



February 2012

The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Radio Communications Course



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March 19-24, 2012 is

**Severe Weather
Awareness Week**

Tornado Drill

Wednesday, March 21

10 a.m.-11 a.m. CDT

9a.m.-10 a.m. MDT



Pat Gerdes, director of Region 15 Emergency Management, discusses the Paraclete communication system during the first of two Radio Communications Essentials Courses offered by the North Central Planning Exercise and Training Region in Kearney on Feb. 7-8.

Radio Communication Course Offered

The North Central Planning Exercise and Training (PET) Region offered a Radio Communications Essentials course in Kearney, Feb. 7-8, that focused on the various radio bands, systems and equipment used by local government public safety and public works officials throughout the state, as well as interoperability of those systems.

More than 236 people, representing nearly all of the state's 24-hour dispatch centers attended one of the day-long classes, said Pete Petersen, director of Keith County Emergency Management.

According to Peterson, the success of statewide radio communications initiatives is dependent on local government officials with fiscal authority understanding the importance and

benefits of local radio systems.

"The course was very well attended and was a good success," he said. "We were able to provide information to local officials so that they will be able to make good decisions on sustaining the various projects once they are up and running after the federal grant runs out."

The course, funded by the Homeland Security Grant, was designed to help participants analyze their existing local radio systems to determine compatibility or incompatibility issues with other disparate systems. It included information on Federal Communications Commission compliance requirements, and also helped analyze various options for achieving interoperable communications with existing radio systems.

In addition to Peterson, instructors

included: **Ray Ryan**, radio system supervisor, City of Lincoln; **Pat Gerdes**, director of Region 15 Emergency Management; **Jon Rosenlund**, director Grand Island/Hall County Emergency Management; **Beth Ferrell**, assistant legal counsel, Nebraska Association of County Officials; **Elaine Menzel**, assistant legal counsel, Nebraska Association of County Officials; **Tim Hofbauer**, emergency management director, Columbus/Platte County, and **Mark Conrey**, director, Douglas County Communications.

Some of the course goals included identifying the benefits of participation in the Nebraska Regional Interoperability network, analyzing options for achieving interoperable communications with existing radios systems and identifying how Paraclete works as a tool for local interoperability.



Emergency Operations Facility staff participate in a Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant exercise.



Al Berndt, the governor's authorized representative (GAR) and Jon Schwarz both of NEMA determine what actions the state will take during the exercise.

Power Plant Exercise

In preparation for a Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant evaluated exercise scheduled in March, a "dress rehearsal" exercise was held Feb. 21. Power plant officials, state agency representatives and county emergency managers participated.



Public inquiry questions for Nebraska were directed to (from left) Karen Heath and Tonya Ngotel of NEMA.

From left, Amy Stroh and Logan Lueking of NEMA and Mike Wight of the Department of Health and Human Services work in the Joint Information Center established for the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station exercise.



Jodie Fawl, NEMA's public information officer (second from right) answers a question from mock media during an exercise, Feb. 21 at the Joint Information Center established at Omaha Public Power District Offices in Omaha. Also participating in the exercise news conference were: from left, Woody Goodell, division manager of nuclear performance with OPPD, Bob Lisowij, technical liaison with OPPD, Jacob Nicholson, public information officer for Iowa, and Dr. Karen Holdeman, University of Nebraska Medical Center.



Citizen Corps Welcomes Kimball County

by Ryan Lowry
State Citizen Corps
Coordinator

Kimball County Citizen Corps is the newest Citizen Corps Council in Nebraska. **Harry Gillway**, Kimball County's sheriff and emergency manager, had wanted to form a Citizen Corps Council for some time. He has experience as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) leader and trainer in Arizona. That experience, along with seeing the need for this

type of organization, helped bring Citizen Corps to a new area in Nebraska.

Sheriff Gillway has already begun putting together a CERT class that will be offered to citizens in and around Kimball. He is excited to begin training new volunteers who want to learn how to



Gillway

be prepared in the event of a disaster or emergency. The focus of the training is on both personal and community preparedness.

Nebraska Citizen Corps supports and encourages new Councils throughout the state. Resources available to new Councils include the State Coordinator, State Council, support from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, as well as a number of partnerships with local and regional organizations such as the American Red Cross and Salvation Army.

Nebraska Regional Citizen Corps Points of Contact

Tri-County/Dodge

Vacant
United Way of the Midlands Director
1805 Harney St.,
Omaha, NE 68102
402-522-7930

Southeast Region

Wayne Svoboda – Director
Volunteer Partners
215 Centennial Mall S Ste. 340
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-441-7441
director@volunteerpartners.org

East Central Region

Tim Hofbauer - Director
City of Columbus\Platte County
Emergency Management
2610 14th St., Columbus, NE 68601
402-564-1206 pccem@megavision.com

North Central Region

Lynn Beland
343 G St.,
Burwell, NE 68827
308-214-0790 beland@nctc.net

South Central Region

Jon Rosenlund - Director
City of Grand Island/Hall County
Emergency Management
100 E. First St.,
Grand Island, NE 68803
308-385-5362 jonr@grand-island.com

Panhandle Region

Jessica Davies
Wellness/Volunteer Coordinator
Panhandle Public Health District
808 Box Butte Ave.,
Hemingford, NE 69348
308-487-3600 jdavies@pphd.org



NEMA's monthly training included information on radio communications from Bob Eastwood (left) and an update from Earl Imler (above) on the State Emergency Operation Center.

April 13 is Deadline for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The deadline for Disaster 1945 (severe storms, flooding, tornado and straight-line winds occurring in September 2010) in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is fast approaching — **April 13** is the date for submitting **completed** applications to Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

NEMA will then submit the applications to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) the following week.

Under disaster 1945 there is \$437,656 in HMGP funds eligible. The money in those grants will be used as follow:

- **Planning \$30,635** – HMGP allows funding for Hazard Mitigation Plan development. If you have a mitigation plan that will expire in the next year or two consider applying for a plan update. If your community does not have, or is not a part of a Mitigation Plan, consider applying for HMGP funds to develop one. Participation in a Mitigation Plan is required by FEMA for sub-applicants applying for HMGP funds, and keeping your plan current will ensure your eligibility for HMGP funding for your projects.
- **Regular Projects \$363,256** – A variety of projects are eligible for regular Project funding. Any Public Power District that has historical power outages and has been considering alternative mitigation should consider submitting an application for a project, such as installation of a redundant feed. Communities considering resizing culverts or minor localized flood reduction projects are encouraged to apply for HMGP funds. Dry and wet flood proofing are also eligible projects for HMGP funding.

Communities with at-risk structures in hazard-prone areas are eligible to apply for HMGP funds for property acquisition (buy-outs). If your community is lacking a safe place to go during a wind/tornado event, consider applying for funds to assist in developing a residential or community Safe Room.

- **Initiative Projects \$43,765** – Initiative projects include, but are not limited to, warning

sirens, generators and reverse 911 systems.

HMGP's key purpose is to ensure that the opportunity to take critical mitigation measures to reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future disasters. HMGP funds are to be used for projects with the purpose of reducing the impact of natural disasters on communities.

NEMA Mitigation staff are available for technical assistance to help you get your applications ready for submittal.



The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

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:

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Public Information Officer
1300 Military Road
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 471-7428 or
jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov

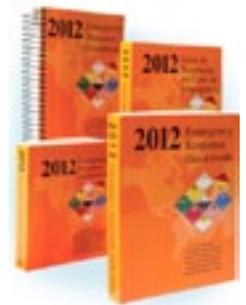


Training Calendar

Course	Date	Location	Contact	More Info
Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT)	April 23	Omaha Public Safety 402-471-7420 Training Facility 11616 Rainwood Road	Jon Schwarz jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov	Flyer Brochure
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Complete training information is listed on the [NEMA training page](#).

2012 Emergency Response Guidebooks(ERG)



Are Arriving Soon

If you are a first responder in the State of Nebraska you can get yours FREE.

Law Enforcement contact the Nebraska State Patrol, Fire/EMS contact the Nebraska State Fire Marshal, Emergency Managers and other interested parties, contact the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency at 402-471-7421.