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Cover page: Rock Creek Fire started burning southeast of Fairbury in April; it burned more than 1,800 acres

Above: McCann Fire in Cherry County burned over 7,040 acres

Our Vision A resilient Nebraska built upon inclusive collaboration and communication.

Our Mission Provide and foster leadership through guidance and support to Nebraskans before, during, and after disasters.

Our Values and Goals

Equity – Emphasizing an inclusive, whole community approach to emergency management in all disaster phases.

Strategic Goal: Reduce Nebraska's vulnerability by maintaining an emergency management system focused on the whole community.

Timeliness – Being responsive, communicative, and adaptable in all activities.

Strategic Goal: Increase NEMA's responsiveness through continuous process improvement in a competent emergency management system.

Professionalism – Cultivating and sustaining meaningful, productive partnerships with Nebraska's communities and emergency managers statewide.

Strategic Goal: Continue to develop and improve the professionalism of emergency management personnel.

Efficiency – Maximizing a cost-effective, focused, prepared, and productive approach to the Mission.

Strategic Goal: Strengthen a resourceful emergency management system.

Our Guiding Principles

We believe an emergency management system is a dynamic, mutually beneficial and inclusive network of partners, stakeholders and organizations, encompassing all Nebraskans, throughout all phases of disasters.

All NEMA teammates are accountable for ensuring the success of the agency's vision, mission and values. It is a shared responsibility.



State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) briefing on April fires; left to right, Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, NEMA Assistant Director Erv Portis, Deputy Director Rick Dahlman, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator Troy Harris

Annual Letter



Director
Adjutant General
Craig Strong



Assistant Director
Erv Portis

Agency Partners and Stakeholders:

A year of transition and stability. Governor-elect Pillen and Lieutenant Governor-elect Kelly received a full emergency management briefing at the end of 2022 to help them be prepared at the onset of their tenure. Major General Daryl Bohac, the Adjutant General, announced his retirement and was soon replaced by Major General Craig Strong, Governor Pillen's selection as the Adjutant General.

Major General Bohac led NEMA through multiple disasters, the most significant being the 2019 floods that affected eighty-four of Nebraska's ninety-three counties. Through his eleven years as the Adjutant

General, Bohac led with calm stability and a clear commitment of service to all Nebraskans.

As the new Adjutant General, I pledge that same steadfast commitment to Nebraska, with a strong pledge to continue building and strengthening emergency management throughout this wonderful state. One of my primary goals is to reinforce and fortify our partnership with Nebraska's communities.

Longtime NEMA Public Information Officer Jodie Fawl retired at the end of December 2023. Jodie's service to Nebraska's emergency management community helped communicate a message of preparedness for safety. Jodie will be missed in the years ahead.

NEMA's Watch Center received 192 Incident Status Reports (ISRs) in 2023. Yet, even with that large number, there were no major federally declared disasters throughout the year. This proves the point that Nebraska's emergency management community, through proper implementation and execution of their Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOPs) is completely capable of managing most disasters. The mantra of "all disasters are local, they begin locally, are managed locally, and end locally" was proven true throughout the year.

While 2022 was a year of wildfires declared as State disasters, 2023 had only four such incidents. Wildfire risk was reduced significantly through rain and a reduction in drought conditions throughout much of the State.

NEMA's grants unit took on one new grant program in 2023. Authorized by Congress, the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) provides new funding to the State and local political subdivisions to enhance and strengthen protection against ever-prevalent cybersecurity risks.

It is our pleasure and honor to provide this 2023 Annual Report. We thank Nebraska's emergency managers and all of our Emergency Support Function (ESF) coordinators, and our partners throughout the community for your endeavors to plan and prepare for, respond to, mitigate against, and recover from disasters in Nebraska.

Adjutant General
Craig Strong
Director

Ervin L. Portis,
Assistant
Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erv Portis".



Top left, a brush fire burning near Lake Waconda burned approximately 697 acres in April; Top right, Nebraska National Guard helicopter assisting with Waconda Fire; Bottom right, Governor Pillen and state officials toured the Waconda-Beaver Lake Complex Fire

Agency Context

NEMA is part of the Nebraska Military Department, alongside the Nebraska Air and Army National Guard. In his role as adjutant general, **Gen. Craig Strong** is the director of NEMA. **Assistant Director Erv Portis** manages day-to-day operations at NEMA. The agency also supports Nebraska's lieutenant governor, who serves as the State Homeland Security Director.

NEMA serves as the primary administrative agency and point of contact for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in integrating emergency management related programs into Nebraska communities. This often manifests as applying for, managing and expediting federal emergency management funds, and collaborating with various partners and other state agencies to carry out the State Homeland Security Program.

NEMA is responsible for ensuring local emergency management programs, agencies and functions

are established and sustained. To those ends, NEMA's strategic plan is updated regularly and was rewritten in 2022 with ample guidance and feedback from local emergency managers and community partners, and which – along with the Nebraska Homeland Security Strategy – is in place to guide the agency's efficacy.

Nationally, NEMA engages with the National Emergency Management Association to work on issues, opportunities, and concerns that affect all states. Locally, NEMA actively supports the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management (NAEM) and its membership of emergency managers, community members, and related stakeholders. NAEM is an organization predicated upon partnerships, collectively working toward community resilience and preserving life, safety, and property. It is just one way in which Nebraskans are serving Nebraskans, and NEMA continually strives to serve those who are serving others.

Staff and Agency Financials

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) provides state, local, tribal and territorial emergency management agencies with the resources required for implementation of the National Preparedness System and works toward the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation.

The Governor's Emergency Fund (GEF) was established by Nebraska RRS 81-829.42 to provide appropriations for the governor to expend for any state of emergency.

The governor may provide assistance to political subdivisions that have suffered from a disaster or emergency to such an extent as to impose a severe financial burden exceeding the ordinary capacity of the subdivision. Such assistance is designed to help political subdivisions of the state maintain or promptly restore essential public facilities or services when threatened by or damaged as the result of a natural or man-made disaster.

Staffing Budget		Full-Time Equivalencies (FTEs)	
State Funding	\$480,667	State Funded FTEs	9.3
Federal Funding	\$1,177,123	Federal Funded FTEs	26.25
*Cash Funding	\$205,751	*Cash Funded FTEs	3.75
Disaster Funding	\$333,184	Disaster Funded FTEs	19
Total Funding	\$2,196,725	Total	58.3

* Radiological Emergency Preparedness Funds from Nebraska Public Power District for Cooper Nuclear Station.

Governor Pillen Announces Appointment for Adjutant General

On May 26, Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen announced his appointment of Brigadier General Craig Strong to become the 34th Adjutant General of the Nebraska Military Department. This includes the Air National Guard, Army National Guard, and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). Strong took over for Major General Daryl Bohac, who retired in July and served as Adjutant General since 2013.

Strong was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in October 2020, when he was selected to serve in Washington D.C., as deputy director, J-8, Programs, Analysis and Evaluation for the National Guard Bureau.



Public Information

Delivering the right message to the right people at the right time is a vital function in disaster operations, and is the responsibility of the Public Information Officer (PIO). The Nebraska Joint Information Center is activated in response to disasters or large events and is staffed by PIOs from state agencies and representatives from local and federal entities involved in the response.

The PIO coordinates and disseminates state-level news releases related to public safety and preparedness.

NEMA's PIO works with local emergency managers to promote preparedness via social media campaigns, a severe weather awareness poster contest and other events.



NEMA Social Media

	2022	2023	Increase
Facebook Followers	14,539	15,309	5.3%
X Followers	9,671	9,696	.025%
Youtube Views	159,952	162,952	1.9%

Long-time NEMA PIO Retires

Jodie Fawl celebrated her 15th year with Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in November. She retired as their Public Information Officer in December.

Fawl has written the agency newsletter, news releases, annual reports and other publications during her tenure at NEMA. She was the state's only credentialed Type 3 PIO.

Below, Gov. Jim Pillen, right, recognized the top four artists in the annual Severe Weather Awareness Week Poster contest in March 2023. Poster contest winners, front row right to left are: first place Lucas Rabstajnek, second place Gunnar Fernau, third place Barrett Boynton and fourth place Allison Jerri Johnson.

Also pictured from left, are local emergency managers, and representatives from each of the contest sponsors which include: Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska Association of Emergency Mangement, National Weather Service and Nebraska National Guard.



Grants Unit

Emergency Management Preparedness Grant

Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) requires a 50% cost match and provides reimbursement funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial emergency management agencies for the resources required for the implementation of the National Preparedness System and works toward the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. Over 62% of the EMPG funds received by the State of Nebraska were passed through to 50 county and regional Emergency Management offices to assist with paying their Emergency Managers' salaries and benefits.

Emergency Management Preparedness Grant – American Rescue Plan Act

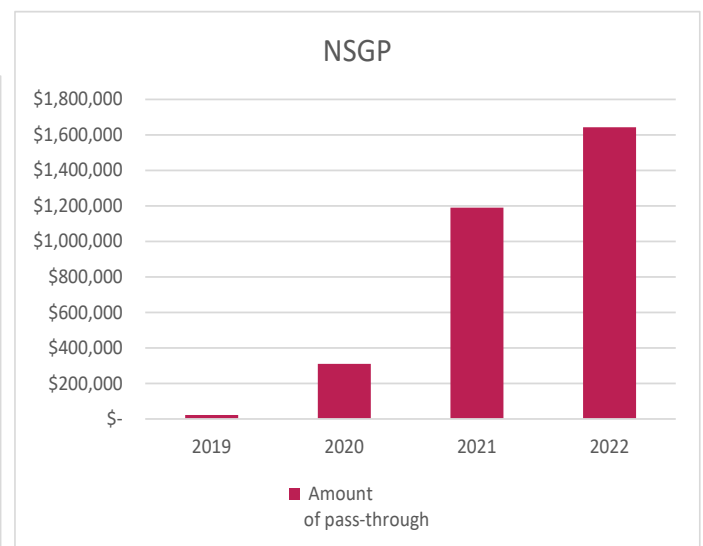
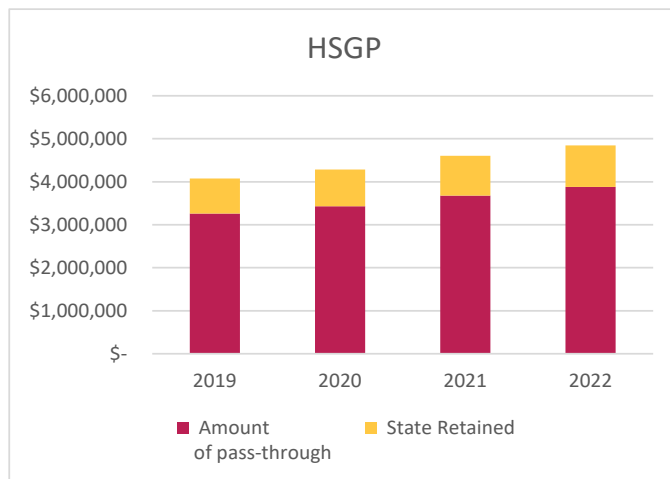
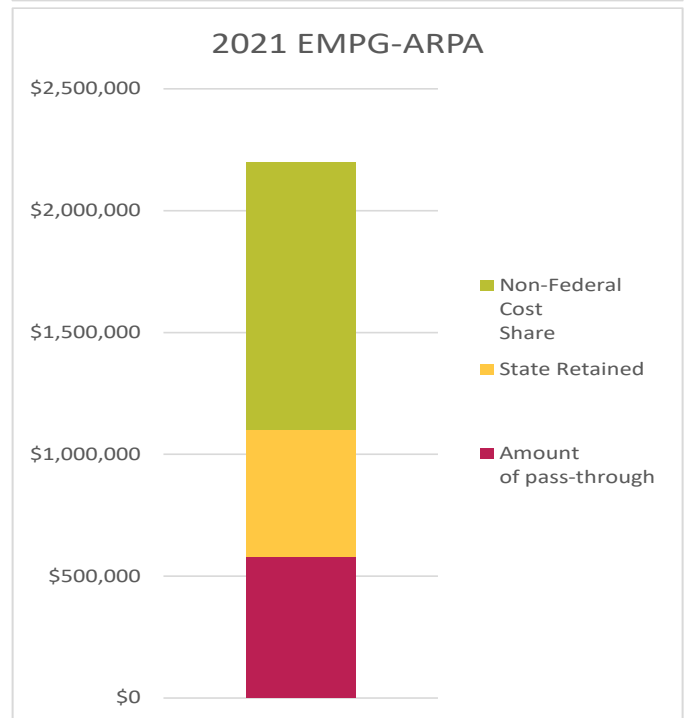
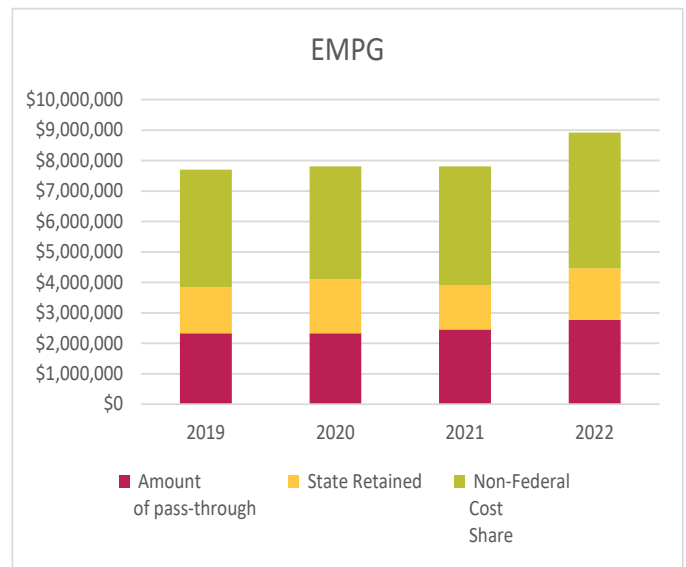
Emergency Management Preparedness Grant – American Rescue Plan Act (EMPG-ARPA) is a grant that requires a 50% cost match. This grant provides additional funding to applicable state, tribal, and local emergency management offices for reimbursement of operational expenses.

