



Supporting Nebraska Communities
Annual Report 2008

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Cover Photo by David Cosseboom



NEMA

Supporting Nebraska Communities

On behalf of the State of Nebraska, the employees of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) are proud to submit *Supporting Nebraska Communities* as our annual report for 2008. This is our formal account of the agency's performance in 2008 and will serve as a record and reference of the agency's support of state and local emergency management and homeland security programs.

A large portion of the state was affected by disasters in 2008. It was an active year with the issuance of four Federal Disaster Declarations: DR1739, DR1765, DR1770 and DR1779. The declarations were for storms, tornadoes, high winds, rain and flooding. As in the past, it was the coordination, planning, training and exercising that allowed state and local emergency management officials to effectively react, respond and recover from the devastating effects of the storms.

This report details the high level of effort, work ethic and commitment of NEMA staff who assist the citizens of Nebraska in having effective and responsible emergency management and homeland security programs. High levels of energy were expended in support of state and local planning as well as toward training and exercising programs that are continually put into play during our state's response and recovery to disasters and emergencies. NEMA continues to work with its partner agencies to progressively move forward the professional level of emergency management across the state.

General Kadavy and I are extremely proud of the quality of work performance exhibited every day by the staff of NEMA and supported by the commitment, dedication and professionalism of the local emergency managers throughout the State of Nebraska. This report is dedicated to the state's emergency management professionals and clearly documents their level of commitment to our state.

Al Berndt
NEMA Assistant Director



**Brigadier General
Timothy J. Kadavy
Director**



**Al Berndt
Assistant Director**

Agency Overview /Administration

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is charged by state statute with reducing the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska to damage, injury, loss of life and property resulting from natural, technological or man-made disasters and emergencies.

NEMA continues to focus on maintaining an effective emergency response system through an emphasis on pre- and post-disaster programs.

Four federal disaster declarations as a result of tornadoes, storms, and flooding across the state affected 63 counties and continued a trend begun in 2007 of the most active disaster period ever experienced in the state.

In addition to leading the state response to four disasters, the agency continued to carry forward with the state homeland security program. Administrative and program support was given to **Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy** as state homeland security director to keep this program moving forward and interacting with the Federal Department of Homeland Security.

NEMA is housed under the Nebraska Military Department and is structured into four performance areas: administration; response and recovery; preparedness, which includes grants, planning, exercising and training; and radiological emergency preparedness.

NEMA is also the state administrative agency for the Department of Homeland Security and has responsibility for overall

funding, fiscal responsibility, program management and integration with other state agencies to enact and carry out the state program. It is in these roles that NEMA supports the lieutenant governor in his role as state homeland security director. Program responsibilities for homeland security have been integrated into all performance areas within the agency.

The administrative division is responsible for oversight of agency programs including the State Emergency Management Program and agency administration. It is the state administrative agency for Department of Homeland Security programs and grants. It provides administrative support to the State Homeland Security Program Agency Strategic Plan and State Emergency Operations Plan/Emergency Operations Center.

No program can be sustained without the full cooperation and support of its peers at the state level and a core constituency at the local level. NEMA, in carrying out both the emergency management and homeland security programs at the state and local level, relies on key partnerships and support. At the national level, NEMA interacts with its sister states through the National Emergency Management Association while at the local level actively supports the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management and its membership.

NEMA relies extensively on the full- and part-time emergency management directors

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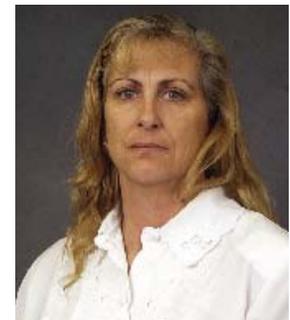
**Brigadier General
Timothy J. Kadavy
Director**



**Al Berndt
Assistant Director**



**Phyllis Rathjen
Accountant/Secretary**



**Deb Kai
Budget Manager**

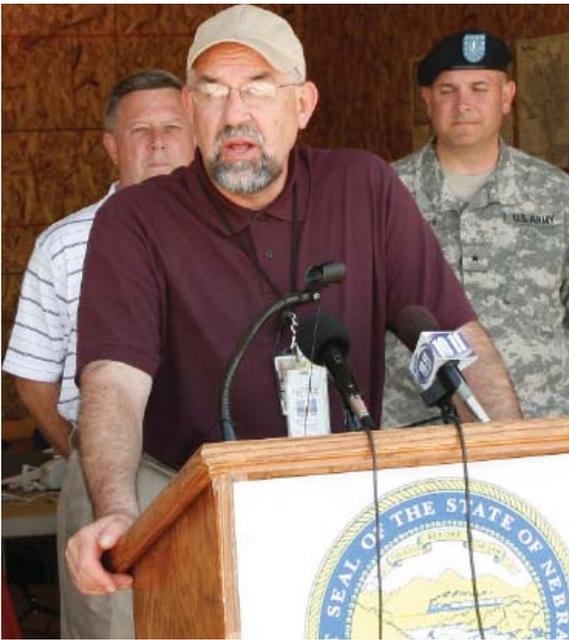


**Larry Nedrow
Administrative Assistant**

Agency Overview/Administration Continued

representing all 93 Nebraska counties to interact with and carry out programs at the local level. It is this partnership with local directors that is the backbone of the overall state program and one of the key reasons Nebraskans have been able to respond effectively in times of need.

NEMA is staffed with 36 full-time employees and one GIS support position from the University of Nebraska. As you read this annual report you will be impressed with the number of programs and activities carried out by NEMA staff members.



NEMA Assistant Director Al Berndt addresses reporters following the Kearney Tornado in May. Berndt joined Gov. Dave Heineman and Nebraska Adjutant Gen. Timothy Kadavy in touring the areas affected by severe weather.

Assistance to Local Governments

NEMA supports local county emergency management agencies in the administration of their programs with the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). This core program provided \$1,632,424 to 41 county and regional emergency management agencies on a 50/50 cost-share basis in 2008.

The EMPG program is a formula grant providing direct support for essential expenses, including salaries, benefits, equipment, supplies, maintenance of facilities and other necessary costs of state and local emergency management departments and agencies. Local participants must maintain and expand the capabilities necessary to have an effective emergency management program.

Participating agencies are required by NEMA to have either a certified full-time director or deputy director or be part of an inter-jurisdictional organization. Each participant must submit a statement of work and a budget showing the local financial commitment. Throughout the performance year local participating agencies work closely, with and are monitored by, NEMA for adherence to program guidelines.

During 2008, the sub-grantee agencies focused on addressing work plans to ensure that emergency management capabilities are developed and maintained in local jurisdictions sufficient to provide the basis for dealing effectively with catastrophic disasters and homeland security emergencies. The work plan requirements included:

- Maintaining an emergency management office and EOC capabilities including conducting day-to-day activities in support of emergency management and disaster preparedness.
- Maintaining a Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) according to state planning standards. This includes a review of LEOPs and revisions needed to ensure proper alignment with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and National Response Framework (NRF) coordinating structures, processes and protocols.
- Coordinating State Homeland Security Grants at the local level and serving as the focal point for local-level disaster preparedness, training and exercising.
- Conducting all-hazards disaster preparedness, including required NIMS training.
- Conducting all-hazards disaster preparedness exercises.
- Reporting disaster response activities to NEMA at time of disaster or emergency.

Since 2003, **Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy**, the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group and NEMA have used local emergency management organizations as the focal point at the local level for carrying out the state's homeland security program. Homeland security assessments strategy

[Continued...](#)

2008 EMPG-funded Emergency Management Directors/Coordinators

Directors/Coordinators Region Counties/ Municipalities

Bill Pook	5/6	Burt, Dodge and Washington Counties
Faythe Petersen	11	Antelope, Pierce and Madison
Dan Jantzen	13	Nuckolls and Thayer
Patrick Gerdes	15	Frontier, Gosper, Hitchcock and Phelps
Larry J. Collins	21	Cheyenne, Deuel, Garden, Kimball and Morrill
Jerry Bretthauer	22	Scotts Bluff and Banner
Nan Thornton	23	Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan and Sioux
Douglas L. Fox	24	Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Keya Paha and Rock
Alma Beland	26	Blaine, Garfield, Greeley, Loup, Sherman, Thomas, Wheeler, Valley

Director/Coordinator	County/Counties	Director/Coordinator	County/Counties
Loren Uden	Hastings/Adams	Kirt Smith	Hamilton
Bob Carey	Boone	Jacqueline Mayberry	Howard
Darrin Lewis	Kearney/Buffalo	John McKee	Jefferson
Rick Schneider	Butler and Polk	Jeff England	Kearney
William M. Cover	Cass	Laura Hintz	Knox
Kevin Garvin	Cedar	Doug Ahlberg	Lincoln/Lancaster
Bob Rose	Clay	James Nitz	Lincoln
Troy Smith	Custer	Bob Cole	Nemaha
Pat Foust	Dakota	Greg Goebel	Otoe
Brian Woldt	Dawson	Tim Hofbauer	Platte
Paul W. Johnson	Douglas	Jim Gerweck	Richardson
Terry Marshall	Fillmore	Bruce "B.J." Fictum	Saline
Roger Powell	Furnas and Harlan	Larry Lavelle	Sarpy
Mark Meints	Gage	Terry Miller	Saunders
Pete Peterson	Grant and Keith	Gary Petersen	Seward and York
Jon Rosenlund	Grand Island/Hall	Deanna Beckman	Wayne and Cuming

Assistance to Local Governments Continued

development grant applications and program guidance for all local-level homeland security programs are conducted by local or regional emergency management organizations.

