Hackberry Fire
See Pages 5-8
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.

A week before I started work as assistant director of NEMA in June 2014, twin tornadoes destroyed much of the town of Pilger. Those tornadoes resulted in two fatalities, several injuries and millions of dollars in damage. We were recently notified that the FEMA Public Assistance declaration for the event (DR-4183) was officially closed. This closure, more than seven years after the event, represents thousands of hours of hard work by dedicated problem-solving staff at NEMA with the support of our FEMA Region VII counterparts. It’s important to realize how far we have come, in those seven years, to note the significant work that was accomplished to assist Pilger in its work to recovery from disaster. It’s a good feeling to close out a disaster declaration and know that a community has recovered.

On a personal note, the Pilger recovery is particularly significant to me because it coincides with my start and end dates at NEMA, as I am retiring from the agency on Sept. 30. It’s gratifying to see that closure as I end my career here.

Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac announced that Erv Portis is his selection to serve as the next assistant director of NEMA. I have worked with Erv throughout my career and know the agency will be in good hands under his leadership. He will start with the agency on Sept. 13 and we will work together so the transition goes as smoothly as possible. (Please check out the article about Erv on page 3 of this issue of The Beacon.)

I am extremely proud of the work and accomplishments of the NEMA staff during my tenure at Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. They are a great team who is committed to helping Nebraskans, prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate against disaster. The state of Nebraska can count on this team to provide the best emergency management has to offer. Emergency management is a discipline that requires collaboration and cooperation. I want to offer a special thank you to all the local EMs and the tremendous representatives affiliated with volunteer organizations, faith-based groups and public-private partnerships for the outstanding work they perform to support Nebraskans.

Sincerely,

Bryan Tuma
Erv Portis Named Next NEMA Assistant Director

Ervin Portis has been tapped by Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska Military Department adjutant general, to become the next assistant director of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Portis, who has served as city administrator for the City of Plattsmouth since 2007, will assume the post of assistant director from Bryan Tuma, who is retiring at the end of September. Tuma was named assistant director in 2014.

“Erv Portis brings a blend of experiences to the position of assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency that will ensure a smooth transition,” said Bohac, who, as the Nebraska Military Department adjutant general, also serves as the director of NEMA. “I am impressed with his knowledge and experience in working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and his appreciation for the value of relationships at the local level. I look forward to working with Erv in serving the citizens of the state.”

Portis is a native of Walton and graduate of Waverly High School. He holds a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from the University of Nebraska Lincoln and Omaha and a Master of Arts in Political Science from UNL. Portis has worked as a police officer and Lieutenant with Lincoln Police Department and Chief of Police in Papillion.

“I am looking forward to working for the staff at NEMA as well as the citizens of Nebraska,” Portis said. “I am excited about the opportunity. Having worked through multiple disasters here in Plattsmouth, I have come to appreciate the NEMA team and the important role it plays in recovery and resilience of communities. I want to be a part of that team.”

In following Tuma as assistant director, Portis will assume the senior leadership role at NEMA. As the assistant director of NEMA, he will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the agency and overseeing the state’s response to state and federally declared disasters and emergencies.

Bryan Tuma Set to Retire Sept. 30

During Tuma’s tenure as assistant director, he:
■ Oversaw the state’s response to its largest disaster – the 2019 floods;
■ Added a new incident management platform for use by NEMA, other state agency partners and local emergency managers. Through a partnership with the University of Nebraska Medical Center that is critical for facilitating communication for operational issues;
■ Established the Nebraska Watch Center and its project for data integration that improves delivery of real-time information for emergency managers and the public;
■ Added a long-term recovery program and plan that is critical to the state’s recovery from disaster and includes housing, agriculture, economics, infrastructure, health and social service, natural and cultural resources and cross-cutting issues;
■ Developed a relationship with the Nebraska Preparedness Partnership, which is crucial for assistance for long-term recovery;
■ Restructured and expanded staffing in the agency, particularly in wake of the 2019 flooding. Enhanced the agency’s capacity to address public assistance, hazard mitigation, long-term recovery and FEMA individual assistance program requirements and recently added a community outreach unit;
■ Emphasized the agency’s relationships with other stakeholder agencies and partners; and
■ Assisted with NEMA’s role in creating the state’s all hazards Type 3 incident management team, composed of credentialed members from across the state, to assist local entities when disaster response exceeds the resources of the local community.

