Prepare for the Worst, Hope for the Best
Together

Annual Report
2011
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One of the most gratifying parts of our jobs at Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is seeing Nebraskans work together successfully to prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate against emergencies and disasters that affect our state. Together we help ensure Nebraska is prepared for emergencies. Exercises and drills are run, preparedness classes taught and communications systems prepared for events we hope will never occur. We prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

It is our privilege to present NEMA’s 2011 Annual Report detailing the programmatic accomplishments of the agency in support of the citizens and local communities across our state.

NEMA is a nationally-recognized organization tasked with ensuring Nebraska’s preparedness to meet any disaster, hazard or emergency threatening our citizens. We are proud NEMA was awarded accreditation by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, having developed a program responsive to the needs of our state and our citizens. Our mission as an agency is to attain and maintain the principles of emergency management in providing the highest quality support to the citizens of our state.

This past year has continued the recent trend of state and federal disaster declarations affecting large portions of our state. We saw extensive flooding on the Platte and Missouri Rivers and an outbreak of storms across the central portion of our state. In total, 26 counties qualified for disaster public assistance for both declarations and an additional 13 counties qualified for the individual assistance program.

It has been the philosophy of the agency to develop, enact and carry out programs reflective of, and supportable at, the local level. Every emergency occurs at the local level and local officials must be prepared to respond. NEMA will continue to support local emergency managers with technical assistance, programs, training and exercising that will assist local governments in accomplishing these responsibilities.

As we close out 2011, we look back with pride on the dedication of not only NEMA staff but of the local emergency managers supporting our efforts. This annual report illustrates the time, effort, commitment and dedication of the professional emergency management community within our state as it strives to move forward for the betterment of all. It is exciting to see the accomplishments of the emergency management community knowing they were carried out during almost continuous disaster response for a large share of the counties and communities within our state. Together we are working to help Nebraskans respond and cope with disasters. It’s not an easy task, but as long as we consistently build productive partnerships, there is no limit to the impact we can have together.
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) works to maintain an effective emergency management response, recovery, preparedness and mitigation program with an emphasis on pre- and post-disaster programs, as well as a robust state homeland security program.

NEMA 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 U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Housed under the Nebraska Military Department, NEMA is structured into four performance sections: administration, response and recovery, preparedness and technical hazards.

In his role as Adjutant General, Major 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 DHS, 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 is staffed with 37 full-time employees, one GIS support position from the University of Nebraska, one program specialist from the Public Policy Center and three temporary employees working in the response and recovery section.
Oversight of all agency grant and performance programs, including the State Emergency Performance Grant program, is the responsibility of NEMA's administration staff. The State Emergency Operations Plan, the State Homeland Security Strategy and the Agency Strategic Plan are the responsibility of administration staff and are in place to lead and guide agency performance.

At the national level, NEMA interacts with the National Emergency Management Association. NEMA also 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 is a key reason Nebraskans have been able to effectively respond in times of emergency.

The staff of the administration section relies on the cooperation and support of other state agencies and federal partners to keep the agency performing at a high level.

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Administration

Assistance to Local Governments

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) provides 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.

Colfax and Johnson counties joined the EMPG program in 2011 bringing the total number of counties participating in EMPG to 71, including individual counties, multiple county memorandum of understanding (MOU) jurisdictions and regions.

New requirements for training and exercising added in 2011 mean local jurisdictions receiving EMPG funds are now required to have all staff paid with EMPG funds complete 11 independent study courses. Courses cover basic national incident management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Professional Development series. Participation in at least three exercises during the 12-month period of the grant is also required. First quarter reports show a lot of exercise participation, with many local staff members having fulfilled or exceeded the exercise requirement. The six project areas from which each jurisdiction is asked to identify activities they want to accomplish are:

- Administration of emergency management program
- Planning
- Training and exercise
- Disaster response and hazard mitigation
- Technical hazards
- Public education and outreach.

