



# The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

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## Cover Photo

*More than 50 of Nebraska's state-level emergency management and state agency personnel attended a recent training and exercise opportunity at the newly opened State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Lincoln.*

## State Emergency Responders Complete Emergency Operation Center Training

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA – More than 50 of Nebraska’s state-level emergency management and state agency personnel attended a recent training and exercise opportunity at the newly opened State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Lincoln.

The goal of this training was to provide the staff an opportunity to work in a new environment. “We have opened a facility on the campus of the Air National Guard base near the Lincoln Municipal Airport,” said Al Berndt, assistant director, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. “This course will allow us to see how well we can operate in this environment before we experience an actual event.”

The course brings together personnel who staff the SEOC during an incident. The goal of this training-based exercise event is to provide a challenging scenario that is realistic, as well as provides an opportunity to test existing plans.

“This class provided us a chance to review our emergency operations plans against a realistic, plausible scenario,” said Berndt. “During the course, we were able to identify where everything worked according to our plan and a couple of places that we need to improve. Overall, it showed that we have a great team and work very well

together.”

The scenario the SEOC faced included a natural disaster event, a major motor vehicle accident on Interstate-80, and an agricultural event. These plausible incidents tested the state’s ability to organize and direct emergency response assets, and to have them sent to where they were needed the most.

The state’s dedication to an efficient response was evident in the number of state agencies and National Guard members who participated in the four-day course. Participants were eager to apply existing, and new, knowledge to their current response plans, and they efficiently handled the challenges presented by their instructors.

“When many agencies or departments respond to a realistic scenario, it is important to understand the challenge before you, and then assign appropriate resources, both personnel and materials, to handle it,” said **Dave Reisen**, training and exercise unit supervisor, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

“Because of this training, we not only will know the people we’re likely to work with when an event happens, but we’ll also better understand our roles and how best to communicate our needs.”



## Four Nebraskans Attend National Symposium on Training

Learning about emergency management and homeland security courses available free-of-charge to states was the main focus of a symposium attended by four Nebraskans, Dec. 11-13, in Anniston, Ala.,

**Jon Rosenlund**, Grand Island/Hall County Emergency Management Agency, **Micki Nienhueser**, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, **Carla Schreiber**, Nebraska State Patrol, and **Chuck Chase**, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, attended the 2012 National State Administrative Agency Training workshop.

Sponsored by the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), the symposium outlined training opportunities for the response and preparedness community.

Texas A&M, the University of Hawaii, the Naval Post Graduate School, Louisiana State University and the Center for Domestic Preparedness were among the institutions that showcased educational courses they offer.

The symposium offered Chase, a NEMA exercise training officer, insight on available courses to help Nebraska



**Carla Schreiber, Nebraska State Patrol, Micki Nienhueser, Nebraska Department of Agriculture and Jon Rosenlund, Grand Island/Hall County Emergency Management Agency, take notes on iPads on loan from the Center for Domestic Preparedness.**

emergency managers.

“Shortly after returning from the symposium, an emergency manager (EM) mentioned his interested in offering a search-pattern course,” Chase said. “Since I had participated in just such a course at the symposium, I was able to connect the EM to the right

institution. I brought back a great deal of experience and information that will help our state get valuable training.”

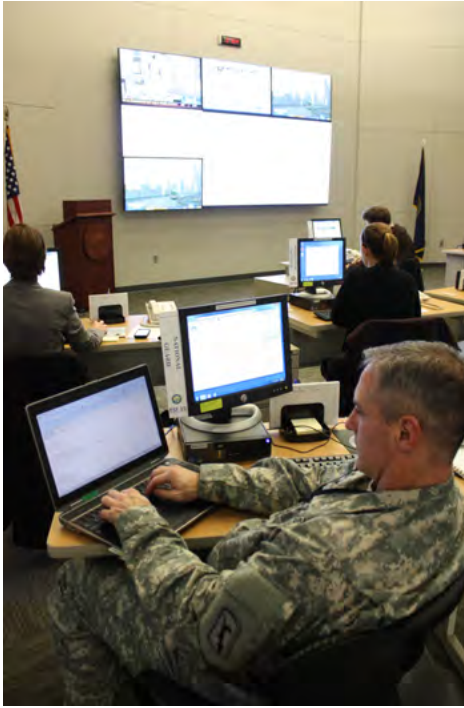
A list of free and approved training courses from these and other schools can be found on the FEMA Website at <https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov/catalog.do?a=nted>



**Jon Rosenlund, center, tours a Center for Domestic Preparedness mock restaurant used for training.**



**A control operator at the Center for Domestic Preparedness provides monitors training rooms.**



**Call-Up Exercise Conducted**  
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency conducted an exercise Jan. 3 of its call-up procedures for activation of its new emergency operations center. Representatives from the essential support functions agencies, and organizations who would report to the facility following a disaster, responded to the facility in a test of security, check-in procedures and connectivity.

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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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## Nebraska is First Site for Rural Mortician and Funeral Director Training

A training sponsored by the Nebraska Funeral Directors Association and the York Emergency Management Association is being offered **Feb. 27 at Chances R, 124 W. Fifth in York, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

*Mass Fatality Planning and Response for Rural Morticians and Funeral Directors* is an 8-hour course designed to prepare rural morticians and funeral directors in assisting local authorities as they respond to a mass fatalities incident.

Materials in this course can assist rural morticians and funeral directors in working with their local officials in the development of mass fatality response plans.

The target audience for this course is local morticians/funeral directors and responders who will have responsibility for the timely and respectful recovery, handling, identification, and return of remains following a mass fatalities incident.

To Register visit: [www.ruraltraining.org](http://www.ruraltraining.org).

## Training Opportunities

Check out NEMA's [Training Calendar](#)

### For Upcoming Classes

If you would like to include a course on the calendar please send the information to:

[dave.reisen@nebraska.gov](mailto:dave.reisen@nebraska.gov)

## IPAWS NEWS

Written Guidance for the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) will be announced soon.

A statewide webinar on IPAWS featuring the application process, basic information, and a FEMA Q&A is scheduled Jan. 31 at 9 a.m. CST.

In addition, upgrades to Paraclete 8.0 are scheduled in February to facilitate IPAWS integration.

For more details, please contact **Alisia LaMay, (402) 471-7425** or [alisia.lamay@nebraska.gov](mailto:alisia.lamay@nebraska.gov).