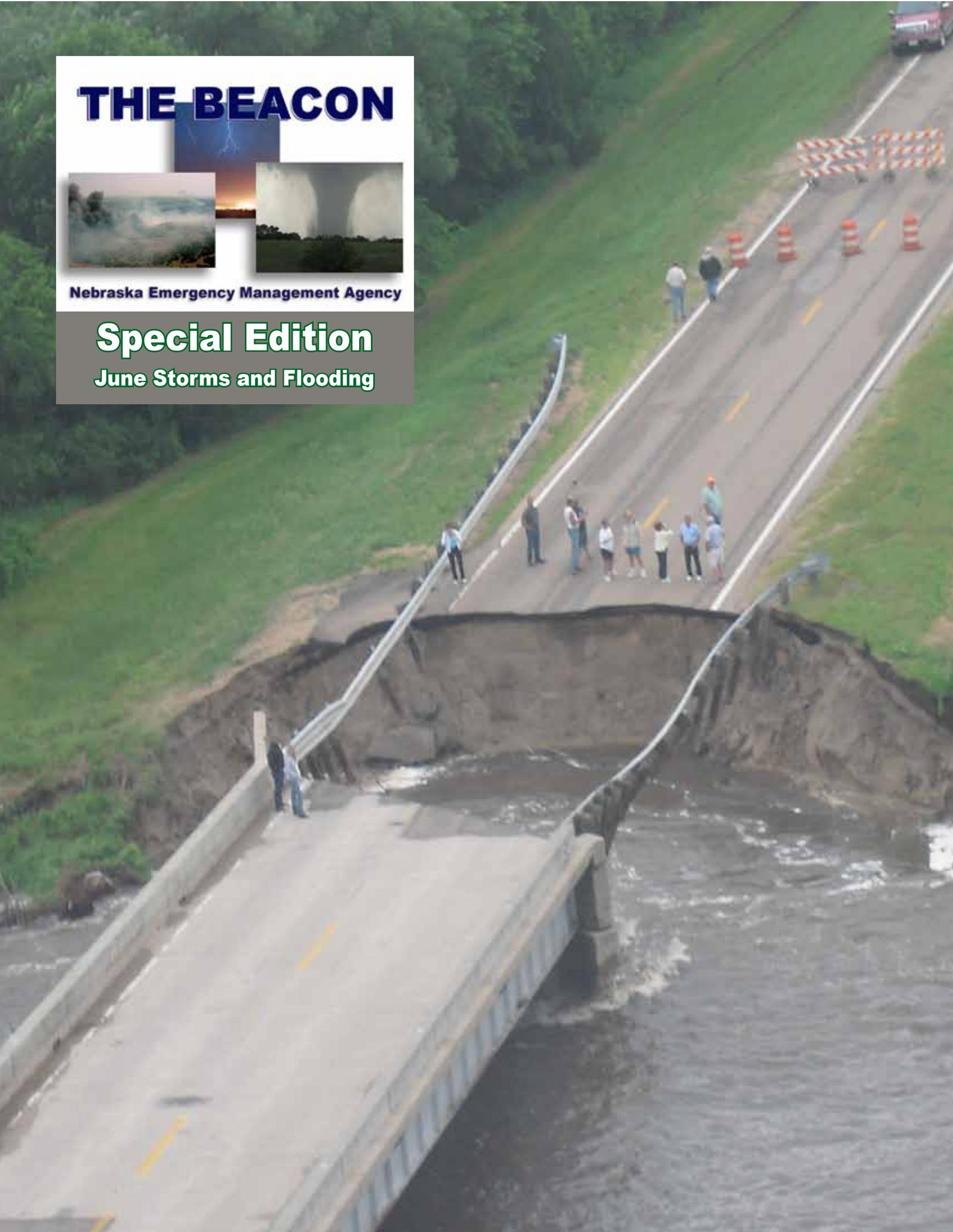


THE BEACON



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Special Edition June Storms and Flooding





STATE of NEBRASKA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LINCOLN
PROCLAMATION

Whereas, commencing on the 1st day of June 2010, a series of severe weather events have impacted the entire state of Nebraska. Conditions across the entire state of Nebraska due to strong thunderstorms, high winds, tornados, flooding, rain and hail have impacted the abilities of state and local government to meet the emergency needs and respond to the effects of the storms.

Whereas, the actions necessary to assist in meeting the emergency conditions presents a burden upon the entire state of Nebraska,

Now, Therefore, under the provisions of R.R.S. 81-829.40, which confers emergency responsibilities and powers upon the Governor, I, Dave Heineman, as Governor of the State of Nebraska do hereby declare that a state of emergency exists within the storm impacted areas of the State of Nebraska.

I hereby direct the Nebraska Adjutant General, who also serves as State Disaster Coordinator, to activate appropriate State emergency plans and to take such steps as he deems necessary to meet this emergency, and to continue these actions until such time as the threat to life and property created by this situation has been alleviated.

I further direct or request, State and appropriate Federal agencies to cooperate with and support the Adjutant General of Nebraska upon his request, as may be appropriate and lawful.

I hereby authorize, the Adjutant General of Nebraska to activate such elements of State Government and Emergency Management resources as are appropriate to deal with this emergency and to expend such funds, within the limitations of availability, from the Governor's Emergency Fund to support these actions.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this 11th day of June, 2010.

Done at the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, this Eleventh day of June, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Ten.

Dave Heineman
Governor
State of Nebraska

ATTEST:

John A. Gale
Secretary of State

On the Cover

Loup County - Heavy rain and storm runoff wiped out the south quarter of the U.S. Highway 183 bridge over the Loup River at Taylor.

Nebraska Counties receive federal public assistance

Recovery from spring storms and flooding begins

Gov. Dave Heineman was notified July 15 that his request for a federal disaster declaration for Public Assistance in 53 Nebraska counties was approved by **President Barack Obama** for storm damage and flooding that occurred throughout June.

“We appreciate the approval of the disaster declaration for Public Assistance,” said Gov. Heineman. “The federal government and local entities have been good partners working with the state as we assessed the severe and extensive damage that occurred throughout Nebraska. I am proud of Nebraskans for coming together and helping each other in challenging times.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VII office notified the governor that the Public Assistance portion of his request had been approved. Public Assistance can help with eligible costs to remove storm debris, take emergency protective measures and repair or replace disaster-damaged roads, bridges, public buildings, critical facilities, such as water, sewer and power systems and other public facilities. The counties included in the declaration are:

Antelope, Arthur, Blaine, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Burt, Cass, Chase, Cherry, Cheyenne, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dodge, Douglas, Frontier, Garden, Garfield, Greeley, Harlan,



Madison County - A railroad bridge over the Elkhorn River in southwest Norfolk collapsed June 15.

Hayes, Holt, Howard, Keya Paha, Knox, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, Madison, McPherson, Morrill, Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Perkins, Phelps, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Rock, Sarpy, Saunders, Sherman, Sioux, Stanton, Thomas, Valley, Washington, Wayne, Webster, and Wheeler Counties.

Gov. Heineman had also requested Individual Assistance for 33 counties. Individual Assistance can help with disaster-related damages to homes and businesses in the designated counties. This assistance can include money to pay for a temporary place to live while damages to a primary residence are being repaired and/or funds to

pay for minimal repairs to make a primary home safe, sanitary and functional. Low-interest disaster loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration also may be available to cover major disaster damages and/or replace personal property.

Individual Assistance has been requested for: Adams, Antelope, Blaine, Brown, Cass, Cherry, Cheyenne, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dawson, Dodge, Douglas, Garfield, Greeley, Hayes, Logan, Loup, Madison, McPherson, Morrill, Nuckolls, Otoe, Platte, Richardson, Rock, Sarpy, Scotts Bluff, Sherman, Stanton, Thomas, Valley and Wheeler.

“While extensive, the damage to homes throughout Nebraska counties was not significant enough for approval of the individual assistance,” said **Al Berndt**, assistant director of NEMA. “We have received additional information on individual damages since the initial request was submitted and those additional damages may be enough for Gov. Heineman to consider an appeal.”

Gov. Heineman said “We will continue to compile damage assessments and provide additional data to see if Individual Assistance is warranted,”

Communities across Nebraska are cleaning up following torna-

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does, high winds, heavy rains and flooding that buffeted Nebraska during June.

The storms resulted in historic flooding with significant damage to homes, farms, ranches, businesses and infrastructure. NEMA reports preliminary damage estimates to public infrastructure of more than \$16 million. The most severe impacts were to roads, bridges and culverts.

The total financial cost of the storm damage will not be known for several months.

“Many roads remain closed and impassable across the state,” **Lt. Gov. Sheehy** said in a June 28 telephone news conference. “The counties and the state face many years of recovery.”

Nebraska continues to deal with accessibility issues due to the loss of roads infrastructure.

“The extent of the damage means this will likely be a long-term process for these counties,” said Berndt. “We will work closely with local agencies to help move the recovery along.”

Additional counties may be added to the Governor’s disaster request at a later time. Teams comprised of local, state, and federal officials are assessing additional counties for possible inclusion.



Pierce County - An intersection in Pierce is Flooded June 16.



Colfax County - Flooding in Schuyler was extensive. Gov. Dave Heineman praised the people of Schuyler and Colfax County for an outstanding volunteer response and for their willingness to help their neighbors.



Madison County - Rural residents were cut off by flooding June 13.



Madison County - Norfolk streets were cut off June 13.



Antelope County - June 13-14 heavy rain in Neligh flooded homes, wiped out roads and bridges and left community members working together to build dikes to prevent further destruction.



Holt County - Flood waters washed away a bridge approach at the South Fork of the Elkhorn river about three miles west of Ewing.



Wayne County - A 12-foot culvert was washed 100 yards away from this Wayne County road (left) leaving the washout in the road (right).



Adams County -Debris lines a culvert.



Cuming County - The park in West Point was underwater on June 16.



Morrill County - A culvert on Road 106 washed out taking the road with it.



Scotts Bluff County - A tornado flipped five trailers June 13. The National Weather Service confirmed a tornado with wind speeds up to 98 mph.



Scotts Bluff County - A tornado cut a path 100 yards wide and 19 miles long June 13.



Sioux County Flooding washed out an eight-foot diameter culvert on a County Road.



Garden County - Debris collects under a bridge south of Lisco.



Cheyenne County - Flood waters in Sidney created a void under the approach.



Dawson County - Water rises at the Horizon Mobile Home Court in Cozad on June 14.



Dawson County - Flood waters approach a business in Cozad on June 14.



McPherson County - One of many county roads that suffered from erosion as a result of flooding.



Howard County - Emergency Manager Michelle Woitalewicz, assesses damage near St. Paul. The homeowner lost more than 60 feet of his backyard.



Reporters and Photographers attend the first of four news conferences about flooding in Nebraska on June 14.



Custer County - A National Guardsman on an assessment team exams a 4-foot deep sink hole northeast of Merna.



Assistant Director Al Berndt talks agency representatives in the State Emergency Operation Center.



Governor Heineman discusses flooding at a news conference June 16 held at the Joint Information Center which was located at NET.



Adjutant General Judd Lyons makes a point at one of the daily policy group meeting led by Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy.



Members of the Nebraska National Guard answered the public flooding hot line at the Joint Information Center.



NEMA Public Information Officer Jodie Fawl (left) discusses the Joint Information Center with Jen Rae Hein, communications director for the Governor, Mike Wight of DHHS, Morgan Kramer of NEMA, Diana Seiffert of DHHS, Christin Kamm of the Department of Agriculture and Adjutant General Judd Lyons.



Richardson County - The Missouri River at Rulo crested at 26.3 feet June 22 breaking the record of 25.6 set in 1952.



Custer County - High water eroded the embankment under this bridge prior.



Douglas County - Waterloo was waterlogged like much of the state on June 15.



Nuckolls County - A tornado at treetop level struck Superior on June 20, taking out trees and leveling a garage and outbuilding.



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.