

## Annual Investment Justification Workshop

Jon Rosenlund of Grand Island/ Hall County  
Emergency Management speaks at the  
annual Investment Justification Workshop





*A Message from*  
**NEMA Assistant Director**  
**Bryan Tuma**

*We envision safer, less vulnerable communities in Nebraska made possible through effective collaborative partnerships committed to saving lives and reducing the impact of disasters.*

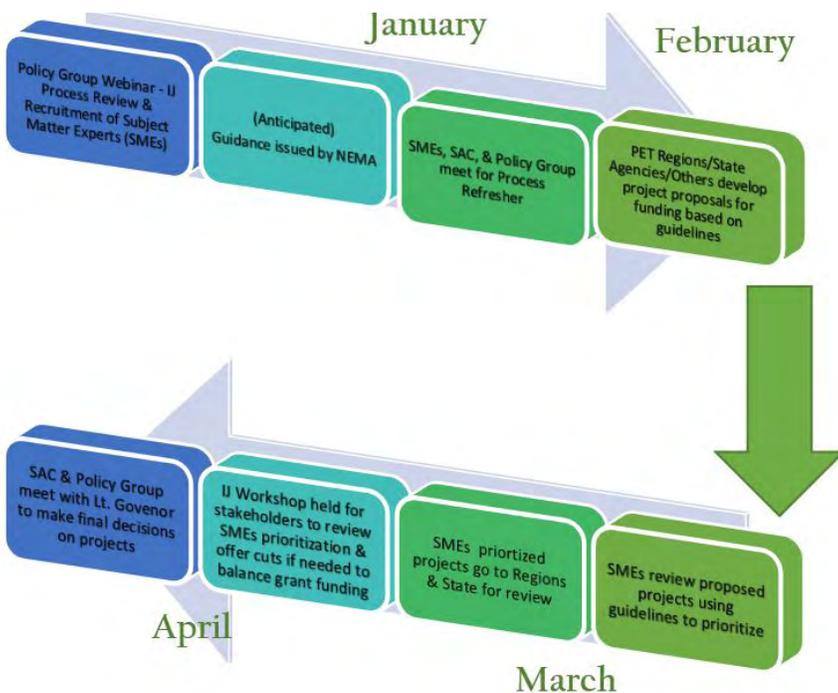
*Our mission is to coordinate, support and serve Nebraska through an effective and relevant emergency management agency.*

**2017 Nebraska Homeland Security Investment Justification (IJ) Process**  
**Effective - Efficient - Transparent - Collaborative**

The annual Investment Justification Workshop on April 13 brought local and state representatives together to discuss and prioritize where the state’s Homeland Security Grant Program funds would best be used. This process was introduced in 2016, kept in place and with a few small changes proved to be even more effective in 2017. The project-based approach initiated last year received high praise from stakeholders but they also offered suggestions for improving the process which were incorporated this year. As the state administrative agency (SAA) for this grant, we seek to make this a collaborative and transparent endeavor between our stakeholders and ourselves. Thanks to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Public Policy Center and Dr. Denise Bulling who facilitated the day of full-project discussions, we had another successful workshop.

As we strive to always improve at the suggestions of our stakeholders, a new step was added in the process: after subject matter expert groups prioritized the projects, the prioritized list was returned to regions and other stakeholders for their review. Another addition was an open meeting held by the Homeland Security Policy Group and Senior Advisory Committee, following the workshop, that allowed regional representatives a chance to attend and answer group members’ questions.

Investment justifications were developed in the following areas: agriculture; Citizen Corps; intelligence sharing capabilities; interoperable communications; Nebraska Emergency Management Agency support; planning, exercise and training; protection of critical infrastructure and key resources; public health and medical; regional and state hazardous material response; and state and local law enforcement capabilities.



The investment justification process gives us an effective way to fairly distribute needed funds across the state and we appreciate the time local and state representatives commit to the process.

Sincerely  
  
Bryan Tuma  
Assistant Director

# Investment Justification Priority Area Discussions – Reaching a Balance



Nebraska Association of Emergency Management  
Annual Conference Focuses on

# Stepping in the Right Direction

A perfect theme to welcome members, guests and vendors to the 2017 NAEM conference, according to outgoing president **Deanna Beckman** of Dakota County, was *Stepping in the Right Direction: Preparedness, Recover, Response, Mitigation, Public Information and IMTs.*

Beckman said the NAEM conference committee provided educa-

tional opportunities on a variety of topics that included two tracks for attendees to choose from during the conference held April 5-7 in Columbus.

