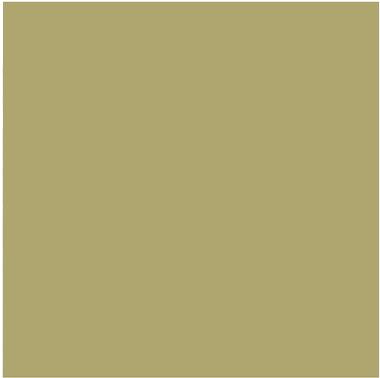


annual
REPORT
2009





complex emergencies

COORDINATED RESPONSES



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Complex Emergencies, Coordinated Responses



On behalf of the State of Nebraska, the employees of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) are proud to submit **Complex Emergencies, Coordinated Responses** as our annual report for 2009. This is our formal account of the agency's performance in 2009 and will serve as a record and reference of the agency's support of state and local emergency management and homeland security programs.

The state was affected by two Federal Disaster Declarations in 2009: No. 1853 which was the result of severe spring storms including tornadoes and flooding across the state and No. 1864 which involved a severe winter storm in the southeastern part of the state. NEMA relied upon the coordination, planning, training and exercising that allowed our state and local emergency management officials and first responders to effectively react and recover from the devastating impacts of the storms. As 2009 closed out, the state was severely impacted by a Christmas snow-storm and blizzard which continues to test the limits of our statewide emergency response system.

This report will detail the high level of commitment and dedication of NEMA staff members who assist the citizens of Nebraska by overseeing an effective and professional emergency management and homeland security program on a state-wide basis. Reading this report will show the high levels of dedication and work that goes into supporting the state and local programs in all phases of emergency management-preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. NEMA continues to work with its partner agencies at the state and local level to progressively move forward the professional level of emergency management across the state.

In 2009, NEMA sought and obtained professional accreditation of the agency and state through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, recognizing the high level of professionalism and expertise within the state emergency management programs. Receiving full accreditation was an important milestone for NEMA, as it is proof of the capability of the state's first responders and emergency management professionals. Earning accreditation was a group effort that involved not only NEMA but staff at other state agencies who help us prepare for any crisis that might affect the state.

In 2009, **Brigadier General Timothy Kadavy** left the position as Adjutant General of the Nebraska Military Department, taking a position within the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C. **Brigadier General Judd Lyons** was appointed as Adjutant General by **Gov. Dave Heineman** in August 2009. General Lyons and I continue to be extremely proud of the quality of work exhibited each and every day by the staff members of the agency. This report is dedicated to the state emergency management professionals supporting our citizens for a safer and better prepared Nebraska.



**Brigadier General
Judd Lyons
Director**



**Al Berndt
Assistant Director**

**Al Berndt
NEMA Assistant Director**

Agency Overview

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is charged by state statute with reducing the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska from damage, injury, loss of life and property resulting from natural, technological and man-made disasters. In addition to leading the state emergency management program, NEMA also supports **Lt. Gov. Rick**

Sheehy in his role as state homeland security director and acts as State Administrative Agency for the state's homeland security program and point of contact for integration of emergency management and homeland security programs with the Department of Homeland Security. NEMA focuses on maintaining effective emergency management response, recovery, preparedness and mitigation programs with an emphasis on pre- and post-disaster programs as well as a robust state homeland security program. The result is a cohesive statewide program.

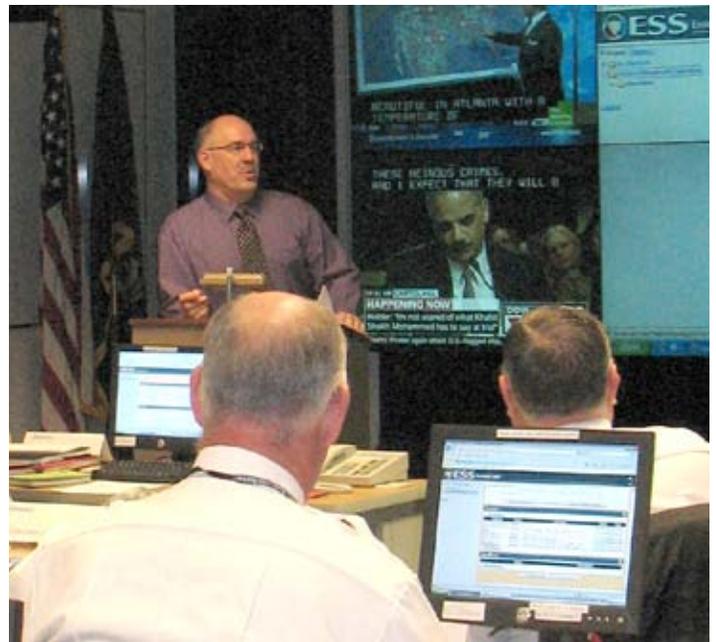
NEMA is housed under the Nebraska Military Department and is structured into four performance areas: administration, response and recovery, preparedness (included, grants, planning, exercising and training) and radiological emergency preparedness. In his role as Adjutant General, **Brigadier General Judd Lyons** is the director of the agency. Day-to-day operations are administered by agency **Assistant Director Al Berndt**.

As State Administrative Agency for the Department of Homeland Security, NEMA has responsibility for overall funding, fiscal accountability, program management and integration with other state agencies to interact and carry out the state homeland security program.

NEMA's administrative division is responsible for oversight of all agency grant and performance programs including the State Emergency Performance Grant program.

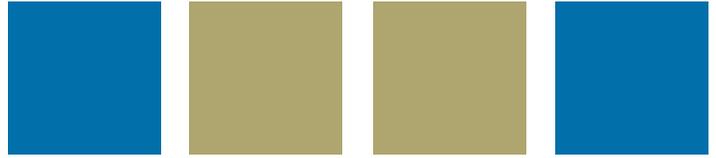


Gov. Dave Heineman, right, named then Col. Judd Lyons as Adjutant General of the Nebraska National Guard in August.



Al Berndt, assistant director of NEMA, briefs participants in TERREX '09, an annual statewide hazardous materials drill.

Nebraska Earns Accreditation



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff were immensely proud and pleased that Nebraska earned full accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) in December 2009. The accreditation is a public validation of the state's preparedness efforts.

Gov. Dave Heineman said the EMAP accreditation represents a significant honor for the State of Nebraska. "Achieving accreditation is proof of the capability that exists among our state and local first responders and emergency management personnel," Gov. Heineman said. "This accreditation was sought and earned by NEMA on behalf of the State of Nebraska and all of the agencies and individuals who are part of our response team. Nebraska has an effective system in place to respond to emergencies, and I appreciate the dedication of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency team that coordinated this effort."

Earning this accreditation was a group effort that involved not only NEMA but staff at other state agencies who help us to prepare for any crisis that might affect the state.

EMAP is a voluntary accreditation process for state, territorial and local government programs that coordinate preparedness and response activities for disasters, from tornadoes to terrorist acts. It recognizes the ability of a state or local government to bring together personnel, resources, and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation for, and in response to, an emergency. This forms the foundation of the nation's emergency response system. EMAP is the only accreditation process for state and local emergency management preparedness.

Accreditation is a means of demonstrating, through program assessment, documentation and on-site assessment by an independent team, that a program meets national standards. The EMAP process evaluates emergency management programs on compliance with requirements in 16 areas, including: planning; resource management; training; exercises, evaluations and corrective actions; and communications and warning.

Accreditation is valid for five years from the date the EMAP Commission grants accreditation. Accredited programs must maintain compliance with EMAP standards and be reassessed in five years to maintain accredited status. This distinction demonstrates that Nebraska is well prepared. Nebraska joins an elite group of states and local jurisdictions who have earned this accreditation.

