

THE BEACON



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

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The Type A CD V-777 radiation detection kit is available at no cost for Nebraska communities.



The Type B kit is mainly used by county emergency managers in larger towns and cities.

Are you using all of your safety equipment?

By Mike Loftis, NEMA radiological systems manager

It's just another routine fire and rescue call. A delivery truck has been involved in a head-on collision on the highway. The driver is unconscious and the cab is on fire. Coming upon the scene, you scan the area and note the following items: smoke coming from the cab, law enforcement has a person on the ground in a safe place and there are no placards noted on the truck. It is a fairly routine scene that happens too often around the country. Your first responders are ready for action; they have on their bunker gear, their self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), helmets and gloves. They are trained, energetic and have responded to similar accidents.

Are they really safe? The first responders have trained for fires, personnel rescue and hazardous material leaks. They are trained to look for safety hazards and to protect people, property and themselves. They have a good incident commander, who watches out for

the team and works to make sure no one is injured. They work together to make sure unnecessary risks are avoided and property damage minimized.

Have they used all of their safety gear to the fullest potential or is something missing? Is some of the safety gear sitting on a shelf back at the station or packed away in a response vehicle, unopened?

What the first responders didn't know was that the truck was carrying a Class A box of radio nuclides on the way to a hospital to be used for patient therapy. It was also transporting a small cesium 137 source to a manufacturing plant to be used in non-destructive testing. The impact of the accident caused the Class A box to slam into the cage door of the truck and it broke open, vials of radio nuclides splattered all over the cab of the truck and the driver before he was pulled from the wreckage by law enforcement personnel. The Cesium 137 source was also in a Class A box

and it slide off a shelf, and fell on the bed of the truck, the casing broke open and the source looking like a small lead wire was just sitting out in the open. In cleaning up the accident, fire responders had been throughout the cab of the truck; making sure anything smoking wouldn't re-ignite the fire. In the back of the truck, a firefighter swept up the junk on the floor, put it in a bucket then put the bucket in the equipment truck. It wasn't until later, when somebody noticed a nuclear materials package, and that questions were asked. By that time the ambulance had taken the injured driver to the hospital and the equipment truck had headed back to the fire house to get ready for the next response.

How farfetched is this? A truck crashes, the driver is found unconscious and the shipping papers are lost. The accident is cleaned up before the responders realize radioactive materials were present. It's not really that farfetched. Every day,

Continued

On the Cover:

Radiation Detection kits are available for county representatives through Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.



Mike Loftis, NEMA radiological systems manager, demonstrates use of the CDV 700 radiation detection device on an antique piece of Fiestaware. The pigment in red Fiestaware contains, among other things, uranium oxide. The actual amount of radioactivity is extremely low, less than the normal background radiation found in rocks.

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as technology has made it possible, more and more nuclear materials are being transported on our roads. Small hospitals are now doing more sophisticated treatments and testing to keep their patients close to home instead of going to bigger treatment facilities.

Businesses are finding ways to do such things as non-destructive

testing using nuclear materials to improve quality and efficiency. Nuclear doesn't just mean bombs, power plants or movies on television; it now means improving quality of life and safety. Nuclear materials are used in ways the average person just doesn't realize, and it's not for the bad. It is also not just the interstate or main highways

now. There is potential for nuclear materials to be transported on any Nebraska road.

In the scenario above, there was no reason to suspect radiation was involved in the accident. However, had the first responders received training and used radiation detection equipment, they would have quickly discovered radiation was present and prevented some serious consequences.

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency provides a CD V-777 kit to emergency responders in all Nebraska counties as well as training in how to use the meters. Kit A includes: a CD V 700 (low range beta gamma meter) survey meter, either a CD V 750-5 (box - pocket dosimeter charger) or a CD V 750-6 (pistol grip type pocket dosimeter charger), two CD V 138's (low range 0-200 mRem) pocket dosimeters, two CD V 742's (high range 0-20 Rem) personal pocket dosimeters, the required amount of D Cell batteries and the instructions on how to use the equipment properly. Kit B includes all of the above and an additional CD V 700 meter.

These kits can detect radiation before it contaminates your community and are provided at no cost. The radiation detection devices included in the kit are an easy and effective way to survey an area.

Monitoring accident scenes needs to be done every time there is a possibility of radioactive materials being transported. Is it included in your standard operating procedures for vehicle accidents and fires?

If your community doesn't have a CD V 777 kit, and you would like one, contact your emergency manager and they can make arrangements with **Mike Loftis**, radiological systems manager (402) 471-7190) or **Jon Schwarz**, radiological programs manager (402) 471-7420) at NEMA to have the training conducted.