“Bryan Tuma has been an outstanding partner and leader of the day-to-day operations at NEMA,” Bohac said. “His work enabled NEMA to more effectively coordinate the state’s response to numerous emergencies, including: tornadoes, floods, blizzards and wildfires. He has provided excellent service to citizens, local emergency managers and the state.”

Prior to assuming his post at NEMA, Tuma spent 32 years with, and retired from, the Nebraska State Patrol. At the time of his retirement from Nebraska...
NEMA Announces Participation in National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM), the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) annual preparedness outreach event sponsored by FEMA’s Ready Campaign.

NEMA has committed to participate in NPM to increase preparedness in the community by promoting preparedness information at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island and by sharing preparedness information on its Facebook and Twitter social media accounts.

The theme this year is “Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love” and asks citizens to take action now.

Take time to build a kit, make a plan, check your insurance policies and coverage for the hazards you may face, such as floods, earthquakes and tornadoes. Educate and involve youth in preparedness. Make sure to consider the costs associated with disasters and save for an emergency. Also, know how to take practical safety steps like shutting off water and gas. As our nation continues to respond to COVID-19, there is no better time to be involved than this September.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility that takes the whole community. Learn ways you can take action by visiting Ready.gov/prepare.

“NEMA recognizes National Preparedness Month each September because it provides an opportunity to remind us that we all must prepare ourselves and our families now and throughout the year,” said NEMA Assistant Director Bryan Tuma. “We work to build awareness and encourage Nebraskans to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, schools, organizations, businesses and places of worship. Being prepared starts by knowing your risk and taking the appropriate actions before, during and after a disaster strikes.”

Take action during September to make sure your family is ready for a disaster. If you have not yet created your preparedness kit, NEMA has this list of items your family can gather to make sure you are ready for the next disaster: [https://nema.nebraska.gov/files/doc/preparedness-kit.pdf](https://nema.nebraska.gov/files/doc/preparedness-kit.pdf).

For more information about the Ready Campaign and National Preparedness Month, visit Ready.gov/September.

As a community outreach project as part of National Preparedness Month activities, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff Tanya Lyon and Larry Fichtner take their turn working NEMA’s booth at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island. NEMA staff are promoting the need for individual preparedness and letting fairgoers know how NEMA works with other state agencies, non-governmental organizations and other partners to respond when disasters affect Nebraskans.

Tuma Retirement

Continued from page 3

ka State Patrol, Tuma led the agency as its superintendent. During his time with NSP, Tuma served on the Governor’s Leadership Group on Terrorism and as the Nebraska State Patrol’s point of contact on the coordination of homeland security efforts within NEMA. He is also a 1993 graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy.

“We owe Bryan a sincere debt of gratitude for his unwavering commitment to the safety and welfare of all citizens of our great state,” Bohac said, “It’s been a privilege and an honor to serve with him.”
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency worked with multiple state agencies to provide support to local incident command on the Hackberry Wildfire which started due to lightning 20 miles east of Harrisburg in Banner County on Aug. 5. The fire continued into Morrill County and more than 6,000 acres burned, split about equally between the two counties.

**Tim Grubbs**, chief of the Banner County Fire Department, was the initial incident commander for the fire, however, dry conditions, rugged terrain and continuing wind events caused the fire to expand rapidly and exhausted the resources of the local community. In addition to the Hackberry fire, firefighters in the area were contending with the Cross Fire in Banner and Scotts Bluff counties.

The moderate drought and warmer weather patterns through the summer definitely fueled the fire.

“There’s no way we could have done this alone,” Grubbs posted online. Working with the Wildland Incident Response and Assistance Team (WIRAT), Grubbs set the threshold for reaching out for assistance from the Type 3 Incident Management Teams at when, and if, the fire crossed their containment lines. When that happened, Grubbs made the request for state assistance.

**Gov. Pete Ricketts** then de-
The Beacon – August 2021 in Review

Hackberry Fire Continued

declared a state of emergency, and that allowed state resources to be directed toward the fire.

“The wildfire response has truly been a team effort from local firefighters, mutual aid firefighters, incident command, and volunteers,” said Gov. Ricketts as the fire was nearly extinguished. “The response has drawn on assets from here in Nebraska as well as from the neighboring states of Colorado, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Partnerships like these provide the leadership and resources needed to keep Nebraskans safe.”

NEMA Assistant Director Bryan Tuma said NEMA sent a five-member field team and the state Type 3 incident management team (IMT) to assist with needed resources to support local efforts.

“Type 3 IMTs pull such resources as personnel, equipment and funding from the state level while Type 4 teams do the same locally,” Tuma said. “Type 1 and 2 teams include agencies and resources from the federal level. The deployment of the Type 3 IMT to effectively address this wildfire event further demonstrates the enhanced capacity of Nebraska to manage wildfire suppression activities with reduced reliance on federal assets. This is critical during times when a majority of the federal assets are deployed to major wildfire events on the west coast, Rocky Mountain states, and the upper northern plains states who are experiencing several years of significant drought.”

Nebraska’s single engine air tanker (SEAT) and two additional SEATs from South Dakota aided in the suppression efforts by making retardant drops over the fire, Tuma said. A large airtanker from Colorado also assisted. In addition, a Multi-Mission Aircraft outfitted with infrared and color sensors from Colorado was on scene to monitor the fire, since smoky conditions made it difficult to determine where suppression efforts were needed for ground crews and other aircraft.

The Nebraska National Guard sent 12 soldiers and three helicopters. The crews flew 141 flights.

Continued on page 7

Wildfire burns thousand of acres in Nebraska panhandle.

Trucks and crews from various fire departments are staged in the black to monitor the Hackberry Fire for breakouts.

NEMA’s mobile operations center was set up at the incident command post.
The Beacon – August 2021 in Review

Hackberry Fire Continued

and dropped 141,405 gallons of water on the fire.

The WIRAT, which includes members from the State Fire Marshal Agency and the Nebraska Forest Service were also deployed to assist with strategies, tactics and countermeasures. The Banner County and Scotts Bluff County roads departments and the Nebraska Department of Transportation used heavy equipment to help establish containment lines around the fire. The Firefighter Ministries assisted by delivering food, water and supplies to the firefighters.

“Firefighters worked tirelessly to control and contain the Hackberry Fire,” said Type 3 Incident Commander Ralph Moul who works for the Nebraska State Fire Marshall Agency and is a member of the WIRAT. “A full complement of staff arrived at the fire to support firefighters and minimize impact to landowners and homeowners in the area. We worked in unified command with the local jurisdictions. The local chief was involved in all major decisions made on that fire.

“We had a rough time getting mobile equipment into fight the fire because of the rugged terrain,” Moul said. “That’s why we needed so much air support.”

Incident command reported 71 volunteer fire departments with 188 fire engines on scene to work the wildfire.

It was the first official use of the Nebraska State Type 3 IMT, according to Moul.

“Agency heads put their faith in us and gave us the go ahead to run as a Type 3 Team, and the team came through along with local resources and all the resources we called in,” Moul said. “We were able to turn it back over to local resources on Aug. 9 after a very long weekend.”

Local firefighters continued to monitor hotspots and aircraft were on standby after the Type 3 team left in case additional support was needed.

Fire departments from as far away as Grand Island were brought in to work the fire, Moul said.

“We definitely have to thank the local fire departments who went out on the initial attach and had a CAT (bulldozer containment) line all the way around the fire before we even got there,” Moul said. “Unfortunately Mother Nature threw some things at us... wind events of 50 to 70 mph... that fueled the fire.”

Moul commended the outstanding work of the Banner County Fire Department. In addition, Moul commended the Firefighter Ministries and other organizations who worked to provide the firefighters with food throughout the event.

“Safety of the firefighters was my biggest concern,” Moul said. “The rough terrain, high winds, rattlesnakes, severe weather and fatigue on the line were all serious concerns. That’s why we were

Continued on page 8
Hackberry Fire Continued

bringing in so many firefighters from far away, the locals needed rest so they could come back and finish the mission. 

“When the call for help goes out the people are going to do their damnedest to be there to help you.”

“I want to give credit where credit is due,” Moul said. “There were a lot of people who made this happen, who brought this to a successful conclusion. The cooperation of everyone involved on this fire created a successful outcome. It’s a moving, working machine and everyone had their part to contribute. It all came together.”

Wildfire burns thousand of acres in Nebraska panhandle.

The Nebraska Type 3 IMT conducts an after action review.

The view of a bucket drop on the fire from a National Guard helicopter.

Trees burn in a gully during the Hackberry Fire.

Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, right, recognizes NEMA staff who served on the IMT at the Hackberry fire, from left, Tia Loftin, Larry Fichtner, Dave Reisen, Danelle Nelson and not pictured Roger Conrad.
Citizen Corps Conference Held

The annual Nebraska Citizen Corps Volunteer Preparedness Conference was held Aug. 6-7 at Camp Augustine, a Boy Scout camp in Donapahn.

The conference was free of charge for participants, who were volunteers from community emergency response teams (CERT) and Medical Reserve Corps teams. Volunteers from across Nebraska took part. Approximately 25-30 volunteers attended. Participants received chainsaw safety training, a refresher on Stop the Bleed, courses on radio communications for incident response and wilderness first aid, and participated in a search and rescue exercise.

“The conference provided a chance for CERT and MRC volunteers to get hands-on training and experience after a long period of virtual-only activities during the pandemic said Elizabeth Gleason, Nebraska’s Citizen Corps coordinator.
Finalization workshops for the state plan to implement Boldplanning were held across the state from Aug. 16-29.

According to NEMA Program Specialist Tia Loftin, Nebraska is moving away from paper planning that required large amounts of revision every five years to the BOLDplanning platform that provides real-time updates.

The State of Nebraska has been working towards the implementation of BOLDplanning for about 12 months. All of the state's 93 counties will use the new platform. BOLDplanning is a cloud based planning software that offers emergency operations planning, continuity planning and hazard mitigation planning.

BOLDplanning provided 12 in person workshops across the state.

"These workshops provided the local EMs one-on-one feedback on how to make the plan work for their unique challenges," Loftin said.

Full implementation of the SEOP and LEOP is scheduled for Jan 1, 2022.

The State of Nebraska will also use the BOLD platform for continuity planning for several of the state agencies.

NEMA extended the opportunity to state agencies with a primary/coordinating emergency support function role in the State's Emergency Operations Plan to use the continuity module available on BOLDplanning’s platform, reports Amy Lynn Creaney, enterprise continuity manager.

Seven agencies with a primary/coordinating emergency support function (ESF) role and NEMA have elected to use the BOLDplanning application for their continuity of operations plans.

Representatives from five of the code-agencies and NEMA attended the BOLDplanning Continuity Kick-Off workshop hosted at NEMA the week of Aug. 16.

Agencies with current continuity plans are compiling data for upload into the BOLDplanning application.

Creaney said she is working with several agencies to complete a comprehensive continuity planning project to develop their agency’s continuity of operations plan. Data gathered during the continuity planning process will be uploaded into the BOLDplanning application to build those agencies continuity of operations plans.
Ask The Question: “Have you or a family member ever served in the military?”

The Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Health and Human Services are partnering to “ask the question” of military service by individuals and family members. The goal is to increase awareness of state and federal benefits and services available to veterans in Nebraska. By doing so, more veterans will be able to connect with resources and services specific to their needs.

Where do I come in?
The Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Health and Human Services are encouraging service providers and local agencies across the state to “ask the question” (Have you or a family member ever served in the military?) on intake forms and interviews where appropriate. These include:
- Hospitals
- Mental Health Care Centers
- Senior Centers
- Employment Offices
- Courts
- Schools
- Law Enforcement

How can I help?
“Ask the question” on intake forms and interviews where appropriate to help veterans and their families connect with services and benefits available to them.