At the end of her year as president, Beckman reminded members to get involved in the association.

“By sharing ideas and working together we all can move NAEM in the right direction,” Beckman said.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**2018 NAEM**  
**CONFERENCE**

**March 21-23,**  
**2018**

**Boarders Inn & Suites**  
**Grand Island**



An incident leadership and decision-making pre-conference workshop on April 5 was well attended.



**Mike Cappanari of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VII External Affairs Office discussed social media in emergency management.**



**Brent Curtis of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Watch Center updated conference attendees on establishment of the Watch Center as part of the general session track.**



**Alan Radcliff and Don Buttons of the Kanas Type 3 Incident Management Team gave a presentation on lessons learned in development of an IMT. Their presentation was part of the IMT track focusing on Type 4 and Type 3 all-hazards teams.**

Two tracks featured incident management team information and a general session on a variety of topics.

**Jon Rosunlund** of Grand Island/Hall County Emergency Management said the guidance and lessons learned from Kansas IMT representatives were well received.

“There was a lot of excitement about the topic,” he said.

In new president **Laura Hintz** closing comments to the group and new board she tasked emergency managers to let help identify NAEM focus during the next two years and

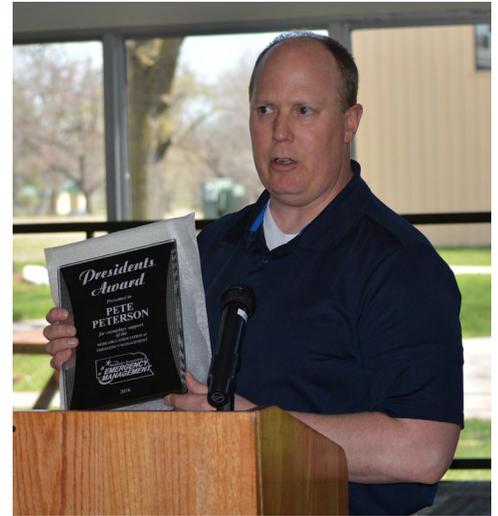
ways they can work together to get there.

“I’m excited to work with three brand new to the board emergency managers as we work together on recommendations made by the group.”

Hintz was pleased with the turnout for the conference.

“We had a good crowd for the Incident Leadership and Decision Making Workshop on Wednesday, and the group on Thursday was pretty well evenly split for the IMT track and general session track.

“On Friday the information from the Nebraska Civil Air Patrol was very interesting, and IMT skills were put to work on a functional exercise presented by The Blue Cell with lots of participation from the group in the hotwash.”



**Jon Rosunlund of Grand Island/Hall County was named Emergency Manager of the Year. He also was named conference committee chair for 2018. In this picture he accepts a president’s award for Pete Peterson for Peterson’s years of service to emergency management.**



**Michelle Woitalewicz of Howard County received a President’s Award for her work as conference committee chair for the last three years.**



**The new Emergency Manager of the Year was awarded to Brian Kirkendall of Richardson County.**

**JJ Kuzma, who recently retired from the Salvation Army, was awarded the EM Support Person of the Year.**



**Election of officers included: from left, Chip Volcek, secretary; Tim Hofbauer, Northeast Region; Doug Fox, treasurer; Pam Rieichert, West Central Region; Laura Hintz, president; Brandon Myers, vice president; Tim Newman, Panhandle Region and Brandon Ruediger, Southeast Region; and, not pictured Dawn Whitcomb, Central Region.**

# ICYMI

# SOCIAL MEDIA

In case you missed it

Not sure who to follow on Twitter? [Check out the lists NEMA curates or follows.](#)



Martha Shulski @mshulski3 · 21h  
Hazard mitigation is event independent. @NEMATweets working to keep Nebraska #resilient. #Climate4Cities @HPClimateCenter @NU\_PPC @UNLSNR pic.twitter.com/w8Tifhsgf

NEMA's Mary Baker gives a presentation on the state's hazard mitigation program at a Utilizing Climate Data Workshop sponsored by the Nebraska State Climate Office and the High Plains Regional Climate Center on March 31. The workshop focused on incorporating climate resiliency into municipality planning.

NEMA Watch Center @NebWatchCenter During Severe Weather Awareness Week (#SWAW), @NEMATweets & @NENationalGuard ran their tornado drill & had a #SafePlaceSelfie



The Nebraska Military Department, including NEMA, participated in a tornado drill in the State Emergency Operations Center.

Wilma Gerena-Goering @authenticmoi  
Apr 1 · Lincoln

When the @155thSquadCAP commander get in the action for @NEMATweets

Leo Larkin of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency helped out with the NEMA and Civil Air Patrol booths at the annual Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium and Family Weatherfest on April 1 at the Nebraska Innovation Campus. Various agencies hosted booths with activities for children. Visitors to NEMA's booth were able to select items to put in a family preparedness kit.



Region 51 EMA @lincoemgt · Apr 17  
How to Stay Safe Driving During a Flood - Turn Around Don't Drown



Turn Around Don't Drown PSA  
Never Drive or Walk into Flood Waters - Turn Around Don't Drown! Flooding is one of the leading causes of weather related fatalities in the U.S. On average, ...  
youtube.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=el6mIHKrVY&feature=youtu.be>



Gary Petersen @EMAGLP  
Apr 5

Seward Health Fair. Stop on by.



York and Seward County Local Emergency Planning Committees participated in the Seward Health Fair on April 5.

# All-Hazards Situation Unit Leader Held at NEMA

The All-Hazards Position Specific Situation Unit Leader course L964 was offered the week of April 10-14 in the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency training rooms.

The course helps participants establish the essential core competencies required for performing the duties of the Situation Unit Leader (SITL) in an all-hazards incident. It addresses all responsibilities appropriate to a SITL operating in a local- or state-level all-hazards incident management team. These responsibilities include processing information and intelligence, and developing displays.

The course is an instructor-led training that supports learning through discussion, lecture and active participation in multiple exercises. **Randy Freed**, an instructor with The Blue Cell, taught the course.

Completion of the course earns



**James Rashilla of NEMA, Amanda Drier and Grand Brueggemann, both of the Southeast District Health Department, work together on a situation unit leader exercise.**

participants a Type 4 situation unit leader status. Completion of a Type 3 task book and approval

of the qualification committee is needed to earn Type 3 all-hazards situation unit leader status.



**All Hazards Situation Unit Leader participants work on an exercise under the watchful eye of course instructor Randy Freed of the Blue Cell (second from left.) Also pictured are: Shirley Pickens-White, Department of Health and Human Services; Tom Guilliford, Air National Guard; Ryne Packet, Air National Guard; Reiny Dickhaut, Merrick County Sheriff's Office.**



**Students in the All Hazards Situation Unit Leader course work together to create a map for an exercise which is included in the week-long training. Pictured from left are: Ryan Wakefield of the Northern California Federal IMT; Amanda Stricker of Team Rubicon, Larry Fichtner and Sean Runge both of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.**

# Course Teaches Basic PIO Skills

## *Writing, On-Camera Skills and Media Strategies Addressed*

Learning about the value of communication before, during and after an incident was the focus of G290-Basic Public Information Officer (PIO) which was offered at Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, April 17-18.

“Learning to effectively communicate accurate and timely information following a disaster and during day-to-day activities of a PIO were some of our objectives,” said Jodie Fawl, NEMA PIO.

Fawl taught the course with Department of Health and Human Services PIO Mike Wight.

Understanding media needs at the scene of a disaster, writing effective news releases and practicing on camera and news conference skills were some of the lessons of the two day course.

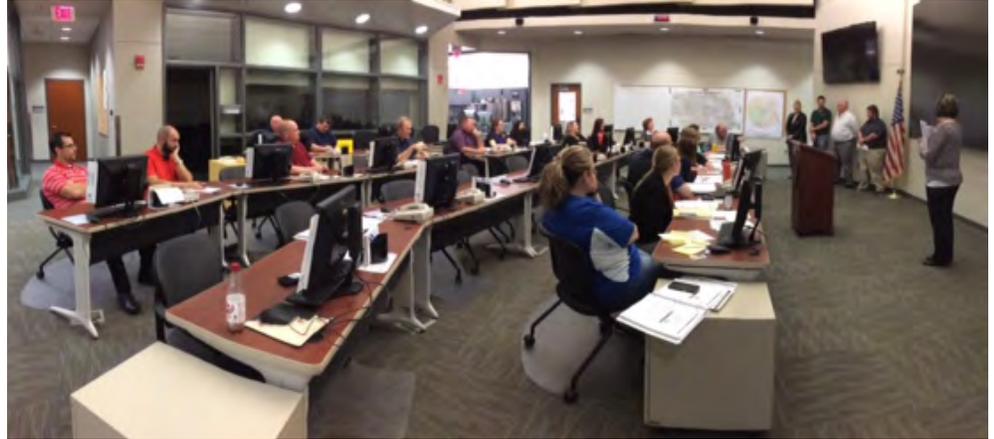
Participants in the course included representatives from the Department of Corrections, the Nebraska Forest Service, local emergency management offices and state agencies, local communities and universities.



Mike Wight, DHHS PIO, delivers spokesperson training.



Melissa Lindell, DHHS; Stacy Dvorak, Administrative Services; Tracy Overstreet of the City of Grand Island and Bill Pook, Region 5/6 discuss PIO strategies.



PIOs practice delivering news conferences during Basic PIO training.

Participants learned about the Joint Information System, how the joint information center is used to bring public information officers together to provide information to the public and media inquiries after an incident.

A second offering of the course will be presented in the fall because the course was full and a waiting list was started. Anyone interested in a future public information officer course can call NEMA at 402-471-7428.



Jodie Fawl, PIO for NEMA, instructs on using strategic communications planning to develop public awareness campaigns and incident communications strategies.



Basic PIO students work on an exercise during the class. Pictured from left are: Kris Scanlon and Kyle Martens of the Nebraska Forest Service; Jim Dunker, Filmore County Emergency Manager, Lori McGill and Chris Ulrick of the Nebraska Department of Corrections.



Nebraska Department of Corrections staff present a news conference during the Basic PIO Course.

# Should Disaster Strike, Are You Prepared for Recovery?

by Molly Bargmann,  
Recovery Unit Supervisor

As our typical storm season quickly approaches, the NEMA Recovery Section has some information to help Nebraska's public entities be better prepared for disaster recovery.

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE:

Prior to a disaster occurring, any organization that may apply for public assistance funding should consider taking proactive steps to ensure the organization is prepared to participate in the disaster recovery process and administer a grant that provides assistance. Addressing the following issues **NOW** and sharing this information with the towns, villages, counties and other eligible entities in your respective jurisdictions will help these organizations prepare for the recovery process after a disaster has occurred.

- **Establish contracting/procurement policies**
  - There are federal and state laws, regulations, and policies regarding contracting and procurement under grants. Public Assistance is considered federal funding, and as such, any contracting or procurement related to these funds must comply with both federal and state requirements- as well as local policies. All organizations must have written procurement politics/procedures.
  - Federal procurement information: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/96773>
- **Develop a strategy for removing and disposing of debris.**
  - FEMA 325: Debris Management Guide: <https://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/demagde.pdf>
- **Obtain insurance coverage on insurable facilities**
- **Compile any maintenance records and pre-incident photographs**
  - New guidance is suggesting that FEMA is requiring more documentation than ever that supports pre-disaster condition of a facilities (e.g. facility maintenance records, inspection/safety reports, photographs). It would be in the best interest of our public entities to get this type of documentation organized now.

FEMA has also released a new [Public Assistance Program and Policy guide](#) since our last federal disaster declaration occurred in the state in 2015. This document replaces many of the former public assistance guidance documents and is effective for declarations on or after April 1, 2017. Download or review a copy of this guide [here](#).

