



February 2014

The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



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Cover Photo: Congressional Staff Get An Update on Nebraska's Latest Disaster Declaration

Federal Emergency Management Agency staff from Region VII in Kansas City and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff updated Nebraska's congressional staff on FEMA-4156-DR-NE, the severe storms, winter storms, tornadoes and flooding that struck Nebraska in October, in a meeting at NEMA. Federal Coordinating Officer **Libby Turner**, State Coordinating Officer **Earl Imler** and External Affairs Officer **Mike Cappannari** answered questions regarding the disaster that affected 13 Nebraska counties.

NEW Directors in Custer and Webster Counties



Mark Rempe
Custer County
Director

Mark Rempe says he's a hometown boy returning to Custer County to work as director of emergency management.

Rempe is originally from Oconto and went to high school in Calloway.

Prior to returning to Custer County, Rempe served as the "A" shift lieutenant for the Liberal Fire Department in Liberal, Kans.

"I kind of wanted a quiet start to learn the ropes of emergency management," said Rempe.

With five wild fires in his first weeks on the job, a quiet start is not what he got.

"Everyone has been patient with this extremely green person."

Rempe attended Southeast Community College in Lincoln for fire service.



Ron Sunday
Webster County
Director

Ron Sunday, chief deputy for Webster County, is the county's new emergency management director.

Sunday has been in law enforcement for 16 years. He studied criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and started his career in the Adams County Sheriff's Office before transferring to the Hastings Police Department.

Sunday's been a deputy in Webster County for 10 years, the last three as chief deputy.

"I think my background in law enforcement is a natural fit for emergency manager, since we are constantly responding to emergencies and making several decisions at once."

"I have a wife of 16 years and two children. In my spare time I enjoy fishing and hunting."

NEMA's New Planning Specialists



Molly Bargmann
Planning Specialist
Public Assistance

Molly Bargmann joined NEMA on Feb. 24 as a planning specialist in public assistance.

She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Washington and a master's in public administration specializing in homeland security and emergency management from the University of Colorado in Denver.

Bargmann previously worked for Lee County Emergency Management, in Lee County, Fla., and before that she worked in Adams County, Nebraska.

Bargmann was born in Nebraska and grew up near Seattle. Her husband is also from Nebraska so they are looking forward to being near both of their families.

They have two Dachshunds, named Dinah and Fritz.



Kathleen Silva
Planning Specialist
Grants

Kathleen Silva joined NEMA on Feb. 24 as a planning specialist in the grants section.

Silva is originally from California.

She has her master degree in leadership, emergency preparedness, with an emphasis in fire prevention, and is working on her Ph.D in public safety and emergency management.

Silva has worked for the State of Nebraska since March 2013 and has lived in Nebraska since August 2012.

Silva has previous experience working with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Sacramento, Calif.

Silva has a 3-year old son, Logan, who keeps her busy outside of work and school.



Dan Wills leads the All-Hazards Communications Unit Leader Training (COML) at Nebraska Emergency Management Feb. 5.

Communication Unit Leader Training held at NEMA

L-969 All-Hazards Communications Unit Leader Training (COML) was held at the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Training Rooms, Feb. 4-6.

The course trains emergency responders to serve as radio communications unit leaders during all-hazards emergency operations.

COML responsibilities include devel-

oping plans to effectively use incident communications equipment and facilities, managing distribution of communications equipment to incident personnel, and coordinating the installation and testing of communications equipment.

Participants had public safety communications backgrounds, with

exposure to field operations.

The curriculum included: basic knowledge of local communications and communications systems; frequencies and spectrum; technologies; local topography; system site locations including knowledge of state, regional, and local communication plans; and communications and resource contacts.



A HazMat Operations course led by Bill Pfeiffer of the Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Training Division, and sponsored by Wayne County Emergency Management was attended by volunteer fire service, public health, hospital, law enforcement, personnel, as well as county elected officials and emergency management representatives.



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Governor Dave Heineman

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Lt. Governor Lavon Heidemann

NEMA Director

Major General Daryl Bohac

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

The Beacon is published monthly and includes emergency management news and activities from across the state. Please forward story ideas or photos for inclusion to:

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Nebraska

Severe Weather Awareness Week

March 24-28, 2014

Tornado Drill March 26

Severe Weather Awareness Week provides opportunities for the public, government and private businesses to raise awareness, prepare, test and practice procedures for what to do during a severe weather event.

As long as no severe weather is expected or occurring, the statewide tornado drill will be conducted by the National Weather Service on Wednesday, March 26th between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. CDT (9 a.m. to 10 a.m. MDT). [Check here for the tornado drill timeline.](#)

Storms Spotter Talks

The National Weather Service offices in Nebraska have listed storm spotter trainings on their websites:

[North Platte 2014 Storm Spotter Training Schedule](#)

[Omaha/Valley 2014 Severe Storm Spotter Training](#)

[Hastings Weather Awareness Presentations](#)

NEMA Training Schedule

Check out the [NEMA Training Calendar](#) for emergency management related courses in Nebraska.

To register for a training course, click on the course name or registrar's email. Follow the link in the details column for more information. Students unable to attend a course they have enrolled in must notify the registrar.