We look forward to working with you and your emergency manager in the future.



Response practiced in Cooper Station Evaluated Exercise

Photos by Logan Lueking

Top left: NEMA Assistant Director Al Berndt discusses emergency protective actions with Radiological Planner Morgan Kramer at an evaluated exercise for Cooper Nuclear Power Station July 21. Berndt served as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) for the exercise.

Top right: NEMA's Nikki Weber, Jon Schwarz, and Kramer work in the Emergency Operation Facility in Auburn during the exercise.



Center: Joint Information Center staff include, from left, Amy Stroh, Angela Hammond, Sue Krogman of NEMA and Mike Wight of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Right: NEMA Public Information Officer (PIO) Jodie Fawl, (at the podium) listens to a question from mock media at the exercise. Other speakers include from left, Jeanne Schieffer, spokesperson Nebraska Public Power, Steve Cheavems, PIO, Missouri Emergency Management Agency and Jordan Hankins M.D., University of Nebraska Medical Center and not pictured Lara Uselding of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Ralph Drier, an NPPD technical briefer.





Photo by Ross Deahn Omaha Public Power Department



NEMA staff participate in Ft. Calhoun exercise

Radiological Planner Morgan Kramer was the Governor's Authorized representative (GAR) at a May 25 Radiological Emergency Preparedness exercise for Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Station. She coordinated with NEMA staff at the



Joint Information Center (JIC) located at the Omaha Public Power District offices in Omaha. Public Information Officer, Jodie Fawl, (center of top photo) participated in media briefings while Angela Hammond and Amy Stroh worked in the JIC. NEMA representatives met with OPPD staff and Iowa public information officers in an after action review of the exercise.





The diagram shows the proposed path of the microwave data system to be built out across Nebraska. Each of the eight PET regions is served with a redundant path that serves Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and communications towers in their region.

NEMA works to build out Nebraska Wireless Interoperability Network

By Rod Hutt

Wireless Network Coordinator

NEMA has been assigned the task of building out three elements of the Nebraska Wireless Interoperability Network across the state.

These include the Regional Interoperability Network, which is a microwave system that will carry data between all communications sites and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) throughout the state.

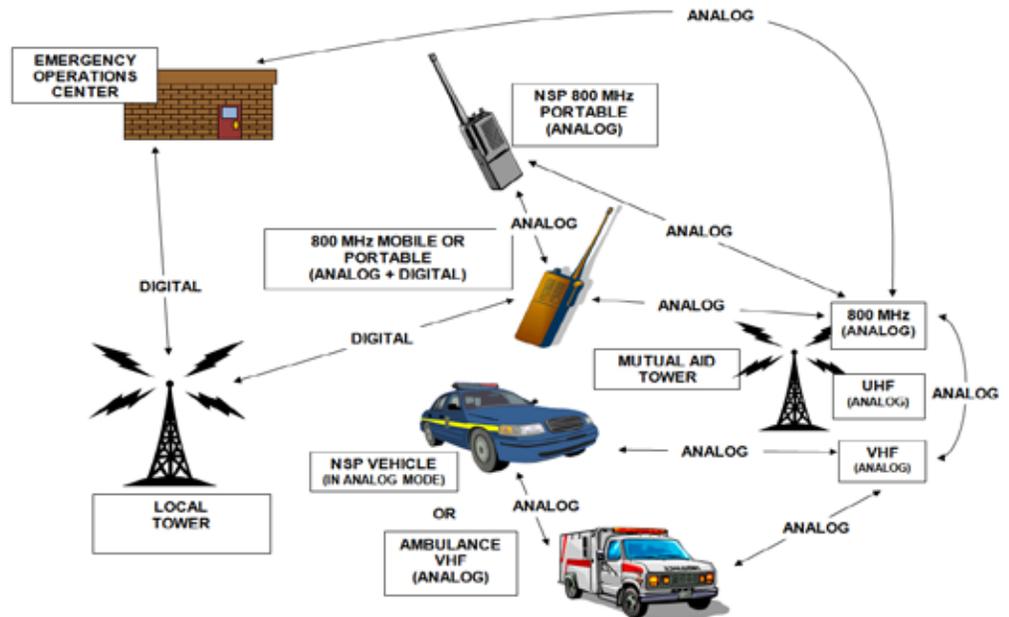
There are 177 PSAP (911 centers) in the state. All 93 counties will be served by this network.

The second element is the Mutual Aid Base Station Network, which will provide the ability for all public safety agencies across the state to communicate with each other, regardless of what frequency band they are equipped with. There will be approximately 60 radio transmitter sites across the state, which will provide the ability for VHF, UHF and 800 MHz to communicate with each other. This system will also allow local law enforcement, ambulances, etc. to communicate with Nebraska State Patrol troopers

on the new P25 network that is being built for the needs of state public safety organizations as well as the Nebraska Public Power District.

The third element of the NWIN

system is called Paraclete. This is a system that allows dispatchers to link disparate emergency responders, again supported by the data network.



The Mutual Aid Base Station System allows for multiple ways for first responders to communicate with each other.



NEMA's Nikki Weber and Brian Podwinski (holding certificates) completed an Effective Supervisory Management course at Leadership Resources. Dan Hiller of NEMA served as Weber's mentor. Podwinski's mentor was Officer John mcGahan of the Lincoln Police Department. Julie Gade (right) of Leadership Resources served as coach for both Weber and Podwinski.

Management training expands supervisory skills for NEMA staff

Two NEMA supervisors completed an Effective Supervisory Management course designed to improve skills in time management, delegation, decision-making and problem solving, motivation and the ability to exercise authority effectively.

Nikki Weber, federal aid administrator/supervisor, and **Brian Podwinski**, response and recovery section manager completed the two-month-long Leadership Resources course in June.

They met once a week for two-hours and worked with a coach and a mentor to support their efforts to achieve career and personal goals.

"The class focused on changing our behavior to increase productivity and achieve success," Weber said. "We set long-range goals and completed assigned tasks that would help us accomplish those goals. This process showed the

importance of strategic planning, setting and maintaining goals, and most importantly, accountability."

Participants learned how to effectively use a "My-Tyme" planner. In addition to NEMA staff, participants represented software companies, law firms and financial institutions.

Leadership Resources offers a variety of classes to increase work productivity and efficiency. Classes include: Effective Personal Productivity, Effective Organizational Leadership and Effective Organizational Leadership. The program is designed to provide a vehicle to make use of participant's inner strengths at a much faster rate than they are likely to achieve on their own initiative.

"While enrolled in the Effective Supervisory Management program I have been able to apply what I have learned, not only in manag-

ing my employees, but in managing myself," Podwinski said. "Through the use of effective delegation, motivation and proper time management I have not only increased the amount of work I can complete daily, but I am better equipped to manage employees by identifying what is important to them while at work and to increase their productivity."

NEMA Assistant Director **Al Berndt** said NEMA should see results as these supervisors apply the principles of effective management to their daily work and as they help their employees advance in their own positions.

"As NEMA staff improve their abilities and effectiveness, it will create a work environment that will ultimately improve our ability to serve the citizens of Nebraska during their times of need," Berndt said.

Staff changes at NEMA



Julie Bergfield

Disaster Public Assistance (402) 742-8769

Bergfield works both at NEMA and the Joint Field Office in Lincoln to coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management for local declared disasters. Bergfield lives in Hickman and previously worked for a nonprofit home services organization.

Clint Hlavaty

Federal Aid Administrator, (402) 471-5088

Hlavaty was hired to monitor grant money awarded to regions in Nebraska. He has a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Bachelor of Science in Business Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with an accounting emphasis. Hlavaty enjoys reading, traveling and working outside in his yard and garden. He's been married for 19 years to his wife Shelly and they have one son, Ryan, age 9.



Evan Knight

Nebraska State Citizen Corps/Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, (402) 471-7424

A 2009 graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan, Knight will coordinate the two volunteer programs. Citizen Corps focuses on individual preparedness and awareness while Medical Reserve Corps volunteers support first responders. Knight earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and History with a minor in French. He ran track and cross county at Wesleyan where he now works as an assistant track and field coach. He ran the Paris marathon in April.

Annie Mack

Hazard Mitigation Specialist, (402) 471-7205

A recent graduate of Northwest Missouri State in psychology and comprehensive crisis response, Mack has joined NEMA as Hazard Mitigation Specialist. A native of Lincoln, Mack is also junior varsity cheerleading coach at Pius X High School.



Steve Cass

**Wireless Network Coordinator,
(402) 471-7236**

After a year as Wireless Network Coordinators at NEMA, Cass and Hutt have been hired permanently by the agency.

Rod Hutt

**Wireless Network Coordinator,
(402) 471-7436**



The 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.

The Beacon is published monthly by NEMA to share news about the agency and emergency management activities throughout the state. Story ideas can be forwarded to: Jodie Fawl, Public Information Officer, NEMA, 1300 Military Road, Lincoln, NE 68508; (402) 471-7428; or jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov.