

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Strength.

December 2018



The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

TERREX '18





**A Message from
NEMA Assistant Director**

Bryan Tuma

We envision safer, less vulnerable communities in Nebraska made possible through effective collaborative partnerships committed to saving lives and reducing the impact of disasters.

Our mission is to coordinate, support and serve Nebraska through an effective and relevant emergency management agency.

2018 has been a busy year for not only NEMA staff, but for everyone who has contributed to emergency management in Nebraska. We worked together on two successful responses to federally-declared disasters and in addition closed out four mitigation disasters: DR 4014, DR 4156, DR 4183 and DR 4185 and two public assistance disasters: DR 4156 and DR 4185 this year.

On behalf of all of us at NEMA, I want to express our appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the success of emergency management in Nebraska this year.

Thanks to emergency managers and Emergency Support Function coordinators who completed our third annual stakeholder survey, we can continue to improve on our programs and services because of your suggestions and input. We sincerely appreciate the local emergency managers across the state who work so hard to meet the needs of their citizens. In addition, the state and local partners who step up whenever they are needed are also deeply appreciated. As an agency of just 42 staff members, we need the support of other state agencies and non-governmental organizations to effectively respond to emergencies. The NGOs are always ready to help Nebraskans in need and they help us before, during and after disaster.

On behalf of my colleagues at NEMA, thank you for the work you do and, here's wishing a happy holiday season to all of you and your families.



Sincerely,

Bryan Tuma
NEMA Assistant Director

TERREX '18 Gives ESF Reps Practice



A state response to a series of terrorism attacks across the state was the focus of TERREX '18 on Dec. 18 at the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

Nearly 30 Emergency Support Function ESF representatives were called to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to work together on the coordinated response to a terrorism event.

"The discussion-based exercise gave participants an opportunity to consider what their organization's response would have been and what anticipated response needs local jurisdictions would require," said Earl Imler, NEMA Operations Manager. "It was definitely a successful exercise and will help us be prepared for future event."

The concept of lifelines was introduced to the SEOC according to Training and Exercise Unit Supervisor Dave Reisen.

"Lifelines are a system of assisting with prioritization of resource needs during a disaster," Reisen said. "This offered a great opportunity for introduction of the process."



Senior Meteorologist Mike Moritz of the Hastings Weather Service speaks at a weather seminar in Hastings on Dec. 10. Local emergency managers were among the people in attendance. Presentations were made on: Integrated Decision Support Services, the Event Ready Program, the Winter Storm Severity Index, snow squall warnings and the Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador program.

Photo by Jim Dunker, Fillmore County Emergency Management Director



Threat Assessment training for the **Countering Violent Extremism Grant** was held Dec. 13 and is being done throughout the grant period, and has been conducted both at the local levels and for the state agency stakeholders, and include members of the Governor's cabinet. Nebraska was the proud recipient of an award from the Countering Violent Extremism Grant (CVE) in the amount of \$300,000. Nebraska earned the only grant of its kind, given the uniqueness of the approach. The state of Nebraska took a very different approach to its application and submittal. The project was entitled, "Addressing barriers to reporting signs of radicalization using a public health approach".

Panhandle PET Region Hosts Mass Fatality Exercise



The Panhandle Planning Exercise and Training Region hosted a day-long mass fatality tabletop exercise on Dec. 11 in Bridgeport.

More than 30 participants from emergency management, search and rescue, law enforcement, emergency medical and long-term care were included in the event.

The exercise focused on a bus accident with fatalities and the participants discussed notification of loved ones, what to do if passengers don't speak English and where they would get necessary resources to handle the response.

"The exercise was informative and generated a lot of great discussion," said Walter Kirkland, a planning specialist with NEMA. It was great to see so many disciplines represented.



Bryan Tuma of NEMA presented on Disaster Recovery and Planning for Community Resiliency.

Community Resiliency Training Held in Lincoln

Made possible through a grant to the Lincoln Community Foundations from the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, Lincoln community and business representatives participated in a Community Resiliency Training designed to increase the capacity of the Lincoln community in response to and recovery from disaster.

The training, held Dec. 12 in the Cornhusker Bank Community Room at 84th and O Streets, featured a variety of speakers who shared information on preparedness.

The training was part of Lincoln's Resiliency Effort which is working to share information on preparedness and resiliency, identify and improve issues, and finalize framework for a collaboration process to achieve goals



James Davidsaver of Lancaster County Emergency Management discusses Lincoln resiliency.



Left, Dennis Snook of Omaha Public Power and Nikki Weber of NEMA discuss Nebraska Public Partnerships at the Community Resiliency Training.



Left, Jane Cage of Insight Five, shares insight on the tornado that struck Joplin, Mo. in 2011 and right, Kim Neiman of the Village of Pilger talks about the 2014 twin tornadoes that struck Pilger.



Barbara Bartle, President of the Lincoln Community Foundation, gives an overview of the Community Resiliency Project

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Bryan Tuma

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 includes emergency management news and activities from across the state. Please forward story ideas or photos for inclusion to: Jodie Fawl, Public Information Officer, 2433 N.W. 24th St., Lincoln NE 68524; 402-471-7428, jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov.

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