



**Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac accepts a copy of Resolution 203, which thanks those who responded to the recent Nebraska disaster, from Sen. Bruce Bostelman on behalf of the Nebraska Military Department.**



**Assistant Director Bryan Tuma accepts a copy of Resolution 203 from Sen. Bruce Bostelman on behalf of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency**



**Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer DuWayne Tewes accepts a copy of Resolution 203 from Sen. Bruce Bostelman on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.**



**NEMA and FEMA staff attend the presentation of Resolution 203 at the Nebraska State Capitol. Resolution 203 recognized and thanked those who responded to DR4420 the largest disaster to affect Nebraska. Among those recognized were NEMA, FEMA and the Nebraska Military Department. Pictured, from left: Donny Christensen, Earl Imler, Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Bryan Tuma, Molly Bargmann, Gov. Pete Ricketts, Sen. Bruce Bostelman, Sen. Jim Scheer, DuWayne Tewes, Sean Runge, Sue Krogman, Chad Boshart and Dave Reisen.**



*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.*

This month we were grateful to find out that **President Donald J. Trump** and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) extended the incident period for federal assistance related to flooding this spring and summer. The extension means that flooding that occurred from April 1 to July 14 will be included in DR4420, the disaster that began in March and affected a large share of the state. Dawson County residents who have uninsured damage during the incident period can now apply for individual assistance. This was a much-needed step for the people of central Nebraska whose lives were upturned by severe flooding during July. In addition, the communities that had continuing damage from flooding in May, June and July can apply for public assistance. With the approval, counties that had damage after the initial incident period can submit requests for public assistance for new damage.

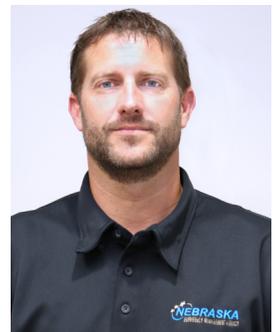
DR4420 has made an impact on emergency management in Nebraska. Certainly with more than 90 percent of Nebraska's 93 counties incurring damage during the incident period, many communities and individuals felt the effects of this disaster. It was an unprecedented event in size and scope and its impact is also being felt at the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. NEMA will be making changes to our organization and size in the upcoming months. Our plans are to add additional staff, moving from 41 to approximately 58 staff members. Eight of the new staff members will be working in the Recovery Section in public assistance and hazard mitigation because of DR4420.

The size of this disaster and the increase in disaster event has made it clear that a reorganization was needed in order for NEMA to effectively meet the needs of the people of Nebraska. **NEMA Director Daryl Bohac** and I appreciate **Gov. Pete Ricketts'** approval and the Department of Administrative Services' work in getting these additional positions added to our agency in light of the of increased demands being placed on the agency because of this long-term response and recovery that is facing the state.

NEMA is adding two section administrators as part of the reorganization. **Donny Christiansen** has been named section administrator for the Recovery Section. Donny has been Recovery Section manager for the agency and we will fill that role as soon as possible. A section administrator for the Preparedness/Operations Section will be named in the near future.

In addition to organizational and staff changes facing the agency, we have been gathering damage estimates and information for requesting an additional disaster declaration for flooding events that occurred since July 15. Mother Nature has not let up on the state as heavy rainfall, amounts on already saturated ground, has led to flooding in a variety of locations.

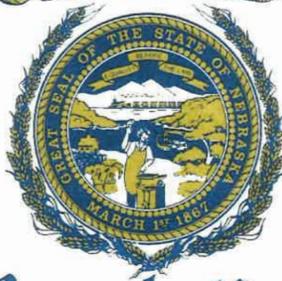
Last, but certainly not least, I want to call attention to Resolution 203, a copy of which is printed on page three of this issue of *The Beacon*. **Speaker of the Legislature Sen. Jim Scheer** and **Sen. Bruce Bostelman**, who introduced the resolution, invited NEMA and FEMA representatives over to the Nebraska Capitol to show the legislature's appreciation for all the people who worked together to respond to the disaster that affected the state starting in March. The legislature unanimously passed the resolution that thanks federal, state and local emergency managers for their outstanding leadership, as well as recognizing everyone both in and outside the State of Nebraska who worked on, and supported, the response. The Nebraska Legislature's support of all of our efforts is much appreciated.



Sincerely,

Bryan Tuma  
NEMA Assistant Director

# STATE OF NEBRASKA



## Resolution

# 203

Introduced by Bostelman, 23; Albrecht, 17; Arch, 14; Blood, 3; Bolz, 29; Brandt, 32; Brewer, 43; Briese, 41; Cavanaugh, 6; Chambers, 11; Clements, 2; Crawford, 45; DeBoer, 10; Dorn, 30; Erdman, 47; Friesen, 34; Geist, 25; Gragert, 40; Groene, 42; Halloran, 33; Hansen, B., 16; Hansen, M., 26; Hilgers, 21; Hilkemann, 4; Howard, 9; Hughes, 44; Hunt, 8; Kolowski, 31; Kolterman, 24; La Grone, 49; Lathrop, 12; Lindstrom, 18; Linehan, 39; Lowe, 37; McCollister, 20; McDonnell, 5; Morfeld, 46; Moser, 22; Murman, 38; Pansing Brooks, 28; Quick, 35; Scheer, 19; Slama, 1; Stinner, 48; Vargas, 7; Walz, 15; Wayne, 13; Williams, 36; Wishart, 27.

WHEREAS, during March, 2019, the region experienced a powerful bomb cyclone with a rare combination of extreme rain and snow causing flooding and blizzard conditions throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, this natural disaster caused significant loss of life, homes, businesses, and livestock, causing damages in excess of two billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, on March 12th Governor Ricketts declared a state of emergency for Nebraska and on March 21st President Trump approved a disaster declaration for the state enabling federal assistance; and

WHEREAS, Nebraskans have shown tremendous resiliency in the wake of this natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, many individuals, non-profits, and businesses across the state joined in with rescue operations, recovery, and fundraising; and

WHEREAS, many Nebraskans and the Federal Emergency Management Agency assisted in flood relief, including the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, emergency managers, the Nebraska National Guard, fire and rescue crews, law enforcement, volunteers, medical staff, local contractors, neighbors, friends, and countless others who took part in the disaster response and recovery relief efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION: 1. That the Legislature thanks the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and the emergency managers for their outstanding leadership and support during the flooding and recovery.

2. That the Legislature recognizes first responders, law enforcement personnel, the Nebraska National Guard, public power, the Department of Transportation, and the local businesses, churches, organizations, and countless volunteers for all their efforts during the flooding and recovery.

3. That the Legislature recognizes the extraordinary contributions by fellow Nebraska residents and residents of other states who selflessly gave of their own time and resources to assist their neighbors in need during this disaster.

4. That copies of this resolution be sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

SENATOR JIM SCHEER, SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATURE

I, Patrick J. O'Donnell, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Legislative Resolution 203, which was passed by the Legislature of Nebraska in the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, First Session, on the 30th day of May 2019.

PATRICK J. O'DONNELL, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE



**Hall County Tree Damage**  
Aug. 7



NEMA staff check in at Fairfield following storms on Aug. 7.

# August Timeline Snapshot

President Donald Trump authorizes extension of the incident period for Nebraska Disaster DR4420 to include events up to July 14. The extension also designates Dawson County survivors as eligible to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for individual assistance of uninsured damage sustained from the March 9 to July 14 storms and flooding and allows for public assistance events that occurred until July 14. Deadline Sept. 13.

*Flooding continues along the Missouri River. Heavy rainfall from thunderstorms is causing flooding along the west fork of the Big Blue River and other rivers and streams in central*

*Local storm reports begin and include heavy rainfall, flooding, tree damage, power lines and poles down and other wind damage. Local damage reports to the Nebraska Watch Center continue throughout August.*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

- NEMA requests that the counties of Arthur, Grant, Hooker and Hayes be added to Nebraska Disaster 4420.
- The Nebraska Department of Labor reports that Dawson County is now eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. The filing deadline is Sept. 13

*The State of Nebraska, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration opens a Disaster Recovery Center in Dawson County.*

*Repairs to a collapsed Wyoming irrigation canal are in progress. The United States Department of Agriculture reported that crop losses due to the canal failure will be covered.*

# President Authorizes Extension of Incident Period for Nebraska DR4420

Residents in Dawson County can now register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for uninsured damage sustained from the March 9 to July 14 storms and flooding.

Dawson county joins the 28 counties and one tribe: Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dodge, Douglas, Hall, Holt, Howard, Knox, Madison, Nance, Nemaha, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Stanton, Thurston and Washington and the Santee Sioux Nation, already designated to receive federal assistance to individuals.

FEMA disaster assistance for homeowners and renters may include funding to help pay for temporary housing and minimal home repairs, as well as other disaster-related unmet needs, such as eligible medical and dental expenses, and replacing essential personal property.

Registration is quick and easy. Choose one of three ways to register for federal disaster assistance before the Sept. 13 deadline:

- Go online to [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov);
- Call the FEMA help line at 800-621-3362. Phone lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time,

seven days a week until further notice. Multilingual operators are on duty, OR

- Use FEMA's disaster app on a smartphone. Download the app at [www.fema.gov/mobile-app](http://www.fema.gov/mobile-app).

People who live in one of the 28 initial counties and one tribe designated for individual assistance who did not apply for assistance but sustained uninsured damage between March 9 through July 14 can apply for FEMA assistance.

After registering with FEMA and reporting damage to a primary residence, registrants may receive a call from an inspector to arrange for a visit.

Here is a step-by-step process to help get started:

- Document damage – photos/video, list of damaged contents.
- Contact your insurance agent to see if there is coverage under homeowners, renters and/or flood insurance policies. You will need to submit either insurance settlement information or a denial to FEMA as part of your registration so federal benefits can be correctly calculated. By law, FEMA cannot provide disaster assistance for the same damage already covered by other means such as insurance or aid from other agencies.

After applying with FEMA, some survivors may be referred to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Low-interest disaster loans from SBA are available for eligible survivors. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private nonprofits, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property.

These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits from other agencies or organizations.

If referred to SBA, residents and business owners should apply immediately as part of the overall federal disaster recovery process. Do not wait for insurance claims to be settled. There is no cost to apply for an SBA low-interest disaster loan and no obligation to accept one, if approved.

Homeowners, renters and businesses in Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dawson, Dodge, Douglas, Hall, Holt, Howard, Knox, Madison, Nance, Nemaha, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Stanton, Thurston and Washington counties and the Santee Sioux Nation may be eligible for assistance.



**PREPARED,**  
NOT SCARED  
SEPTEMBER

**National Preparedness Month 2019**

# National Preparedness Month

## September 2019

National Preparedness Month (NPM), is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster and emergency planning now and throughout the year. The 2019 theme is: “**Prepared, Not Scared.**”

Preparedness Month is meant to encourage and remind Americans to be prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities. Homeowners, families, communities and businesses can use this opportunity to find ways or help others understand more about preparing for disasters and reducing risks to health and the environment.

No matter where you live, you are subject to disasters. Natural disaster and man-made disasters affect everyone and will cause severe damage and endanger lives. Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, landslides, wildfires, hot spells or cold spells are all natural disasters that can be deadly to people and property. Man-made disasters such as terrorism, crime, power outages, famines, or war are just as terrifying as any natural disasters. Preparation is essential for the safety of you and your family. It can also ensure valuable personal possessions are taken care of properly before you lose them.

### Family First

Deciding how long a disaster will last and the after-effects are the first step in preparation. Depending on the type of emergency, you may need food and water for a few days. Food that is easily stored and prepared is critical during a disaster. When disaster strikes, you want to make sure your family has water to last for a specified duration of time. It is recommended each family member have 1 gallon of water per day to remain hydrated. Having proper eating utensils, small stoves that run off propane or a grill for cooking, matches, candles, blankets and extra

clothes are a few items to pack away in a safe, accessible place. Try not to forget about family activities! Pack away some board games, cards or books to help the time pass by. Having things for children to do will also keep their minds at ease.

