

# Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff, Nebraska Association of Emergency Management representatives, National Weather Service staff and representatives of the Nebraska Military Department selected the top posters in the annual contest for third and fourth graders that promotes preparedness and awareness of severe weather. Winners will be announced on March 12 at the proclamation signing for Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week which is celebrated March 25-29.





*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.*

There's been a few comments around the office lately that it's time for winter to end and for the snow to stop falling. Ice, snow and cold air, particularly as much as we have had this year, does make us long for the warm weather and the pleasant sunny days of spring. Of course, as emergency managers, we all know that spring brings with it some of the most severe weather Nebraskans must face. Severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding are what we prepare for every year.

Each year we recognize **Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week** during the last full week of March – **March 25-29** this year – to remind Nebraskans to get prepared for the severe weather that could strike any time and any place in the state. Please help us promote Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week as a time to get prepared for the spring and summer weather we will face. On social media, we'll be using the hashtags: #MidwestReady and #NebraskaReady in our efforts to get the word out. Also, please make sure to participate in the statewide tornado drill on March 27 at 10 a.m.

It's never too soon to prepare for severe weather. We encourage Nebraskans to start by creating a [preparedness kit](#). Having supplies to sustain you through the first 72 hours after a disaster is important as first responders may not immediately be able to respond to everyone should a widespread disaster occur.

Of course, I don't want to get ahead of myself. As I write this, a winter storm watch over the weekend in the panhandle says five to eight inches of snow with blowing and drifting is possible. In addition, ice jams have caused flood advisories on the Platte River in Hall County and the North Platte River in Garden and Keith counties. There are likely a few more snow storms, some ice jams and other winter weather still headed our way that we must be prepared for before the spring severe weather strikes. It's not time to put your shovels, hats, gloves and ice melt away just yet. Being prepared, means watching out for all hazards.

Sincerely,

Bryan Tuma  
NEMA Assistant Director



The Nebraska State Patrol handled a variety of traffic incidents in February due to blizzards including one that involved nine semis on I-80 near Aurora on Feb. 19





**Roger Conrad**, NEMA training officer, presents information during ICS 402 an overview for executives and senior officials in Scottsbluff on Feb. 14. The class familiarizes elected officials, city and county managers, agency administrators, etc. with incident command system (ICS) principles and their role in supporting incident management.



**Larry Fichtner**, NEMA training officer, teaches G-191 the Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center Interface class on Feb. 15 at the Scottsbluff Public Safety Building. The course provides state and local emergency management officials with the knowledge and skills they need to operate an emergency operating center (EOC) and interface it with an Incident Command System (ICS) field operation. The course provides an opportunity for participants to begin developing an ICS/EOC interface for their community. The course reviews ICS and EOC responsibilities and functions and depends heavily on exercise and group discussions to formulate the interface.



## REParty Ingestion Pathway Training Comes to NEMA

As state agencies, local emergency management agencies, and non-government agencies prepare for an Ingestion Pathway Exercise (IPX) in 2020, NEMA radiological emergency preparedness staff is hosting a series of trainings to give participants all the information they need to be successful. The February training featured a take on the game show **Jeopardy** and was aptly named **REParty**. Teams worked to, in the form of a question, correctly identify some of the many facts they will need to know when the evaluated IPX is held in 2020. Deb Robsinson of NEMA served as the master of ceremonies in the game she developed.



The G-358 Evacuation and Re-entry Planning course was offered Feb. 28 to March 1 at NEMA. Clockwise from left: Patrick Rooney of NEMA takes notes during an exercise; Chris Ulrick of NEMA instructs the class on shelters and response centers; and from left, Earl Imler of NEMA; Gregg Goebel of Otoe County, Amanda Burki of Johnson and Pawnee counties, Wade Bradley (partially hidden) of NEMA and Julie Bergfield of NEMA work together on an exercise.

## OLLI Class Tours NEMA, Learns About State Response to Disaster



OLLI group (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) came to NEMA, Feb. 22 to learn about how the state responds to disaster. NEMA Operations Section Manager **Earl Imler** gave a presentation and tour of the NEMA facilities. The institute offers a variety of classes and special interest groups for anyone. See [olli.unl.edu](http://olli.unl.edu).



## **Recovery Unit Staff Brave Cold Weather on Inspection Trip**

When projects are done for federal disaster declarations, NEMA Recovery Unit staff verify that the work has been completed as specified.

Recently, planning specialists **Patrick Conway** and **Kyle Barzen-Hanson** visited a water treatment plant in Papillion as part of work that was completed in DR 4325, the severe storms, tornadoes and straight-line winds that occurred in August 2017.

“We learned a lot about water treatment plants on this inspection,” said Barzen-Hanson. “Neither of us have ever seen one before.”

Learning what applicants do on a daily basis gives the NEMA planning specialists an opportunity to connect with the disaster applicants.

“We had to inspect the roof of the water treatment plant,” Conway said. “In order to inspect it properly, Kyle climbed up on the roof to verify that the work had been done.”

Before the recovery staff does an inspection, they review the project worksheets which detail the work that was going to be done and materials used.

“We keep the pictures so we can demonstrate that we verified proper completion of the work, Conway said.

In addition to the treatment plants this inspection included a golf course, a recreation area and a park superintendent’s house.

“Once the work is completed and we do an inspection, we can do a sub-grantee closeout request to FEMA,” Barzen-Hanson said. “Once it is reviewed and closed we can make state share payments and any outstanding federal payments to them.”

According to Conway, NEMA staff do inspections on all completed public assistance projects for every disaster, per state and federal policy.



**87%**

of Nebraska Counties are represented by Basic Certified Emergency Managers.

**53 of 61 Trained**

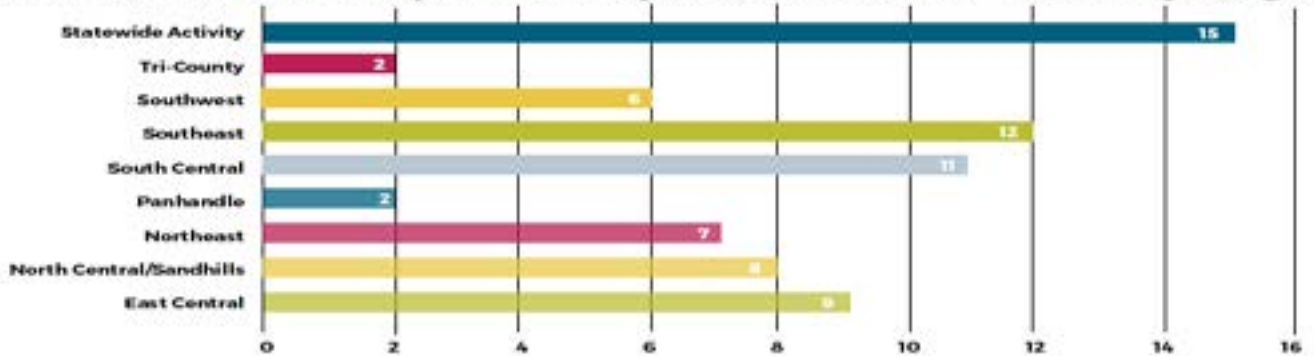
# Governor's Emergency Fund



GEF Expenditures = \$803,136.45

GEF Obligations = \$1,360,832.24

## NEMA Outreach by Planning, Exercise and Training Region



## Dashboard – Recovery Section



**Dashboard – Operations Section**

**Spring Wildfire Council Meeting Chadron March 13.**

**Purchase Retardant to sustain operations through the 2019 wildfire season by March 30 Nebraska**

**Forest Service stores and maintains the retardant**

**Monthly calls occur during off-season to ensure situational awareness for all partners.**

**Bi-weekly calls will begin as wildfire season approaches and arrives.**

**Dashboard – Operations Section – Training Unit**

**Training and Events in March**

<b>Red Card Certification Class</b>	March 9, 8 a.m. to March 17, 5 p.m. \  Classes are scheduled as follows: <b>Saturday, March 9</b> <b>Sunday, March 10</b> <b>Saturday, March 16</b> <b>Sunday, March 17</b>  All classes begin at 8 a.m.	Tecumseh Fire Hall 1110 Buffalo Drive Tecumseh	Amanda Burki Emergency Management Director, 402-335-3411 <a href="mailto:johnsonpawneecounty-ema@gmail.com">johnsonpawneecounty-ema@gmail.com</a>  Matt Holte Nebraska Forest Service 402-472-6060 <a href="mailto:mholte2@unl.edu">mholte2@unl.edu</a>	The Red Card is part of the fire qualifications system used by all federal and many state/private wildland and prescribed fire management agencies. All firefighters assigned to a fire being managed by a federal agency are required to have one. The Red Card functions like a drivers' license, showing the card holder has completed the course work and training required for a particular position.
<b>G-205 Recovery from Disasters Formerly G270</b>	March 18, 8 a.m. to March 20, noon	NEMA Training Rooms 2433 NW 24th St. Lincoln, NE 68524	Larry Fichtner 402-471-7179 <a href="mailto:larry.fichtner@nebraska.gov">larry.fichtner@nebraska.gov</a>	This course is the condensed version of the 4-day E0210 resident course. This course covers foundational concepts in disaster recovery and the latest guidance on recovery planning. .
<b>Ingestion Pathway Training</b>	March 12, 2 p.m. and March 14, 2 p.m.	NEMA, 2433 N.W. 24th St. Lincoln	Deb Robinson, 402-471-7408 Wade Bradley, 402-471-7213	Technical Assistance Day Game Day Training.

**Visit the [NEMA Training Calendar](#) for future training opportunities**

**2019 LEOP and EMPG Reimbursement Workshop**

**Monday, April 1, 2019 - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**NEMA State Emergency Operation Center, 2433 N.W. 24th Street Lincoln, NE 68524-1801**

Contact/Registrar: Sean Runge [sean.runge@nebraska.gov](mailto:sean.runge@nebraska.gov) 402-471-7419

During this combined workshop, NEMA planners will walk you through the LEOP template in its entirety to assist with updates and revisions. SEOC computers will be available for use, but if you have a laptop, please bring it along. This workshop will allow time to update, revise and edit your LEOP with our team available to answer any questions. If you don't have your own laptop, bring a flash drive with your most recent plan and the 2017 LEOP template and any information needed to complete your plan. The LEOP Workshop will begin at 8 a.m.

Following the lunch break, the NEMA Grants Unit staff will conduct an EMPG Reimbursement Workshop, guiding you through the steps for reimbursement. Staff will go step-by-step to ensure you understand the process for grant reimbursement.

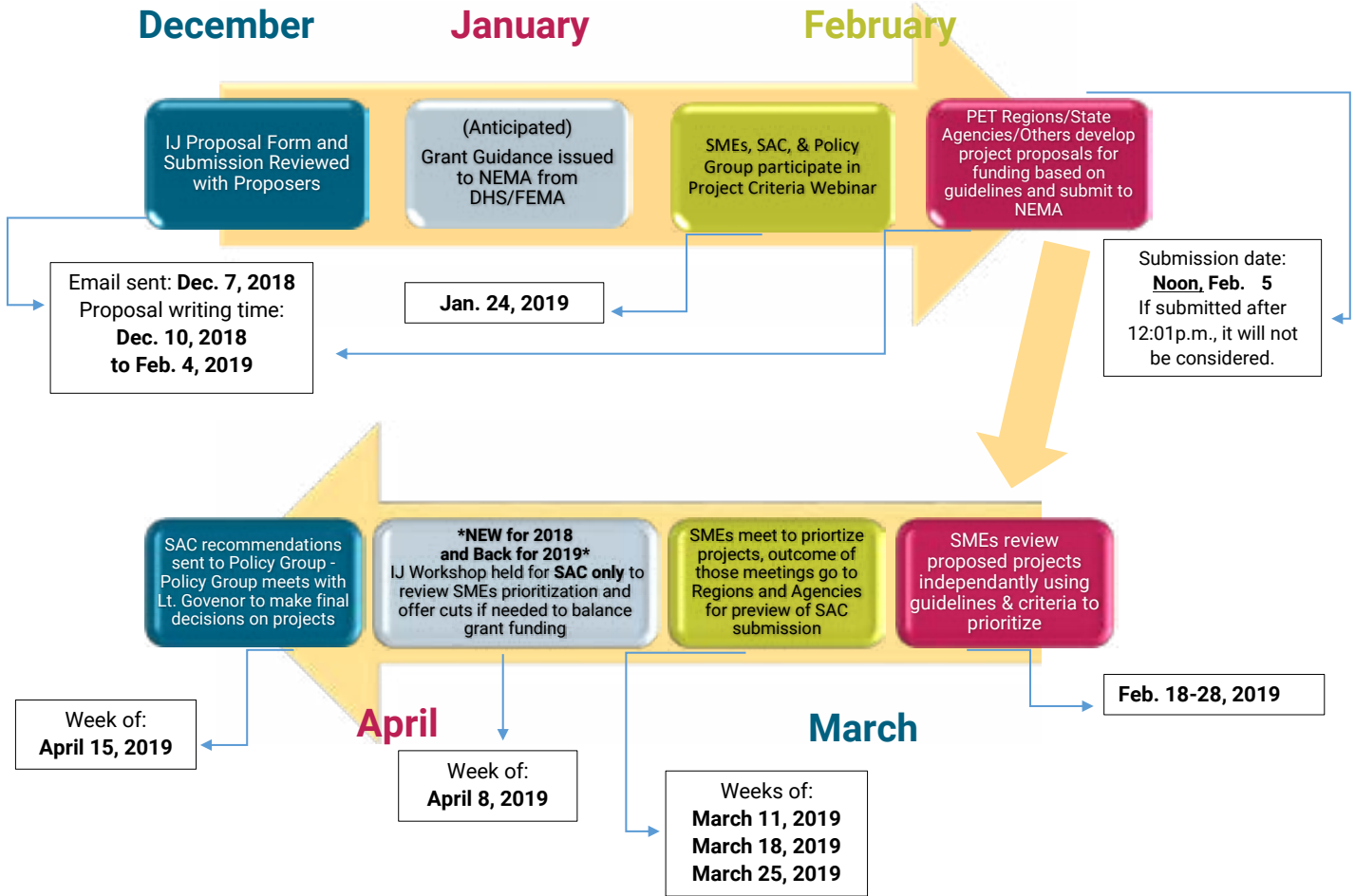
**If you have any questions on the LEOP Workshop, contact: Patrick Rooney [patrick.rooney@nebraska.gov](mailto:patrick.rooney@nebraska.gov) 402-471-7438 or on the EMPG Reimbursement Workshop contact Jackie Maly [jackie.maly@nebraska.gov](mailto:jackie.maly@nebraska.gov) 402-471-7412.**