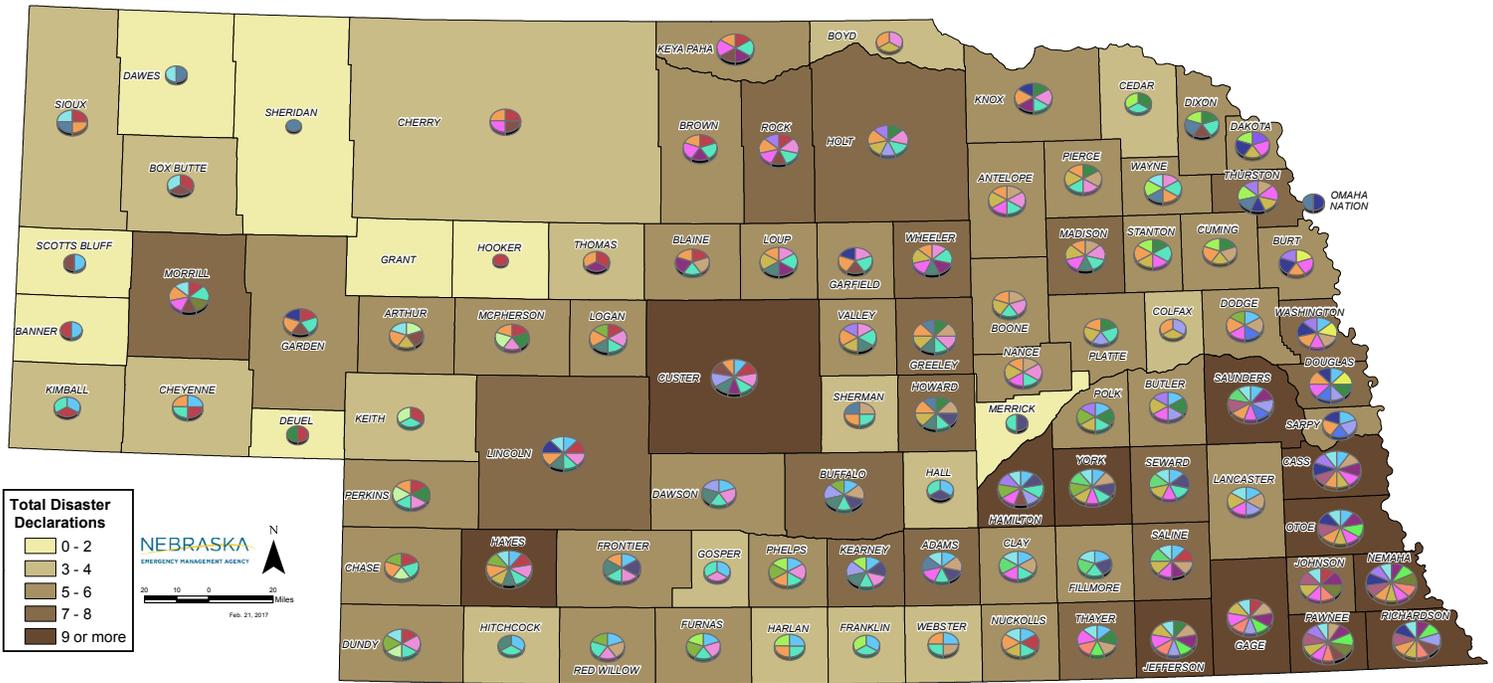
## MITIGATION:

Now is also the time to be brainstorming ideas for mitigation projects and getting that application information gathered. Please reach out to the NEMA hazard mitigation staff to help formulate any projects and answer any questions about the process.

Additional information on both the public assistance as well as the mitigation program can be found on the NEMA website, under the Recovery tab, or at <https://nema.nebraska.gov/recovery/recovery-index> or as always, feel free to reach out to any of the Recovery Section staff.

**Here's to a peaceful spring!**

# NEBRASKA - DISASTER DECLARATION SUMMARY 1997 - 2017



**Disaster Number**



Nebraska is no stranger to federal disaster declarations. In the last 20 years nearly every county in the state has been included in a disaster



## Tonya Ngotel Honored for Work at NEMA as She Heads to New Opportunity in Omaha

Tonya Ngotel was recognized for her commitment and 14 years of service to Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the citizens of Nebraska during a good-bye luncheon, April 12. Ngotel departed NEMA for a new position with the Center for Preparedness Education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

At NEMA, Ngotel served as the State Emergency Response Commission coordinator and previously as an exercise training officer. Ngotel traveled the state and nation to promote effective response to HAZMAT incidents,

to improve public awareness and to provide a variety of training opportunities for first responders. She represented Nebraska while serving two consecutive terms as the president of the National Association of Sara Title III Program Officials (NAS-TTPO). In addition, she was named Employee of the Year for the Nebraska Military Department in 2015. In the last nine months, Ngotel served as interim manager of the Technical Hazards Section while continuing her SERC duties.

“The contributions Tonya has made to NEMA are greatly appreciated,” said Assistant Director Bryan Tuma. “The hard work, professionalism and dedication she displayed as an emergency management professional are commendable and will be greatly missed.”



Gen. Daryl Bohac, NEMA director, recognizes Tonya Ngotel at a NEMA seminar.

