



2025 Annual Report



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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.



Letter from the Adjutant General and Assistant Director

Agency Partners and Stakeholders:

In 2025, our state experienced two federally declared disasters. In March, a severe winter storm impacted more than 25 counties, testing our emergency response capabilities and underscoring the importance of preparedness during extreme weather events. In August, another disaster affected public power infrastructure across 12 counties, highlighting both the vulnerabilities and the strength of our utilities and response teams.

The Custer County Complex Fire was the only incident this year that required a full Incident Management Team (IMT). In addition, Fremont endured a tragic explosion at Horizon Biofuels, an event that required swift coordination and expertise from Nebraska Task Force One, which also extended assistance during the devastating floods in Texas.

Earlier this year, our state faced very dry and windy conditions. Governor Jim Pillen's decision to implement a statewide burn ban was critical in saving lives and protecting property. Safety is our number one priority.

This year also marked the retirement of Rick Dalhman. His dedicated service left a lasting impact on the agency and the state's emergency management community.

Serving as Adjutant General and Director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) continues to be an incredible honor. I have witnessed the dedication, skill and courage of our first responders, volunteers and partner agencies. Their tireless efforts ensure that Nebraska remains prepared for the unexpected.

Thank you to our emergency management teams and community partners for planning, responding, and supporting Nebraska through every disaster. Strength and Honor- Always.

Adjutant General
Craig Strong
Director



Ervin L. Portis
Assistant
Director



Staff and Agency Financials

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) provides funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial emergency management agencies to support implementation of the National Preparedness System and advance the goal of a secure and resilient nation.

The Governor’s Emergency Fund (GEF), established under Nebraska Revised Statute 81-829.42, allows the Governor to allocate resources during declared emergencies. This funding supports political subdivisions experiencing disasters or emergencies that create financial burdens beyond their normal capacity, helping maintain or restore essential public services and infrastructure.

The asterisk on the tables to the right indicates Radiological Emergency Preparedness funds from the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) for the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS).

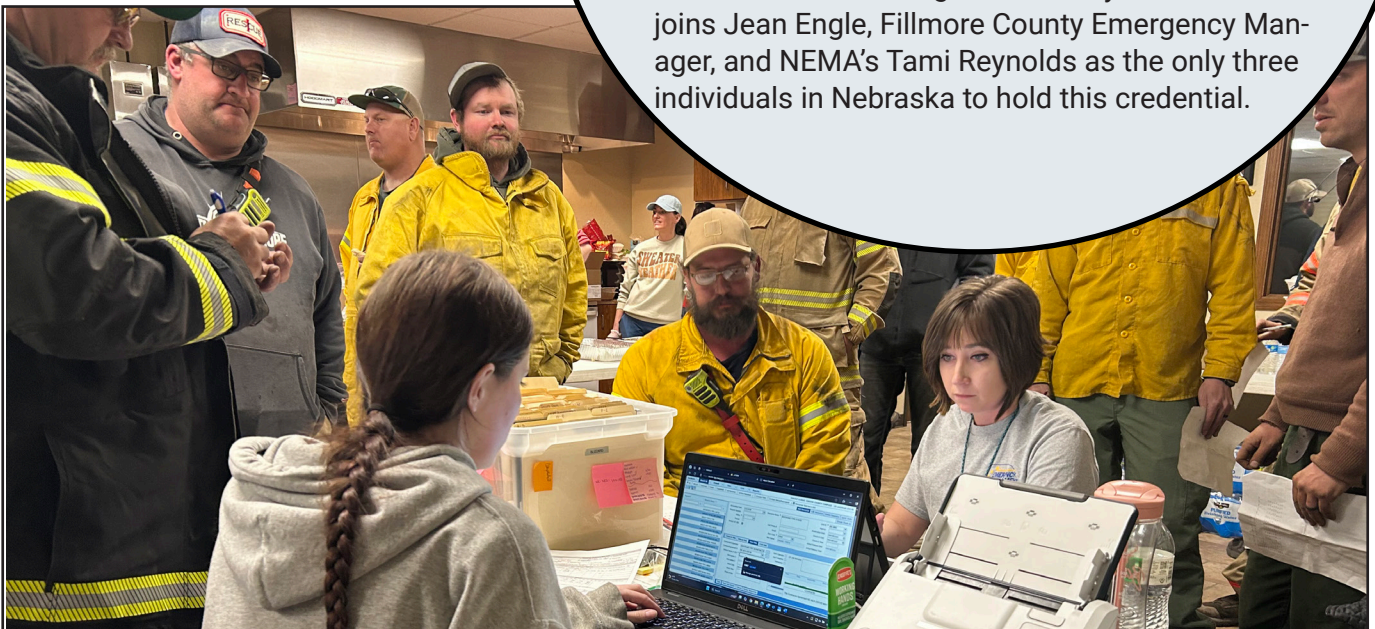
Staffing Budget	
State Funding	\$380,325
Federal Funding	\$1,632,497
*Cash Funding	\$234,104
Disaster Funding	\$1,089,778
Total Funding	\$3,336,704

Full-Time Equivalencies (FTEs)	
State Funded FTEs	6.3
Federal Funded FTEs	26.25
*Cash Funded FTEs	3.75
Disaster Funded FTEs	19
Total Funded	55.3

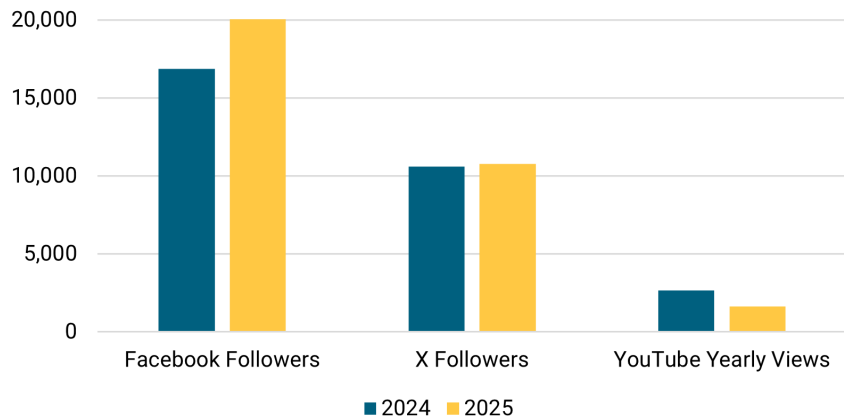


Rebecca Blizzard Earns Type 3 IMT Finance Section Chief Credential

NEMA’s Rebecca Blizzard completed the requirements for her Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) Finance Section Chief credential in 2025. Pictured below, Blizzard checks in personnel during the Custer County Complex Fire in February—one of several incidents that contributed to the completion of her task book. She is also shown at left speaking during a briefing at the Western Nebraska Engine Academy. Blizzard now joins Jean Engle, Fillmore County Emergency Manager, and NEMA’s Tami Reynolds as the only three individuals in Nebraska to hold this credential.



Social Media Report



Public Information

Delivering timely, accurate information is a critical function during disasters and large-scale events and is led by the Public Information Officer (PIO).

The Nebraska Joint Information Center (JIC) is activated as needed and staffed by PIOs from state, local, and federal partners to coordinate and disseminate public safety and preparedness messaging statewide.

NEMA's PIO also works with local emergency managers to promote preparedness through outreach efforts, including social media campaigns and the annual Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest. Pictured below are the 2025 contest winners.

Front row, from left to right: second-place winner Kaylee Ramos, fourth-place winner Kora Nesbit, third-place winner Eliza Feilmeier, and first-place winner Isabella Kaup.

Also pictured (from left): Dawson County Emergency Management Director and Chairman of the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management Poster Contest Brian Woldt; NEMA Director and Adjutant General Craig Strong; League of Nebraska Municipalities Executive Board President Marlin Seeman; former National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist Becky Kern; Governor Jim Pillen; State Fire Marshal Doug Hohbein; National Weather Service Meteorologist in Charge Suzanne Fortin; and NEMA Assistant Director Erv Portis.



