



Nebraska
STRONG
Recovery Update

Friday May 24, 2019

The Daily Fact Sheet is now the Recovery Update and is published twice a week, focusing on recovery and the resources available to individuals and communities in Nebraska.

Individual Assistance Available Until June 19 for Nebraskans

At the request of Governor Pete Ricketts, homeowners, renters and business owners in Nebraska designated counties have until June 19 to register for federal assistance. See [News Release](#).

US Small Business Administration (SBA) loan deadline has also been extended to June 19, 2019. Business owners and residents can visit SBA.gov/disaster, call SBA Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. TTY users may call **800-877-8339**.

Help remains after Disaster Recovery Centers close

Now that the DRCs have closed, help is just a mouse click, phone call or a tap on the FEMA app away. Individuals and businesses in counties included in the disaster declaration can still get help by:

- Logging into their account at DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Calling the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362** (voice, **711/VRS**-Video Relay Service) (TTY: **800-462-7585**). Multilingual operators are available (press **2** for Spanish).
- Downloading the **FEMA app**, available for **Apple** and **Android** mobile devices. To download visit: fema.gov/mobile-app.

For more information on Nebraska's disaster recovery, visit <http://nema.nebraska.gov>

If you registered for disaster assistance, stay in touch with FEMA. Missing or outdated information, such as phone numbers or addresses, can delay help. The easiest way to update your application, check your status or provide missing information is to create an account.

To set up an account:

1. Go to: [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov)
2. Select Check Your Application Status "Access Your Account" button

To create an online account, you must first verify your identity:
Click **Check Status** on the **Home** page or from the **Get Assistance** menu.
Click **Create Account**.

- Enter your date of birth and Social Security number.

After your identity is verified, you may continue:

- Create a user ID and password.
- Enter an email address. This is the only way we can send you a PIN that you need to access your account. A temporary PIN will be sent to the email address you entered. You should receive it within 24 hours.

After you receive your PIN, follow the instructions in the email to finish creating your account. Before you can set up an account, you need to answer four security questions to prove who you are. We pull these questions from data in your public record. We use them to make sure your personal information is secure. If you get an error, this means your answers don't match what's on record.

For help to access your account or for lost or forgotten user ID, password or PIN, call the Internet Help Desk, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-800-745-0243. When you call the help desk, you need to provide the following: your Registration ID and your Social Security Number.

To comply with the Privacy Act, help desk staff cannot create an online account for you. They also cannot provide information or help with your FEMA account or application. You must contact the Disaster Assistance Helpline.

To apply for assistance that FEMA doesn't manage, you will need to follow the instructions provided for each program. This may require going to another agency's website.

Federal Disaster Assistance Is for Nebraska Renters, Too

Renters in counties and tribal areas whose homes and property were damaged in this disaster may be eligible for federal disaster assistance. For information on assistance available, [click here](#).

Housing Resources for Disaster Survivors

The State of Nebraska is leading a Housing Task Force to address housing shortages and unmet needs in communities affected by flooding. A fact sheet [listing resources](#) is posted on FEMA's disaster web page: [fema.gov/disaster/4420](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4420).

Check Permit Requirements Before Rebuilding

It is important for Nebraskans to **check with local building authorities about local or state permits** before starting reconstruction. These may include building permits, floodplain development permits, permits for repair of septic systems, and others. See NEMA guidelines [here](#). To find out what state permits may be required, please visit dnr.nebraska.gov/floodplain.

Understanding Your FEMA Letter

If you applied for assistance from FEMA, you will receive a letter in the mail or via email that explains the status of your application and how to respond. It is important to read the letter carefully. Your letter will include the amount of any assistance FEMA may provide and information on the appropriate use of disaster assistance funds.

- **If you have questions about the letter**, you may go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov); call the disaster assistance helpline at **800-621-3362** or **800-462-7585 (TTY)**.

FEMA Hires Nebraskans to Work on Disaster Recovery

FEMA is hiring Nebraskans to help with recovery efforts, go to www.USAJobs.gov. The website is updated regularly. Type “FEMA Local Hire” in the search box and “Nebraska” in the location box.

Keep your recovery options open with U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest loans

SBA loans provide the largest source of long-term federal disaster recovery funds for survivors in a major disaster declaration. By submitting an initial application with SBA, you will keep the option open to obtain recovery funds that you may need. Don’t wait for insurance claims to be settled; it is not necessary to know how much money you may need. There is no cost to apply, or any obligation to accept funds if approved.

If SBA is unable to offer you a loan, you may be referred back to FEMA for potential additional grant assistance. Survivors who’ve been referred for low-interest loans with SBA and don’t apply, will not be considered for these “other needs” grants from FEMA.

SBA has approved over **\$36.3 million in low-interest recovery loans for Nebraskans**. \$30.7 million for homeowners and renters and \$5.5 million for businesses and private nonprofits, so far. SBA is also operating two Disaster Loan Outreach Centers to help homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofits with face-to-face assistance to apply and to close their approved loans. The centers are in the **Fremont City Auditorium, Community Room at 925 N Broad St, Fremont, NE 68025** in Dodge County, and at **3802 Raynor Parkway, Suite 201, Bellevue, NE 68123** in Sarpy County. Both centers are open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays – Fridays. No appointment necessary.

