



2024
Annual Report

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Cover and Contents page, damage from Arbor Day tornadoes.

Our Vision

A resilient Nebraska built upon collaboration and communication.

Our Mission

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

Our Values and Goals

Community – 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 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.

Below, FEMA officials, NEMA's Sean Runge and Brent Curtis, Lt. Governor Joe Kelly and National Guard members meet before assessing damage over the hardest hit areas after the April tornadoes.

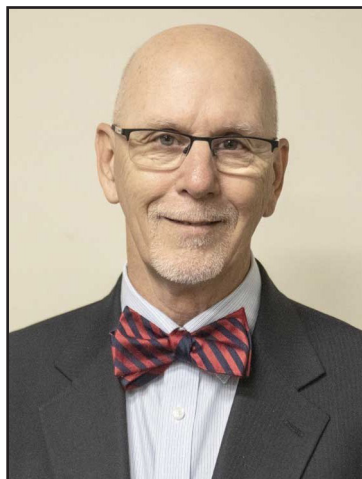


Annual Letter

Agency Partners and Stakeholders:



**Director
Adjutant General
Craig Strong**



**Assistant Director
NEMA
Erv Portis**

2024 will be hard to forget. It was a year when Nebraskans were hit hard by severe weather, including eleven declared disasters. From blizzards in January, to wildfires in February, devastating tornadoes in April, significant flooding and damaging winds. Nebraska experienced it all. Reflecting on the past year, we couldn't have imagined getting through it without our team.

Finishing my first full year as Adjutant General, it was an honor

to see and be a part of everyone coming together and making emergency management stronger throughout the state.

After 24 years, NEMA's Finance Section Administrator, Deb Kai retired. She handled the administration of all FEMA funds. She made a big impact on this agency and will be missed.

Although the state experienced its fair share of fire weather, only two incidents requested an Incident Management Team (IMAT). NEMA's State Watch Center received nearly 800 Incident Status Reports (ISRs) for wildfires in 2024. This data clearly shows we are building capability and capacity at the local level. As we say all the time, all disasters begin and end locally.

Let us say thank you to all of Nebraska's emergency management directors/coordinators, Emergency Support Function (ESF) coordinators and our partners throughout the community for your work to plan and prepare for, respond to, mitigate against, and recover from disasters. Strength and Honor- Always.

Adjutant General
Craig Strong
Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig Strong".

Ervin L. Portis
Assistant
Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ervin L. Portis".

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	\$667,076	State Funded FTEs	9.8
Federal Funding	\$1,524,533	Federal Funded FTEs	24
*Cash Funding	\$208,473	*Cash Funded FTEs	3.5
Disaster Funding	\$966,318	Disaster Funded FTEs	19
Total Funding	\$3,366,400	Total	56.3

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



Above, Operations brief in the Incident Command Post for Betty's Way Fire.



NEMA's Deb Kai retires

After working 24 years for the Military Department/Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Kai retired in December.

As NEMA's Finance Section Administrator, she was responsible for the administration of all FEMA funds. This included: Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, State Homeland Security Grant Program, State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, Hazardous Materials Grant Program, High Hazard Potential Dam Program and Non-profit Security Grant Program. It also included all COVID-19 related funds (CARES Act, Coronavirus State and Local Relief Funds, American Rescue Plan Act), and the Governor's Emergency Fund.

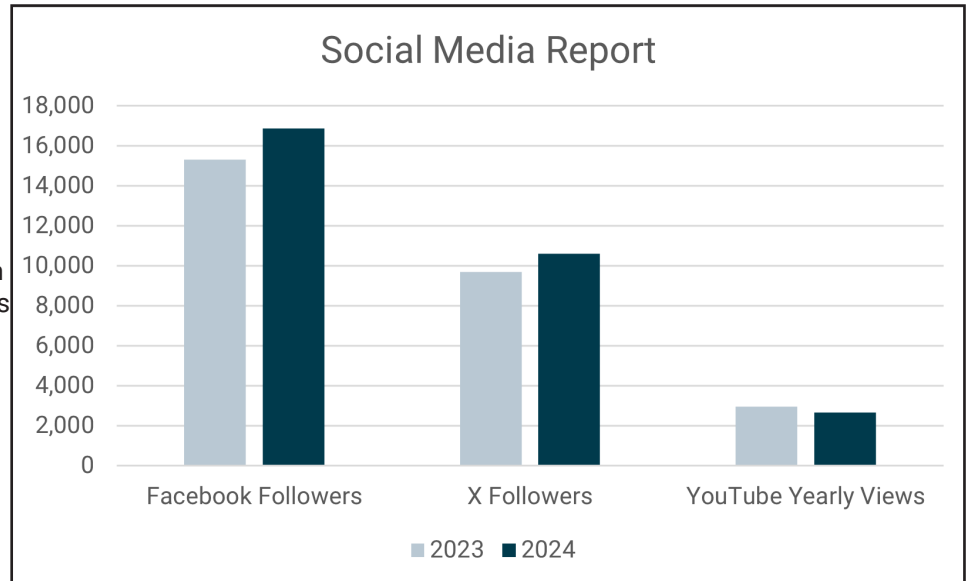
For the last several years, expenditures passing through Deb have annually exceeded \$1 billion.

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.



Above, Gov. Jim Pillen, left, recognized the top four artists in the annual Severe Weather Awareness Week Poster contest in March 2024. Poster contest winners, front row right to left are: first place Felix Valivaara, fourth place Ava Boeckner, second place Natalie Kimbrough and third place Lexi Holcomb.

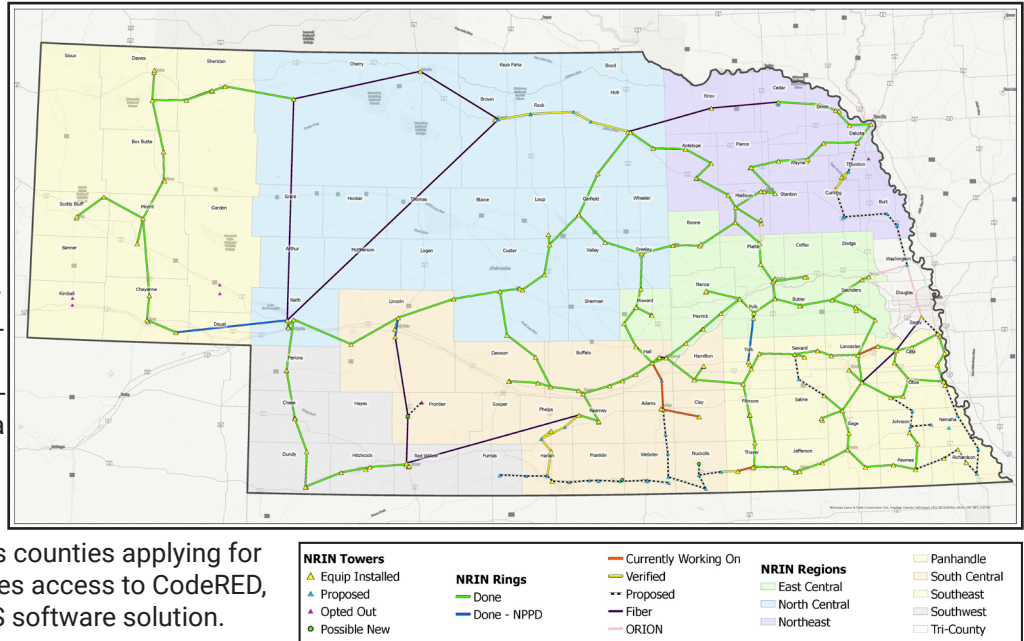
Also pictured, NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Becky Kern, NEMA Assistant Director Erv Portis and Nebraska Military Department Deputy Director Rick Dahlman.

Contest sponsors: Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska Association of Emergency Management, National Weather Service and Nebraska National Guard.

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 local, state, and federal partners can access 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 2024, several new sites were established across the state. The section also manages the state's Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS). 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, 24 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.



Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network Map

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.



Cyber Tatanka

NEMA staff participated in the Nebraska National Guard's 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.

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, 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 (CNS), 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, radiological legacy programs for fixed facilities, hospitals, medical facilities, and mining.