Nonprofit Security Grant Program – State

Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) provides funding to nonprofit organizations to prevent and protect against terrorist attacks. NEMA was able to assist multiple 501(c)(3) organizations with security enhancements including security cameras, monitoring services, active shooter training, blast proof windows, and access control systems.

Homeland Security Grant Program

The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) is a grant program that supports the US Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency's focus on enhancing the ability of state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism and other extremist attacks.

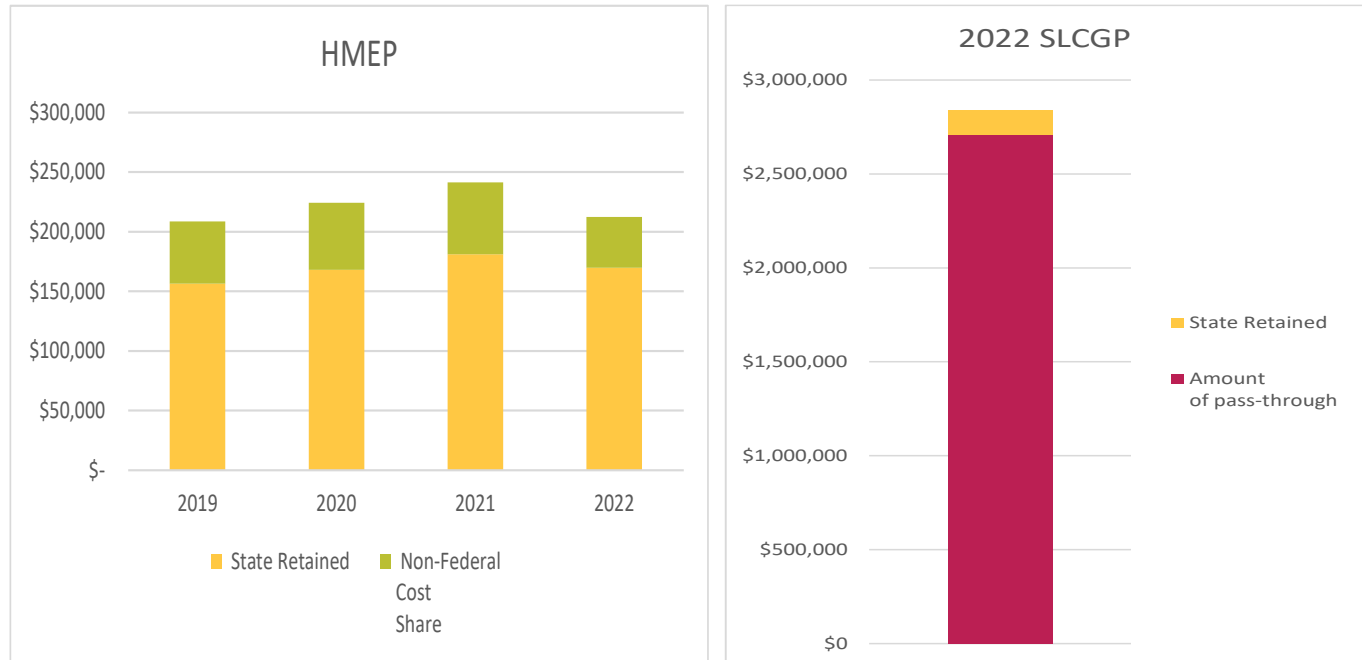


Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant

Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP) is funded by the US Department of Transportation and is a grant for States, Territories, and Indian Tribes. The funds are used to develop and improve emergency response plans and to conduct training of public sector employees who respond to emergencies.

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) helps eligible entities address cybersecurity risks and threats to information systems owned or operated by or on behalf of State, Local, Territorial and Tribal governments.

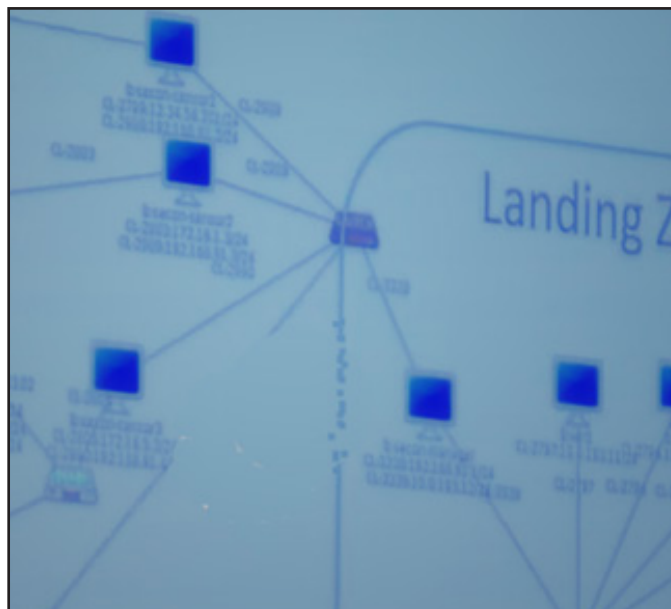


State Homeland Security Program Regional Allocations by Fiscal Year

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Adams County	\$20,000	--	--	--
City of Beatrice	--	--	--	--
East Central Region	\$438,399	\$446,522	\$492,996	\$953,597
Hall County	\$5,000	--	--	--
Lincoln County	\$20,000	\$338,913	\$331,000	\$336,900
North Central Region	\$297,031	\$131,463	\$181,565	\$107,672
Northeast Region	\$223,555	\$333,000	\$212,168	\$263,055
Panhandle Region	\$823,826	\$804,611	\$959,367	\$1,011,802
Platte County	\$20,000	--	--	--
Red Willow County	\$20,000	--	--	--
Region 11	\$20,000	--	--	--
Region 22	\$20,000	--	--	--
South Central Region	\$530,881	\$636,500	\$926,859	\$681,219
Southeast Region	\$139,400	\$379,357	\$322,420	\$167,110
Southwest Region	\$62,000	\$41,500	\$69,025	\$55,850
Tri-County Region	\$641,908	\$550,272	\$456,726	\$512,793

Information Technology and Communications Unit

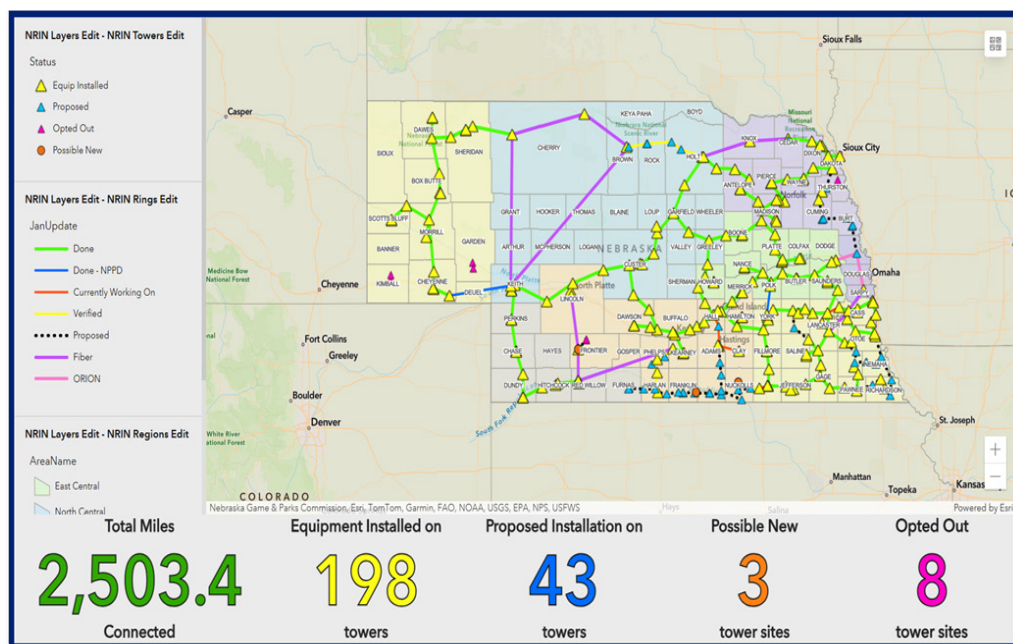
NEMA's Communications, Cybersecurity, and Information Technology staff support first responders and emergency management personnel during all phases of disaster planning and response. Multiple interoperable systems work together to ensure that local, state, and federal partners have access to voice and data services when needed. The Statewide Interoperability Coordinator serves as the single point of contact for the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet.) FirstNet is the nation's broadband communications network dedicated to the public safety community. When the state opted into FirstNet in 2018, FirstNet committed to build eight sites in Nebraska in the first five years and instead delivered more than 400. FirstNet has invested over \$175 Million in the FirstNet Nebraska network. In 2023, several new sites were established across the state. Nebraska is also one of the first states to have the initial build completed. The communications officer manages the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) for the state. IPAWS is FEMA's national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency and life-saving information to the public through mobile phones using Wireless Emergency Alerts, radio, and television via the Emergency Alert System, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Radio. NEMA and the Nebraska State Patrol, 21 counties, and 7 regions (an additional 31 counties) are authorized to send alerts. NEMA assists counties applying for alerting authority and provides access to CodeRED, the state's contracted IPAWS software solution.



Cyber Tatanka

NEMA staff participated in the Nebraska National Guard's 2nd annual cybersecurity exercise – Cyber Tatanka with participants from electric utilities, banking, education, and other industries and foreign partners. "Maintaining proper cybersecurity hygiene and providing training ensure that employees are well-equipped to protect their data, the agency's data, and shareholders' data from the hands of cybercriminals," said Nathaniel Smith, NEMA Information Technology Applications Developer.

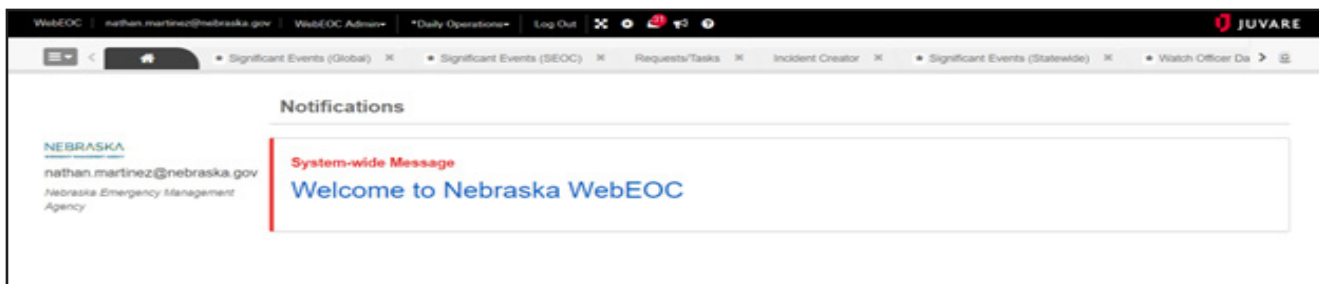
Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN)



NEMA managed the design and implementation of the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN).

This federally funded, locally owned and locally governed IP-routed system consists of microwaves and fiber-optic links, connecting public safety access points and 911 centers.

NRIN is also used by the Nebraska State Radio System for connectivity between system sites providing local first responders and emergency managers, via mutual aid base stations and dispatch systems.



During 2023, the NEMA IT department migrated all emergency/incident management systems to the Juvare WebEOC Incident Management/Crisis platform. This move was a large improvement over the previously used system.

The new platform allowed NEMA developer Nathaniel Smith to customize the system to meet NEMA's exact needs. The new WebEOC system also has a more modern look and feel. This system also provides a huge improvement to the agency's mobile capabilities.

Cybersecurity Grant Program

On September 16, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a first-of-its-kind cybersecurity grant program specifically for state, local, and territorial (SLT) governments across the country. The first year of eligibility for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant (SLCG) was 2023.

Both Sean Runge and Nathan Martinez of NEMA were invited to be on the Nebraska SLCG committee. They helped select and distribute funds totaling \$2,403,310 to local businesses, schools, utilities, and even towns and counties. This is a 4-year grant to bolster cybersecurity in the places that need it most across Nebraska. This grant helps Nebraskans by providing funding to communities that have historically found Cybersecurity unobtainable in the past.

This has helped Nebraska as a state prepare for future cyber threats. When asked about the grant, the NEMA IT Infrastructure Analyst had this to say. "I think it is great that we can help locals and especially schools and hospitals with Cybersecurity. Cybersecurity can feel very overwhelming, both technically and financially. It is awesome that Nebraskans have resources to help now."



Top left and right, NEMA's Nathan Martinez speaking to officials in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

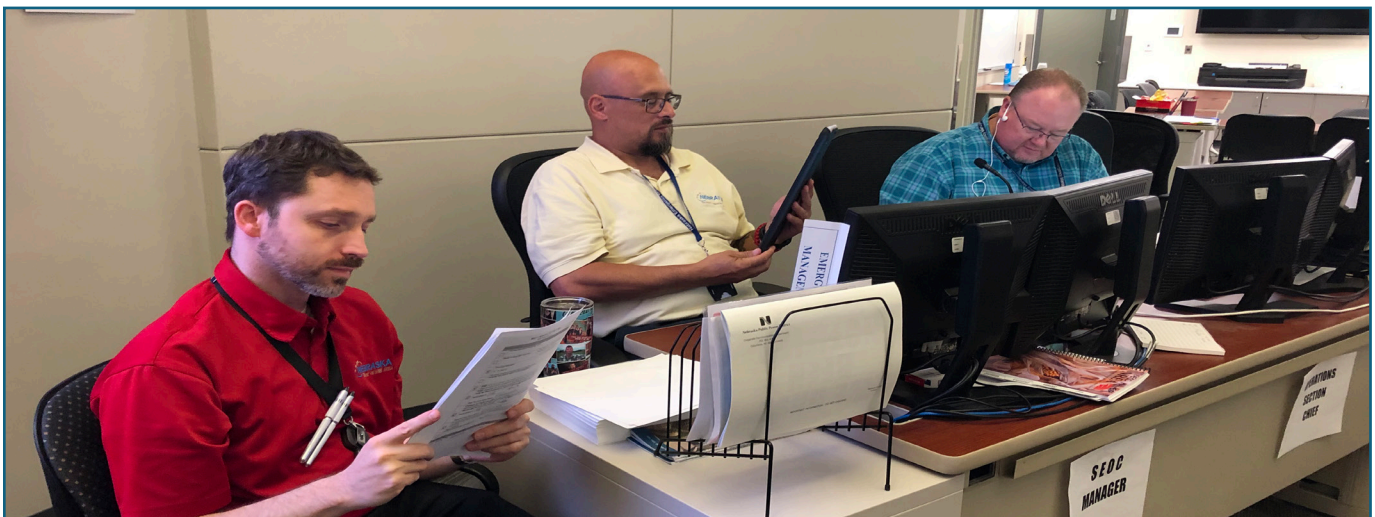
Technical Hazards

Nebraska has a significant radiological footprint that requires an extensive amount of planning, training and exercise activities each year for state and local fire departments, law enforcement agencies, hospitals, EMS, emergency management agencies, political leaders and non-governmental and faith-based organizations. Each organization must stand prepared to support a response to a radiological incident, accident, or event at all times. Comprehensive evaluations are conducted to ensure that each organization is prepared to meet the mission.

NEMA's Technical Hazards staff facilitates and implements the state's Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program with local partners and stakeholders, including Cooper Nuclear Station, Nemaha, Richardson and Otoe county departments and agencies, as well as the states of Missouri, Iowa and Kansas. The REP program outlines requirements for off-site emergency response organizations when responding to a radiological incident, accident or event involving a nuclear power plant.

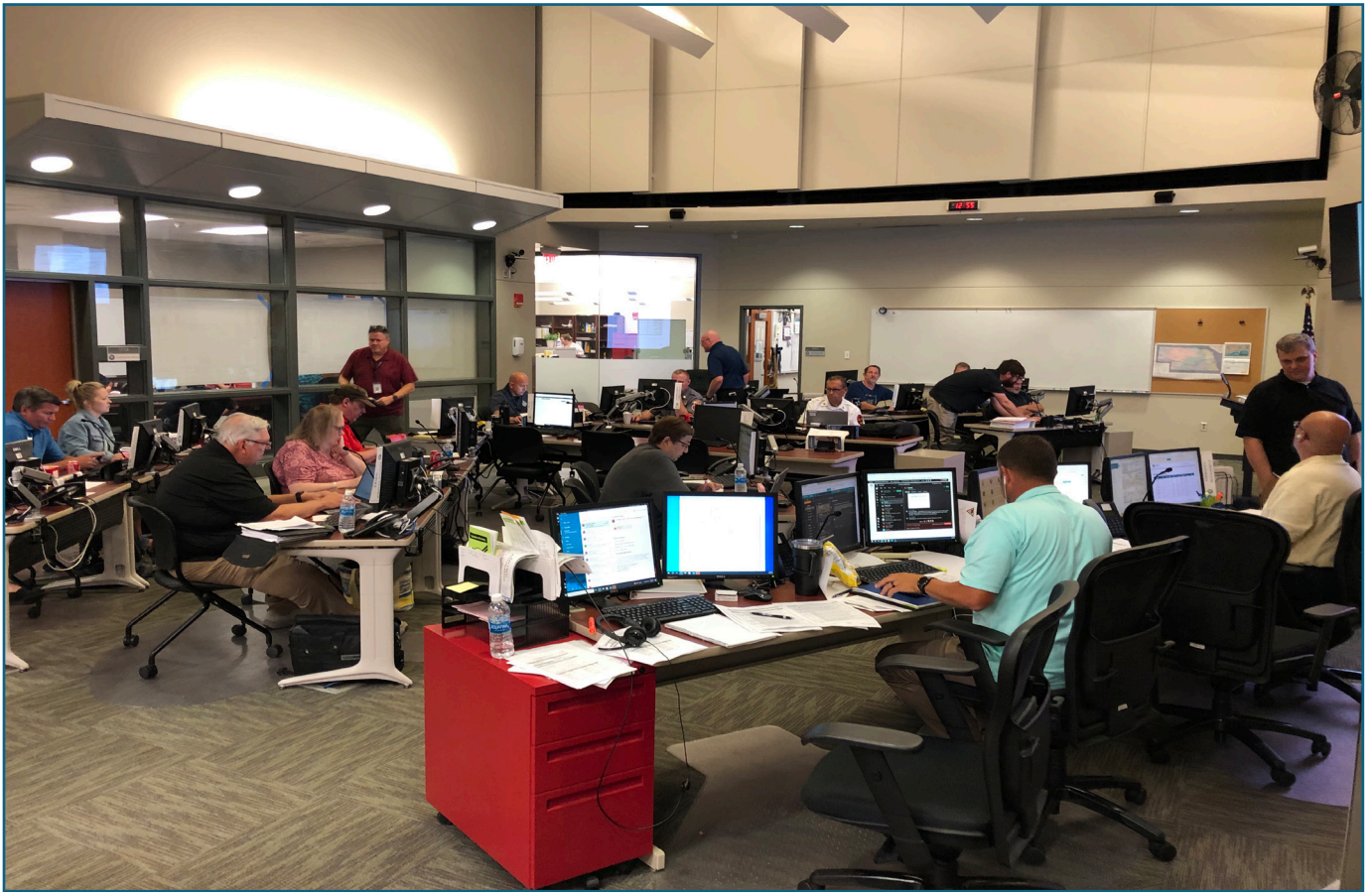
The Technical Hazards staff is also actively engaged in the Radioactive Materials Transportation Accident Plan and radiological legacy programs for fixed facilities, hospitals and medical facilities and mining.

Another benefit of the programs is that they give state departments and agencies, partners and stakeholders the opportunity to exercise together on a regular basis ensuring that everyone involved is better able to respond to any natural or man-made disaster that may occur in Nebraska. Command, control, communications and coordination between all levels of government, partner and stakeholders are routinely exercised, tested, and validated, further demonstrating the preparedness capabilities to protect the citizens of Nebraska.

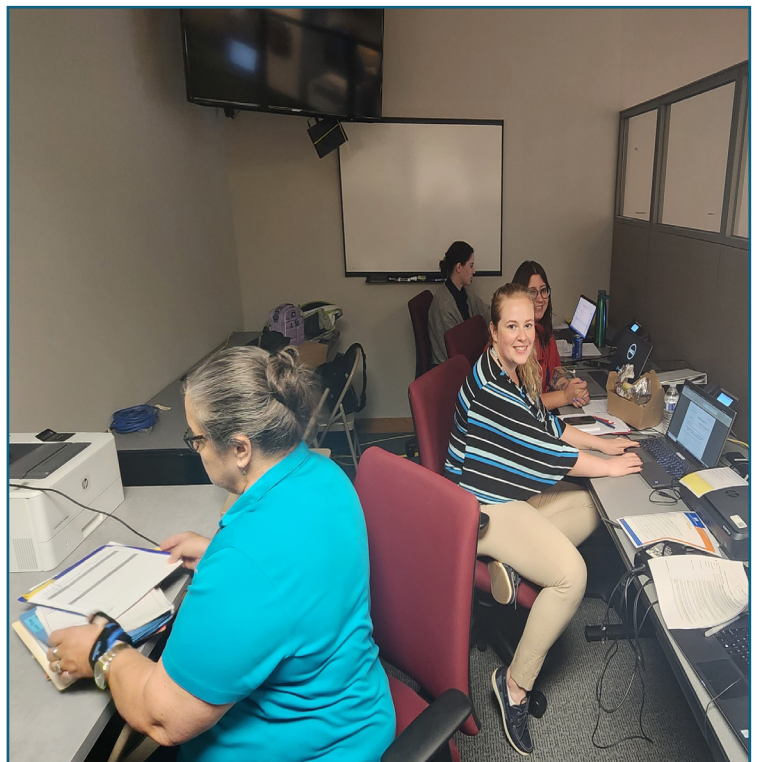


Above and Below, NEMA staff working through a REP exercise





Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff hold exercises throughout the year with county officials, representatives of Cooper Nuclear Station, other state agencies and the Federal Emergency Management Agency staff to test plans and procedures for a response in the event of an incident at the power plant located near Brownville in Southeast Nebraska.



State Watch Center

The State Watch Center, established at NEMA in 2016, is tasked with gathering information and intelligence on natural and man-made hazards and threats that may have potential, imminent, or ongoing impacts on the State of Nebraska. The State Watch Center disseminates daily situational briefings Monday through Friday—or more often, as conditions warrant—to more than 500 public safety stakeholders at all levels of local, state, and federal government—as well as partners in non-governmental organizations and private industry. Its purpose is to provide situational awareness about weather, incidents, and events, and available response resources within the state.

The State Watch Center provides stakeholder access to a live web-based dashboard, updated in real-time, as incidents, events, and weather conditions develop. This creates on-demand access to current information on threats, hazards, and incidents.

To ensure NEMA can maintain around-the-clock awareness of incidents, hazards, and events that may impact Nebraska or its resources, the State Watch Center maintains two full-time staff members and an off-hours watch officer system. On-call watch officers are responsible for monitoring incidents, events, weather alerts, and any communications from emergency managers or public safety entities during non-business hours.

The watch officers provide supplemental staffing to the State Watch Center during times when additional personnel are needed to monitor or respond to alerts, incidents, or events.

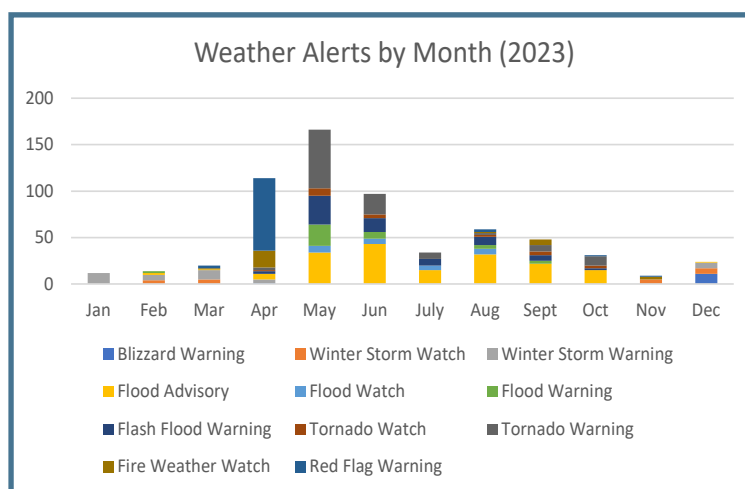
During the 2023 calendar year, 37 NEMA staff served as part of the rotating watch officer team. Incident Status Reports Local emergency managers complete an online incident status report (ISR) and send it to the State Watch Center to report on incidents/events that are occurring or expected, and to request additional resources to enhance local response efforts.

During 2023, the Watch Center received 192 incident status reports from local emergency managers. Of those, 109 were reports on wildfires.

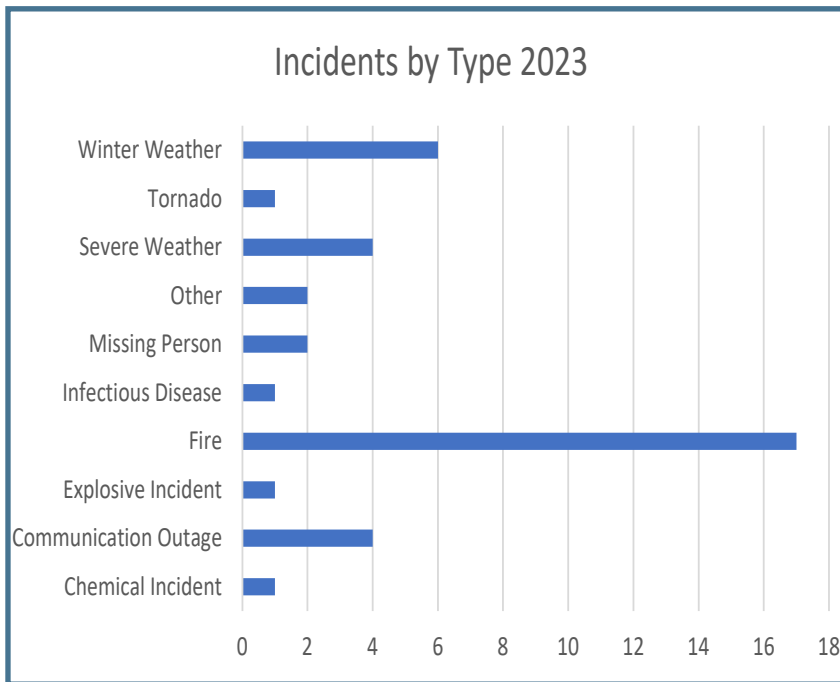
Incident Status Reports by Type	2023	2022
Wildfires	38	109
Flooding	6	4
Wind Damage	6	30
Tornadoes	17	4
Hail Damage	2	11
Power Outage	6	18
Hazardous Materials	52	20
Structure Fires	10	11
Ice Jams	0	1
Water Emergencies	1	1
Missing Persons	0	1

Incident Status Reports by Planning Exercise and Training Region	2023	2022
East Central	17	6
North Central/Sandhills	56	86
Northeast	34	33
Panhandle	9	17
South Central	29	33
Southeast	19	13
Southwest	8	3
Tri-County	13	1

Weather Alerts	2023	2022
Red Flag Warnings	86	193
Tornado Warnings	114	57
Flash Flood Warnings	73	23
Flood Warnings	39	10
Tornado Watches	22	17
Winter Storm Warnings	38	14
Blizzard Warnings	12	3



Incident/Event Logging and Tracking



NEMA utilizes an online system to track and log information related to threats, incidents, and events. In March 2023, NEMA migrated from Knowledge Center to WebEOC. NEMA and its federal, state, and local partners access the system to log inputs to events, as well as maintain situational awareness on actions taken by other stakeholders, reports received and resources requested.

With Web EOC, both state and local entities can create their own incident/event logs, as well as the ability to share that data. Both state and locals can create resource requests and pass those requests to the other. This gives visibility of what is needed for the entire state. The system also can have logging visible statewide or localized to their jurisdiction.

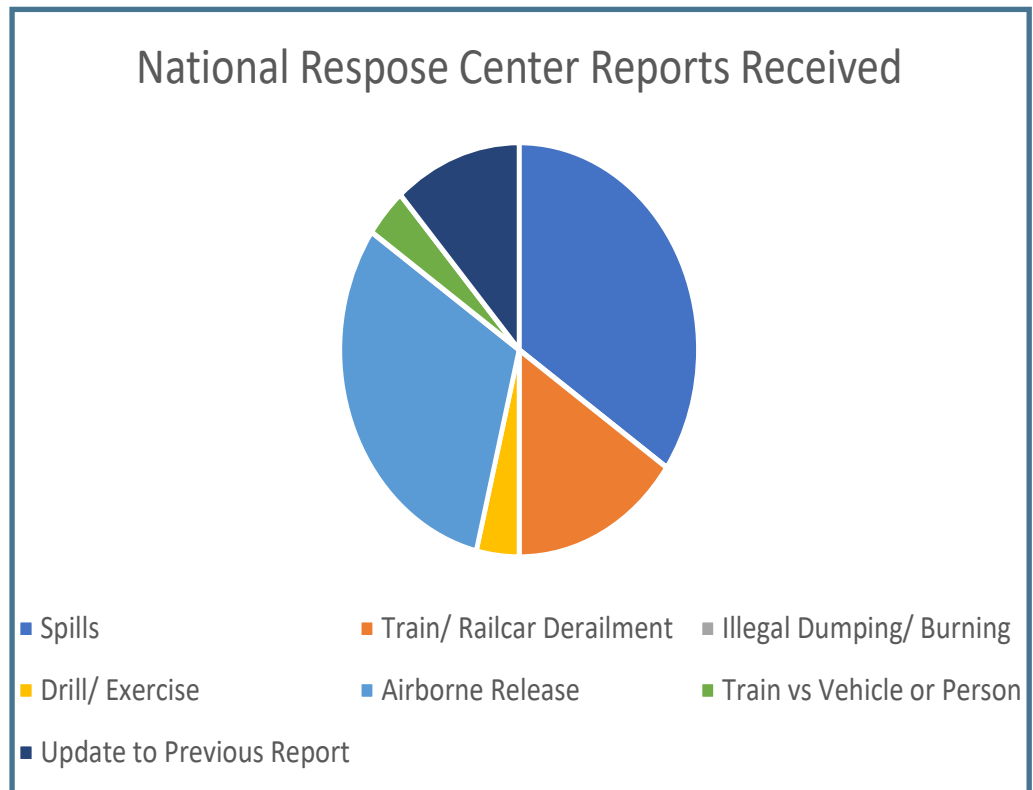
During 2023, state and local public safety entities created 144 WebEOC incident logs. These logs consisted of actual incidents, exercises, preplanned events, and training logs. Of those, 39 were created at the state level.

National Response Center Reports

The U.S. Coast Guard maintains a National Response Center (NRC), that reports on environmental emergencies related to oil and chemical spills, as well as any incidents or events that involve railroad infrastructure.

The State Watch Center receives a notification from the NRC any time there is a reportable incident or event in Nebraska. The information is then recorded in WebEOC and relayed to the relevant local emergency managers, for situational awareness of hazardous materials and railroad incidents that have occurred within their jurisdiction.

During 2023, the State Watch Center received 74 NRC reports.



2023 Wildfires

After wildfires started in six Nebraska counties on April 11, Governor Jim Pillen declared disasters in three of the six- Cherry, Garfield and Jefferson.

Local volunteer fire departments from Kilgore, Cody, Valentine and the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Nation in South Dakota were among the responders during the McCann Fire in Cherry County. Firefighters from U.S. Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Forest Service also responded. The fire started southwest of Kilgore and spread rapidly toward the community of Kilgore.

Jefferson County experienced one of its largest wildfires, the Rock Creek Fire. A Nebraska National Guard hand crew were among the firefighters who worked the fire.

The Lowry Fire in Garfield County destroyed 5 structures, including a storage building at the Rows Hydraulic Rake Manufacturing Plant near Burwell.

More than 75 firefighters from more than 30 departments worked the Waconda-Beaver Lake Complex Fire. Community members donated supplies including water and food to first responders.

The Cooksley Complex Fire burned from Custer to Blaine County. Dry lightning sparked seven additional fires. A large number of fire departments, aircraft and volunteers helped out.

All of the wildfires in 2023 were successfully contained by local communities with assistance from the State of Nebraska.

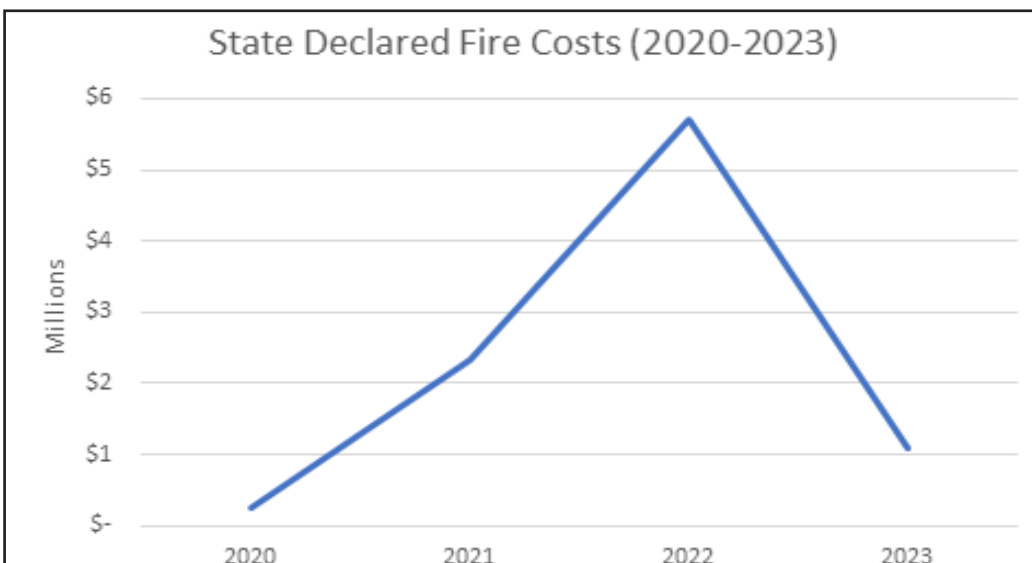


*Above photo: West of Anselmo on Highway 2
The Cooksley Complex Fire went as far north as the Middle Loup River in Blaine County; later that day, dry lightning sparked seven additional fires*



Year	# of Fires	Cost
2020	1	\$242,352
2021	4	\$2,324,861
2022	7	\$5,707,810
2023	5	\$1,083,425

Left photo: Waconda-Beaver Lake Complex Fire
More than 75 firefighters from more than 30 departments worked on the fire which started in Iowa. No structures or injuries were reported.



Above photo: McCann Fire
Multiple agencies worked to contain the wildfire in Cherry County. More than 7,000 acres burned.