# News Briefs

- An **EM 101** update was presented in Fullerton on April 25 by Preparedness Section Manager **Nikki Weber** and Recovery Section Manager **Donny Christensen**. Elected officials from Boone, Merrick and Nance Counties attended the update on emergency management. Region 44 Director **Thomas Smith** said he was pleased with the turn out which included commissioners from all three counties and the Mayor of Genoa. "Participants provided positive feedback on the presentation," Smith said. EM101 is a course designed to update local officials on the role of emergency management. It has been offered across the state and local emergency managers interested in hosting a session in their county or region should contact NEMA at **402-471-7421**.
- **Spring is Here! Is Your Bad Day Bag Stocked and Ready for an Emergency?** With the change in seasons, it won't be long before Nebraskans start to see more severe weather. While you may have a family emergency supply kit at home, do you have a supply kit in your car or at your workplace? No? Not to worry...creating a Bad Day Bag is simple. Nebraska Citizen Corps encourages individuals to create a Bad Day Bag which is designed to carry supplies you may need if you have to evacuate your area for a short period of time. Think about what you might need if you're at work and there's a severe weather outbreak. You may need to leave your desk and go to the shelter area until the storm passes. What might you need to bring with you? If you have your Bad Day Bag stocked and ready, you can just grab it and go. Some things you may want to think about adding to your Bad Day Bag:

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Small first aid kit
- Cell phone charger
- Hand crank weather radio
- Emergency contact information
- Important files/documents on a flash drive
- Hand sanitizer
- Non-perishable snacks

- April was **National 9-1-1 Education Month**, a time to educate people on 9-1-1, its uses, its challenges, and the future capabilities. With all the advances in technology, 9-1-1 has become much more complex. What started out as a simple concept has grown into an amazing infrastructure that needs crucial attention. Children and adults should have a good understanding of 9-1-1 and how it works in their area. Although 9-1-1 is available throughout the state, there are many different levels of sophistication within the equipment and resources available at each 9-1-1 answering point. Some general guidelines for 9-1-1 are:

- 9-1-1 is for police, fire and medical emergencies.
- Know the location of the incident. Providing an accurate address is critically important especially when making a wireless 9-1-1 call.
- If you call 9-1-1, don't hang up.
- Don't call 9-1-1 for jokes or prank calls.
- When you call 9-1-1, pay attention to the questions that you are being asked.
- Stay on the line with the 9-1-1 call taker and answer all questions. The more information they have, the better they are able to help you.
- Stay calm and speak clearly.

- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff and representatives of other state agencies participated in a non-evaluated Cooper Nuclear Station Exercise on March 28. **Nazy Chiniforoushan**, NEMA's planner for the Cooper Nuclear Station, coordinated the exercise for the state. A drill is planned on May 16.



**April is National Volunteer Month**

**Celebrating People in Action**

**Be the Change. Volunteer**

- April is **National Volunteer Month** and NEMA would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers across the state who respond when disaster, strikes. Whether it's through Community Emergency Response Teams, Citizen Corps, Medical Reserve Corps, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Civil Air Patrol or other voluntary organization active in disaster volunteers make a positive difference in this state's response to disaster and deserve recognition to honor their service.

## News Briefs ... continued

- Region 22 has a “new” mobile operations center thanks to the Nebraska Forest Service Federal Excess Property Program. By speaking to agency representatives in the area, Region 22 Emergency Management Director **Tim Newman** got support from a variety of volunteer fire departments and organizations for acquiring the vehicle. The **Scotts Bluff County Mutual Aid Association** agreed to purchase the MOC. Since it is a NFS FEPP piece of equipment, it is on permanent loan from NFS. That program is designed to get firefighting equipment into rural departments. The **Minatare/Melbeta VFD** agreed to sign for the vehicle and carry the liability insurance on it. In addition, **Banner County VFD, Gering VFD, Lyman-Kiowa VFD** and other departments have made pledges toward a vehicle repair fund. Region 22 purchased and installed the decals. **The City of Scotts-bluff Fire Department, Scotts Bluff County Sheriff** and the **TriCity Amateur Radio Club** have donated equipment for the MOC from various vehicles in the area. A SHSGP Grant received in 2016 will be used to place an HF ham radio station in the command trailer. Newman says the front portion will be the command area and the rear portion will be communications. A 7,500 watt Onan diesel generator is onboard. “We plan to put a six-foot conference table in the command area.



This front area will be a great place for the command and general staff to put incident action plans together. It has four slide-outs, two in the front and two in the rear, that make for a very large and comfortable work space for command and communications.”