To apply online or for any questions, residents and businesses can visit SBA.gov/disaster, call SBA’s Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955, or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. TTY users may call 800-877-8339.

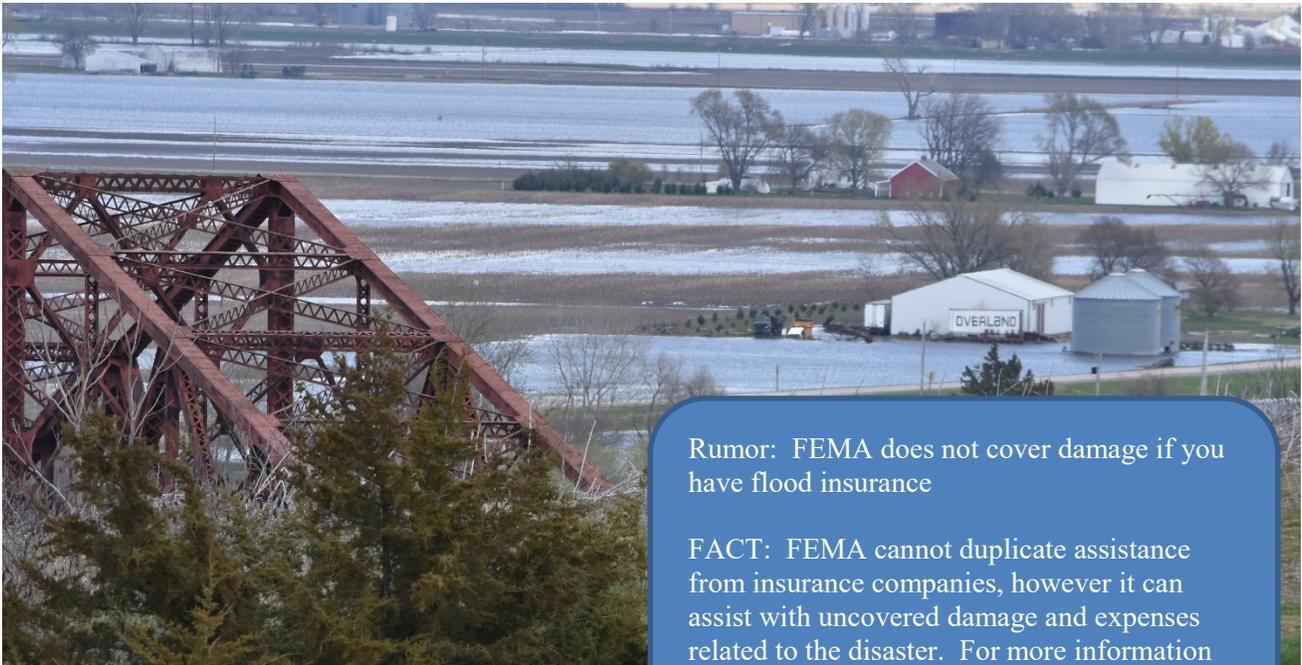
Free Safety and Health Consultations Available to Flood-Impacted Businesses

The Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) is offering free safety and health consultations to businesses in flood-impacted areas. Trained NDOL consultants are available to assist with mold remediation plans, provide safety and health assessments, identify electrical hazards, and perform overall risk assessment. For more information go online to dol.nebraska.gov.

Crisis Counseling Services Available

Survivors may call the Rural Response Hotline at 800-464-0258. Outreach workers are available to support emotional and psychological issues. Callers receive tips on how to handle disaster-related distress, along with referrals to local treatment centers, support groups and community-based organizations. **For more information see nema.nebraska.gov.**

Sand buildup on farm land
(photo credit USACE)



Rumor: FEMA does not cover damage if you have flood insurance

FACT: FEMA cannot duplicate assistance from insurance companies, however it can assist with uncovered damage and expenses related to the disaster. For more information visit www.FloodSmart.gov

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

As of May 17, NFIP has received 1,029 flood insurance claims in Nebraska and issued \$5,129,287 in advance payments to policyholders. Total paid on all claims: \$31,794,806.

NFIP Increased Cost of Compliance Can Help with Rebuilding in Nebraska

If you have a policy with the NFIP and your home was damaged extensively by March storms, you may qualify for additional coverage under your policy, under the provisions of Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC). ICC funds can help defray the costs of elevating, floodproofing, demolishing or relocating a residence. For more information contact your local floodplain administrator, NFIP at **800-427-4661**, or your insurance agent.

Debris Removal a Priority for Communities

Debris needs to be separated into categories and placed at the curb; it should not block the roadway. For details see the website: deq.state.ne.us/.

Agriculture News: Grants, Loans and other Programs

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture(USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cover Crops for Disaster Assistance Initiative** (soil erosion, water quality, etc.) announced a **new application deadline of August 1, 2019** to accommodate farms facing delayed planting.
- **NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program** NRCS funding is available to assist with disaster recovery either through special EQIP signups or annual EQIP funding.
- **USDA announced higher limits now are available for borrowers** interested in USDA's farm loans. For more information, visit [USDA Farm Service Agency](#).
- **USDA Rural Development (RD) Business and Co-op Programs** have a funding opportunity for a Rural Cooperative Development Grant. Applications are due June 3, 2019. Total funding will be \$5,800,000.
- **USDA RD** delivered its [Multi-Family Housing Vacancy Report](#) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). There are 227 vacant units available.

BEWARE *of* FRAUD *when Seeking* DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams and home inspectors are often sent to rural areas to help disaster survivors, but not all individuals offering assistance are who they say they are.

Don't take a financial hit from scams during your recovery process!

BEFORE YOU ENGAGE, FOLLOW THESE TIPS:

-  FEMA representatives and inspectors from other agencies will always have identification.
-  Do NOT give cash. Government workers never ask for a fee or payment.
-  Do NOT give personally identifiable information over the phone.

If you believe you are the victim of fraud, contact the Disaster Fraud Hotline to report scams or fraud in your area.

 disaster.leo.gov

 National Center for Disaster Fraud
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909

 (866) 720-5721



27 Counties and One Tribe Eligible for FEMA Individual Assistance

Homeowners and renters in Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dodge, Douglas, Hall, Howard, Knox, Madison, Nance, Nemaha, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Stanton, Thurston and Washington counties and the Santee Sioux Nation are eligible for Individual Assistance.

Individuals & Households Program (IHP)

As of May 20, **5,874 applicants in designated counties have applied for Individual Assistance.**

- FEMA has approved **\$22,407,325.**
- This includes **\$19,904,357** for housing assistance and **\$2,502,968** for disaster-related other needs.
- **Deadline to register for Individual Assistance is June 19.**

FEMA Public Assistance in Nebraska

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Public Assistance Unit works with FEMA to provide assistance in the wake of disaster. The Public Assistance (PA) Program has been authorized for 80 counties and five tribal areas that sustained major damage in the disaster. The PA Program is available to assist with reimbursement of repairs to damaged eligible facilities including: roads, bridges, water control facilities, buildings, equipment, utilities, parks and recreational facilities. It is also available to assist with reimbursement of emergency functions such as debris removal and emergency protective actions. The federal cost share for this program will not be less than 75 percent of eligible expenses for emergency measures and permanent restoration.

Eligible applicants in the designed damage area include: local governments, state government, certain non-profit organizations for example houses of worship, schools, and Native American tribal governments.

For comprehensive information on the Public Assistance Program, go online to the NEMA Website nema.nebraska.gov/recovery/public-assistance; where you find links to information and forms that describe the “who, what, where, when, why and how” for municipalities, governmental entities and certain nonprofit organizations that are eligible to participate in this program. Included are:

- **FEMA Grants Portal Information** If you have not received an email for the Grants Portal, please call (402) 429-3389.
- **The deadline to apply is June 20, 2019.**

PA Update

- **80** counties and **5** tribal areas have been designated for Public Assistance
- **403** Requests for Public Assistance have been submitted
- **331** applicants are eligible
- **137** Exploratory Calls completed
- **81** Recovery Scoping Meetings completed

For a Fact Sheet describing the application process, visit online <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4420>.

Survivors unmet needs resources include:

- A **Disaster Relief Fund** at the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation provides emergency aid to Nebraska rural communities affected by recent storms and flooding. The Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit and any donations made are tax-deductible. 100 percent of the donations will be distributed to Nebraska farmers, ranchers, and rural communities affected by the disasters. **Contact: www.nefb.org**
- For property clean up contact the **Crisis Clean Up Hotline: 833-556-2476**
- For all other needs of assistance call **Nebraska 211**.
- To volunteer to help, please contact **United Way of the Midlands**. **Click here** to view, sign up and make someone's day brighter! In state, call 2-1-1 for questions (press option 6). Or
- **Contact the Fremont Volunteer Reception Center**. Volunteer opportunities are available online at <http://signup.com/go/xynaaxZ>. The Volunteer Center is at Fremont Area United Way, 445 East 1st Street, Suite 1, Fremont. Open Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. -5 p.m., or go online to fremontnebraskavrc@gmail.com.

Information Links:

- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency: nema.nebraska.gov/
- Nebraska Impact (Volunteering): www.nebraskaimpact.com/flood
- Twitter: twitter.com/nematweets
- Facebook: facebook.com/nema.page
- YouTube: youtube.com/user/TheNEMAtube
- Flickr: flickr.com/photos/nemapics/
- FEMA: FEMA.gov
- Facebook: facebook.com/FEMA
- Twitter: twitter.com/femaregion7
- National Flood Insurance Program: Floodsmart.gov
- FEMA blog: fema.gov/blog
- SBA Office of Disaster Assistance: sba.gov/disaster.
- The public notice for the Nebraska recovery mission is posted on the following websites:
 - <https://nema.nebraska.gov/sites/nema.nebraska.gov/files/doc/fema-ipn4420.pdf>
 - <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/notices/initial-public-notice-dr-4420-ne>