



Spring 2016

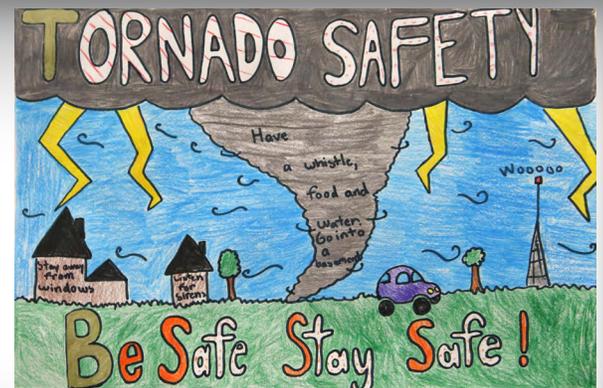
The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



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Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest
First Place: Jules Bumgardner, 9
Gretna, Sarpy County, Thomas Elementary School



*A Message from
NEMA Assistant Director*

Bryan Tuma

We envision safer, less vulnerable communities in Nebraska made possible through effective collaborative partnerships committed to saving lives and reducing the impact of disasters.

Our mission is to coordinate, support and serve Nebraska through an effective and relevant emergency management agency.

It's been a busy start to the spring and summer weather season. While we celebrated Severe Weather Awareness Week in March to promote preparedness for spring and summer weather, April events reinforced the need for Nebraskans to be prepared. Snowstorms, wildfires, floods, chemical spills, an earthquake AND a tornado marked April, and as emergency managers, our all-hazards approach to incidents served us well as the state was faced with such a variety of issues in just one month.

It's fitting that the month ended with America's Preparedness Month! A day to take action and get ready for bad weather before it arrives at your door. It's never too late to prepare for severe weather. Take some steps today.

Just as you must prepare your family for emergencies, all levels of government must be prepared to deal with ever changing and increasingly complex challenges that test our traditional approaches to disaster and emergency preparedness and response. The National Emergency Management Association recently identified a list of priority issues to be addressed by the next presidential administration. The issue brief addressed climate adaptation, cybersecurity and counter terrorism as areas of concern. Reforming the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), increasing disaster resilience by investing in mitigation activities prior to disasters, reducing the cost of federal disaster recovery programs and improving the effectiveness of federal homeland security grants are also concerns of the national group.

As emergency managers, we assess risks and hazards, provide situational awareness for informed decision-making by leaders, ensure a coordinated response, provide critical information to the public and implement disaster assistance programs. The situations we are faced with demand purposeful action and a forward-thinking approach. State and local emergency managers had several opportunities during April to working together on preparedness efforts. From the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management annual meeting in Columbus to the annual Investment Justification workshop in Kearney and to TERREX16, the annual state exercise, held this year at Ft. Robinson State Park near Crawford, we worked together in a variety of settings to make sure we have planned and prepared for any threat that could effect our state. We must continue to work together in our preparedness efforts.

ARE YOU PREPARED?

- Download NEMA's [Family Disaster Preparedness Kit list](#) and make sure your family is ready for a disaster
- Create a family emergency communication plan. Visit [ready.gov/prepare](#) and download [Be Smart. Take Part. Create Your Family Emergency Communication Plan](#).
- Download the FEMA app for disaster resources, weather alerts and safety tips.
- Sign up for local text alerts and warnings, get the latest forecast at [weather.gov](#) and download weather apps to stay aware of worsening weather conditions. Visit [ready.gov/prepare](#) and download [Be Smart. Take Part. Know Your Alerts and Warnings](#) to learn how sign up for local alerts and weather apps that are relevant for hazards that affect your area.
- Gather important documents and keep them in a safe place. Have all of your personal, medical, and legal papers in one place, so you can evacuate without worrying about gathering your family's critical documents at the last minute. Visit [ready.gov/prepare](#) and download [Be Smart. Take Part. Protect Your Critical Documents and Valuables](#)

Sincerely,

2016 Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest

Jules Bumgardner, 9, a fourth grade student from Thomas Elementary School in Gretna (Sarpy County), won first place in the 2016 Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest, sponsored by the **Nebraska Association of Emergency Management (NAEM)**, the **National Weather Service (NWS)**, the **Nebraska Military Department** and **Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)**.

Bumgardner's poster, entitled "Tornado Safety," encourages people to "Be Safe, Stay Safe" and reminds people to listen for outdoor warning sirens, to stay away from windows, to go to the basement and to have items, including a whistle, food and water, ready in advance.

The contest was open to all fourth grade students in Nebraska. The top four finishers were recognized by **Gov. Pete Ricketts** at a proclamation signing for Severe Weather Awareness Week, at the State Capitol.

The second place poster, by **Lily Haas**, 9, of Aurora Elementary School in Hamilton County, featured an angry tornado and cautions "Nebraska weather hits you out of nowhere!!!! Be prepared for what comes in Nebraska!!!"

The third place poster, "Be Safe. Be Ready, Be Alert, Be Alive!" was entered by **Thane Hardwick** of Loomis Public School in Phelps County, and includes power lines being struck by lightning



Pictured from left:
First Jules Bumgardner, 9
Gretna, Sarpy County,
Thomas Elementary School
Second, Lily Haas, 9,
Aurora, Hamilton County,
Aurora Elementary School
Third, Thane Hardwick, 9,
Phelps County,
Loomis Public School
Fourth, Mason Remmers,
10, Hebron, Thayer County,
Thayer Central School

- Not pictured: honorable mention in alphabetical order:**
Abby Anderson, 9, Hartington, Cedar County, Hartington-Newcastle Public School
Callie Cantrall, 9, Colon, Saunders County, St. Wenceslaus
Avery Collins, 10, Beatrice, Gage County, Paddock Lane Elementary
Jayla Davis, 10, North Platte, Lincoln County, Lake Maloney School
Jordan Hauschel, 9, Fairbury, Jefferson County, Jefferson Intermediate School
Harper Kelsay, 10, Omaha, Sarpy County, Whitetail Creek Elementary
Anna Krusemark, 10, Pender, Thurston County, Pender Public School
Mason Mackeprang, 10, Bloomfield, Knox County, Bloomfield Community School
Ella Mitchell, 10, Bassett, Rock County, Bassett Grade School
Saryn Prickett, 9, Alma, Harlan County, Alma Public Schools
Reese Reilly, 10, St. Paul, Howard County, St. Paul Elementary
Lauren Taylor, 9, Elkhorn, Douglas County, Fire Ridge Elementary
Nevada West, 9, Falls City, Richardson County, Falls City South School

and a tornado hitting a home.

The fourth place poster, by **Mason Remmers** of Thayer Central School, reminds people "Beware for a scare. Watch Out for Lightning's Warfare" and features a tree being struck by lightning.

Posters were judged on originality,

effort and accuracy. The top prize is a \$125 gift card, second is \$100 and third \$75, all provided by NAEM. NWS provides a \$50 gift card for fourth place. NEMA provides certificates for all the students and the Nebraska Military Department mats the posters as a remembrance for students.



The governor, local and state emergency managers and National Weather Service personnel honored Severe Poster Contest Winners at the Capitol. Pictured Back row, Kirt Smith, Hamilton County; Middle Row, from left, Bryan Tuma of NEMA, Bill McPhersen, Thayer County, Pat Gerdes of Region 15, Jesse Eret of Sarpy county, Cathy Zapotocny of the National Weather Service, Gov. Pete Ricketts, Darrin Lewis of Buffalo County, Brian Smith of the National Weather Service and of Laura Hintz of Knox County.; front row, from left , Mason Remmers of Thayer County, Thane Hardwick of Phelps County, Lily Haas of Hamilton County and Jules Bumgardner of Sarpy County.

Annual Exercise Tests Interoperable Communications



Nebraska Army National Guard UH60 helicopter crew arrives at Fort Robinson to participate in TERREX16.

