



January 2012

# The Beacon

## Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



### Staff Development

As part of new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards, NEMA began monthly trainings session with a presentation by Radio-logical Emergency Preparedness Planner Bryan Cook on Jan. 4. The monthly staff development sessions are designed to enhance program management and implementation.

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# LB 766 Would Amend Emergency Management Act

Sen. Scott Price introduced LB 766 on Jan. 4 which would amend the Emergency Management Act, specifically section 81-829.42 to authorize the Adjutant General to make certain emergency expenditures; and to repeal the original section.

The hearing is scheduled for Jan. 27 at 1:30 p.m. Similar to the current law that outlines the authority for aerial suppression, this addition, if enacted, would include hazmat response.

According to **Tonya Ngotel**, coordinator for the State Emergency Response Commission, "The call down procedure of a hazmat team, identified as a SERT (State Emergency Response Team section 81-829.52) has been a topic within the hazmat community for many years. If approved, this change would allow more timely and seamless transition between the local incident commander and a SERT."

# State Emergency Response Commission Kicks Off New Year with Jan. 3 Meeting

**Keith Hansen** was elected as the new chair and **Tim Hofbauer** was elected as vice chair of SERC. NEMA and SERC would like to thank **Dick Christensen** and **Dana Miller** for their many years of combined service on the commission.

SERC has several projects lined up for 2012, including four LEPC workshops, three SERC meetings, hazmat exercises and trainings. For a complete list, check the SERC web site.



### 2012 LEPC Workshops:

- April 3-4 Scottsbluff \*\* Will include a SERC meeting April 3 at 1 p.m.
- June 15-16 Ainsworth
- June 28-29 Norfolk
- July 12-13 York \*\* Will include a SERC meeting July 12 at 1p.m.

TIER II season is upon us. Postcards were sent out by NDEQ to the facilities required to report under EPCRA. TIER II reports are due to NDEQ by March 1. LEPC annual reports are required to be sent to the SERC by April 1. Questions should be directed to **Mark Lohnes**, NDEQ, 402-471-4251; or **Tonya Ngotel**, NEMA, 402-471-7176.

## Big-box retailers and disaster recovery

Think that the private sector is clueless when it comes to disasters? [Read this article from Government Technology](#). "What Big-Box Retailers Can Teach Government About Disaster Recovery."



### Fredstrom Second Graders Learn About NEMA

A few of the approximately 100 second grade students at Fredstrom Elementary who heard from NEMA planner Alisia LaMay (right) pose in front of NEMA maps. The second graders learned about what the letters NEMA stands for, what NEMA does, what a disaster is, what the difference between a disaster and an emergency is and why planning for both is important. The second graders saw pictures of past disasters; they learned about the importance of school and being able to read, write and do math for a NEMA planner's job.





Nebraska Emergency Management Agency's Earl Imler, manager of the response and recovery section, talks during a League of Municipalities conference at Embassy Suites on Jan. 11. He discussed NEMA and the State of Nebraska's response to disasters.



Ernest Doyle of Interop Solutions delivers a course on Paraclete equipment troubleshooting at NEMA on Jan. 20.

## Management Association Learns How Nebraska Uses NIMS

Members of the Lincoln Chapter of the Management Association of Lincoln learn how NEMA used the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to respond to flooding that occurred along the Platte and Missouri rivers during the spring and summer of 2011, from Public Information Officer Jodie Fawl, at their monthly meeting, Jan. 10.





Citizen Corps is the Federal Emergency Management Agency's grassroots strategy to bring together government and community leaders to involve citizens in all-hazards emergency preparedness and resilience.

Citizen Corps asks you to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety.



**Ryan Lowry**  
State Citizen Corps  
Coordinator

## Nebraska Citizen Corps: Building on the Successes of 2011

*by Ryan Lowry*  
State Citizen Corps  
Coordinator

The Nebraska Citizen Corps Program had a great 2011.

This past August, Scotts Bluff County hosted the first annual Nebraska Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Conference. Volunteers from across the state traveled to Scottsbluff for two days of training on search and rescue techniques.

The conference ended with a search and rescue exercise held at the Scotts Bluff National Monument. We received great feedback from the attendees and are in the process of planning this year's conference in Grand Island for Aug. 17-18.

We're hoping to grow the conference with each year, as a new host highlights their program's strengths to volunteers in Nebraska.

September is National Preparedness Month, and in 2011 Citizen Corps Councils across the state participated in or hosted a number of activities to bring preparedness education to their communities.

Volunteers were also given recognition through the Lt. Governor's Be Prepared Awards. Citizen Corps Councils nominated individuals and partner organizations for the awards which

were presented to the recipients at the Capitol on Sept. 15.

This year, the planning for National Preparedness Month has already begun. Councils are working hard to plan events and activities in their communities that will highlight the importance of preparedness.

Last year the Nebraska Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) received a grant from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). These funds were used to create four short videos that can be used to promote the MRC and the work that it does across the state.

We are near the final editing stages for the videos and have plans to release them in 2012 through local media as well as social media outlets. By highlighting the efforts of the MRC, we hope to recruit more volunteers into this important partner program.

In 2011, the Nebraska Citizen Corps Program saw a number of successes. We hope to continue building on those successes as the year unfolds.

I am looking forward to working with the Councils across the state this year, as I know it will be an exciting and productive 2012.

If you are interested in the Citizen Corps Program, or any of its partner programs, please contact me at:

[ryan.lowry@nebraska.gov](mailto:ryan.lowry@nebraska.gov)

## Citizen Corps Regional 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](mailto:director@volunteerpartners.org)

### East Central Region

**Tim Hofbauer - Director**

City of Columbus\Platte County  
Emergency Management  
2610 14th Street  
Columbus, NE 68601  
402-564-1206

[pцем@megavision.com](mailto:pцем@megavision.com)

### North Central Region

**Lynn Beland**

343 "G" Street  
Burwell, NE 68827  
308-214-0790

[beland@nctc.net](mailto:beland@nctc.net)

### South Central Region

**Jon Rosenlund - Director**

City of Grand Island/Hall County  
Emergency Management  
100 East First Street  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
308-385-5362

[jonr@grand-island.com](mailto:jonr@grand-island.com)

### Panhandle Region

**Jessica Davies**

Wellness/Volunteer Coordinator  
Panhandle Public Health District  
PO Box 337  
808 Box Butte Avenue  
Hemingford, NE 69348  
308-487-3600

[jdavies@pphd.org](mailto:jdavies@pphd.org)

## New Training Officers Begin Offering Classes

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency's new training staff: **Roger Conrad, Rod Hutt** and **Chuck Chase** began their training careers with NEMA at the Seward County Dispatch Center in Seward on Jan. 12.

The Paraclete training performed in Seward kicks off a busy month with other classes scheduled in Red Willow, Lancaster, and Furnas counties.

Dispatchers attending the inaugural training were pleased.

"Presenters were fun," wrote one attendee, "They had a positive attitude and worked well together while presenting."

"The new exercise training officers have learned the material quickly and are ready to provide quality instruction," said **Dave Reisen** training and exercise supervisor.

On Jan. 18 Conrad and Chase performed Paraclete training to dispatchers in Fillmore County.

"I thought it was good," said Conrad about their first solo venture.

"I had great confidence in their skills and abilities on their 'maiden voyage,' Reisen said.



**Chuck Chase fields questions from dispatchers at the Seward County Dispatch Center.**

Next week the training staff will be travelling to Furnas and Red Willow Counties for a Paraclete road trip.

The trainees will be travelling to additional counties in February including: Chase, Perkins and Hitchcock.



**Roger Conrad presents Paraclete training to dispatchers in Fillmore county.**

# Spokesperson Training Offered in North Platte

Training offered through NEMA helped local emergency management officials to be better prepared to deliver critical information to the public.

The training held Jan. 10 at the North Platte Community College's north campus was presented by **Dr. Ronald Edmond**, national security and emergency management group manager for the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education in Tennessee.

Edmond's said understanding the importance of establishing trust and credibility when communicating to the media and the public in times of crisis is paramount.

Law enforcement officers, firefighters, school and city administrators and health department staff were among those who attended the course.

"Our goal is to establish trust and credibility," Edmond said. "Be first, be right and be credible. Communication is a skill."

Edmond urged officials to strike the words "yes," "no" and "no comment" from their vocabularies when working with reporters and to instead focus on three main things: what happened, the impact it had and what was done to address it.

"Even if you don't have all the information, you know something about what's going on," he said. "When you say 'no comment,' you're automatically guilty. It raises suspicions."

Clear, concise messages can be delivered in 27 words, said Edmonds. For television and radio audiences, that's a nine-second sound bite.

"The average person speaks at three words per second," said Edmond. "Sometimes less is more, just make sure you don't exclude your audience



**Ron Edmond**

by using high-level language they don't understand."

NEMA's Technical Hazards Section Manager Jon Schwarz scheduled the class after hearing Edmond at a conference in Chicago. The course was offered in Lincoln in February 2011. The workshop was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), Carlsbad, N.M.

"Offering risk communications training opportunities for people in a position to talk to the public and media in high stress situations including disasters, emergency and radiological accidents is imperative," Schwarz said.

"Presenting the right message in a timely manner during emergency-related events is critical. Those who were unable to attend missed a great course," said Schwarz. "We want to do another class, perhaps a three-day course, at some point in time in central Nebraska, provided funding becomes available."



Picture submitted by Alma Beland, Region 26

## Cell Phone Forensics Class offered

The North Central Planning, Exercise and Training (PET) Region sponsored a Cell Phone Forensics Class by the Public Agency Training Council (PATC) for Law Enforcement in Broken Bow from Jan 9-13. The class, for sheriffs, police and state patrol in the North Central Region had 23 different jurisdictions represented for the full-week of training.

# 2012 Severe Storm Spotter Training

## Hastings Office

For more information contact **Mike Moritz** [michael.moritz@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.moritz@noaa.gov) or [local emergency management office](http://local.emergency.management.office).

### February

Day	City, County	Time	Location
28	TBA (Fillmore )	6:30 p.m. CST	Location TBD
29	Hastings (Adams )	6:30 p.m. CST	Hastings Police Station Auditorium

### March

Day	City, County	Time	Location
1	Bruning (Thayer )	6:30 p.m. CST	Bruning Opera House, 141 South Fillmore
5	Loup City (Sherman )	6:30 p.m. CST	Loup City Fire Hall
6	North Loup (Valley )	6:30 p.m. CST	Fire Hall
7	TBA (Gosper )	6:30 p.m. CST	Location TBD
8	TBA (Buffalo )	6:30 p.m. CST	Location TBD
12	York (York )	6:30 p.m. CDT	4-H Building, York Fairgrounds
14	TBA (Phelps )	6:30 p.m. CDT	Location TBD
15	Central City (Merrick )	6:30 p.m. CDT	Location TBD
19	Farwell (Howard )	6:30 p.m. CDT	Farwell Fire Hall, South End of Main Street
20	TBA (Dawson )	6:30 p.m. CDT	Location TBD
21	Axtell (Kearney )	6:30 p.m. CDT	Axtell Fire Hall
22	TBA (Clay )	6:30 p.m. CDT	Location TBD
24	Holdrege (Phelps )	8:30am CDT	This is an Advanced Severe Weather Talk expected to last 3 to 4 hours.
26	Aurora (Hamilton )	6:30 p.m. CDT	Aurora Fire Hall
27	Arapahoe (Furnas )	6:30 p.m. CDT	Ella Missing Center 411 6th Street
28	Grand Island (Hall )	6:30 p.m. CDT	City Hall - Council Chambers
31	Aurora (Hamilton )	8:30am CDT	This is an Advanced Severe Weather Talk expected to last 3 to 4 hours.

### April

Day	City, County	Time	Location
2	Wolbach (Greeley )	6:30 p.m. CDT	Wolbach Fire Hall
4	Fullerton (Nance )	6:30 p.m. CDT	Location TBD
5	Blue Hill (Webster )	6:30 p.m. CDT	Blue Hill Community Center
9	Superior (Nuckolls )	7:00 p.m. CDT	Superior Fire Hall, 154 West 5th Street
11	TBA (Polk )	6:30 p.m. CDT	Location TBD
16	Alma (Harlan )	6:30 p.m. CDT	Johnson Center, Alma

## North Platte Office

Contact **Teresa Keck** [teresa.keck@noaa.gov](mailto:teresa.keck@noaa.gov) or your local emergency management office for more information.

### February

Day	City, County	Time	Location
20	Brewster (Blaine )	7 p.m. CST	Brewster Fire Hall
<i>Contact Information:</i> Alma Beland 308-942-3461			
23	Imperial (Chase )	6 p.m. MST	EMS Building @ 1235 Grant St.
<i>Contact Information:</i> Paul Kunnemann 308-882-8432			

### March

Day	City, County	Time	Location
1	North Platte (Lincoln )	7 p.m. CDT	Public Safety Personnel Public Service Personnel at the Public
<i>Contact Information:</i> Dan Guenther 505-918-0987			
5	Taylor (Loup )	7 p.m. CST	Loup Fire Hall @ 411 Seventh St.
<i>Contact Information:</i> Alma Beland 308-942-3461			
5	Bartlett (Wheeler )	7:30 p.m. CDT	Bartlett Fire Hall - Tentative
<i>Contact Information:</i> Doug Reiter 308-750-1070			
6	Paxton (Keith )	7 p.m. MST	Paxton Fire Hall @ 110 W Second St.
<i>Contact Information:</i> Neil Johnson 308-284-2011			
8	Sargent (Custer )	7 p.m. CST	Sargent Fire Hall @ 202 N 2nd St.
<i>Contact Information:</i> Shawn Owen 308-202-0043			
12	North Platte (Lincoln )	7 p.m. CDT	HAMS - Public Service Building Conference Room 1st Floor @ 715
<i>Contact Information:</i> Dan Guenther 505-918-0987			
13	Broken Bow (Custer )	7 p.m. CDT	SAFE Meeting at Broken Bow High School
<i>Contact Information:</i> Shawn Owen 308-202-0043			
15	North Platte (Lincoln )	7 p.m. CDT	Public Training at the Public Service Building Conference Room 1st Floor
<i>Contact Information:</i> Dan Guenther 505-918-0987			
19	Broken Bow (Custer )	7 p.m. CDT	Broken Bow Fire Department @ 116 S 11 Ave.
<i>Contact Information:</i> Shawn Owen 308-202-0043			
22	Callaway (Custer )	7 p.m. CDT	Callaway Fire Hall on Main St.
<i>Contact Information:</i> Shawn Owen 308-202-0043			
27	Mason City (Custer )	7 p.m. CDT	Mason City Fire Hall @ 409 Main St.
<i>Contact Information:</i> Shawn Owen 308-202-0043			

### April

Day	City, County	Time	Location
3	Burwell (Garfield )	7 p.m. CDT	Burwell High School Commons Area @ 190 I St.
<i>Contact Information:</i> Alma Beland 308-942-3461			
17	Mullen (Hooker )	7 p.m. MDT	Mullen Fire Hall 501 S.W. First St.

The Omaha area National Weather Service listing of classes was included in the December 2011 issue of *The Beacon*. Links to the National Weather Service pages are as follows:

[Hastings](#)

[North Platte](#)

[Omaha](#)

# 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)



## Training Calendar

Course	Date	Location	Contact	More Info
Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT)	Feb. 8	Omaha Public Safety 402-471-7420 Training Facility 11616 Rainwood Road	Jon Schwarz <a href="mailto:jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov">jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov</a>	<a href="#">Flyer</a> <a href="#">Brochure</a>
Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT)	Feb. 9	Omaha Public Safety 402-471-7420 Training Facility 11616 Rainwood Road	Jon Schwarz <a href="mailto:jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov">jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov</a>	<a href="#">Flyer</a> <a href="#">Brochure</a>
Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT)	Feb. 10	Omaha Public Safety 402-471-7420 Training Facility 11616 Rainwood Road	Jon Schwarz <a href="mailto:jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov">jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov</a>	<a href="#">Flyer</a> <a href="#">Brochure</a>
Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT)	April 23	Omaha Public Safety 402-471-7420 Training Facility 11616 Rainwood Road	Jon Schwarz <a href="mailto:jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov">jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov</a>	<a href="#">Flyer</a> <a href="#">Brochure</a>
Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT)	April 23	Omaha Public Safety 402-471-7420 Training Facility 11616 Rainwood Road	Jon Schwarz <a href="mailto:jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov">jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov</a>	<a href="#">Flyer</a> <a href="#">Brochure</a>
Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT)	April 23	Omaha Public Safety 402-471-7420 Training Facility 11616 Rainwood Road	Jon Schwarz <a href="mailto:jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov">jon.schwarz@nebraska.gov</a>	<a href="#">Flyer</a> <a href="#">Brochure</a>

## Other Courses Offered

Course	Date	Location	Contact	More Info
2012 Severe Storm Spotter Training	Multiple Feb.-April	Various Locations	Brian Smith <a href="mailto:brian.e.smith@noaa.gov">brian.e.smith@noaa.gov</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
2012 Severe Storm Spotter Training	Multiple Feb.-April	Various Locations	Teresa Keck <a href="mailto:teresa.keck@noaa.gov">teresa.keck@noaa.gov</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
2012 Severe Storm Spotter Training	Multiple Feb.-April	Various Locations	Mike Mortiz <a href="mailto:michael.moritz@noaa.gov">michael.moritz@noaa.gov</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
ICS - 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents 2012 Severe Storm	Feb. 18-19	LaVista 402-331-4748 <a href="mailto:melanie.smith@alegent.org">melanie.smith@alegent.org</a>	Melanie Smith	<a href="#">Flyer</a>
Spotter Training Region 22	March 20	Scottsbluff	Jerry Bretthauer <a href="mailto:jbrett@scottsbluff.org">jbrett@scottsbluff.org</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>
ICS - 400 Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff-Complex Incidents	April 21-22	LaVista 402-331-4748 <a href="mailto:melanie.smith@alegent.org">melanie.smith@alegent.org</a>	Melanie Smith	<a href="#">Flyer</a>

Complete training information is listed on the [NEMA training page](#).