Included as part of their quarterly report, emergency managers can include any other activities they participated in during the reporting time frame. Each of these local emergency managers is playing an integral, if not leading role, in the various Planning, Exercise and Training Regions, and NEMA wants them to be able to take credit for all of these activities, as well as their more traditional emergency management duties. This year the training and exercise project report has a chart where the local directors can report their jurisdiction’s progress on the required training and exercises.
Emergency Management Directors and Coordinators
Funded in 2011 by
Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directors</th>
<th>City/County</th>
<th>Directors</th>
<th>City/County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chip Volcek</td>
<td>Hastings/Adams</td>
<td>Michelle Woitalewicz</td>
<td>Howard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darrin Lewis</td>
<td>Kearney/Buffalo</td>
<td>John McKee</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick Schneider</td>
<td>Butler</td>
<td>Jeff England</td>
<td>Kearney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William M. Cover</td>
<td>Cass</td>
<td>Laura Hintz</td>
<td>Knox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Garvin</td>
<td>Cedar</td>
<td>Doug Ahlberg</td>
<td>Lincoln/Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loren Uden</td>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>Adam Parson (Interim)</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Arps</td>
<td>Colfax</td>
<td>Rene Critser</td>
<td>Nemaha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy Smith</td>
<td>Custer</td>
<td>Tim Stutzman</td>
<td>Nuckolls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pat Foust</td>
<td>Dakota</td>
<td>Greg Goebel</td>
<td>Oto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Woldt</td>
<td>Dawson</td>
<td>Tim Hofbauer</td>
<td>Platte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul W. Johnson</td>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>Jim Gerweck</td>
<td>Richardson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Mainwaring</td>
<td>Fillmore</td>
<td>Bruce “B.J.” Fictum</td>
<td>Saline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Powell</td>
<td>Furnas and Harlan</td>
<td>Larry Lavelle</td>
<td>Sarpy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Meints</td>
<td>Gage</td>
<td>Terry Miller</td>
<td>Saunders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pete Peterson</td>
<td>Grant and Keith</td>
<td>Gary Petersen</td>
<td>Seward, York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Rosenlund</td>
<td>Grand Island/Hall</td>
<td>Bill McPherson</td>
<td>Thayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirt Smith</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Tom Perez</td>
<td>Thurston</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coordinators</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Counties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Pook</td>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Burt, Dodge and Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faythe Petersen</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Antelope, Pierce and Madison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Gerdes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Frontier, Gosel, Hitchcock, Phelps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Leal</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Cheyenne, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill</td>
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<td>Jerry Bretthauer</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Scotts Bluff, Banner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nan Gould</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan, Sioux</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas L. Fox</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Keya Paha, Rock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alma Beland</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Blaine, Garfield, Greeley, Loup, Sherman, Thomas, Wheeler, Valley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEMA’s information technology and communications unit (ITCU) is known for its high profile projects. ITCU is designed to handle and maintain all of the technical aspects for functionality of NEMA during regular work hours and in times of disaster. It is also tasked with multiple statewide communication and technology projects and works as co-project managers with members of the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). ITCU staff members are cross-trained to minimize any chance of vulnerability. The unit is responsible for a variety of functions including:

**Geographic Information System**
The GIS coordinator’s primary duty is to provide digital and online maps for support staff in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and in the field during events and exercises. This is done by coordinating with civilian companies and state agencies to collect data from the affected areas and then producing maps for decision makers to analyze. The GIS coordinator gathered and displayed flooding pictures and data taken by NEMA staff, the Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Nebraska State Patrol during the 2011 flooding. Combining this data with data sets from other affected agencies, an overall display was created for NEMA staff, emergency support function managers and FEMA. Work continues to move forward on NebraskaMap, a project to make GIS data more accessible to GIS users by creating a statewide geospatial data portal. The purpose is to share statewide data, such as street center line data and high resolution digital imagery without maintaining numerous individual copies of the same data. This project has been under the supervision of the Nebraska GIS Council, of which NEMA is a member. The GIS Council is an advisory group to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC).

**Communications**
NEMA communications continues to work on the interoperable network. This joint effort between local regions, NEMA, OCIO and Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) remains the largest project of ITCU. The project, which was started in the Nebraska Panhandle area was created to connect the state and is now ready for testing. Once testing has been accomplished and approved, the contractor will move to the southwest region, the central region and continue on a counter-clockwise direction throughout the state. Microwaves and hi-tech connection equipment will make this network extremely fast and very capable of handling high bandwidth issues. The network will eventually assist the mutual aid systems across the state.

**Paraclete**
Paraclete is a system that allows multiple patching capabilities between radio frequencies and is being used more and more throughout local entities for mutual aid. NEMA trainers are still going statewide to assist all Paraclete users in perfecting their software and are now ready to move to the next module which will assist emergency managers in preparing the planning concept for this system. When completed, this system will be able to interface off the Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network (NRIN) system, allowing less cost for local regions.

**Duty Officer**
NEMA maintains a duty-officer system for 24/7 on-call monitoring of the state in case of weather emergencies and other disasters. Duty officers and other agency staff use a software logging system for multi-agency interoperability and real-time situational awareness. This allows those involved in emergency management response, a unified view of critical data in real time. Emergency managers from each of the state’s 93 counties as well as representatives from many state agencies have access to the system. Everyone involved in the response can follow a disaster from onset to a full-fledged federal declaration. The system gives local emergency managers the ability to monitor the state’s disaster response.

**New Joint Forces Headquarters**
ITCU was involved in the architectural design and construction of the new State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) which will be located in the Joint Forces Headquarters under construction at the airbase in Lincoln. Completion of the new building is scheduled for May 2012. The design includes new wiring for higher speed Internet, voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) for telephone service, a user-friendly operations room and the capability to have video teleconference connections to stay in touch with the local emergency managers. The new SEOC will have a state-of-the-art video wall in the operations room, as well as two training/coordination rooms adjacent to the operations room. The integration of the Nebraska State Patrol dispatch center into the building is expected to improve emergency response capabilities by housing responders in one location.
Grants and Preparedness

NEMA’s grants and preparedness section is responsible for a wide range of activities including planning, preparedness, training and exercise. The section is responsible for oversight and administration of the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant funding program.

Mardell Hergenrader
Manager

Grants

The State of Nebraska applied for and received these federal grants for fiscal year 2011:

- State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)
- Citizen Corps Program (CCP)
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
- Metropolitan Medical Response System Program (MMRS)
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP)
- Emergency Operations Center Grant/Region 26

On April 14, 2011, 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 investment justifications must support federal programs and the state homeland security strategy. The allocations, for state agencies and local regions, were based on the amount in each investment justification and total population of each Planning Exercise Training (PET)/Communications region. Based on the total award from DHS, 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 State Homeland Security Planning Committee, local sub-grantees and NEMA staff worked to submit investment justifications that 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 $5,137,205
- CCP $109,470
- MMRS $563,386

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State Homeland Security Grant Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Hazmat MOU</th>
<th>IED/Fusion</th>
<th>Comm/PET</th>
<th>Total Award</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>84,117</td>
<td>164,749</td>
<td>248,866</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Central</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>68,192</td>
<td>133,558</td>
<td>201,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Central</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>34,858</td>
<td>68,272</td>
<td>103,130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>38,469</td>
<td>75,345</td>
<td>113,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panhandle</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>53,300</td>
<td>104,394</td>
<td>157,694</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>85,816</td>
<td>168,077</td>
<td>253,893</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>20,302</td>
<td>39,764</td>
<td>60,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-County</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>93,474</td>
<td>183,077</td>
<td>276,551</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCOR on Behalf of Locals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,444,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$3,856,764</strong></td>
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The MMRS grant was split equally between Omaha and Lincoln at $281,693 each as directed by 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 a planner to attend the OMMRS and LMMRS committee meetings to give a state perspective and assist with grant management.

In FY2011, Congress made $14,101,740 available for construction or renovation assistance for primary state, local or tribal government Emergency Operations Centers (EOC). The grant program is intended to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically-located and fully interoperable EOCs with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs. Fully capable emergency operations facilities at the local level are an essential element of a comprehensive national emergency management system and are necessary to ensure continuity of operations and continuity of government in major disasters or emergencies caused by any hazard. Program funds may only be expended for EOC construction or renovation costs and administration costs to support the project. It was a competitive grant and requires a 33 percent match. Region 26, consisting of Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Valley, Greely and Sherman counties was the only Nebraska local jurisdiction to apply for the grant received a $450,000 grant to build a new EOC in Taylor, the regional headquarters.

NEMA also administers a mini-grant program for Citizen Corps Councils. More information about the mini-grants is available on page 13.
Another grant administered by NEMA is the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), Title III, Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The State Emergency Response Commission and Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) revisions and updates are supported from this grant.

NEMA allocates training funds available to the State Fire Marshal training division for hazmat operations training for first responders. The Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team’s (NHIT) quarterly training is also supported with this grant, and is coordinated through the Nebraska State Patrol. NHIT members work for the Nebraska State Patrol, the Nebraska State Fire Marshal and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. The 28 members reside across the state and respond either individually or as a team depending on the need. Members have been trained in Hazmat response, the Incident Command System (ICS) and other specialized areas.

Congress funded the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant through the U.S. Department of Commerce and DHS/FEMA. The grant total is $8.5 million and will be passed through to local jurisdictions.

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 assists the regions in updating their Tactical Interoperable Communication Plans (TICP) which is then incorporated into the LEOP.

NEMA, on behalf of local jurisdictions, entered into a two-year contract with CSI Inc. of Omaha to complete the local interoperable communications interconnectivity portion of Nebraska’s interoperable communication build-out at the local level. A combination of Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) and DHS funds are being used. NEMA is assisting local jurisdictions on three projects that will have a profound impact on first responder interoperability. All are funded in part or totally with PSIC dollars. The three projects are:

**Regional Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Interconnectivity**
This project builds redundant, and primarily microwave, interconnecting rings of regional communications around the state to allow local jurisdictions to send first responder communications and data to other local first responders. These rings will allow for expansion...
It is the responsibility of the planning unit to oversee and assess the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) for relevance and continuity and to ensure that agency staff is adequately trained in its use. 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 SEOP, revised every five years, was last revised in 2009 with an update in February 2010.

Coordination and administration of the NIMS program in Nebraska is the responsibility of the planning section which coordinates with other state agencies and local jurisdictions to carry out NIMS implementation and certifications.

The planning unit supports state and local planning efforts developing, delivering and overseeing county Local Emergency Operation Plans (LEOP). Each year, approximately 20 percent of the state’s LEOPs are scheduled for revision. NEMA provides planning assistance for LEOP modifications, and in 2011 total revisions were successfully completed on 16 LEOPs while an additional 12 LEOPs were updated and improved.

In addition, the SEOP, Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and Continuity of Government Plan (COG) were all updated and maintained. The State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) was reviewed and updated in conjunction with the Nebraska Homeland Security Planning Team. Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICP) for the eight PET regions were reviewed and updated. 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 regions’ annual reviews and five-year planning calendar.

Planning supports the integration of plans, including:
- Continuity of Operations
- Continuity of Government
- Regional integration and tactical interoperable communications
- Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)
- Mass casualty and catastrophic events

Other issues addressed are:
- LEOP integration
- Core capabilities as a measurement tool
- Incident Management Teams (IMT)
- Sheltering in Place
- Local integration into EMAC, and
- NIMS compliance.

The planning unit develops and writes all of the DHS grant investment justifications, serves as the agency liaison to the MMRS and coordinates the Citizen Corps Program CCP and the MRC. The unit also coordinates the state Homeland Security Senior Advisory Group, the state Homeland Security Leadership Group and the State Homeland Security Planning Team.
Training and Exercise

NEMA's training and exercise team presents an active training and exercise program, integrated into Nebraska’s eight PET/Communication regions. Activities are conducted at all levels, from assistance to local jurisdictions through regional training and state level drills, exercises and training.

NEMA offers support to state agencies, local jurisdictions and eight training regions in the form of Basic Certification Academies and targeted courses for emergency management personnel. Staff changes in 2011 include Dave Reisen’s promotion to unit supervisor, Alisia Lamay’s transfer to the preparedness planning section and Aaron Alward’s transfer to technical hazards as a radiological emergency preparedness planner. To fill the void Charles Chase and Roger Conrad were hired as exercise training officers (ETO) and Rod Hutt became an ETO after transferring into the section from his role as wireless network coordinator.

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. The advanced opportunities courses provide previously certified emergency management personnel training and coursework in specialized areas at a level beyond the basic program.

Nearly 90 Nebraskans attended each of the ICS 300 and 400 training courses in Lincoln, Gering and Wayne, representing local emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, fire and EMS agencies and local government officials. ICS 300 is an intermediate ICS course for expanding incidents. The 400 advanced class is for command and general staff and focuses on complex incident and Multi-Agency Coordination Systems (MACS).

ICS 402, an incident command course designed for senior officials and agency executives, was delivered in Lincoln twice in 2011.

Thousands of individuals in Nebraska completed online 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 other fields. NEMA continues to establish a level of training in compliance with requirements identified by the Department of Homeland Security and Nebraska law.

Development of a statewide All-Hazards Incident Management Team for management, command and general staff personnel in the event of a state-declared disaster progressed during 2011.

NEMA also conducts an annual state-level training exercise entitled TERREX. Each year a different scenario tests the readiness of local, county and state agencies and their ability to work together in a large-scale incident. TERREX ’11 was built around the response and coordination during an active-shooter event on the University of Nebraska- Lincoln (UNL) campus. The year-long exercise development process included an initial planning conference, a mid-year planning conference and a final planning conference, in addi-
TERREX ’11 included more than 150 participants representing UNL, Lancaster County, Nebraska State Patrol, Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office, Lincoln Police Department, UNL Police Department, Lincoln Fire and Rescue, Lincoln/Lancaster County 911, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Red Cross, St. Elizabeth Community Hospital, Bryan/LGH East and West Hospitals, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and NEMA. This was an incredibly challenging exercise, not just for players, but for the design team. As with all large-scale exercises, success is in the details, and due to the nature of this exercise, and the absolute need to ensure the safety of all, details were scrutinized under a microscope to ensure there would be no safety issues and all would remain safe. Strengths and weaknesses were identified by evaluators and participating state agencies and local jurisdictions developed an improvement plan to correct the identified weaknesses.

The focus of TERREX ’12 is an Integrated Emergency Management Course that will be delivered by the National Emergency Management Institute which consists of classroom training and a functional exercising focusing on State Emergency Operations Center operations and Emergency Support Function staff from various state agencies assigned to work with the State Emergency Operations Center.

Training for local dispatchers on the Paraclete interoperable communications system has been assigned to the training and exercise unit to ensure personnel can effectively use the system. Paraclete Basic Operator training was delivered in 13 communities across Nebraska in 2011.

The PET process has helped local emergency managers, and their regions, identify capabilities and vulnerabilities that are tested 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.

The National Incident Management System, Incident Command System and development, training, and credentialing of the statewide All-Hazards Incident Management Team continue to be areas of focus for 2012.

**TERREX 2011**

University of Nebraska-Lincoln police officers respond during TERREX 2011, a full-scale exercise held on the University of Nebraska’s downtown Lincoln campus. An evaluator, right, watches the action while a film crew documents the exercise for training purposes. UNL students on spring break pictured at left in a classroom portrayed victims in the training exercise that involves more than 150 participants representing a variety of agencies.
The Citizen Corps mission is to bring community and government leaders together to coordinate the involvement of community members in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery.

Citizen Corps is administered at NEMA through a contract with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center which provides a coordinator to help manage the grant. It is a grassroots movement that actively involves every citizen in making communities across Nebraska safer, stronger and better prepared for emergencies. Everyone has a role to play in community resiliency and Citizen Corps helps prepare and train local volunteers and leaders.

This mission is accomplished through a network of state, local and tribal Citizen Corps Councils, which build on community strengths to implement the Citizen Corps programs and integrate into local emergency response plans to assist all Nebraskans. A component of USA Freedom Corps, Citizen Corps emphasizes citizen responsibility for community safety and preparedness. In partnership with other national service programs, Citizen Corps became one of the respected national service partners along with AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Senior Corps, VISTA and Learn and Serve.

With a focus on preparedness education, outreach, self-sufficiency, training and volunteer service, Citizen Corps Councils and their members encourage citizens to connect at the local level with community organizations and training opportunities. In 95 percent of all emergencies, bystanders or victims themselves are the first to provide emergency assistance or to perform a rescue. Thus, Citizen Corps asks individuals to embrace the personal responsibility to:

- Be prepared
- Get first aid and emergency skills
- Be able to help themselves
- Support emergency responders, disaster relief and community safety
- Help others be safer.

Citizen Corps teaches people to take action now to help protect their families, reduce the impact an emergency has on lives in the community and deal with the chaos if an incident occurs. When citizens are able to take care of themselves, their families and their neighborhoods during times of crisis, it lets first responders focus on the most critical, life-threatening situations. Volunteering for other routine or administrative responsibilities and tasks frees up police, health care workers and firefighters to focus on immediate emergency response needs.

Examples of the national partner program initiative include: Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), Fire Corps, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Neighborhood Watch/USA on Watch. In 2011, Nebraska had the following councils and partner programs:

- 12 local Citizen Corps Councils
- 7 Community Response Teams
- 3 Volunteers in Police Service Units
- 3 Fire Corps Units
- 7 Medical Reserve Corps Units

State Coordinator
In August 2011, Ryan Lowry became the state coordinator for the Citizen Corps program. Prior to coming to NEMA, Lowry worked with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. In the first few months in this new role, Lowry has worked with the Citizen Corps State Council to ensure all partner programs have the resources needed to maintain sustainable programs at the local level.

First Annual Nebraska C.E.R.T. Conference
The Nebraska Citizen Corps Program worked with Scotts Bluff county C.E.R.T. to host the first of what will be an annual Nebraska C.E.R.T. Conference, Aug. 19-20. The conference included training sessions for participants, and culminated in a search and rescue exercise at the Scotts Bluff National Monument. More than 30 C.E.R.T. volunteers from across the state attended the conference. Plans are being made to hold the next conference in Grand Island in August 2012.