Through the accreditation process, NEMA documented how the state meets national standards for disaster preparedness and response systems. Nebraska complied with a set of standards used in the accreditation process and underwent a peer-review assessment by EMAP trained assessors.

"With the approval of the commission, Nebraska has completed the final step for accreditation," said **Karen Windon**, chairperson of the EMAP Commission and deputy county administrator of Manatee County, Florida. "States like Nebraska that work toward, and achieves, compliance with these standards are at the forefront in ensuring their residents are served by a comprehensive system to deal with disasters. Many states and localities have quality emergency management programs. EMAP looks for documentation and procedures to ensure consistency and continuity in the jurisdiction's capability to prepare and respond."

State, local and federal emergency managers developed EMAP to provide quality standards and a process for determining compliance. The Emergency Management Standard by EMAP, creates a structure for strategic planning for improvement, coupled with methodical, verified assessment by experienced peers from other jurisdictions, which results in stronger capabilities and accountability.



Administration



Deb Kai
Business Manager



Larry Nedrow
Administrative Assistant

The division ensures the State Emergency Operations Plan, the State Homeland Security Strategy and the Agency Strategic Plan are in place to lead and guide agency performance. Since no program has the ability to stand on its own and sustain itself, the administrative division relies upon the cooperation and support of other state agencies and federal partners to keep the agency performing at a high level.

At the national level NEMA interacts with the National Emergency Management Association and actively supports the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management and its professional membership.

NEMA relies extensively on the full- and part-time emergency management representatives in Nebraska's 93 counties to carry out programs at the local level. It is this partnership with local directors that forms the backbone of the state program and is one of the key reasons Nebraskans have been able to effectively respond in times of emergency.

NEMA as an agency is staffed with 36 full-time employees, one GIS support position from the University of Nebraska and four temporary employees to carry out agency programs.



Phyllis Rathjen
Accountant



Amy Stroh
Staff Assistant

Assistance to Local Governments

NEMA supports agency operations and local county emergency management agencies in the administration of their programs through the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program. In 2009, a total of 72 counties, regions and part-time county programs participated in the EMPG program. Through this federal grant, NEMA received \$2,139,163 in support of local emergency management programs.

The EMPG 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 to receive funding. Counties with part-time directors are eligible to receive support for equipment purchases as long as they meet certain base line planning and program requirements.



Angela Hammond
Staff Assistant

2009 EMPG-funded Emergency Management Directors/Coordinators

Directors/ Coordinators	Region	Counties/ Municipalities
Bill Pook	5/6	Burt, Dodge and Washington
Faythe Petersen	11	Antelope, Pierce and Madison
Patrick Gerdes	15	Frontier, Gosper, Hitchcock and Phelps
Jim 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
Loren Uden		Hastings/Adams
Vacant		Boone
Darrin Lewis		Kearney/Bufalo
Rick Schneider		Butler
William M. Cover		Cass
Kevin Garvin		Cedar
Bob Rose		Clay
Troy Smith		Custer
Pat Foust		Dakota
Brian Woldt		Dawson
Paul W. Johnson		Douglas
Vacant		Fillmore
Roger Powell		Furnas and Harlan
Mark Meints		Gage
Pete Peterson		Grant and Keith
Jon Rosenlund		Grand Island/Hall
Kirt Smith		Hamilton
Michelle Woitalewicz		Howard
John McKee		Jefferson
Jeff England		Kearney
Laura Hintz		Knox
Doug Ahlberg		Lincoln/Lancaster
James Nitz		Lincoln
Bob Cole		Nemaha
Von Wehrman		Nuckolls
Greg Goebel		Otoe
Tim Hofbauer		Platte
Jim Gerweck		Richardson
Bruce "B.J." Fictum		Saline
Larry Lavelle		Sarpy
Terry Miller		Saunders
Gary Petersen		Seward and York
Dan Jantzen		Thayer
Deanna Beckman		Wayne and Cuming

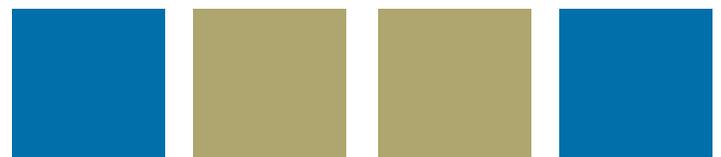


2009 was a continuation of the 2008 program in that sub-grantee agencies continued to focus on addressing work plans to ensure emergency management capabilities are maintained in local jurisdictions sufficient to provide the basis for dealing effectively with catastrophic disasters and homeland security emergencies. The work plan requirements for 2009 included:

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

Since 2003, 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. Again in 2009, a strong relationship was maintained between the state and local level to continue being the lead agencies for homeland security activities.

NEMA continues to recognize the strong ties that need to be in place between the state and the local emergency management community to keep an effective all-hazards emergency management/homeland security program in place. Because of the strong relationships that have been developed over the years through the EMPG program, local agencies have been able to step forward and take a strong leadership role in support of and in conjunction with NEMA.



Preparedness



Mardell Hergenrader
Grants and Planning
Program Manager



Henry Tamasi
Training and Exercise
Program Manager

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 program.

Grants

The State of Nebraska applied for and received the following federal grants for fiscal year 2009:

- State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)
- Citizen Corps Program (CCP)
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
- Metropolitan Medical Response System Program (MMRS)
- Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP).

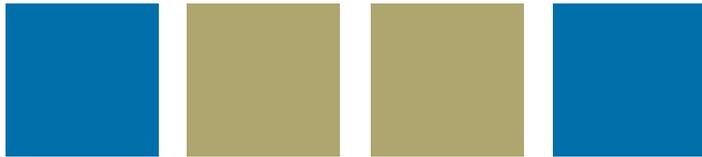
The fiscal year 2009 grant year application procedure remains the same as last year.

NEMA held an investment justification workshop with the State Homeland Security Committee and local first responders to write the investment justifications for the grant application. The allocations, for state agencies and local regions, were based on the amount in each investment justification and total population of each PET/Communications region. 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 2009 grants continued the mandate of 80 percent pass-through to the local jurisdictions.

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

Regions	State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSG)				MMRS & Citizen Corps
	Communications	PET	Hazmat/MOU	IED	
Southeast	\$ 476,151	\$131,729	\$ 25,000	\$ 236,952	\$ 321,221-Lincoln/MMRS
South Central	\$ 420,134	\$116,231	\$ 75,000	\$ 209,075	
East Central	\$ 196,063	\$ 54,241	\$ 25,000	\$ 97,568	
Northeast	\$ 224,071	\$ 61,990	\$ 25,000	\$ 111,507	
Panhandle	\$ 336,107	\$ 92,985	\$ 25,000	\$ 167,260	
North Central	\$ 476,151	\$131,729	\$	\$ 236,952	
Southwest	\$ 140,044	\$ 38,744	\$ 25,000	\$ 69,692	
Tri-County	\$ 532,169	\$147,226	\$ 50,000	\$ 264,829	\$ 321,221 - MMRS
TOTAL	\$2,800,890	\$774,875	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,393,835	\$ 642,442



Additionally, it was mandated that 25 percent of the grant must be used for law enforcement, replacing the Law Enforcement Terrorism Preparedness Program (LETPP) grant, and also 25 percent must be used for planning, training and exercise programs.

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 \$6,524,500
- CCP \$159,999
- MMRS \$642,442

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

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

The MMRS grant was split equally between Omaha and Lincoln at \$321,221 each as directed by U. S. Congress. MMRS funding is used by Omaha MMRS (OMMRS) and Lincoln MMRS (LMMRS) 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 available to help support them in exercise planning and evaluation.

The Citizen Corps Program 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. 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 \$143,662 for Planning and Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) activities, and \$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, hazardous materials exercises and state and regional LEPC conferences.

Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) 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 through the U.S. Department of Commerce and DHS/Federal Emergency Management Agency (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 requirement for a local match.



Participants work in groups to develop investment justifications for the Homeland Security Grant program at a workshop held in Lincoln, Feb. 18, 2009.



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. The planning staff will be helping the regions update their Tactical Interoperable Communication Plans (TICP) and then that information will be incorporated in the LEOPs.

NEMA's communications planners are working with the local regions helping them assess and plan their communication networks. Congress voted to extend the grant for one year, however, Nebraska will stay with the program to complete everything by the end of 2010.

A great challenge for NEMA and local emergency managers is the requirement to get additional documentation, including environmental assessments, for the building of communication towers. In addition to towers, FEMA has added Environmental/Historical Preservation (EHP) requirements on numerous equipment items. These are identified in the Responders Knowledge Base (RKB) with green information boxes which indicate EHPs must be completed. It is critical that sub-grantees allow enough time to complete the paperwork and get approval before purchases are made. This can be very time-consuming for both local and state personnel.

A new grant received for FY2008 and FY2009 is the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP). This funding enables states, territories, local units of government, and tribal communities to implement their Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans (SCIP) and align to the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) to further enhance interoperability. Nebraska is using this grant to promote planning consistency across the state, and training and exercising of the plans. The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center has been contracted to assist the planning process including a planning academy. They also work with and facilitate meetings with

the Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR), Nebraska Wireless Interoperability Network (NWIN) group, and when asked they work with the individual PET Regions.

NEMA has continued the grant monitoring program as required by DHS and OMB Circular A-87. Forty-five counties and regions were visited this past year. The monitoring visit covers equipment acquisition and inventory, personnel/direct labor, employee reimbursement, travel/vehicle mileage, training/meeting/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. Two areas have been identified as common corrective actions:

1. Inventory lists of all equipment purchased with Homeland Security grant funds have not been kept or are not complete.
2. The Debarment/Suspension Web site is not being checked prior to purchases. The Web site is <http://www.epls.gov> and is referred to in item No. 8 of the Grant Adjustment Notices.



Nikki Weber
Assistant Grants
Manager



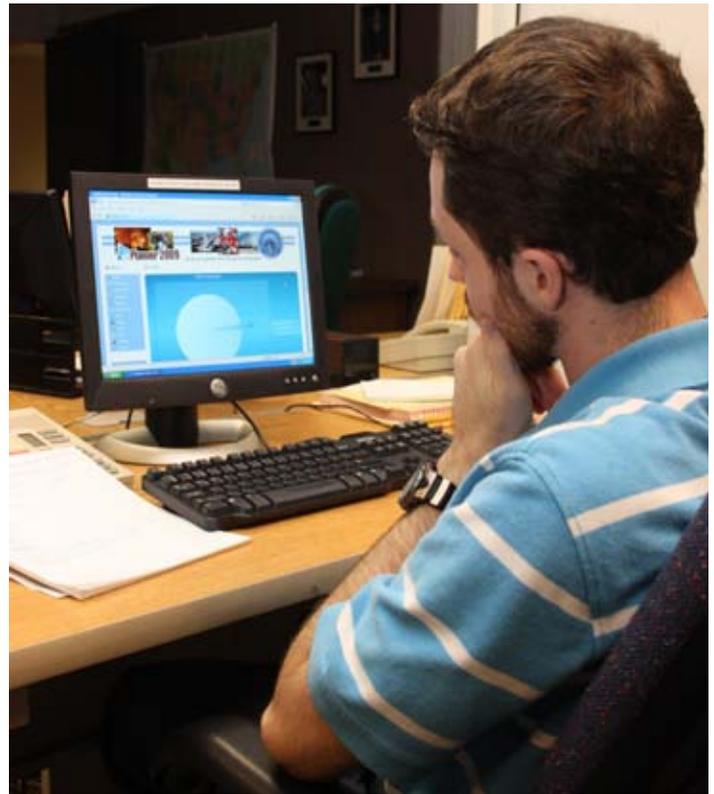
Bob Wilhelm
Program
Specialist



Jackie Maly
Federal Aid
Administrator



Ed Conradt
Grant Monitoring
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.

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.

The Web-based netPlanner allows multiple users to create edit, update and print plans, documents, digital images, organizational charts and databases from a common source using a standardized process



Dan Hiller
Planning
Supervisor

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).

In 2009, NEMA initiated the rollout of the NetPlan-

ner system to incorporate all state and local plans into the Web-based system. This process will be accomplished in conjunction with the five-year planning calendar. The section is responsible 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.

Twelve LEOPs completed revisions and five LEOPs were updated. The SEOP was revised and the agency's



Jim Anderson
Planning Specialist



Bill Meyer
Planning Specialist



Patrick Rooney
Planning Specialist



Logan Lueking
Program Specialist



Laura Kriv of Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program facilitates the Nebraska Statewide Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Technical Assistance Workshop in Lincoln, April 8.

Continuity of Government Plan (COG) was completed in 2009.

The State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) was revised using the DHS Office of Communications in conjunction with the Nebraska Homeland Security Planning Team. Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICP) for the eight PET regions were reviewed and updated and both the SCIP and the TICP were placed on the five-year planning schedule. NEMA will now maintain the TICP and SCIP in conjunction with the region's annual reviews and five-year planning calendar.

NEMA has established a very good working relationship with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (PPC). Through this partnership, NEMA and the PPC has established planning capabilities for the Integrated Planning Process for the eight PET/Communication Regions. NEMA and PPC has instituted a comprehensive program of planning support education to assist in integrating local planning needs into the SEOP/LEOP planning program. This process will provide 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, TCL as a measurement tool, Incident Management Teams (IMT), Sheltering in Place, local integration into EMAC and NIMS compliance.



Bob Eastwood, NEMA's point of contact for SCIP speaks at the SCIP workshop in April.



Training and Exercise

NEMA's training and exercise team found 2009 both busy and challenging. The agency presents a very active training and exercise program, integrated into Nebraska's eight Planning, Exercise and Training (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 several other Advanced Opportunities Courses for emergency management personnel. These academies ran concurrently and were held in North Platte in March and in Bellevue 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.

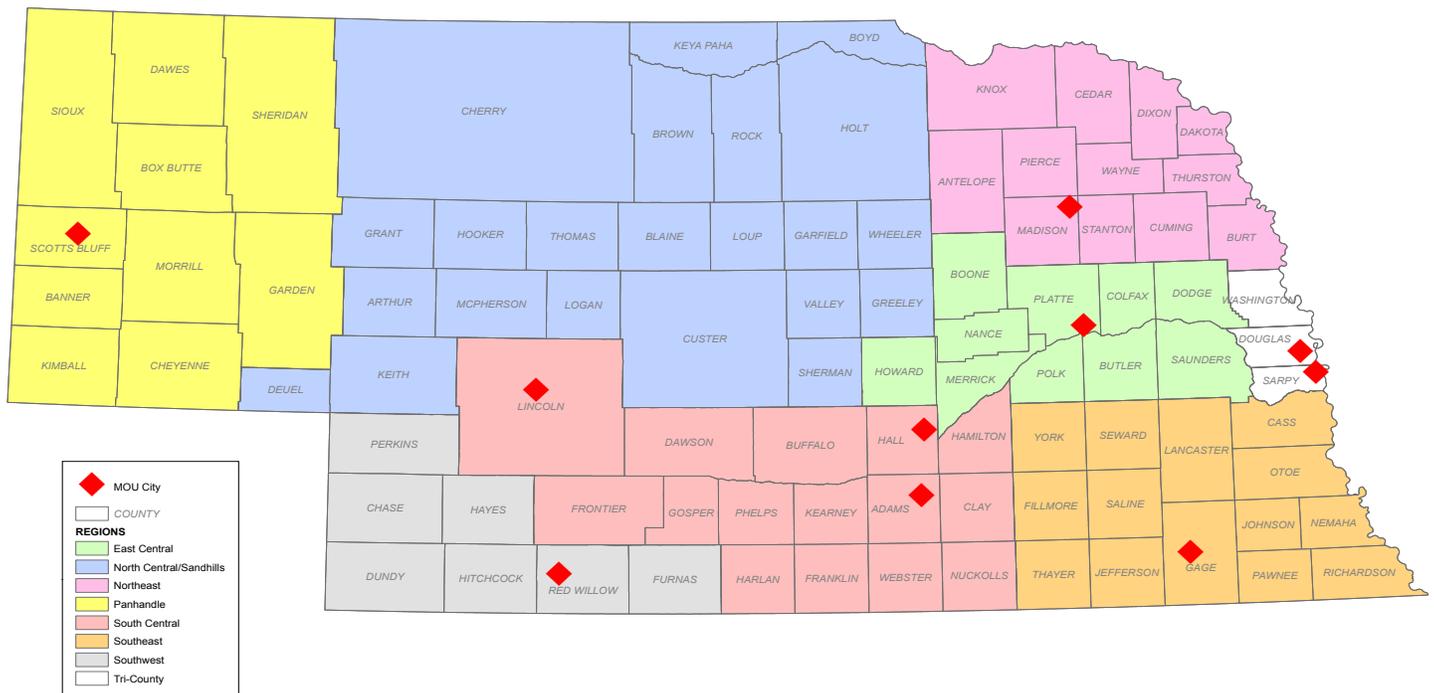
NEMA tracks all students who participate in training programs as well as courses that are taken at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Maryland.