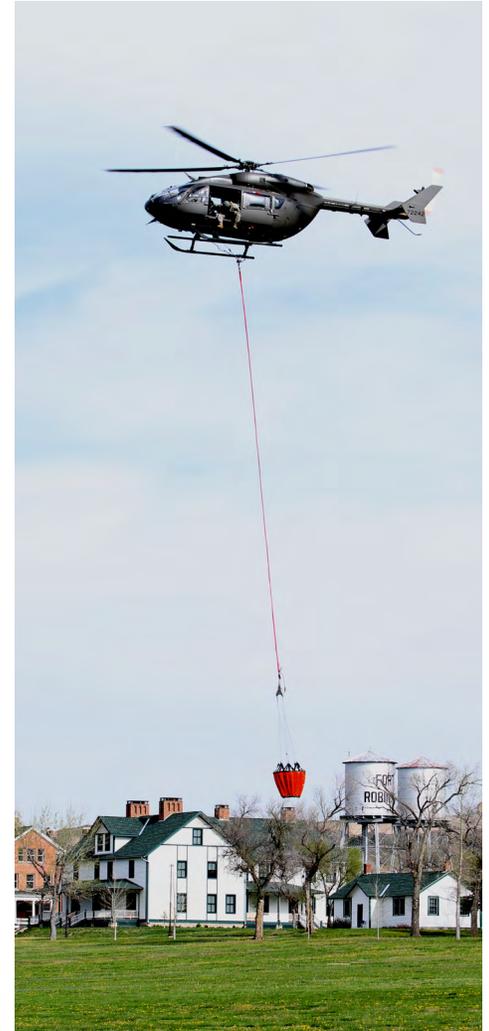
Multiple State Agencies and Local Representatives Participate in TERREX16

State and local agencies tested interoperable communications during the annual state exercise, April 23-24 at Ft. Robinson State Park near Crawford.

Dubbed TERREX16, this year's full-scale exercise focused on com-

munication capabilities of state and local resources during wildfires set by a terrorist group.

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), in coordination with the Nebraska State Patrol and the Office of the Chief Informa-



A Nebraska Army National Guard UH72 helicopter with a Bambi Bucket takes off to participate in TERREX16.



TERREX16 participants line up outside the Fort Robinson Buffalo Barracks for the morning operations briefing on April 23.



NEMA Assistant Director Bryan Tuma speaks to TERREX16 participants as NEMA exercise training officers Sean Runge and Larry Fichtner look on.



Incident Commander Brian Prosser, right, of the Crawford Fire Department talks with Seth Petersen and Justin Nickless, fire management specialists with the Nebraska Forest Service as well as Air National Guard participants taking an annual wildland firefighter refresher course that was included as part of the exercise.

tion Officer, planned and coordinated the annual statewide exercise. **Sean Runge**, NEMA exercise training officer, served as exercise director.

Air-to-air, air-to ground and all types of ground communication, with multiple agency involvement, was tested.

“We designed this exercise so that all of those responsible for communication during a wildfire incident would have a chance to test their equipment in a simulated wildfire response,” Runge said.

“This allowed all involved to practice a coordinated communication response before an actual event.”

Objectives of the exercise were to:

- Test interoperable communications amongst responding agencies;
- Ensure agency specific equipment can integrate into the interoperable communications plan or develop a work around to ensure interoperable communications;
- Ensure air to air and air to ground communications among all air assets;



The Office of the Chief Information Officer tested its mobile communications tower.



Brian Prosser of the Crawford Volunteer Fire Department, addresses exercise participants in the operations briefing at the start of TERREX16. Prosser served as incident commander for the exercise.



Bryan Tuma, NEMA assistant director, Ed Toner, Nebraska’s chief information officer, and Network Services division administrator Jayne Scofield observe TERREX16 at Ft. Robinson.



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)



NEMA



Nebraska State Fire Marshal



Nebraska State Patrol (NSP)



Nebraska State Patrol (NSP)



NEMA

Nebraska State Fire Marshal



National Guard Civil Support Team



State Forest Service

NEMA

Nebraska State Fire Marshal

Mobile Operation Centers helped enhance communication. Representatives from a number of state agencies participated.;

- Ensure the ability to communicate with Great Plains Communication Center;
- Provide opportunities for the completion of Incident Management Team task book work;
- Deliver the RT130 annual wildland firefighter refresher course;
- Tag and track all resources involved in TERREX16;
- Operate in the safest and most efficient manner possible;
- Each agency that participated also had specific objectives they worked in conjunction with the over arching objectives.



NEMA

Dawes County Sheriff's Office



Nebraska State Patrol (NSP)



Local Volunteer Firefighters



Nebraska Air National Guard



NEMA



UH60 Nebraska Army National Guard (NEARNG)



This is the state's 14th annual TERREX16 which is a wide-scale emergency response exercise. Past events have simulated a terrorist attack on state infrastructure, an infectious disease outbreak among livestock, a flu-like epidemic, an active shooter attack on a college campus, a pipeline explosion and last year's exercise which involved a crude oil transportation spill exercise.

