



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

NEBRASKA
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**Good Life.
Great Strength.**

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Nebraska Emergency Management Agency is charged by state statute with reducing the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska from damage, injury and loss of life or property resulting from natural, technological and man-made disasters.

Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles

We envision safer, less vulnerable communities in Nebraska, made possible through effective collaborative partnerships committed to saving lives and reducing the impact of disasters. Our mission is to coordinate, support and serve Nebraska through an effective and relevant emergency management agency. Our guiding principles are:

1. All emergencies begin at the local level. NEMA collaborates with local, state, tribal and federal officials to provide coordinated assistance to Nebraska communities that augment local capabilities when appropriate.
2. NEMA activities are grounded in principles of emergency management. Emergency management must be comprehensive, progressive, risk-driven, cost-effective and flexible.
3. Respectful, collaborative relationships and professional leadership are integral to quality emergency management. Emergency management activities must be inclusive and involve the whole community.



Good Life. Great Strength.

Annual Letter



When the State of Nebraska re-branded this year, it was an opportunity for staff in all departments to highlight what is great about the work they do for citizens of the state. The Nebraska Military Department, of which Nebraska Emergency Management Agency is a part, chose the word “strength” to capture what is great about our department and the role it plays in response to disasters and obstacles we face. It takes great strength to respond quickly and effectively in times of adversity. That resilience on the part of NEMA staff and National Guard personnel, our emergency support agencies, local emergency managers, our federal partners and the citizens of Nebraska means we will be better prepared whenever floods, wildfires, tornadoes or other disasters strike.

As a nationally-accredited emergency management program, we assess the risks and hazards that may affect our state and use a forward-thinking approach to take purposeful action.

During 2016, we took steps to make our situational awareness one of our greatest strengths by moving forward with the establishment of a watch center to focus on the all-hazards threat environment. The watch center will improve our common operating picture and allow us to better coordinate our response, provide better information on emerging threats, centralize logging and records and supplement the state emergency operation center capabilities and activities. By improving our methods and ability to gather information, our state’s response will be strengthened.



Another effort was our continued work toward establishment of a Type III All-Hazards Incident Management Team. This collaborative effort, to identify and train qualified candidates to serve in general and command staff positions, will benefit communities across the state following any type of disaster. Using state and local resources is less costly than bringing in federal Type I or Type II teams, which use more staff and resources. A few NEMA staff, other state agency staff, local emergency managers and volunteers have already been certified in various Incident Command System positions, and many others are working on earning certification. We have capitalized on training provided by funds from the Emergency Management Performance Grant at the local level to get Type IV team members trained and working on task books to qualify for the Type III team.

Our annual investment justification and training and exercise workshops focuses our efforts and ensures that we are developing our program in the most needed areas. This is an ongoing effort to strengthen our response for the benefit of all Nebraskans. It is an honor to do this work, in conjunction with outstanding partners across the state. Together, we will be ready.



Major General
Daryl Bohac,
Director



Bryan Tuma,
Assistant Director

Agency Overview

As part of the Nebraska Military Department, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency works to protect lives and property of Nebraskans by preparing for, responding to, recovering from and mitigating against disasters, threats, hazards and emergencies.

In his role as adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac is director of the agency, with day-to-day operations administered by Assistant Director Bryan Tuma. NEMA is staffed with 41 full-time employees and a program specialist from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Public Policy Center.

NEMA relies extensively on 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.

NEMA also supports Nebraska's lieutenant governor as state homeland security director, acts as the state administrative agency for the state's homeland security program and is the point of contact for integration of emergency management and homeland security programs with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

As the state administrative agency, NEMA has responsibility for overall funding, fiscal accountability, program management and integration with other state agencies to carry out the state homeland security program.

The Nebraska Homeland Security Strategy and the agency strategic plan are updated regularly by NEMA and are in place to lead and guide the agency's performance.

At the national level, NEMA interacts with the National Emergency Management Association to keep up with issues that affect all states. Statewide, NEMA actively supports the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management and its professional membership.

In December 2016, NEMA reorganized from five sections to four when the technical hazards section became a unit in the preparedness section. The five staff members who have been working in offices in southwest Lincoln have moved to the main NEMA office at the Joint Forces Headquarters; and the south NEMA location is now closed.



The 2016 Nebraska Military Department's employee and supervisor of the year both work for NEMA. Karen Heath, left, staff assistant, was employee of the year, and Donny Chrstensen, recovery section manager, was supervisor of the year.

Administration

NEMA's administration section completes travel documents, purchases supplies and maintains records and accounts payables. The section works in concert with the agency's business manager who reports directly to the assistant director.

When a field team deploys to disasters across the state, administration is responsible for purchasing response supplies.

OPERATIONS

Coordinating a timely and efficient state response in support of local government entities is a goal of the operations section at NEMA.

New for the operations section in 2016 were the first steps toward creation of a Nebraska watch center. Many national, regional and state agencies are using watch centers. While the concept and overall mission of the Nebraska watch center has been developed, the day-to-day duties, products and processes will be clarified as staffing and information sharing partnerships are developed.

The overall goal of the watch center is to maintain situational awareness throughout the state and disseminate information to state leaders, partners and agencies that could benefit from timely reporting of situations in the state as well as those outside of the state that could have an effect on Nebraska.

Non-Governmental Agencies

In the aftermath of any disaster, government resources are not always available to assist individuals who have been impacted. Volunteer and non-governmental organizations work collaboratively to help meet individual needs. NEMA coordinates with non-governmental organizations and volunteers to help find resources for individuals. Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NEVOAD) is an organization of voluntary agencies that provides relief in times of disaster. The cornerstones of the group are cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration. Through NEVOAD, agencies are able to effectively deploy personnel and resources while avoiding duplication of effort.

Another source for assistance comes from long-term recovery groups. Voluntary organizations, state and local government, community leaders, local churches and local businesses work to help meet the needs of individuals and families who do not qualify for other forms of assistance. Local representatives from voluntary agencies, government and other interested parties working to prepare a coordinated disaster response within their community, county or region.

Public Information

Getting accurate and timely information to the public before, during and after floods, wildfires, thunderstorms, tornadoes, blizzards, hazardous material spills and many other disasters that could affect Nebraskans is a priority of NEMA's public information officer (PIO).

Working with local, state and federal communicators, the PIO can activate a joint information center (JIC) following a disaster or event that affects citizens of the state. The JIC would include PIOs from other state agencies as well as representatives from local and federal entities involved in the response to an event.

The NEMA PIO also fulfills the federal requirement that nuclear power station incidents activate a JIC in the event of an incident at one of the state's two nuclear power stations. At right, NEMA JIC staff work together during a Cooper Nuclear Station exercise.



Information Technology and Communications Unit

In 2016, NEMA's information technology and communication's unit continued to work closely with the Nebraska National Guard, the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) and the Office of the Chief Information Officer to ensure all IT and Commo systems are compatible, functional and deployable in the event of a disaster.

Additionally, the unit participated in a National Guard cybersecurity training and exercise, the annual TERREX exercise, multiple small scale communication events and air-to-ground radio communication testing with the NSP.

By working with other state communications personnel, NEMA staff was able to identify the needs and system faults for multiple jurisdictions across the state. Because of the prompt response and the situational awareness of the problems,

many local entities are updating tactical interoperable communications plans to ensure the compatibility and resource awareness needed for disasters.

Unit staff has worked on integrating various operating system platforms with multiple devices and has created multiple interactive mapping capabilities for both NEMA staff as well as any local or governmental offices.

The Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network (NRIN) will continue to be a major project for this unit and its success across the state of Nebraska has become a vital link for 911 centers. As the project moves forward, NEMA will play an integral role in its completion as well as its use for years to come. NEMA will coordinate future implementation of NRIN with the NRIN Governance Board.



Training and Exercise Unit

The NEMA training and exercise unit presents an active program, integrated into Nebraska's eight planning exercise and training (PET) regions. Activities are conducted at all levels, from assistance to local jurisdictions through regional and state level training and exercise.

NEMA offers support to state agencies, local jurisdictions and the eight regions in the form of basic certification academies and targeted courses for emergency management personnel.



In 2016, the unit tracked and coordinated training for 7,032 individual offerings of independent study courses taken by Nebraskans, along with 29 offerings of training in traditional classroom style courses.

NEMA continues to establish a level of training in compliance with requirements identified by the Department of Homeland Security and Nebraska statute.

NEMA also conducts an annual state-level exercise each year to test readiness of local, county and state agencies and their ability to work together in a large scale incident. In 2016, this exercise was a communications-focused full-scale exercise using a wildfire scenario in the Crawford area, conducted at Ft. Robinson State Park.

Following the 2012 wildfires, there were many lessons learned concerning communications and improvements made based on those lessons learned. The 2016 exercise was designed to test those improvements, and provide an opportunity for all levels of government to integrate into an incident command structure using a developed communications plan.

There was renewed focus on developing a state Type III incident management team, resulting in a workshop and working groups for training, governance and credentialing.



Preparedness

NEMA's Preparedness Section has responsibility for grants associated with emergency management preparedness. As the state administrative agent (SAA), Preparedness Section staff work with emergency managers, regions, state agencies, and first responders statewide on local emergency operations plans in order to be ready in case disaster strikes. Additionally, they maintain involvement with the public through Citizen Corps and Medical Reserve Corps programs, all the while emphasizing the importance of planning, exercise and training (PET) in their emergency management activities.

Planning Unit

The planning unit oversees the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP), State Preparedness Report, State Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), statewide communications interoperability implementation and revisions of county local emergency operation plans (LEOP).

Working with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (PPC), NEMA has established planning capabilities for the integrated planning process for the eight PET/communication regions. A comprehensive program of planning support education has been developed to assist in integrating local planning needs into the SEOP/LEOP planning program. This support will allow LEOPs to address the core capabilities which are critical elements necessary to achieve the National Preparedness Goal setup by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The planning unit coordinates the development of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant investment justifications, serves as the agency liaison to Lincoln and Omaha's Metropolitan Medical Response Systems and coordinates the Citizen Corps and Medical Reserve Corps programs.

The unit also coordinates the governor's Homeland Security Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Homeland Security Planning Team.

NEMA adheres to a five-year planning calendar and processes full revisions of LEOPs. Sixteen full revisions of LEOPs were completed this year.

The planning unit held Nebraska's annual Investment Justification Workshop with the Homeland Security Planning Team and SAC. NEMA representatives met with the Homeland Security Policy Group and SAC to complete the project award process.

The planning staff began a revision of the State Emergency Operations Plan which will be completed in March.

In addition, the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and State Preparedness Report were completed and submitted to DHS.



Grants Unit

Grants are received from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Department of Transportation (DoT)/Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

NEMA, as the state administrative agency (SAA) is the only Nebraska agency eligible to apply directly for these funds, and in turn ensures that local emergency management programs are established and maintained. The SAA is responsible for filing the applications on the state's behalf, distributing program guidelines to state and local jurisdictions (sub-recipients), receiving applications from sub-recipients for funding, maintaining oversight and compliance through monitoring, and facilitating the distribution of these non-disaster grants funds.

NEMA's grants units receives and administers the following grants:

- State Homeland Security Program Grant (SHSP)
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP)

Like other federal grant programs, the Homeland Security Grant has seen a decrease in funding. This, along with an increase of federal expectations and grant requirements, was the catalyst for a restructuring of the grant process last year. The process wasn't without its hurdles or growing pains; however, from this came a refinement. With less money being awarded each year, state and local entities are now being asked to share in the costs for projects that historically have been stand-alone or individually funded.

In prior years, grant guidance allowed for more flexibility in terms of the scope of the project. The focus has now narrowed to maintenance and sustainment of existing projects, in other words — a project-driven approach. No longer are sub-recipients given an amount to start from based on a formula, now the projects drive the award amount.

An investment justification workshop for the State Homeland Security Grant on April 14 allowed the state planning team, regional PET representatives and state agency staff to deliver project presentations after reviewing project rankings from subject matter experts. A peer-review voting process closed-out the workshop.

The Senior Advisory Committee to the Homeland Security Policy Group discussed the projects and processes that could be eliminated based on the threat hazard identification and risk analysis/state preparedness report results. Recommendations were forwarded to the larger policy group for review and approval. Based on this, project funds were awarded to the state's eight planning, exercise and training (PET) regions, the 10 hazmat teams, Citizen Corp, MMRS and state agencies.

As a result of this process, NEMA submitted projects that directly aid in reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the level of preparedness of its emergency managers, regions, first responder and state agencies.

NEMA continues to monitor its grants as required by DHS/FEMA. Grants are monitored for compliance in: employee reimbursement, equipment, fiscal, local emergency operation plan compliance, National Incident Management System compliance, other direct costs, personnel and direct labor, PET expenses, reporting requirements, supplies and materials, special conditions and travel/vehicle mileage. A total of 63 grants were monitored and compliant in 2016 with the breakdown as follows: four PET regions, 49 counties, nine EMPG regions, one state agency and one tribal entity.

As a result of the monitoring visits conducted in 2013, the grants unit met throughout 2014 to revamp the *Grants Management Handbook* for grant recipients. Once the process began, the need for a more user-friendly product was identified. The resulting handbook was posted in February 2015, with a subsequent update posted in June 2016. As grant requirements and guidance change, the handbook for sub-recipients will continue to be updated and improved.



Lt. Gov. Mike Foley welcomes participants to the 2016 Nebraska Cyber Capability Development Tabletop Exercise in Omaha.

Citizen Corps

The Nebraska Citizen Corps Program (CCP) works with emergency management, public health, first responders and other preparedness partners to provide public education, training and volunteer opportunities for Nebraskans. CCP focuses on disaster preparedness and response for individuals, families and communities.



The State Homeland Security grant helped fund projects aimed at making sure Nebraskans are better prepared for, and able to respond to disasters. The University of Nebraska – Lincoln held a Ready Campus event in which students learned how to create a preparedness kit, or Bad Day Bag, for their dorm. CCP distributed Bad Day Bags, first aid kits, and disaster preparedness information to students. CCP also worked with local emergency managers to distribute the bags to elementary students in Johnson, Pawnee and Thayer counties. Students learned how they could help prepare their families for disaster.

CCP participated in the Nebraska Preparedness Conference in South Sioux City where participants trained in establishing a volunteer reception center. CCP and NEMA helped sponsor the training. Local Citizen Corps programs provided community emergency response team (CERT) training as well as psychological first aid. This training helps communities become more resilient.

Volunteers with local Citizen Corps programs like CERT and Medical Reserve Corps had numerous opportunities to participate in events throughout the year. Volunteers provided first aid for large events like the Nebraska State Fair, Nebraskaland Days, and the Nebraska State Games. They also assisted local public health departments, emergency managers, and first responders to provide support for local events. The State Homeland Security grant was used to help purchase equipment that volunteers used for local responses.

The State Homeland Security grant funds the State Citizen Corps coordinator position. This position provides technical assistance to local programs, works with local, state and federal agencies to strengthen partnerships, and assists with the development of the State Citizen Corps Council.

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) is a 19-member governor-appointed commission tasked with supporting the local emergency planning committees (LEPCs) across the state. SERC and LEPCs support hazmat planning through exercise and training at all levels.

The highlights of 2016 include strategic planning sessions and goal setting for outlying years, sending local first responders to a national hazmat challenge, supporting local and state hazardous materials events, plans and training. Members attended state, regional and national hazmat conferences.

With the assistance of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) the LEPCs and SERC are tasked with ensuring that proper chemical reporting is completed and first responders have the knowledge, skills and abilities to respond to chemical specific incidents within their jurisdictions. Facilities and businesses storing hazardous materials or chemicals are required to report inventories of substances or products that meet or exceed reporting thresholds to the LEPC, SERC and local fire department. That information is updated in local plans and tested through training at the local fire department.

SERC is supported by a grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation – Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Monies are passed through SERC to LEPCs and are used to enhance emergency plans, demonstrate skill sets in realistic trainings and test responder abilities in practical exercises.

SERC has been instrumental in both regional and national-level activities, having been represented on the National Association of SARA Title III Board and a study with the National Academies of Science.



Chuck Carlson of Lincoln Fire learns that Hazmat can be fun. SERC supports training on hazardous materials.

Technical Hazards Unit

The technical hazards unit includes two primary areas of responsibility; a planning component and an equipment calibration lab.

The planning section is largely focused on the two nuclear power plants, Cooper Nuclear Station and Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station. Staff ensure that communities surrounding the plants are prepared by providing planning, training and exercise support. While the nuclear power plants are the primary focus for the state's radiological program, technical hazards also provides training related to the shipments of radiological waste.

Radiological Training in 2016		
	Ft. Calhoun	Cooper
County/School/		
Hospital	266	73
First Responders	274	153
Other & State Agencies	126	126
Total Trained:	1,018	

THS is also involved in the interstate movement of radioactive waste by maintaining situational awareness regarding dates, routes and contents. Local emergency managers are then notified of any unclassified radiological shipments that may pass through their jurisdiction.

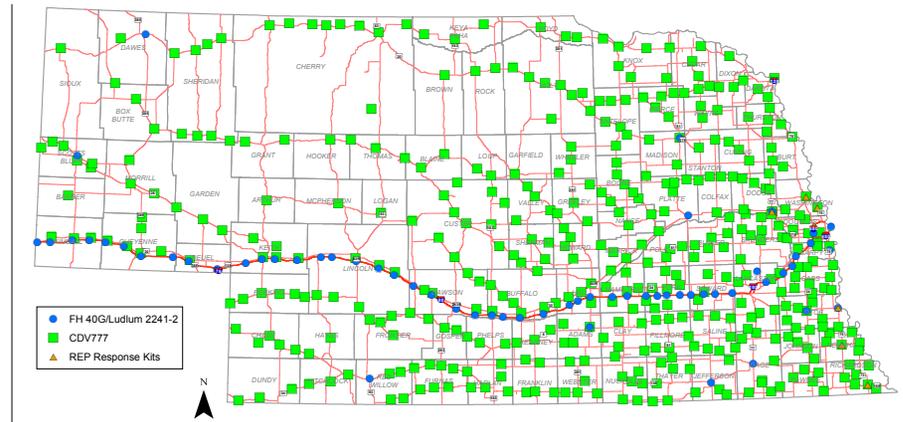
The second component to technical hazards is a laboratory that maintains and calibrates the monitoring equipment. Due to high standards and regulations, quarterly checks and annual calibrations on all equipment are required within the state. NEMA's radiological program manager ensures that all the state's monitoring equipment is maintained within performance specifications and meets all regulatory requirements.



These program elements work together to mitigate radiological risks and ensure an efficient and effective response, significantly reducing vulnerabilities and the potential for negative consequences if an event were ever to occur.



Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Equipment Locations



Equipment maintained and calibrated in the Nebraska radiological calibration laboratory is located across the state. More than 12,000 pieces of equipment require checking on a four-year rotation.

Recovery

Within NEMA, the Recovery Section is responsible for managing disaster recovery and providing assistance to state entities, local governments, Native American tribal governments, special districts and certain nonprofit organizations impacted by disasters, as requested. The Recovery Section ensures state and federal support is provided in an efficient and timely manner throughout the recovery process. The section administers multiple federally-funded disaster assistance programs which are managed by the two units: public assistance and hazard mitigation. To successfully respond and recover in times of disaster, NEMA also administers the Governor's Emergency Fund, which was established to provide assistance to political subdivisions that have suffered from a disaster or emergency.

Public Assistance Unit

NEMA's public assistance staff works to provide assistance to state, tribal and local governments as well as certain types of private non-profits throughout the recovery process, whether it is for a federal or state-declared disaster. Through the Public Assistance Program, FEMA provides supplemental federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures and the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly-owned facilities and the facilities of certain private non-profit (PNP) organizations.

The program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process. The State of Nebraska manages this program for all sub-grants awarded to local eligible jurisdictions and agencies within the State of Nebraska.

While no federal disasters were declared during 2016, the public assistance staff worked diligently to close out previous disasters: DR-1924 and DR-4013. These two disasters combined included 321 applicants and 1,980 projects. Of the remaining five open disasters (DR-4156, DR 4179, DR-4183, DR-4185, and DR-4225), there are 116 open applicants and 372 open projects.

During 2017, there will be at least one more federal disaster officially closed. The public assistance staff continues to review and provide assistance on the open public assistance projects, coordinate the payment process and complete inspections of completed projects.



Hazard Mitigation Unit

Hazard mitigation staff works to reduce the risk to people and property from natural and human-caused hazards by developing and implementing long-term mitigation measures that will reduce or eliminate the severe effects of future disasters. Hazard mitigation saves taxpayer dollars through measures such as the reduction of power outages due to storms, property buyouts of frequently flooded homes, flood reduction projects, tornado safe rooms, backup power to critical facilities and emergency warning systems along with a host of other activities.

After a federal disaster declaration has been approved for the state, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds are available for local governments to develop long-term initiatives that will potentially reduce loss of life and property. During the recovery process, following a federal disaster declaration, Gov. Pete Ricketts would convene a disaster recovery task force led by the hazard mitigation unit's state hazard mitigation officer and including representatives from several state entities.

The goal of the taskforce is to ensure that as many hazard mitigation projects as possible are submitted to and approved by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The task force would prioritize the projects statewide for disaster funding. When the state does not have a new federal disaster declaration, NEMA mitigation staff work to coordinate planning efforts and project ideas with communities, to prepare for any funding that might become available in the future. One of those sources of funding is pre-disaster mitigation grants that are annual appropriations from FEMA for mitigation planning and projects. Last year, three of these grants were awarded to the state to use in its mitigation efforts.

The mitigation unit provides technical assistance throughout the entire mitigation project life from assisting with the identification of viable projects that will alleviate future damages, through providing oversight of the development of a project application ensuring compliance with program policy, to conducting

site visits during construction to ensure all approved project plans are being followed through a final project inspection and closeout.

NEMA's hazard mitigation staff is also beginning to work on the next State Hazard Mitigation Plan revision which is due in the spring of 2019. With many programmatic changes and the recent approval of nearly all of the state's local hazard mitigation plans by FEMA, NEMA will be analyzing the myriad of risk assessments and local strategies to combat the greatest risks to its citizens and communities. In doing so, they will be accounting for as many known variables as possible to reduce the effects of the unknown, to include climate adaptation and variability effects on our natural hazards.



State Hazard Mitigation Officer Mary Baker accepts recognition on behalf of NEMA for being a "Significant Investor, Awesome Benefactor" by providing a hazard mitigation grant to help build a storm shelter at Camp Cornhusker in Dubois.

State Homeland Security Grant Program

\$3,734,500 Total received from the State Homeland Security Grant Program

Regions	CCP	Hazmat Teams	LETPP	Comm	PET	Total Award
East Central	15,000	20,000	14,000	86,300	20,000	155,300
North Central	26,000			135,000	40,000	201,000
Northeast		20,000		103,064	81,600	204,664
Panhandle	18,000	20,000	50,000	29,900	37,364	155,264
South Central	11,000	60,000	60,000	65,000	35,000	231,000
Southeast	25,000	20,000	31,600	32,300	44,000	152,900
Southwest	4,000	20,000		154,832	27,271	206,103
Tri-County	47,850	40,000	212,700	20,000	160,500	481,050

Statewide Initiatives

Agriculture

(Through memorandum of understanding via southeast region)

40,000

Citizen Corps Program

(through MOU via north central region)

117,091

Fusion Center

(through MOU via east central region)

272,228

Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team

(Through MOU via south central region)

20,000

Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network

(through MOU via northeast region)

550,000

Metropolitan Medical Response System

(Tri-County)
(Southeast)

150,000
51,000

Total Award to Local Units of Government

\$2,987,600

The remaining 20 percent is kept at the state level-per grant guidance \$746,900

NEMA: funds allocated to the PET program and management and administration \$560,175

NSP: funds allocated to build and sustain the Nebraska Fusion Information Network \$186,725

Total Award to Nebraska: **\$3,734,500**

NEMA FUNDING 2016

Emergency Management Performance Grant

\$3,849,232 total grant

Local emergency management agencies receive

60 percent of the grant or

\$2.3 million

Expenditures

Governor's Emergency Fund

Federal \$35,312,087

State \$1,168,424

Cash \$0

State Appropriation: \$144,903

Federal Grants: \$7,223,993

Radiological Emergency

Preparedness: \$388,156



Organizational Chart

Director
Major General Daryl Bohac

Assistant Director
Bryan Tuma

Deb Kai
Business
Manager III

**Preparedness
Section Manager**
Nikki Weber

**Operations
Section Manager**
Earl Imler

**Recovery
Section Manager**
Donny Christensen

Jackie Maly
Federal Aid
Administrator

Jodie Fawl
Public
Information
Officer

Tonya Ngotel
Acting REP* Unit
Supervisor

Dan Hiller
Planning Unit
Supervisor

Julie Mayers
Grants Unit
Supervisor

Dave Reisen
Training and Exercise
Unit Supervisor

Sue Krogman
IT/COMMO* Unit
Supervisor

Brent Curtis
Administrative Asst. III
Watch Center
Supervisor

Molly Bargmann
Recovery
Unit Supervisor

Terri Kattes
Administrative
Assistant II

Vacant
SERC*
Coordinator

Julie Bergfield
Staff
Assistant I

Debra Robinson
REP Planning/
Training
Specialist

Nazy
Chiniforoushan
REP Planning/
Training Specialist

Michael Loftis
Radiological
Systems
Manager

Logan Lueking
Program
Specialist

Leo Larkin
Program
Specialist

Patrick Rooney
Planning
Specialist

James Rashilla
Planning
Specialist

Ryan Lowry
Citizen Corps
Planning Specialist
(Public Policy
Center Contractor)

