. This was a functional exercise testing the state's response to an agricultural disease incident. For this exercise, the JIC brought together staff from NEMA, the Nebraska State Patrol, the Health and Human Services System (HHSS), the Department of Agriculture, the State Fire Marshal's Office, the Office of the Chief Information Officer, and the Department of Administrative Services. The information gathering and dissemination procedures of the Joint Information System received a thorough shakedown as the JIC staff exercised a fast-paced scenario.

The JIC process got real-world experience as well during 2006. This was a wildfire year, with fires threatening a number of Nebraska communities. As the canyons north of Valentine burned toward the town, NEMA response personnel relocated to the northern Nebraska community. NEMA Public Information Officer

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Public Information (continued)

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During the wildfire emergencies in Dawes and Sioux Counties, NEMA set up its Joint Information Center in facilities at Chadron State College. Public Affairs groups from the federal fire management teams at both complexes were incorporated within that space.

Jim Bunstock set up a Joint Information Center at the Emergency Operations facility of the Cherry County Emergency Management Agency, and public information functions for the Big Rock Fire were administered from that location.

Shortly after returning from the Cherry County fire, NEMA's public information show went on the road again, this time to Chadron where wildfires burned toward the town and threatened to move within the city limits. Three fires were burning around Chadron's perimeter, designated as the Dead Horse Fire, the Spotted Tail Fire and the Roberts

Tract Fire. These three blazes were collectively designated the Dawes County Complex. For this incident, PIO Bunstock established a Joint Information Center at Chadron State College, and worked in concert with the Public Affairs arm of the Federal Type 2 fire team managing the fire logistics. Additionally, Public Information Officers from state agencies and the Governor's Officer were tasked to stand up a support facility at the State Emergency Operations Center in Lincoln.

Simultaneously, two fires were burning near Harrison, Nebraska. Dubbed the Thayer and Rudloff Fires, these were grouped as the Sioux County Complex. A Type 1 Federal Fire Team was in charge of this complex, and the Public Affairs operation of that team also worked with the NEMA JIC in Chadron to provide information to the public. A third fire, the Oldaker Fire, was subsequently added to that complex.

In an effort to provide information on all aspects of NEMA's operations in an easily accessible and full-time manner, NEMA maintains a website at <http://www.nema.gov>. A full range of data is available there to media and to the public, on every element of the agency and its activities, as well as content designed to inform and educate the public.

On the site, NEMA's newsletter, The BEACON, showcases emergency management activities across the state and provides advance notice of upcoming events. Included on the website are links to other local, state and national sites featuring emergency management and homeland security data. Here, Nebraska's local emergency managers can find guidance and information on the federal homeland security grant processes. Emergency Operation Plans for the state and all county jurisdictions can also be found here.

Citizen Corps / CERT

Citizen Corps is now entering its fifth year of operation assisting communities during periods of disaster. The Citizen Corps mission is accomplished through a national network of state, local and tribal Citizen Corps Councils. These councils build on community strengths to implement the Citizen Corps programs to carry out various local strategies.



Nebraska follows this model, with 20 councils state-wide and three local councils. Nebraskans are willing to serve during periods of disaster response.

The Citizen Corps program

in Nebraska is administered through a partnership with the Nebraska Volunteer Services Commission (NVSC). NVSC conducts the Citizen Corps grant program and manages Citizen Corps/CERT activities in the state, with oversight from NEMA.

In 2006, Nebraska Citizen Corps and the CERT program were awarded \$211,443 for the administration of projects. A breakdown of the distribution of these awards includes: *(right)*

County	Public Education/Outreach	Training/ Exercises	Total Award
Buffalo	\$1,250.00	\$21,250.00	\$22,500.00
Cass		\$3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Cherry/ Keya Paha	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,000.00
Dakota	\$ 250.00	\$ 4,141.00	\$ 4,391.00
Dawson	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 3,000.00
Frontier	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 3,000.00
Gage		\$ 8,400.00	\$ 8,400.00
Gosper	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 3,000.00
Kearney	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 3,000.00
Keith		\$15,356.00	\$15,356.00
Lancaster		\$22,810.00	\$22,810.00
Lincoln	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,000.00
Madison		\$15,253.00	\$15,253.00
Phelps	\$ 750.00	\$11,250.00	\$12,000.00
Platte		\$10,200.00	\$10,200.00
Scottsbluff	\$ 500.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
NE Vol Service Comm	\$1,731.00	\$28,000.00	\$29,731.00
TOTALS	\$6,481.00 (Planning)	\$168,660.00 (Training)	\$175,141.00
NE Vol Service Comm	\$36,302.00 (Management & Admin)		\$36,302.00
GRAND TOTAL			\$211,443.00

Response and Recovery

The Response and Recovery Section is staffed with program people. The Section includes **Seth Hyberger**, Public Assistance Officer; **Lori Moore**, State Hazard Mitigation Officer; **Bob Eastwood**, Communications Officer; **Marie Christian**, Section Secretary; and the Information Technology Program with **Sue Krogman** and **Brent Curtis**. The Section Manager and NEMA Operations Officer is **Cindy Newsham**.

The core mission of the Response and Recovery Section is to be ready to respond rapidly to any incident that goes beyond the ability of local government to respond. This includes continual monitoring of the State for potential weather-related incidents. To this end NEMA has instituted and maintains a Duty Officer System that includes the Duty Officer, Back-up Duty Officer and an on-call supervisor who maintain a ready condition for the Agency during off-hours. Staff members of the Agency are assigned a weekly rotation of Duty Officer and Back-up Duty Officer that includes their carrying a pager and phone. Supervisors also are assigned to a weekly

rotation to be the on-call supervisor for the Duty Officer and Back-up Duty Officer.

The Duty Officer is equipped with a variety of communications and reference materials to enable them to gather necessary information and begin the response process from their location when the page or call comes in.

To meet the core mission of the Agency, R&R section staff continually attends training given by NEMA's Training staff and the training offered by FEMA for specific programs. This training keeps program specialists on top of the most recent developments of their areas and in the response process of the State of Nebraska. All of the R&R staff participated in the TEREX '06 exercise in November. This exercise tested the agency's ability to respond to an agricultural disaster, a much different scenario than what we usually face.

Communications and Information Technology are also impor-
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Cindy Newsham



Seth Hyberger



Lori Moore



Bob Eastwood



Marie Christian

Response and Recovery *(continued)*

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tant parts to maintain the agency's readiness. The Communications Officer is a member of the State's Emergency Alert Committee and of the Amber Alert program and is working with the Department of Communications on the State's Interoperable Communications project. He works with a cadre of dedicated volunteers who are ready to provide Ham radio assistance to the agency when the need arises. He also oversees a wide variety of communications equipment to provide NEMA with a varied and redundant communications system. Bob maintains a testing program doing weekly and monthly tests of various systems notification.

The NEMA communications REP radio system is currently on a wide-band analog UHF frequency that was established in the 1970s. The FCC has mandated switching from the old wide-band analog standard to the new narrow-band standard. Because most of NEMA's two-way radios are too old to be updated to the new narrow-band format, NEMA would have to replace almost all of our radios, repeaters and in-



Sue Krogman



Brent Curtis

frastructure. In keeping with the Nebraska state-wide communications upgrade plan, NEMA has decided to upgrade the complete radio system to an 800-Mhz analog/digital/apco 25-capable system. This would give NEMA interoperability with the new statewide system, most state agencies, and local city/county systems that have been or will be upgraded in the future in accordance with the statewide plan.

Likewise, the Information Technology Manager keeps the agency aware of the rapidly changing IT environment. IT maintains a close relationship with the University of Nebraska's Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT) to develop a multi-layered GIS mapping capability that has proved invaluable during exercises and actual responses. Chad Boshart has been tasked to work with NEMA in this capacity.

Each year, in early January, the R&R Section, in partnership with the Papio-Missouri NRD, holds an Ice Meeting to bring together the federal, state and local agencies most affected by the consequences of ice jams. The 2006 agenda included presentations from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, who maintains the on-line data base for ice reports; the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers who explained their flood-fighting capabilities; and the National Weather Service, who gave short- and long-term forecasts that would affect the possibility of flooding.

NEMA is a signatory to the Nebraska Fire Management Agreement and holds meetings of the Wildfire Coordination Council each year. This year, meetings included presenta-

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Response and Recovery *(continued)*

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tions from FEMA Region VII on the Wildfire Declaration Program. The October meeting was used to revise the Nebraska Annual Operating Plan.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The State Hazard Mitigation Officer began the year by participating in the applicants' briefings held in North Platte and O'Neill in response to the 2005 Thanksgiving Winter Storm that resulted in disaster declaration FEMA 1627-DR-NE, explaining the Post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Program.

In March 2006 the City of Beatrice applied for Pre-disaster Mitigation Competitive Program funds for development of an All-hazard Mitigation Plan. The project was approved for funding on a nationwide basis in June 2006.

The Papio-Missouri River NRD completed and received approval of their All-hazard Mitigation Plan, funded under Pre-disaster Mitigation funds from 2003 awards. The plan was a multi-jurisdictional plan that covered counties, cities and villages in the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District for 24 jurisdictions.



Fire threatened the city of Valentine as canyons burned to the north of town. In all, more than 3,000 acres were consumed, and 20 homes were damaged or destroyed.

The State Hazard Mitigation Officer hosted training through a technical assistance grant from FEMA in June for Mitigation Planning, Benefit Cost analysis Training and e-grants held at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center.

The State Hazard Mitigation Officer closed out three disaster declarations: FEMA 1027, 1190, and 1480 DR-NE. The SHMO will be requesting closeout of FEMA 1373-DR-NE in November.

Fire Operations:

The largest events this year for Response and Recovery were wildfires. In July, the Operations Officer attended a workshop in

Denver on the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) to learn how the program is requested and managed. Less than three weeks later, NEMA had requested and received three FMAG declarations for fires in northwest Nebraska.

On July 16th, the first fire, named the Big Rock Fire, threatened the city of Valentine from the north. Evacuations in-

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Response and Recovery *(continued)*

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cluded residents, the hospital and an assisted-care facility. In all, about 200 persons were evacuated. Firefighters from the area, including some departments from South Dakota, supported by state and federal assets, fought the fire for several days.

NEMA responded by opening the State Emergency Operations Center by calling in Emergency Support Function (ESF) coordinators from other state agencies, according to the State Emergency Operations Plan. NEMA also dispatched the Communications Trailer and staff to assist Cherry County's response efforts. Other state agencies that responded included the State Fire Marshal, Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska National Guard, Nebraska Forest Service, and the Nebraska Department of Roads. The Big Rock Fire was declared under control on July 26.

Also on July 26th, a lightning storm moved across the northern panhandle, causing a series of fires in Sioux and Dawes Counties. Several of these fires quickly grew, threatening to destroy the City of Chadron, including Chadron State Col-



Fires in the Dawes County Complex burned up to the edge of the Chadron State College campus. Here, the Spotted Tail Fire roars down "C Hill" behind the student union.

lege. Three of the fires were named Dead Horse, Spotted Tail, and Robert's Tract. Due to their threat, Nebraska requested and received an FMAG for the three fires in what was called the Dawes County Complex. Because these fires were burn-

ing a combination of state, federal and private land, the Nebraska Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement was invoked, and a cost-share agreement was signed to fight these fires mutually. The U.S. Forestry Service brought in a Type II Incident Command Team to oversee the command, operations, planning, logistics and finance for these fires. NEMA staff and assets were again dispatched to the scene, as well as assets from the State Patrol, Fire Marshal, Department of Roads, Forest Service and National Guard.

From the same lightning storm, fires in Sioux County also grew and moved very quickly, threatening the village of Harrison, Ft. Robinson State Park, and the town of Crawford. NEMA requested and received an FMAG for the two large fires in Sioux County, named the Thayer and Rudloff Fires.

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Response and Recovery (continued)

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These fires were combined as the Sioux County Complex. NEMA, in coordination with the local jurisdictions, hired a Type 1 Incident Management Team to manage the fire, in coordination with state and local authorities. Many of the state assets already in the Dawes County area were dispatched to Harrison to aid in the firefighting efforts in Sioux County.

Cooperation, coordination and support from numerous local, state and federal agencies, both on-scene and in the state and local emergency operations centers, ensured the success of these operations, where a combined total of 79,500 acres burned with no fatalities and no major injuries.



Trees in the Pine Ridge canyons of Sioux County literally exploded into flame, and tens of thousands of acres were burned.

Radiological Emergency Preparedness

With two nuclear power stations and two transportation corridors heavily used to transport radioactive material and radioactive waste, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has a goal to be prepared for any radiological emergency that could occur in the State.

The Radiological Emergency Preparedness Division (REP) has the responsibility to meet this goal. The REP Division has six vital positions, each of which are identified below along with the NEMA employee responsible for each position.

As the REP division manager, Mr. Jonathan (Jon) Schwarz annually develops and works to have the REP budget that supports almost all REP division activities approved by the nuclear power stations. He supervises the REP planning specialists to ensure the Radiological Emergency Response Plans (RERPs) are reviewed and updated in as timely a manner as possible and that all required annual REP training is offered throughout the affected REP counties. Mr. Schwarz

ensures that emergency response agencies throughout the state are aware that radiological response training is available for them, and he notifies local emergency response managers of known radiological shipments through their jurisdictions. He continually tracks the number of personnel trained in each county via a database, and as new or additional training is provided in a jurisdiction, provides the applicable local emergency management directors with an updated roster of personnel who have received the radiological training. As the Radiological Systems Manager makes radiological equipment exchanges and conducts inventories, Mr. Schwarz tracks the inventories and exchanges, and once again provides applicable local emergency management directors with an updated list of radiological equipment within their jurisdiction and when it will again be due for calibration.

Mr. Schwarz is the state of Nebraska's Point of Contact for the Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse Program, and

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Jon Schwarz



Amy Stroh



DeWayne Morrow



Bryan Cook



Mike Loftis



Jim Bunstock

Radiological Emergency Preparedness (continued)

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quarterly alerts the emergency management directors/ coordinators and their designated representatives of radiological and personal protective equipment available from the federal government at no cost. This year, almost \$115,000 in radiological and personal protective equipment was received and provided to various state and local emergency response agencies.

Anyone in a management position knows that it is the “Assistant” who actually wields the power in a department, division, or section, because the “Assistant” knows the “who, what, where, why, and how’s” of the agency. The REP Division Staff Assistant position is held by long-time employee, Ms. Amy Stroh. Ms. Stroh is a prime example, with 30-plus years working with NEMA, the majority of those with the REP Division. She provides administrative support to the REP Division, ensuring plans are mistake free, and arranges for lodging, meals, and travel among other things as the rest of the REP Division goes about its business. Ms. Stroh’s most important responsibility, though, is assisting the REP division manager in the accurate accountability of the REP budget and tracking expenditures on the state computer information system.

Mainly due to the early Federal REP requirement that nuclear power station incidents require the activation of a Joint Information Center (JIC) where the Public Information Officer is a major player, the PIO is in the REP Division. Mr. Jim Bunstock is the Agency PIO, who serves the whole Agency in that capacity for all emergencies. With the National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirement for the activation of Joint Information Centers (JICs) as needed, the PIO posi-

tion is even more important, and Mr. Bunstock has benefited from the training received in JIC operations through nuclear power station exercises. Mr. Bunstock was involved in the nuclear power station exercises this year; responsible for the activation of a JIC for this year’s state terrorism exercise and coordinating the activation of a JIC for two federally declared emergencies within the State. In addition, Mr. Bunstock has coordinated several meetings with other state agencies PIOs to ensure the continuity of PIO operations in the event of any state-involved emergency.

Emergency first responder agencies throughout the state during the era of civil defense received and maintained the familiar yellow Civil Defense radiation detection equipment. This equipment was calibrated and exchanged by a staff supervised by the Radiological Systems Manager. With the end of the cold war, Civil Defense went by the wayside, as did the Radiological Systems staff. Today, the Agency still has a Radiological Systems Manager, who continues to calibrate and exchange civil defense equipment on a four-year cycle throughout the 93 counties of Nebraska. Mr. Mike Loftis has taken on new duties this year in addition to his normal exchanges and quarterly checks of REP county radiological survey meters and instruments. As exchanges take place, he has begun the process to start recording latitude and longitude of the locations of radiological meters and instruments. This information will be forwarded to Agency GIS personnel to enter into a database for use as needed. Mr. Loftis was also instrumental in helping get legislation passed this year which allows the Agency to charge a fee for the calibration of instruments other than those owned by the

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Radiological Emergency Preparedness (continued)

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Agency. While the performance of the new calibrations has required additional training for Mr. Loftis and the addition of new calibration instruments and radiation sources, the Agency is now capable of providing affordable calibration and repair services for the newer radiation survey meters and instruments held by emergency first responder agencies throughout Nebraska.

Cooper Nuclear Station and Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station, both located in eastern Nebraska, requires that the state is always ready to protect the health and safety of its citizens and to the extent possible, prevent damage to property. To meet this challenge, the REP employs two off-site planning specialists. Mr. Bryan Cook is responsible for updating the local Radiological Emergency Response Plans (RERPs) for the counties of Otoe, Nemaha and Richardson. Mr. DeWayne Morrow is responsible for updating the local RERPs for the counties of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington. While Mr. Cook is also responsible for the annual exchange of thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLDs), Mr. Morrow is also responsible for the State RERP, which describes the state response to a nuclear power station incident. All plans were updated during the year.

As is well known, planning is not enough. Once plans have been updated they need to be exercised. However, before any exercising can begin there has to be training, and to this end, Mr. Cook and Mr. Morrow annually offer and conduct



NEMA provides and coordinates training for radiological professionals across the state. Here, Ludlum Measurements representative Randy Smith provides a general look at radiation monitoring equipment and a chance to explore monitoring methods and tips.

numerous REP classes in the counties affected by the nuclear power stations. The classes are offered to executive boards, emergency management and emergency response agencies as well as various volunteer agencies and personnel. These classes include topics such as “Communications”, which deals with Emergency Alert System and Public Emergency Infor-

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Radiological Emergency Preparedness (continued)

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mation messages as well as who needs to be notified in case of an emergency; “Emergency Operations Center (EOC)” which deals with what needs to be done in the EOC to protect the health and safety of the citizenry; “Emergency Worker”, which trains personnel to understand radioactivity, the hazards of radiation, how to protect one’s self in a radiation environment as well as how to use various radiation survey meters and instruments; “Medical Response”, which trains hospital workers, ambulance, and fire and rescue crews in proper response techniques during an incident involving radiological contamination; “Radiological Monitoring and Decontamination”, which trains personnel how to properly frisk (monitor) a person for radioactive contamination and, if contamination is found, how to properly decontaminate the person; and “Traffic Access and Control”, which provides law enforcement and other agencies training in evacuation routes, what to do in the event a main evacuation route is obstructed, and what will need to be done to allow access back into an evacuated area during a radiation incident.

The nuclear power stations routinely conduct drills and exercises, and NEMA annually participates in these with the nuclear power stations and affected counties. This year, NEMA was involved in six nuclear power station drills and three full-scale exercises, one of which is evaluated by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency and their contractors.

Interstate 80 is a major transportation artery in the U.S. and is heavily traveled in Nebraska, and the Union Pacific Railroad, with its many miles of track through the state, is also a chief thoroughfare. It should be no surprise that Nebraska

experiences a fair number of both truck and rail shipments of radioactive material and radioactive waste. In previous years, Nebraska experienced 50 or more reported shipments, both truck and rail. This year, the number of shipments reported was only approximately one-fifth that, but it should be noted that, depending on the amount of radioactive material or radioactive waste shipped, shippers do not always have to notify state officials of these shipments.

The Governor’s Radioactive Materials Transportation Working Group, which consists of representatives from the Governor’s Policy Research Office, Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, NEMA and the Nebraska State Patrol, with other agencies brought in as needed, oversees the transportation of radioactive materials and radioactive waste through the state.

For incidents or accidents involving radioactive material or waste on Nebraska highways, the Interstate and on rail lines, the state maintains the Radioactive Materials Transportation Accident Plan (RAMTAP) as Appendix 3 to Emergency Support Function (ESF) Eight, “Public Health and Medical Services” in the State Emergency Operations Plan. The plan is reviewed annually by the Governor’s Radioactive Materials Transportation Working Group. In addition to his duties as the REP division manager, Mr. Jonathan (Jon) Schwarz is the NEMA representative to the working group and is responsible for ensuring the annual review of the RAMTAP and any plan changes agreed to by the working group.

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Radiological Emergency Preparedness (continued)

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The Agency maintains contact with radiation transportation committee members within the Western Governors' Association, Council of State Governors-Midwest, representatives from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, U. S. Department of Energy, and U. S. Department of Homeland Security/ Federal Emergency Management Agency. This allows the Agency to keep on top of the newest developments concerning radiological shipments through the State and the latest technologies used in the shipments of radiological materials and radiological waste.

In order to ensure that the state is prepared for any radiological emergency that could occur in the state, Mr. Schwarz, Mr. Morrow, Mr. Cook and Mr. Loftis are all certified Radiological Instructors and offer free training to all emergency first responder agencies throughout Nebraska. The training is provided at the convenience of those desiring the training.

It is provided day or night, weekday or weekend. The training is provided in one session or spread out over as many sessions as needed to complete the training. The Agency uses the U. S. Department of Energy's "Module Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training" (MERRTT) course, which consists of 18 modules, with the first 12 modules making up the primary eight-hour course and the remaining six modules covering specialized areas. To enhance this radiological training, the REP division has two instructor kits, two field training kits and enough modern instruments to train one class of 20 and one class of 10 simultaneously.

Each REP division staff member annually attends various training courses and conferences to ensure each that each is technically proficient and knowledgeable in their field of endeavor.

State Emergency Response Commission

The Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) was established in 1989 with origins in the Federal Emergency Planning Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). The SERC was established to provide information to citizens regarding hazardous materials awareness and to localize planning of all entities involved in a response – government, private and industry. The purpose of the SERC is to supervise and coordinate the activities of the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). The LEPCs review the hazardous materials portion of the local emergency plan and act as a repository of information on hazardous materials stored, processed or manufactured in their respective counties.



Tonya Ngotel
Nebraska
SERC Coordinator

The SERC meets quarterly to approve members of the LEPCs and review the submission of the plans.

The SERC has 19 members appointed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature. Two open positions were filled in 2006, the trucking position was filled by Larry Johnson and the School position was filled by Keith Deiml. Mr. Bill McCarty retired from the City Government position.

In 2006 the SERC continued to distribute the “Emergency Action Wheels” and distributed over a thousand CD-Rom games “Stop, Leave it Alone, Get a Grown Up” at the

Nebraska State Fair. The SERC, with assistance from the LEPCs, continues to distribute awareness brochures and public service announcements.

