

# September 2010

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# THE BEACON



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



# TERREX '10 tests local, state and pipeline response

More than 100 players participated Sept. 22 in TERREX '10, a functional-scale exercise designed to test response to a hazardous materials pipeline event caused by an earthquake.

TERREX is Nebraska's annual preparedness exercise hosted by Nebraska Emergency Management Agency in conjunction with various state agencies and local jurisdictions. The exercise is a continued effort to be vigilant in all phases of emergency preparedness across the state, and tests the current state of readiness with in the State Emergency Operations Plan and Local Emergency operation Plans.

Participants included representatives from NEMA, the Nebraska Energy Office, Lancaster and Cass counties, Enterprise Pipeline Facility, Waverly and Lincoln fire and rescue, Lincoln/Lancaster County 911, Health and Human Services, the Nebraska State Patrol, Lancaster County Sheriff, the Nebraska National Guard and the 72nd Civil Support Team.

The exercise design objectives included:

- Demonstrating compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and



Participants get final instructions prior to the start of TERREX '10.

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

- Facilitating and testing multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional communications
- Testing the capabilities and functionality of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency's mobile operations vehicles.

**Alisia LaMay**, an exercise training officer at NEMA, served as exercise director of TERREX.

"I am very proud of the work that our planning team did in creating TERREX," LaMay said.

"We came together and worked through an issue that would test, not only multi-agency but multi-jurisdictional capabilities and we succeeded. We met all agency objectives, stimulated more conversation regarding pipeline response, pushed the envelope on energy as-



NEMA's Bob Wilhelm encourages safety.



Alisia LaMay, exercise director, checks to make sure everything is ready for the start of TERREX '10.



Aaron Alward and Dave Reisen serve as logistics and operations Chiefs.

## On the Cover:

TERREX '10 gets underway in the parking lot north of the entrance to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

insurance requirements and created an avenue for improving upon the plans and requirements already in place.”

**Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy** kicked off the day’s event and reminded participants that TERREX is designed to help the state’s emergency responders be prepared to meet the expectations of its citizens.

“No plan is good until you test it.” Sheehy said.

**Ginger Willson**, director of the Nebraska Energy Office said, “TERREX 2010 offered the Energy Office an opportunity to test key parts of agency policies and plans for use during energy emergencies. I would like to thank those who participated in the exercise who will be on the front lines of protecting and enhancing the resiliency of the energy sector. This training has made us all better prepared in the event of an energy supply disruption.”

**Dan Maschka** of Northern Natural Gas observed the exercise and was impressed with its complexity and size.

“This process you have is amazing,” he said. “It’s a step-by-step process and the sheer amount of work that goes into it is pretty amazing.”

**Russell Edwards**, supervisor of operations and maintenance for Enterprise said, “If we all do what we are trained to do and we conduct ourselves in a safe and professional manner we will effectively mitigate any issues.”



Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy talks with participants following the exercise.



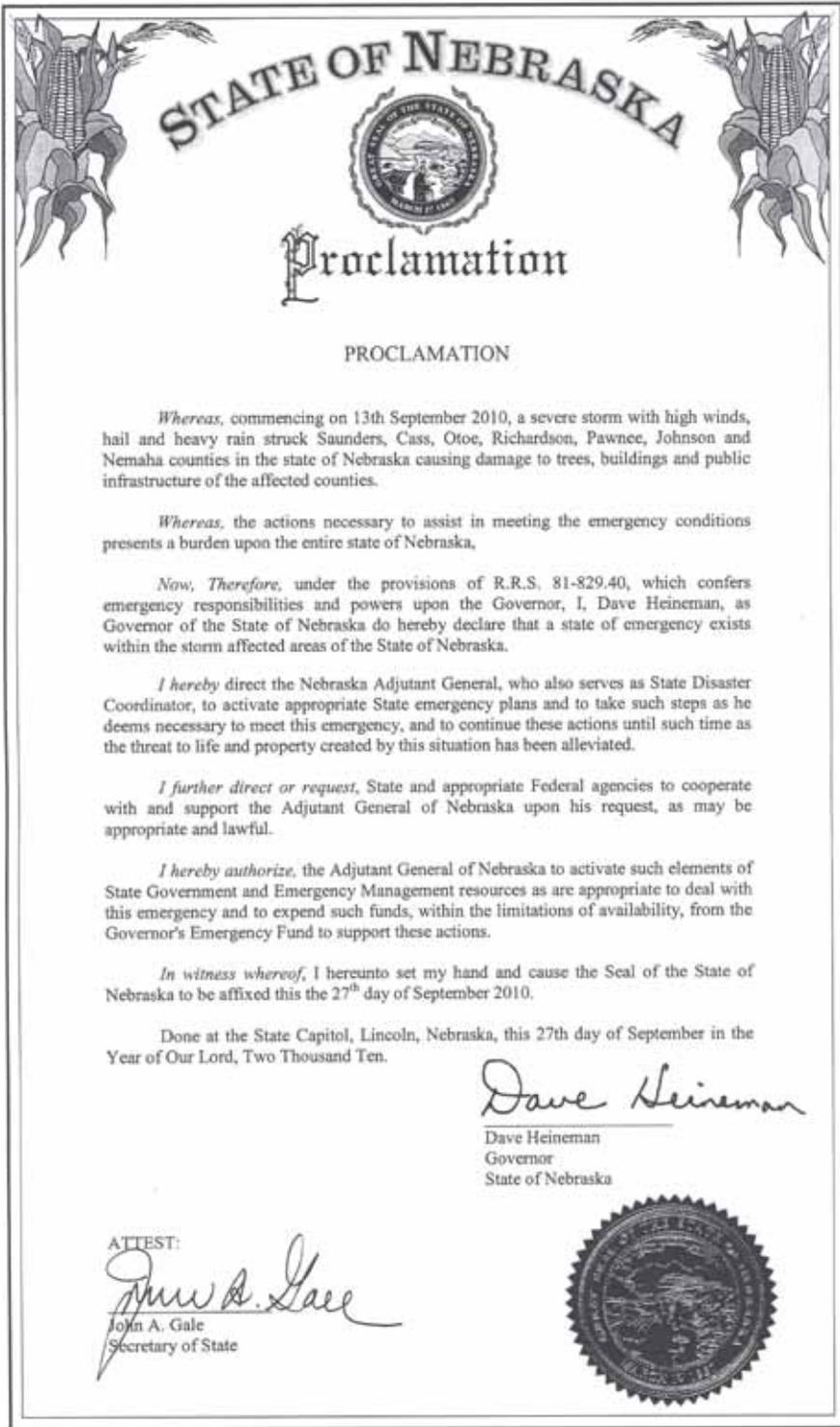
The Simulation Cell keeps busy during the exercise.



Bill Meyer of NEMA talks with Jerry Loos of the Energy Office in the Joint Information Center. Members of the policy group discuss actions to be taken during the TERREX.



TERREX ‘10 Participants work in the State Emergency Operations Center at Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.



## Eight counties added to disaster assistance

Federal disaster assistance was made available to eight additional Nebraska counties that suffered damages during the severe storms, flooding and tornadoes June 1-Aug. 29, the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced Sept. 3.

Adams, Buffalo, Dawes, Dawson, Hooker, Jefferson, Sheridan and Thurston counties join the 53 counties are receiving assistance as a result of presidential disaster declaration signed July 15.

## Merle Henkenius Public Assistance Assistant (402) 471-7184



**Merle Henkenius** joined the agency in August as a public assistance assistant. He began his career in home construction. He has a master's license in plumbing, has worked as electrician and heavy

equipment operator. In the 1980s, he began work as an advertising copy writer. He then became a freelance writer/photographer for magazines and book publishers for 26 years. Henkenius wrote home improvement articles for: *Better Home and Gardens*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Popular Science* and *This Old House*. He also wrote articles for the LA Times news syndicate. Henkenius likes to travel and has visited nearly 30 countries. He enjoys creative writing and is looking for a publisher for his book of essays and fine art photographs.

## Mike Pile Public Assistance Assistant (402) 471-7183



**Mike Pile** also joined Nebraska Emergency Management Agency in August to work in public assistance. Pile was born and raised in Norfolk and worked in a family-owned Falstaff and Miller

beer distributorship for 22 years. Pile then owned and operated an Allstate Insurance Agency in Norfolk for 12 years. He moved to Lincoln in April 2009 to be near family. He's been married for 28 years has two step sons ages 36 and 32 and a daughter, 26. Mike has three grandchildren ages 13, 10 and 5 with another on the way. Pile enjoys fishing for Bass and Walleye with his son, Scott.



(Left) Rod Bates of NET displays a plaque presented on behalf of NEMA and representatives of the state's Joint Information Center for the work they did to provide a place for the JIC to operate during flooding in spring 2010. (Right) NEMA Assistant Director AI Berndt told NET representative their help was instrumental to the successful operation of the JIC.

## Hazard mitigation grant application course offered

Twenty-four participants learned about applying for hazard mitigation grants from Emergency Management Institute (EMI) trainers at a three-day course held in Lincoln, Sept. 28-30.

Presentation of L-242 the *Unified Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Application Development Course* was

requested by the FEMA Region VII and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Local emergency managers, consulting firm representatives, project engineers and Federal Emergency Management Agency staff from the Joint Field Office in Lincoln gathered to attend the course which

educate participants on the process of developing quality mitigation planning and project application elements for the Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs.

The primary audience for the course is the local community, as they have the important responsibility to develop successful mitigation grant applications.

"It's giving local jurisdiction good tools to use in project development and project applications," said **Sheila Hascall** of NEMA.

Participants divided in three groups to work together to develop their own applications throughout the course, Hascall said.

The course was held at the Field Maintenance Shop, No. 1 at 1111 Military Road.

"We are grateful for use of the military conference room," Hascall said. "They really pulled some strings to help us out."



An Emergency Management Institute trainer teaches the Unified Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Application Development Course



Donny Christensen, Merle Henkenius, and Mike Pile pack items to move to the new public assistance office on Van Dorn.



Chad Boshart and Donny Christensen assemble office furniture.



Some NEMA staff are now located at 700 Van Dorn street. They include, from left, Mike Pile, Merle Henkenius, Jared Hamik, Donny Christensen and Julie Bergfield. Not pictured: Earl Imler.

## Public assistance staff now located at NEMA “South” 700 Van Dorn

**FAX: 402-471-7268**

BERGFIELD, Julie	Staff Assistant I	471-7216
CHRISTENSEN, Donny	Public Assistance Officer	471-7416
HAMIK, Jared	Disaster Assistant	471-7185
HENKENIUS, Merle	Public Assistance Assistant	471-7184
IMLER, Earl	Public Assistance/Hazard Mitigation Officer	471-7181
PILE, Mike	Public Assistance Assistant	471-7183

## Public assistance staff holds workshop

A public assistance workshop Sept 15 at the Center for People in Need in Lincoln gave participants a chance to ask NEMA staff questions about disaster response and documentation.

Top right: Brian Podwinski response and recovery division supervisor, talks about time lines for applications.

Top left: Deanna Beckman of Dakota County asks a question.

Middle row, left to right: NEMA's Sheila Hascall talks about hazard mitigation, Donny Christensen talks about the closeout process and NEMA's Annie Mack discusses hazard mitigation.

Bottom: Participants listen as NEMA's Earl Imler discusses NEMA contractor and state forms.





As part of Senior Preparedness Day, preparedness supplies were available for sale at Watkins ACE hardware.



Information and preparedness kits were available for seniors during preparedness day in Gage County.

# Gage County holds Senior Preparedness Day

Get a Kit, Make a Plan and Stay Informed were three points Gage County Emergency Management staff made during a Senior Preparedness Day event, Sept. 18, at the ACE Hardware parking lot in Beatrice, as part of Preparedness Month Activities

Gage County Emergency Manager **Mark Meints** said during a SWOT Workshop (*Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats*) last year they identified a need to make sure senior citizens are prepared for disasters.

Gage County applied and received a \$7,500 Citizen Corp grant for emergency preparedness projects. The plan, written for the grant, was to give away 500 Disaster Preparedness Kits to Senior Citizens age 60 and above who live in Gage County.

Meints said they gave away 270 of the kits during the event and have made additional kits available throughout the county at area banks. The kits include: a pull string backpack bag, a glow stick, whistle, flasher combination, two

dust masks, First aid kit, Emergency Blanket, Red Cross information on disaster kits and plans on Sheltering in Place, antiseptic spray (donated from BCH) and a pill container (donated from Public Health Solutions).

“We also displayed emergency response equipment from different first responder agencies,” Meints said. “

Watkins ACE hardware had additional supplies to add to the free kits or to make your own kit for your home for office.



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](mailto:jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov).



Emergency response equipment from different first responder agencies in Gage County was on display at the event.