- **NEMA offers CEUs for EMTs** –The technical hazards unit of NEMA is proud to offer continuing education units (CEUs) for licensed emergency medical technicians (EMTs) as approved by the State Emergency Medical Services within the Department of Health and Human Services. Thanks to the hard work of Radiological Calibration Lab Manager Mike Loftis, who received both a hazardous materials technician and EMT license in 2016, three CEUs can be applied for EMTs in Nebraska. CEUs are only being offered through the radiological transportation courses that Loftis teaches. With the increase in radiological waste shipments in 2017, the courses that Loftis teaches are an added bonus for the state. Attendees will not only learn from a top notch instructor but also receive credit toward their license. It’s truly a win/win for both the state and the local first responders. For more information on the radiological program, the courses being offered or to schedule a course check out the visit the [technical hazards unit page](#).
- Minatare Public Schools conducted a school and community drill of its new safe room. This safe room was funded in part by a Hazard Mitigation Grant. Made of reinforced concrete block, the safe room is designed to withstand wind speeds up to 200 mph. It included a main room used for an additional gym room, bathrooms, generator, and supplies. It can hold the entire school population and members of the public. The whole community engaged in the drill including sounding of the outdoor warning siren and community members rushing to take shelter.





# On the Road!

by Ryan Lowry,  
Citizen Corps State Coordinator

The first quarter of 2017 has been an incredibly busy and productive time for Citizen Corps around the state.

In February, Gage County Emergency Manager **Tim Stutzman** hosted Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic training in Beatrice. While the threat of icy weather kept the class size small, a good group of new CERT trained volunteers were able to learn the basics of personal and family preparedness, medical triage, search and rescue, and assisting first responders. Seven new CERT volunteers completed the course and are already looking forward to additional training opportunities.



In March, I had the opportunity to attend the *Nebraska Youth Preparedness Initiative (MyPI Nebraska)* training in Lincoln. MyPI Nebraska is a pilot program designed to provide comprehensive youth preparedness training in three components. Component A features Teen CERT training, Component B includes certification in CPR and AED, a technology track, disaster simulation, and a Career Track focused on public safety, fire service, and emergency management careers. Component C includes a comprehensive family and community service project, *Prep + 6*, in which each participant helps develop emergency supply kits and emergency communication plans for their family and 6 additional families or households. MyPI was initially developed through Mississippi State Extension and has partnered with University of Nebraska Extension to introduce the program to Nebraska youth.



Finally, the first quarter of the year was rounded out with Severe Weather Awareness Week. Nebraska Citizen Corps attended the Severe Weather Symposium in Ord,

hosted by Region 26 Emergency Management. Citizen Corps had a booth and talked to participants about the CERT program, in addition to distributing Bad Day Bags to encourage families to assemble an emergency supply kit at home. Region 26 EM **Alma Beland** coordinated the event to encourage residents to learn more about severe weather, emergency planning, and volunteering during a disaster. Other participants included representatives from Nebraska Weather Service, NTVs Chief Forecaster Kent Boughton, and local HAM Radio operators. The symposium generated quite a bit of interest in Citizen Corps and the CERT program. We are excited for the possibility of expanding these programs to the north central region of the state.



# Region 5-6/Dodge County Holds Multifaceted Exercise

Storm-spotter training and a local emergency planning committee tier II meeting in Fremont on April 4 gave Region 5-6/Dodge County a perfect opportunity to exercise a variety of components of its local emergency operations plan.

“We combined multiple programs into one exercise,” said Bill Pook, Region 5-6 Emergency Management Director. “No one part of the exercise was bigger than the other. It was a multi-faceted exercise. We killed five birds with one stone.”

Mass care (dinner was served), registration, traffic control, radiological ingestion pathway reception and care, the Red Cross shelter program, and portal monitoring and scanning were tested.

First Lutheran Church in Fremont is the site of the county’s reception and care facility. A new addition to the church meant an exercise of the plan would also be beneficial to test the new facility.

As the more than 200 participants arrived for training, the more than 40 First Lutheran Church shelter team volunteers registered participants like they would in the event of an incident that necessitated opening the facility, such as evacuations following a tornado, flood or incident at the Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Station.

The team includes traffic control volunteers, greeters who direct people to the proper area of the church and registration staff who document people who arrive at the center.

As part of the exercise, Fremont Fire Department members operated a portal monitor to practice scanning for radiation.



**A First Lutheran Church volunteer registers exercise participants at an exercise in Fremont.**



**First Lutheran Church volunteers exercise mass care.**

Region 5-6 Emergency Management Office Manager Lori Welbes reports that the exercise was successful.

“First Lutheran has a great facility,” Welbes said. “They have many volunteers who support the effort and help us to be prepared should an emergency occur in our region. Their team is really proactive.”



**Fremont firefighter used a handheld scanner as part of an exercise held April 4, in Dodge County.**



**An exercise participant passes through a portal monitor operated by the Fremont Fire Department.**

# Individual/Community Preparedness Award Applications Sought

The application period for the 2017 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Individual and Community Preparedness Awards is open.

