



The **Beacon**

December 2012

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



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Cover Photo

NEMA Assistant Director Al Berndt, right, points out Operations Room features to Nebraska Senator Mike Johanns as General Daryl Bohac of the Nebraska National Guard looks on.

U.S. Sen. Mike Johanns visited Nebraska Emergency Management Agency on Nov. 28 as part of a tour of the Joint Force Headquarters. Johanns was governor when construction of the facility was first discussed. He was instrumental in securing state funding for the project. (At right) Earl Imler, left, response and recovery section supervisor updates Johanns on the operations room and recent disaster response. In addition to touring the Nebraska National Guard and NEMA offices, Johanns also toured the Nebraska State Patrol Offices. Below he talks to April Scriven, communications supervisor.



On Nov. 28, Federal Emergency Management Agency trainers visited the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide training on the public assistance process. NEMA staff learned about public damage assessment and project writing.



A Helpful Tip for Volunteer Notification

by Ryan Lowry, State Citizen Corps Coordinator

There are a number of messaging systems that allow you to contact large groups of people to notify them in the event of a disaster or emergency – CodeRed, Reverse 911, ESAR-VHP. But these systems may not be available to everyone.

You can also use email to send out text messages to all of your volunteers. All you need is the cell phone number and provider for each person to whom you are sending the message. Each provider has a code that, when combined with the cell number, will send a text directly to that person. See the box in the right column for a list of the cell phone provider codes. So, for example, if your number is 402-555-1234 and your provider is Verizon, you would enter 4025551234@vtext.com in the “To” field of the email.

You can easily create a contact group for all of your volunteers and send a text to each person to notify them for deployments or reminders for training and exercises.

It is important to keep a couple of things in mind.

First, not all volunteers may have a cell phone. Create a back-up plan for notifying them.

Second, those who do have a cell may not wish to receive text notifications for various reasons – for example, having to pay for text messaging. Be sure to explain what your purpose will be for using this form of notification. Be prepared to answer any questions that may come up, such as “Should I text back to let you know I will/will not be available for deployment?” (the answer, is NO. Texting back will not reach the email of the person who sent it.)

Thanks to **Reynolds Davis** who brought this information to a recent Medical Reserve Corps meeting, and for getting the list of provider codes.

For more information contact ryan.lowry@nebraska.gov

Free Email To SMS Gateways (Major US Carriers)

Alltel

[10-digit phone number]@message.alltel.com

Example: 1234567890@message.alltel.com

AT&T (formerly Cingular)

[10-digit phone number]@txt.att.net

[10-digit phone number]@mms.att.net (MMS)

[10-digit phone number]@cingularme.com

Example: 1234567890@txt.att.net

Boost Mobile

[10-digit phone number]@myboostmobile.com

Example: 1234567890@myboostmobile.com

Nextel (now Sprint Nextel)

[10-digit telephone number]@messaging.nextel.com

Example: 1234567890@messaging.nextel.com

Sprint PCS (now Sprint Nextel)

[10-digit phone number]@messaging.sprintpcs.com

[10-digit phone number]@pm.sprint.com (MMS)

Example: 1234567890@messaging.sprintpcs.com

T-Mobile

[10-digit phone number]@tmomail.net

Example: 1234567890@tmomail.net

US Cellular

[10-digit phone number]@email.uscc.net (SMS)

[10-digit phone number]@mms.uscc.net (MMS)

Example: 1234567890@email.uscc.net

Verizon

[10-digit phone number]@vtext.com

[10-digit phone number]@vzwpx.com (MMS)

Example: 1234567890@vtext.com

Virgin Mobile USA

[10-digit phone number]@vmobl.com

Example: 1234567890@vmobl.com



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Winter Readiness

Even though we're off to a mild start to winter this December, it's better to be safe than sorry and make some preparations for winter and the weather it typically brings to Nebraska.

INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Before the watches and warnings are issued, prepare a winter storm plan that will enable you and your family to survive for up to 72 hours without any outside assistance.

- Ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves and mittens, hat and water-resistant boots.
- Make sure all family members know what to do when a winter storm watch or warning is issued.
- Assemble **A Disaster Supplies Kit** For Your Home Containing: flashlight and extra batteries; portable, battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio and AM/FM radio; and extra batteries; a first aid kit; one-week supply of food (include items that do not require refrigeration or cooking in case of power loss); nonelectric can opener; bottled water; one-week supply of essential prescription medications, extra blankets and sleeping bags and a fire extinguisher.
- Develop an emergency communications plan. In case family members are separated from one another during a winter storm (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact". After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure all family members know the name, address and phone number of the contact person.
- Make sure all family members know how to respond after a severe winter storm. Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, the police or fire department and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.
- If you must be outdoors during winter conditions: Dress warmly. Wear loose-fitting, layered, light-weight clothing. Layers can be removed to prevent perspiration and chill. Outer garments should be tightly woven and water resistant. Mittens are warmer than gloves and are recommended. If you go out to shovel snow, do a few stretching exercises to warm up your body. Also take frequent breaks. For those with heart problems or those who lead a sedentary lifestyle, be careful of over exertion and heart attack. Be aware of the symptoms of dehydration. Protect your lungs from extremely cold air by covering your mouth. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses all of its insulating value and transmits heat rapidly.
- Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance, like infants, the elderly and people with disabilities.
- NEMA urges everyone to purchase a NOAA weather radio. Program the device to your county and get the latest information from the National Weather Service--the same information that emergency managers receive.

FOR MORE WINTER TIPS, VISIT
[NEMA'S WINTER PREPAREDNESS PAGE](#)

The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

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Governor Dave Heineman

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Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy

Director: Major 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 and includes emergency management news and activities from across the state. Forward story ideas or photos for inclusion to:

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Be Ready
NEBRASKA



Preparing your family is a
reason to smile!

Emergencies and disasters can strike at unexpected moments and it's important to take the time now to do some simple things to prepare for emergency situation and keep your family safe during disasters.

Emergency Planning for:

- Family
- Pet Owner
- Agriculture
- Senior Citizen
- Functional Need
- Business
- School
- Healthcare Facility

START A FAMILY PLAN

to learn more about our preparedness programs.



Visit

www.bereadynebraska.com/

to learn how you can be prepared!

Local Emergency Management Facebook and Twitter Page Links

- [Adam County Facebook](#)
- [Douglas County Facebook](#)
- [Douglas County Twitter](#)
- [Hall County Facebook](#)
- [Hall County Twitter](#)
- [Hamilton County Facebook](#)
- [Hamilton County Twitter](#)
- [Lincoln County Facebook](#)
- [Platte County Facebook](#)
- [Region 15 Twitter](#)
- [Saline County Facebook](#)

Local Emergency Management Website Links

- [BeReadyNebraska](#)
- [Adams County](#)
- [Buffalo County/City of Kearney](#)
- [Cass County](#)
- [Dawson County](#)
- [Douglas County](#)
- [Fillmore County](#)
- [Hall County/City of Grand Island](#)
- [Jefferson County](#)
- [Kearney County](#)
- [Keith County](#)
- [Lancaster County](#)
- [Phelps County](#)
- [Region 5/6](#)
- [Region 11](#)
- [Region 22](#)
- [Region 24](#)
- [Region 26](#)
- [Sarpy County](#)

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