



# The Beacon

Summer 2014

## Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



Bryan Tuma, left, was named assistant director of NEMA after Al Berndt, above, announced his retirement.

Three federally declared disasters were approved this summer. Pilger, at right, was hard hit by tornadoes on June 16.



**September is National Preparedness Month**  
**Be Disaster Aware. Take Action to Prepare.**

# Tuma named New Assistant Director,

The former head of the Nebraska State Patrol was tapped by **Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac**, Nebraska Military Department adjutant general, to become the next assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

**Bryan Tuma**, who served as the Nebraska State Patrol's superintendent from 2005-11, assumed the post of assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency from Al Berndt, who retired at the end of June. Tuma most recently served as the safety coordinator for Dupont Pioneer.

"Bryan brings a blend of experiences to the position of assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency that will ensure a smooth transition," said Bohac, who, as the Nebraska Military Department adjutant general, also serves as the director of NEMA. "I am impressed with his knowledge of state government and his past experience in emergency management as the superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. I look forward to working with Bryan in serving the citizens of the State of Nebraska."

A native of Columbus and a 1977 graduate of the University of Nebras-

ka-Lincoln, with a major in Criminal Justice, Tuma was commissioned in the Nebraska State Patrol on Nov. 2, 1979. Tuma then went on to serve in a variety of command assignments with the Nebraska State Patrol, including director of training and troop area commander in the Field Services Division at Troop C headquarters in Grand Island and administrative services manager, before being named to assume command of the Nebraska State Patrol by Gov. Dave Heineman in May 2005. During his tenure with the Nebraska State Patrol, Tuma was assigned emergency management and homeland security responsibilities. This assignment also included work on the Nebraska state-wide radio project.

At the time of his selection, Tuma served on the Governor's Leadership Group on Terrorism and as the Nebraska State Patrol's point of contact on the coordination of homeland security efforts within the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Tuma is also a 1993 graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy.

Tuma, who since 2011 has been engaged in monitoring and implement-

ing a wide range of worker safety programs at Dupont Pioneer, said he's eager to join the staff of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency as its assistant director.

"I am looking forward to working with the staff at NEMA and continuing to address the emergency management and homeland security issues of the state of Nebraska," Tuma said. "The partnerships with local, state and federal representatives are critical to the effective response in Nebraska and I want to continue to strengthen those relationships."

As the assistant director of NEMA, Tuma is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the agency and overseeing the state's response to state and federally-declared disasters and emergencies.

Tuma is married to his wife, Judy, and has two children, his son Benjamin, and his daughter Nicole Osborne. Tuma is an avid motorcyclist, enjoys a number of outdoor activities related to hunting, archery, fishing, and as much golf as his schedule permits. Most of all he enjoys spending time with his family and friends.

## *Hello Partners in Emergency Management:*

The support I've received during my first months as assistant director has been tremendous. I was immediately reminded of the wealth of talent and knowledge Nebraska has available for emergency management response. I worked with many of you during my years with the State Patrol and I look forward to re-establishing our working relationships as well as meeting new colleagues as we join together on this important mission.

I was very excited to accept this position and start working with local emergency management directors as well as NEMA staff and essential support function partners from other state agencies and organizations. We have great resources in place to respond to disasters and emergencies. Using the plans and procedures that are already established, we can successfully respond to a variety of emergencies.

Our mission to: reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska from the damage, injury and loss of life and property resulting from natural, technological or man-made disasters and emergencies is one best achieved by cooperatively working together. I look forward to our collaboration.



**Bryan Tuma**  
Assistant Director

# NEMA's Al Berndt Retires

Al Berndt's tenure at Nebraska Emergency Management Agency was one big disaster after another.

After all, the state did have 30 federally declared disasters while Berndt was assistant director.

The disasters started with fires in Chadron and Crawford in the fall of 2000 and continued through more fires, ice storms, floods and ended, for Berndt, with severe weather and tornadoes this spring.

Berndt retired as assistant director of NEMA at the end of June. He was appointed to the position by Major Gen. Stanley Heng in March 2000.

Berndt took the job at NEMA after retiring from the Lincoln Police Department, where he served for 27 years. At the time of his retirement, he was responsible for supervising the technical investigations, liquor, vice, checks and frauds units.

"It appeared to me that this was an agency that needed some help," Berndt said. "There were a number of things that needed a course correc-



Al Berndt, center, talks with Gov. Dave Heineman and Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons, former adjutant general for the state, at the State Emergency Operation Center during the response to flooding in Spring 2011.

tion."