Gage, Jefferson and Saline Counties hosted the 2006 Nebraska LEPC conference in Beatrice. This year’s conference focused on the effects of hazardous materials in committees and getting LEPCs more involved. An awards dinner was hosted by the SERC with several LEPC and LEPC members receiving awards.

The SERC has partnered with the Nebraska Hazmat Association and will be a key player in the development of the 2007 Hazmat Symposium. The SERC will sponsor several trainings in the coming year including the TRANSCAER tour in September.

SERC members include: **Cristine Bleich**, Environmental Protection; **Jim Schmailzl**, Nebraska Department of Roads; **MG Roger P. Lempke**, Adjutant General; **Tim Hofbauer**, Local Emergency Management; **Sue Semerena**, Department of Health and Human Services; **Richard J. Christensen**, Chemical Industry; **Dana Miller**, Firefighters; **Mark Reimers**, Transportation; **Donald Eisenhauer**, Agribusiness; **Steven Danon**, Small Business; **Joe Francis**, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality; **Allen Grell**, County Government; **Keith Hansen**, Community Health; **Cpt Julie Maaske**, Nebraska State Patrol; **Dennis Hohbein**, State Fire Marshal; **Steven Wood**, Labor; **Larry Johnson**, Trucking; **Keith Deiml**, Schools; City Government, Vacant.

Homeland Security Activities / State Administrative Agency

Since 1999, NEMA has been the designated State Administrative Agency (SAA) for all homeland security grants coming into the State from the Department of Homeland Security. In this role NEMA is responsible for filing the state application, distributing program guidelines to the state and local level agencies, receiving applications, maintaining oversight and compliance monitoring, and facilitating the distribution of funds.

The Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group has been established to oversee the program in the state, with the Lt. Governor as the chairman of the group. Operating under the Policy Group are the State Planning, Exercising and Training Teams, ensuring there is an integrated and coordinated effort on the state and local level. NEMA has been the operational arm of the Lt. Governor and the Homeland Security Policy Group since its inception.

The 2006 Nebraska Homeland Security Policy Group consists of: **Barbara Thomas**, Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission; **Brenda Decker**, State of Nebraska Division of Communications; **John Erickson**, Nebraska Governor's Policy Research Office; **Mike Fahey**, Omaha UASI; **Dr. Steve Hinrichs**, University of Nebraska Medical Center; **Dennis Hohbein**, Nebraska State Fire Marshal; **Greg Ibach**, Nebraska Department of Agriculture; **Thomas Jensen**, Nebraska Department of Agriculture; **General Roger Lempke**, Adjutant General, Nebraska Military Department; **Chancellor Harold Maurer**, University of Nebraska Medical Center; **Vice Chancellor Paul Prem**,



Nebraska Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy (standing) is the state's Director of Homeland Security, and chairs the Nebraska Homeland Security Policy Group.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln; **Christine Peterson**, Nebraska Health and Human Services System; **Dr. Joann Schaefer**, Nebraska Health and Human Services System; **Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy**; **Col. Bryan Tuma**, Nebraska State Patrol; **Al Berndt**, NEMA.

NEMA's role in homeland security in Nebraska is greatly facilitated by the close working relationship with other state agencies and with outside programs. All agencies involved in homeland security and natural emergency response in Ne-

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Homeland Security Activities / State Administrative Agency (continued)

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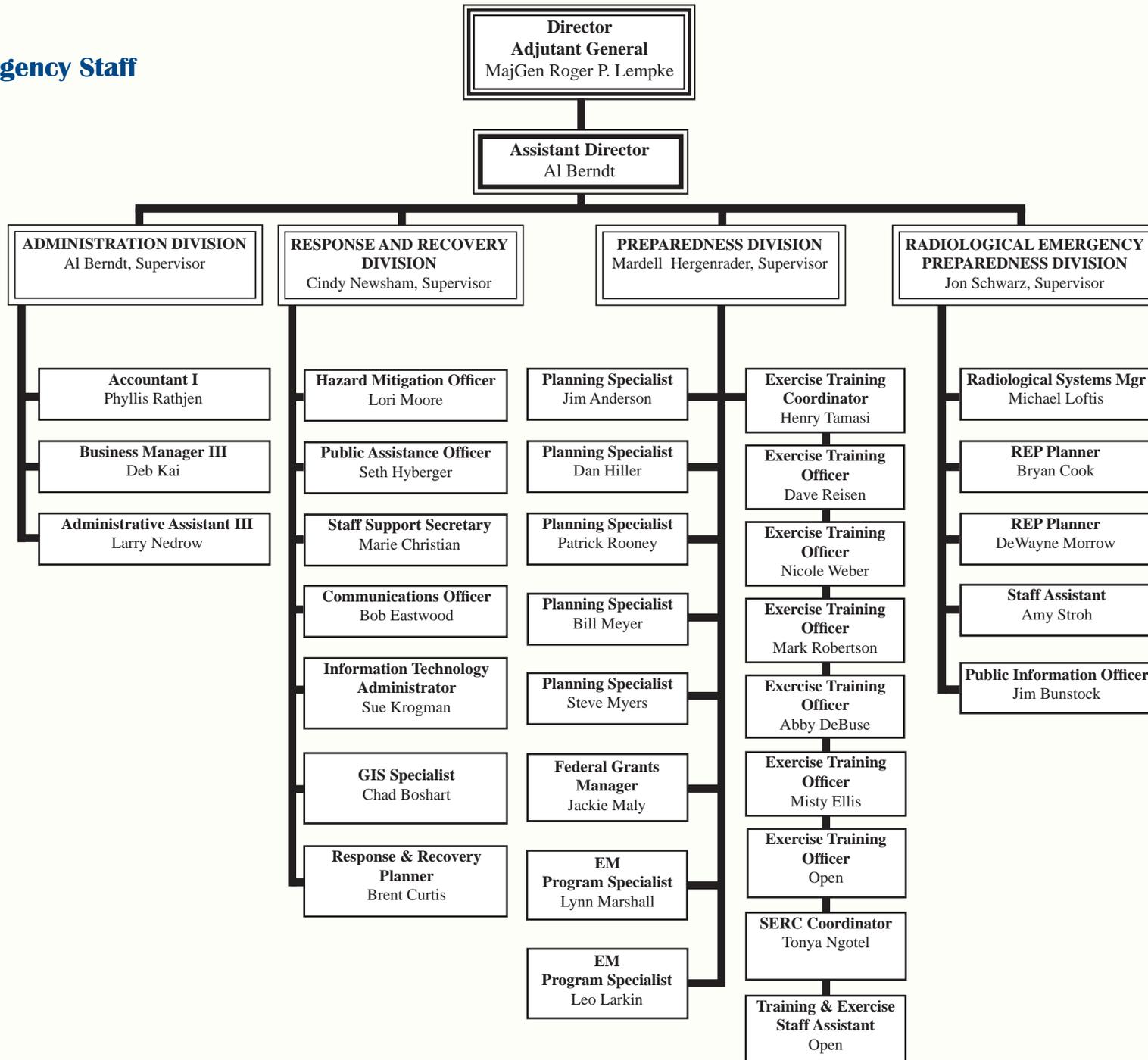
Nebraska meet, train and exercise together on a regular basis, and the open lines of communication greatly ease the role of the state administrative agency. In addition to the state agencies involved, NEMA works closely with the University of Nebraska System and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Since 1999, NEMA has overseen the completion of two statewide assessments of response capabilities at the state and

local level, and the writing of two statewide strategies for homeland security. These assessments have been the basis of the distribution of homeland security funds in support of the state strategy. The following pages give a breakdown of how funds have been allocated since 1999 in support of state and local homeland security efforts.

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

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