In 2024, members of the Technical Hazards Unit achieved a number of milestones. Mack Johnson, Unit Supervisor, attended, and completed, the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Executive Leaders Course. Kelly Hanzlik, newly hired Radiological Planning/Training Specialist, attended, and completed, multiple foundational courses pertaining to the field. Deb Robinson, Senior Radiological Planning/Training Specialist, spoke at the 2024 Preparedness Summit in Cleveland, OH. She presented a session to over 100 participants on how to develop effective training games for first responders, public health officials, emergency management personnel, and other state and federal partners. All three members also became certified Radiological Operation Support Specialists (ROSS), adding to the nation-wide cadre of experts who could be called upon to assist in any radiological emergency.



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.

Above, a CNS Hostile Action Based (HAB) exercise was evaluated by FEMA in May 2024.

Right, county officials during a Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) dress rehearsal in April 2024.





NEMA Preparedness and Operations Section Administrator Sean Runge, NEMA Recovery Section Administrator Donny Christensen, Adjutant General Craig Strong, NEMA Public Information Officer Katrina Cerveny, NEMA Assistant Director Erv Portis along with other officials, including Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy Interim Director Thad Fineran, toured the Cooper Nuclear Station in Brownville, Nebraska.



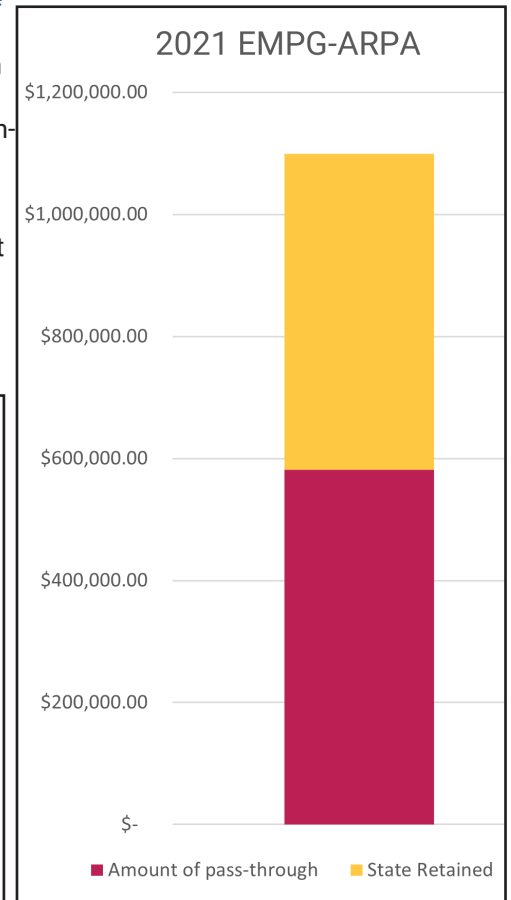
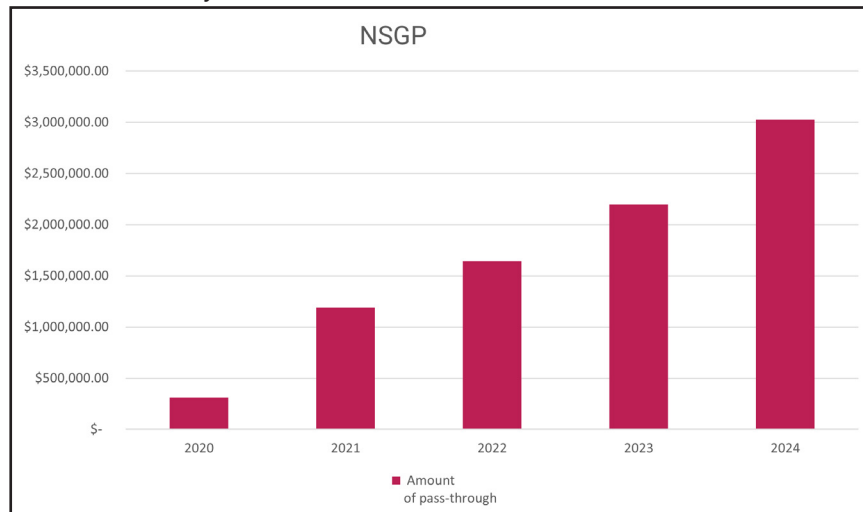
Grants Unit

Emergency Management Preparedness Grant – American Rescue Plan Act

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

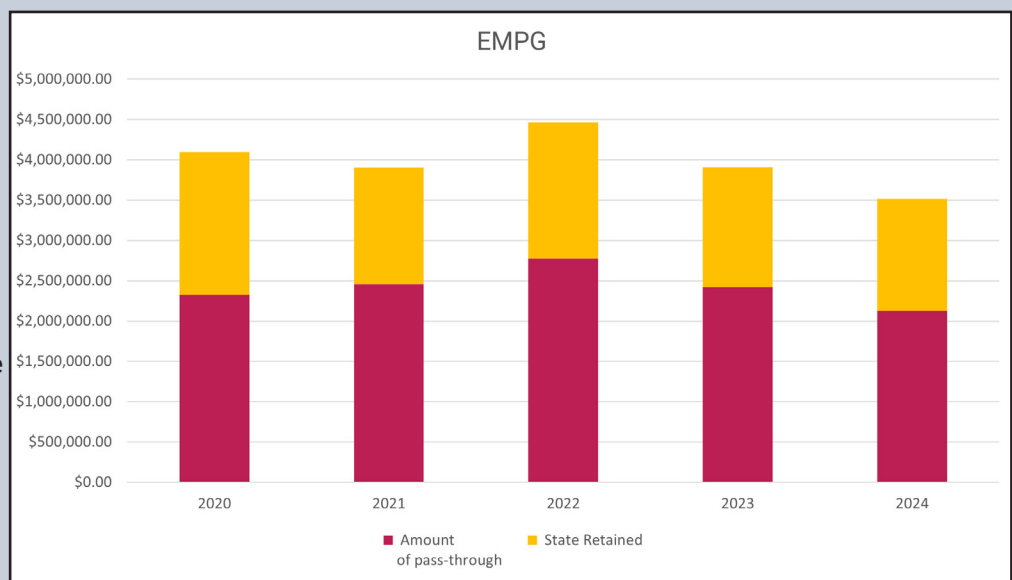
Nonprofit Security Grant Program

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, training, and access control systems.



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 51 county and regional Emergency Management offices to assist with paying their Emergency Managers' salaries and benefits.



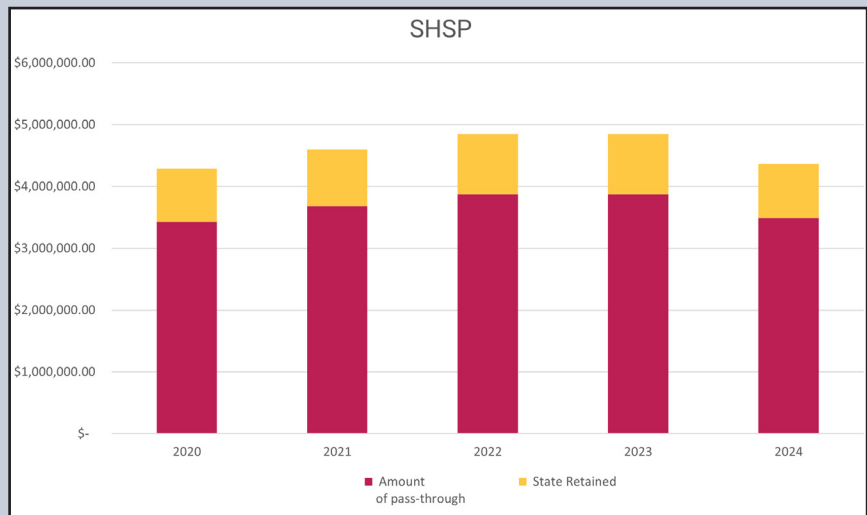
State Homeland Security Program

Regional Allocations by Fiscal Year

	2021	2022	2023	2024
East Central Region	\$492,996	\$953,597	\$953,396	\$539,250
Lincoln County	\$331,000	\$336,900	\$279,160	\$283,870
North Central Region	\$181,565	\$107,672	\$101,825	\$211,149
Northeast Region	\$212,168	\$263,055	\$243,110	\$233,022
Panhandle Region	\$959,367	\$1,011,802	\$1,480,725	\$1,552,445
South Central Region	\$926,859	\$681,219	\$205,400	\$237,925
Southeast Region	\$322,420	\$167,110	\$123,300	\$187,070
Southwest Region	\$69,025	\$55,850	\$70,625	\$131,350
Tri-County Region	\$456,726	\$512,793	\$468,458	\$203,088

State Homeland Security Grant Program

State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP) 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.