NEMA has recognized the strong ties between all-hazards emergency management planning and the new realities of homeland security/terrorism preparedness and has called upon local emergency managers to be the lead at the local level. Because of strong relationships developed over the years by the Emergency Management Performance Grants program, local agencies have stepped forward and taken a strong leadership role.



Stanton County emergency management representatives participate in a mock Emergency Operations Center (EOC) exercise in February.

Preparedness

The Preparedness Division is responsible for a wide range of activities within NEMA.

Its staff is responsible for planning, preparedness, training and exercise. In addition, the division is responsible for oversight and administration of the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant funding programs.

Grants

The State of Nebraska applied for and received the following federal grants for fiscal year 2008:

- State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)
- Citizen Corps Program (CCP)
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), and the
- Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)

The Law Enforcement Terrorism Preparedness Program (LETPP) grant was dropped as a separate grant in fiscal year 2008.

The fiscal year 2008 grant year application procedure was the same format used for the last two grant years.

NEMA held a justification workshop with the State Homeland Security Committee and local first responders to write justifications for the grant application. After the application was submitted to Department of Homeland Security (DHS), state agencies and local jurisdictions submitted justifications to apply for grant funds. The submitted applications were reviewed by the Nebraska Homeland Security Planning and Advisory Committees. Based on the total award from DHS, those committee recommendations were forwarded to the Governor's Policy Group. **Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman** made awards based on the recommendations from the policy group.

The fiscal year 2008 grants continued the mandate of 80 percent pass-through to the local jurisdictions. Additionally, it was mandated that 25 percent of the grant must be used for law enforcement, replacing the LETPP grant, and another 25 percent must be used for planning purposes.

The State Homeland Security Planning Committee, local sub-grantees and NEMA staff worked hard to submit Investment Justifications that were reasonable and applied to the needs of Nebraska to prepare for possible Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE) terrorism events. Nebraska received the base allocation as follows: SHSGP, \$6,170,000; CCP \$160,424; and MMRS \$642,442.

Interoperable communications remain the top priority for Nebraska, and local jurisdictions are encouraged to use DHS grant funds for their interoperable communication needs.

Continued...

Local funds awarded to Planning, Exercise and Training (PET) regions

Regions	SHSG				
	Communications	PET	Hazmat/MOU	Law Enforcement	MMRS & Citizen Corps
Southeast	\$ 377,060	\$ 209,708	\$ 25,000	\$ 209,780	\$ 321,221 - Lincoln/MMRS
South Central	\$ 332,700	\$ 185,100	\$ 75,000	\$ 185,100	
East Central	\$ 155,260	\$ 86,380	\$ 25,000	\$ 86,360	
Northeast	\$ 177,440	\$ 98,720	\$ 25,000	\$ 98,720	
Panhandle	\$ 266,160	\$ 148,080	\$ 25,000	\$ 148,080	
North Central	\$ 377,060	\$ 209,780	\$ 209,780		
Southwest	\$ 110,900	\$ 61,700	\$ 25,000	\$ 61,700	
Tri-County (formerly UASI)	\$ 421,420	\$ 234,460	\$ 50,000	\$ 234,460	\$ 321,221 - MMRS
State	\$ 862,100	\$ 308,500	\$ 233,363 - CCP		
TOTAL	\$ 2,218,000	\$ 2,096,100	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,542,500	\$ 875,805

Grants Continued

NEMA, in cooperation with the state's Office of the Chief Information Officer and the Nebraska Council of Regions, supports regions in planning exercise and training.

The MMRS grant was split equally between Omaha and Lincoln at \$321,221 each as directed by the U.S. Congress. MMRS funding is used by Omaha MMRS and Lincoln MMRS to help hospitals and public health departments plan for health issues resulting from pandemic and terrorism mass-casualty incidents. Grant funds are also used for equipment, training and exercises. NEMA has assigned two planning staff members to attend the OMMRS and LMMRS committee meetings to give a state perspective and assist with grant management. NEMA exercise training personnel are assigned to support OMMRS and LMMRS in exercise planning and evaluation.

Citizen Corps Program (CCP) funds are sub-granted to the Nebraska Volunteer Services Commission (NVSC), which administers the grant. The NVSC sub-grants CCP funds to local Citizen Corps Councils and Emergency Management Agencies for local programs.

NVSC has a program coordinator to manage the CCP grant, work with Citizen Corps Councils and help local jurisdictions with training. The funds awarded to counties are used for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. This pays for student materials, emergency packs and instructors. The NVSC is working on a new training program, where all CERT training

is coordinated through NVSC, with standardization of training as the overall goal.

Another grant administered by NEMA is the SARA Title III, Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The amount received for the Oct. 1, 2008 to Sept. 30, 2009 funding period was increased to \$143,662 for planning and LEPC activities, and to \$166,170 for hazardous materials training. These funds are made possible through fees paid by the transportation industry. The grant supports LEPC activities including meeting expenses, public education, county fair booths, commodity

flow studies, hazmat (hazardous materials) assessments and state and regional LEPC conferences.

LEOP planning revisions and updates are also supported from this grant. NEMA makes the training funds available to the State Fire Marshal training division for hazmat operations training for first responders. The Nebraska Hazmat Incident Team's (NHIT) quarterly training is also supported with this grant, and is coordinated through the Nebraska State Patrol.

Congress has funded the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant

Continued...



Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy, head of Nebraska's Homeland Security effort, speaks to participants at the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management Annual Conference in Grand Island.

Grants Continued

through the U.S. Department of Commerce and DHS/FEMA. The grant total is \$8.5 million and will be passed through to local jurisdictions. It has a 20 percent match and Nebraska has received approval to use state communication funds for this match so there will be no local match.

NEMA is the point of contact to help local jurisdictions and communication regions with planning for statewide interoperable communications and how it ties into the state system. NEMA staff will be working with the regions on their PSIC projects which need to be completed by May 2010. The planning staff will be helping the communications regions update their Tactical Interoperable Communication Plans (TICP) and then that information will be incorporated in the LEOPs.

A great challenge for NEMA and locals is the requirement to get additional documentation for the building of communication towers including, environmental assessments. This has added an additional time burden on all concerned and the coop-

eration from local emergency managers in getting the documentation is greatly appreciated by NEMA staff.

NEMA coordinates and completes grant monitoring as required by DHS and the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-87.

Twenty-one counties and regions were visited this past year. The monitoring visits covered equipment acquisition and inventory, personnel and direct labor, employee reimbursement, travel and vehicle mileage, training, meetings and conference expenses, supplies and materials, other direct costs, project income, pass-through funds, fiscal, single audit review and NIMS compliance.

After the visit, a report is written with corrective actions to be taken (if any) and sent to the governing board and the emergency manager. A response is required regarding any corrective actions.

In September, NEMA personnel and representatives from the Office of the Chief Information Officer, traveled to each of the state's eight regions to conduct workshops to share information regarding: Planning,

Exercise and Training (PET), Department of Homeland Security grants and the state of interoperable communications throughout Nebraska and more specifically within the individual regions.

The workshops were held in Columbus, Wayne, Thedford, Scottsbluff/Gering, Holdrege, McCook, Omaha and Beatrice and were well attended by emergency managers, first responders and elected officials interested in these topics.

NEMA staff provided an overview of the grants status in relationship to the Regions which included the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant, 2006-08 Homeland Security Grant Programs and the 2008 Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP).

The afternoon sessions were spent discussing the status of the regional governance structures and sharing information on how the regions were functioning which included successes and challenges faced. Discussions of regional needs regarding inter-local agreements, memorandums of understanding, use of grant dollars and a proposal offering grant-supported assistance with the regional planning processes generated interesting and spirited participation from those in attendance.

