



October 2011

# The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



## Logan County Wildfire

### IN THIS ISSUE

2	NEMA Responds to Wildfires	4	National Emergency Alert
3	FEMA Statistics	4	Training Opportunities
3	New NEMA Staff		

# NEMA Monitors Wildfires

*Gov. Heineman issues State of Emergency*

Wildfires in Logan and Lincoln counties resulted in **Gov. Dave Heineman** declaring a state of emergency Oct. 5.

The action was necessary as high winds and dry conditions presented a threat to local government's ability to respond, Heineman said.

The three fires burned approximately 23,000 acres in central Nebraska, as unusually dry, warm weather and gusty conditions threatened to hamper efforts to halt the spread of the blaze.

"This proclamation allows us to take steps necessary to protect the people and resources of the state of Nebraska," he said.

The response to the fires included numerous local and mutual aid fire departments, the State Fire Marshal's Office, the Nebraska Forrest Service, the Nebraska State Patrol, the Logan County Sheriff, Custer County Emergency Management, Red Cross, Salvation Army, local emergency management, Nebraska Emergency

Management and the Department of Roads, along with assistance of area farmer and ranchers.

"Damage estimates are at \$4 million," said Al Berndt, assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. "We have reports of damage to 12 pivot irrigation systems; cropland and one home. The emergency declaration will help support local response operations."

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency monitored the situation and sent a representative to the area to work with local responders.

One home was lost and one person was life-flighted to Lincoln as a result of the fires. The injured person is recovering at home.

The first fire started Oct. 4 in Northern Lincoln County. It was caused by a combine in a soybean field. The second fire was also caused by a combine. The third fire was caused by sparks from electrical lines because of high winds.





# FEMA

**October 17 FEMA recovery statistics for the 12 Nebraska counties designated for Individual Assistance from the May 24-to-Aug. 1 flooding of the Missouri River.**

- Total Registrations – 1,048 applications
- Total Individual and Household Program (housing assistance grants) -- \$2,699,222
- Total Other Needs Assistance (State-FEMA property grants) -- \$92,089
- Total SBA home and business loans -- \$2,108,100
- Total Disaster Unemployment Benefits -- \$14,544
- Total visitors to the nine Disaster Recovery Centers, fixed and mobile -- 817

## New Faces at NEMA



**Mary Baker**  
Public Assistance  
Planning Specialist



**Melanie Hooks**  
Hazard Mitigation  
Planning Specialist



**Leo Larkin**  
Preparedness  
Planning Specialist



**Miranda Rogers**  
Hazard Mitigation  
Temporary

## Winter Weather Awareness Day Nov. 3, 2011

Winter weather season is approaching and the Nebraska Emergency management Agency would like to remind Nebraskans to prepare for the season.

By being prepared and taking proper precautions, the people of Nebraska can reduce the effects of blizzards, snow and ice-covered roads, extremely low temperatures and other hazards of life-threatening weather developments.

Check out FEMA's information on winter preparedness at <http://www.fema.gov/are-you-ready/winter.shtm>.

Another good source for information is the Nebraska Department of Roads 24-Hour Weather and Travel Information available online at [www.511nebraska.org](http://www.511nebraska.org) You can also call 511. Those outside Nebraska should call 1-800-906-9069.

# Nationwide Emergency Alert System Test Scheduled Nov. 9

## The Beacon

### Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

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

(402) 471-7421  
Toll Free (877) 297-2368  
Fax: (402) 471- 7433

**Governor Dave Heineman**

**State Homeland Security Director  
Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy**

**Director:**

**Brigadier General Judd Lyons**

**Assistant Director:**

**Al Berndt**

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* is published monthly to share news about the agency and emergency management activities throughout the state. Forward story ideas or photos for inclusion in *The Beacon* to:

Jodie Fawl  
Public Information Officer  
1300 Military Road  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 471-7428 or  
[jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov](mailto:jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov)



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will conduct the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

The nationwide test will occur on Nov. 9 at 1 p.m. Central Time and may last up to three and a half minutes. The public will hear a message indicating that "This is a test." The audio message will be the same for both radio, television, and cable.

The National-level EAS is a public alert and warning system that enables the President of the United States to address the American public during extreme emergencies.

Similar to local EAS tests, the Nationwide Test will involve broadcast radio and television stations, cable television, satellite radio and television services and wireline providers

Over the past two years, and as part of ongoing national preparedness planning efforts, FEMA, the FCC and other federal partners, state, local, tribal and territorial governments, EAS participants and others in the EAS community have been working toward making this test a reality.

As the federal, state, tribal, territorial and local governments prepare for and test their capabilities, this event serves as a reminder that everyone should establish an emergency preparedness kit an emergency plan for themselves, their families, communities and businesses.

Anyone can visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) for more information about how to prepare for and stay informed about what to do in the event of an actual emergency. For more information visit: [http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/eas\\_info.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/eas_info.shtm)



## Training Calendar

### NEMA Training Calendar

Course	Date	Location	Contact
ICS 300	Dec. 5-7	Lincoln	Dave Reisen 402-471-7177 <a href="mailto:dave.reisen@nebraska.gov">dave.reisen@nebraska.gov</a>
Advanced Planning Concepts	Dec. 8-9	Omaha	Dave Reisen 402-471-7177 <a href="mailto:dave.reisen@nebraska.gov">dave.reisen@nebraska.gov</a>
Risk Communications	Jan. 10, 2012	Mid-Plains Course Community College North Platte	Jon Schwarz 402-471-7420 <a href="mailto:jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov">jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov</a>

Visit the NEMA Website at: <http://www.nema.nebraska.gov/preparedness/training-calendar.html> for other training opportunities