In this Issue
- Message from the Assistant Director
- Homeland Security Policy Group meets
- Investment Justification Workshop
- Safe Room Workshop
- TERREX ’11 Planning Meeting
- ESF Coordinators’ Meeting
- Nebraska Association of Emergency Management Conference
Just two weeks ago emergency managers across the state had the opportunity to come together for this year’s Nebraska Association of Emergency Management convention in Kearney. Annually, this conference gives us a time as state and local partners to come together to exchange ideas on our respective programs, gather information on new programs/activities and take a collective, overall look at how we can progressively move forward professionally.

As we look to the future of our federal, state and local programs, we will all feel the effects of the current economy and the federal budget situation on how we continue to do business as emergency managers. It is encouraging to see the growth and professional development that has taken place within NAEM. I see nothing but a bright future ahead with the writing of a strategic plan to help chart a consistent course for the organization. Deanna Beckman is to be commended for her time, effort and dedication this past year in guiding the organization. Charting new territory is hard, and she has done an excellent job this past year as president.

With the passage of the federal budget for Fiscal Year 2011, program funding is now known for this fiscal year and soon the program grant managers within NEMA will be moving the application process forward. This past week the Investment Justification workshop was held and the initial justifications were written. With program carve outs within the State Homeland Security Grant Program allocations to the state, my initial projections are that a significant reduction of allocations to the state will occur. On May 27, following the Governor’s Homeland Security Policy Group meeting in Lincoln, direction will be received on the priorities for the available funding. At the federal level, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) carved out dollars from the SHSGP grant for the Citizen Corps and Metropolitan Medical response system instead of funding them as a separate grant; thus reducing funds available for core programs. The one positive aspect to the FY2011 budget was the Emergency Management Performance Grant is continuing to be funded at the same level as it was in the FY2010 grant.

I would urge everyone to take some time to read the recently released Presidential Policy Directive dealing with a new emphasis on preparedness and measuring capabilities to catastrophic events, as well as to research new initiatives on functional needs and “whole” community planning programs. These initiatives will integrate into program guidance at all levels as we continue program development in the future.

While our state has been lucky thus far in avoiding the disastrous fire season that has affected our southern neighbors and avoided the severe storms south and east of us, we should take time afforded by our good fortune and continue to strengthen our community’s preparedness and response capabilities. As always, thank you for a job well done.

Al Berndt
NEMA Assistant Director
The annual Nebraska Association of Emergency Management Conference: A Year in Review was held April 8-10 in Kearney and gave emergency managers across the state the opportunity to hear speakers, visit displays and recognize Nebraska emergency managers for exemplary work.

“It was an excellent conference affording many opportunities for networking between the state’s emergency managers,” said Al Berndt, assistant director of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

Lynn Marshall of Sarpy County received the gavel as president of NAEM from outgoing president Deanna Beckman who will continue on as vice president of the organization in 2011-12. Other officers for the coming year are: Doug Fox, Region 24, treasurer; and Jan Zurcher, Prairie Valley Red Cross, secretary.

Regional Representatives are: Eric Plautz, Douglas County, Southeast; Roger Powell, Furnas County, West Central; Michell Woitalewicz, Howard County, Central; Laura Hintz, Knox County, Northeast; and Jerry Brethauer, Scotts Bluff County, Panhandle.

Emergency Managers honored at the conference banquet included: Pat Foust of Dakota County as Emergency Manager of the Year; Jill Schmitt of Region 15 was named Outstanding Support Personnel; and Tonya Ngotel of NEMA earned the President’s award for service to NAEM.

Pre-conference training offered by NEMA included an ESS Update by Sue Krogman, a Grant Update by Mardell Hergenrader and Nikki Weber, a Training and Exercise update by Alisia Lamay and a Medical Reserve Corps and Citizen Corps update by Evan Knight.

Other Speakers included: Jono Anzalone of FEMA Region VII; Lauren Brand of the Nebraska State Patrol; Frederick Gardy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police; Eric Simmons of Fairmont (Colorado) Fire Protection District; James McGee of the Nebraska Department of Roads; Jerry McNinch of the Department of Homeland Security; and Jayme Kruger of the Bellevue Police Department.

Cover Photos

Top Left: Outgoing president Deanna Beckman of Dakota County passes the gavel to Lynn Marshall of Sarpy County.

Center, from left, Laura Hintz of Knox County presents NEMA’s Tonya Ngotel with the President Award.; Donna Mainwaring (top) of Fillmore County was named New Emergency Manager of the Year; Jill Schmitt of Region 15 was named outstanding support personnel; Pat Faust of Dakota County was named Outstanding Emergency Manager and Loren Uden earned a Lifetime Member Award.

Bottom: an Honor Guard and a table for absent first responders is a traditional ceremony at the annual banquet.
Dan Hiller, planning supervisor with Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, discusses Investment justifications.


Greg Hollingsead of DHS Protective Security Program, discusses critical infrastructure.

Chief Owen Yardley of UNL Police Department discusses TERREX ‘11.

Denise Bulling discusses the work of the UNL Public Policy Center.

Captain Kevin Knorr updates the group on the Nebraska Information Analysis Center.

Dan Hiller, planning supervisor with Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, discusses Investment justifications.
Annual Investment Justification Workshop Held

Representatives from emergency management offices and state agencies met April 14 for the 2011 Investment Justification Workshop at the Center for People in Need in Lincoln. The annual meeting allows local, regional and state representatives to provide input on needs in Nebraska.

“We met in small groups to review how the state would identify priorities within the Investment Justifications for the 2011 Homeland Security Grant even though the guidance has not been released because of a lack of a federal Budget,” said Dan Hiller, planning supervisor with NEMA.

Representatives completed a template prior to the meeting for their agency/jurisdiction to outline priorities and needs, according to Nikki Weber of NEMA. The Public Policy Center from the University of Nebraska Lincoln compiled the information into uniform documents for group discussion. After discussion of priorities and focus each of the table reported to the group on the upcoming year’s focus.
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency will facilitate a FEMA-sponsored Safe Room Workshop May 9. There is no cost to attend but travel, food and lodging will be the responsibility of the participant.

Bob Franke, senior civil engineer with FEMA Region VII will conduct the workshops. FEMA has recently published the second edition, "Design and Construction Guidance for Community Safe Rooms". This half-day workshop will cover important topics such as costs, considerations, structural issues, operations management, etc. To register for the Safe Room Workshop email Sheila Hascall at sheila.hascall@nebraska.gov or call (402) 471-7217.

SAVE THE DATE
FEMA Benefit Cost Analysis Training/Workshop May 25-26

MOC/MOT Training
NEMA staff participated in training on the Mobile Operations Center and the Mobile Operations Trailer April 26. The MOC and MOT have been modified to provide command and control functions in support of exercises or real emergencies throughout the state.

TERREX ’11
Evaluators, controllers and exercise designers meet at NEMA April 28 in preparation for the full-scale exercise planned May 11 on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln city campus. TERREX is the state’s annual terrorism exercise and this year’s event involves an active shooter on the city campus.
Nebraska Emergency Support Function coordinators met April 27 to examine, explore and elicit revisions, additions and updates to the State Emergency Operation Plan (SEOP).

The Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) provide the structures for coordinating interagency support for response to an incident.

The coordinators of each agency looked at their own agency’s policies and plans. The joint effort of reviewing the ESFs will lead to a gap analysis where the coordinators will be able to identify their agency’s dependencies on other agencies.

The group’s ultimate goal is to revise the SEOP to reflect the increased cooperation, better define resource management and to make improved interoperational decisions resulting in a consolidation of efforts.

The coordinators agreed that this identification of interagency dependency was needed and not forced by a lean economic outlook.

The activities reinforced the concept of interagency dependency. This strengthens Nebraska’s ability to respond to disasters of all types and sizes.

Major Guy Moon discusses ESF 15 which outlines National Guard support.

Jon Falgione, State Fire Marshal, gives an overview on Firefighting ESF 4.

Lt. Carla Schriever of the Nebraska State Patrol discusses ESF 13 on Public Safety.

ESF 6 on Mass Care, Housing and Human Services is covered by Susan Epps of the Red Cross.

Steve Sulek of the Department of Administrative Services reviews ESF 7 on Resource support.
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (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.

Disaster Recovery Planning Workshop Held

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, in partnership with the Region VII office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), hosted a Long-Term Community Recovery (LTCR) workshop for 40 Nebraska officials April 27 in Lincoln.

Participants included county emergency managers, tribal officials, city planners, and representatives from the University of Nebraska, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and several federal agencies.

Long Term Community Recovery (LTCR) is a FEMA program that provides guidance to disaster-damaged communities in planning and managing their own recovery following extraordinary impacts. While much of emergency management planning focuses on disaster response, professionals in the field have recognized the need to understand the impact that response activities can have on the long-term recovery of a community.

“As the saying goes – a disaster is no time to be exchanging business cards,” said Aaron Alward, NEMA training officer. “Workshops like this reinforce our partnerships across agencies and programs and help put in place processes and communications that will serve us all well in any event.”

Pre-disaster recovery planning helps build the capacity of communities to respond and recover from significant impacts. Participants discussed the transition from response to recovery and how best to make decisions, leverage recovery resources and improve local, state and federal coordination.

A second workshop for officials in western Nebraska will be held in Scottsbluff on May 3.

Visit the NEMA Website at: [http://www.nema.nebraska.gov/preparedness/training-calendar.html](http://www.nema.nebraska.gov/preparedness/training-calendar.html) for other training opportunities.