Agencies involved include: **NEMA, Nebraska National Guard, Office of the Chief Information Office, Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska Forest Service, Nebraska State Fire Marshal, the United State Forest Service, Nebraska Department of Roads, Region 23 Emergency Management and Great Plains Dispatch Center.** The following volunteer fire departments also participated: **Chadron, Crawford, Hemingford, Harrison and Alliance.**



Nebraska State Patrol (NSP)



NSP

UH72 NEARNG



UH72 NEARNG



NSP Photo from above NEARNG UH 72



Local volunteer firefighter radios helicopter crew with drop site information



Clockwise from upper left: Safety Officer Leo Larkin, a NEMA planning specialist who is properly outfitted in fire resistant gear, tests the moisture content of pine needles as he observes activities in the field at TERREX16.

A bald eagle at Whitney Lake flies near its nest. The dipping site for the exercise was moved so the nesting eagles would not be disturbed.

The NEMA field team for TERREX16, from left, Larry Fichtner, Alisia LaMay, Sean Runge, Jodie Fawl, Dave Reisen, Leo Larkin, Roger Conrad and Troy Harris.

An after-action meeting was held following the exercise to assess strengths and weaknesses.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer's public safety communications team from left Adam Schmidt, Cory Simmons, Pam Kemper and Mike Jeffres.

As part of TERREX16 the State Forester's Office used it's wildfire simulation table to project fire on the terrain of the area. Weather conditions, wind speed and other variables were programmed to give participants a clear view of conditions.





A panoramic shot of the Guardians of Freedom Airshow crowd from on top of NEMA's mobile operations center, Saturday, May 7.

Emergency Managers Track Resources at Lincoln Air Show

The Guardians of Freedom Airshow sponsored by the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Nebraska National Guard, City of Lincoln and the Lincoln Airport Authority gave NEMA exercise training officers and local emergency managers an opportunity to use the rapid tag resource tracking system on a large event. **Roger Conrad, Sean Runge, Larry Fichtner** of NEMA worked with southeast region emergency management agency staff: **John McKee, Brenda McKee, Brad Eisenhouser, Emily Scribner, Gregg Goebel, Steve Cody, Jim Dunker, Tim Stutzman, Renee Critser and Gary Petersen** to check in and check out 511 workers on Friday, 903 on Saturday and 857 on Sunday. Lancaster County Emergency Management asked the southeast region emergency managers and NEMA to keep track of volunteers and workers at the show. **Mark Hosking** of Lancaster County and many volunteers also worked on resource tracking as did **Matthew Guilford** and **Andrew Guilford**, cadets with the Civil Air Patrol's 155th Composite Squadron.

"We were able to successfully demonstrate the capabilities of rapid tagging and mobile express to track resources in an event of this size," said Runge. "We ran detailed reports quickly and the military leadership definitely saw the benefits of what this system offers. Representatives of Offutt Air Force Base were definitely interested in the system we use."



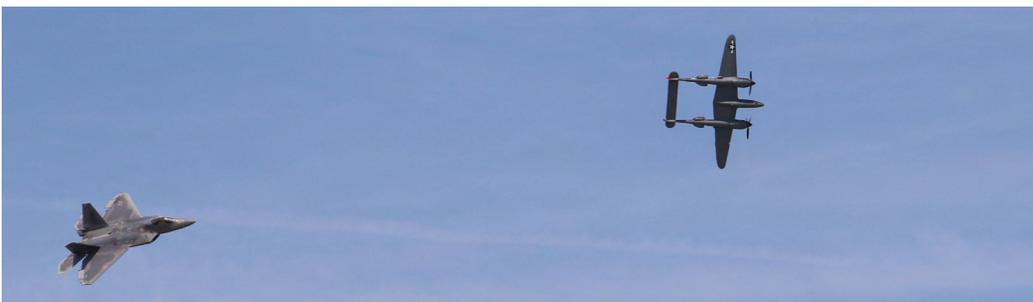
U.S. Navy Blue Angels demonstration aircraft (F/A-18 Hornets) on the tarmac (above) and in the air (above right).



Two F/A-18 Hornets fly above the NEMA Mobile Operation Center (MOC) during the air show.



"Fat Albert," a C130 Hercules, does a low pass over the Lincoln Airport during a demonstration run, May 6.



In what is called a heritage flight, a P-38 Lightning twintail is followed by an F22 Raptor. In heritage flights the older decommissioned plane flies in front while the newer aircraft flies behind.



The afterburners kick in on an F-22 Raptor.

Preparedness



NEMA Assistant Director Bryan Tuma gets ready to address investment justification workshop participants at annual meeting.

Investment Justification Workshop Determines How Federal Funds are Used

By: Logan Leuking

Program Specialist

An investment justification (IJ) workshop, to determine the use of 2016 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) homeland security grant funds, was held in Kearney, April 14, at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center.

This workshop was preceded by a series of web-based and in-person meetings of subject matter expert groups, facilitated by the University of

Nebraska’s Public Policy Center. The subject matter expert groups reviewed and ranked proposed projects based on priority.

Those rankings were reviewed at the IJ workshop, where local, regional and state representatives involved in emergency management provided input. The annual threat and hazard identification and risk assessment process or THIRA, assists in decision-making.

“The participants prioritized investments to address gaps identified by the

THIRA related to its 31 core capabilities, while also remaining cognizant of the finite grant funding available,” said Patrick Rooney, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) planning specialist.

Following that process, the Governor’s Homeland Security Policy Group and the Senior Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the final ranking of projects, which will be submitted to FEMA, which will award grant funds later this year.



NEMA Assistant Director Bryan Tuma speaks at the investment justification workshop as Grant Unit Supervisor and Federal Aid Administrator III Julie Mayers looks on.



Capt. Kevin Knorr of the Nebraska State Patrol addresses investment justification workshop participants on how the State Patrol’s fusion center uses federal funds to monitor the state.



The Minatare Public School District recently broke ground on a safe room for the public schools. “The storm shelter will provide safe haven for school district students during a high wind or tornado event,” said Mary Baker, State Hazard Mitigation Officer of NEMA. “The safe room portion is partially funded by a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) safe room grant through NEMA. Pictured from Left: Brandon Rajewich, project manager, Megan Hayward, architect, LeAnn Nuss, board member, Larry Randolph, board member, Gary Koke, board president; Alicia Hassel, board secretary/treasurer, Tim Cody, superintendent, Jana Schwartz, board vice-president and Kyle Metzger, high school principal.

Nebraska Silver Jackets Kick Off High Water Mark Project

The Nebraska Silver Jackets, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, kicked off a program to educate the public on high water marks along Nebraska rivers. High water mark signs were placed across the state to educate the public on the risks in that area.

LEFT: One of the historical markers was installed north of Blair, in the Cottonwood neighborhood, and commemorates the June 27, 2011, Missouri River flooding. The Nebraska Silver Jackets is a program of state and federal agencies that develops strategies for reducing risks of floods and other natural disasters.

The sign reads: On this day, rising water from the Missouri River closed the U.S. Route 30, Blair Bridge, while flood barriers were erected in Iowa. The flooding continued through August with the bridge closed a total of seven days. At times, the only open bridges between Sioux City, Iowa, and St. Joseph, Missouri, were at Blair, Omaha and Plattsmouth. The red marker on the pole indicates the high-water mark of the 2011 flood. The blue marker indicates the base-flood elevation, which has a one in four chance of occurring in any 30-year period.

Whether it’s preparing a disaster supplies kit or purchasing flood insurance, there are many steps Nebraska families can take to prepare for flooding. Visit the [Nebraska Silver Jackets website](#) for useful flood preparation.

Spring is a good time for a reminder that people should never drive through floodwaters. The “turn around don’t drown” campaign emphasizes that just 12 inches of moving water can carry away a small car.



Technical Hazards

NEMA's Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program

360 Degrees of Preparedness

By: Debra Robinson

Radiological Emergency Planning and Training Specialist

There are two questions no one in Nebraska Emergency Management Agency's (NEMA) Technical Hazards Section (THS) radiological emergency preparedness program ever wants to hear if a disaster were to occur at one of our nuclear power plants. The first is, "How could this happen?" The second is "Why weren't we better prepared?" Fortunately, the citizens of Nebraska can rest assured the state, our local and federal partners and stakeholders work diligently to ensure neither of those questions will ever have to be asked or answered.

The Technical Hazards Section is continuously engaged in extensive planning and preparedness activities for both the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) and the Fort Calhoun Station (FCS). Local radiological emergency response plans are re-

quired for all risk and host counties and at the state level.

The planning requirements alone include hundreds of elements related to the alert and notification systems and public messaging; emergency response activities; off-site emergency access to the nuclear power plants (NPPs) by law enforcement, fire departments and EMS; communications between the plant(s), local and state governments and their emergency operations facilities/centers (EOFs/EOCs), and how this will all interface if an event were to occur.

It is a major undertaking that continuously goes on behind the scenes, but as we have learned, the best laid plans are meaningless unless there is sufficient training for those who would need to implement the plans and execute the



Local and state officials from Nebraska and Iowa meet with federal representatives from FEMA and Fort Calhoun Station. Plant, local, state and federal personnel hold quarterly meetings.

response activities. Continuous classroom trainings, drills and exercises are critical to ensuring our preparedness and response capabilities.

To that end, THS trainers work with personnel and responders in local government, other community leaders, law enforcement (LE), fire departments, EMS, and hospitals to deliver a full spectrum of training relevant to their areas of responsibility to ensure Nebraska is prepared. THS also supports training and exercise activities with members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard teams who could be called on to support response activities for nuclear power plant incidents.

Radiological training is also available to volunteer response organizations who may wish to help out in an emergency, as well as the general public, agricultural and business communities. Nebraska remains largely an agricultural economy and our ability to recover would be largely dependent upon the knowledge and actions of each citizen if an event ever



Civil Support Team (CST) members with the Nebraska National Guard receive training in radiological monitoring.

were to occur.

Growers, farmers, producers and shippers play a critical role in our preparedness, response and recovery plans and activities. Ingestion pathway training is a training program

specifically designed to help these groups and all Nebraska citizens understand what would be occurring if a response was ever needed and the steps they can take to protect livestock, crops and waterways.

Preparedness is about families taking care of families, neighbors taking care of neighbors and Nebraskans taking care of Nebraskans.

We invite you to visit the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency website at www.nema.nebraska.gov or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nema.page to learn more about preparedness, the Technical Hazards Section and radiological training.



Quarterly drills and annual exercises with plant personnel ensure capabilities are in place for the citizens of Nebraska.



Josie Rodriguez of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services addresses NAEM Conference attendees to discuss community, diversity and preparedness.

Nebraska Association of Emergency Management Annual Conference

Building Partnerships Toward Preparedness was the theme of the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management (NAEM) Annual Conference, April 6-8 in Columbus. The conference gives the state's emergency managers an opportunity to learn from one another, hear from speakers on current issues and network prior to a disaster or event.



NEMA staff were among those who presented at the conference. 1. Cindy Newsham, 2. Julie Mayers, 3. Mary Baker, 4. Roger Conrad pictured with John McKee of Jefferson and Saline counties and Greg Goebel of Otoe County and 5. Jodie Fawl with the Really Obvious Preparedness Guy from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Brandon Myers of Lincoln County was named the Outstanding New Emergency Management Professional of the Year. He is honored here by NAEM president Darrin Lewis of Buffalo County, left, and Laura Hintz, incoming vice president, of Knox County (right).



Cindy Newsham of NEMA, left, was recognized by NAEM President Darrin Lewis with a President's Award for all her emergency management work in Nebraska throughout her career.



Alma Beland of Region 26 and Laura Hintz of Knox County were recognized for 10 years as members of NAEM.



Brian Woldt of Dawson County and John McKee of Jefferson and Saline Counties were recognized for 15 years of membership with NAEM.

Other awards announced at the conference included, from left, a president's award for B.J. Fictum, presented by Darrin Lewis, the Outstanding Emergency Management Professional of the Year for Nic Kemnitz of Wayne County, the Outstanding Emergency Management Support Professional of the Year for Laura McDougall of Four Corners Health Department and the Life Member award for Pat Gerdes of Region 15.



Local Emergency Management



Region 15

Pat Gerdes, director of Region 15 Emergency Management, is leaving his position June 1 for a job with The Blue Cell, a training company for emergency management groups and organizations.

Gerdes is relocating to Blackhawk, S.D. and will consult and provide training (ICS 300/400 and Glevel courses.) Gerdes started with Phelps County Emergency management in 2001 as deputy and became director in 2002. "I'm proud of the accomplishments I've made while here," Gerdes said. "From a part-time job, I made it a full time job and included five counties — Dundy, Frontier, Gosper, Hitchcock and Phelps."

Gerdes said the biggest change for him will be not being on call 24/7 for 365 days a year.