Each of the eight regions are evolving at their own pace, as they should, and these workshops provided an excellent opportunity to address issues and concerns that were specific to the individual region. NEMA staff found the workshops to be a positive experience and want to extend appreciation to those who participated.



Mardell Hergenrader
Grants and Planning
Program Manager



Ed Conradt
Program Specialist



Jackie Maly
Federal Aid
Administrator



Nikki Weber
Program Specialist

Planning

It is the responsibility of the Preparedness Division to oversee and assess the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) for relevance and continuity and to ensure that agency staff is adequately trained. This entails working with other state agencies and the Emergency Support Function Coordinators (ESFC) to maintain a level of competency in support of the SEOP.

Needed training and exercises are recommended, and once approved, are coordinated by the planning section. The overall coordination of state National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) activities are administered through this division. The planning section maintains the administration of the NIMS program and coordinates with other state agencies and local jurisdictions to carryout NIMS implementation and certifications.

NEMA has an active planning section that supports state and local planning efforts. It develops, delivers and has oversight of all County Local Emergency Operation Plans (LEOP) and the State Emergency Operation Plan (SEOP). The section is re-

sponsible for the development and writing of all the DHS grant investment justifications, serves as the agency liaison to the MMRS grant program, coordinates the state Homeland Security Senior Advisory Group and the State Homeland Security Planning Team.

Fifteen LEOPs, the SEOP and the agency's Continuity of Operation Plan (COOP) were revised in 2008. Work started on the Continuity of Government Plan (COG) scheduled for completion in 2009.

The Department of Homeland Security mandates that states address additional DHS goals and objectives and it has impacted NEMA greatly. In fiscal year 2007 NEMA was required to oversee the development of Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs) for the eight PET regions and write the State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP). NEMA is now maintaining the TICPs and SCIP in conjunction with the region's annual reviews and updates.

In December 2008, NEMA began a planning process in partnership with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. Planning Academies were scheduled to help the state and local partners integrate into

the process. The academies will assist the development of local planning capabilities for the Integrated Planning Process.

NEMA has instituted a comprehensive program of planning support education to assist in integrating local planning needs into the SEOP/LEOP planning program. It has provided a continuous series of planning educational seminars to support the LEOP planning process through education, planning and development of scenario specific plans, attachments, tables and appendices. This support will allow LEOPs to address the National Priorities and Target Capabilities List (TCL).

Planning support is given to LEOPs for integration of plans including: Continuity of Operations, Continuity of Government, regional integration and Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans. Improvised Explosive Device, mass casualty and catastrophic events planning is also supported by the planning section. Other issues addressed are: LEOP integration, TCLs as a measurement tool, Incident Management Teams (IMT), Sheltering in Place, local integration into EMAC and NIMS compliance.



Dan Hiller
Planning Supervisor



Jim Anderson
Planning Specialist



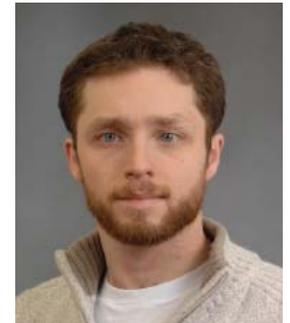
Bill Meyer
Planning Specialist



Patrick Rooney
Planning Specialist



Bob Wilhelm
Program Specialist



Logan Lueking
Program Specialist

Training and Exercise

NEMA's training and exercise team found 2008 both busy and challenging. The agency presents a very active training and exercise program, integrated into Nebraska's eight PET/Communication regions. Activities are conducted at all levels, from assistance to local jurisdictions up through county-level deliveries, regional training and exercising and offerings at the state level.

NEMA offered support to state agencies, local jurisdictions and the eight training regions (*see map below*) in the form of two Basic Certification Academies and two Advanced Opportunities Courses for emergency management personnel. These academies ran concurrently, and were held in North Platte in March and in Lincoln in August.

The Basic Academy supports certification as required under Nebraska Law (RRS 81-929.46). Attendees acquire the basic skills

necessary to function as a certified emergency manager in the state of Nebraska. The Advanced Opportunities course provides previously certified emergency management personnel training and coursework in specialized areas at a level beyond the basic program.

An extended five-year training program for basic and advanced certification has been published for Nebraska, and NEMA tracks all students who participate in the

Continued...



Training and Exercise Continued

programs. Thirty students took the training at the North Platte class, representing local emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, first responders from fire and EMS agencies and local government officials. Thirty-two attendees made up the Lincoln contingent and included one 17-year-old student attendee from Douglas County who plans on a career in emergency management when he graduates from school. NEMA continues to establish a level of training which is in compliance with requirements identified by the Department of Homeland Security and Nebraska law.

In addition to the basic and advanced courses, NEMA is tasked to coordinate statewide training for the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The agency delivered two training events focused on the NIMS 300 and 400 courses designed for management, command and general staff personnel working in emergency management. This training was delivered to 40 students in Lincoln and 25 in Hastings. In addition to these two courses, thousands of individuals in Nebraska completed on-line independent studies in the NIMS 100, 200, 700 and 800 courses, along with specialized training in areas specific to agriculture, health and human services, hazardous materials and similar fields.

NEMA also conducts an annual state-level training exercise entitled TERREX. Each year sees a different scenario that tests the readiness of local, county and state agencies and their ability to work together in a large-scale incident. TERREX '08 was

built around an Improvised Explosive Device and brought into play the testing of the state agencies' response plans. The year-long exercise development process included an initial planning conference, a mid-year planning conference and a final planning conference, in addition to many monthly exercise-wide meetings and numerous specialized planning sessions. Seventy people from several agencies took part in TERREX '08, along with county and local entities that exercised at their own levels. Strengths and weaknesses were identified by participating state agencies and a Corrective Action Program (CAP) will take place to help eliminate or correct the weaknesses. TERREX will continue in 2009 with a tabletop exercise for first responders.

Fiscal year 2008 saw the completion of eight regional exercises. Most of the year was spent identifying regional vulnerabilities and preparing, through tabletop and functional exercises, to test local and regional capabilities to help improve response plans in the event of a disaster.

The Planning, Exercise and Training (PET) team, along with an outside contractor hired to assist in carrying out the exercise, continued to assist the regions. The PET process helped locals and their regions identify capabilities, as well as vulnerabilities, and then go out and test them through the exercise process.

As another dimension of the PET process, NEMA conducts a Model Cities program, where local first responders and elected officials are taken through natural disaster scenarios based on their jurisdic-



Henry Tamasi
Training and Exercise
Program Manager



Dave Reisen
Exercise Training
Officer



Mark Robertson
Exercise Training
Officer



Aaron Alward
Exercise Training
Officer

tions, allowing them to identify threat areas, assess their capabilities, and test their response processes. In 2008, these sessions were conducted in Kimball, Cheyenne, Deuel and Banner counties.

Emphasis remains on training with regards to the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System, and will continue to do so in 2009.

A new course was introduced in 2008 and has already proven successful within

[Continued...](#)

Training and Exercise Continued

several jurisdictions within the state. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Incident Command System (ICS) interface has demonstrated to local, county, state first responders and public officials the importance and responsibilities of the EOC and ICS.



A Panhandle exercise (above and right) tested multiple agencies, states, jurisdictions and disciplines on the handling of weapons of mass destruction.



NEMA Exercise Training Officer Mark Robertson (standing) confers with participants in a foreign animal disease tabletop exercise in Columbus.



Southwest Nebraska emergency management representatives participated in a tabletop exercise in April.

State Emergency Response Commission

The Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) was established in 1989 under the Nebraska Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know ACT (NEPCRA) Statute 18-15, 191 through 18-15, 235 with origins in the Federal Emergency Planning Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA).

SERC provides information to citizens regarding hazardous materials awareness and localizes planning of all entities involved in a response – government, private and industry. The purpose of SERC is to supervise and coordinate the activities of the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). LEPCs review the hazardous materials portion, Annex F, of the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) and act as a repository of information on hazardous materials stored, processed or manufactured in their respective counties.



The State Emergency Response Commission meets quarterly at Nebraska Educational Television.

SERC meets on a quarterly basis to approve members of the LEPCs and review the submission of plans. SERC has 19 members appointed by the governor and approved by the Legislature.

In 2008 the SERC continued to distribute the “Emergency Action Wheels” and distributed more than a thousand CD-Rom games “Stop, Leave it Alone, Get a Grown Up” at the Nebraska State Fair. SERC, with assistance from the LEPCs, continues to distribute awareness brochures and public service announcements.