Basic Academy participants work through an exercise at training in Bellevue.

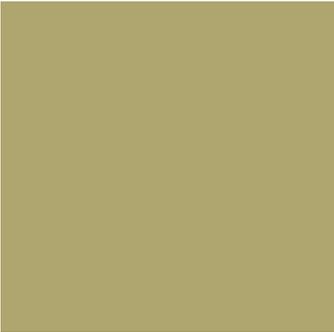
An average of 30 students per class took the NIMS 300 and 400 training in Lincoln, Aurora, Scottsbluff, Sidney and South Sioux City, representing local emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, first responders from fire and EMS agencies and local government officials. NEMA continues to establish 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 classes put on by several Consortiums throughout the United States. The agency has begun focusing





A Model City table-top exercise in Oshkosh helped participants discover how they would handle a Hazmat incident in their community.



on training and credentialing designed to establish a state wide All Hazards Incident Management Team for management, command and general staff personnel in the event of a state declared disaster. This training will be delivered to about 40 to 50 students in 2010. Also, 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 '09 was built around a terrorist event and brought into play the testing of the state and local agencies' response plans as well as

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) operations. 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 and local jurisdictions took part in TERREX '09. Strengths and weaknesses were identified by participating state agencies and local jurisdictions and a Corrective Action Program (CAP) will take place to help eliminate or correct the weaknesses. The focus of TERREX '10 will be response and coordination during a pipeline event.

Fiscal year 2009 saw the completion of training and exercise criteria for the state's Chemical Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE) cities. HAZMAT refresher and Technician level training continue annually for these teams. Most of the year was spent identifying needs, such as the type of training the teams need to complete their goals in the event of a major incident within the state.

The PET process has 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 or terrorist-based incidents in their jurisdictions, allowing them to identify threat areas, assess their capabilities, and test their response processes.



NEMA's Bob Wilhelm raises a point at a ICS 300/400 course.



Aaron Alward
Lead Exercise Training Officer



Dave Reisen
Exercise Training Officer



Megan Doxtator
Exercise Training Officer

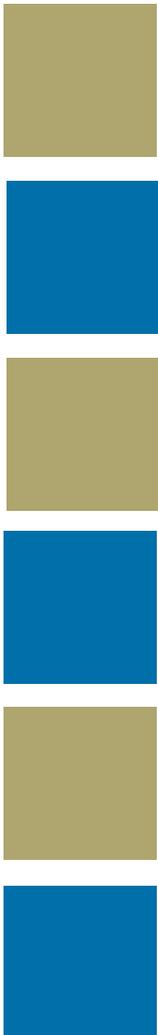


Alisia LaMay
Exercise Training Officer

Emphasis remains on training with regard to the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System, and will continue in 2010. Several county emergency managers have been asked to take part with the training and exercise team to take a look at the current Basic Academy and see what can be done to make it better, but still remain in compliance with DHS training standards and requirements. This will be completed in 2010.



The TEREX '09 simulation cell staff meet with Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy at NEMA.



A TEREX '09 participant in Grand Island shuts off a leak after using foam on a suspected ethanol fire.



Members of the State Emergency Response Commission hold a quarterly meeting at NET.

SERC

Nebraska's State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) was established in 1989 under the Nebraska Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (NEPCRA).

SERC supervises and coordinates the activities of Local Emergency Planning Committees in the state. A Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) reviews the hazardous materials portion, Annex F, of the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) and acts as a repository of information on hazardous materials stored, processed or manufactured in its respective county.

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

In 2009, SERC began the first year of a four-year planning process with the University Transportation Center to study commodities flow information across Nebraska. The Transportation Center, in conjunction

with SERC, will provide data on hazardous materials commodities to the local first responders. Information gathered from the surveys will be used for planning, exercise and training with the LEPCs. Surveys will be conducted on a regional basis over the next four years and will reflect the eight geo-

graphic areas of the planning, exercise and training regions.

Nebraska co-hosted the Region 7 LEPC conference in Kansas City. Several LEPCs were recognized by EPA and FEMA awards. Custer County LEPC received the award for outstanding LEPC with a small population, Lancaster County LEPC received the award for outstanding LEPC with a large population, Adams County LEPC received the award for an outstanding Web site, and the outstanding industry award was given to Equalizer Midwest in Adams County. Nebraska received recognition for its outstanding contributions to the Nebraska Community Right to Know Act.

Nebraska has been chosen as the host site for the Region 7 LEPC conference in 2011.

SERC continues to partner with the Nebraska Hazmat Association and played a key role in the development of the 2009 Hazmat Symposium. The Hazmat Symposium continues to be a growing conference with record attendees in 2009. SERC will continue to support the Hazmat Association and the Hazmat Symposium by offering Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) funding and staff assistance.

State Emergency Response Commission Members

- **Richard Christensen**, chair, chemical industry
- **Dana Miller**, vice chair, firefighters
- **John Baroni**, county government
- **Al Berndt**, for the Adjutant General
- **Steven Danon**, small business
- **Keith Deiml**, schools
- **Donald Eisenhauer**, agribusiness
- **John Falgione**, Fire Marshal
- **Joe Francis**, Department of Environmental Quality, for the director
- **Gary Gandara**, labor
- **Keith Hansen**, community health
- **Tim Hofbauer**, local emergency management
- **Larry Johnson**, trucking
- **Mac McMeen**, city elected official
- **Kim Plouzek**, environmental
- **Jim Schmaizl**, Department of Roads, for the director
- **Major Thomas Schwarten**, State Patrol for the Colonel
- **Sue Semerena**, Department of Health and Human Services, for the director
- Vacant, transportation



Tonya Ngotel
SERC Coordinator

Response and Recovery



Cindy Newsham
Response and Recovery
Program Manager

Core missions of NEMA's Response and Recovery Division are to be ready to coordinate a timely and efficient state response in support of local government and to effectively administer both state and federal recovery programs to speed local jurisdictions' return to normal following a disaster.

Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Target Capabilities

In April the Response and Recovery Division took the lead in the development of a statewide **Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment (HIRA) and Target Capabilities** process. Beginning with a Hazard Identifi-

cation tool from FEMA's Planning Guidance and using the hazards identified in both the State Emergency Operations Plan and the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, a procedure was developed, tested then e-mailed to all of the county emergency managers/coordinators to complete and return to NEMA.

The 19 hazards included in HIRA are:

- Agricultural Animal
- Chemical Fixed Facility
- Civil Disorder
- Drought
- Flood/Flash Flood
- Radiological Fixed Facility
- Severe Thunderstorm
- Terrorism
- Transportation
- Wildfire
- Agricultural Plant
- Chemical Transportation
- Dam/Levee failure
- Earthquake
- Power Failure
- Radiological Transportation
- Severe Winter Storm
- Tornado
- Urban Fire

Hazard Analysis

The tool scored each hazard in four areas: potential magnitude, frequency of occurrence, areas affected (for example, agricultural, residential, business/retail, or industrial), and the potential speed of onset. The highest possible per county for any of the hazards was 124. The hazards could then be categorized as High (score over 80) Medium (41-79) or low (40 or under).

Each county was also able to add one or two hazards not included in the tool that they felt posed a risk to their jurisdiction. Several counties used this feature to add hazards like public health emergencies, structural failure, and Offutt Air Force Base.

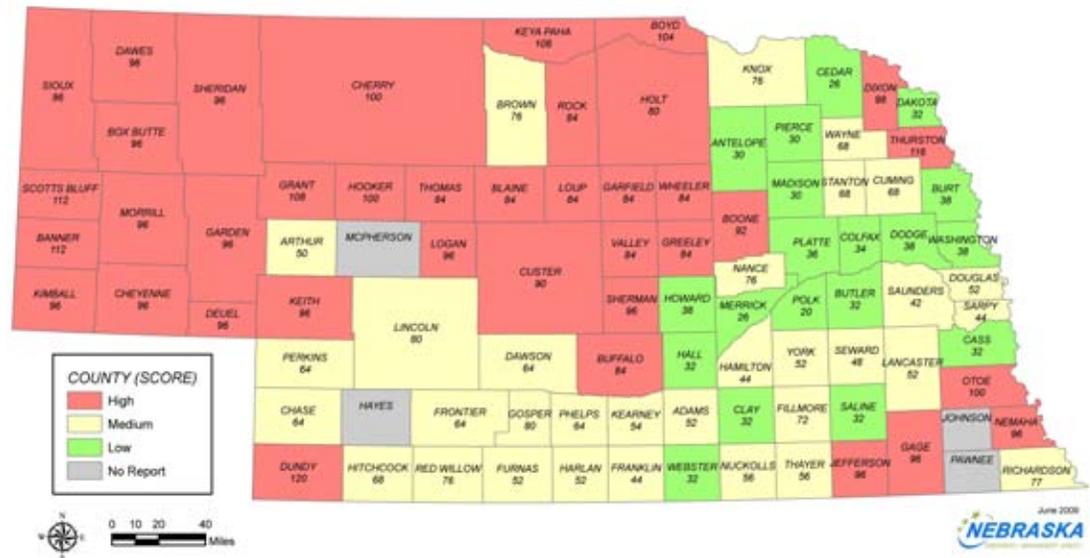
All but four of the counties completed the HIRA and the total score results for each hazard are listed in the chart at right:

Risk	Total Score
Severe Winter Storm	9,883
Severe Thunderstorm	9,719
Power Failure	9,414
Tornado	9,395
Drought	7,987
Flood/Flash Flood	7,556
Agriculture Animal Disease	7,123
Chemical Transportation	7,098
Transportation	6,767
Chemical Fixed Facility	6,288
Agriculture Plant Disease	6,274
Urban Fire	6,268
Wildfire	6,199
Terrorism	5,709
Earthquake	4,917
Radiological Transportation	4,574
Dam/Levee Failure	4,344
Civil Disorder	4,208
Radiological Fixed Site	1,382

HIRA - WILDFIRE



The HIRA document contains a map of the state for each hazard. Each county is color coded to identify how it ranked that hazard. Red signifies a ranking of high, yellow of medium, green of low. Other colors used on the maps are blue for not identified as a hazard for that county and grey for no report. An example of one of the maps is picturee at right.



Risk Analysis

Risk analysis was done in two parts. The first was to identify the impacts of each of the 19 hazards on categories identified by the Emergency Management Accreditation Standards. The impact categories are:

- Public (including housing, casualties, fatalities, work, food and water)
- Responders (including fire, police, medical, and public works)
- Continuity of operations
- Property - destroyed, with major damages and/or isolated
- Infrastructure (including electricity, water, roads and bridges)
- Environment
- Economic conditions
- Public confidence in governance

The second part of the assessment was to identify state resources that have been requested or would reasonably be expected to be requested to support local response to the hazard, then to identify the amount, location and owner of these resources.

Capability Assessment

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in response to *Homeland Security Presidential Directive-8* on national preparedness, developed a series of scenarios for planning purposes. It identified capabilities and tasks for each capability that would be necessary to effectively respond to each of the scenarios. These were published as the Target Capability List (TCL). DHS

developed a tool to aid state and local jurisdictions to assess their ability to meet the 37 capabilities by evaluating completion of, or their ability to, complete the accompanying tasks specific to each capability.

The State of Nebraska began the process of assessing its ability and that of local governments to achieve the DHS target capabilities. Some of the TCLs such as planning, communications and community preparedness were identified as common capabilities and were assessed by the entire working group. Other more specialized TCLs such as public safety response, emergency operations center management and mass care were assessed by single function groups that could work concurrently. The state assessment started with a two-day workshop in June assessing the ability of the state to meet all 37 TCLs.

A one-day workshop was developed for the Planning-Training-Exercise (PET) regions. Four of these regional workshops are completed--the East Central, North Central, Panhandle and Southwest Regions. To keep the workshops to one day's length, only 15 of the TCLs, mostly preparedness and response capabilities, were identified for assessment. The remaining regions will be completed in 2010.

The results of these assessments will be reviewed to identify the capabilities the state is most likely to be asked to support and to see if these are statewide needs or regionally specific. Plans are to identify capabilities that are universally weak and develop strategies to build capability either within the regions or at the state level.



Computers and phone lines were installed in the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) in Basset in June.

Communications and Information Technology Unit

The Communications and Information Technology (IT) Unit oversees the agency's IT and Communications (IT/Commo) needs. This unit ensures that the technology the agency has is fully operational. Staff in this unit work in coordination with other state agencies to ensure inter-connectivity and sharing of information, and to monitor the evolution of both IT and Communications systems.

In the event staff from NEMA must set up a field office due to an emergency or disaster, this unit provides all the necessary IT and communications equipment necessary to maintain that operation. Should a Federal Joint Field Office (JFO) be set up, staff in this unit works with the federal IT staff to provide any state specific

information or equipment necessary to ensure a successful operation.

Being a part of the Response and Recovery Division has had its share of advantages for the Communications and Information Technology staff. In addition to the internal day-to-day IT/Commo responsibilities, this staff is also responsible for the readiness and capability of NEMA's mobile communication equipment. This past year, the staff had the opportunity to test old functionality against a newer system while working alongside the Department of Agriculture and the Office of the Chief Information Officer during last summer's bovine tuberculosis episode. NEMA IT/Commo staff tested and later purchased a system that would allow the connection of eight analog phones using one cell phone connection. This allowed day-to-day office personnel the capability of having a land-line in a building and area where there were no lines and limited coverage. The system proved to be extremely useful for three months and now is in a ready kit available each time NEMA staff must mobilize a field unit.

NEMA's GIS unit was deployed to many disasters in 2009.

NEMA has trained its field teams to do damage assessment on Personal Data Assistants (PDA). By entering information into a PDA and then downloading





Sue Krogman
IT/Communications
Supervisor



Chad Boshart
GIS
Coordinator



To add to the capabilities of field teams, NEMA also added a statewide 150-user Incident Management system. This system allows certified users to access the program, enter messages and events, request resources, look at local plans and pull up a check list for multiple duty functions. A true advantage of this system is that it is Internet-based and allows many users to access the system at same time with all information entered in real-time.



Brent Curtis
Response and Recovery
Planner



Bob Eastwood
Communications
Officer

The Communications section has taken on quite an amount of new duties. NEMA's communications specialist is now a very active part of the Statewide Communication System. Along with keeping the Interoperability Plans current, NEMA now works alongside two Wireless Network Coordinators traveling the 93 counties making sure that connectivity between towers and networks is available. This position continues to work closely with the Paraclete/Interoperability system and will be a major player in the completion of this project.

Multiple new assignments have been given to the Response and Recovery planner. During the last year this position has been solely responsible for updating the information on NEMA's Web-site. As we move into 2010, this planner will be taking on a larger role with the agency's duty officer system and with its Emergency Support Functions.



Steve Cass
Wireless Network
Coordinator



Rod Hutt
Wireless Network
Coordinator

NEMA created and established a new system for on-call 24-hour staff that gives them a heads-up notice on the current events, weather and predictions before they go on call. This system has significantly helped our duty officers and has enabled them and other on-call personnel to enhance the readiness of the agency. The response and recovery planner is not only the contact liaison for all other ESF Agencies, but will provide training and support to their needs while operating in the EOC during disasters or exercises.

The IT/Communications section continues to support NEMA in all aspects of disaster management and assistance.

the information to the server, NEMA teams can stay out in the field as long as possible and complete their jobs without having to get back into the main office to distribute their data. The GIS coordinator continues to be a huge asset to NEMA and to multiple other state agencies and local emergency managers.



Response and Recovery Unit

The Response and Recovery Unit oversees the state and Federal Public Assistance programs and the Hazard Mitigation programs. This unit is in contact with local jurisdictions affected by weather or other emergency/disaster situations gathering damage assessment and needs assessment information.

Staff in this unit lead agency damage assessment done either by phone contact or by sending teams to the damaged area. Once a state or federal disaster is declared the Response and Recover Unit ensures that the affected jurisdictions are aware of the programs available and that all disaster grants are handled according to state and federal rules and guidelines. Staff from the Response and Recovery Unit will work from a Federal JFO following a federal disaster overseeing the operations of recovery programs. This Unit also administers the Hazard Mitigation grant and planning programs, including the writing of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.



Brian Podwinski
Supervisor
Response and Recovery



Public Assistance

The Public Assistance program has continued the trend of working on disasters for the majority of the year. After the four Presidential Major Disaster Declarations in 2008, the work continued by FEMA in the state through the end of April. While 2009 would see a reduction in the numbers of declarations, the month of June brought heavy rains, tornadoes, and severe storms to the state. From June 5 to June 26 the state continued to be battered by storms.

In the summer of 2009 the Nebraska Department of Agriculture was working to determine the source of a case of bovine tuberculosis in a herd near Bassett. As the amount of necessary testing grew to include multiple teams in the field, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency was asked to assist in the management of the incident. An incident command post

was set up and the incident command system was put into place. Several NEMA employees assisted in the response from all divisions within the agency.

NEMA managers **Jon Schwarz** and **Henry Tamasi**, along with NEMA supervisor **Brian Podwinski**, served as incident commanders during the initial phases of the response. Even now as testing continues, NEMA serves in an incident command role to further support the Department of Agriculture as the testing for bovine TB comes to a close.

Presidential Major Disaster Declaration No. 1853 was declared on July 31 by President Barack Obama for 13 counties across the state. The counties included Arthur, Box Butte, Cherry, Custer, Dixon, Garden, Hamilton, Keya Paha, Morrill, Pawnee, Richardson, Rock, and Scotts Bluff. The areas in the panhandle were the



Earl Imler
Public Assistance
Officer



Donny Christensen
Public Assistance
Officer



Carlin Mackie
Staff Assistant



Barbara Allen
Staff Assistant



Hail covers the ground in the southern part of the Nebraska panhandle which was hit hard by hail, rain and flooding in June storms.

hardest hit with heavy rains causing flooding and flash flooding, destroying roads and forcing the evacuation of individuals living near the Platte River. In all over \$6.5 million in damages was found and made eligible for reimbursement by FEMA officials who worked in the state until the beginning of November.

Beginning on Nov. 16, a heavy, wet snow fell in counties in the southeast portion of the state. The snow, with up to 10 inches falling in some areas, caused

power lines to fall, broken power poles and other power problems, which led to some people being without power for five days.

The Nov. 16 storm was declared a federal disaster (No. 1864) on Dec. 16, 2009. The Joint Federal Operations Center is open in Lincoln. Applicant briefings and kickoff meetings with the applicants are completed, and FEMA project specialists are working with the applicants to write project worksheets.



Large amounts of hail made it look like snow in June in part of Nebraska.

Other Programs

Other programs overseen by the Response and Recovery section are the agency duty officer program, the DHS Security Program including working with Buffer Zone Protection Plan Grants, and working with and providing training for the state agencies with primary and secondary responsibilities in the State Emergency Operations Plan.

Response and Recovery staff members also take part in other agency activities like the TERREX and Nuclear Power Station exercises.

Hazard Mitigation

The Hazard Mitigation program has remained focused on planning efforts in 2009. Eight jurisdictions saw plans approved as the year progressed including Chase, Frontier, Hayes, and Seward counties, Region 23, Upper Loup NRD, and Loup Public Power District. There are 13 more counties and groups which have recently begun the planning process and are eligible to receive \$1.5 million in FEMA funding to assist with the costs of the plans. The goal is to have all local jurisdictions to participate in hazard mitigation planning, allowing for eligible hazard mitigation projects to come from all areas of the state.

Work has continued on projects which were originally submitted during the summer of 2008. As FEMA reviews the projects, work continues to meet information needs in order to get all of the submitted projects approved. This process will continue for years to come as with each of the major disaster declarations, money is made available to the hazard mitigation grant program. Those with hazard mitigation plans are encouraged to continue submitting

projects for review.

In November, the Nebraska Hazard Mitigation Planning Team met at NEMA to discuss new projects. During the meeting, each project was discussed and its merits were evaluated. This was completed to properly submit cost-effective projects

to FEMA for review and funding. The projects also must meet the goals of hazard mitigation in the state as outlined by the planning team and in State of Nebraska Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Now, with winter approaching, the annual Lower Platte River Ice Preparedness Meeting is being scheduled. There are several aspects to planning for ice problems which must take place. NEMA has been working with the Civil Air Patrol to fly the Lower Platte River and take photos and video. This will help determine the extent of the ice as winter continues. No ice remediation was necessary in 2009.



Sheila Hascall
Hazard Mitigation
Officer



Radiological Emergency Preparedness



Jon Schwarz
REP
Program Manager

A priority for NEMA is preparation for radiological emergencies. Nebraska's two nuclear power stations and transportation corridor used to ship 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. It 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 calibrates civil defense equipment and exchanges it on a four-year cycle throughout the 93 counties in Nebraska to local emergency first responder agencies. NEMA maintains a database of these exchanges and provides a listing to

local emergency management agency directors when the equipment has been exchanged out which includes a date when the instruments will be due for exchange again. 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 (RERP) for the counties of Otoe, Nemaha, Richardson, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington.

The planners are responsible for the annual exchange of thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLDs)



Bryan Cook
REP Planner
Cooper



Morgan Kramer
REP Planner
Ft. Calhoun



Mike Loftis
Radiological Systems
Manager

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 2009 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 table-top exercise and three full-scale exercises. One of the exercises included a plume phase which was evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its contractors.