**No food or lodging will be provided.**



Dashboard – Preparedness Section – Grants Unit

2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program Investment Justification Process



Dashboard – Preparedness Section – Planning Unit

LEOPs Due for 5-year Full Revision in 2019.

All files and a signed county resolution are due to NEMA by July 1 using the 2017 LEOP Template.

COUNTY	PET REGION	NEMA PLANNER
BLAINE	NC	Walter Kirkland
CUSTER	NC	
GREELEY	NC	
LOGAN	NC	

COUNTY	PET REGION	NEMA PLANNER
CASS	SE	Patrick Rooney
SALINE	SE	
PAWNEE	SE	
BOONE	SE	
SAUNDERS	SE	

COUNTY	PET REGION	NEMA PLANNER
PERKINS	SW	Logan Lueking
FURNAS	SW	
HITCHCOCK	SW	
BUFFALO	SC	
CLAY	SC	
LINCOLN	SC	
WEBSTER	SC	

COUNTY	PET REGION	NEMA PLANNER
MORRILL	PH	Leo Larkin
SEWARD	SE	
YORK	SE	





Members of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) tour the grain processing operation at E Energy Adams Ethanol plant. From left, Sue Dempsey, Bryan Tuma and Joe Oswalt are pictured.

## James Ferguson Named Technical Hazards Unit Supervisor

**James Ferguson** has joined NEMA as the Technical Hazards Unit Supervisor in the Preparedness Section.

Ferguson arrived in Lincoln from Harrodsburg, Ky. where he was working as a horse farmer and kindergarten teacher after his retirement from the U.S. Air Force. He retired as a master sergeant out of Offutt AFB three years ago. He worked on the Joint Task Force Homeland Defense out of Hawaii.

Ferguson has a bachelor of science degree in natural science with a mathematics minor from Thomas Edison University in Trenton, N.J.

He is married to Samantha Ferguson and they have three children, Anja, 6, Caroline, 4, and Beau, eight months.

According to Preparedness Section Manager **Nikki Weber** "James will have direct oversight of three programs, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), Radiological Emergency Preparedness program (REP) and the state Calibration Lab.

"James comes to us with many leadership strengths and practical application. He has served in the U.S. Air Force, as a combat engineer, and combat operations, and as the lead weather/intelligence forecaster, reporting directly to the White House during the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. We are more than thrilled to have found him."



Ferguson

## SERC Update

The Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission Training Subcommittee met on Feb. 14 to discuss training needs of Local Emergency Planning Committees in order to develop a training program that will be deployed in January and February of 2020. Training will focus on Incident Command, the basics of Emergency Management, Site Security and Facility Risk Assessment. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit feedback for the upcoming SERC meeting on April 9 in Lincoln. Questions may be directed to James Rashilla, SERC Coordinator, at [james.rashilla@nebraska.gov](mailto:james.rashilla@nebraska.gov).

**NEBRASKA**  
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Governor Pete Ricketts

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Lt. Governor Mike Foley

NEMA Director

Major General Daryl Bohac

Assistant Director

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](mailto:jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov).

[www.nema.nebraska.gov](http://www.nema.nebraska.gov)