National Preparedness Month
September was National Preparedness Month, and a number of Citizen Corps programs around the state participated in activities to help educate Nebraskans about the importance of being prepared for a disaster or emergency. In addition to the activities, Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy presented seven volunteers and volunteer organizations with the Be Prepared Award. This award recognized the efforts of individuals and organizations that assist before, during and after a disaster or emergency.

Medical Reserve Corps Video
In 2011, Nebraska Citizen Corps was awarded funding from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to create a video for the MRC. Throughout the summer and fall, a film crew filmed a number of MRC activities and volunteers, including exercises in North Platte and Omaha. The footage will be edited into four, one-minute scenes that can be used for MRC recruitment or public service announcements.
Response and Recovery

The core missions of NEMA’s Response and Recovery section 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.

Public Assistance

Record snowpack and record rain events in the Yellowstone Basin resulted in record flooding during 2011 along the Missouri River Basin. The State Emergency Operations Center was in operation from May to September and for several weeks it was staffed 24/7. The flooding disaster required assistance involving representatives from numerous Emergency Support Functions (ESF) for the entire summer. ESFs provide structure for coordinating resources in response to an incident.

President Obama declared Major Disaster No. 4013 for Flooding along the Missouri and Platte River Basins, from May 24 to Aug. 1 and No. 4014 for severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding from June 19-21. These events caused estimated damages approaching $150 million. Projects are being written, reviewed and obligated for these disasters and the Joint Field Office is projected to remain open through February 2012. This process has been complicated due to the vast areas inundated by flood waters and the length of time it took for the water to recede. The public assistance staff continues to work with the previously declared disasters to obligate, process, inspect and close out projects, while working with Federal Emergency Management staff on the current declarations.
Volunteers fill sandbags to protect the water treatment facility in Peru.

Water released from the Gavin's Point Dam on the Nebraska-South Dakota border west of Yankton, S.D, raised water levels along the Missouri River throughout the spring and summer of 2011.

An applicant briefing in August drew a crowd at the Bellevue Fire Training Center. Public entities that sustained flooding damage learned about the process for applying for assistance from NEMA and Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives.
Although there were no ice jams this year, the state was affected by flooding, severe storms, tornadoes and straight-line winds. This resulted in two federally-declared disasters that brought funding opportunities for hazard mitigation in Nebraska.

Funding in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program will increase as projects under public assistance continue to be obligated. This funding, along with 14 previous disaster declarations, has resulted in a combined total of $48.9 million to be used towards planning and project grants. The funding will continue NEMA’s efforts to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and to protect lives and property.

As with the previous years, the hazard mitigation unit continued to be highly focused on planning efforts in 2011. Fifteen multi-hazard multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans were developed and approved. Eighty-five percent of the state is now covered under a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan which includes two tribal hazard mitigation plans, 550 local jurisdictions and 31 jurisdictions that are approvable but are pending adoption of the plan. There are several other multi-jurisdictional plans under development and local hazard Mitigation plans being updated.

A NEMA hazard mitigation staff goal is to have all local jurisdictions participate in hazard mitigation planning, allowing for eligible hazard mitigation projects to come from all areas of the state.

Also on the agenda in 2011 was the approval of the Standard State Hazard Mitigation Plan. It’s official FEMA approval date was April 25, 2011.

The Civil Air Patrol flew a photographic mission for NEMA along the Platte River, Dec. 2 to document the channels that had formed. The photos show the frazil ice and frazil pan which is the first stage in river ice formation when the crystals start to form and grow. The pictures of the slushy channel provide the information needed to mitigate should there be a need to eliminate ice jams.

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Throughout 2011, NEMA staff met with Natural Resource Districts, local jurisdictions, regions and counties across the state to encourage the development and implementation of mitigation plans and projects.

NEMA held applicant briefings and grant application workshops which addressed eligibility of hazard mitigation project applications and benefit cost analyses. These types of workshops and briefings brought in more than fifty project applications, adding up to approximately $9.8 million which all were approved to be submitted for federal funding under the hazard mitigation grant program.

In December, NEMA held its annual Lower Platte River Ice Preparedness Meeting at the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District Office. NEMA had the Civil Air Patrol fly the Lower Platte River from Fremont to the mouth of the Missouri River to take photos and video for assistance in locating the channels on the rivers and to report to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers if technical assistance was required. This will help determine the extent of the ice as winter continues.

In 2012, NEMA's hazard mitigation unit will continue preparation for future events in hopes of mitigating catastrophic impact.

One of the mitigation projects approved in the state during 2011 was a tornado safe room at the Ponca Public School. Total cost of the project was $739,324 with 75 percent of the cost being paid with funds from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program from disaster 1864. The primary occupants to take shelter will be the students enrolled at Ponca School, the full-time staff members and visitors to the campus. When completed, the safe room can hold 477 people which includes adequate space for wheelchair-bound people making it available for the communities annual Veterans Day event held at the school.
A priority for NEMA is preparation for radiological emergencies. Nebraska’s two nuclear power stations and the transportation corridors used to ship radioactive material and radioactive waste make these preparations a necessity.

The radiological emergency preparedness (REP) unit has the responsibility to meet the agency’s goal of being prepared in the event of a radiological emergency to protect the health and safety of the public. It ensures that emergency response agencies throughout the state are aware that radiological response training is available. The Technical Hazards section manager notifies local emergency response managers of known new radiological shipments through their jurisdictions.

During 2011, the radiological emergency preparedness staff and the State Emergency Preparedness Commission offices moved from Military Road to 700 Van Dorn St. The move allowed REP staff to work together in one location.

The radiological systems manager calibrates radiological equipment and exchanges them on a four-year cycle to local emergency first responder agencies. NEMA maintains a database of these exchanges and provides a listing to local emergency management directors.

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.

During 2011, NEMA has been able to assist local agencies along the transportation corridors in subsidizing the cost of calibration of their radiological equipment – with the assistance of money provided by the U.S. Department of Energy, Carlsbad Field Office for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant – through a work agreement with the Western Governors’ Association. This assistance will continue into 2012.

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 unit 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.

These planners are responsible for the annual exchange of thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLDs) and the state RERP which describes the state response to a nuclear power station incident. All county plans were either reviewed or 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 2011 in the counties affected by the nuclear power stations. 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 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 participates. This year, NEMA was involved in four nuclear power station drills and two full-scale exercises. One of the exercises, which included a plume phase, which was to be evaluated by FEMA at the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station, was postponed until 2012 due to the severe flooding experienced all along the Missouri River which taxed state, local and utility personnel.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and FEMA both came out with new regulations in November concerning REP planning and exercising which included a new REP Program Manual. This means that there are major changes coming to the REP program in the next few years.

The Governor’s Radioactive Materials Transportation Working Group oversees the transportation of radioactive materials and radioactive waste through the state. For incidents or accidents involving radioactive material or waste, the state maintains the Radioactive Materials Transportation Accident Plan. The plan is reviewed annually by the working group. The technical hazards section manager is NEMA’s representative to the working group.

The agency maintains contact with radiation transportation committees within the states’ regional groups. Nebraska belongs to the Council of State Governors, Midwest Region. These groups work closely with the U.S. Department of Energy on the transportation of radiological materials through their regions and states. This year was especially important as the President of the United States had established a “Blue Ribbon Commission” to meet with the regions, states and general public concerning the future of the storage and disposal of radiological waste.

The U.S. Department of Energy Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse Program (HDER) provides an opportunity for local emergency first responder agencies to obtain excess equipment from federal agencies at no cost (both the equipment and shipping are free). The technical hazards section manager is the state point of contact.

In order to ensure that the state is prepared for any radiological emergency, REP staff members are certified radiological instructors and offer free training to all emergency first responder agencies throughout Nebraska. If they are unavailable when training is desired, qualified instructors from the U.S. Department of Energy can provide 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 while the remaining four modules cover specialized areas.

Flooding on the Missouri River affected both Cooper (pictured) and Ft. Calhoun nuclear stations. Despite record river levels, the public was never in any danger due to the hard work of Nebraska Public Power and Omaha Public Power District.
State Emergency Response Commission

Nebraska’s State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) has been in existence since 1989 and was founded on the principles of the Nebraska Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (NEPCRA).

SERC is tasked with ensuring that proper chemical reporting, known as TIER II reports, is completed both at the state and local level. Information from the TIER II reports are shared with the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), first responders and interested parties. LEPCs help update the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP), train to specific localized chemicals and exercise response plans.

The commission meets on a quarterly basis to approve LEPC member applications, review submissions of the plan and support the LEPCs planning efforts. The 19-member SERC includes interested parties from state/local/private members who are appointed by the governor and approved by the legislature.