Is there information I should provide to someone after I “ask the question?”
Please provide the individual with the contact information listed below or the provided trifold pamphlet with information on veteran benefits to military, veterans, and/or family members who self-identify after you “ask the question.”

Nebraska Department of Veterans’ Affairs
301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 95083
Lincoln, NE 68509-5083
(402) 471-2458
ndva@nebraska.gov
veterans.nebraska.gov

Department of Health and Human Services
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 471-3121
dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Military-Families.aspx
Dixon County Agencies Holds Exercise

Dixon County Emergency Management and Ponca State Park held an exercise, Aug. 29 at Ponca State Park Aquatic Center. The exercise included a thunderstorm warning which resulted in the lifeguard's getting swimmers out of pool once they heard thunder. Shortly after that, there was a lightning strike at the pool and participants responded to the injuries that resulted. Participants included two players from law enforcement, two dispatchers, three emergency medical service staff and four Ponca State Park staff members.

Photos by Dixon County Emergency Management Director Shea Scollard
Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) events are an identified risk for hospitals, first responders and community members. Being aware of the risk and being prepared to receive contaminated victims is the best way Providence Medical Center can keep its staff and patients to be safe.

At Providence Medical Center (PMC) 19 staff members have taken the 9-hour Hospital First Receivers course. Part of this training consists of completing a decontamination exercise to practice the skills they learn. On Aug. 19, that training was put to the test with a full-scale decontamination exercise.

The primary objective of the exercise focused on non-ambulatory mock victims who were unresponsive or unable to walk and needed to be lying down as they went through the decontamination shower. The hospital participants also worked with the Wayne Fire Department Hazmat trained responders who set up their decontamination tent to demonstrate and practice decontaminating ambulatory mock victims through the decontamination process.

By working with the emergency managers, the hospital participants and observers were tracked through Salamander software which is used at the scene of a disaster to track all responders and volunteers for accountability and safety purposes.

Participating Emergency Managers were Nic Kemnitz, Wayne County, Kevin Garvin, Cedar County, Shea Scolland, Dixon County, Jeff McGill, Cuming County, Mike Frohberg, Stanton County, Bobbi Risor, Region 11 (Antelope, Madison, and Pierce counties), Paul Scherschligt and Erin Hacecky, Yankton County, S.D., Austin Frideres, and Wayne State College. Dennis Colsden, Rural Region One Medical Response System (RROMRS) Healthcare Coalition coordinator also assisted in the drill. Working with the Healthcare Coalition is a vital part of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for all-hazard emergencies.

Participating Emergency Managers were Nic Kemnitz, Wayne County, Kevin Garvin, Cedar County, Shea Scolland, Dixon County, Jeff McGill, Cuming County, Mike Frohberg, Stanton County, Bobbi Risor, Region 11 (Antelope, Madison, and Pierce counties), Paul Scherschligt and Erin Hacecky, Yankton County, S.D., Austin Frideres, and Wayne State College. Dennis Colsden, Rural Region One Medical Response System (RROMRS) Healthcare Coalition coordinator also assisted in the drill. Working with the Healthcare Coalition is a vital part of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for all-hazard emergencies.

This year PMC asked the Elkhorn Valley Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and local communities to observe the exercise and to be the host site of the LEPC Hazmat Night Out. The LEPC is a part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to Know Act (EPCRA) and the State Emergency Response Commissions (SERC).

The LEPC provided a meal and John Grimes explained the LEPC, Alyssa Sanders, SERC coordinator at Nebraska Emergency Management Agency shared about the role of the SERC, Jodie Thompson explained how Hospital First Receivers (HFRs) never go into the hot zone (where the hazmat event happened) but are trained to receive contaminated patients at a location away from the hot zone. Scott Brogren explained the role of Wayne Fire Department’s Hazmat trained responders and Nic Kemnitz demonstrated the new PEAC software that gives decision making information to responders at a Hazmat event.

This education provided continuing education credits for attending EMS and fire responders.

Best practice actions for a Hazmat exposure:

- Get out of the area as soon as possible.
- Take off your clothes (removes about 90% of the contaminate)
- Remove remaining contaminate as directed by poison control, the container label or 9-1-1.
- Inform 9-1-1 dispatcher, responders and receiving hospital of hazardous material exposure.
Mack Johnson began his work with NEMA on Aug. 30 as a planning and training specialist in the technical hazards unit.

Prior to joining NEMA, Johnson served as a corporal in the United States Marine Corps where he worked as a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) reconnaissance assistant section leader at the Chemical and Biological Incident Response Force in the national capitol region. He worked the 2018 state of the union, the 2020 republican national convention and the 2021 presidential inauguration.

His military occupational speciality was as a CBRN Defense Specialist.

Johnson was born and raised in York. He is married to Amanda Johnson-Delgado. They have two dogs, an American Eskimo named Yeti and a Chow Chow named Nova.

Johnson is the youngest of four and has two sisters and a brother who all live in various parts of Nebraska, as well as four nephews and a niece. His interests include drinking local beer, playing video games, and hanging out with friends and family.

Danelle Nelson started with NEMA on Aug 2 as an exercise training officer in the planning, exercise and training unit. Her education in emergency management advanced rapidly during the 2019 floods when she became the emergency support function representative for the Nebraska National Guard (NENG). Nelson is still a member of NENG as a traditional guardsman in the J3 section, and continue to be the ESF 15 rep while in a military status.

While working for NENG, Nelson has served as a fuel systems mechanic on the KC 135 for 16 years, before she transitioned to Joint Forces Headquarters in January 2016. While assigned to JFHQ she assisted the director of domestic operations in hurricanes, floods, COVID, riots and the 2021 presidential inauguration.

Her formal education is through North Dakota State University and University of Nebraska at Kearney in construction management. Nelson was born and raised near Litchville and Marion, N.D.

She has a daughter, Callie, 16, and son, Tyler, 13, and they have several farm animals. The latest addition to the family is Boston, a 165 lb, 10-month-old puppy. She enjoys watching her kids play sports and show in 4H and FFA. She also enjoys riding horses (specifically barrel racing), rodeos, hunting and fishing, boating and running.
NEMA hosts BRIC and FMA Webinars

by Marisa Alvares,
NEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning Specialist

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) will support states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards.

The BRIC program recognizes the growing hazards associated with climate change, and the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation and resilience with respect to those hazards.

The program’s guiding principles are:

- Supporting communities through capability- and capacity-building;
- Encouraging and enabling innovation;
- Promoting partnerships;
- Enabling large projects;
- Maintaining flexibility; and
- Providing consistency.

BRIC aims to implement projects that reduce risks posed by natural hazards to reduce future losses, by funding priority projects and activities.

Priorities include risk reduction of both acute events and chronic stressors, driven by climate change, which are either observed or expected.

NEMA is hosting a series of webinars, open to the public, to discuss BRIC and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) 2021 funding opportunities.

For more information on the dates and times of these webinars, please visit the NEMA Hazard Mitigation unit website at https://nema.nebraska.gov/recovery/nebraska-state-hazard-mitigation-program.

FEMA Offers Exercise Assistance to Stakeholders

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is accepting requests for exercise support through the National Exercise Program. State, local, tribal and territorial jurisdictions can request no-cost assistance for exercise design, development, conduct and evaluation to validate capabilities across all mission areas.

FEMA is hosting webinars for all interested governments and other community partners on the exercise support process. Please visit the webinar webpage to register. The webinar dates are:

- 2 p.m. ET on Sept. 7.
- 3 p.m. ET on Sept. 15.
- 4 p.m. ET on Sept. 23.
- 1 p.m. ET on Oct. 1.

Fall 2021 requests for support are due no later than Nov. 1. To submit a request for exercise support, download the nomination form, then email the completed form with any supporting documentation to NEP@fema.dhs.gov. Awardees will be notified by Dec. 10. FEMA will hold additional exercise support rounds in the spring and fall of 2022.

For questions, contact FEMA at NEP@fema.dhs.gov.

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 in the newsletter to: Public Information Officer Jodie Fawl, 402-471-7428 or jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov.