

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

NEBRASKA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Published January 2019

Good Life. Great Strength

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Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

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

We envision safer, less vulnerable communities in Nebraska, made possible through collaborative partnerships committed to saving lives and reducing the impact of disasters. Our mission is to coordinate, support and serve Nebraska through an effective and relevant emergency management agency. Our guiding principles are:

1. All emergencies begin at the local level. NEMA collaborates with local, state, tribal and federal officials to provide coordinated assistance to Nebraska communities that augment local capabilities when appropriate.
2. NEMA activities are grounded in principles of emergency management. Emergency management must be comprehensive, progressive, risk-driven, cost-effective and flexible.
3. Respectful, collaborative relationships and professional leadership are integral to quality emergency management. Emergency management activities must be inclusive and involve the whole community.

Agency Partners and Stakeholders:

Changes are coming to the disaster recovery process in the United States. In October, the Disaster Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018 was signed into law and the reforms include acknowledgment of the shared responsibility of local, state, federal and national partners for disaster response and recovery, while aiming to reduce the complexity of Federal Emergency Management Agency processes and building on the nation's capacity for the next catastrophic event.

Highlights of DRRA include increasing investment in mitigation before a disaster; reducing risk from future disasters after fire; increasing state capacity to manage disaster recovery; providing greater flexibility to survivors with disabilities; and retaining skilled response and recovery personnel.

Allowing for higher rates of reimbursement to state, local and tribal partners for administrative costs when implementing public assistance and hazard mitigation projects, as well as increased flexibility, will impact us the most.

Multiple hurricanes and wildfires across the nation in 2017 and 2018 required unprecedented help for communities in need and followed eight of the most expensive years of all time for the Public Assistance Program between the years of 2007 and 2016.

In addition to DRRA, the Nebraska Military Department's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, promotes building a culture of preparedness, improving readiness for disasters and reducing the red tape associated with disaster recovery. Community resilience, preparation for catastrophe and reducing the complexity of FEMA are objectives of the plan.

FEMA Director Brock Long frequently mentions his vision of a "federally funded, state managed, locally executed disaster recovery" process. Consequently, more of the recovery processes will be streamlined or incentivized for states to play a larger role in addressing recovery program requirements. The goal is to drive down costs, increase efficiency and reduce the complexity of recovery programs.



Major General
Daryl Bohac,
Director



Bryan Tuma,
Assistant Director



Administration

NEMA's administration section completes travel documents, purchases supplies and maintains records and accounts payables. The section works in concert with the agency's business manager who reports directly to the assistant director. When a field team deploys to disasters across the state, administration is responsible for purchasing response supplies.

As part of the Nebraska Military Department, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) works to protect lives and property of Nebraskans by preparing for, responding to, recovering from and mitigating against disasters, threats, hazards and emergencies.

As the smallest of the Nebraska state agencies that reports directly to the Governor, NEMA relies extensively on full- and part-time emergency management representatives in Nebraska's 93 counties to carry out programs at the local level. It is this partnership with local directors that is a key reason why the state can respond effectively in times of emergency.

While NEMA has responsibility to assist local governments when they require support after a disaster, another key to the agency's ability to respond is through the

support of the state's emergency support function agencies and organizations. With a staff of only 40 emergency management professionals and one program specialist from the University of Nebraska Lincoln's Public Policy Center, NEMA must rely on the support of other state agency staff and other organizations to coordinate a disaster response.

In his role as adjutant general, **Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac** is director of the agency, with day-to-day operations administered by **Assistant Director Bryan Tuma**.

NEMA supports Nebraska's lieutenant governor as state homeland security director, acts as the state administrative agency for the state's homeland security program and is the point of contact for integration of emergency management and

homeland security programs with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

As the state administrative agency, NEMA has responsibility for overall funding, fiscal accountability, program management and integration with other state agencies to carry out the state homeland security program.

The Nebraska Homeland Security Strategy and the agency strategic plan are updated regularly by NEMA and are in place to lead and guide the agency's performance.

At the national level, NEMA interacts with the National Emergency Management Association to keep up with issues that affect all states. Statewide, NEMA actively supports the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management and its professional membership.



PLANNING UNIT

The NEMA Planning Unit oversees the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP), Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) formerly the State Preparedness Report, State Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), statewide communications interoperability implementation and revisions of county local emergency operation plans (LEOPs). NEMA adheres to a five-year planning calendar and processes full revisions of LEOPs. Twenty full revisions of LEOPs were completed this year.

NEMA has established planning capabilities for the integrated planning process in the eight PET/communication regions.

The Planning Unit coordinates the development of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant

investment justifications and the Planning Unit held Nebraska's annual Investment Justification Workshop with the Homeland Security Planning Team. Then, NEMA representatives met with the Homeland Security Policy Group and Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) to complete the project award process.

The unit also serves as the agency liaison to Omaha's Metropolitan Medical Response Systems/Health Care Coalition (HCC) and coordinates the Citizen Corps and Medical Reserve Corps programs.

The planning staff completed a full revision of the NEMA Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) in August. In addition, the THIRA and SPR were completed and submitted to DHS.

DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

Taking a proactive approach to coordinating and managing debris removal operations is part of a successful emergency management plan.

In 2018, NEMA selected a planning specialist to review local debris management plans and throughout the year, NEMA reviewed three debris management plans.

FEMA approval requires that several

stringent requirements are met and also allows for an applicant to claim an additional one time 2 percent cost incentive for debris removal in the first 90 days of an incident.

In 2018, NEMA worked with several stakeholder agencies to complete a statewide debris management plan which, we are proud to say, was accepted by FEMA in August.

Preparedness

NEMA's Preparedness Section has responsibility for the Grants, Planning and Technical Hazards Units. The Grants Unit administers Preparedness and Homeland Security Grants while the Planning Unit works with emergency managers, regions, state agencies and first responders statewide on local emergency operations plans. The Technical Hazards Unit is responsible for radiological emergency preparedness, transportation and coordination of the State Emergency Response Commission. In addition, the statewide Citizen Corps and the Medical Reserve Corps programs are administered from this section.

Program Specialist for Single Engine Air Tanker

The NEMA Planning Unit has assigned a program specialist to monitor the state's yearly single engine air tanker contract and to assist in daily operations at the SEAT bases, along with staff members from the Nebraska Forest Service.

In 2018, the program specialist deployed to the SEAT base to serve as the SEAT base manager while Nebraska Forest Service staff deployed to the west coast to help fight fires there.



GRANTS UNIT

NEMA receives grants from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Transportation (DoT)/Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to support preparedness efforts in Nebraska.

As the State Administrative Agency (SAA), NEMA is the only Nebraska agency eligible to apply directly for these funds and in turn ensures that local emergency management programs are established and sustained. The SAA is responsible for filing the applications on the state's behalf, distributing program guidelines to state and local jurisdictions (sub-recipients), receiving applications from sub-recipients for funding, facilitating the distribution of these non-disaster grants funds and maintaining compliance through oversight and monitoring.

NEMA's Grant Unit receives and administers the following grants:

- State Homeland Security Program Grant (SHSP)
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
- Countering Violent Extremism Grant (CVE)
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP)

Like other federal grant programs, the SHSP grant has seen decreases in funding during the past five years. This, along with an increase of federal expectations and grant requirements, was the catalyst for a restructuring of the grant process two years ago. The process wasn't without its growing pains; however, out of this came a refinement. With less money being awarded each year, State and local entities are now being asked to share in the costs for projects that historically have been 'stand-alone' or individually funded.

In prior years, grant guidance allowed for more flexibility in terms of project scope. Now the focus has been narrowed to sustainment of existing projects and incremental scope increase, in other words — a project-driven approach. No longer are sub-

Countering Violent Extremism Grant

Nebraska was a recipient of an award from the Countering Violent Extremism Grant (CVE) in the amount of \$300,000 and began work on its implementation in 2018.

The award to Nebraska was the only grant of its kind. As the state took a unique approach to its application and submittal. The project was entitled, *Addressing barriers to reporting signs of radicalization using a public health approach.*

Communities in rural areas have residents with concerning behaviors, but fewer resources to help them. Partnering with Nebraska's strong public health system was the key factor in connecting with these communities.

Nebraska's goals are to:

- Identify local barriers to reporting concerns,
- Increase community trust in response to concerns, and
- Create a toolkit for other rural public health departments based on lessons learned.



Implementation is being done through a partnership between Two Rivers Public Health Department, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

A variety of activities kicked off the first year of the grant to date and include:

- Meeting with community and state level stakeholders to orient them to the project. That included webinars for stakeholders and in person meetings to obtain feedback and field any questions on the project.
- Distribution of material and a survey to obtain feedback and data that was

recipients given funding to work with based on a formula, now the awards are project based and collaboratively decided on via the Investment Justification (IJ) process.

The IJ Workshop for the State Homeland Security Grant on April 12th allowed the PET Regions, State Agencies, HazMat MOU Cities, MMRS and Citizen Corps, to deliver project proposals. Communities, State Agencies and Federal partners who are experts in one of the 7 investment areas participated as subject matter experts to rank/rate. After the rankings the process then transitioned to the Senior Advisory Committee (SAC).

The SAC discussed the projects and processes that could be eliminated based on the threat hazard identification and risk analysis/state preparedness report results (THIRA/SPR). Their recommendations were forwarded to the next level, the Lieutenant Governor and the Homeland Security Policy Group for review and approval. Based on this outcome, projects were awarded funding in the State's eight planning, exercise and training (PET) regions, the 11 hazmat teams, Citizen Corps, MMRS and state agencies.

As a result of this process, NEMA submitted projects that directly aid in reducing vulnerabilities and increase the level of preparedness of its emergency managers, regions, first responders and state agencies.

Over the grants' 'period of performance', NEMA continues to monitor its grants as required by DHS/FEMA. Grants are monitored for compliance in: employee reimbursement, equipment, fiscal, local emergency operation plan compliance, National Incident Management System compliance, other direct costs, personnel and direct labor, PET expenses, reporting requirements, supplies and materials, special conditions and travel/vehicle mileage. A total of 67 grants were monitored and compliant in 2017.

used in forming the direction of the training and communication.

- Development of the website to house materials and information for the communities
- Discussion and engagement surrounding state-level support to local partners and planning for a state-level multi-disciplinary threat assessment team

Threat Assessment training is being done throughout the grant period, and has been conducted both at the local levels and for the state agency stakeholders, the most recent training was held Dec. 13 and included members of the Governor's cabinet

CITIZEN CORPS

The Nebraska Citizen Corps Program (CCP) works with emergency management, public health, first responders and other preparedness partners to provide public education, training and volunteer opportunities for Nebraskans. CCP focuses on disaster preparedness and response for individuals, families and communities.

Each year, the State Homeland Security grant helps fund projects aimed at making sure Nebraskans are better prepared for and able to respond to disasters. CCP participated in events across the



state and around the country this year to promote disaster preparedness. CCP partnered with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln again this fall for the Ready Campus event to distribute Bad Day Bags, first aid kits and disaster preparedness information to students in Lincoln. This event allows CCP to interact with students to educate them about preparedness initiatives and training opportunities.

CCP also partnered again with Nebraska Disaster Behavioral Health for their annual conference. CCP assisted with behavioral health partners to exercise disaster plans. Additionally, CCP presented information about online Psychological First Aid (PFA) training to national audiences at conferences in Atlanta and New Orleans. Local Citizen Corps programs continued to provide PFA training as well as community emergency response team (CERT) courses, Stop-the-Bleed and Hands-Only CPR classes throughout the year. This training helps communities become more resilient.

Volunteers with local Citizen Corps programs like CERT and Medical Reserve Corps had many opportunities to participate in events throughout 2018. Volunteers provided first aid for large events like the Nebraska State Fair, Special Olympics and the Cornhusker State Games. They also assisted local public health departments, emergency managers and first responders to provide support for local events.



The State Homeland Security grant was used to help purchase equipment that volunteers used for local responses. Volunteers also had an opportunity to attend the Nebraska Volunteer Preparedness Conference sponsored by Nebraska Citizen Corps in partnership with the Tri-County Planning, Exercise and Training region. Volunteers heard presentations from local and national experts on disaster volunteerism and participated in training events throughout the conference.

The State Homeland Security Grant funds the State Citizen Corps coordinator position. This position provides technical assistance to local programs, works with local, state and federal agencies to strengthen partnerships and assists with the development of the State Citizen Corps Council.

STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) is the 19-member governor-appointed commission tasked with supporting hazardous materials planning and training in Nebraska. NEMA is the designated coordinating agency for all SERC activities. SERC has designated the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) as the point of contact for hazardous materials releases and reporting.

SERC is the coordinating body for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant. HMEP monies are used to fund transportation related hazardous materials planning and training activities, as well as printing the local emergency operations plans for each of Nebraska's 93 counties.

Nebraska has a variety of hazardous materials response resources across the state, supervised and coordinated by SERC. The primary response to hazardous materials comes in the form of local fire departments. Using HMEP funding, the State Fire Marshal's Office provides hazardous materials awareness, operations and technician training to local paid and volunteer departments. Funding was also provided to conduct aircraft fire rescue training at the North Platte Regional Airport.

With the State Homeland Security Grant, 10 fire departments have signed

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the State of Nebraska to be provided funding for training and planning. In return, these departments exist as State Emergency Response Teams for hazardous materials incidents. These fire departments are located in Beatrice, Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Red Willow Rural, Norfolk, North Platte, Omaha, Papillion and Scottsbluff.

Members of SERC, LEPCs and fire

departments attended several trainings and conferences, representing Nebraska on a local, regional and national basis. A composite team of hazardous materials technicians competed in the annual Hazmat Challenge in Los Alamos, New Mexico. NEMA hosted the Nebraska Hazmat Conference in September in North Platte Nebraska for first responders, LEPC members and local emergency managers.

Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant for State Fire Marshal Training

People Certified in the State of Nebraska – 2018

- Firefighter I – 144
- Hazmat Operations – 291
- Firefighter II – 52
- HM-Tech – 13

2018 – Hazmat Courses

Course	Students	Contact Hours
Hazmat Awareness Level	261	1,654.25
Hazmat Awareness Level - Refresher	258	1,178.25
Hazmat Operations Level	96	2,890.25
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	26	208
Confined Space Rescue	18	202.5
Confined Space Rescue - Refresher	22	99
Hazmat Technician Level	16	1,264
Live Fire Training Propane Tank Simulator	32	160
Propane Emergencies	11	66



The Operations Section provides an effective, efficient and timely response in support of local governments affected by disaster. Development of a type 3 incident management team (IMT) continues by teaming with local and state personnel on staff credentialing. The IMT will deploy to the site of a disaster when requested to work with local officials on the response. Operations includes the NEMA Watch Center, Public Information, the Training and Exercise Unit and Information Technology and Communications Unit.

WATCH CENTER

The State Watch Center gathers and disseminates intelligence on natural and man-made hazards and threats with potential, imminent, or ongoing impacts to the State of Nebraska. It is currently staffed with a supervisor, program specialist, a coordinator and two Watch Officers.

A daily situational briefing and “dashboard” analysis is distributed Monday through Friday—or more often, as conditions warrant—to over 400 public safety stakeholders at all levels of local, state and federal government. This briefing helps provide situational awareness about weather, incidents, events and available response resources in the state. The one-page dashboard

report was added in February 2018, to provide leadership and others with a summary overview of hazards, potential threat severity over the next seven days and significant events that have occurred or impacted the state over the last three days.

The Watch Center is responsible for monitoring events in the state and integrating with stakeholders from other agencies and the emergency managers across the state that represent each of Nebraska’s counties.

The Watch Officer system, staffed on a rotating basis by all full time NEMA Operations, Preparedness and Recovery staff, provides on-call 24/7 response, monitoring and information gathering for the Watch Center.



PUBLIC INFORMATION

Accurate and timely information provided to the public before, during and after disasters contributes greatly to saving lives and protecting property. Delivering the right message to the right people at the right time is a vital function in disaster operations.

Working with local, state and federal communicators, the NEMA public information officer (PIO) can activate a joint information center (JIC) following a disaster or event that affects citizens of the state. Nebraska JIC staff includes PIOs from other state agencies, as well as representatives from local and federal entities involved in the response to an event.

Three Basic Public Information Officer G290 courses were offered in 2018 in Bridgeport, Omaha and Nebraska City in an effort to train local staff on public information and joint information center principles. The NEMA PIO works with local emergency managers to promote preparedness via social media campaigns, the annual severe weather awareness poster contest and other events.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

In the aftermath of any disaster, government resources are not always available to assist individuals who have been impacted.

Volunteer and non-governmental organizations work collaboratively to help meet individual needs. NEMA coordinates with non-governmental organizations and volunteers to help find resources for individuals.

Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NEVOAD) is an organization of voluntary agencies that provides relief in times of disaster. The cornerstones of the group are cooperation, communication, coordination and

collaboration. Through NEVOAD, agencies are able to effectively deploy personnel and resources while avoiding duplication of effort.

Another source for assistance comes from long-term recovery groups. Voluntary organizations, state and local government, community leaders, local churches and local businesses work to help meet the needs of individuals and families who do not qualify for other forms of assistance. Local representatives from voluntary agencies, government and other interested parties work to prepare a coordinated disaster response within their community, county or region.

TECHNICAL HAZARDS UNIT

The Technical Hazards Unit (THU) covers four distinct programs for the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency: the SERC (covered in its own section of this report), Radiological emergency planning

for Nebraska’s one nuclear power plant, radioactive material transportation response training and the agency’s radiological equipment calibrations lab. These programs work together to

mitigate radiological risks and ensure an effective response if an incident were to occur.

Radiological emergency preparedness (REP) is largely focused on Nebraska’s nuclear power plant, Cooper Nuclear Station. NEMA’s two REP planners ensure that the communities surrounding the nuclear power plant are prepared for an incident. NEMA assists with the local

REP plans, providing training and exercise support. NEMA staff participates in the quarterly drills at the plant.

THU is also involved in the planning and training of local responders for a response to an accident involving radioactive materials crossing the state. THU maintains situational awareness of dates and routes of any radioactive waste shipments moving through the state.

The final program of the Technical Hazards Unit is the radiological calibration laboratory. The “cal lab” calibrates and maintains radiological monitoring equipment. NRC and FEMA regulations require annual calibration and quarterly performance checks on equipment positioned around the nuclear station. NEMA’s radiological calibration specialist ensures that the state’s radiological monitoring equipment is maintained within performance specifications and meets regulatory requirements.





STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The State Emergency Operations Center is housed at NEMA and is activated when a disaster or planned event necessitates coordination of state resources and response.

Emergency response is divided into functional areas which provide

organization and support of operations. Common emergency support functions include: transportation, communications, public works, firefighting, law enforcement, emergency management, mass care, public health and military support.

Representatives of each of the function areas work together in the SEOC when activated for an event.

This facilitates coordination of resources in support of incident command as part of the National Incident Management System.

SINGLE ENGINE AIR TANKER (SEAT)

The Operations Section, in coordination with the Watch Center, monitors daily activities of the Single Engine Air Tanker as well as funding and operations while it's in service during the summer. During 2018, the base functioned mostly from the Valentine SEAT base.

When a wildfire starts up in Nebraska, local fire chiefs can make a direct request to the Great Plains Dispatch Center to get the SEAT up in the air and dropping

retardant on fires as soon as possible. This helps reduce the spread of fire and can reduce the number of acres burned.

Since 2013, Nebraska contracted the aircraft to fill-in where local aerial applicators are scarce. Having the SEAT as a dedicated resource in Nebraska during fire season has helped reduce the number of acres burned.

The 2018 SEAT season opened July 16 and within days of

opening, the SEAT flew on three separate fires in Nebraska and South Dakota. South Dakota and Nebraska have signed a compact agreement to share resources during fire season at the requesting state's expense.

Throughout the season, the SEAT flew on 7 fires and participated in the Nebraska Engine Academy. In total the SEAT flew 34 sorties for a total of 23.15 hours, dropping nearly 10,286 gallons of retardant.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

The NEMA Information Technology and Communications Unit continues to move forward and advance with ever-changing technologies. The unit has been researching multiple software programs for both the agency and the state

The unit purchased, installed and re-wired computers and monitors for the State Emergency Operations Center. This was an enhancement as the installation included putting the monitors on arms so that a significant amount of desk space was added. Upgrades were done to the video wall sound system and desktop microphones where installed at each of the ESF stations.

The Communications Unit added many new players during 2018, including ham radio operators and radio communication assets and resources from state agencies. Opportunities have become available to assist in the signing of position task books from, not only Nebraska, but surrounding states as well.

NRIN – the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network – is working to offer multiple cost-saving opportunities for local governments. This would include assisting with any regionalization they may do with other public service answering points for redundancy and efficiency. NRIN continues to work with

other “state-wide” projects including the State Radio System and the new next generation 911 program.

The GIS staff helped support multiple disasters, including inundation mapping during the Pender flooding. Mapping boundaries were supplied for the State Fire Marshal's Office as well as a visual screening of the acres affected by the Hampton/Kugler fire. The FEMA Damage Assessment Survey was tested by GIS staff in the field while helping with damage assessment. This was a unique experience as the process was put to the test on an actual disaster. The survey tool exceeded expectations.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE UNIT

Nebraskans, along with 22 offerings of training in traditional classroom style courses.

NEMA continues to establish a level of training in compliance with requirements identified by the Department of Homeland Security and Nebraska statute.

NEMA also conducts an annual state-level exercise each year to test readiness of local, county and state agencies and their ability to work together in a large scale incident.

In 2018, this exercise was designed to exercise the State Emergency Operations Center and the Emergency Support

Function Coordinators. This year's annual exercise has been a process of training and exercise for emergency support function coordinators.

The training was conducted in June, where NEMA staff hosted each primary support agency for each Emergency Support Function (ESF) individually and discussed roles, responsibilities and expectations of the agency individually with the supporting agency staff.

A complex tabletop exercise was conducted in December 2018 at the State Emergency Operations Center, testing the ESF roles.



CIVIL AIR PATROL

During 2018, the Civil Air Patrol responded to five requests for Firewatch missions through NEMA.

Firewatch aircraft are located in Chadron and Valentine and when a fire chief or Nebraska Forest Service personnel request an observation flight, NEMA works with the National Operation Center for the Civil Air Patrol to put a plane in the air.

Observation flights can locate a potential fire after lightning strikes in early stages and are beneficial in keeping fires small.

Recovery



The Recovery Section manages disaster recovery and provides assistance to state entities, local governments, Native American tribal governments, special districts and certain nonprofit organizations impacted by disasters, as requested. Throughout the recovery process, recovery staff works to ensure that state and federal support is provided in an efficient and timely manner. The section also works with public entities to reduce, limit, or eliminate the impacts of future disaster events through the Hazard Mitigation Program. The section administers multiple federally-funded disaster assistance programs which are managed by two units: Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation. To successfully respond and recover in times of disaster, NEMA also administers the Governor's Emergency Fund, which was established to provide assistance to political subdivisions that have suffered from a disaster or emergency and as a result are under a financial burden that exceeds their ordinary capacity to respond to disaster.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

NEMA's Public Assistance (PA) unit staff work to provide assistance to state, tribal and local governments as well as certain types of private non-profits throughout the disaster recovery process, whether the disaster was declared by the federal government or by the State of Nebraska.

Through the Public Assistance Program, FEMA provides supplemental federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly-owned facilities and the facilities of certain private non-profit (PNP) organizations. The program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by making assistance available for hazard mitigation measures on disaster damaged elements during the recovery process. The State of Nebraska manages this program for all sub-grants awarded to local eligible jurisdictions and agencies within the state.

During 2018, there were two separate events which resulted in federal disaster declarations. In April, a severe late winter storm impacting much of the state over a five-day period. That storm left hundreds of broken power poles, downed power lines and many communities and residents without power in its wake.

Then, from June 17 through July 1, severe storms impacted the state producing several tornadoes, high wind, heavy rain and flooding. Significant flooding impacted many areas of the state, with areas in and around Thurston County receiving the most severe flooding.

In addition to the two federally declared disasters, throughout the year several other storm events caused damages across the state that, while significant, did not rise to the level of requesting federal disaster declarations.

Many "pilot programs" have been implemented in recent years in the PA program, causing NEMA PA staff to continually adapt to and gain knowledge of multiple variations of several policies. One such change in 2018 was the implementation of the "grants portal;" a new approach by FEMA on how recovery projects would be written. Full implementation of the portal was originally not set to happen until early 2019, however, FEMA's timetable was accelerated and full implementation occurred in early 2018. FEMA also piloted a new direct administrative cost (DAC) policy beginning in June 2018. The passage of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) on October 5, 2018 resulted in a new direct administrative cost policy – some sub-recipients have the option to choose one of three DAC policies.

In addition to the work required by the two new federal disasters, NEMA recovery staff has continued working on several previously declared disasters. Two of those previously declared disasters; DR-4156-NE and DR-4185-NE, were closed during 2018. Currently NEMA PA staff are working on seven federally declared disasters, managing an estimated total of \$83.5 million in PA grant funded projects.



HAZARD MITIGATION

NEMA's Hazard Mitigation Unit staff also works with eligible public entities to reduce the risk to people and property from natural and human-caused hazards by providing federal funding for long-term mitigation measures that will reduce or eliminate the severe effects of future disasters. The Mitigation Unit provides technical assistance throughout the entire mitigation project life including providing oversight of the development of a project application ensuring compliance with program policy; conducting site visits during construction ensuring all approved project plans are being followed; and completing a final project inspection and closeout.

Hazard mitigation saves taxpayer dollars through measures such as the reduction of power outages due to storms, property buyouts of frequently flooded homes, flood reduction projects, tornado safe rooms, backup power to critical facilities and emergency warning systems along with a host of other activities. On average for every dollar spent on mitigation, four dollars of benefits are created including reducing damages and loss of life.

2018 has been no less busy for the Hazard Mitigation Unit. After two federal disaster declarations were approved for the state, hazard mitigation grant program

funds were available for local governments to develop long-term initiatives that potentially reduce loss of life and property. The requests for funding available from these two disasters again far exceeded the funds available. The mitigation task force, a group of representatives from several state and federal agencies, met to review and prioritize the requests for funding. The goal of the task force is to ensure that as many hazard mitigation projects as possible are submitted to and approved, by FEMA. The task force prioritized the projects statewide for disaster funding.

On an annual basis, mitigation funding is also available from two other non-disaster FEMA programs, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDM) program and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. In 2017, five PDM grant applications were submitted to FEMA for consideration with approval being received in 2018. Applications for the 2018 PDM have been reviewed and are in the final stages of being submitted for funding consideration by FEMA.

While continuing work on the previously approved projects and the new disaster project request, the NEMA mitigation staff continues to work with local communities to coordinate planning efforts and develop project ideas preparing for any funding that might become

available in the future. The Disaster Recovery Reform Act also made significant changes to the Hazard Mitigation Program that will be incorporated in the coming year. This includes additional mitigation funding for the PDM program.

NEMA's Hazard Mitigation staff, with assistance from NEMA's Planning staff, are also diligently working on the next State Hazard Mitigation Plan revision due for renewal in May 2019. Federal regulations require that the State Hazard Mitigation Plan be revised every five years and is a requirement for the state to receive Public Assistance Funds for permanent repairs after a disaster. Work on the state plan began in late 2017 and has continued in earnest throughout 2018; with the goal of the culmination of many hours of labor being an approved plan. The draft of the plan is nearing completion; reviews from other state agencies and NEMA staff will be the final step prior to submitting to FEMA for approval.

With all of the duties and tasks the Mitigation Staff are working on, the mitigation staff were able to close four federally declared disasters (DR-4014, 4156, 4183 and 4185); as well as, two PDM grants (2014 PDM and 2015 PDM). The staff continues to work on six open federal disaster declarations and two PDM grants with an estimated total of \$28.9 million.

NEMA Funding

STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

\$3,980,000

Total received from the Department of Homeland Security Grant Program

Regions	CCP	Hazmat Teams	LETPP	Comm	PET	Total Award
East Central	17,075	20,000		39,400	24,860	101,335
North Central				105,595	46,430	152,025
Northeast		20,000		34,800	19,079	73,879
Panhandle		20,000		52,900	39,750	112,650
South Central	19,500	60,000	50,000		29,000	158,500
Southeast		20,000		6,500	24,000	50,500
Southwest	3,000	20,000		45,000	11,700	79,700
Tri-County	56,600	40,000	130,900	330,000	179,073	736,573

STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

Agriculture Through memorandum of understanding (MOU) via Southeast Region	46,000
Citizen Corps Program Through MOU via North Central Region	124,598
Fusion Center Through MOU via Panhandle region	384,123
Hazardous Device Technicians Awarded to Panhandle as fiduciary agent for the group	230,977
Metropolitan Medical Response Systems Awarded to Tri-County and Southeast	109,285
Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team Through MOU via South Central Region	20,000
Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network Through MOU via South Central and Northeast Regions	553,855
Public Policy Center through an MOU via Northeast Region	250,000
TOTAL AWARD TO LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT	\$3,184,000

<i>The remaining 20 percent is kept at the state level-per grant guidance</i>	\$796,000
NEMA: funds allocated to the PET program and management and administration	\$597,000
NSP: funds allocated to build and sustain the Nebraska Fusion Information Network	\$199,000
Total Award to Nebraska:	\$3,980,000

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT

\$3,848,963 total grant

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES RECEIVE

65.8 percent

of the EMPG grant or **\$2,534,300 million**

EXPENDITURES

GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY FUND

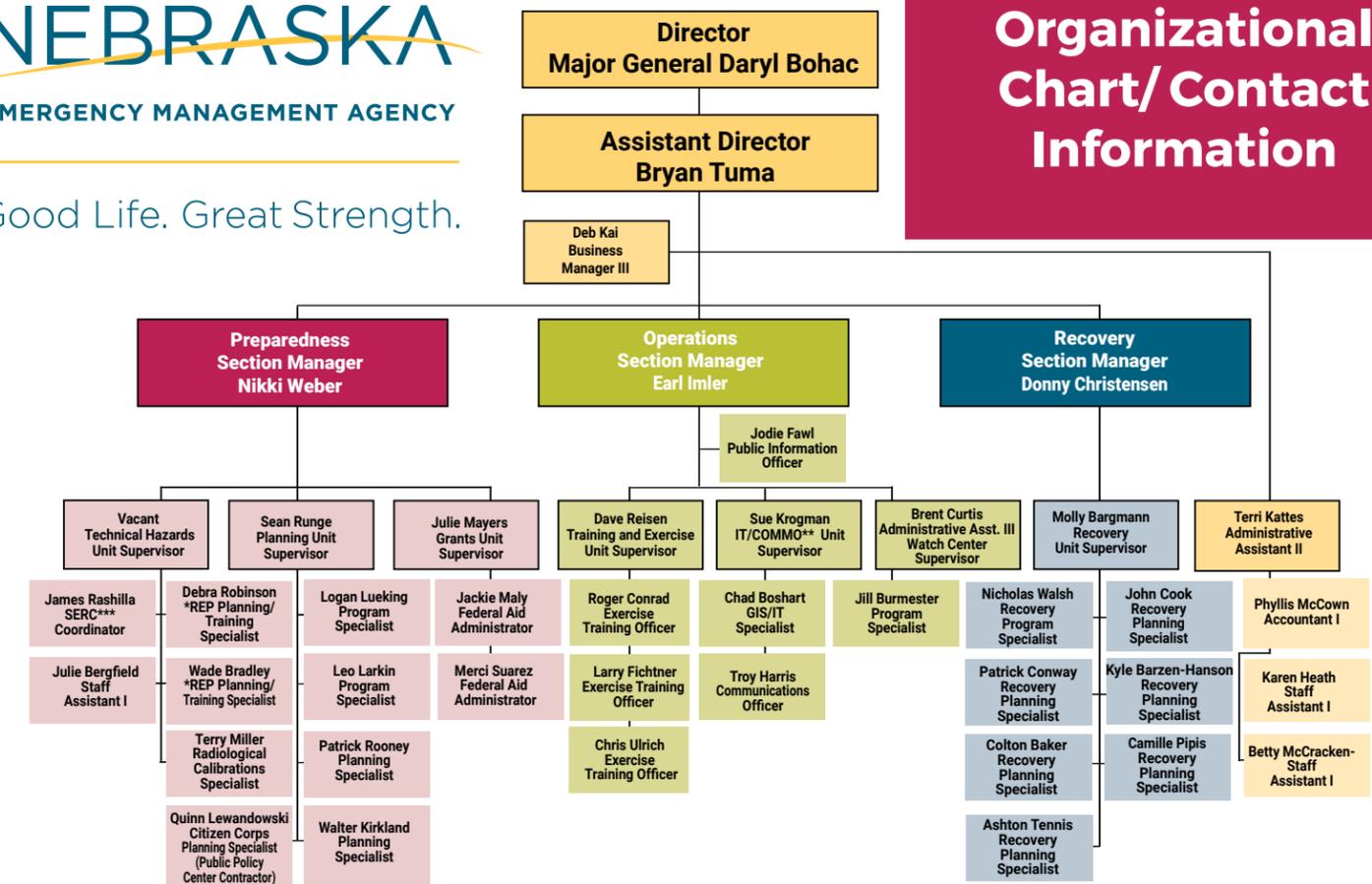
Federal	\$7,356,160
State	\$1,847,886
Cash	\$59,487
State Appropriation:	\$1,356,882
Solely for SEAT	356,882
Federal Grants:	\$7,526,434
Radiological Emergency Preparedness:	\$320,912

NEBRASKA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Good Life. Great Strength.

Organizational Chart/Contact Information



Revised: December 27, 2018

* REP = Radiological Emergency Preparedness
 ** IT/COMMO = Information Technology/Communications
 *** SERC = State Emergency Response Commission

Federally Approved Disaster Declarations

When local governments exceed their capacity to respond to disasters, they can seek assistance from the state. When costs and resources are beyond a state's capacity to recover, they seek assistance through a presidential disaster. In 2018, Nebraska asked and received two presidential disaster declarations.

DR-4375

April 13-18, 2018

Severe Winter Storm and Straight-line Winds

Declared: June 29, 2018

Counties: Antelope, Blaine, Boone, Boyd, Cheyenne, Clay, Custer, Deuel, Fillmore, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Holt, Howard, Keith, Knox, Logan, Loup, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Nuckolls, Pierce, Platte, Rock, Sherman, Valley, Webster, Wheeler

DR-4387

June 17-July 1, 2018

Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Straight-line Winds, and Flooding

Declared: Aug. 27, 2018

Counties: Cedar, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Harlan, Logan, Thomas, Thurston, Wayne

EMAC Deployments

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is an interstate agreement between all 50 states and U.S. territories to provide direct state-to-state assistance during times of disaster. Resources are requested by the impacted state, assisting states submit offers with an estimated cost, and (upon mutual agreement) resources are deployed from the assisting state to the requesting state. Afterwards, the assisting state submits actual mission cost to the requesting state for reimbursement. Nebraska has a proud history of assisting other states during disaster through the EMAC system.

1387-RR-7470 (to Kansas): Two UH-60 (Blackhawk) helicopters and crews deployed to Kansas, March 17-18, for aerial fire suppression support for wildland fires that occurred across the state. Total mission cost: \$76,078.

1387-RR-7474 (to Kansas): Two UH-60 (Blackhawk) helicopters and crews deployed to Kansas, March 22-24, for aerial fire suppression support for wildland fires that occurred across the state. Total mission cost: \$52,552.

1400-RR-7515 (to Kansas): Two UH-60 (Blackhawk) helicopters and crews deployed to Kansas, April 18-19, for aerial fire suppression support for wildland fires that occurred across the state. Total mission cost: \$23,769.

1502-RR-8121 (to North Carolina): Two UH-60 (Blackhawk) helicopters & crews deployed to North Carolina, Sept. 13-22, in support of rescue and relief operations for Hurricane Florence. Total mission cost: \$339,484.



NEBRASKA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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NEMA is responsible for coordinating the state response in any major emergency or disaster, including the support of local governments as needed or requested and coordinating assistance with FEMA and other federal partners.

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency's 2018 Annual Report was produced by Public Information Officer Jodie Fawl. For additional information about the report, other agency publications or to be added to the agency email list for news releases and publications, call 402-471-7428 or email: jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov.



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-  **www.flickr.com/people/nemapics/**