As assistant director, Berndt successfully oversaw the restructuring of the agency and the implementation of a formalized system of rules, regulations

and standardized operating procedures, while also strengthening the state's relationships with local emergency managers and essential support function partners. That work enabled NEMA to more effectively coordinate the state's response to numerous emergencies, including tornadoes, floods and widespread wildfire outbreaks. Berndt is also credited with starting Nebraska's homeland security program.

In the time before emergency management agencies were introduced to the incident command system which is practiced today, Berndt recognized a need for improved management structures.

"There were no rules or standardized operating procedures at NEMA," Berndt said. "There was no formalized structure for the operation of the emergency operations center."

In addition, Berndt recognized the need for improved facilities. NEMA was

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## Changes at NEMA during Al Berndt's Tenure

- Restructured Agency
- Formalized system of rules, regulations, standard operating procedures
- New Building
- Accreditation
- Strengthened agency in state response to wildfire and other emergencies
- Strengthened relationship and fostered support from essential support function partners
- Established new classification system and professional staff positions
- Strengthened relationships with local emergency managers
- Started state homeland security program
- Instituted comprehensive planning system to review and update local emergency operation plans and state emergency operation plans on a five-year schedule



At a retirement reception, Gov. Dave Heineman, left, declares June 27 as Al Berndt Day in the State of Nebraska.



Gen. Daryl Bohac presents Al Berndt with the Nebraska National Guard Legion of Merit for his exceptional service as NEMA Assistant Director.

operating in a bunker 20-feet underground that hadn't seen new carpet or paint since it was built in the 1960s.

An incident management team responding to a series of fires in Nebraska during fall 2000 opened Berndt's eyes to needed improvements for the agency.

"We really needed to get busy on training and exercise for a comprehensive state response," he said. "In addition, I realized we needed to improve the agency's relationship with local emergency managers."

Despite the need he saw for improvement, Berndt said the agency's staff stepped up when it came to emergency response.

"I've never ceased to be amazed at how hard the NEMA staff works," Berndt said. "It's a very small and dedicated staff who truly care about the welfare of the state. Our response to all those emergencies were possible because of the dedication and professionalism of the NEMA staff."

Berndt was recognized at a ceremony June 27 at the Joint Force Headquarters hosted by Gov. Dave Heineman and Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, who, as adjutant general, serves as the director of NEMA.

Gov. Heineman proclaimed June 27 as Al Berndt Day acknowledging the contributions Berndt made to the citizens of the State of Nebraska during his successful term as assistant director of NEMA and wishing him a well-deserved retirement.

Gen. Bohac presented Berndt with the Nebraska National Guard Legion of Merit for his exceptional service as NEMA's assistant director. The award is rarely given to civilians, Bohac said.

"Al Berndt has done an incredible job in leading the day-to-day operations of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency," Bohac said. "I have

benefited tremendously in working with him. His service to the citizens, local emergency managers and the state has been nothing short of amazing," "We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his unwavering commitment to the safety and welfare of all citizens of our great state."

Berndt worked closely with the governor's office during his years at NEMA and especially with Larry Bare, chief of staff.

"I will miss Al greatly," Bare said "He has been a committed public servant and he has done good work for the citizens of this state."



Al Berndt and his wife, Kathy, share a laugh at a staff potluck in honor of his retirement from NEMA.



Amy Stroh, who has worked at NEMA for 40 years, hugs Al Berndt at his retirement celebration.

# JUNE

**June 1**—and continuing through June 4, storms, tornadoes, winds and flooding affected Cedar, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Franklin, Furnas, Harlan, Kearney, Phelps, Stanton, Thurston and Wayne counties.

**June 14**—through June 21, severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding Cedar, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Franklin, Furnas, Harlan, Kearney, Phelps, Stanton, Thurston and Wayne counties.

**June 16**—Five tornadoes touched down in four northeastern Nebraska Counties. Twin tornadoes, an EF3 and EF4, passed near and through the Village of Pilger, killing two, injuring 20 and destroying homes and businesses.

**Gov. Dave Heineman** declares a state of emergency. Nebraska Emergency Management staff and members of the Nebraska National Guard deploy to assist local emergency responders. Nebraska State Patrol closes all roads into village.

**June 17**—A slow-moving EF3 wedge tornado struck in Cedar County beginning northwest of Coleridge. Power poles, trees, barns, grain bins, a dehydration plant, ball field and homes were damaged or destroyed.

**June 17**—A presidential disaster declaration is approved for severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding May 11-12 in Clay, Fillmore, Saline, Saunders, Seward and York Counties.

**June 20**—The National Weather Service forecasts rain in northeastern Nebraska but levee breaks along the Big Sioux River reduced flood risks.

**June 21**— **Gov. Dave Heineman** traveled by helicopter to survey areas affected by recent storms.

**June 22**—Highway 15 remains closed near Pilger as recovery work continues.

**June 23**—Pilger community meeting in the park updates area residents on recovery programs and upcoming recovery activities.

**June 24**—Shelters remained open at Wakefield and Norfolk. Distribution centers for food, personal hygiene, clothing and other items are remain open

**June 27**—The second of two applicant briefings for disaster DR 4169 (Mother's Day Storm) is held in Saunders County.

**June 30**—Distribution centers are over capacity due to abundance of donations.

# JULY

**July 2**—Heavy equipment work continues in Pilger.

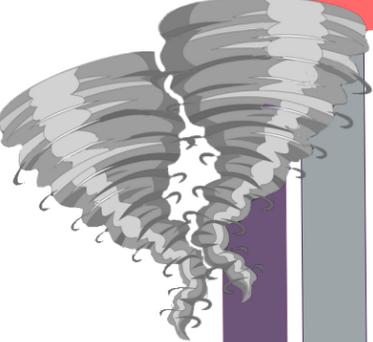
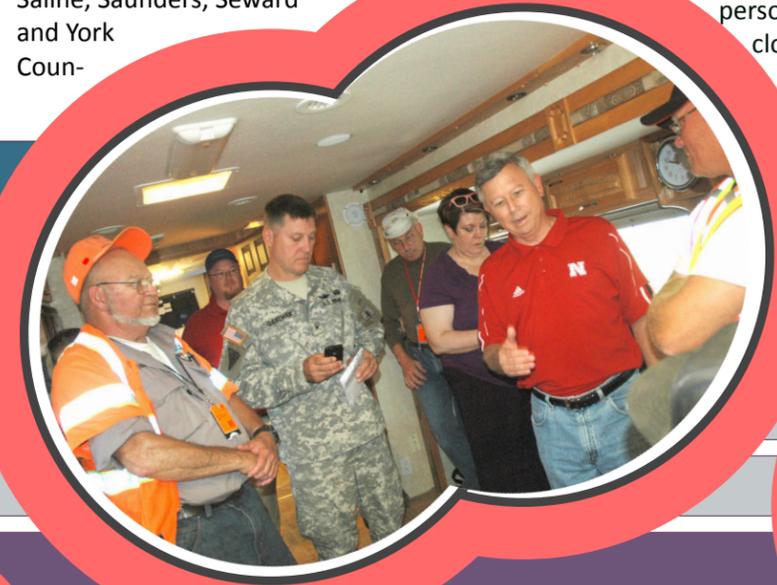
**July 10**—Volunteers for tornado cleanup in the Dixon County or Wayne continue to be coordinated by the United Way of the Midlands 211 program.

**July 23**—Nebraska Department of Insurance staff hold a meeting in Pilger to answer questions about insurance.

**July 24**—A presidential disaster declaration is approved for June 14-21 weather.

**July 28**—A presidential disaster declaration is approved for June 1-4 weather.

**July 31**—Applicant briefings are held in Pilger and Wakefield for Presidential Disaster Declaration DR 4183 (June 14-21).



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**June 18**—Volunteer efforts continue in Pilger, Wakefield and other areas affected by tornado damage. Donation Centers are established to help those who are affected.

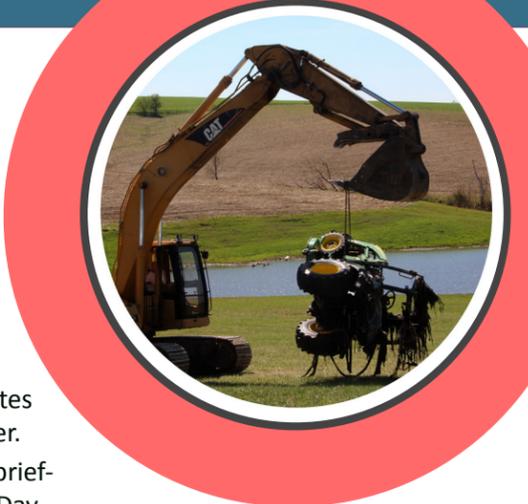
**June 19**—Clean up continues in northeastern Nebraska communities affected by storms. Approximately 1,800 volunteers register to assist with cleanup and recovery efforts. Expected rainfall and rising waters on the Missouri River cause flood warnings to be issued.

in Wisner, Stanton and Wakefield. The 20 Nebraska National Guardsmen and members of the Nebraska Resource Accountability Team and NEMA's field team demobilize from duties in Pilger.

**June 25**—Preliminary damage assessments begin.

**June 26**—The NEMA field team and its mobile operations center completes its final full day of operations in Pilger.

**June 26**—The first of two applicant briefings for disaster DR 4169 (Mother's Day Storm) is held in Beaver Crossing.



# AUGUST

**Aug. 6** —Applicant briefings are held in Wilcox and Oxford for DR 4183 (June 14-21).

**Aug. 7** —The first of two safe room workshops is held in Pilger.

**Aug. 13** —An applicant briefing is held Aug. 13 in Tekamah for DR 4185 (June 1-4 damage).

**Aug. 14** —An applicant briefing is held Aug. 13 in Auburn for DR 4185 (June 1-4 damage).

**Aug. 14** — The Small Business Administration closes its Loan Outreach Center in Stanton. The center was opened to provide personalized assistance to Nebraskans.

**Aug. 20**—The first of two flood information workshops for Northeast Nebraska-area residents is held in Pilger.



Above, saferoom and flood plain workshops in Pilger gave residents information that would be useful as they rebuild their homes.



The Wisner Firefighter and EMS Auxiliary crew worked hard to run the donations center in Wisner and, in turn, appreciated the help they got in the effort.



Donny Christensen, public assistance unit supervisor at NEMA, speaks at an applicant briefing at Tekamah.



Above: The progress of clean up and recovery work in Pilger is shown in the pictures taken two weeks apart.



Right, an aerial shot shows damage to Pilger the day after a tornado tore through the village.



Below: FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Chris Van Alstyne and NEMA Assistant Director Bryan Tuma talk about hazard mitigation options for affected communities.



Mobile operations vehicles in Pilger.



Above and above left, the effects of tornadoes in rural Stanton County.

(Above) Kimberly Neiman, Pilger village clerk/treasurer, spends time with Butler, the Weather Channel comfort dog.



Left, an after action review to discuss what went right and what could be improved in the state's response to the summer disasters was held at the State Emergency Operations Center.



## Gov. Heineman Proclaims Nebraska Preparedness Month State Officials Remind Citizens: Be Disaster Aware

**Gov. Dave Heineman** is reminding citizens to take the time to prepare for emergencies and disasters in September, which he has proclaimed **Nebraska Preparedness Month**. Nebraska Preparedness Month correlates with **National Preparedness Month**.

“When disaster strikes, we need to be prepared to take care of ourselves and our families for at least 72 hours,” Heineman said. “A disaster supply kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Local officials and relief workers may not be able to help everyone immediately after a disaster, so it is recommended that you have your own food, water and supplies. Nebraska Preparedness Month is a good time

to communicate emergency plans with family and friends, and to build a kit or update the one you already have.”

Heineman has a simple message to share, “Be informed. Make a Plan. Build a Kit.”

The governor, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and local emergency managers across the state are urging Nebraskans to plan now for what they would need to do in a disaster and to have a kit of materials to take care of themselves and their families.

“Tornadoes, floods and fires could affect Nebraskans with little or no notice,” said **Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac**, adjutant general of the Nebraska National Guard. “We all need to be

prepared to take care of ourselves and those we care about until help can arrive. The best time to plan and assemble an emergency preparedness kit is right now.”

A national website, [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), has a fill-in-the-blank plan available to make it easy to assemble most of the information needed for personal emergency plans. More information is also available at [www.bereadynebraska.com](http://www.bereadynebraska.com), a site maintained by Nebraska local emergency managers.

“The state’s local emergency managers and NEMA have plans to address a wide range of natural and man-made

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disasters, but individuals and families must be prepared to assume a role in personal health and safety emergency preparedness,” said NEMA Assistant Director Bryan Tuma. “Plans should include where to meet if a home is destroyed and include a list of important personal information, including medical information, for every family member. Our health, and the health of our loved ones, could very well depend on our kit and our plan if there is a major disaster.”

Dr. Joseph Acierno, chief medical officer and director of the Division of Public Health at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services added, “We know planning now saves lives later. Nebraskans can protect themselves and their families by being prepared. We can’t prevent a disaster but we can be better prepared to respond to one.”

“Store your kit and support materials where you can find them easily and move them quickly,” Assistant Director Tuma said. “The best-supplied kit may not do any good if you can’t take

it with you. Consider using a buddy system with nearby families, to help and support one another in the case of emergencies.

NEMA works to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska from the damage, injury and loss of life and property resulting from natural, technological, or man-made disasters and emergencies.

For more information, visit [www.nema.nebraska.gov](http://www.nema.nebraska.gov)

and check out tips for being prepared for severe weather: [www.nema.ne.gov/response-recovery/severe-storm-guide.html](http://www.nema.ne.gov/response-recovery/severe-storm-guide.html) and [www.nema.ne.gov/response-recovery/winter-weather.html](http://www.nema.ne.gov/response-recovery/winter-weather.html)

Follow NEMA on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/nema.page?ref=hl>

and on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/NEMAtweets>

### Items to Include in an Emergency Preparedness Kit

- battery-powered or crank radio
- weather alert radio
- extra batteries
- first aid kit
- sanitary wipes
- dust mask
- water for drinking and sanitation
- water purification tablets
- waterproof matches and/or butane lighter
- crank flashlight
- plastic sheeting
- non-perishable food for at least three days
- disinfectants and medications
- family medical information including details about dosages of required medications and a list of known health issues

It is important to consider a few seasonal needs such as extra water for hydration and bug repellents in the summer and warm clothes and sleeping bags for winter months.

Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for a complete list

# New Beacon Feature Highlights Federally-Funded Projects



The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) would like to reach out to local emergency managers to showcase use of Homeland Security Grant Program dollars within the last year.

Anyone who would like to share information on how grant dollars have been used for planning, exercise and or training within a region is invited to submit information for an article.

NEMA will feature accomplishments in a new section of *The Beacon* entitled Nebraska Homeland Security Grant Program: Federal Funds at Work.

Send us your details and pictures of the event by the 10th of every month. NEMA is looking for a short passage (less than 100 words) that highlights the event, such as the date, grant type and year and participants featured in the pictures; 1-3 photos that concentrate on your event.

Send submissions or questions to: Planning Specialist **Kathleen Silva** at [kathleen.silva@nebraska.gov](mailto:kathleen.silva@nebraska.gov). Questions can also be directed to her at 402-471-7409. **The first features in this series include the emergency response capability at the College World Series (below), the New Emergency Operation Center at Region 26 (page 10), Northeast Nebraska training and a school safety conference (page 11).**

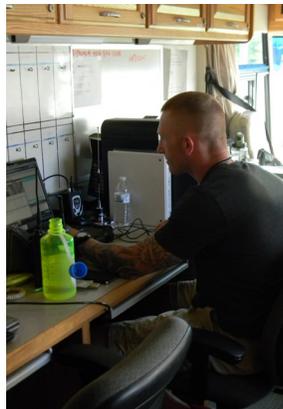
## Federal Funds Help Fund Equipment Used to Provide Security at College World Series

Since the events of 9/11, the state of Nebraska has been the recipient of millions of dollars in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. One way grant funds have been used is to develop a statewide communications system, that establishes protocols and enhances emergency response to a special event, such as the College World Series (CWS) that took place in Omaha in June.

The CWS brings in upwards of 150,000 people, from around the world.

Fans cheer on their favorite teams as the local first responder community works behind the scenes to ensure the safety of all involved. At a joint incident command center, representatives from city and federal law enforcement, city fire, county emergency management, local volunteers and NCAA/CWS staff worked together.

An emergency plan is in place prior to the first tent being staked, the stadium is searched for dangerous items before the players leave their hotels, and roving teams monitor for suspi-



cious activities through the day.

The safety of events such as the CWS has seen great improvements thanks to the equipment which was purchased using DHS grant funds. Fire staff now have a mobile command center in which they can monitor from a distance the events of the day, the bomb squad has a metro emergency response vehicle (MERV) they pre-stage for the CWS, communications have been enhanced with towers, repeaters and handheld radios.

According to Sgt. Matt Manhart of the Omaha Police Department, they

had to use their Open Vision LT mobile explosive detection device this year when a media representative accidentally left his bag outside the stadium. Omaha Police were able to respond quickly and use the open vision device to determine the bag was not a danger and return it to its owner without disruption to the game.

The safety of the players, coaches and fans remain paramount. Planning for 2015 has begun. Emergency responders will continue to train and exercise using the equipment purchased through DHS grant funds.



## Region 26 opens New Emergency Operations Center

Taylor, Nebraska—Alma Beland, coordinator of Region 26 has been unpacking and getting accustomed to her new home at the Region 26

Emergency Operation Center and Communications Center this summer. An open house and ribbon cutting in May 30 kicked off use of the new facility that was built with Homeland Security Grant funds.



## Northeast Region Uses Federal Dollars for Training, Equipment

The Northeast Region has trained more than 100 first responders in advanced NIMS classes, such as ICS 300 and 400, that have been funded by federal planning dollars.

Four counties in the Northeast Region have taken that training and developed NIMS use in planned events, scheduled mobilizations and in natural disasters.

Written incident action plans have been submitted in all of the events by the Northeast Nebraska All-Hazard Support Group. The group is comprised of emergency management staff from Wayne, Thurston, Cedar and Dixon counties.

Wayne County owns a 33-foot FEMA refurbished trailer that is used for response to the above listed events and federal dollars from the region are used to buy support equipment like a 95-foot mobile tower and a “rapid-tag” accountability system to support response efforts.



Above: James Cawood presents on school violence and the changing expectations for schools and law enforcement.

Left: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Assistant Chief of Police Charlotte Evans presents on forming threat assessment teams in schools and communities.

## School Safety Conference Held

More than 90 participants from across the state attended the Nebraska School Safety and Security Conference Aug. 7-8 in Broken Bow.

The conference, which was sponsored by the North Central Planning, Exercise, and Training (PET) Region, highlighted school safety and violence prevention issues for law enforcement and educators, including school violence and the changing environment, threat assessment strategies, implementation of threat assessment teams, suicide prevention, and bullying prevention and safety.

Presenters at the conference included:

**James Cawood**, president of Factor One, who has more than 25 years experience in violence risk assessment, threat assessment, security consulting, and investigations;

**Dr. Mario Scalora**, a forensic psychologist with extensive collaborative threat assessment experience with counterterrorism and law enforcement agencies such as the Counterintelligence Field Activity Office of the Department Of Defense, United States Capitol Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Nebraska State Patrol;

**Charlotte Evans**, assistant chief of police at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department, with more than 23 years of experience;



**Joseph Wright**, director of security at Lincoln Public Schools and retired captain in the Lincoln Police Department; and

**Jill Schubauer**, a youth systems of care specialist with Region 3 behavioral health services; and

Representatives of RESPECT, a non-profit organization in Nebraska started in 2000 that uses theatre to address bullying and build healthy relationships also presented.

The Nebraska School Safety & Security Conference is part of the North Central PET Region's efforts to promote school safety and security by engaging stakeholders in safety and security planning, providing training, and creating access to resources.

For more information, please visit the project website at: <http://home-landplanning.nebraska.edu/pet-regions/northcentral/SchoolSafety.php>.

# Ground-to-Air Communications Tested

A two-day combined joint domestic operation with representatives of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, the Nebraska National Guard and local law enforcement was tested at Camp Ashland and Mead.

The NEMA mobile operations center (MOC) and the Joint Operations Center MOC deployed to Ashland with the 155th Air Refueling Wing emergency operations center and A Co. 376th AVN. NEMA's mobile operations trailer set up in Mead.

The event tested search and rescue capabilities and interoperable communications, according to NEMA's **Dave Reisen**, exercise and training unit supervisor.

"Communication interoperability has been successful between all stakeholders," Reisen said. "It's a good opportunity to train with assets across the military and local law enforcement. It's an opportunity for NEMA staff to develop a skill set in the field."

It was the first time the groups had held a combined joint operations between the JOC, guard aviation and NEMA.



The Nebraska Military Department conducted an air-to-ground communications exercise that included forward forward looking infrared radar (FLIR) capabilities on the UH72 Lakota at Camp Ashland.

**Chief Warrant Officer Boe Searight** said the training brought participants together.

"We need stuff like this to get rid of any disconnect," he said. "We need more training like this with everyone involved to see all the capabilities."

The scenario used in the exercise allowed for testing communications abilities between air and ground. The UH72 Lakota, a light utility helicopter, was able to send infrared images during a search and rescue mission to personnel on the ground.



Brandon Burton, an exercise training officer with NEMA, and Sgt. Kelly Alexander of the Joint Operations Center, work together at Camp Ashland.



NEMA's mobile operations center set up at Camp Ashland for the combined joint exercise.

# Local Emergency Manager UPDATE



James (Jim) Davidsaver, has been named Lancaster County emergency manager, replacing Doug Ahlberg who retired this last spring. A captain with the Lincoln Police Department, Davidsaver was responsible for the field management and supervision of all on-duty police department personnel. He was also the emergency management/disaster preparedness coordinator.

“I look forward to the challenge of serving as Lancaster County’s director of emergency management,” Davidsaver said. “Working with all members of the community, I am focused on maintaining our high quality of life while ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all Lancaster County residents.”



Brandon Myers was named Lincoln County emergency management director in June. A former police officer in North Platte, Myers replaced Tammy Duggar who was serving as interim director after Dan Guenther’s resignation.

“Every book has a scenario of this is how we should work, but that’s not how every scenario plays out, you have to be able to think and change stuff up and that’s something I have done before,” Myers said.

Myers says his goal is to make sure Lincoln County has the latest up to date plans when responding to natural disasters.



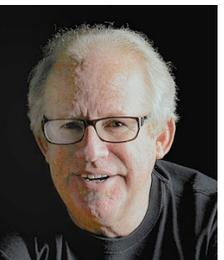
Brad Baker, chief deputy of the Nuckolls County Sheriff’s Department has taken on the duties and responsibilities of emergency manager for the county. Baker has been with the department since 1993 and is sheriff-elect for the coming year. He started with the Superior Police Department in 1991 and has been in law enforcement ever since.

“As the 911 administrator and sheriff, I’m part of every emergency of the county anyway, so I think this will be a good fit.”



Tim Stutzman assumed the job of director of emergency management in Gage County on June 2. He previously served as the director of emergency management in Nuckolls County for three years.

“I’m looking forward to continuing the program that Mark Meints developed here in Gage County.”



Bill Pook has accepted the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) appointment to serve on the board of the National Alliance for Radiation Readiness (NARR). He said he plans to open communication channels from the NARR to radiological emergency preparedness (REP) stakeholders. Pook also reports that there is a new LinkedIn page for those interested in REP. The group is open to REP stakeholders from all levels, Industry, federal, state and local.



Kirt Smith speaks at the Livestock Emergency Disease Response System conference in Grand Island, July 9. The South Center Planning Exercise and Training Region used its mobile express/rapid tag system to track the attendees and speakers. It provided an opportunity to train those in the region who do not have the system.



NEMA Preparedness Section Manager Nikki Weber updates members of the Nebraska Homeland Security Council on the Homeland Security Grant Program at a quarterly meeting in Lincoln.

# NEMA LOG

**Grass/Timber Wildland Fire/Banner County/Wildcat Hills/Aug. 24** - A fire, designated as the "Gabe Rock Fire" burned approximately 3,200 acres. **Tornado Warning/Dundy and Hitchcock Counties/Aug. 24** - No damage.

**Nebraska National Guard Aviation Exercise/Aug. 12** NEMA participated in an exercise, at Camp Ashland and Mead, with the Saunders County Sheriff, Army and Air National Guard.

**Severe Weather/Aug. 9-10** – Heavy rains caused flash flooding and road damage in Thomas County. Same system also caused flash flooding in Buffalo County, specifically Kearney and the Good Samaritan Hospital.

**Tornado Warning/Aug. 9** – Tornado Warning for Custer, Lincoln, and Logan Counties.

**Exercise Cooper Aug. 5** – Cooper Nuclear Station held an evaluated exercise.

**Rollover Accident / Custer County/Aug. 3**– Rollover accident prompted an aerial search and rescue request from Custer County.

**NOAA Weather Radio Down/Statewide/Aug. 2** – NOAA experienced temporary technical difficulties with their weather radio service.

**Tornado Warning/Kimball County /July 13** – A tornado on the ground south of Kimball caused minor crop damage. No other reports of damage received.

**Custer County/Bomb Threat /July 11** – A bomb threat at the Dollar General store in Broken Bow was determined to be a hoax.

**Tornado Warnings/Panhandle/July 22** – Tornado Warnings issued in the panhandle led to reports of large hail and damaging winds.

**Highway 74 Closure/Clay County/Poor Visibility from Fire/July 22** – Smoke from a fire briefly closed highway 74 near Fairfield.

**Tornado Warning/ Kearney Buffalo and Adams Counties/ July 9** – Severe storms have caused wind and hail damage and power outages in and around Gibbon (Buffalo County), as well as the surrounding area. Damage assessment is ongoing, but no major damages are known at this time. Buffalo County representatives will sign and submit a local disaster declaration. Lincoln County also reported hail damage.

**Tornado Warnings/Northeast Nebraska/June 30** – Severe thunderstorms moving through northeastern Nebraska during the morning hours caused minor to possibly moderate damages from Pierce through Thurston counties, impacting the Winnebago reservation, as well.

**Tornado Watch / Eastern Nebraska June 29** – No damage.

**River Monitoring/June 26** – River conditions along the Missouri are actively being monitored for flood potential. This is being coordinated with local emergency managers.

**Tornado Watch /Southwest Nebraska/June 27** – Severe storms caused minor damage and flooding issues in southwestern Nebraska.

**Tornado Watch/Northeast Nebraska/June 18** – Damage reported in Cedar and Dixon Counties

**Tornado Watch/North Central Nebraska /June 17** – issued for nine counties

**Severe Storms/Northeast Nebraska/June 16** – Tornadoes and storm-related winds caused damage to several communities in Nebraska. Recovery is ongoing. The governor has issued a state disaster declaration. NEMA is conducting a preliminary damage assessment (PDA) with FEMA.

**Hazmat Spill/Morrill County Region 21 /June 7** – A hazmat spill of 3,300 gallons of ammonium nitrite and 100 gallons of diesel fuel. Department of Environmental Quality and the company were notified and there was no request for assistance from the state.

**Tornado Warning/Kimball County /June 8** – Tornado warning for Kimball County.

**Tornado Warning/Kimball County /June 6** – Tornado warning for Kimball County.

**Tornado Warning/Cherry and Sheridan Counties /June 6**– Confirmed tornado on the ground 10 miles east of Gordon, moving northeast. Tornado warning then issued for Cherry County.

**Small Diesel Spill/Furnas County /June 5** – Semi-accident punctured fuel tank spilling less than 50 gallons of diesel fuel.

**Severe Storms/Central-Eastern Nebraska/June 3** - Severe weather, including tornadoes, high winds, heavy rains and hail were widespread across central and eastern Nebraska.

**Chemical Spill/Lancaster County/Farmland Foods in Lincoln /June 3** - Farmland Foods in Lincoln notified NEMA of about 250 gallons of salt brine spilled/released into storm drains which flow into Salt Creek. Measures were being taken to minimize the release into Salt Creek.

**Severe Storm Damage/Thurston County/ June 2**– Non-tornadic storms reported in Thurston County.

**Tornado Warning/Thayer County/ June 1** - The National Weather Service in Hastings issued a radar indicated tornado warning for southeast Thayer County. No report of damage.

**911 outage/SE PET Region/May 31** - Reported 911 outage in several counties in southeast Nebraska Region from cut communications lines.

**Hazmat spill/Knox County/Bloomfield /May 30**- NFD HazMat team responded to an ammonia leak west of Bloomfield where anhydrous ammonia was being used as refrigerant at the poultry production plant. Nearby houses were evacuated and some workers and firemen were checked out by EMTs.

**Tornado Warning/Scotts Bluff and Sioux Counties /May 20** – No significant damage reported.

**Tornado Warning / Garden County /May 19** – Severe thunderstorm produced straight-line wind damages in and around Potter, Nebraska. Incident Status Report received.

**Train and Truck Collision/Fillmore County /May 19** – A train colliding with a flatbed trailer was originally considered a potential hazmat incident, but further investigation determined that it was not.

**Tornado Warning/Box Butte-Sioux County /May 18** – No significant damage reported.

**Tornado Warning/Fillmore and Clay Counties/May 11** – Tornadoes and storm-related winds caused damage to several communities in Nebraska. Local response is ongoing. The governor has issued a state disaster declaration.

## 2014 Fire Summary Log

**Aug. 9** – The Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) was deployed to a fire south of Chadron (Dawes County) in an area burned in the 2006 fires.

**Aug. 3**– SEAT was deployed to a fire west of Belmont, south of Crawford (Dawes County)



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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

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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Patrick Rooney, NEMA planning specialist, works with Char Hamilton, director of Hayes County Emergency Management, during a local emergency operation plan (LEOP) workshop in the State Emergency Operations Center. The planning section held the two-day LEOP workshop for local emergency managers and their deputies who were working on their LEOPs. According to Program Specialist Alisia LaMay, future sessions will be scheduled.



The University of Nebraska Transportation Center completed a five-year study of hazardous materials commodity flow for the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). The study was presented to the state department directors and hazardous materials teams in a final workshop that focused on the transportation of hazardous materials in and around the state and gave the first responder hazmat teams an opportunity to identify capabilities and short falls focused on real time data. The workshop concluded with the creation of a plan and action items that need to be included in future studies.