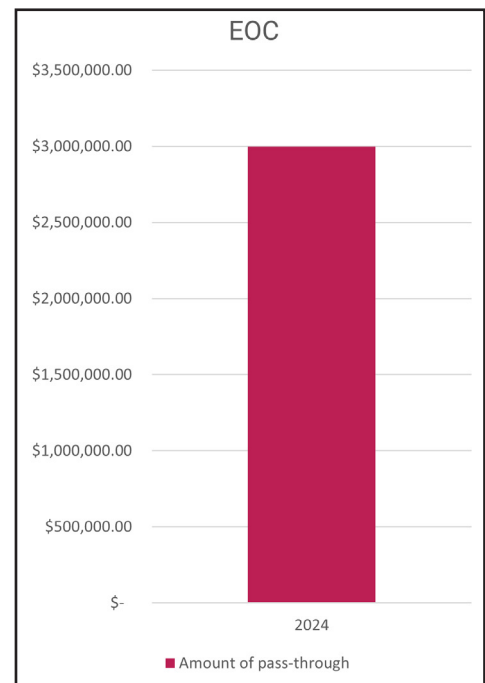
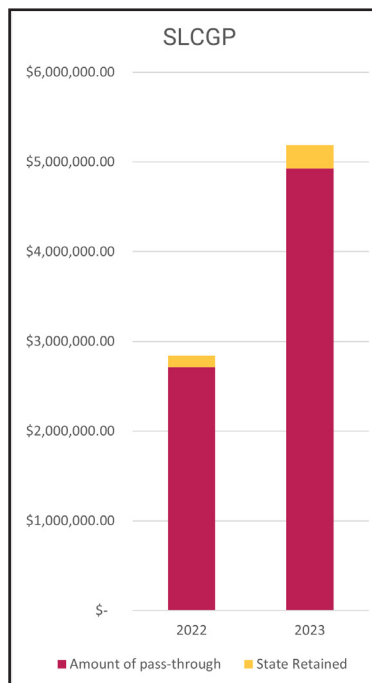


State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

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.

Emergency Operations Center Grant Program

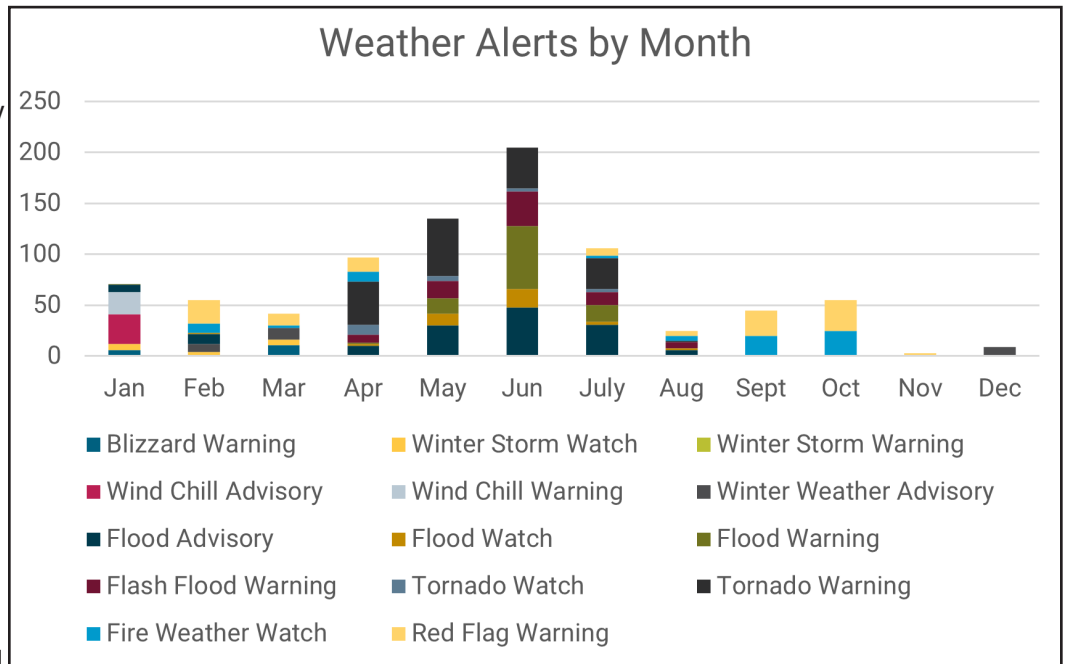
Emergency Operations Center Grant Program (EOCGP) supports flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable Emergency Operations Centers with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs. This grant requires a 25% local cost match. 2024 funding supported rebuilding the Hall County EOC.



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.

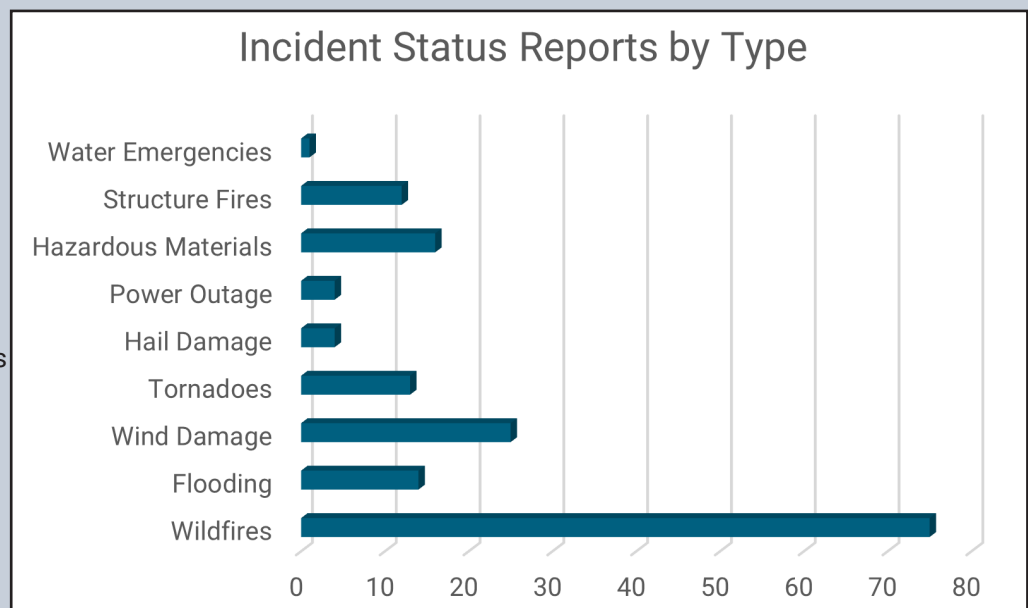
The State Watch Center maintains one full-time staff member and an off-hours watch officer system. On-call watch officers are responsible for monitoring incidents, events, weather alerts, and any communications from emergency managers or public safety entities during non-business hours. During the 2024 calendar year, 42 NEMA staff served as part of the rotating watch officer team.



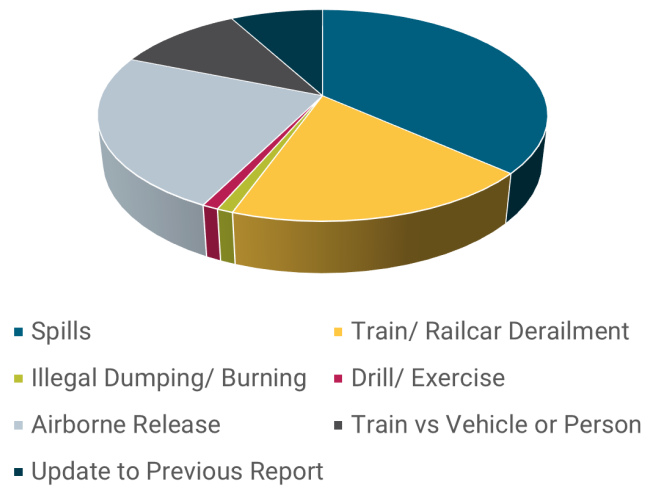
Local emergency managers complete an online incident status report (ISR) and send it to the State Watch Center to report on incidents/events that are occurring or expected and to request additional resources.

During 2024, the Watch Center received 794 incident status reports from local emergency managers. Of those, 192 were reports on wildfires. NEMA utilizes an online system called WebEOC to track and log information related to threats, incidents, and events. 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 WebEOC, 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.



National Response Center Reports Received



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.

Incident Status Reports by Planning Exercise and Training Region	2024	2023
East Central	20	17
North Central/Sandhills	76	56
Northeast	39	34
Panhandle	28	9
South Central	32	29
Southeast	30	19
Southwest	1	8
Tri-County	11	13

Weather Alerts	2024	2023
Red Flag Warnings	119	86
Tornado Warnings	170	114
Flash Flood Warnings	78	73
Flood Warnings	96	39
Tornado Watches	21	22
Winter Storm Warnings	15	38
Blizzard Warnings	17	12
Fire Weather Watches	73	29

Below, flooding at Peru Bottoms in Nemaha County.





2024 Wildfires

On February 27, Betty's Way Fire started near North Platte, Nebraska. Over 60 firefighters helped contain the blaze which burned more than 71,000 acres of land. It destroyed two homes and several outbuildings, but no injuries. The cause of the fire was sparked by a mowing operation nearby. Governor Jim Pillen declared an emergency.

On September 18, the Bronco Fire started near Crawford, Nebraska. At its peak, there were over 130 firefighters and multiple aircraft, including two Nebraska National Guard UH60 helicopters, used to contain the fire. The wildfire burned approximately 1,069 acres and lightning was the cause. Governor Jim Pillen also declared an emergency for this wildfire.

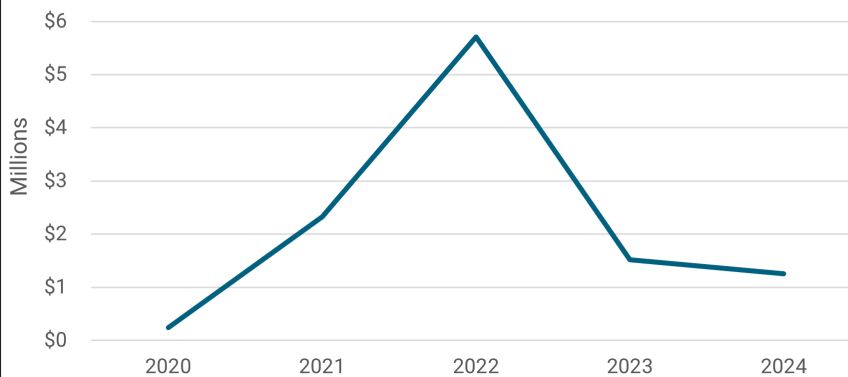
In October, over 80 fires were reported to NEMA through the National Weather Service (NWS) or local emergency managers. According to the State Watch Center, 53 of them were on the 16th, 17th and 18th.



Governor Declared Emergencies

Year	# of Fires	Cost
2021	4	\$2,324,861
2022	7	\$5,707,810
2023	5	\$1,519,635
2024	4	\$1,254,997

State Declared Fire Costs Paid to Date
(2020-2024)



Nebraska Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) Program

SEAT DATA	2021	2022	2023	2024	AVERAGE
Operational Days	105	184	109	116	129
Fires Flown	26	37	4	29	24
Flight Hours	68	133	20	90	78
Gallons Dropped	56,033	140,440	12,194	33,495	60,540
Total Cost	\$630,890	\$1,465,151	\$448,074	\$1,124,921	\$917,259

2024 was the eleventh year for the Nebraska SEAT program. As we continue to enhance our statewide fire readiness, the SEAT is an essential resource for rapid response with aerial fire suppression. The typical response time from initial call to the SEAT taking off is 15 minutes or less.

This year, the SEAT flew on 29 separate wildfires incidents, dropping 33,495 gallons of fire retardant, over its 116 day operational period, that ran from July 8, 2024 to November 1, 2024.



Fire Information

2024 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
Betty's Way	\$524,972	106	69,810	✓	✓	✓	21
Bronco*	\$640,628	44	1,069	✓	✓	✓	0
Camino**	\$0	7	10	✓	✓	N/A	0
Schiff**	\$18,700	7	6,576	✓	✓	N/A	0
Other Fires Reported to NEMA (###)	\$70,697	200	45,134	✓	✓	N/A	10
Total	\$1,254,997	364	122,599				31

Specific fires listed above were state declared incidents, opening the Governor's Emergency Fund for reimbursement.

*The Bronco Fire has a cost share agreement with the United States Forest Service

**The Camino and Schiff Fires included assets from federal resources and NEMA is awaiting those bills



Above, IMAT team departing from NEMA to the Bronco Fire in Crawford.



Incident Management Team (IMT) Facts

Nebraska IMT or IMAT ¹ Deployments	2024: Betty's Way Fire and Bronco 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 have 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.

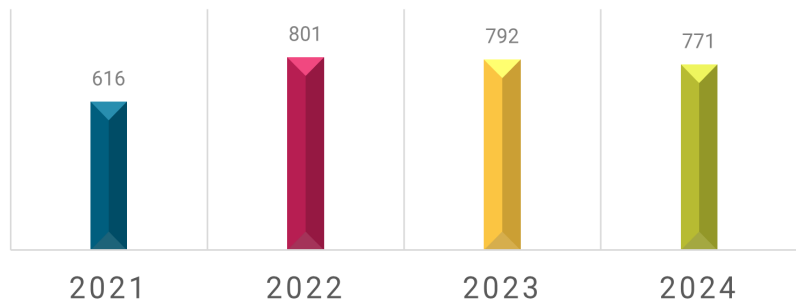
² All IMT members have been trained in specific support functions, such as planning, logistics, operations, communications or other areas.

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).

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.

STUDENTS TRAINED, BY YEAR



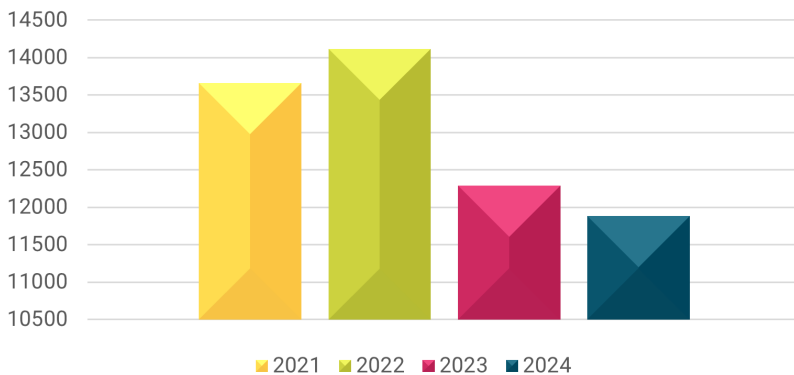
The Qualifications Review Board (QRB) examines applications for certification of Position Specific Task Books and makes recommendations to the adjutant general for approval or remediation. The QRB is comprised

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, 501 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 in an effort to expand the number of credentialed individuals eligible to become members of the IMT.

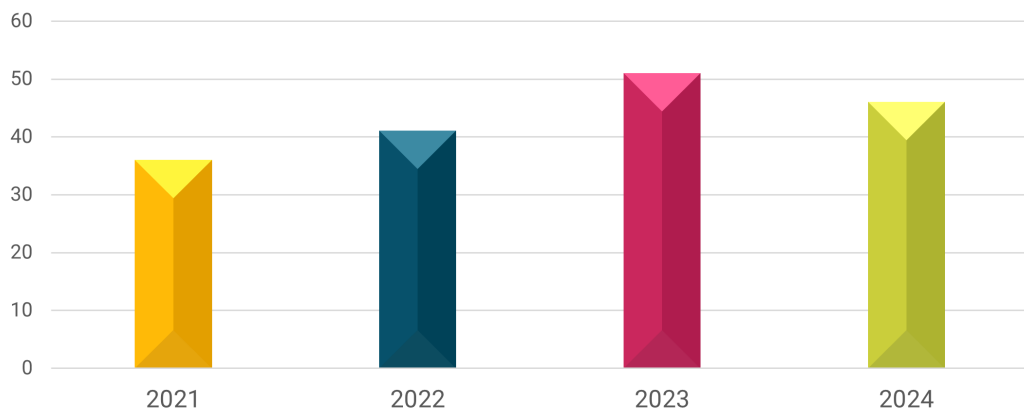
Independent Study Courses Passed

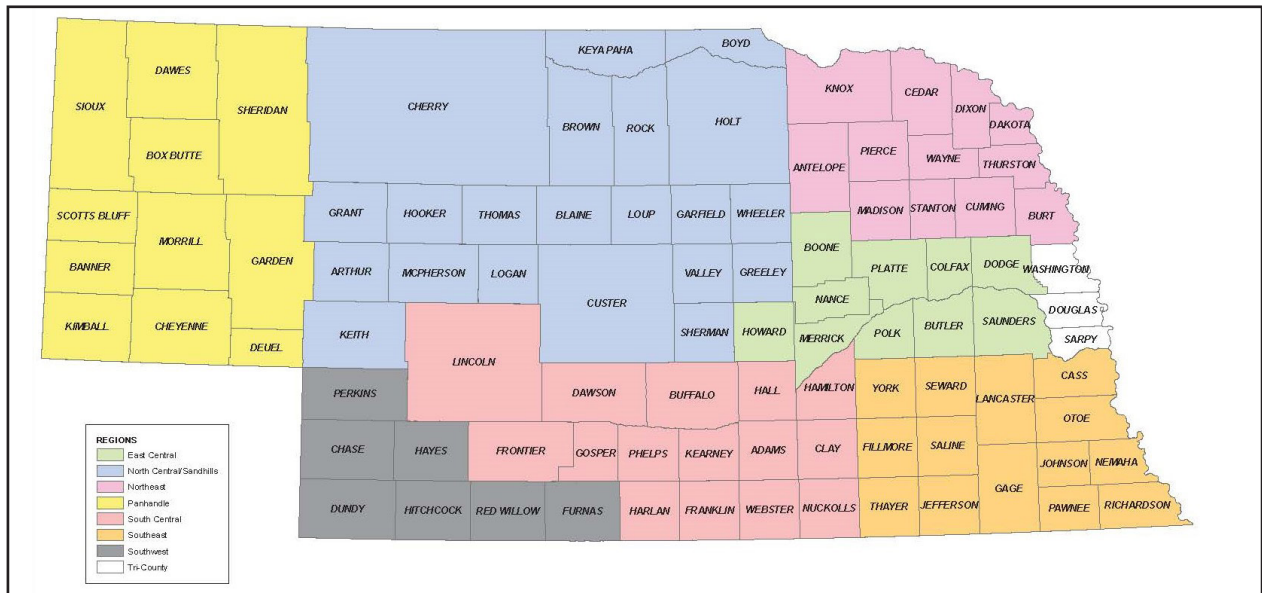


Classroom courses include those that are position specific, intended to be the starting point for those individuals who wish to become credentialed through the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS is a national standard with a shared vocabulary system and process for successfully responding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

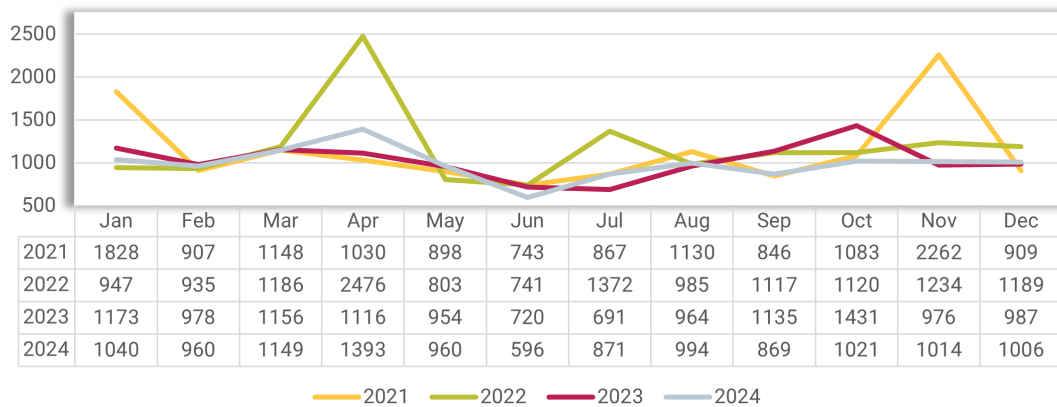
These task books identify the competencies, behaviors and tasks that personnel must demonstrate in order to become qualified for a defined incident management and support position.

Training Courses Delivered or Coordinated by NEMA

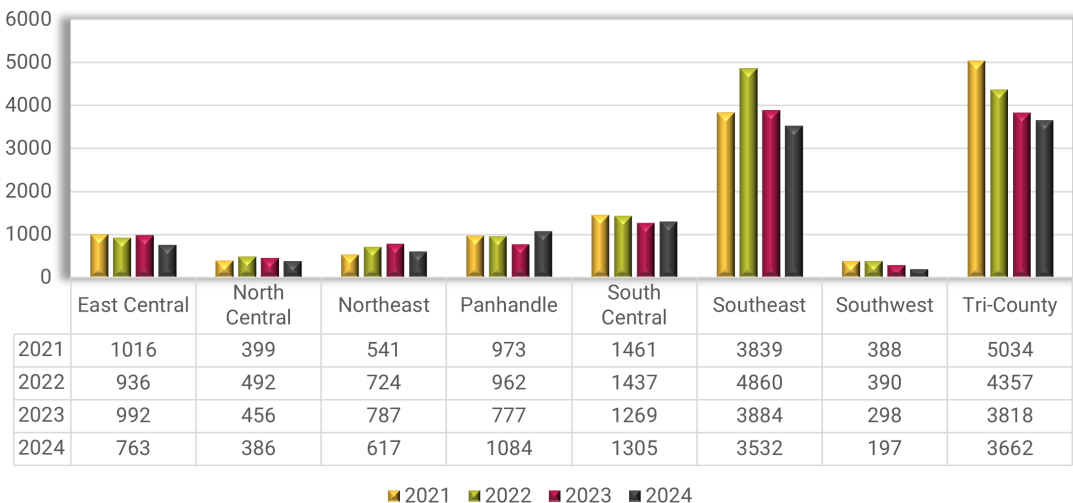




Independent Study Courses Passed, by Month

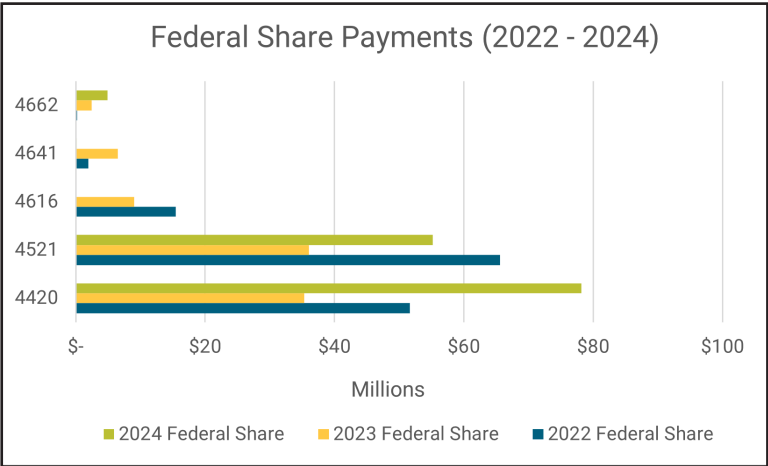
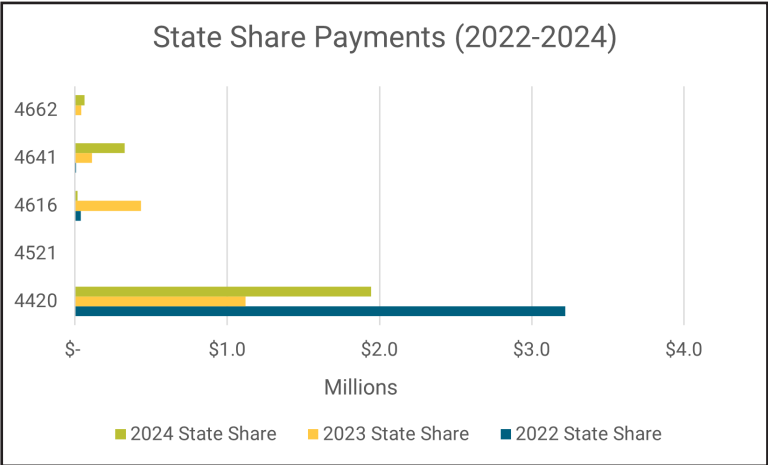


Independent Study Courses Passed, by Region



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 2024, the PA Unit was comprised of a staff of 13 individuals. Those individuals were able to close-out 641 individual projects and 157 sub-recipients (meaning ALL the projects the eligible entity had were completed and closed out). The team has also been working on closing out DR-4225, which was Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Straight-line Winds, and Flooding from May 6 to June 25, 2015, the final project for this disaster has been submitted to FEMA over closeout. Once that project is closed, the team will be able to fully close the disaster.



Federal Share Payments

Disaster	2023	2024
4420 – Floods	\$35,353,179	\$78,204,523
4521 – COVID-19	\$36,086,590	\$55,219,822
4616 – Severe Storms	\$9,018,874	\$24,047
4641 – Severe Storms	\$6,494,116	\$121,197
4662 – Severe Storms	\$2,434,992	\$4,921,962

State Share Payments

Disaster	2023	2024
4420 – Floods	\$1,121,371	\$1,944,198
4521 – COVID-19	\$0	\$0
4616 – Severe Storms	\$432,877	\$16,993
4641 – Severe Storms	\$111,561	\$326,668
4662 – Severe Storms	\$42,044	\$63,727

**The following projects are still being formulated and written:*

- 4778 – Severe Storms
- 4786 – Severe Winter Storms
- 4808 – Severe Storms
- 4822 – Severe Storms
- 4838 – Severe Storms

Total Disaster Funds Paid from Declaration Date through December 31, 2024

Disaster	Federal Share	State Share*	Local Share	Disaster Declaration Date
4420 – Floods	\$254,722,368	\$7,482,987	\$29,335,226	March 21, 2019
4521 – COVID-19	\$278,814,211	\$0	\$2,091,448	April 4, 2020
4616 – Severe Storms	\$24,531,048	\$486,756	\$1,498,474	September 6, 2021
4641 – Severe Storms	\$8,558,068	\$446,929	\$489,446	February 23, 2022
4662 – Severe Storms	\$7,570,278	\$105,771	\$1,610,805	July 27, 2022

*The following projects are still being formulated and written:

4778 – Severe Storms

May 3, 2024

4786 – Severe Winter Storms

May 24, 2024

4808 – Severe Storms

August 20, 2024

4822 – Severe Storms

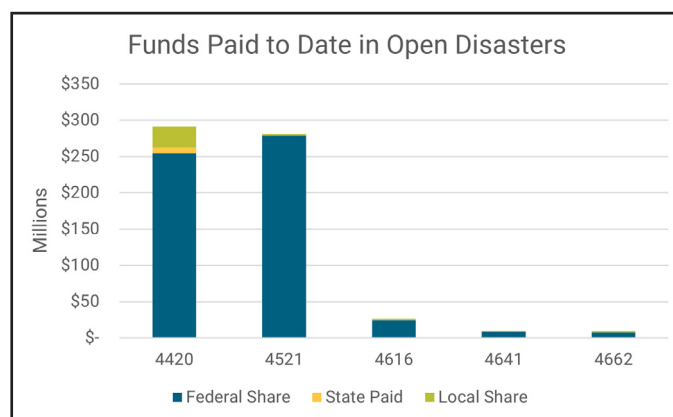
September 24, 2024

4838 – Severe Storms

October 21, 2024

*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.

PA Overview	2024
New Disasters	5
Disasters Closed	0
Active Grants	11
Individual Active Projects	857
Paid Out (Federal & State)	\$140,853,958
Individual Projects Closed	641
Subrecipient Closed	157
Projects Obligated	110



4420 Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

Through a grant agreement with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, DED's Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program provides assistance to Nebraska communities recovering from Winter Storm Ulmer (DR-4420). To help mitigate damages from flooding and other weather-related incidents in 2019, Federal monies have been allocated to be administered throughout some of the hardest-hit areas in Nebraska.

Working with various funding sources, including other federal programs, DED awards funding for communities to assist in their disaster recovery efforts. Long-term monitoring of the awards helps ensure communities use funding to make the most impact.

Year	To Governor's Emergency Fund	To Local Entities	Total Dispersed Relating to PA
2023	\$465,599	\$465,599	\$931,197
2024	\$687,441	\$687,441	\$1,374,883

DR-4420

Nebraska Disaster Update

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

84 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

514 Applicants

2,083
Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$596,906,944

Obligated Federal Share
\$539,638,837

59 Applicants Closed

1,324
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-4521

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

93 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

182 Applicants

593
Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$293,095,231

Obligated Federal Share
\$291,00,785

82 Applicants Closed

506 Projects Closed

DR-4616

Severe Storms and Straight-line Winds –
Declaration Date: September 6, 2021

14 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

21 Applicants

65 Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$31,437,827

Obligated Federal Share
\$28,400,408

40 Applicants Closed

4 Projects Closed

DR-4641

Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds and Tornadoes –
Declaration Date: February 23, 2022

25 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

17 Applicants

58 Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$9,902,108

Obligated Federal Share
\$8,952,644

2 Applicants Closed

57 Projects Closed

DR-4662

Nebraska Disaster Update

Severe Storms and Straight-line Winds –
Declaration Date: July 27, 2022

20 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

19 Applicants

54 Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$13,257,90

Obligated Federal Share
\$10,039,057

7 Applicants Closed

34 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-4778

Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds and Tornadoes –
Declaration Date: May 3, 2024

6 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

18 Applicants

8 Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$731,72

Obligated Federal Share
\$550,005

0 Applicants Closed

1 Projects Closed

DR-4786

Severe Storms and Straight-line Winds —

Declaration Date: April 6-7, 2024

8 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

\$37,527,252
Estimate Disaster Cost
Based on PDA's

11 Applicants

0 Applicants Closed

0 Projects Obligated

0 Projects Closed

DR-4808

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

Declaration Date: August 20, 2024

19 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

\$11,647,470
Estimate Disaster Cost
Based on PDA's

30 Applicants

0 Applicants Closed

0 Projects Obligated

0 Projects Closed

DR-4822

Nebraska Disaster Update

Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding –
Declaration Date: September 24, 2024

17 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

\$14,614,437
Estimate Disaster Cost
Based on PDA's

27 Applicants

0 Applicants Closed

0 Projects Obligated

0 Projects Closed

DR-4838

Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding –
Declaration Date: October 21, 2024

5 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

\$34,693,209
Estimate Disaster Cost
Based on PDA's

27 Applicants

0 Applicants Closed

0 Projects Obligated

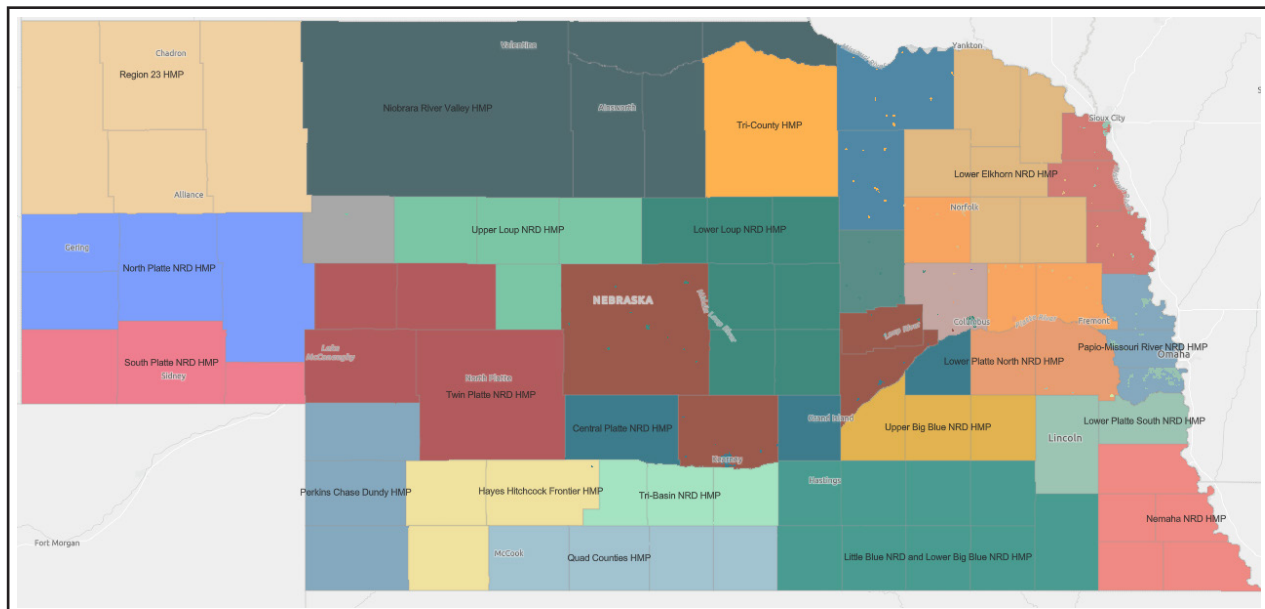
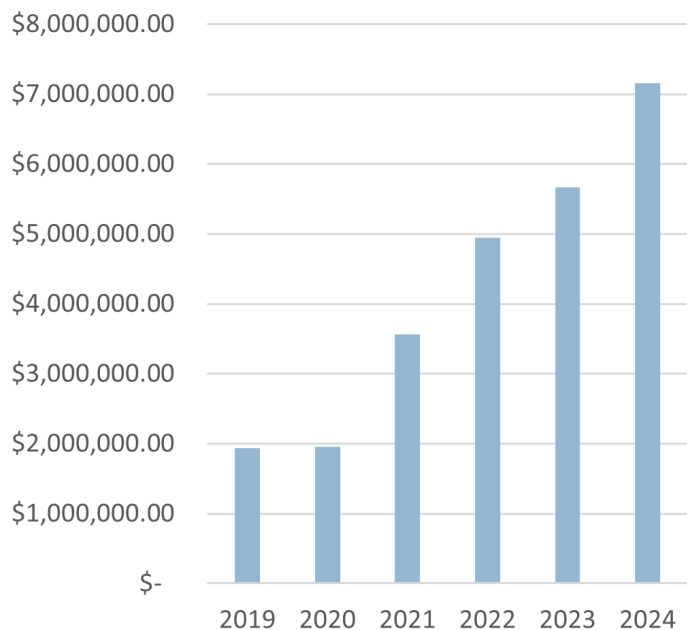
0 Projects Closed

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 close-outs.

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 \$7,151,736.75 in Federal Share and managing \$54,461,324.52 Federal dollars throughout 16 grants.

Federal Share Payments



HMP NRD County Layer

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Little Blue NRD and Lower Big Blue NRD HMP | Quad Counties HMP | Lower Elkhorn NRD HMP; Papio-Missouri River NRD HMP |
| Lower Loup NRD HMP | Region 23 HMP | Papio-Missouri River NRD HMP |
| Lower Elkhorn NRD HMP | Twin Platte NRD HMP | Perkins Chase Dundy HMP |
| Nemaha NRD HMP | Upper Loup NRD HMP | South Platte NRD HMP |
| Central Platte NRD HMP; Lower Loup NRD HMP | Central Platte NRD HMP | Tri-Basin NRD HMP |
| North Platte NRD HMP | Hayes Hitchcock Frontier HMP | Upper Big Blue NRD HMP |
| | Lower Elkhorn NRD HMP; Lower Platte North NRD HMP | Lower Elkhorn NRD HMP; Tri-County HMP |

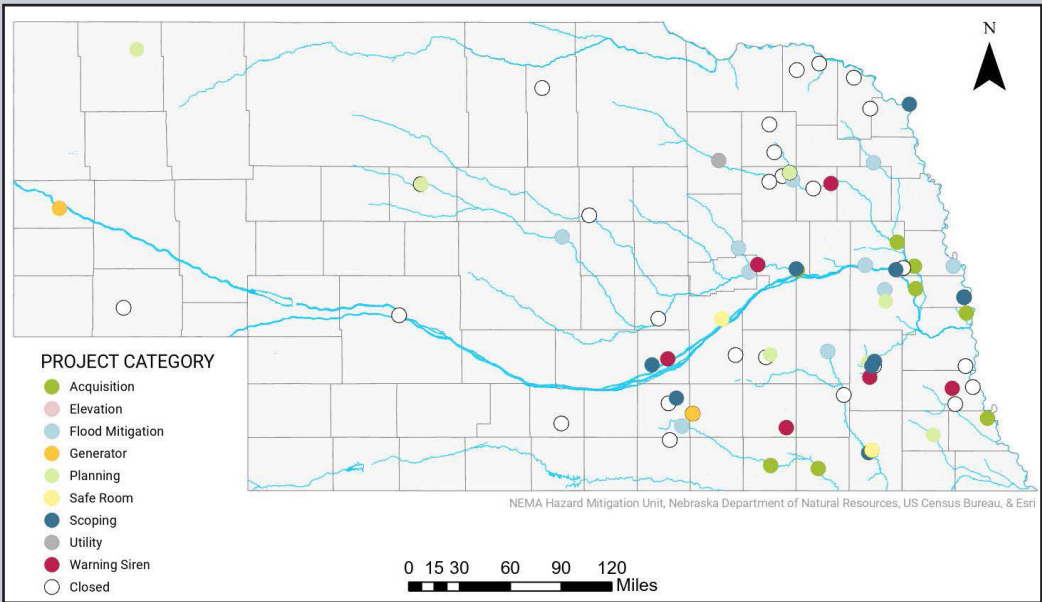


Hazard Mitigation Statistics	
New Disasters	5
New Grants (BRIC)	1
Disasters Closed/Pending Closeout	1
Active Grants	16
Individual Active Projects	49
HMA Paid Out 2024	\$7,151,736
Individual Projects Closed/Pending	40
Projects Approved in 2024	12
Dollars (Fed Share) Approved in 2024	\$6,599,381
Total Federal Share	\$54,461,324

Left, Forest Lake Boulevard Drainage Improvement
Below, Cooper Creek Sewer Interceptor Relocation



Active/Closed 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, working alongside first responders, emergency managers, public health departments, and the general public 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 medical operations, to provide additional capacity and support to professional responders during a disaster.



Fire Corps works to help fire/EMS departments enhance their services 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.

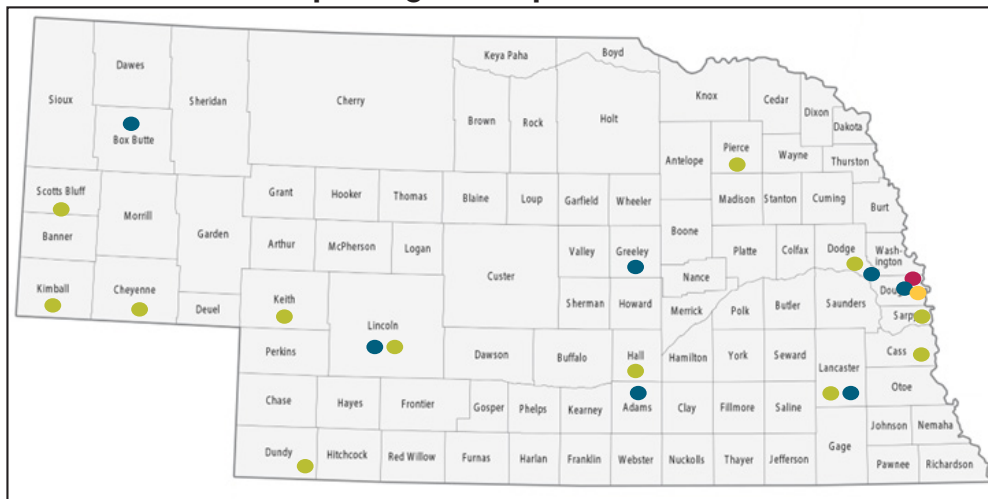


Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) trains for and responds to, emergencies, in coordination with first responders, while also actively supporting preparedness initiatives. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals and members of the public who want to simply improve the health and safety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



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

Nebraska Citizen Corps Program Map



- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
- Fire Corps
- Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
- Neighborhood Watch

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



NEVOAD

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.

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 potential unmet needs in their communities in the event of a disaster event.

Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRG): A long-term recovery group is a cooperative body that is made up of representatives from faith-based, nonprofit, government, business and other organizations working within a community to assist individuals and families as they recover from disaster.

In April, the **Tri-County Disaster Recovery Coalition** was formed in response to the Arbor Day Tornadoes. This coalition of more than 30 partner agencies including nonprofits, government agencies, volunteer organizations, and philanthropic partners is leading the charge in rebuilding communities and addressing

the long-term impacts of the tornado.

Operating since 2011, the **Washington County Long-Term Recovery Team (WCLTRT)** continues to help those individuals who have sustained a loss, due to disaster, find the assistance they need. They have been heavily active in the relief efforts of the Arbor Day Tornadoes. Together the two long-term recovery groups are continuing to assist over 300 individuals still navigating the

arduous disaster recovery process.