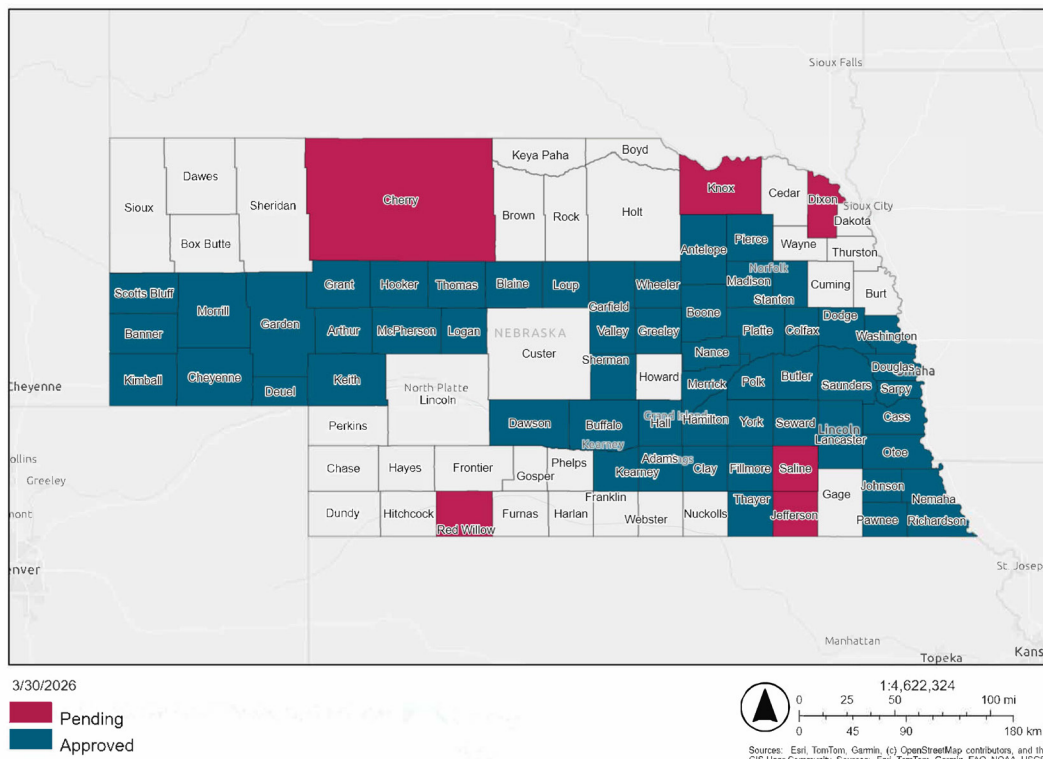
Information Technology and Communications Unit

NEMA's Communications, Cybersecurity, and Information Technology staff support first responders and emergency management personnel across all phases of disaster planning and response, ensuring local, state, and federal partners maintain reliable access to voice and data services when needed.

FirstNet

The Statewide Interoperability Coordinator is Nebraska's point of contact for FirstNet, the nationwide public safety broadband network. Although FirstNet committed to eight sites after Nebraska opted in in 2018, it delivered more than 400, investing over \$175 million in the state. In 2025, coverage workshops with local responders helped identify gaps and guide future development.

Nebraska IPAWS Status



Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS)

NEMA administers Nebraska's participation in IPAWS, FEMA's national platform for delivering authenticated emergency alerts via Wireless Emergency Alerts on mobile devices, the Emergency Alert System on radio and television, and NOAA Weather Radio. NEMA, the Nebraska State Patrol, 35 counties, and 7 regions covering an additional 31 counties are authorized to issue alerts. NEMA assists counties in obtaining alerting authority and provides access to OnSolve, the state's contracted IPAWS software solution.

Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN)

NEMA led the design and implementation of the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN), a federally funded system connecting public safety access points and 911 centers statewide via microwave and fiber-optic links. The network also supports the Nebraska State Radio System, enabling communication among first responders and emergency managers. In 2025, NEMA transferred remaining authority to the NRIC Governance Board and will continue supporting the network through grant funding.

Cyber Tatanka

NEMA staff participated in the Nebraska National Guard's annual Cyber Tatanka exercise this year, collaborating with partners from electric utilities, banking, education, and international organizations. The exercise emphasized the importance of strong cybersecurity practices and regular training to help employees protect sensitive data and reduce risk to agencies and the public they serve.

Technical Hazards

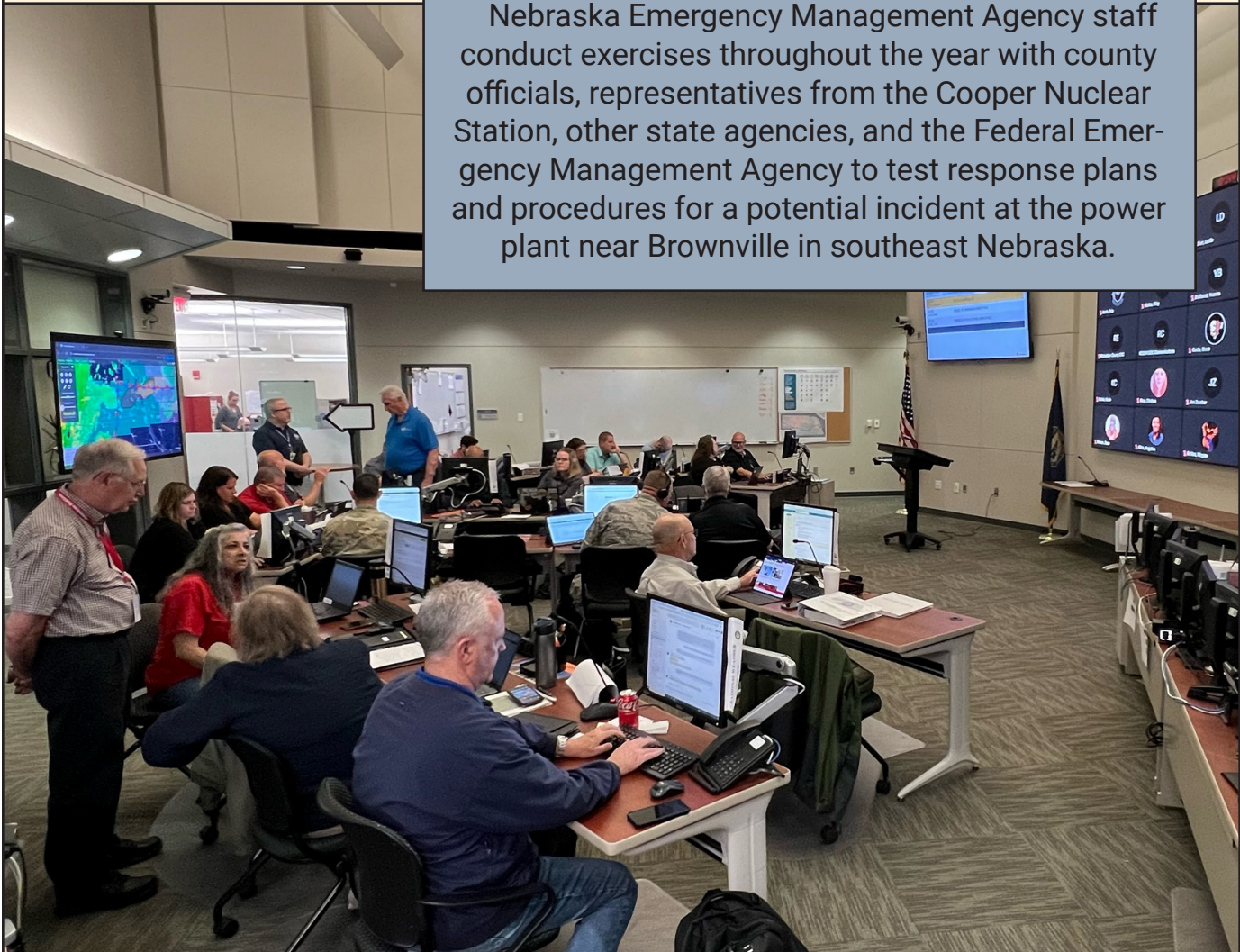
Nebraska's significant radiological footprint requires ongoing planning, training, and exercises to ensure statewide readiness among fire, law enforcement, EMS, hospitals, emergency management, elected officials, and non-governmental and faith-based partners.

NEMA's Technical Hazards staff manages the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program in coordination with local partners, Cooper Nuclear Station, Nemaha, Richardson, and Otoe counties, and the states of Missouri, Iowa, and Kansas. The program establishes off-site response requirements for nuclear power plant incidents and also supports the Radioactive Materials Transportation Accident Plan and radiological legacy programs for fixed facilities, medical facilities, hospitals, and mining.

In 2025, the Technical Hazards Unit welcomed Radiological Planning/Training Specialist Tom Guilford, who brought more than 20 years of emergency management experience with the Air National Guard and prior service in NEMA's Planning, Exercise, and Training Section. During his first year, Guilford completed multiple REP-specific courses and delivered foundational training to counties surrounding Cooper Nuclear Station in preparation for the 2028 Ingestion Pathway Exercise.

Senior Radiological Planning/Training Specialist Deb Robinson continued updates to the State Radiological Emergency Response Plan, participated in national radiological exercises as a subject matter expert, remained active in the Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS) program, and worked closely with NEMA's Public Information Officer on REP-related public information efforts.

In early 2026, Unit Supervisor Mack Johnson departed after nearly five years of service to join the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as a Radiological Health Physicist, where he will continue to support the state's REP program.



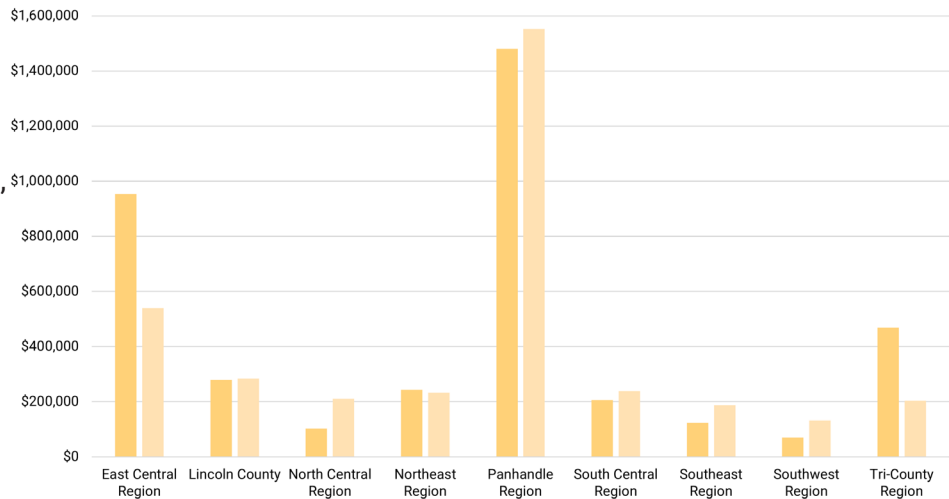
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff conduct exercises throughout the year with county officials, representatives from the Cooper Nuclear Station, other state agencies, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to test response plans and procedures for a potential incident at the power plant near Brownville in southeast Nebraska.

Grants Unit

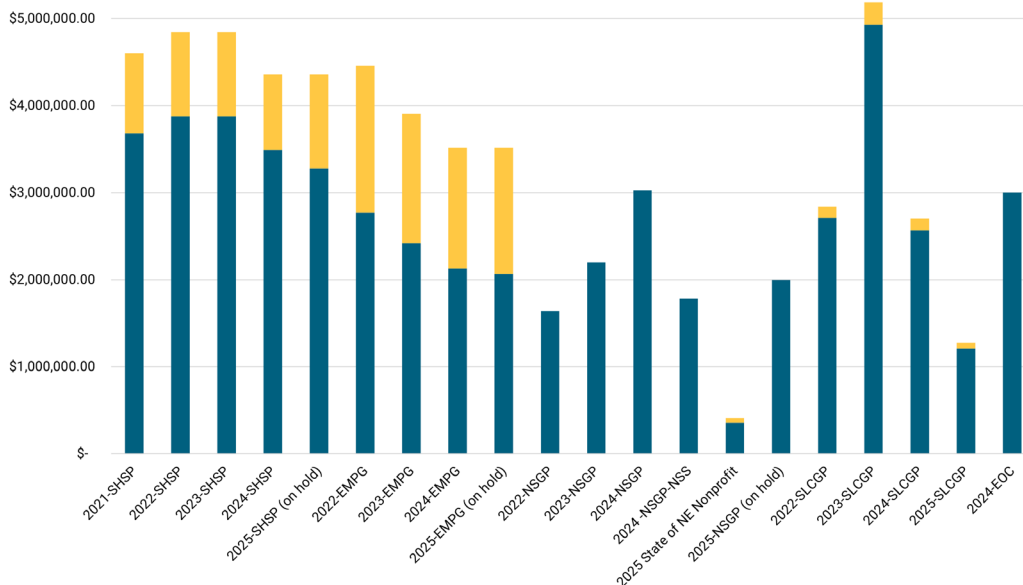
Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSG) provides funding to nonprofit organizations to prevent and protect against terrorist attacks. NEMA was able to assist multiple 501(c)(3) organizations with security enhancements including security cameras, monitoring services, training, and access control systems.

Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (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 60% 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.

SHSP Allocations by Year



Preparedness Grants



State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP) supports the U.S. 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 (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.

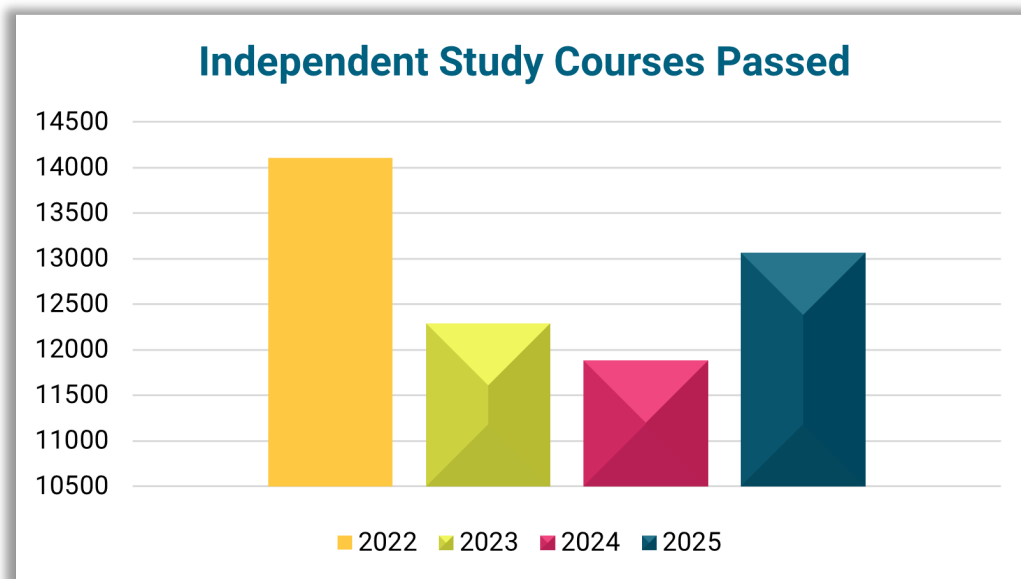
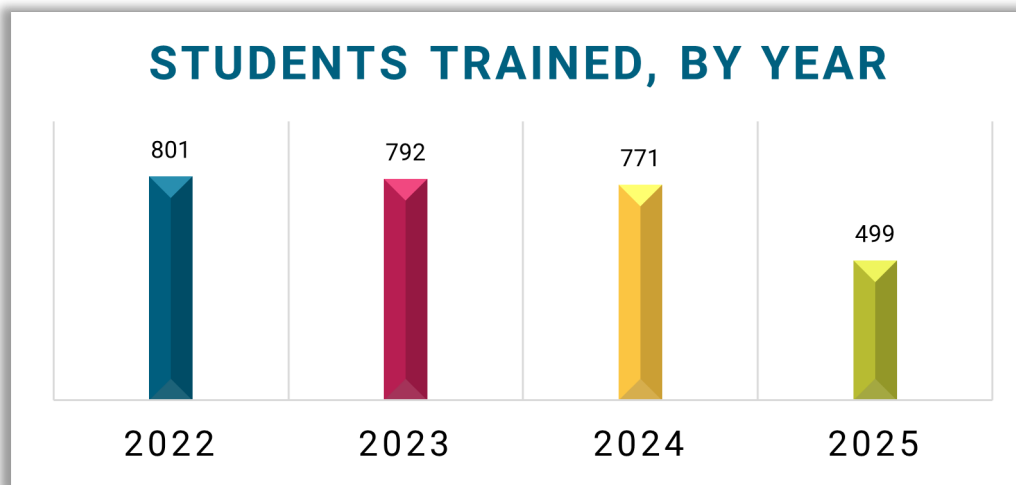
Emergency Operations Center Grant Program (EOCGP) supports flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable Emergency Operations Centers with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs. This grant requires a 25% local cost match. 2024 funding supported rebuilding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