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



County emergency managers and NEMA's Bryan Cook participate in a table-top drill for Cooper Nuclear Station.



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 updates 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.

This year the U. S. Department of Energy re-instituted the "Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse (HDER) Program. This program on approximately a quarterly basis provides an opportunity for local emergency first responder agencies to obtain excess equipment from federal agencies at no cost (in other words, the equipment is FREE and the shipping is FREE as well). The list

of equipment is sent out by DOE approximately once a quarter and locals can order directly from the list to DOE. It is a first

come, first served program. It is mentioned here as the Radiological Programs Manager is the State Point of Contact who authorizes the local points of contact direct access to DOE.

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.



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 including the agency's monthly newsletter *The Beacon* which is available online at: www.nema.nebraska.gov.

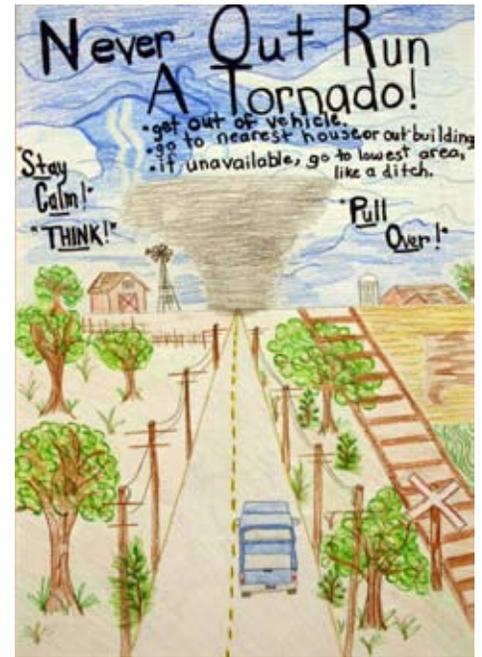
The PIO is also the public information representative to the state's two nuclear power plants and is Nebraska's lead PIO during exercises and drills in the event of an incident at one of the facilities.

The PIO works with the National Weather Service 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 tornadoes lead the list of hazard-



Jodie Fawl
Public Information
Officer



From left, Blake Grossnicklaus, Tressa Reiner, Annie Polly and Tyler Sheldon were recognized at the Capitol for their winning posters in the Severe Weather Poster Contest. Right: The first-place poster.

ous 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 2009 Severe Weather Poster Contest was Blake Grossnicklaus, a fourth grader from Shelby, who cautioned: "Stay calm, think and pull over" in her poster showing a tornado bearing down on a vehicle in rural Nebraska. The top four finishers were recognized by Nebraska **Gov. Dave Heineman** at a proclamation signing for Severe Weather Awareness Week at the Nebraska State Capitol on March 11. The contest is open to fourth grade students in Nebraska Schools.

The NEMA PIO serves as the lead PIO at the state's 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 Edu-

cational 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.

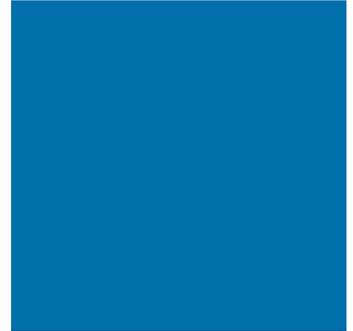
NEMA and its partner state agencies conduct various homeland security exercises from tabletop to full-scale. Public information is a large part of those exercises, and NEMA coordinates and operates the state's JIC during these events.

The JIC is staffed by public information professionals from other state 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.nebraska.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 monthly 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.

Homeland Security Activities/State Administrative Agency



NEMA has been the designated State Administrative Agency (SAA) for all homeland security grants coming into the state from the Department of Homeland Security since 1999. 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 Homeland Security Policy Group since its inception.

The 2009 Nebraska Homeland Security Policy Group consists of: **Brenda Decker**, State of Nebraska Division of Communications; **John Falgione**, Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office; **Dr. Steve Hinrichs**, University of Nebraska Medical Center; **Greg Ibach**, Nebraska Department of Agriculture; **Mike Jeffres**, State of Nebraska Division of Communications; **Thomas Jensen**, Nebraska Department of Agriculture; **Brigadier General Judd Lyons**, Adjutant General, Nebraska Military Department; **Mark Matulka**, Nebraska Governor's Policy Research Office; **Chancellor Harold Maurer**, University of Nebraska Medical Center; **Sen. Heath Mello**, Nebraska State Legislature; **Vice Chancellor Prem Paul**, University of Nebraska; **Tony Sambol**, University of Nebraska Medical Center; **Janice Satra**, Legislative Council; **Jayne Scofield**, State of Nebraska Division of Communications; **Sen. Scott Price**, Nebraska State Legislature; **Dr. Joann Schaefer**, Nebraska Health and Human Services System; **Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy**, State Capitol; **Col. Bryan Tuma**, Nebraska State Patrol; and **Al Berndt**, NEMA.

Close working relationships between state agencies and outside programs greatly facilitates NEMA's role in homeland security in the state. 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.

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 since 1999. These assessments have been the basis of the distribution of homeland security funds in support of the state strategy.

In 2009 the lieutenant governor and the policy group continued to oversee the state communication system.

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.

In 2002, the president issued a call to service 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

2009 Citizen Corps Sub-grant Funding (2008 DHS Funding)

Central CCP Region	\$15,567
East CCP Region	\$15,624
North Central CCP Region	\$13,371
Northeast CCP Region	No application received
Panhandle CCP Region	\$13,936
South Central CCP Region	\$15,560
Southeast CCP Region	\$14,000
Southwest CCP Region	No application received
Statewide	\$2,482
Serve NE Program Coordination and Fiscal Management	\$69,884
Totals	\$160,424

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

National Preparedness Month Activities

Get a kit, Make a plan. Be informed.

National Preparedness Month in September offered a great opportunity to remind citizens to be prepared before an emergency or disaster strikes.

The Nebraska Citizen Corps Program coordinated efforts to celebrate National Preparedness Month in September in Nebraska and received a proclamation from **Gov. Dave Heineman**.

ServeNebraska again partnered with the University of Nebraska Athletic Department and national service programming representatives to reach Husker fans at a football game Sept. 12 and a volleyball match against Creighton on Sept. 1. The Athletic Department donated half-page ads in the Football and Volleyball programs for a ServeNebraska advertisement providing information on how to get prepared for emergencies. A new Citizen Corps Public Service Announcement was played on the football stadium's HuskerVision screens.

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

Three Citizen Corps Preparedness Public Service Announcements for television and two radio spots (one in Spanish) were developed by Redstone Communications under contract with ServeNebraska. The PSAs were played on television and radio stations throughout Nebraska during September. Media stations partnered with ServeNebraska in airing the PSAs by donating half of the cost of the airtime.

Lt. Gov. Sheehy presided over a well-attended Be Prepared Awards Ceremony Sept. 29 honoring Nebraska volunteers for their contributions to their communities through public safety focusing on preparedness, response, recovery, leadership and assistance during a disaster, emergency or crisis.

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 mobilizing 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**.

Citizen Corps councils and their members encourage citizens to connect at the local level with community organizations and training opportunities. It focuses on education, outreach, promoting, training and volunteer service.

In 95 percent of all emergencies, bystanders or victims themselves are the first to provide emergency assistance or to perform a rescue. Citizen Corps asks individuals 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.

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 routine or administrative responsibilities and tasks frees up police, health care workers and firefighters for 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 2009, Nebraska had the following councils and partner programs:

- 31 local Citizen Corps Councils
- 11 Community Response Teams
- 5 Volunteers in Police Service units
- 3 Fire Corps units
- 6 Medical Reserve Corps units
- 2,321 Neighborhood Watch programs
- 1,711 Business Watch groups

Statewide Projects

State CERT Training Standards Project

Twelve CERT trainers, Citizen Corps and Emergency Management reps assisted by professional facilitators and ServeNebraska staff wrapped up the work to develop a first draft of the State CERT Training Standards on March 7. To follow up with a recommendation of that group, the facilitators develop a Nebraska State CERT Train the Trainer one-day class that would provide guidance on how to teach adults. A pilot class was held in Kearney in June for 22 persons. The individuals who completed the class are designated as provisional CERT instructors until they can complete the official FEMA Train the Trainer CERT class.

Statewide Survey

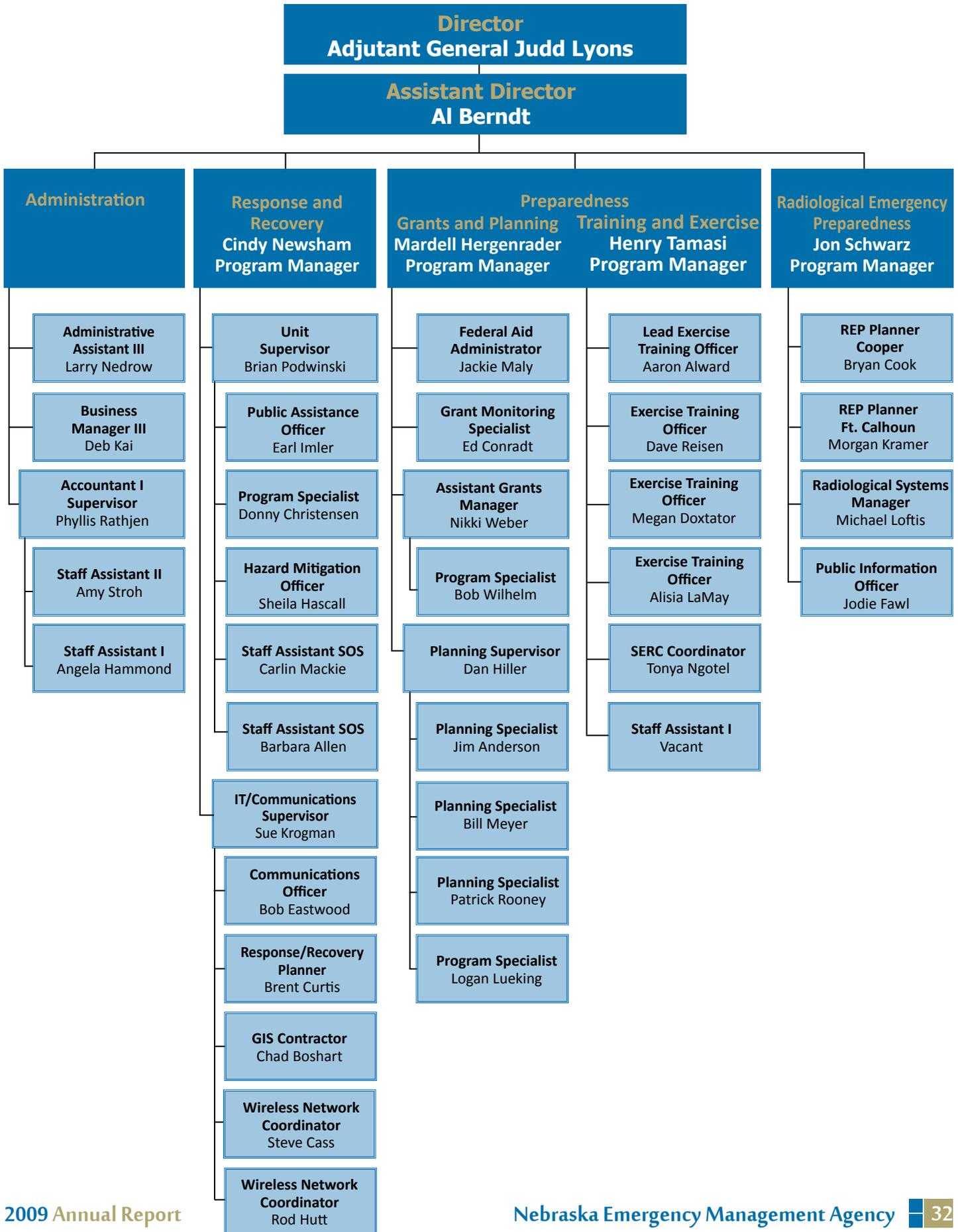
ServeNebraska measured the knowledge that Nebraska's citizens have of Citizen Corps, community preparedness, individual preparedness and disability preparedness with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) Bureau of Sociological Research. UNL Bu-

reau of Sociological Research helped ServeNebraska develop ten questions that were their annual survey conducted in the spring of 2009. The survey results have been compiled and were given to the Commission. The data will be analyzed in 2010 to provide county and regional data for local Citizen Corps Councils to use in planning how to reach local citizens with their preparedness messages and activities.

Statewide Survey

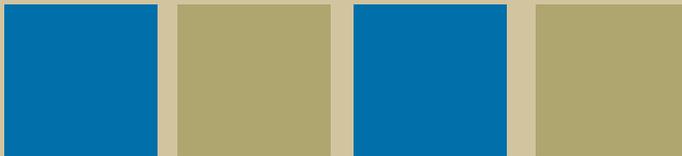
ServeNebraska partnered with Nebraska Online to write a grant that was awarded from the Nebraska State Records Board to centralize a database of trainers, trainers and CERT Teams. The Online Volunteer Registry development work was completed in 2009 and beta testing will occur in early 2010 in preparation for going live with the registry by the end of February 2010. The Online Registry development included placeholders for future data registry for Medical Reserve Corps, HAM Radio Operators, VIPS Units and Fire Corps Teams.

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Staff



Acronyms Used in the NEMA Annual Report

CAP	Corrective Action Program	MERRTT	Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training
CBRNE.....	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive	MMRS.....	Metropolitan Medical Response System
CCP	Citizen Corps Program	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team	NEMA	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
COMMO/IT	Communications and Information Technol- ogy	NEPCRA	Nebraska Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act
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
EHP	Environmental/Historical Preservation	NRF	National Response Framework
EMPG.....	Emergency Management Performance Grant	NSP	Nebraska State Patrol
EOC.....	Emergency Operations Center	NVSC.....	Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission
ESF	Emergency Support Function	NWS.....	National Weather Service
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	PDA.....	Personal Data Assistant
HAZMAT.....	Hazardous Materials	PET.....	Planning, Exercising and Training
HIRA.....	Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment	PIO	Public Information Officer
HMEP.....	Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning	PPC	Public Policy Center (University of Nebras- ka-Lincoln)
GIS	Geographic Information System	PPD	Public Power District
ICE	In Case of Emergency	PSIC.....	Public Safety Interoperable Communica- tions
IED	Incendiary Explosive Device	R&R.....	Response and Recovery
IAPER	Intergovernmental Preparedness for Es- sential Records	RAMTAP	Radioactive Materials Transportation Ac- cident Plan
JFO.....	Joint Field Office	REP	Radiological Emergency Preparedness
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
LETPP.....	Law Enforcement Terrorism Preparedness Program	SOS	Specialized Office Services (state's tempo- rary employment service)
MACC.....	Multi-Agency Coordination Center	TCL.....	Target Capability List
MACS.....	Multi-Agency Coordination System	TICP	Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

NEMA is charged by Nebraska statute to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska in terms of injury, loss of life and property damage resulting from natural, technological or man-made disasters and emergencies. NEMA is responsible for coordinating the state response in any major emergency or disaster including the support of local governments as needed or requested, and coordinating assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal partners.

This Annual Report was produced by NEMA's Public Information section. For additional information about the NEMA Annual Report or other agency publications contact: Jodie Fawl, Public Information Officer at (402) 471-7428; or jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov.



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