More than half of all parents lack a designated meeting place to fall back to in an emergency.

Family fire drills may seem silly, but they do serve a purpose. Unfortunately, many Americans don't have a list of emergency contact numbers either. Make sure the entire family has memorized any numbers that are of significance in the case of disaster.

### Personal Property

Finally, personal property is always a concern when natural disaster hits. Though it's not always possible, you can do a few things to make sure you save the valuable documents that mean the most to you. If you have a computer, you can scan any documents and put them on an external drive. Store the drive someplace safe and dry. With today's technology, we can save our photo memories more easily. If saving photographs of family is important, consider scanning them on an external drive so you can reprint them if the originals are lost or destroyed.

Most importantly, make sure your insurance policies are up-to-date. You can visit your insurance agent any time to review what you have, what is covered and what options you have in the event a disaster destroys your home or vehicles.



**PREPARED, NOT SCARED**  
National Preparedness Month 2019

FEMA Ready

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**Week 1: Sept 1-7**  
Save Early for Disaster Costs

**Week 2: Sept 8-14**  
Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters

**Week 3: Sept 15-21**  
Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters

**Week 4: Sept 22-30**  
Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness

### How to Observe

Preparing for a disaster might seem like an impossible task and we hope you never have to experience one. But if you do, government agencies like FEMA and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as organizations like the American Red Cross, provide excellent websites with enough information to get you started. These websites also offer suggestions on how to plan in specific instances, like being without power for weeks. Your insurance companies will also have information you can use as you prepare. Insurance companies encourage families to prepare for disasters. It makes their jobs easier once the emergency is over and it also gives you peace of mind that you were covered correctly.

Use #NationalPreparednessMonth in social media postings.

### History

The Department of Homeland Security designated September as National Preparedness Month to educate the public on the importance of disaster preparation.

# Citizen Corps Conference Held in Bellevue

The Annual Nebraska Citizen Corps Volunteer Preparedness Conference was held Aug. 2-4, in Bellevue.

The conference featured a wide variety of training opportunities including traffic incident management training, CPR, Act F.A.S.T. (First Arrival Simple Treatment) and rapid shelter setup and management.

The event concluded on Aug. 4 with an exercise in rapid shelter setup and management.

“This conference was another stellar year of bringing Citizen Corps teams from across the state to train learn and network together,” said **Quinn Lewandowski**, state Citizen Corps Program coordinator. “The conference featured multiple opportunities to learn and network.”

The conference featured a Citizen Corps leadership panel and a disasters and desserts networking event.

**Jim Ristow**, city administrator for Bellevue, gave the opening remarks and thanked the volunteers for their service throughout the 2019 flooding disaster.

Lewandowski gave a presentation on his experience as the voluntary agency liaison during the first eight weeks of the DR4420 disaster in March.

The conference will be held again in August 2020 in central or western Nebraska.



Quinn Lewandowski of NEMA, addresses participants at the Citizen Corps Conference in Bellevue.



The Tri County Citizen Corps sponsored booths at the annual conference.



Participants practiced rapidly setting up a shelter during the conference.



Participants in the annual of the Citizen Corps conference stopped for a group photo on the last day of the conference in Bellevue.



## Green Joins Hazard Mitigation



## Kirianov Joins Public Assistance



**Joseph Green** started with NEMA on Aug. 5

as a planning specialist in the hazard mitigation unit of the Recovery Section.

He has a Bachelor of Science in geography from Oregon State University, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of North Texas.

He served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, a police officer and U.S. Forest Service public information specialist.

Green said he enjoys upland bird hunting, hiking, fishing, skiing, photography, exploring local restaurants and college football.

**Makaria Kirianov** started with NEMA on Aug. 5

as a planning specialist in the public assistance unit of the Recovery Section.