The awards highlight innovative local practices and achievements by honoring individuals, organizations and jurisdictions that have made outstanding contributions toward strengthening their community to prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate a disaster.

FEMA and partners from the emergency management industry will review all entries and select the winners in each of the following categories:

- Outstanding Citizen Corps Council
- Community Preparedness Champions
- Awareness to Action
- Technological Innovation
- Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness
- John. D. Solomon Whole Community Preparedness Award
- Outstanding Private Sector Initiatives
- Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Initiatives
- Outstanding Citizen Corps Partner Program
- Prepareathon in Action

Winners will be announced in fall 2017, and a series of webinars and local ceremonies will celebrate their achievements.

To be considered for this year's awards, **all submissions must be received by May 30, 2017, at 11:59 p.m. EDT**, and must feature program activities taking place between Jan. 1, 2016, and May 30, 2017.

Applications are accessed online and should be submitted to [fema-icp-awards@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-icp-awards@fema.dhs.gov).

More information about the awards is available at [www.ready.gov/preparedness-awards](http://www.ready.gov/preparedness-awards).

Questions should be directed to FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or at [FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov).



principles to minimize damage and prevent losses, such as:

- Clear needles, leaves and other debris from the roof, gutters, eaves, porches and decks.
- Remove flammable items within 30 feet of all structures including firewood piles, portable propane tanks and dry and dead vegetation.
- Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire so keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, trim it to reduce fire intensity, and don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger.
- Fire can spread to tree tops. If you have tall trees on your property, prune low hanging branches six to ten feet from the ground and for smaller trees, prune low hanging branches no more than a third of the tree's height. Remove tall grasses, vines and shrubs from under trees.

For more information, read the [How to Prepare for a Wildfire](#) guide.



National Small Business Week, April 30 – May 6, is a great time to prepare for emergencies like fires, floods, cyber threats and other disasters.

Start by completing a Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Plan from the Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA also highlights other resources to help you protect employees, lessen the financial impact of disasters, and quickly re-open.

For more information on disaster assistance, loan programs, and emergency preparedness for small businesses visit [SBA Emergency Preparedness](#).

## Protect Your Property During Wildfire Season

Learn how to keep your home safe from wildfires with tips from the [National Fire Protection Association's Firewise Communities Program](#) and then take part in a nationwide effort for wildfire preparedness.

On Saturday, May 6, participate in [Wildfire Community Preparedness Day](#) by clearing your property of dried leaves, branches and other items that may fuel a wildfire.

Firewise recommends landscaping

# Calendar

- May**
- 1-7 Public Service Recognition Week
- 5 National Firefighters Day
- 6 National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day
- 7-13 National Arson Awareness Week
- 8 National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day
- 12 State Fire Day
- 13 Fire Recognition Day
- 13 NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio Awareness Day
- 14 Mother's Day
- 14-29 National Police Week
- 15 Peace Officers Memorial Day
- 21-27 National EMS Week
- 20 Armed Forces Day
- 29 Memorial Day
- 31 National Dam Safety Awareness Day



**NEMA employees Chad Boshart and Troy Harris were recognized by Gen. Daryl Bohac for remodeling NEMA's communication room to serve as the new state Watch Center.**



**NEMA hosted the FEMA Region VII Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG) on April 25. The group was established to encourage collaboration and coordination between and among state, local and tribal emergency response organizations. Participants include representatives from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. The group shares lessons learned and best practices and conducts planning across boundaries.**



**(402) 471-7421**

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**Fax: (402) 471-7433**

**Governor Pete Ricketts**

**State Homeland Security Director**

**Lt. Governor Mike Foley**

**NEMA Director**

**Major General Daryl Bohac**

**Assistant Director**

**Bryan Tuma**

NEMA is charged by Nebraska statute to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska in terms of injury, loss of life and property damage resulting from natural, technological or man-made disasters and emergencies.

NEMA is responsible for coordinating the state response in any major emergency or disaster including the support of local governments as needed or requested, and coordinating assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal partners.

The Beacon includes emergency management news and activities from across the state. Please forward story ideas or photos for inclusion to: Jodie Fawl, Public Information Officer, 2433 N.W. 24th St., Lincoln NE 68524; 402-471-7428, [jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov](mailto:jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov).

[www.nema.nebraska.gov](http://www.nema.nebraska.gov)