The Nebraska LEPC conference was held in Hastings in September and SERC presented the following awards:

- **Custer County LEPC** received the award for outstanding LEPC.
- Outstanding LEPC members were awarded to: **Shelly Boden**, Adams County LEPC; **Mindy Osterman**, Hall County LEPC and **Ken Moore**, Clay County LEPC.
- The outstanding industry award was given to **Equalizer Midwest** in Adams County.

All received recognition for their outstanding contributions to the Nebraska Community Right to Know Act.

SERC partners with the Nebraska Hazmat Association and played a key role in the development of the 2008 Hazmat Symposium. The Hazmat Symposium continued to be a growing conference with record attendees in 2008. SERC will continue to support the Hazmat Association and the Hazmat Symposium by offering Hazardous Material Emergency Planning (HMEP) funding and staff assistance.

In 2009, SERC will provide assistance in developing the Regional LEPC Conference scheduled for Kansas City, Mo. Aug. 6-9. Other projects such as county fair booths, EPCRA Expos and trainings will be supported through SERC using the HMEP mini-grant process.



Tonya Ngotel
SERC Coordinator

SERC Members

Jim Schmaizl, Department of Roads;
Brigadier General Timothy Kadavy, Military Department;
Tim Hofbauer, local emergency management;
Sue Semerena, Department of Health and Human Services;
Richard Christensen, chair, chemical industry;
Dana Miller, vice chair, firefighters;
Mark Reimers, transportation;
Donald Eisenhauer, agribusiness;
Steven Danon, small business;
Joe Francis, Department of Environmental Quality;
Allen Grell, county government;
Keith Hansen, community health;
Rhonda Lahm, Nebraska State Patrol;
John Falgione, State Fire Marshal;
Gary Gandara, labor;
Larry Johnson, trucking;
Keith Deiml, schools; and
Mark Graf, city government.
 Environmental protection is vacant.

Response and Recovery

The core mission of NEMA's Response and Recovery Division is to be ready to respond rapidly to any incident that goes beyond the ability of local government to respond. This includes continual monitoring of the state for potential weather-related incidents. To this end, NEMA has instituted and maintains a duty officer system that includes a duty officer, back-up duty officer and an on-call supervisor, who maintain a ready condition for the agency during off-hours.

Staff members of the agency are assigned to a weekly rotation of duty officer and back-up duty officer that includes carrying a phone pager. NEMA managers also are assigned to a weekly rotation to be the on-call supervisor for the duty officer and back-up duty officer. The duty officer is equipped with a variety of other communications and reference materials to enable them to gather necessary information and begin the response process from their location when a call is received.

To meet the core mission of the agency, Response and Recovery staff members continually attend training given by NEMA staff and workshops offered by FEMA for specific programs. This training keeps



Cindy Newsham
Program Manager
Response and Recovery

program specialists on top of the most recent developments of their areas and the response process of the State of Nebraska.

Communications and Information Technology

A sub-section of Response and Recovery is Communications and Information Technology (Commo/IT). This section consists of an information technology administrator, a communications specialist, a response and recovery specialist and a GIS specialist. Commo/IT is a vital and essential part of NEMA's capabilities to stand ready for any disaster.

During 2008, the Commo/IT personnel were innovative enough to be ready for the cutting edge of technology for many State of Nebraska standards. Because of the advanced readiness of the internal Local Area Network (LAN) and all of its subsidiaries, NEMA was chosen as one of the first to be allowed to upgrade its inclusive software package as a test agency for the rest of the state. This was accomplished in a minimum amount of time and NEMA was then used as a help desk to other state agencies when they were allowed to upgrade.

In addition, this section (under the direction of the assistant director) has offered its Incident Logging Software program to local entities at no cost. Once the software was programmed, the IT/Commo staff traveled across the state training those who requested it. This program is now highly integrated and can allow disaster incidents to be logged, maintained, viewed and updated from the beginning of the event (at the local

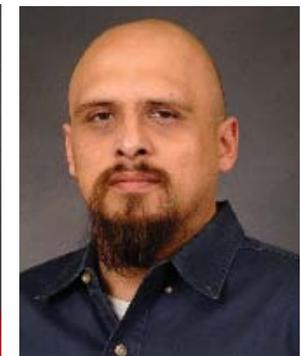
level) to the final clean-up process (at the federal level) and at all times registering information from the state. Multiple state agencies have been using this program for a while but the local capabilities were added in 2008.

Added to the Commo/IT responsibilities in 2008 was the archival and retention program. This program supports the already in-place State Archivist and Secretary of State offices. Mandated by the Intergovern-

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Sue Krogman
Supervisor
IT/Communications



Brent Curtis
Response & Recovery
Planner



Bob Eastwood
Communications
Officer



Chad Goshart
GIS
Coordinator

Commo/IT Continued

mental Preparedness for Essential Records (IPER) federal program, the idea is to focus on records-related emergency training for state and local governments. NEMA's IT department has accepted a position on this committee to help assist local government in their record retention.

A new duty officer communications system was put into place in 2008, exchanging old pagers for cell phones. The cell phones have built-in pager capabilities, networking capabilities and better coverage areas.

Another new project for this section is the Statewide Interoperability Project. Included in this project is connecting the entire state with the capability to be able to monitor radios via a computer system.

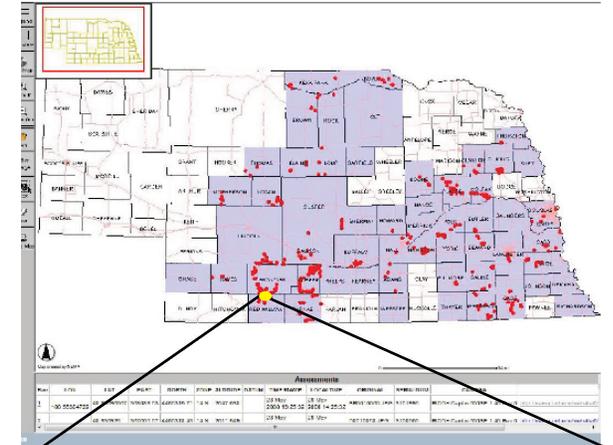
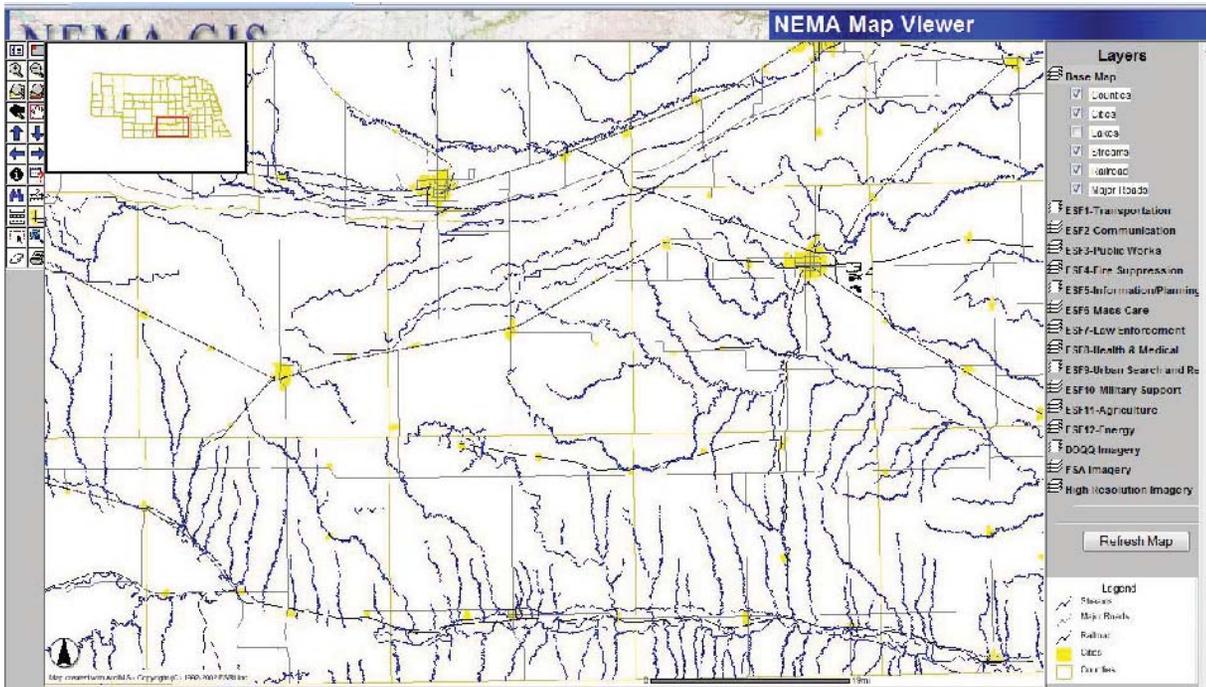
NEMA's communications specialist will be a prime state contact for this project and will also be keeping the plans up to date.

NEMA's GIS project for 2008 was to create a shared mapping capability for basic emergency management purposes. The GIS section built a Web site with buttons to turn on and off (toggling) various mapping needs. Visitors to the site have the capability to pull up a map of any county and/or city in the state of Nebraska and add or take away things such as roads, waterways, bridges and railroads.

After many years of trying for completion, the alternate Emergency Operations Center (EOC) capabilities in Grand Island have become a reality. This Grand Island EOC now stands ready to receive essential

staff from NEMA at any given time. This project was completed in December 2008 and will be tested and exercised during the second quarter of 2009.

And, for the fifth year in a row, the IT/Commo section spent many Saturdays working Nebraska home football games alongside the University of Nebraska Police Department. The sky-box is filled with emergency personnel from EMTs to Law Enforcement. This group of people is charged with monitoring and responding to any health or disruptive actions in the stadium before, during and after the game.



Response and Recovery Continued

Other R&R Duties

Each year, in partnership with the Pappas Missouri Natural Resources District (NRD), the division holds an ice meeting in January to bring together the federal, state and local agencies most affected by the consequences of ice jams on state waterways. The 2008 agenda included presentations from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, who maintains the on-line database for ice reports; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who explained their flood-fighting capabilities; and the National Weather Service, who gave short- and long-term forecasts that would affect the possibility of flooding.

The Response and Recovery Section works closely with the Nebraska State Patrol and the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Protective Security Advisor to implement the National Infrastructure Protection Plan and to be the point of contact for DHS on security-related issues like the National Assets Database.

Buffer zone protection plans were completed in 2008 for five critical infrastructure facilities: the Union Pacific Bailey Yards, the University of Nebraska Animal Research Laboratory, the State of Nebraska Environmental Health and Food Safety Laboratories, the University of Nebraska Bio-Security Laboratory and the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant. These plans were written in cooperation with the local law enforcement agencies, the Nebraska State Patrol and the DHS protective security adviser for Nebraska.

Hazard Mitigation Program

Hazard mitigation planning remained a priority across the state in 2008 and with that continued focus, the revised State Hazard Mitigation Plan was successfully completed in April. Since the plan's approval, 19 Public Power Districts (PPDs) have developed annexes to the state's plan. Along with the PPDs, the Natural Resource Districts, counties, cities and villages across the state have also come together in the state's planning efforts.

A total of 76 counties have participated in the hazard mitigation planning process resulting in 26 plans getting FEMA approval. An additional 22 plans are expected to be approved in 2009. This is a result of a tremendous effort from all levels of governments along with the public and private sectors.

This year's summer storms brought about several funding opportunities for hazard mitigation in Nebraska. NEMA received about \$7 million in grant funding in 2008 to be distributed to public entities with approved hazard mitigation plans. This funding, along with Dec. 2006-Jan. 2007 ice storm funding, resulted in a combined total of \$31,433,491 to the program for planning and project grants. This funding will help to continue NEMA's efforts to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and protect lives and property for many generations to come.

The application process for the ice storm funding ended July 5, 2008. The state received a total of 39 project applications totaling approximately \$40 million.

Project requests ranged from property acquisitions of flood-prone property to electrical upgrades on transmission lines. NEMA/FEMA is expecting to fund 25 of these projects for a total of \$19,000,000. Projects submitted that did not receive priority status are still eligible under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and will be funded under other hazard mitigation grants.

Any jurisdiction can apply for a planning grant, but projects are only available to jurisdictions with approved hazard mitigation plans.

Applications for these grants can be found on the NEMA Web site under the Homeland Security and Grants Section at www.nema.gov. Areas with approved plans seeking assistance with hazard mitigation projects or planning are encouraged to apply. Contact Jen Williams at (402) 471-7416 for more information.



Jen Williams
Hazard Mitigation
Officer

Response and Recovery Continued Planning Initiatives

Response and Recovery put a lot of work into planning initiatives during 2008. The State Hazard Mitigation Plan was revised and approved by FEMA. The state is required to have an approved plan to be eligible for the public assistance program following a Federally Declared Disaster. A new plan was developed to support the State Emergency Operation Plan (SEOP). This new plan is the Nebraska Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS). This plan describes in detail how the state responds to disasters that require state support. This plan includes a basic section that describes the purpose, authorities, roles and responsibilities and concept of operations for the system. The plan also has six annexes that give more in-depth information on the operations of each function in the system. The annexes include:

- Management and administration;
- An annex for each of the sections of the system, Planning, Operations, Coordination, Communications and Information Technology; and
- the state's participation in Unified Command.

As part of this planning process all of the operations and duty officer directives for the agency were updated and new directives were written to cover new positions and functions. This plan describes how the state response fits into the National Incident Management System (NIMS) using concepts learned from the NIMS 300 and 400 level

training. The Nebraska MACS plan was also used as a large part of the accreditation documentation for the operation section.

Public Assistance

The Public Assistance program presented five Debris Management Planning courses during March and April of 2008. Instructors from FEMA delivered the courses and from these came a renewed interest in the development of debris management plans. The disasters of this year illustrated the need for these plans. Late this fall, Hall County's plan was approved by FEMA and can be used as a model for others.

One busy year lead into another for disasters in Nebraska. Four federally declared disasters in 2007 were followed by four more Presidential Major Disaster Declarations during 2008. The disasters included an ice storm, flooding, tornados, high winds, and other severe storms.

Federal Disaster No. 1739 was declared by President George W. Bush on Jan. 11 to seven counties for damage caused from a severe winter storm occurring in December 2007. The counties included: Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson and Thayer counties. The total eligible damages were \$4,141,259, of which FEMA reimburses 75 percent.

Federal Disaster No. 1765 was declared by the president on May 30 to five counties for severe storms, flooding, and tornados. The counties included were Gage, Johnson, Morrill, Nemaha, and Pawnee counties. Total eligible damages to date are \$696,848.



Brian Podwinski
Unit Supervisor



Earl Imler
Public Assistance
Officer

Federal Disaster No. 1770 was declared by the president on June 20. It included both public and individual assistance. Public assistance was given to 61 counties for severe storms, flooding, and tornados. The counties included



Sheila Hascall
Program Specialist

were Adams, Blaine, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Chase, Cherry, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dawson, Douglas, Dundy, Fillmore, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Garfield, Greeley, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Hayes, Holt, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Keya Paha, Lancaster, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, Merrick, McPherson, Morrill, Nance, Nemaha, Otoe, Phelps, Platte, Polk, Red Willow, Richardson, Rock, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders,

Continued...

Response and Recovery Continued

Seward, Sherman, Stanton, Thayer, Thomas, Thurston, Valley, Webster, Wheeler and York counties. The total eligible damages to date are \$41,252,679.00.

Sixteen counties were provided individual assistance. These counties included Buffalo, Butler, Colfax, Custer, Dawson, Douglas, Gage, Hamilton, Holt, Jefferson, Kearney, Lancaster, Platte, Richardson, Sarpy and Saunders Counties. The individual assistance program allow for home and business owners to apply for assistance to help with uninsured disaster damages. In response to this disaster, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff from all divisions assisted with damage assessments. The mobile operations center was used as well as emergency operations centers in Columbus and Kearney which allowed for staff to operate efficiently and directly with local governments. FEMA assisted with its Emergency Response Team from Region II which is based in New York. Together FEMA and NEMA personnel were able to determine the extent of the damages across the state.

Federal Disaster No. 1779 was declared by the president on July 18 for a severe storm on June 27 which contained winds in excess of 100 mph. Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Saunders counties were affected. The total eligible damages to date are \$14,558,697.

A Federal Joint Field Office (JFO) was opened in Lincoln for the coordination of the Federal Recovery programs for all three of the spring/summer storms.

The JFO was opened early in June with as many as 300 federal staff working either in the field or from the office. NEMA had four staff and one temporary employee who operated from the JFO for a majority of the time that the office was open. The hazard mitigation officer worked with the federal hazard mitigation staff on various projects

including identifying mitigation activities in the affected areas.

The JFO office was closed in October with six of the Federal Public Assistance staffers moving to work from NEMA offices under the direction of FEMA Region VII. They are expected to remain through early 2009.



Road damage in Red Willow County.

Radiological Emergency Preparedness

Preparation for any radiological emergency is a priority for NEMA. Nebraska's two nuclear power stations and two heavily-used transportation corridors used to transport radioactive material and radioactive waste make these preparations a necessity.

The Radiological Emergency Preparedness Division (REP) has the responsibility to meet the agency's goal of being prepared in the event of a radiological emergency.

The REP Division ensures that emergency response agencies throughout the state are aware that radiological response training is available. REP staff also notifies local emergency response managers of known radiological shipments through their jurisdictions.

The REP Division tracks the number of personnel trained in each county via a database. As new or additional training is provided in a jurisdiction, the REP Division provides the appropriate local emergency management directors with an updated roster of personnel who have received the radiological training.

A radiological systems manager makes radiological equipment exchanges and conducts inventories throughout the state. NEMA maintains inventories and exchanges and provides applicable local emergency management directors with an updated list of radiological equipment within their jurisdiction and when it will again be due for calibration.

The radiological systems manager calibrates and exchanges civil defense equip-

ment on a four-year cycle throughout the 93 counties of Nebraska.

As the exchanges and quarterly checks of REP county radiological survey meters and instruments are completed, latitude and longitude of the locations of radiological meters and instruments are maintained. This information is forwarded to Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services personnel to enter into a database for use as needed in an emergency.

NEMA, per legislation, now charges a fee for the calibration of instruments other than those owned by NEMA. (These charges do not apply to the yellow civil defense instruments.) This has enabled the agency the capability to provide affordable calibration and repair services for the newer radiation survey meters and instruments held by emergency first responder agencies throughout Nebraska.

The operating licenses of Cooper Nuclear Station and Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station, both located in eastern Nebraska, require that the state is always ready to protect the health and safety of its citizens and to the extent possible, prevent damage to property. To meet this challenge, the REP employs two off-site planning specialists who are responsible for updating the local Radiological Emergency Response Plans (RERPs) for the counties of Otoe, Nemaha, Richardson, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties.

The planners are responsible for the annual exchange of thermoluminescent do-

Continued...



Jonathan Schwarz
Program Manager



Amy Stroh
Staff Assistant



Bryan Cook
REP Planner



Eric Cole
REP Planner



Mike Loftis
Radiological Systems
Manager

REP Continued

simeters (TLDs) and the state RERP which describes the state response to a nuclear power station incident. All county plans were updated during the year.

Once plans have been updated training and exercises are used to prepare personnel who will respond in the event of a nuclear event. NEMA planners offered and conducted numerous REP classes throughout 2008 in the counties affected by the nuclear power stations.

The classes were offered to executive boards, emergency management and emergency response agencies as well as various volunteer agencies and personnel. These classes included:

- **Communications** which dealt with training personnel in the Emergency Alert System and Public Emergency Information messages as well as who needed to be notified in case of an emergency;
- **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** which trained personnel on what needs to be done in the EOC to protect the health and safety of the citizenry;

- **Emergency Workers** which dealt with training personnel to understand radioactivity, the hazards of radiation, how to protect one's self in a radiation environment as well as how to use various radiation survey meters and instruments;
- **Medical Response** which dealt with training hospital workers, ambulance, and fire and rescue crews in proper response techniques during an incident involving radiological contamination;
- **Radiological Monitoring and Decontamination** which dealt with training personnel on how to properly frisk

(monitor) a person for radioactive contamination and if contamination is found, how to properly decontaminate the person; and

- **Traffic Access and Control** which provided law enforcement and other agencies training in evacuation routes, what to do in the event a main evacuation route is obstructed, and what will need to be done to allow access back into an evacuated area during a radiation incident, among other things.

The nuclear power stations routinely conduct drills and exercises in which

NEMA annually participates. This year, NEMA was involved in six nuclear power station drills, one hostile action tabletop exercise and three full-scale exercises.

One of the exercises include a plume phase and relocation, re-entry and return which was evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its contractors.

Nebraska experiences a fair number of both truck and rail shipments of radioactive material and radioactive waste via Interstate 80 and Union Pacific



Continued...

REP Continued

Railroad track. Nebraska again experienced many radioactive shipments through the state, most by truck. The number of shipments can only be approximated. Depending on the amount of radioactive material or radioactive waste shipped, shippers do not always have to notify state officials of these shipments.

The Governor's Radioactive Materials Transportation Working Group oversees the transportation of radioactive materials and radioactive waste through the state. It consists of representatives from the Governor's Policy Research Office, Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, NEMA and the Nebraska State Patrol.

For incidents or accidents involving radioactive material or waste, the state maintains the Radioactive Materials Transportation Accident Plan (RAMTAP) as an appendix in the State Emergency Operations Plan. The plan is reviewed annually by the working group.

The REP program manager serves as NEMA's representative to the working group and is responsible for ensuring that the annual review of the RAMTAP occurs.

The agency maintains contact with radiation transportation committee members within the regional groups to which the state belongs including the Western Governors' Association and the Council of State Governors, Midwest Region.

During these meetings, representatives from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, U. S. Department of Energy and U. S. Department of Homeland Security provide up-

dates on various subjects pertinent to their agencies. This allows the agency to keep on top of the newest developments concerning radiological shipments through the state and the latest technologies used in the shipments of radiological materials and radiological waste.

In order to ensure that the state is prepared for any radiological emergency three REP division staff members are certified radiological instructors and offer free training to all emergency first responder agencies throughout Nebraska. The training is provided at the convenience of those desiring the training and can be provided in one session or spread out over as many sessions as needed to complete the training.

The agency uses the U.S. Department of Energy's "Module Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training" (MERRTT) course which consists of 16 modules with the first 12 modules making up the primary eight-hour course and the remaining four modules cover specialized areas.

Each REP division staff member annually attends various training courses and conferences to ensure that each is technically proficient and knowledgeable in their field of endeavor.

The agency's Public Information Officer is part of the REP Division because of the federal requirement that nuclear power station incidents require the activation of a Joint Information Center (JIC). The PIO is a major player in the JIC.



Mike Loftis, NEMA's radiological systems manager, examines portal controls.

Public Information

The Public Information Officer (PIO) serves as the primary media contact for NEMA. The PIO is responsible for producing news releases and public information materials.



Jodie Fawl
Public Information Officer

The PIO is also the public information representative to the state's two nuclear power plants and is Nebraska's lead PIO during exercises and

drills in the event of an incident at one of the facilities.

In 2008, NEMA joined the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers in sponsoring severe weather awareness activities.

Severe Weather Awareness Week is an annual observance ushering in the spring weather season when thunderstorms and tornados lead the list of hazardous occurrences in Nebraska.

For this event educational and promotional materials were sent to media outlets across the state. Commercial weather forecasters throughout Nebraska use materials supplied by NEMA and NWS to educate

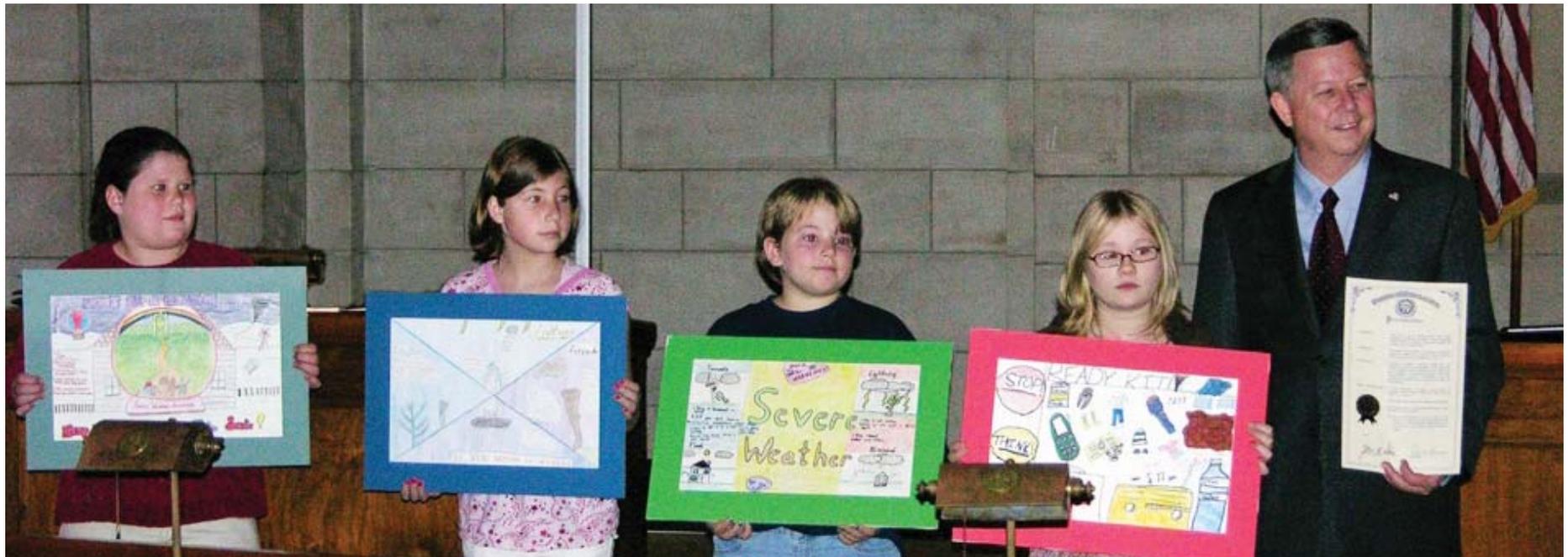
their viewers about tornadoes and thunderstorms as well as strong winds, lightning, hail, heavy rain and flooding.

A Severe Weather Awareness Week poster contest for Nebraska fourth-grade students is held each year and encourages teachers and students to produce educational posters on the subject of severe weather.

The winner of the 2008 Severe Weather Poster Contest was **Mariah Canfield** of Blue Springs, and second place went to **Daylinn Feik** of Spalding. In third place was **LaKeisha Wheeler** of Stromsburg, and fourth place went to **Shelby Krie** of Laurel.

Honorable mentions were awarded to **Hannah Thramer** of Cozad, **Allison Wel-**

Continued...



Severe Weather Poster Contest winners (from left) Mariah Canfield, Shelby Krie, Daylinn Feik and LaKeisha Wheeler were on hand when Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman declared April 7-11 Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Public Information Continued

niak of Ord, **Zachary Svoboda** of Glenvil, **Dillan Wolfgram** of Laurel, **Alexis Hagstrom** of Ord, **Rozlyn Cole** of Wymore, and **Elle Bermel** of Randolph.

The PIO taught the Basic Public Information Officer course in Wayne during June. These courses bring basic skills and techniques for dealing with the media to emergency management personnel and local officials who might find themselves thrown into the role of PIO as the result of an incident in their jurisdiction. The three-day course involves classroom work, mock on-camera interviews and a media panel discussion featuring representatives of local newspaper, radio and television outlets.

In addition, the NEMA PIO works with the Nebraska Joint Information Center (JIC). The JIC is a process where public information professionals from a wide variety of agencies, disciplines and jurisdictions collocate to provide a single integrated source of information in the event of a major incident. The JIC concept is part of the National Incident Management System.

Through an agreement with NET (Nebraska Educational Telecommunications), the NEMA JIC forms at the NET facility for exercises or in the event of an emergency. This makes available an impressive array of capabilities for public information operations, including access to the NET broadcasting facilities and its satellite links.

NEMA and its partner state agencies conduct various homeland security exercises from tabletop to full-scale. Public information is a large part of those exercises, and

NEMA coordinates and operates the state's JIC during these events.

NEMA's Public Information Officer takes the lead in the JIC, which is staffed by public information professionals from other agencies involved in the exercises. The JIC concept is used during real-world emergencies when the State Emergency Operations Center is opened, and coordinates information from state agencies to ensure consistent and coordinated messages.

In an effort to provide information on all aspects of NEMA's operation in an easily accessible technology, NEMA maintains a Web site at www.nema.gov. A full range of

data is available for both the media and the public on every element of the agency and its activities.

On the site, NEMA's newsletter, *The Beacon*, showcases emergency management activities across the state and provides advance notice of upcoming events. Included on the Web site are links to other local, state and national Web sites featuring emergency management and homeland security data. Nebraska's local emergency managers can use the NEMA's Web site to find guidance and information on the federal homeland security grant processes. Emergency Opera-



NEMA staff in the Joint Information Center at a Cooper Nuclear Station exercise.

Homeland Security Activities/ State Administrative Agency

Since 1999, NEMA has been the designated State Administrative Agency (SAA) for all homeland security grants coming into the state from the Department of Homeland Security. In this role NEMA is responsible for filing the state application, distributing program guidelines to the state and local level agencies, receiving applications,

maintaining oversight and compliance monitoring, and facilitating the distribution of funds.

The Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group has been established to oversee the program in the state, with **Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy** as the chairman of the group. Operating under the Policy Group are the State Planning, Exercising and Training Teams, ensuring there is an integrated and coordinated effort on the state and local level. NEMA has been the operational arm of the the Homeland Security Policy Group since its inception.

The 2008 Nebraska Homeland Security Policy Group consists of: **Brenda Decker**, State of Nebraska Division of Communications; **John Erickson**, Nebraska Governor's Policy Research Office; **John Falgione**, Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office; **Sen. Mike Friend**, Nebraska State Legislature; **Sen. Tony Fulton**, Nebraska State Legislature; **Dr. Steve Hinrichs**, University of Nebraska Medical Center; **Greg Ibach**, Nebraska Department of Agriculture; **Brigadier General Timothy J. Kadavy**, Adjutant General, Nebraska Military Department; **Chancellor Harold Maurer**, University of Nebraska Medical Center; **Christine Peterson**, Nebraska Health and Human Services System; **Dr.**

Joann Schaefer, Nebraska Health and Human Services System; **Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy**; **Don Thorson**, Omaha UASI; **Col. Bryan Tuma**, Nebraska State Patrol; and **Al Berndt**, NEMA.

NEMA's role in homeland security in Nebraska is greatly facilitated by the close working relationship with other state agencies and with outside programs. All agencies involved in homeland security and natural emergency response in Nebraska meet, train and exercise together on a regular basis, and the open lines of communication greatly ease the role of the state administrative agency. In addition to the state agencies involved, NEMA works closely with the University of Nebraska System and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Since 1999, NEMA has overseen the completion of two statewide assessments of response capabilities at the state and local level, and the writing of two statewide strategies for homeland security. These assessments have been the basis of the distribution of homeland security funds in support of the state strategy.

In 2008 the lieutenant governor and the policy group continued to oversee the state communication system.

In December Gov. Dave Heineman issued two executive orders establishing the Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR) and the Nebraska Wireless Interoperability Network (NWIN) to provide effective level on-site governance and coordination at the state's regional levels.



Nebraska Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy (standing) is the state's director of Homeland Security and chairs the Nebraska Homeland Security Policy Group

Citizen Corps

Citizen Corps is the grass-roots movement that actively involves every citizen in making communities across Nebraska safer, stronger and better prepared.

Everyone has a role to play in hometown security and Citizen Corps helps community volunteers and leaders prepare, train and volunteer.

The Citizen Corps mission to bring community and government leaders together to coordinate the involvement of community members in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery is accomplished through a network of state, local and tribal Citizen Corps Councils. These councils build on community strengths to implement the Citizen Corps programs and will carry out a local strategy to impact all Nebraskans.

A component of USA Freedom Corps, Citizen Corps emphasizes citizen responsibility for community safety and preparedness.

President George W. Bush issued a call to service in 2002 in response to 9/11. He asked Americans to serve a cause greater than themselves and build a culture of service and responsibility. In partnership with other national service programs, Citizen Corps became one of the respected national service partners along with AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Senior Corps, VISTA and Learn and Serve.

In Nebraska, the Citizen Corps program is coordinated by ServeNebraska which is part of the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission. It works in partnership with

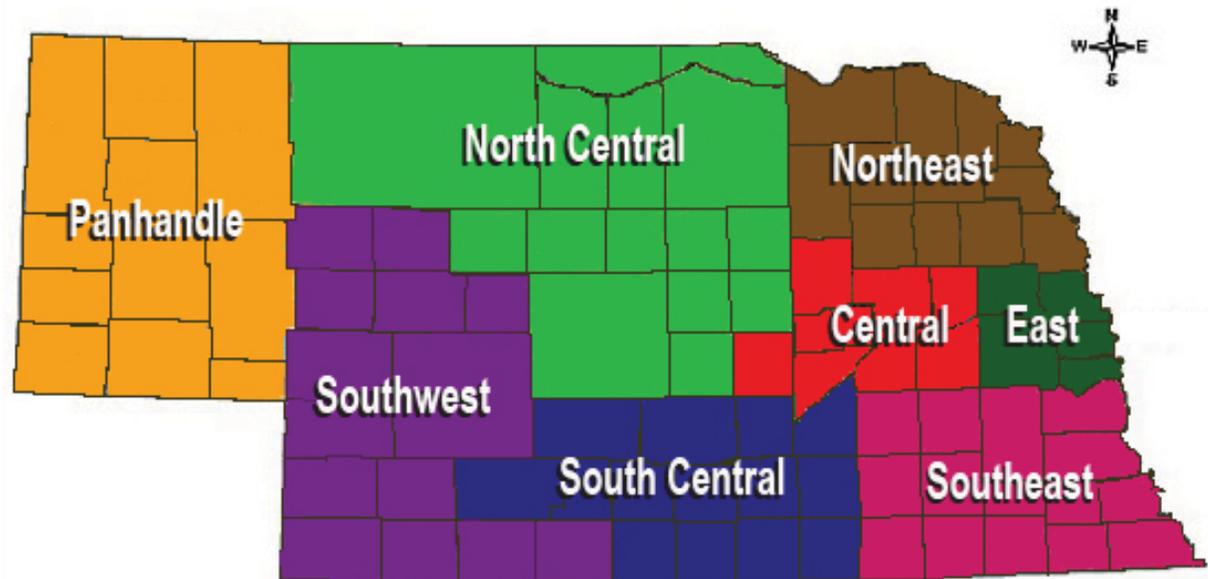
2008 Citizen Corps Sub-grant Funding (2007 DHS Funding)

Annual Grant Amount

Central CCP Region	\$ 11,600
East CCP Region	\$ 16,590
North Central CCP Region	\$ 12,687
Northeast CCP Region	No application received
Panhandle CCP Region	\$ 13,702
South Central CCP Region	\$ 17,820
Southeast CCP Region	\$ 2,000
Southwest CCP Region	No application received
*Statewide	\$ 20,764
Serve Nebraska Program Coordination and Fiscal Management	\$ 65,000

Totals

\$ 160,164



Citizen Corps Continued

the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Its goal is to promote volunteer service to help everyone prepare, train, and volunteer for hometown security.

ServeNebraska's role as the lead Nebraska state agency for community service serves the Citizen Corps mission well with its focus on mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs.

NEMA has contracted with the ServeNebraska since 2006. This contract capitalizes on the commission's expertise in mobiliz-

Supporting Nebraska Communities Page 27

ing community involvement and providing management support to community-based initiatives.

The diverse governor-appointed commissioners of ServeNebraska now sit as the State Citizen Corps Council. The commissioners meet once a year and are joined by **Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy**, who serves Nebraska's Homeland Security adviser.

With a focus on education, outreach, promoting, training and volunteer service, Citizen Corps Councils and their members encourage citizens to connect at the local level with community organizations and training opportunities. In 95 percent of all

emergencies, bystanders or victims themselves are the first to provide emergency assistance or to perform a rescue. Thus Citizen Corps asks individuals to embrace the personal responsibility to:

- be prepared;
- get training in first aid and emergency skills;
- be able to help themselves;
- volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief and community safety; and
- get involved in helping others be safer.

[Continued...](#)

Nebraska National Preparedness Month Activities

The Nebraska State Citizen Corps Program coordinated efforts to celebrate National Preparedness Month in September in concert with National Citizen Corps, Ready.gov and the Department of Homeland Security.

ServeNebraska worked with Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff and local Citizen Corps Council points of contact on activities to raise awareness of the need to be prepared for any kind of disaster.

Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy and his staff conducted a series of media interviews across the state, supporting and promoting National Preparedness Month activities.

ServeNebraska also partnered with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Athletic Department and national service programming representatives – AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and VISTA - to reach several thousand Nebraskans who attended the Nebraska home football game against New Mexico State and the volleyball match against Louisiana State University (LSU).

ServeNebraska developed a flyer highlighting National Preparedness Month, Nebraska Citizen Corps and ServeNebraska. It also summarized practical advice to program cell phones with the ICE (In Case of Emergency). The ICE notation next to specific names in a cell phone address list can help first responders contact a person who could give important information to help treat that individual if they are not capable of providing a medical history themselves.

An advertisement highlighting the same information was placed in the football program and on the Memorial Stadium's Husker Vision screens thanks to the UNL Athletic Department.

ServeNebraska also coordinated the distribution of Ready.gov spots from the Ad Council tagged with Nebraska-specific information to all television and radio stations in Nebraska. Citizen Corps Councils across Nebraska distributed the ICE flyers in their home communities, and the Governor signed a National Preparedness Month Proclamation.

Citizen Corps Continued

People need to know that they can take actions now to help protect their families, help reduce the impact an emergency has on lives in the community and help deal with the chaos if an incident occurs. Taking care of themselves, their families and their neighborhoods during times of crisis allows first responders to focus efforts on the most

critical, life-threatening situations. Volunteering for other routine or administrative responsibilities and tasks frees up police, health care workers and firefighters to focus on immediate emergency response needs.

Examples of the national partner program initiative include: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Volunteer in Police Service (VIPS), Fire Corps, Medical Reserves and Neighborhood Watch/USA on

Watch, In 2008, Nebraska had the following councils and partner programs:

- 27 local Citizen Corps Councils
- 11 Community Response Teams
- 7 volunteers in Police Service Units
- 3 Fire Corps Units
- 5 Medical Reserve Corps Units
- 764 Neighborhood Watch programs.

Statewide Development

State CERT Training Standards Project

A planning meeting was held June 20, 2008 to outline the beginnings of a state process to approve all CERT trainers and instructors.

A workgroup consisting of CERT trainers, assisted by professional facilitators, will be meeting during the first part of 2009 to design the train-the-trainer curriculum.

A preparedness program will be developed which can be presented to civic groups and community organizations.

A short preparedness class will be developed for audiences as an introduction to preparedness for civic groups, community organizations and the public.

Two facilitators assisted in developing a state-approved C.E.R.T. Training Program. A need was found for standardizing the training to ensure that interoperability among the teams across the state existed. Standardizing the training also brings a sense of professionalism and commitment among individuals conducting the training. It has also motivated the regions to work together to establish teaching guidelines. A small work group has met monthly to draft these standards and will continue to do so into 2009.

Survey Measures Preparedness Knowledge

ServeNebraska will be measuring Nebraska citizens' knowledge of Citizen Corps, community preparedness, individual preparedness and disability preparedness in conjunction with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) Bureau of Sociological Research.

The UNL Bureau of Sociological Research will include questions on their annual statewide survey which began in December to measure knowledge about preparedness. When the survey results have been compiled and released, data will be provided by county and region for sub-grantees to use in planning their grant activities to reach more people.

Online CERT Registry

ServeNebraska partnered with Nebraska Online (our Web site host) to develop an online registry with a grant from the Nebraska State Records Board. The registry will be a centralized database of trainers and CERT teams.

The registry will provide a regional Citizen Corps Point of Contacts list and CERT program coordinators can input and maintain accurate data on trainers and CERT teams in their regions.

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Al Berndt

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Acronyms Use in the NEMA Annual Report

CAP	Corrective Action Program	LETTP	Law Enforcement Terrorism Preparedness Program
CBRNE.....	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive	MACS.....	Multi-Agency Coordination System
CCP	Citizen Corps Program	MERRTT	Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team	MMRS	Metropolitan Medical Response System
COMMO/IT.....	Communications and Information Technology	NEMA.....	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
COOP/COG.....	Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government	NET	Nebraska Educational Telecommunications
DHS.....	Department of Homeland Security	NHIT	Nebraska Hazmat Incident Team
DHHS.....	Department of Health and Human Services	NIMS.....	National Incident Management System
EMPG.....	Emergency Management Performance Grant	NRF	National Response Framework
EOC.....	Emergency Operations Center	NSP.....	Nebraska State Patrol
EPCRA.....	Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act	NVSC	Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission
ESF.....	Emergency Support Function	NWS.....	National Weather Service
FEMA.....	Federal Emergency Management Agency	PET	Planning, Exercising and Training
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials	PIO.....	Public Information Officer
HMEP.....	Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning	PPD.....	Public Power District
GIS.....	Geographic Information System	PSIC.....	Public Safety Interoperable Communications
ICE.....	In Case of Emergency	R&R.....	Response and Recovery
IPER.....	Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Re- cords	RAMTAP	Radioactive Materials Transportation Accident Plan
JFO.....	Joint Field Office	REP	Radiological Emergency Program
JIC.....	Joint Information Center	RERP	Radiological Emergency Response Plan
LAN.....	Local Area Network	SEOP	State Emergency Operations Plan
LEOP	Local Emergency Operations Plan	SERC	State Emergency Response Commission
LEPC	Local Emergency Planning Committee	SHSGP.....	State Homeland Security Grant Program





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