Merci Suarez
Federal Aid
Administrator

Roger Conrad
Exercise
Training Officer

Sean Runge
Exercise
Training Officer

Larry Fichtner
Exercise Training
Officer

Chad Boshart
GIS/IT
Specialist

Troy Harris
Communications
Officer

Vacant
Planning
Specialist

Walter Kirkland
Public Assistance
Planning
Specialist

Melissa Wood
Public Assistance
Planning Specialist

Vacant
Public Assistance
Planning Specialist

Mary Baker
Program Specialist
State Hazard
Mitigation Officer

John Cook
Hazard Mitigation
Planning
Specialist

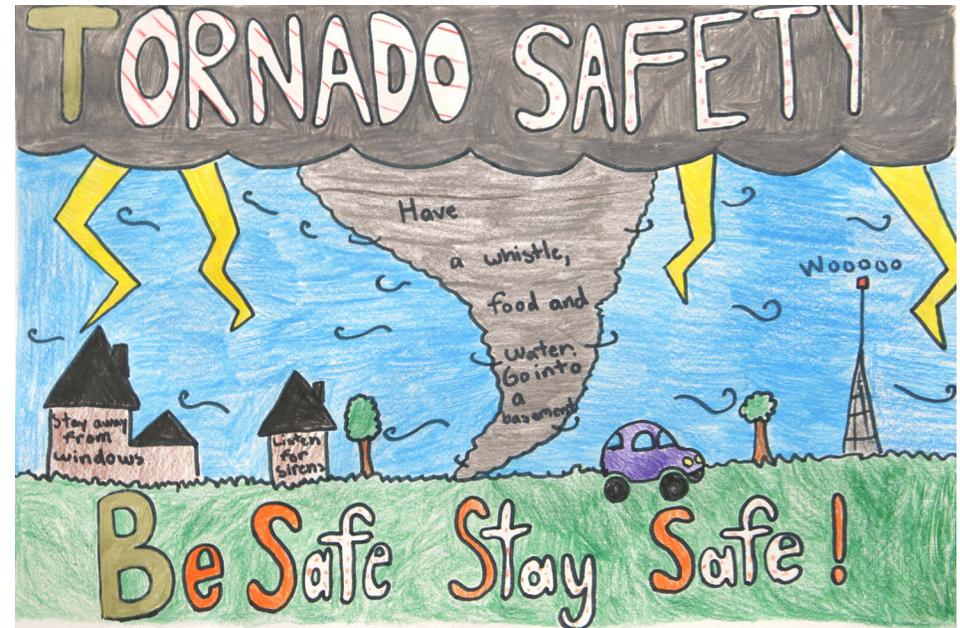
Nicholas Walsh
Hazard Mitigation
Planning Specialist

Phyllis McCown
Accountant I

Karen Heath
Staff
Assistant I

Annette Martin
Staff
Assistant I

* IT/COMMO = Information Technology/Communications
* REP = Radiological Emergency Preparedness
* SERC = State Emergency Response Commission



Severe Weather Awareness Week One of the yearly events NEMA participates in is Severe Weather Awareness Week and the annual poster contest for fourth graders. Top left: from left: the first place poster was submitted by Jules Bumgardner, 9, Gretna, Sarpy County, Thomas Elementary School; second place went to Lily Haas, 9, Aurora, Hamilton County, Aurora Elementary School; third place went to Thane Hardwick, 9, Phelps County, Loomis Public School and fourth was Mason Remmers, 10, Hebron, Thayer County, Thayer Central School. Top right: the winning poster. Bottom right: The governor, local and state emergency managers and National Weather Service personnel honored Severe Weather Poster Contest winners at the Nebraska State Capitol in March. Pictured back row, Kirt Smith, Hamilton County; Middle Row, from left, Bryan Tuma of NEMA, Bill McPhersen, Thayer County, Pat Gerdes of Region 15, Jesse Eret of Sarpy county, Cathy Zapotocny of the National Weather Service, Gov. Pete Ricketts, Darrin Lewis of Buffalo County, Brian Smith of the National Weather Service and of Laura Hintz of Knox County.; front row, from left, Mason Remmers of Thayer County, Thane Hardwick of Phelps County, Lily Haas of Hamilton County and Jules Bumgardner of Sarpy County.

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.

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency's 2016 Annual Report was produced by Public Information Officer Jodie Fawl. For additional information about the report, other agency publications or to be added to the agency email list for news releases and publications, call 402-471-7428 or email: jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov.