The graph on the left shows state declared fire costs in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Fire Information

2023 Fire Name	Cost (all payments have been made)	Responding Entities	Acres Burned	Aerial Suppression	Out-of-State Resources	IMT or IMAT ³	Structures Damaged or Destroyed
Waconda/Beaver Lake—April 8	\$230,404	46	697	✓	✓	✓	0
McCann—April 11	\$348,269	35	7,040	✓	✓	✓	0
Rock Creek—April 11	\$251,942	42	1,800	✓	✓	✓	1
Lowery—April 11	\$64,671	7	4,691	✓	N/A	N/A	5
Cooksley—April 13	\$173,954,82	32	120,000	✓	N/A	N/A	0
Other Fires Reported to NEMA (###)	\$450,392	33	13,317 (est)	✓	✓	N/A	N/A
Total	\$1,519,634	162	146,848 (est)	✓	✓	✓	6

Specific fires listed above were state declared incidents, opening up the Governor's Emergency Fund for reimbursement. The number of entities listed are agencies that responded with equipment. Over the 5 state declared incidents, those entities put in a combines 7,772 hours of equipment time.

** This includes the Single Engine Air Tankers, state contracted aerial applicators, and Civil Air Patrol flights

Incident Management Team (IMT) Facts

Nebraska IMT or IMAT ¹ Deployments	Six: Votaw Road Fire, Road 739 Fire, Road 702 Fire, Carter Canyon Fire; Smokey Fire, Bovee Fire
IMT Members ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Agency Representatives (NEMA, State Fire Marshal Agency, Nebraska Forest Service) Local Emergency Managers and other partners
Additional Partners to the IMT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Emergency Managers and other partners Wildland Incident Response and Assistance Team (WIRAT) Nebraska National Guard (Air and Ground Support) Nebraska State Patrol Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Civil Air Patrol National Weather Service U.S. Forest Service
Non-profits and Other Partners who Assisted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nebraska Preparedness Partnership Nebraska Cattlemen Association Nebraska Farm Bureau

¹ An Incident Management Assistance Team is comprised of command and general staff requested to support a local incident commander.

² All IMT Members have been trained in specific support functions, such as planning, logistics, operations, communications or other areas.



Above: Damage from Rock Creek Fire

Nebraska Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) Program

2023 marked the tenth year of the Nebraska SEAT program, where the State of Nebraska contracts a dedicated aerial fire suppression aircraft to be stationed in Nebraska. The ongoing need for this aircraft has been demonstrated repeatedly over the last ten years, as the typical response time to get the aircraft in the air is 15 minutes from initial call.

Due to the heavy fire activity in April, 2023, the SEAT was brought on station on April 13, 2023 and remained in Nebraska through August 9, 2023, for a total of 109 operational days.

SEAT DATA	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL	AVERAGE
Operational Days	113	105	184	109	511	128
Fires Flown	24	26	37	4	91	23
Flight Hours	70	68	133	20	290	73
Gallons Dropped	81,569	56,033	140,440	12,194	290,236	72,559
Total Cost	\$399,235	\$630,890	\$1,465,151	\$448,074	\$2,943,352	\$735,838

The effectiveness of the SEAT program can clearly be demonstrated by comparing similar Nebraska wildfires; one wildfire prior to the SEAT program versus a wildfire the SEAT responded to.

2007: No SEAT	2016: Nebraska SEAT
Fire near Henderson	Fire near Henderson
1,000 acres burned	50 acres burned
Incident Duration: 96 hours	Incident duration: 30 hours
Labor cost: \$395,808	Labor cost: \$28,272
Engine cost: \$480,000	Engine cost: \$56,250
SEAT cost: (not applicable)	SEAT cost: \$13,700
TOTAL: \$875,808	TOTAL: \$98,222



Above: Nebraska National Guard helicopter assisting in response to the Rock Creek Fire which damaged one home; over 12,600 gallons of water was dropped over the wildfire

Planning, Exercise and Training

NEMA's Planning, Exercise, Training Unit oversees the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP), Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR), State Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), the Continuity of Government Plan (COG), the Integrated Preparedness Plan and regular revisions of the county local emergency operations plans (LEOPs).

BOLDplanning, an online planning and collaboration platform, was introduced by NEMA to help streamline the planning process for local communities. It is provided to counties at no charge.

BOLDplanning allows for real-time updates and a mobile viewing format for the plan. It allows multiple individuals to view the plan at different locations. This provides the ability for local jurisdictions to respond more effectively during an emergency.

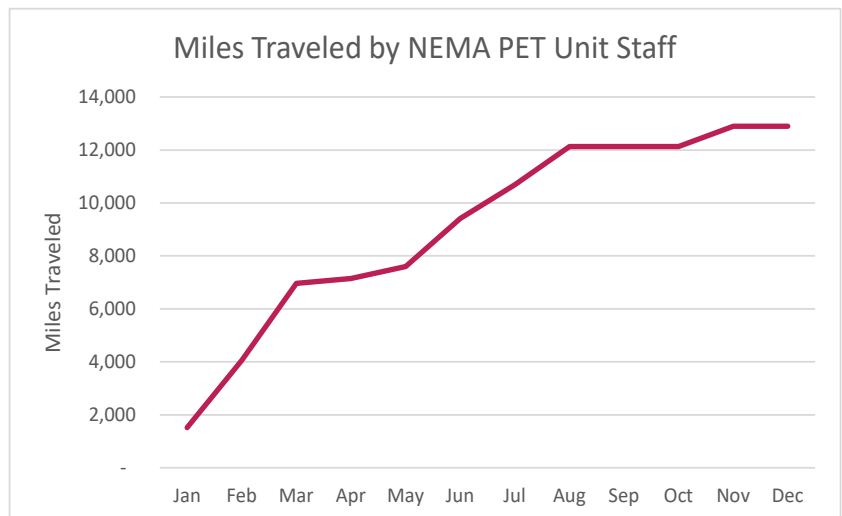
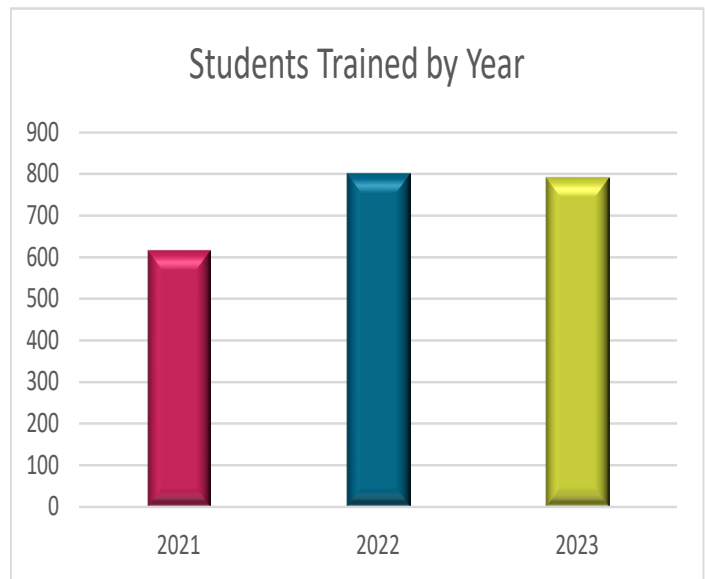
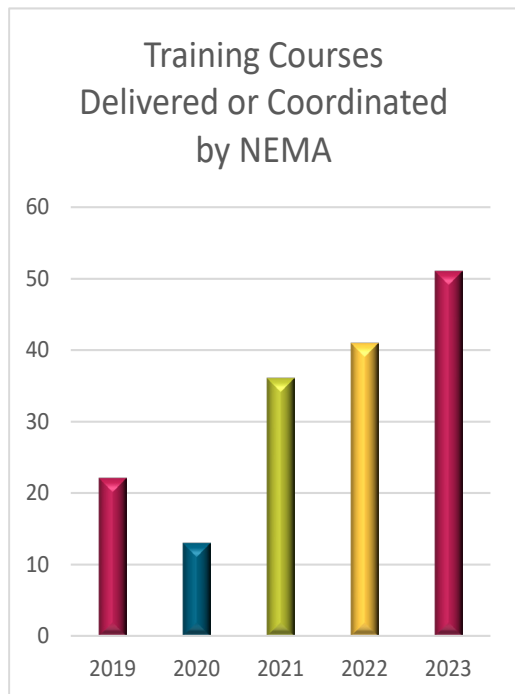
NEMA continues to establish a level of training in compliance with Department of Homeland Security and Nebraska statute requirements. This includes the encouraged use of courses created by FEMA, via both independent study and classroom instruction.

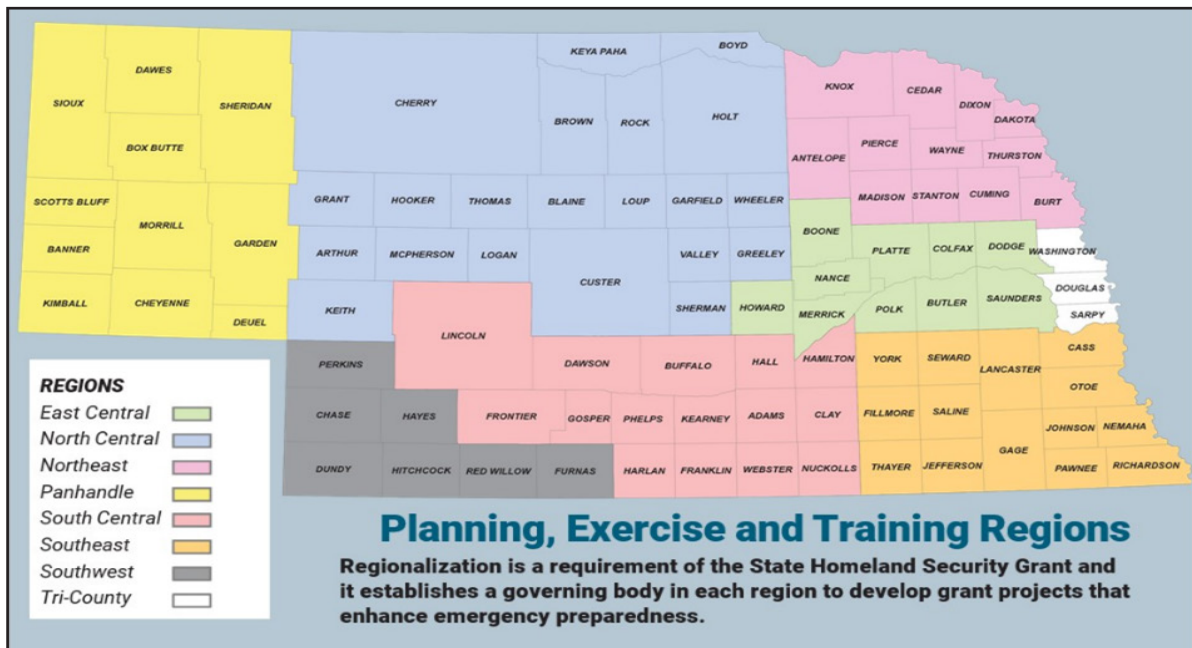
Classroom courses include those that are position specific, intended to be the starting point for those individuals who wish to become credentialed through the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS is a national standard with a shared vocabulary, system and process for successfully responding to a disaster and which culminates in the completion of a task book.

These task books identify the competencies, behaviors and tasks that personnel must demonstrate in order to become qualified for a defined incident management and support position.

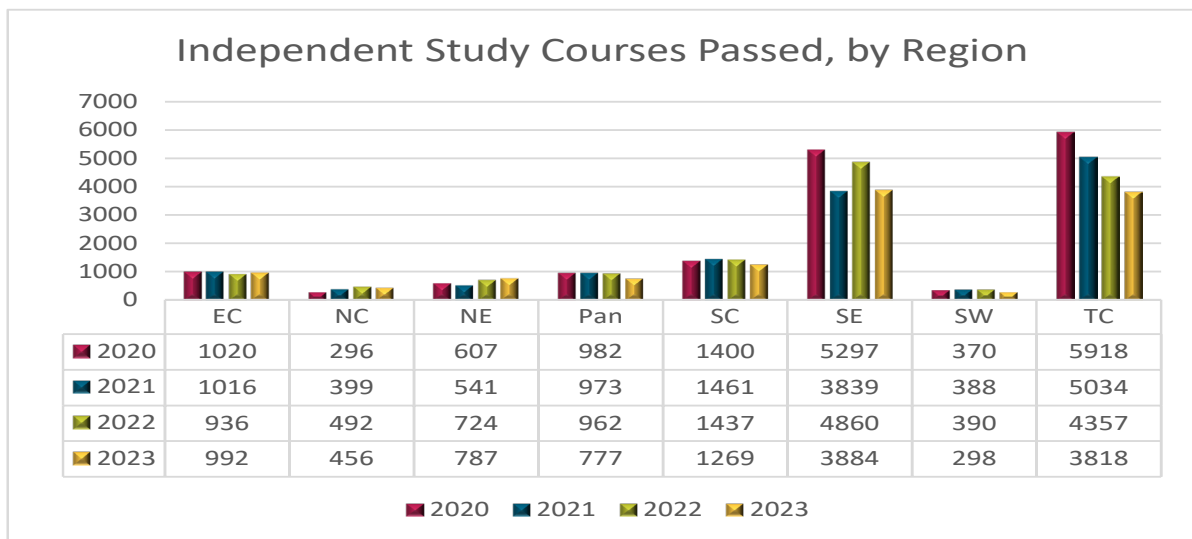
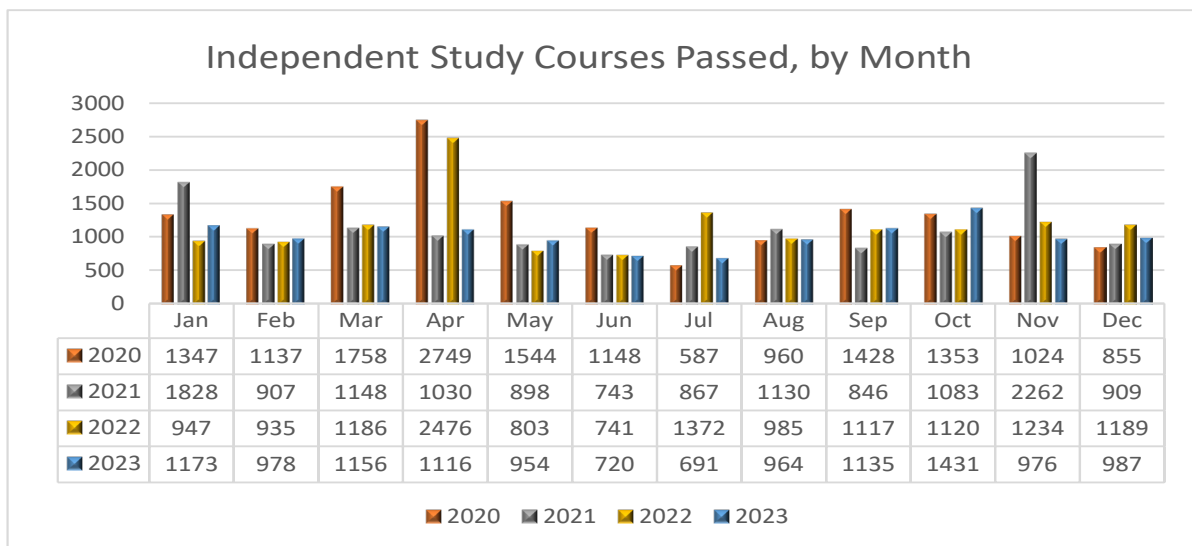
The Qualifications Review Board (QRB) examines applications for certification of Position Specific Task Books and makes recommendations to the adjutant general for approval or remediation. The QRB is comprised of the Planning, Exercise and Training Unit supervisor, credentialed Incident Command System (ICS) instructors, representatives from the Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency, the Nebraska Forest Service, a local emergency manager and a local fire chief.

Since 2011, 396 students have completed incident management position specific courses. Of those, approximately 10% have gone on to become certified in Incident Management Team (IMT) positions. Task book credentialing is important to the development and continued growth of the Nebraska Type 3 IMT. Nebraska's development of a Type 3 IMT saves a significant amount of tax dollars by eliminating the need to bring in IMTs from other states. Training continues to expand the number of credentialed individuals eligible to become members of the IMT.





Above: Planning, Exercise and Training Regions



Public Assistance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, provides funding through the Public Assistance (PA) grant program to reimburse local, state, tribal, and territorial governments and select private non-profits for costs associated with response and recovery efforts caused by disasters. Only damaged public infrastructure is eligible for reimbursement under this program. The State of Nebraska, through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), is the Recipient under the Public Assistance grant. The Recipient is responsible for administering the program within the state and for disbursing obligated funding accordingly as a pass-through entity. Eligible

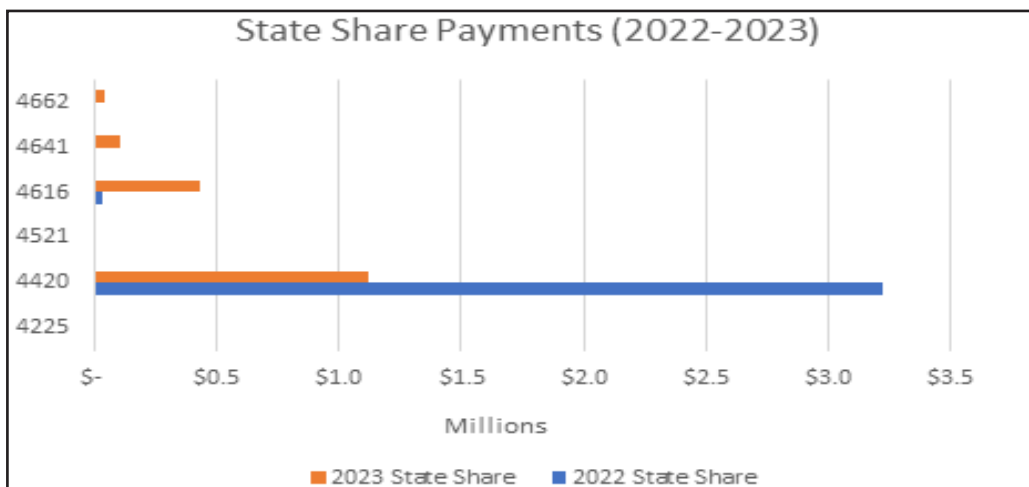
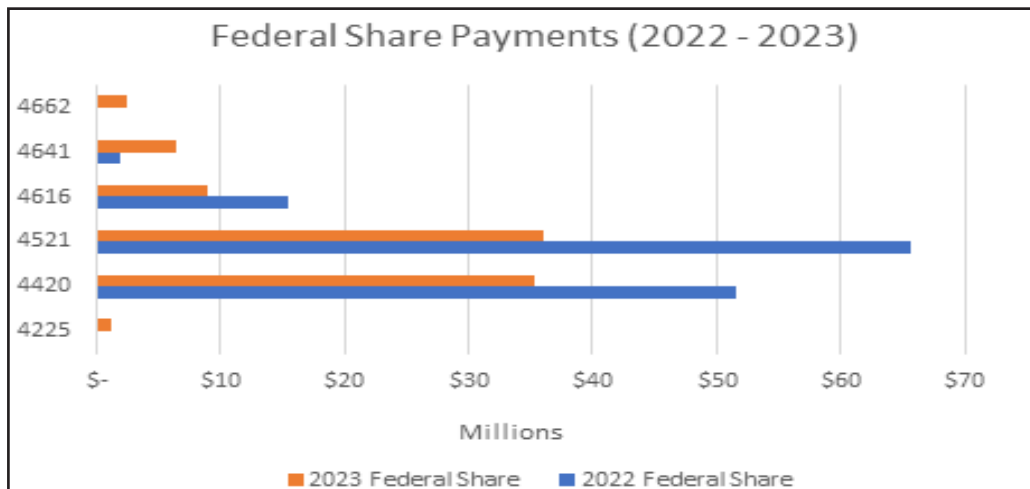
applicants are sub-recipients of the grant. The Public Assistance (PA) Unit at NEMA coordinates project obligation efforts between FEMA and sub-recipients to ensure the scope of work of each project is aligned with programmatic regulations and accurately addresses the sub-recipient's recovery needs. To ensure programmatic alignment and addressing sub-recipient concerns, the PA Unit is responsible for closing out each project and sub-recipient. In 2023, the PA Unit was comprised of a staff of 7 individuals. Those individuals were able to closeout 716 individual projects and 159 sub-recipients (meaning ALL the projects the eligible entity had were completed and closed out).

Federal Share Payments made in 2022

Disaster	2022	2023
4225 – Severe Storms	\$40,456	\$1,288,262
4420 – Floods	\$51,640,396	\$35,353,179
4521 – COVID-19	\$65,620,824	\$36,086,590
4616 – Severe Storms	\$15,443,643	\$9,018,874
4616 – Severe Storms	\$1,942,754	\$6,494,116
4662 – Severe Storms	\$213,324	\$2,434,992

State Share Payments made in 2022

Disaster	2022	2023
4225 – Severe Storms	\$0	\$0
4420 – Floods	\$3,221,295	\$1,121,371
4521 – COVID-19	\$0	\$0
4616 – Severe Storms	\$36,886	\$432,877
4616 – Severe Storms	\$8,700	\$111,561
4662 – Severe Storms	\$0	\$42,044



DR-4641

Nebraska Disaster Update

Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds and Tornadoes —

Declaration Date: Dec. 15, 2021

25 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

17 Applicants

59 Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$10,130,611

Obligated Federal Share
\$9,181,147

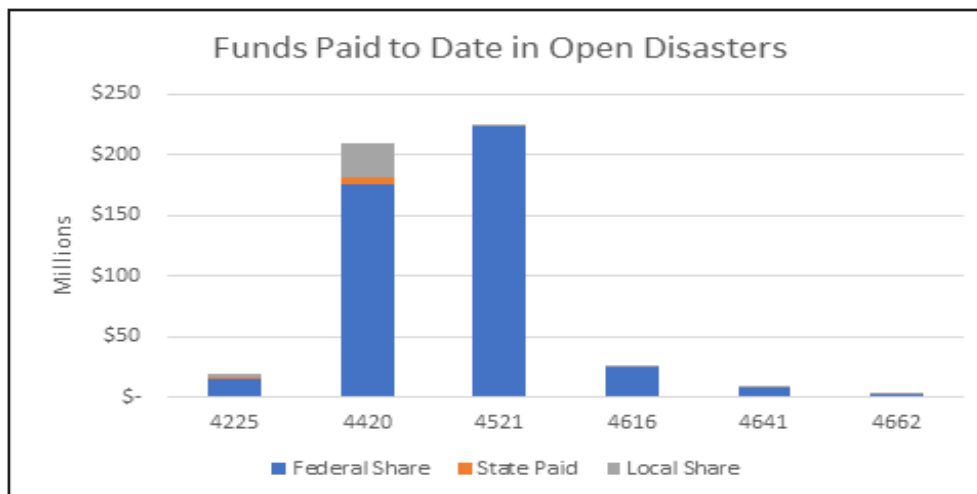
13 Applicants Closed

51 Projects Closed

Project obligation is a commitment on behalf of the awarding agency (FEMA) to have funding available for drawdown at the time the grantee (NEMA) determines the sub-grantee has provided enough documentation to establish the project is compliant with all grant program requirements. *The declaration date is when the Governor signed the state disaster proclamation.

Funds Paid by December 31, 2023

Disaster	Federal Share	State Share*	Local Share	Disaster Declaration Date
4225 — Severe Storms	\$14,945,005	\$2,019,423	\$2,826,010	June 25, 2015
4420 — Floods	\$176,517,845	\$5,538,789	\$28,033,146	March 21, 2019
4521 — COVID-19	\$223,594,390	\$0	\$1,152,241	April 4, 2020
4616 — Severe Storms	\$24,507,001	\$469,763	\$1,498,474	Sept.6, 2021
4641 — Severe Storms	\$8,436,870	\$120,261	\$485,191	Feb. 23, 2022
4662 — Severe Storms	\$2,648,317	\$42,044	\$1,606,401	July 27, 2022



*State share is paid after projects have been inspected by NEMA and closed by FEMA. Local Share and State Share will not equal each other as certain projects and entities are not eligible for a State Share.

DR-4662

Nebraska Disaster Update

Severe Storms and Straight-line Winds —

Declaration Date: July 27, 2022

20 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

19 Applicants

56 Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$13,259,146

Obligated Federal Share
\$10,040,297

6 Applicants Closed

14 Projects Closed

*Project obligation is a commitment on behalf of the awarding agency (FEMA) to have funding available for drawdown at the time the grantee (NEMA) determines the sub-grantee has provided enough documentation to establish the project is compliant with all grant program requirements. *The declaration date is when the Governor signed the state disaster proclamation.*

DR-4616

Severe Storms and Straight-line Winds —

Declaration Date: September 6, 2021

20 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

21 Applicants

65 Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$31,405,775

Obligated Federal Share
\$28,356,405

3 Applicants Closed

31 Projects Closed

DR-4521

Nebraska Disaster Update

COVID-19 Pandemic –
Declaration Date: April 4, 2020

93 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

Obligated Project Cost
\$302,651,163

Obligated Federal Share
\$301,498,922

64 Applicants

81 Applicants Closed

529 Projects Obligated

280 Projects Closed

DR-4420

Severe Winter Storm, Straight-line Winds and Flooding –
Declaration Date: March 21, 2019

84 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

Obligated Project Cost
\$570,354,609

Obligated Federal Share
\$515,578,395

514 Applicants

56 Applicants Closed

2,083
Projects Obligated

965 Projects Closed

Hazard Mitigation

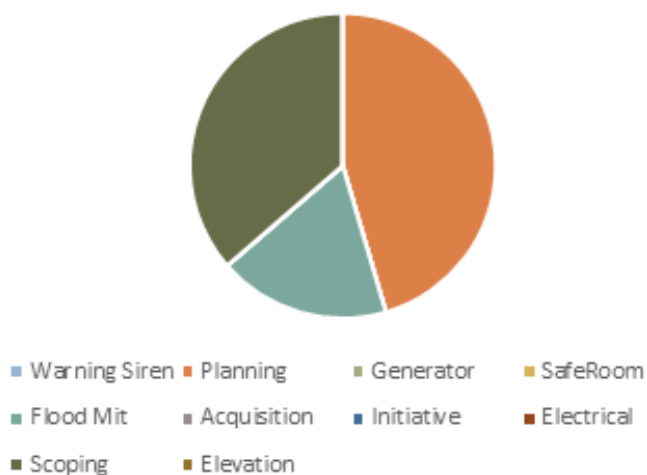
The NEMA Hazard Mitigation Unit is responsible for maintaining the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, reviewing local multi-jurisdiction hazard mitigation plans and facilitating the hazard mitigation grant program (HMGP) and building resilient infrastructure in communities (BRIC) grant program. The unit is responsible for providing technical assistance to local communities on application development, site visits, project final inspections and closeouts.

In 2023 the HM Unit was comprised of three (3) Program Specialists, the Deputy State Hazard Mitigation Officer and the State Hazard Mitigation Officer. This team was responsible for reimbursing \$5,670,917.00 in Federal Share and managing \$42,416,496.02 Federal dollars throughout 8 grants.

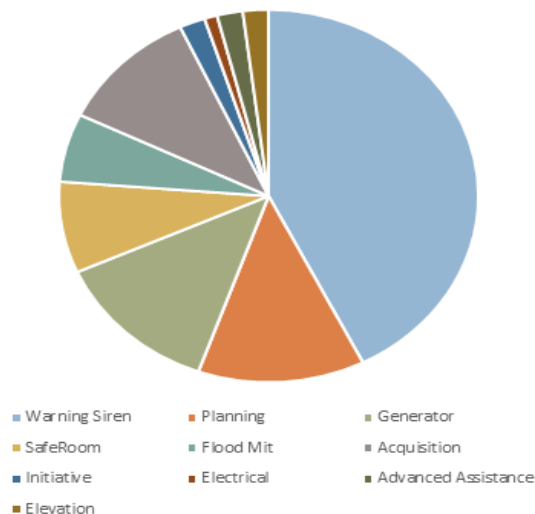


Top two: NEMA's Marisa Alvares and Rebecca Blizzard inspecting sirens with Region 21 Emergency Manager, Ronald Leal.

Non-Disaster Grant Projects Since 2020

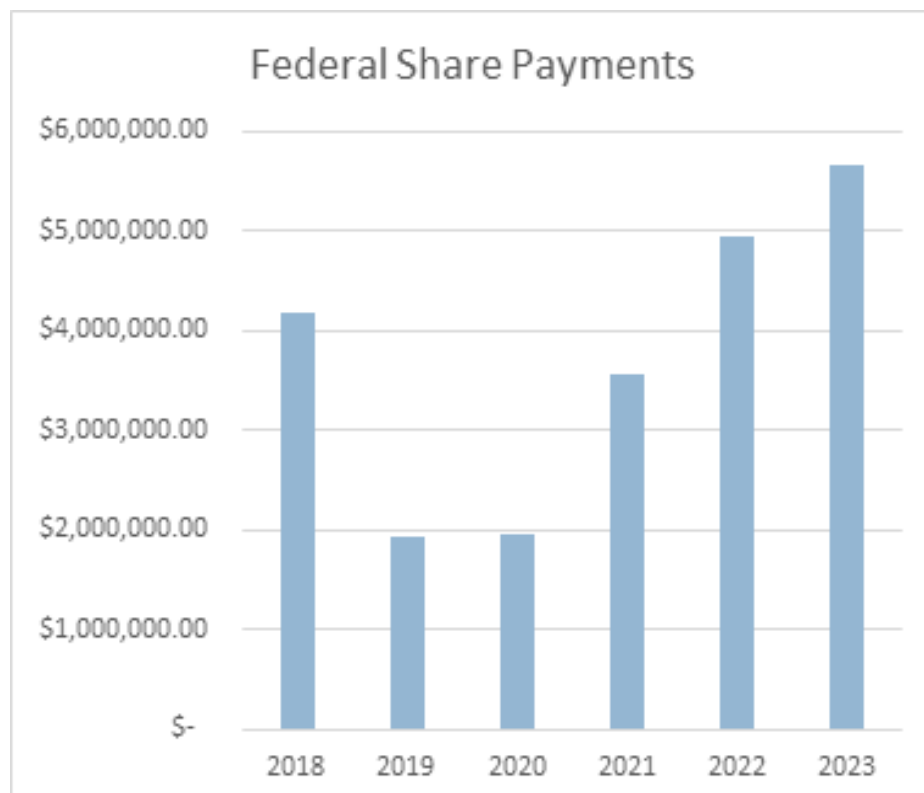
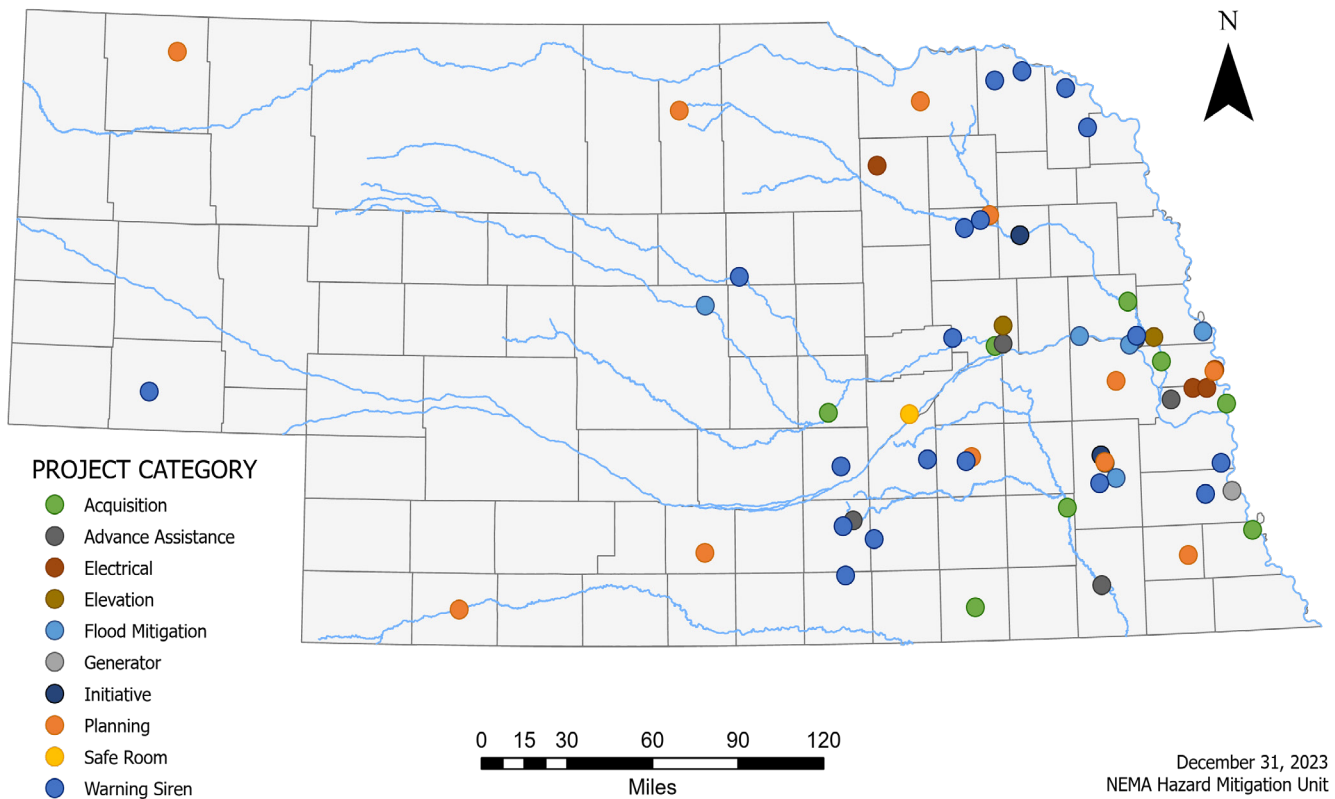


Disaster Projects Worked on Since 2015



Hazard Mitigation Statistics	
New Disasters	0
New Grants (BRIC)	1
Disasters Closed/Pending Closeout	2
Active Grants	8
Individual Active Projects	61
HMA Paid Out 2023	\$5,670,917
Individual Projects Closed/Pending Closeout	11
Projects Approved in 2023	22
Dollars (Fed Share) Approved in 2023	\$3,029,962
Total Federal Share	\$42,416,496

Active Hazard Mitigation Projects



Nebraska Citizen Corps

Nebraska Citizen Corps engages and leverages local networks of volunteers to serve their neighbors and communities in all phases of disaster events to make their areas safe, strong and resilient. Nebraska Citizen Corps consists of four primary programs:

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) educate the public about disaster preparedness and train volunteers in such things as fire safety, light search and rescue, and first aid, to provide additional support to professional responders.



Fire Corps works to help fire/EMS departments by engaging with community members, assisting with non-emergency tasks like fire prevention and life safety education, installing smoke alarms, writing grants, and managing social media, among many others.



Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) trains for, and responds to, emergencies while also actively supporting preparedness initiatives. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals and members of the public who want to simply improve the health and safety of their community.



Neighborhood Watch connects citizens with local law enforcement to work jointly in community crime prevention and reduction efforts.

Working in close proximity with Nebraska Citizen Corps are many nonprofit and nongovernment organizations that assist in times of disasters, including:



Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NEVOAD): Comprised of existing voluntary agencies, this organization works to foster more effective responses to the people of Nebraska in times of disaster through cooperation, coordination, communication, and collaboration.

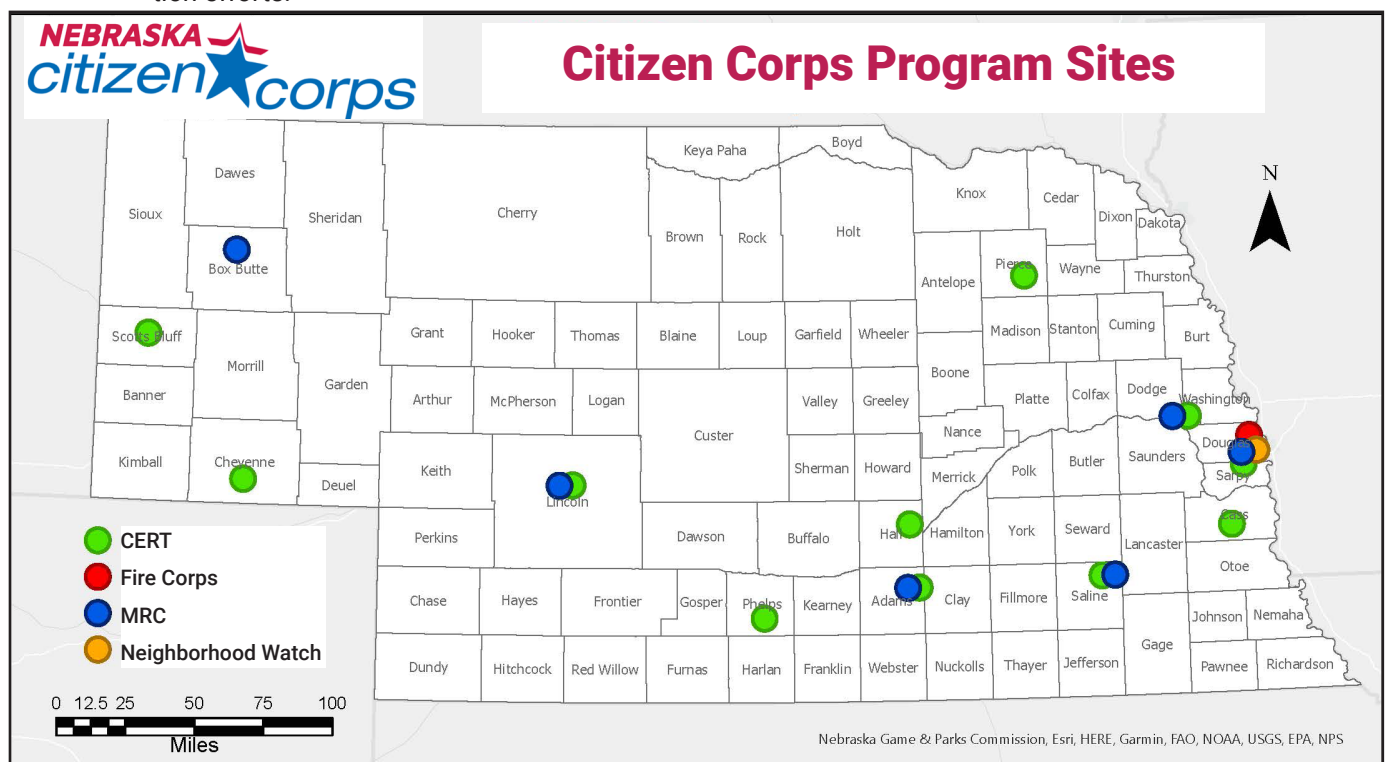
NEVOAD

Each member organization maintains its own identity and independence, yet works closely with other agencies to improve service and eliminate unnecessary duplication of efforts in times of disaster.

Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD): COADS are organizations, based within a community or geographic area, which are composed of representatives from public, private and non-profit agencies. This organization provides a platform for addressing unmet needs groups in their communities in the event of a disaster event.

Together Nebraska Citizen Corps, VOADs and COADs strengthen the efforts of long-term recovery.

Long-Term Recovery is the continued process of a community preparing for disasters from a post-disaster lens. Within the phases of emergency management, Long-Term Recovery is the connecting link between recovery and mitigation.



State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

- Support and assist the planning and preparedness efforts for hazardous materials and chemical-related disaster and emergency events
- Facilitate the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA)
- Assist and support local emergency planning committees (LEPCs)



Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE)

Department of Transportation (NDOT)

Nebraska State Patrol (NSP)

Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

NEMA- SERC Coordinator

NDEE- SERC Coordinator of Information

Appointed Positions

Municipal Government

Local Elected Official

Firefighters

Local Emergency Management

Public Health

Environmental Protection

Labor

School District

Small Business

Agriculture Business

Chemical Industry

Highway Transportation

Rail Transportation

Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC)

- Develop, monitor, assess and integrate hazmat plans with other local emergency operations, response and continuity plans.
- Educate the public on hazmat and chemical awareness and protocols.
- Track hazmat and chemical inventories supplied, produced and transported by local industry to or through the community.

Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team (NHIT)



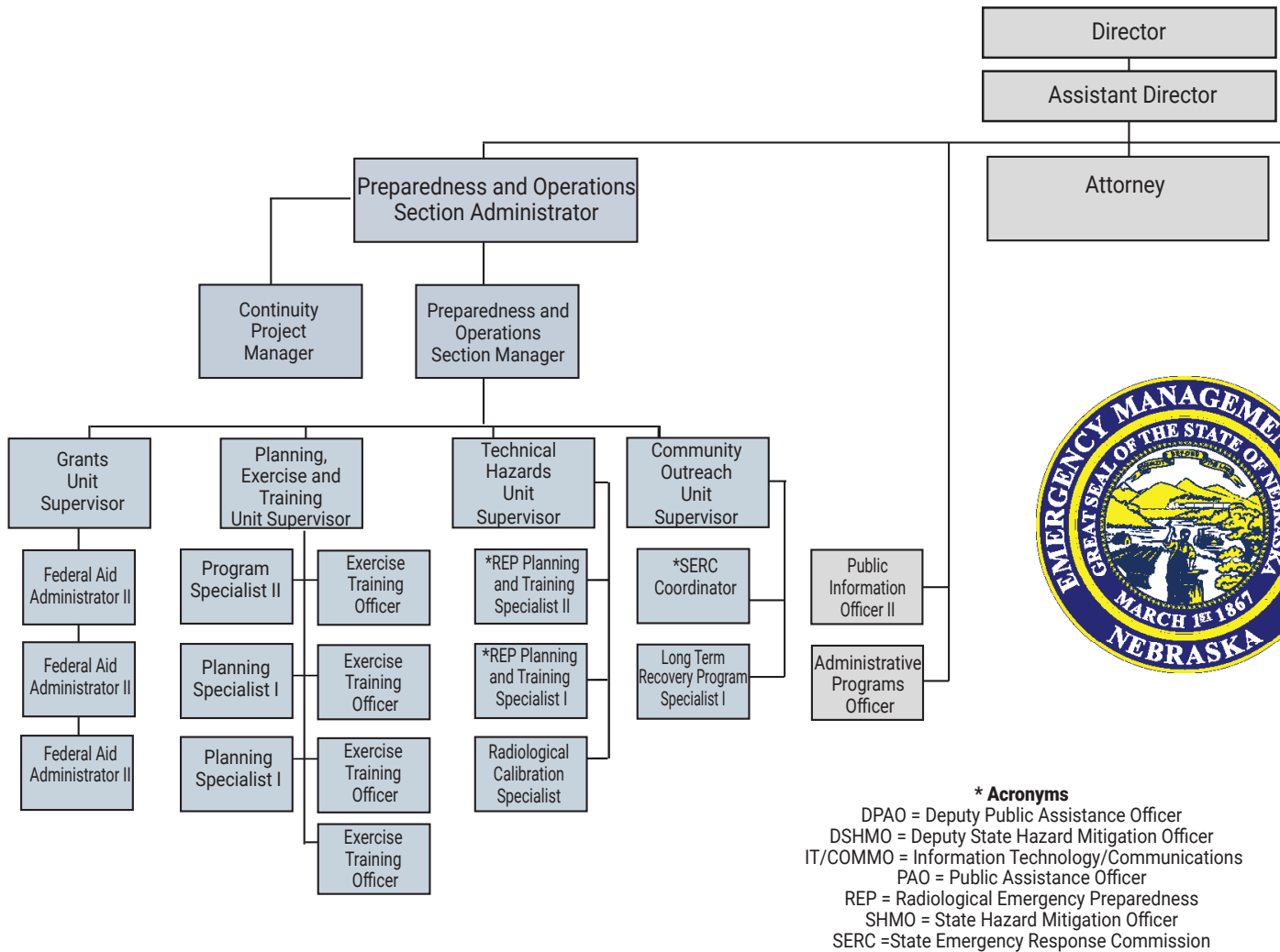
- NHIT is comprised of members of the Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency, the Nebraska State Patrol and Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.
- Individuals assist local and county officials acting as a liaison for additional resources and are trained as hazmat technicians.

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Resources.
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY



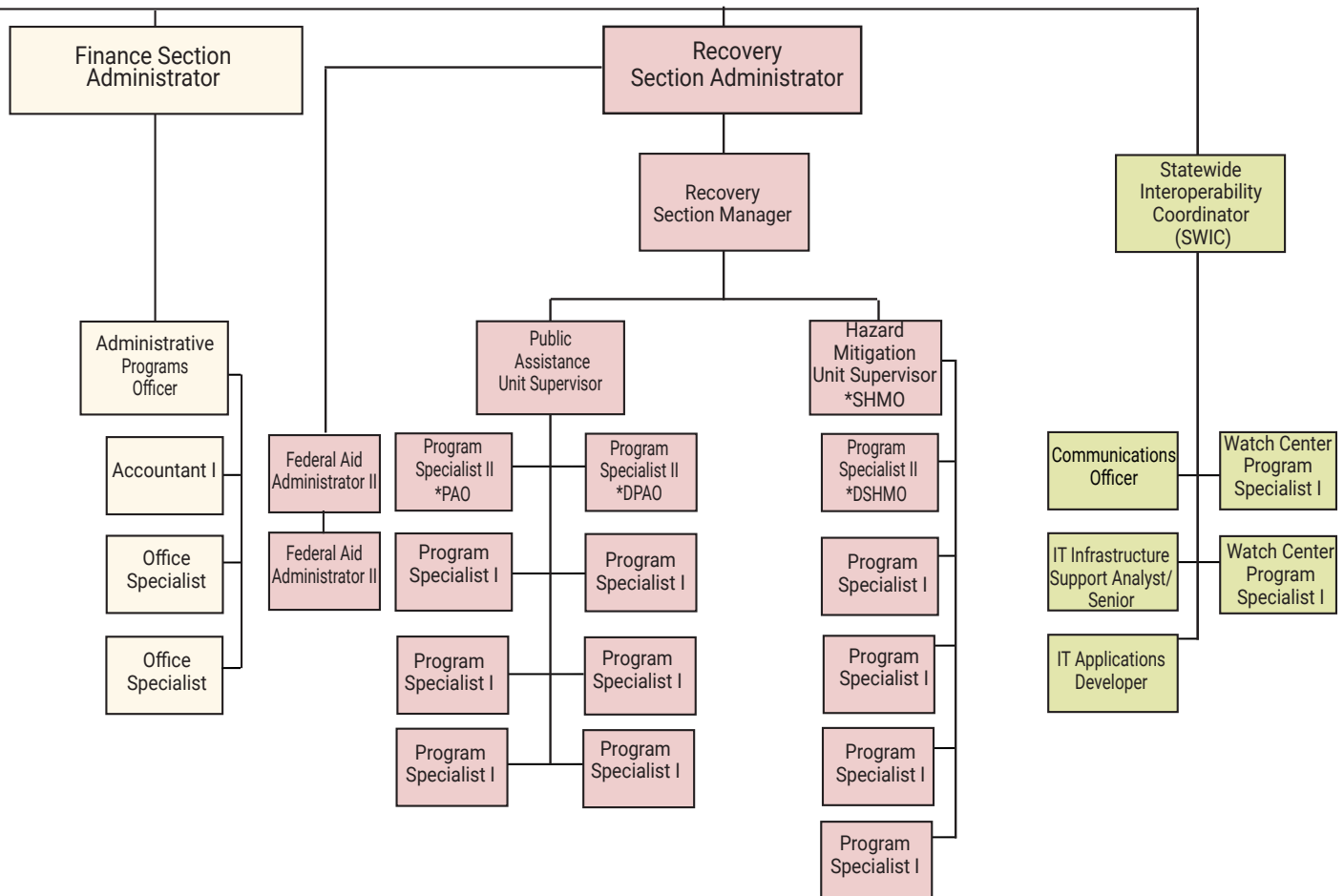
9 Hazmat State Emergency Response Teams (SERT)

- These nine agencies are critical in responding all over Nebraska to hazmat incidents beyond local jurisdictions' capability.
- All members of these teams must complete at least, hazardous materials technician level training (80 hours), with additional yearly course refresher training and education.



Several people attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Wastewater Treatment Plant in Plattsmouth. In attendance was Mayor Paul Lambert, City Administrator Emily Bausch, and former City Administrator/Assistant Director of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Erv Portis along with other officials. Floodwater in 2019 damaged most of the city's critical piece of infrastructure.

NEMA Organizational Chart



NEMA's Josh Yox helping with a course called STOP THE BLEED; the training materials are specially developed to teach bleeding control techniques

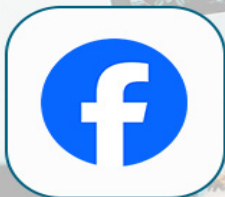


A state training committee brings together several NEMA staff members and local emergency managers

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. For additional information about the annual report, other agency publications or to be added to the agency email list for news releases and publications, contact the public information officer at 402-471-7428 or katrina.sperl@nebraska.gov.

Governor Jim Pillen
State Homeland Security Director,
Lt. Gov. Joe Kelly
NEMA Director,
Major General Craig Strong
Assistant Director Erv Portis
Mailing Address: 2433 N.W. 24th St.,
Lincoln, NE 68524
Main Number: 402-471-7421

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