"I don't know what it will be like to not carry a pager all the time after 30 years. It's bittersweet. I enjoy the people, the camaraderie we have in the state. It's been a good ride.

I've had 20 presidential disasters in 14 years." Gerdes said. "I know the public assistance paperwork pretty well."



Richardson County

Brian Kirkendall was named emergency management director for Richardson County following the departure of Brian Dixon, who left for a job for an emergency management position in a community near Seattle.

Kirkendall has worked for the Nebraska Department of Corrections for the last 14 years. When he left, he was a captain and served as a supervisor of shift supervisors.

"I have lived in Richardson County my whole life so I know the community and the people," Kirkendall said. He reports he is definitely getting his feet wet right away: "I started right at the beginning of storm season. My hands are full."



Weatherfest

NEMA Public Information Officer Jodie Fawl, right, and her dog, Jancy, second from right, reminded participants in the annual Weatherfest, April 16, at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, of the importance of preparing items for pets before an emergency as well as for the human members of the family. The event included a weather balloon launch, storm spotter training and various children's activities.



Take Your Daughter to Work Day

Brent Curtis and his daughter, Meredith, enjoy a moment on Take Your Daughter to Work Day. Meredith, 8, interviewed NEMA staff members about their jobs, toured NEMA and also learned about what the Military Department does with a visit to the hangar where UH60s are housed.



www.nema.nebraska.gov

(402) 471-7421

Toll Free (877) 297-2368

Fax: (402) 471-7433

Governor Pete Ricketts

State Homeland Security Director

Lt. Governor Mike Foley

NEMA Director

Major General Daryl Bohac

Assistant Director

Bryan Tuma

NEMA is charged by Nebraska statute to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska in terms of injury, loss of life and property damage resulting from natural, technological or man-made disasters and emergencies.

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 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal partners.

The Beacon

The Beacon is published six times a year and includes emergency management news and activities from across the state. Please forward story ideas or photos for inclusion to:

Jodie Fawl

Public Information Officer

2433 N.W. 24th St.

Lincoln NE 68524

402-471-7428

jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov



Dan Hiller was recognized by **Gen. Daryl Bohac** for his work as a member of the Military

Department's 20-member Strategic Planning Committee. He earned an individual achievement medal for his efforts.

Sue Krogman was singled out for her work on behalf of NEMA at the Cyber Shield Exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind. April 17-24.

The Army National Guard recognized her for her hard work, dedication and devotion to the success of the event.



Walter Kirkland is a new planning specialist in the public assistance unit at NEMA. He earned a bachelor's degree in emergency management with a minor in fire department administration from Western Illinois University in Macomb. He was a member of the volunteer fire department in Brimfield Ill., had an internship with the city of Peoria, Ill. for emergency management and the 911 center, worked as an EMT for BYE ambulance and in the emergency room at the Methodist Hospital. He enjoys mountain biking.

Nicholas Walsh has joined NEMA as a planner in the hazard mitigation unit. Walsh earned a bachelor's degree in emergency management from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Before joining NEMA, Walsh worked at Dakota County Health Department as the emergency response coordinator. He's been married to Deirdre Walsh, a nurse, for two years. Walsh enjoys camping and photography. He is involved with local Masonic groups and volunteers with Masonic youth groups.



Kayla Dalton joined NEMA as a long-term temporary employee in the administration department. Dalton attended the University of Nebraska Lincoln to pursue a computer science degree until a family illness required her full attention. A lifelong Lincoln resident, Dalton enjoys reading, gardening and crafting. Dalton has a dog, Ellie, who survived Hurricane Katrina that she inherited from her father, and a bunny, appropriately named Stormy given that Dalton is working at NEMA.

Jessica Morehead joined NEMA as a temporary staff assistant in the hazard mitigation unit. Morehead served in the Army Reserve for eight years. She attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for graphic design and has worked for the State of Nebraska for several years including at the Department of Agriculture, Economic Development and Department of Health and Human Services. She enjoys youth ministry and foreign travel.



Annette Martin joined NEMA as a staff assistant in the administration department. Martin attended Southeast Community College in Lincoln studying accounting and business finance. She worked at the Nebraska Safety Council for the past 17 years in accounting and customer service. She has lived in Lincoln for 28 years, and has been married to Ron Martin for 27 years. They have a son, Charles, who is 23. Her hobbies include gardening and cooking.