Kirianov graduated this August with a Bachelor of Science in marine biology and a Bachelor of Science in emergency and disaster management.

She was an intern at Lancaster County Emergency Management and worked as a barista while in college.

Kirianov was raised in Lincoln. She has a pet ball python. She said she is interested in hockey and enjoys roller-blading and traveling.

**Patrick Rooney** said his goodbyes to colleagues at the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency on Aug. 28 to leave for a job in Arizona.

Rooney, a planning specialist with NEMA for nearly 15 years, worked for the state of Nebraska since March 31, 1995.

Rooney and his wife, Cheryl, are moving to Gilbert, Ariz. to be near family. He will begin working for The Boeing Co. in Mesa, Ariz.

Rooney said he would miss the people in emergency management he had worked with through the years, but is looking forward to a new adventure.

# Nebraska awards \$125,125 in grants to boost disaster preparedness

Three Nebraska communities have received a total of \$125,125 in grants to study damage that occurred in this year's flooding and how to avoid similar problems in the future.

The **Nebraska Department of Economic Development** announced the following Community Development Block Grants:

**Fremont-Inglewood** received a \$60,000 grant – and provided its own \$15,000 match – to fund a study of its levee that breached in March. More than 350 residential and commercial properties in Fremont were damaged, as were about 90 percent of homes in Inglewood. The study will evaluate the levee's integrity and the feasibility of up-

grading it.

**Greeley** received a \$25,125 award – and provided its own \$7,375 match – to evaluate the future of its wastewater treatment facility, which was severely damaged. The plant shut down after being flooded by two to five feet of water. The evaluation will give Village leaders guidance on how to move forward with repairs and/or replacement or relocation of the facility, as well as potential groundwater remediation measures.

**Schuyler** received a \$40,000 grant – and provided a \$12,500 match – to assess its drainage system. Sewage backed up and spilled out into the streets after all eight of the city's sewer outlet points were

submerged. The planning study will determine potential actions to reduce the deficiency of the drainage system and decrease the risk of backwater flooding from nearby streams.

Applications for the next round of CDBG Planning funds are being accepted until Oct. 30. Earlier this month, the agency also announced an open cycle for non-specific disaster-related funding under CDBG's Emergent Threat category. For more information on that funding source, visit <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/CDBG/applications>, or read the corresponding press release at <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/ded-announces-open-cycle-for-new-cdbg-category/>.



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Public Information Officer Jodie Fawl introduces the Nebraska Joint Information System Plan to state agency PIOs at a seminar offered, Aug. 28. The plan includes checklists and instructions for opening and running a joint information center.

## Regional Administrator Visits Joint Field Office



Regional FEMA Region VII Administrator Paul Taylor meets with the representatives of the Nebraska Joint Field Office to get an update on recovery efforts. Taylor praised the great teamwork being done by FEMA and NEMA to help disaster survivors and the state of Nebraska.

# Sargent Holds Town Hall Meeting on Continued Flooding

Sargent is just one of the Nebraska communities that is experiencing above average rainfall and continued flooding this summer.

Some homes in Sargent still have standing water in their basements. Roads are damaged and ditches are full of water.

A town hall meeting on Aug. 19

gave area residents a chance to discuss what could be done.

Gov. Pete Ricketts, Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer DuWayne Tewes and NEMA Operations Section Manager Earl Imler toured the area to assess damage in the area.

“We can help with doing some home and building inspections for



NEMA's Earl Imler speaks at a Sargent town hall.

them to see if there are habitability issues and if some of these structures are even safe to be in,” Imler said. “We want to make sure people are safe.”

Tewes said the individual assistance program could help some of the residents.

“Currently, with the declared disaster in the state of Nebraska, we have activated the individual assistance program,” Tewes said. “It has been designated for this area. Under that program, there are various types of assistance available. Potentially, people could qualify for assistance with property damage as well as rental and housing assistance if they needed.”



Gov. Pete Ricketts reviews flooding issues with Sargent residents and NEMA and FEMA representatives.

**NEBRASKA**  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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**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)