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.

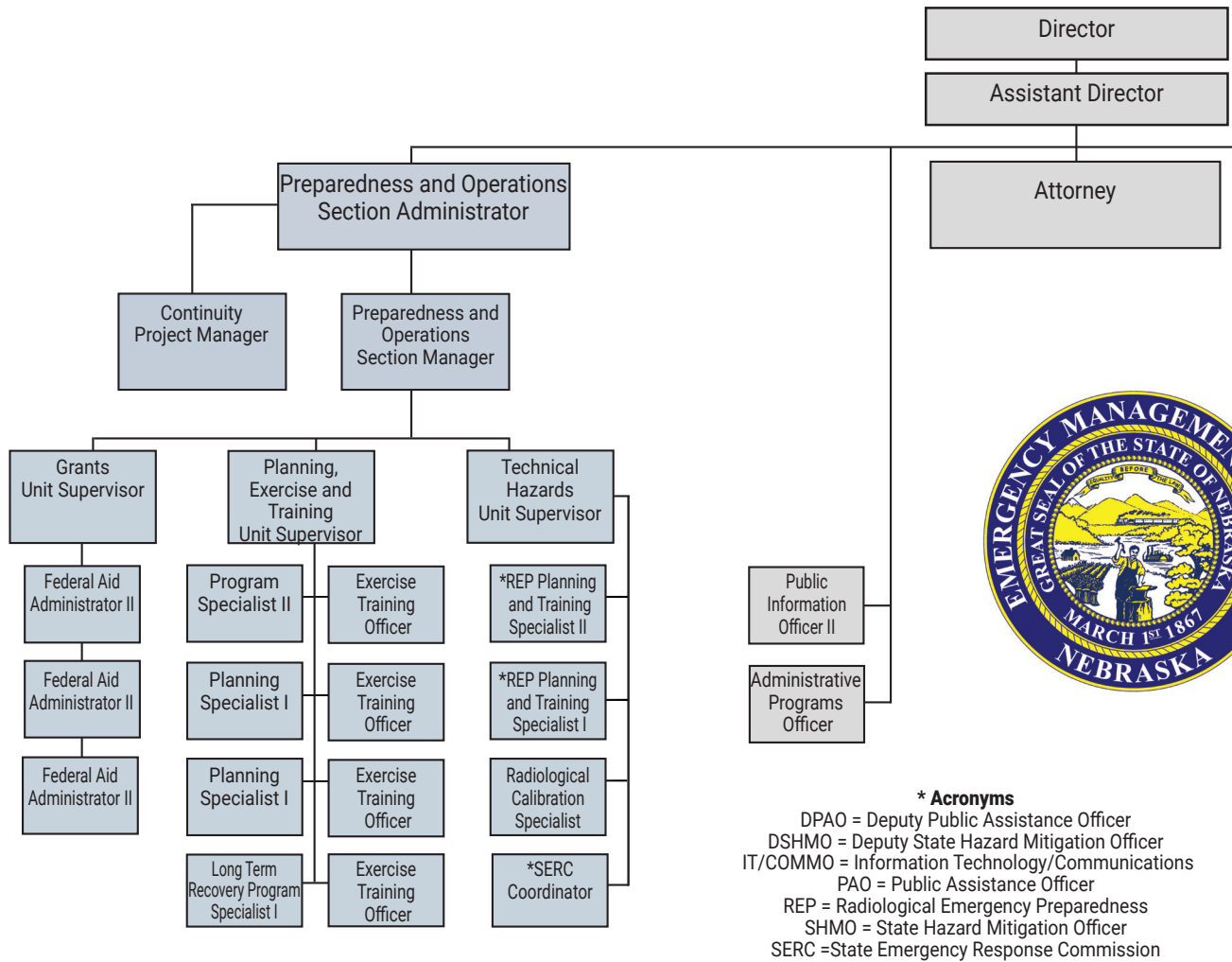
- Individuals assist local and county officials acting as a liaison for additional resources and are trained as hazmat technicians.

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



9 Hazmat State Emergency Response Teams (SERT)

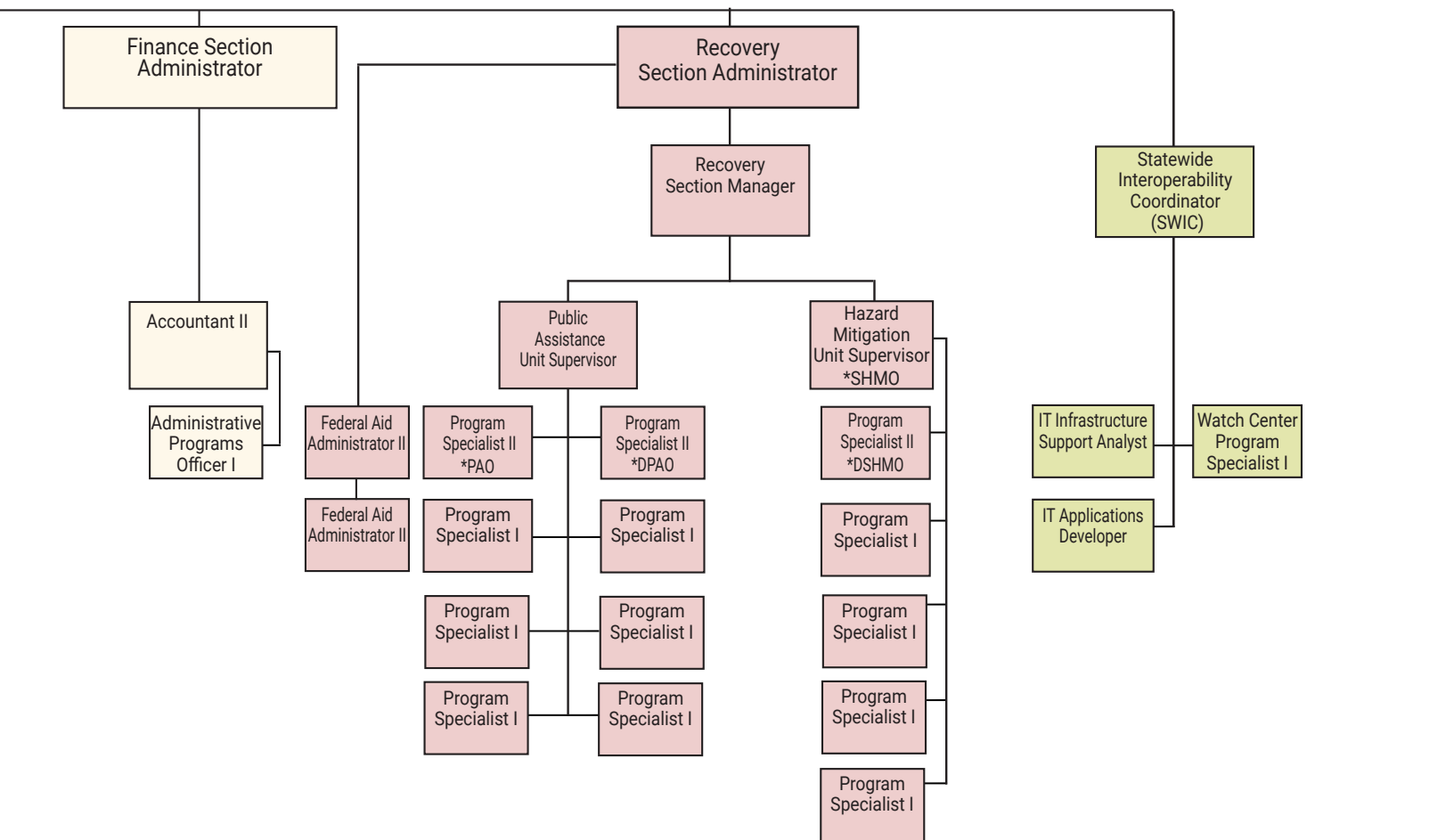
- These nine agencies are critical in responding all over Nebraska to hazmat incidents beyond local jurisdictions' capability.
- All members of these teams must complete at least, hazardous materials technician level training (80 hours), with additional yearly course refresher training and education.



Above, smoke from Schiff fire near Alliance
 Right, Tornado damage at Garner Industries near Waverly



NEMA Organizational Chart



Above and right, FEMA inspections in Washington County after devastating tornado damage in April



Agency Information

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 and the Governors' Homeland Security Advisors Council 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.

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.cerveney@nebraska.gov.



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