Planning, Exercise and Training

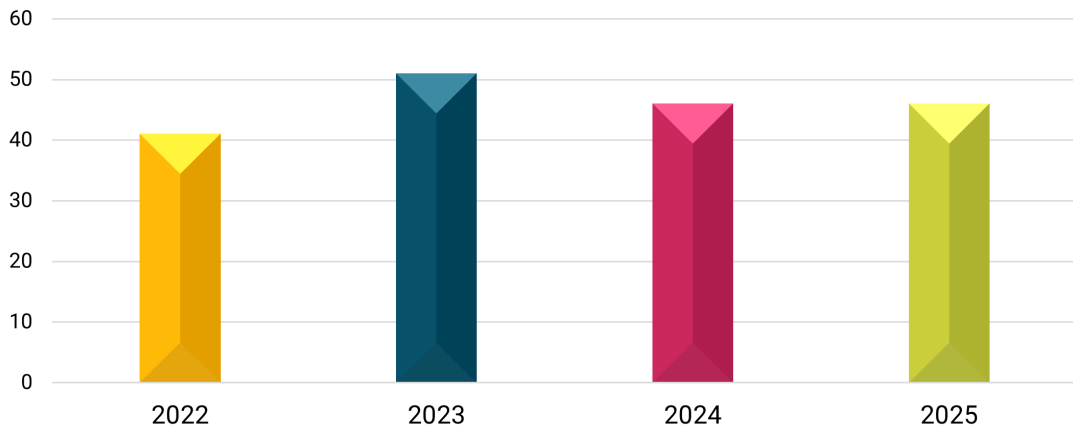
NEMA's Planning, Exercise and Training Unit oversees the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP), Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR), State Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Continuity of Government Plan (COG), the Integrated Preparedness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

NEMA ensures training standards align with Department of Homeland Security and Nebraska statutory requirements, encouraging the use of FEMA-developed courses through independent study and classroom-based instruction. Classroom courses include position-specific training designed as an entry point for individuals seeking credentialing through the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS is a national standard that establishes a common vocabulary and standardized processes for effective disaster response, culminating in the completion of a task book.

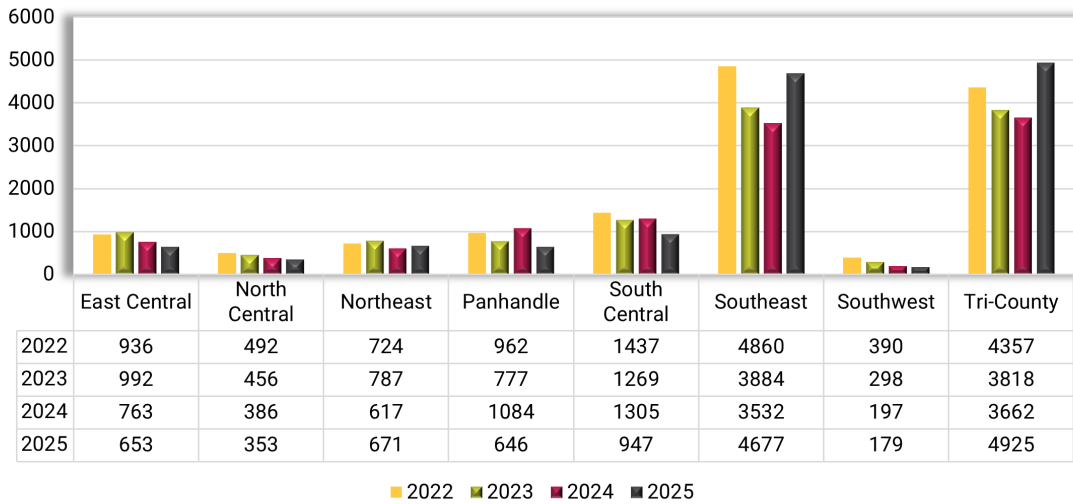
These task books outline the competencies, behaviors, and tasks that personnel must demonstrate to qualify for a specific incident management or support position. The Qualifications Review Board (QRB) reviews applications to certify Position-Specific Task Books and recommends whether they should be approved or need additional work. The QRB includes the Planning, Exercise and Training Unit supervisor, certified Incident Command System (ICS) instructors, representatives from the Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency and the Nebraska Forest Service, as well as a local emergency manager and a local fire chief. Task book credentialing plays a key role in building and strengthening Nebraska's Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT). Developing and maintaining an in-state Type 3 IMT reduces costs by limiting the need to bring in teams from other states. Ongoing training efforts focus on increasing the number of credentialed individuals who are eligible to serve on the IMT.



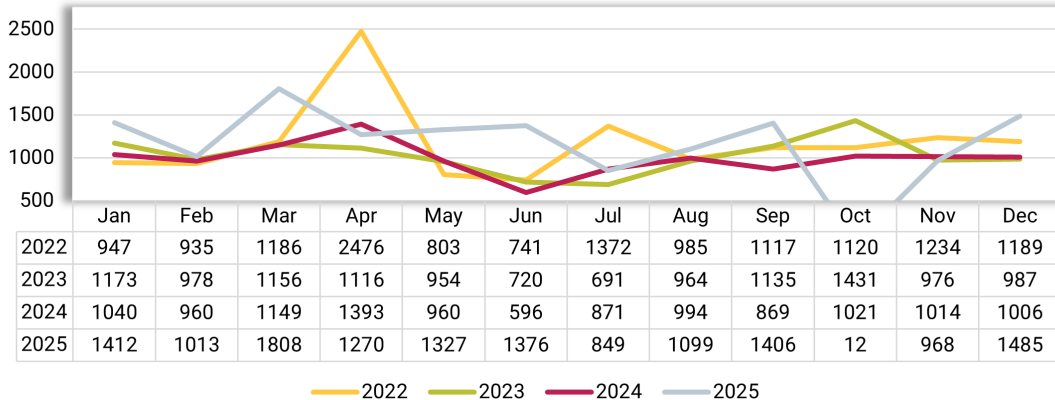
Training Courses Delivered or Coordinated by NEMA



Independent Study Courses Passed, by Region



Independent Study Courses Passed, by Month

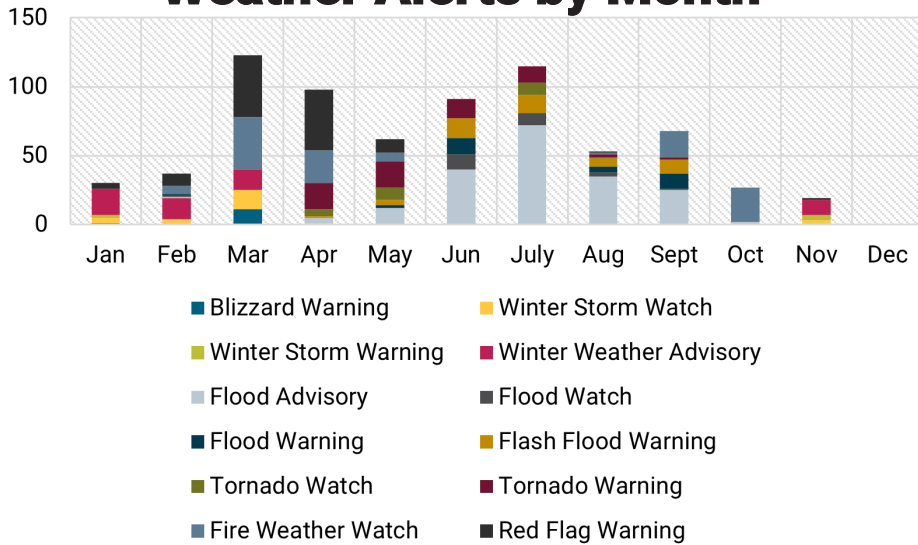


State Watch Center

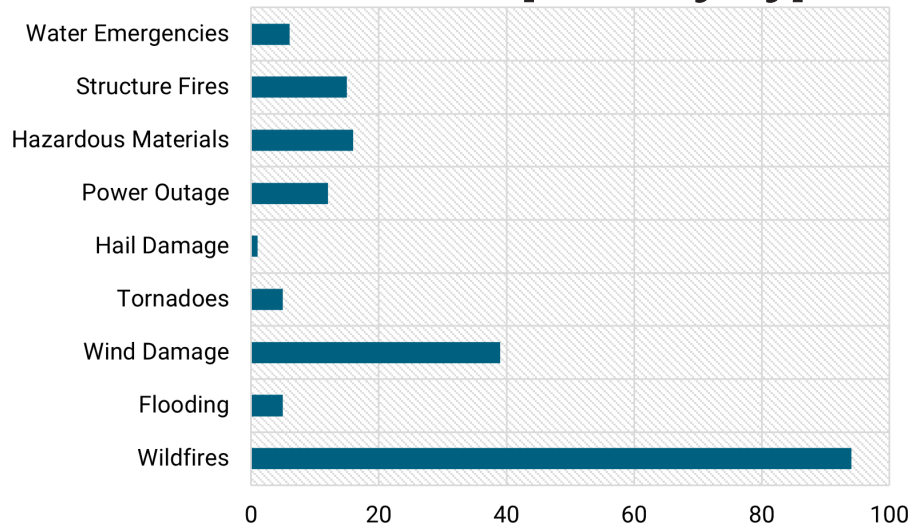
Established in 2016, the State Watch Center at NEMA gathers and analyzes information on natural and man-made hazards that may pose potential, imminent, or ongoing impacts to the State of Nebraska. The State Watch Center distributes daily situational briefings Monday through Friday—and more frequently as conditions warrant—to more than 500 public safety stakeholders across local, state, and federal government, as well as partners in non-governmental organizations and private industry.

The Watch Center is staffed by one full-time employee and supported by an off-hours watch officer system. During non-business hours, on-call watch officers monitor incidents, weather alerts, and communications from emergency managers and public safety partners. In 2025, 42 NEMA staff members served in the rotating watch officer system.

Weather Alerts by Month



Incident Status Reports by Type



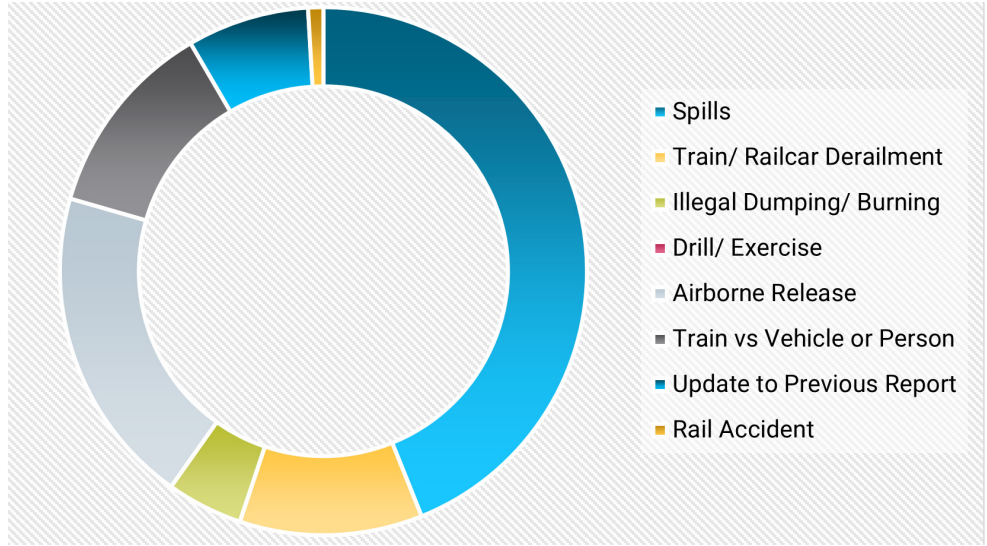
Local emergency managers submit online Incident Status Reports (ISRs) to the State Watch Center to report ongoing or anticipated incidents and request additional resources. In 2025, the State Watch Center received 194 ISRs, including 94 related to wildfires.

NEMA uses WebEOC to track and document threats, incidents, and events. The system is shared by federal, state, and local partners to support situational awareness, log incident activity, and manage reports and resource requests. WebEOC allows state and local agencies to create and share incident logs and submit resource requests, providing statewide visibility of needs while allowing information to be shared either statewide or within specific jurisdictions.

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	2025	2024
East Central	12	20
North Central/Sandhills	88	76
Northeast	25	39
Panhandle	14	28
South Central	26	32
Southeast	25	30
Southwest	4	1
Tri-County	1	11


Weather Alerts	2025	2024
Red Flag Warning	120	119
Tornado Warning	68	170
Flash Flood Warning	48	78
Flood Warning	36	96
Tornado Watch	24	21
Winter Storm Warning	15	16
Blizzard Warning	11	17
Winter Storm Watch	25	16
Fire Weather Watch	77	73

Custer County Complex Fire

From February 25–28, mutual aid was requested in Custer County as crews responded to three wildfires near Merna. At the peak of the response, more than 150 firefighters worked to contain the fires. The incidents were divided into two operational divisions: the West Division, which included the 4,800-acre Eureka Valley Fire, and the East Division, which included the Lillian Fire and East Table Rock Fire, which burned a combined 1,350 acres.

Governor Jim Pillen declared a state of emergency for the Custer County fires and the Schaffer Road Fire near Chadron, authorizing the activation of state emergency plans and the deployment of 22 Nebraska National Guard soldiers and airmen to assist with firefighting efforts. Multiple aircraft, including two helicopters, supported operations with water drops and aerial support. No injuries were reported.





In 2025, a total of 498 fires were reported in Nebraska, impacting 92,077 acres statewide. Fire incidents were categorized by cause as follows:

Human-caused fires:

469 incidents, impacting 87,925 acres

Lightning-caused fires:

26 incidents, impacting 3,370 acres

Prescribed burns:

3 incidents, impacting 783 acres

*Source: Great Plains Interagency
Dispatch Center*

Governor Pillen Declared Emergency, Mobilized Nebraska National Guard and Issued Statewide Burn Ban Following Fire in Brown County

In April 2025, Governor Jim Pillen authorized the Nebraska National Guard to deploy 29 soldiers and airmen to support local volunteer fire departments in responding to the Plum Creek Fire near Johnstown, Nebraska. Nebraska Army National Guard aerial assets also assisted in firefighting operations.

The fire, which burned over 6,000 acres, was caused by a permitted burn that got out of control.

In response to ongoing dry conditions, Governor Pillen issued a statewide burn ban. During a news conference at NEMA, he signed three documents: a proclamation providing state assistance to the Plum Creek Fire, a proclamation authorizing state resources to address drought conditions, and an executive order establishing the burn ban through April 30.

The ban covered a large portion of the state, extending south along U.S. Highway 81 from the South Dakota border to Highway 92, then west to U.S. Highway 281, and south to the Kansas border. Due to continued dry conditions, the ban was later extended to May 20.



Incident Management Team (IMT) Facts

2025 Nebraska IMT or IMAT Deployments

Custer County Complex Fire
Plum Creek Fire

IMT Members

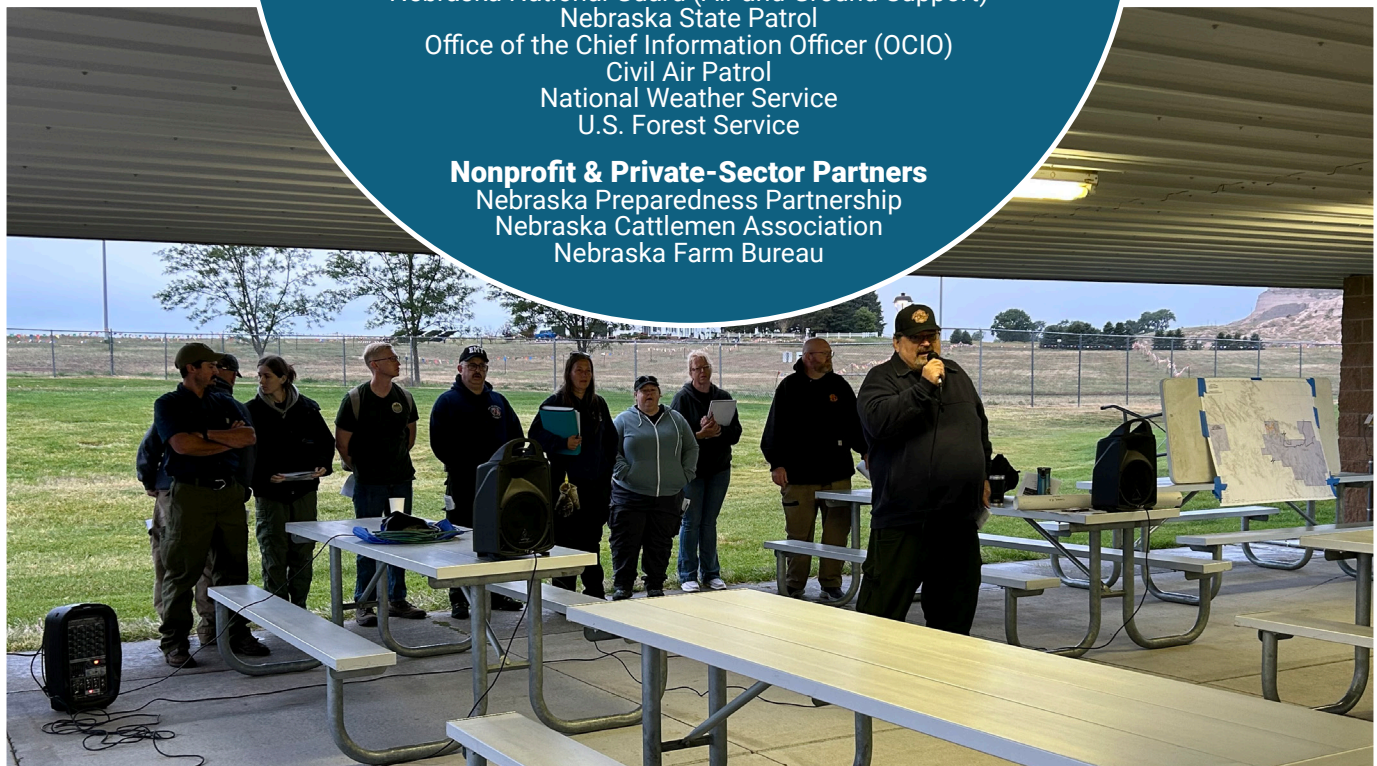
State agency representatives from NEMA, Nebraska
State Fire Marshal and Nebraska Forest Service
Local emergency managers and other partners

Additional Partners Supporting the IMT

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 the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)
Civil Air Patrol
National Weather Service
U.S. Forest Service

Nonprofit & Private-Sector Partners

Nebraska Preparedness Partnership
Nebraska Cattlemen Association
Nebraska Farm Bureau

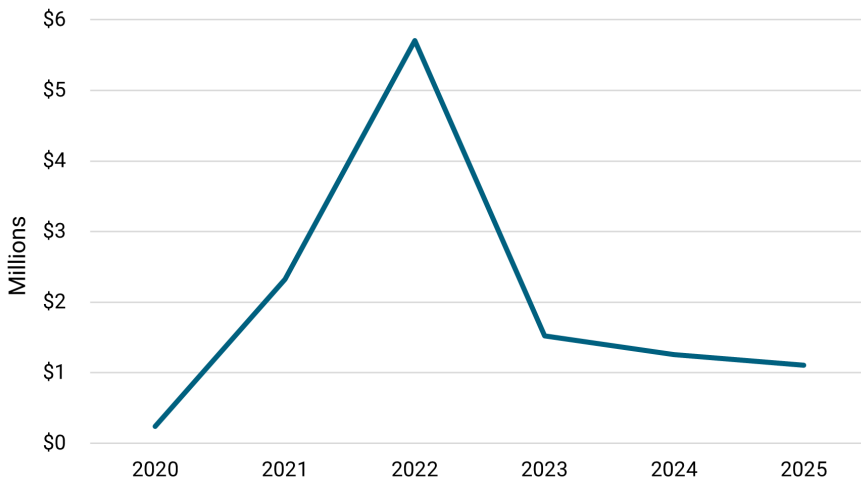


2025 Fire Activity and Response

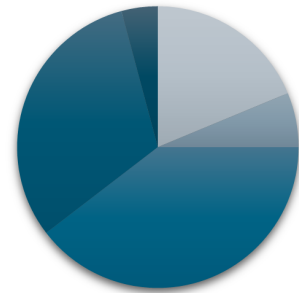
Fire Name	Cost (all payments have been made)	Responding Entities	Acres Burned	Aerial Suppression	Out-of-State Resources	IMT or IMAT ³	Structures Damaged or Destroyed
Custer Complex Fire	\$472,884	94	1,350	✓	✓	✓	0
Plum Creek Fire	\$316,362	20	7,075	✓	✓	✓	3
Schaffer Fire	\$0	4	4	✓	✓	N/A	0
Gator Fire	\$0	N/A	4	✓	✓	N/A	0
Total	\$789,245	118	8,433	-	-	-	3

The Schaffer and Gator Fires required support from federal and out-of-state resources, and NEMA is currently awaiting the bills.

State Declared Fire Costs to Date



Firefighting Aircraft



- Nebraska-Contracted SEAT
- Other SEAT Aircraft
- Private Aerial Applicators
- Civil Air Patrol Fire Detection/Observation
- Other Tactical Wildfire Aircraft

Nebraska Single Engine Air Tanker Program

SEAT DATA	2022	2023	2024	2025
Operational Days	184	109	116	60
Fires Flown	37	4	29	9
Flight Hours	133	20	90	23
Gallons Dropped	140,440	12,194	33,495	11,826
Total Cost	\$1,465,151	\$448,074	\$1,124,921	\$541,960

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 2025, the PA Unit was staffed by 12 team members. Those public servants were able to close out 428 individual projects and 76 sub-recipients (meaning ALL the projects the eligible entity had were completed and closed out). The team has also been working on closing out the overall DR-4616, which was Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, and Tornadoes on December 15, 2021.

Federal Share Payments

Disaster	2024	2025
4420 – Floods	\$78,204,523	\$55,469,963
4521 – COVID-19	\$55,219,822	\$13,226,294
4616 – Severe Storms	\$24,047	\$20,580
4641 – Severe Storms	\$121,197	\$210,199
4662 – Severe Storms	\$4,921,962	\$927,047
4778 – Severe Storms	\$0	\$2,292,976
4786 – Winter Storms	\$0	\$1,538,555
4808 – Severe Storms	\$0	\$3,158,400
4822 – Severe Storms	\$0	\$1,707,825
4838 – Severe Storms	\$0	\$3,599,381
4868 – Winter Storms	\$0	\$246,859
4896 – Severe Storms	\$0	\$0

State Share Payments

Disaster	2024	2025
4420 – Floods	\$1,944,198	\$1,052,968
4521 – COVID-19	\$0	\$0
4616 – Severe Storms	\$16,993	\$0
4641 – Severe Storms	\$326,668	\$11,603
4662 – Severe Storms	\$63,727	\$0
4778 – Severe Storms	\$0	\$85,618
4786 – Winter Storms	\$0	\$109,854
4808 – Severe Storms	\$0	\$13,676
4822 – Severe Storms	\$0	\$20,287
4838 – Severe Storms	\$0	\$53,234
4868 – Winter Storms	\$0	\$0
4896 – Severe Storms	\$0	\$0

Community Development Block Grant

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.

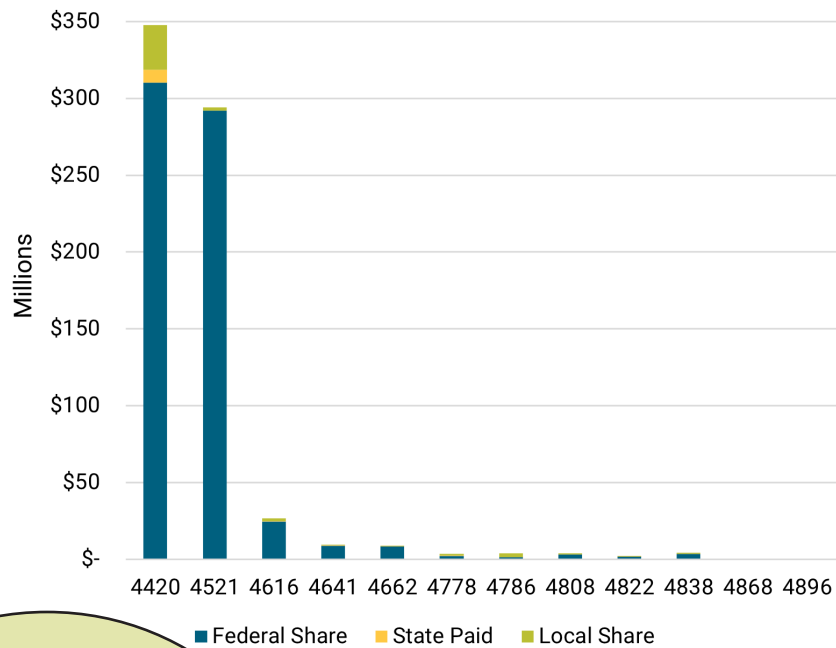
Working with various funding sources, including other federal programs, DED awards funding for communities to assist in their disaster recovery efforts. Long-term monitoring of the awards helps ensure communities use funding to make the most impact.

Total Disaster Funds Paid from Declaration Date through December 31, 2025

Disaster	Federal Share	State Share	Local Share	Disaster Declaration Date
4420 – Floods	\$310,192,331	\$8,535,955	\$28,972,236	March 21, 2019
4521 – COVID-19	\$292,040,505	\$0	\$2,202,093	April 4, 2020
4616 – Severe Storms	\$24,551,628	\$486,775	\$1,498,474	September 6, 2021
4641 – Severe Storms	\$8,768,267	\$458,532	\$489,389	February 23, 2022
4662 – Severe Storms	\$8,497,325	\$105,771	\$225,113	July 27, 2022
4778 – Severe Storms	\$2,292,976	\$85,618	\$1,080,750	May 3, 2024
4786 – Winter Storms	\$1,538,555	\$109,854	\$2,427,645	April 6-7, 2024
4808 – Severe Storms	\$3,158,400	\$13,676	\$817,750	August 20, 2024
4822 – Severe Storms	\$1,707,825	\$20,287	\$548,337	September 24, 2024
4838 – Severe Storms	\$3,599,381	\$53,234	\$807,965	October 21, 2024
4868 – Winter Storms	\$246,859	\$0	\$127,127	May 21, 2025
4896 – Severe Storms	\$0	\$0	\$0	October 22, 2025

State share is paid only after projects have been inspected by NEMA and officially closed by FEMA. The local share and state share amounts may differ, as some projects and entities are not eligible for state share funding.

Funds Paid to Date in Open Disasters



To Governor's
Emergency Fund
\$732,078

To Local Entities
\$754,000

Total Dispersed Relating to PA
\$1,486,079

PA Overview	2025
New Disasters	2
Disasters Closed	0
Active Grants	11
Individual Active Projects	716
Paid Out (Federal & State)	\$83,745,328
Individual Projects Closed	428
Subrecipient Closed	76
Projects Obligated	166

DR-4420

Nebraska Disaster Update

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

84 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

Obligated Project Cost
\$584,285,113

Obligated Federal Share
\$529,933,925

412 Applicants

34 Applicants Closed

2,031
Projects Obligated

1,615
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

Obligated Project Cost
\$297,896,668

Obligated Federal Share
\$295,440,396

182 Applicants

12 Applicants Closed

656
Projects Obligated

641 Projects Closed

DR-4616

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

14 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

21 Applicants

66 Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$31,663,102

Obligated Federal Share
\$28,595,684

2 Applicants Closed

50 Projects Closed

DR-4641

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

25 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

17 Applicants

60 Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$9,717,731

Obligated Federal Share
\$8,768,267

2 Applicants Closed

60 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

62 Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$13,395,581

Obligated Federal Share
\$10,196,000

1 Applicants Closed

44 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

30 Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$8,960,236

Obligated Federal Share
\$6,822,214

6 Applicants Closed

3 Projects Closed

DR-4786

Severe Storms and Straight-line Winds –
Declaration Date: April 6-7, 2024

8 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

Obligated Project Cost
\$19,749,841

11 Applicants

Obligated Federal Share
\$14,894,579

19 Projects Obligated

2 Applicants Closed

1 Projects Closed

DR-4808

Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes and Flooding –
Declaration Date: August 20, 2024

19 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

Obligated Project Cost
\$4,875,387

29 Applicants

Obligated Federal Share
\$3,752,436

59 Projects Obligated

4 Applicants Closed

11 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

Obligated Project Cost
\$3,469,780

Obligated Federal Share
\$2,680,237

22 Applicants

7 Applicants Closed

40 Projects Obligated

1 Projects Closed

DR-4838

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

5 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

Obligated Project Cost
\$6,674,859

Obligated Federal Share
\$5,106,891

23 Applicants

5 Applicants Closed

68 Projects Obligated

16 Projects Closed

DR-4868

Severe Winter Storm and Straight-line Winds –
Declaration Date: May 21, 2025

28 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

35 Applicants

44 Projects Obligated

Obligated Project Cost
\$1,341,755

Obligated Federal Share
\$1,074,543

0 Applicants Closed

4 Projects Closed

DR-4896

Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, and Flooding –
Declaration Date: October 22, 2025

12 Counties Approved
for Public Assistance

34 Applicants

0 Projects Obligated

Estimate Disaster Cost
Based on PDA's
\$39,165,245

0 Applicants Closed

0 Projects Closed

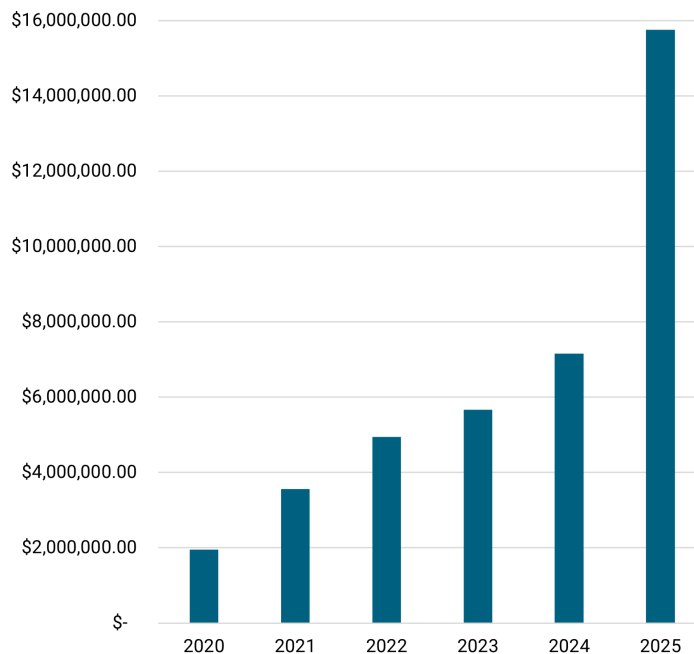
Hazard Mitigation

The NEMA Hazard Mitigation (HM) 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 2025, the HM Unit was comprised of three Program Specialists, the Deputy State Hazard Mitigation Officer and the State Hazard Mitigation Officer. Together, the team reimbursed \$15,757,037 in federal share and managed \$54,449,137 in federal funding across 16 grants.

2025 HM Statistics	
New Disasters	0
New Grants (BRIC)	0
Disasters Closed/Pending Closeout	2
Active Grants	14
Individual Active Projects	33
HMA Paid Out	\$15,757,037
Individual Projects Closed/Pending	27
Projects Approved	7
Dollars (Fed Share) Approved	\$326,049
Total Federal Share	\$54,469,137

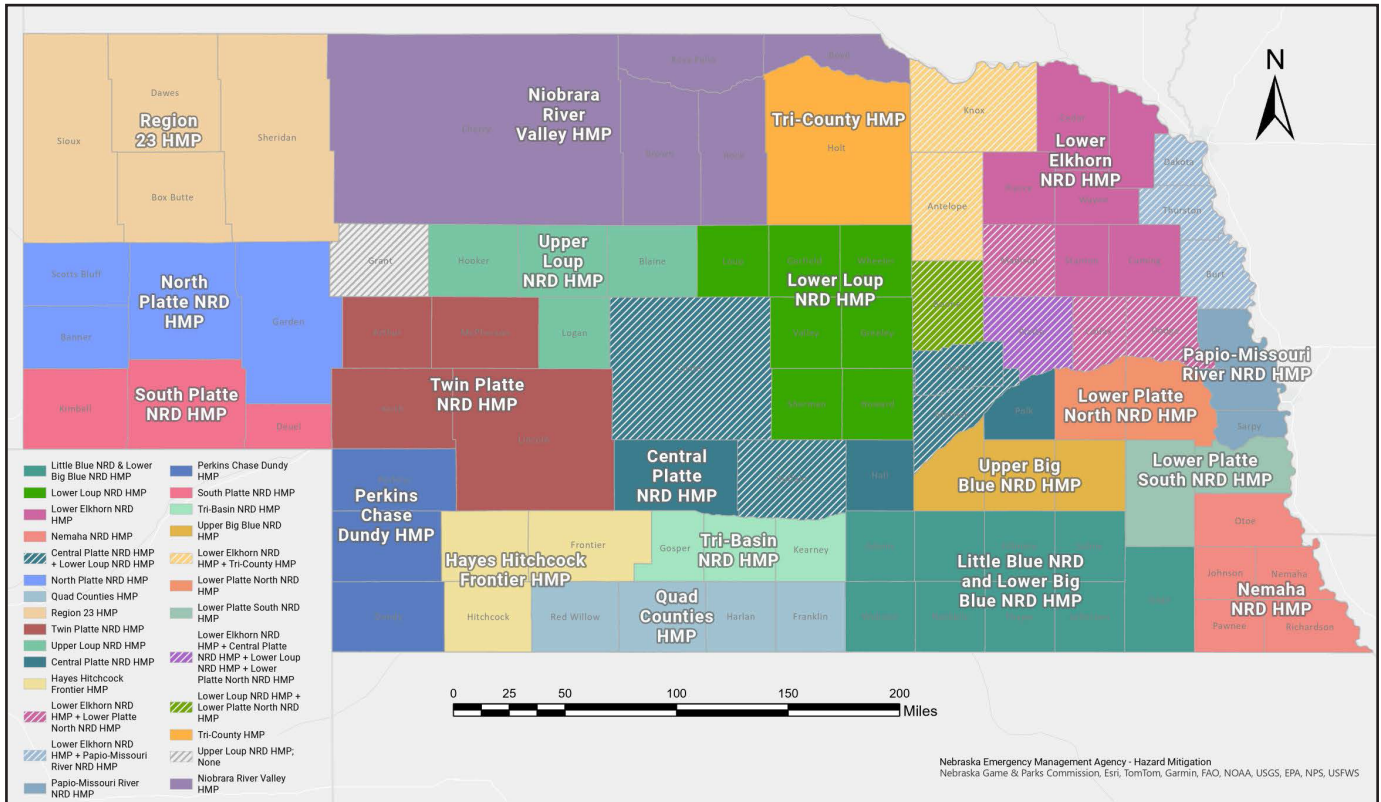
Federal Share Payments





Left: Loup Headworks Project
 Top right: Papio-Missouri WP-4 Project
 Bottom right: Aurora Fire Department Generator

Hazard Mitigation Planning Areas



Nebraska Citizen Corps

Nebraska Citizen Corps engages local volunteers to support communities before, during, and after disasters, working with first responders and public agencies to build safer, stronger, and more resilient neighborhoods. It includes four main programs:

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)



The CERT program trains volunteers in disaster preparedness, fire safety, light search and rescue, and basic medical care, enhancing support for professional responders during emergencies.

Fire Corps



Fire Corps helps fire and EMS departments by engaging community volunteers in non-emergency tasks like fire prevention education, smoke alarm installation, grant writing, social media management, and other support roles.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)



MRC trains and responds to emergencies alongside first responders while supporting community preparedness. Its volunteers include medical professionals and local residents committed to strengthening public health and safety.

Neighborhood Watch



The Neighborhood Watch program connects residents with local law enforcement to collaboratively prevent and reduce crime in their communities.

Working closely with Nebraska Citizen Corps are numerous nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations that provide disaster assistance, including:

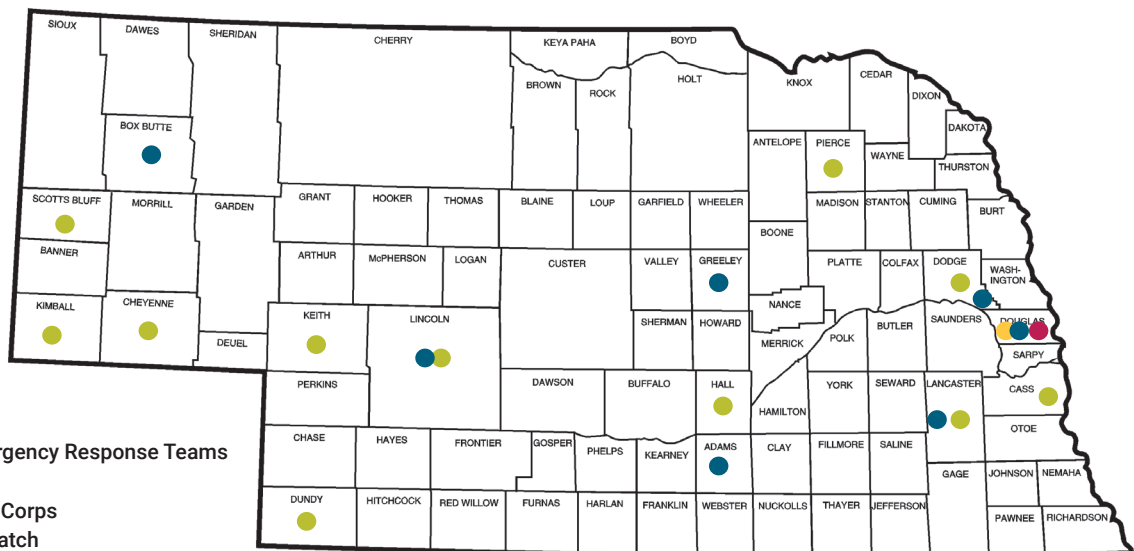
Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NEVOAD) is a coalition of voluntary agencies dedicated to improving disaster response across Nebraska through cooperation, coordination, communication, and collaboration. While each member organization remains independent, they work together to strengthen services and reduce duplication during times of disaster.

Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) are locally based groups made up of public, private, and nonprofit partners that work together to identify and address unmet community needs before, during, and after disaster events.

Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) are collaborative partnerships of faith-based, nonprofit, government, business, and community organizations that work together to support individuals and families as they recover from disaster.

Formed in April after the Arbor Day Tornadoes, the **Tri-County Disaster Recovery Coalition** brings together more than 30 nonprofit, government, volunteer, and philanthropic partners to lead long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts. Since 2011, the **Washington County Long-Term Recovery Team** has helped disaster survivors access critical assistance and has played a key role in tornado relief. Together, the two groups continue to support more than 300 individuals still navigating the recovery process.

Nebraska Citizen Corps Program Map



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 Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE)

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 Water, Energy, and Environment.



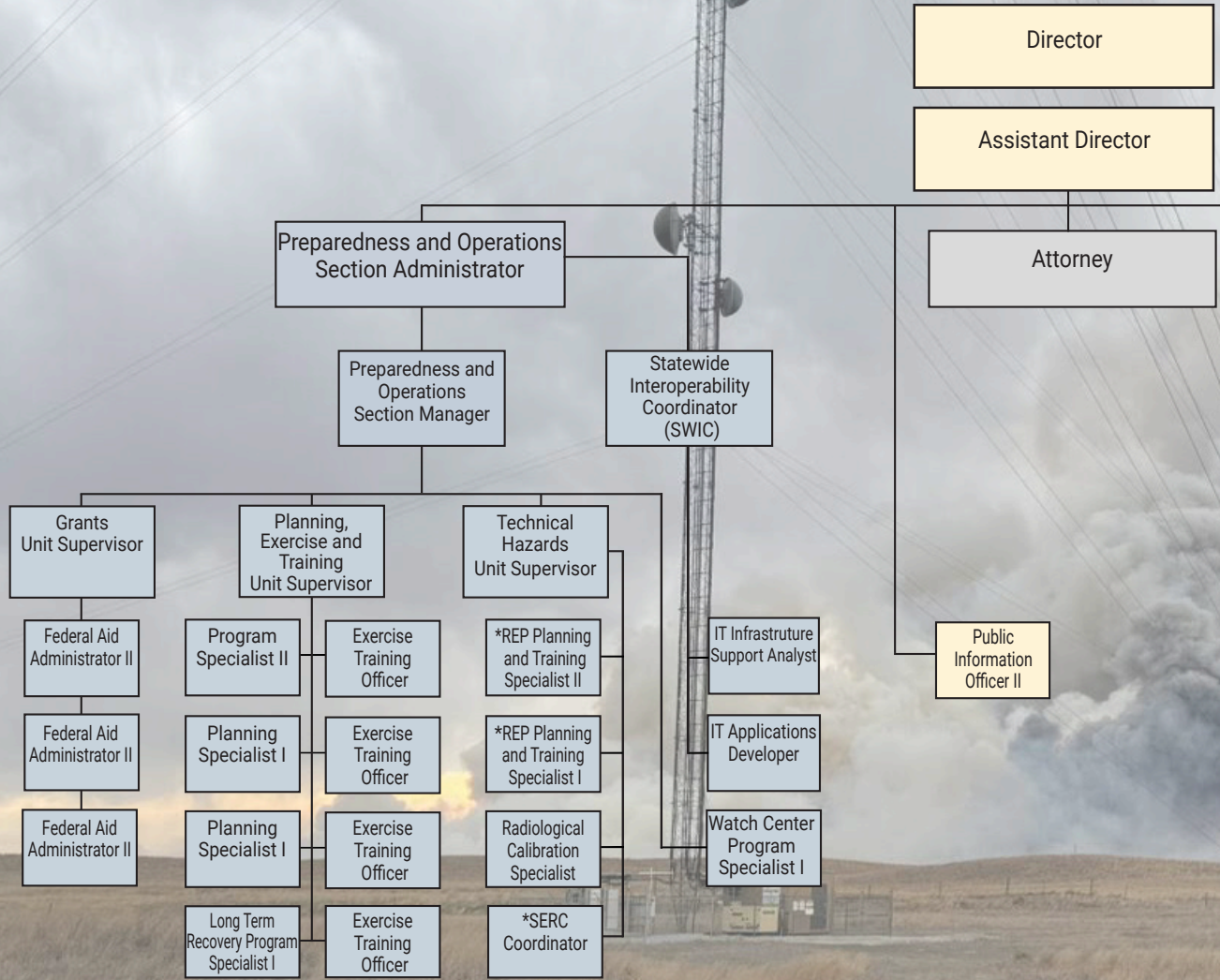
- Individuals assist local and county officials acting as a liaison for additional resources and are trained as hazmat technicians.



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.

NEMA Organizational Chart



Acronyms

- DPAO = Deputy Public Assistance Officer**
- DSHMO = Deputy State Hazard Mitigation Officer**
- IT/COMMO = Information Technology/Communications**
- PAO = Public Assistance Officer**
- REP = Radiological Emergency Preparedness**
- SHMO = State Hazard Mitigation Officer**
- SERC = State Emergency Response Commission**

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.

Contact Us

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