Projects completed in 2011 include a four-state regional LEPC Conference in La Vista, continuation of the four-year planning process with the University Transportation Center to study commodities, a survey of LEPC activities and education and outreach activities. Several LEPCs assisted with the TRASCAER (Transportation Community Emergency Response) training, focusing on the response to an anhydrous ammonia release.

SERC continues to partner with the Nebraska Hazmat Association and played a key role in the development of the 2011 Hazmat Symposium. SERC will continue to support the Hazmat Association and the Hazmat Symposium by offering Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) funding and staff assistance.

A grant administered by NEMA supporting SERC is the HMEP grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The amount received for the Oct. 1, 2010 to Sept. 30, 2011 funding period was $144,151 for planning and LEOP activities, and $155,315 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, hazmat (hazardous materials) assessments, hazardous materials exercises and state and regional LEPC conferences.
Weather Awareness Week is an annual observance ushering in the spring weather season when thunderstorms and tornadoes lead the list of hazardous occurrences in Nebraska. 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 NEMA PIO serves as the lead PIO at the state’s Joint Information Center (JIC). The JIC is a central location where public information professionals from a wide variety of agencies, disciplines and jurisdictions collocate to provide a single integrated source of information in the event of a major incident. The JIC concept is part of the National Incident Management System. Through an agreement with NET (Nebraska Educational Telecommunications), the NEMA JIC forms at the NET facility for exercises or in the event of an emergency. This makes available an impressive array of capabilities for public information operations, including access to the NET broadcasting facilities and its satellite links.

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

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 website 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. Included on the website are links to other local, state and national websites featuring emergency management and homeland security data.
Homeland Security Activities
State Administrative Agency

NEMA has been the designated State Administrative Agency (SAA) for homeland security grant funds and programs coming to the state since 1999. Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy is the Nebraska Homeland Security Director and NEMA administratively supports the lieutenant governor in this role. NEMA is responsible for developing state homeland security strategies, plans, grant and program applications as well as interfacing with local regional programs. As with all grants, this also includes maintaining oversight and compliance monitoring at the state and local level and meeting reporting requirements.

Since 2006, NEMA has administratively supported the Governor’s Homeland Security Policy Group which was established to provide oversight to the state and local programs with Lt. Gov. Sheehy as chairperson. The policy group is charged with assessing strategic alternatives and recommending broad courses of actions for the development of comprehensive strategies. Members include key state agency directors and personnel with a direct interface with homeland security missions, the University System, Citizen Corp representatives, and local governments. Working relationships established among state agencies and local governmental programs fosters a cohesive program for homeland security within the state.

As a part of the state homeland security mission, NEMA works closely with the Department of Homeland Security through the FEMA Region VII on future program development, presidential decision directives and the preparation of assessment reports at both the federal and state level documenting state and local activities. These assessment reports continue to be the basis for the justification and distribution of funds for homeland security activities in support of our state and local strategies.

The 2011 Nebraska Homeland Security Policy Group consists of:
Brenda Decker, State of Nebraska Division of Communications
John Falgione, Nebraska State Fire Marshal’s Office
Sen. Tony Fulton, Nebraska State Legislature
Mark Funkhouser, Nebraska State Patrol
Dr. Steve Hinrichs, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Greg Ibach, Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Thomas Jensen, Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons, Adjutant General, Nebraska Military Department
Mark Matulka, Nebraska Governor’s Policy Research Office
Chancellor Harold Maurer, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Steve Oltmans, City of Omaha
Vice Chancellor Prem Paul, University of Nebraska
Sen. Scott Price, Nebraska State Legislature
Tony Sambol, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Dave Sankey, Nebraska State Patrol
Janice Satra, Legislative Council
Dr. Joann Schaefer, Nebraska Health and Human Services System
Jayne Scofield, State of Nebraska Division of Communications
Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy, Chairperson
Kerry Wintererer, Department of Health and Human Services
Al Berndt, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

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Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy, left, listens as Al Berndt, NEMA assistant director addresses the Governor’s Homeland Security Policy Group.

NEMA’s Dan Hiller, planning section supervisor, gives a presentation to the Governor’s Homeland Security Policy Group.
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 FEMA and other federal partners.

NEMA’s 2011 Annual Report was produced by Public Information Officer Jodie Fawl. For additional information about the 2011 Annual Report or other agency publications contact her at: 402-471-7428 or jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov.