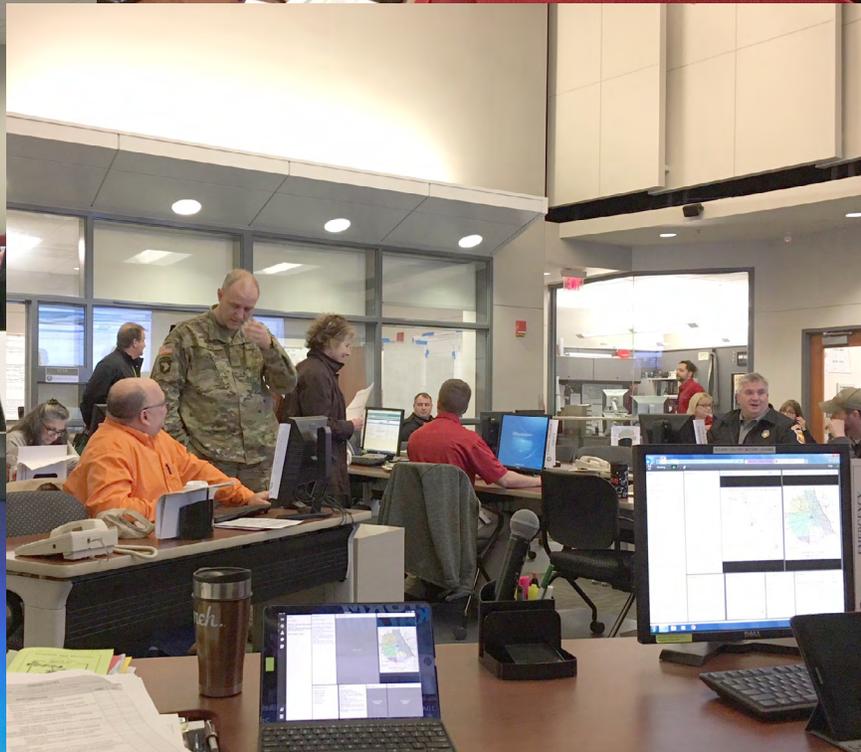
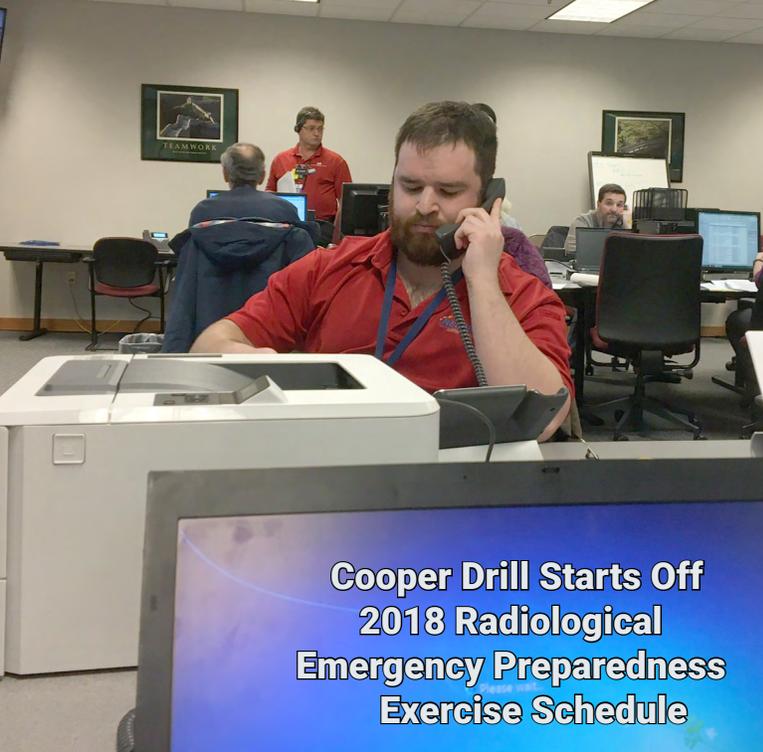
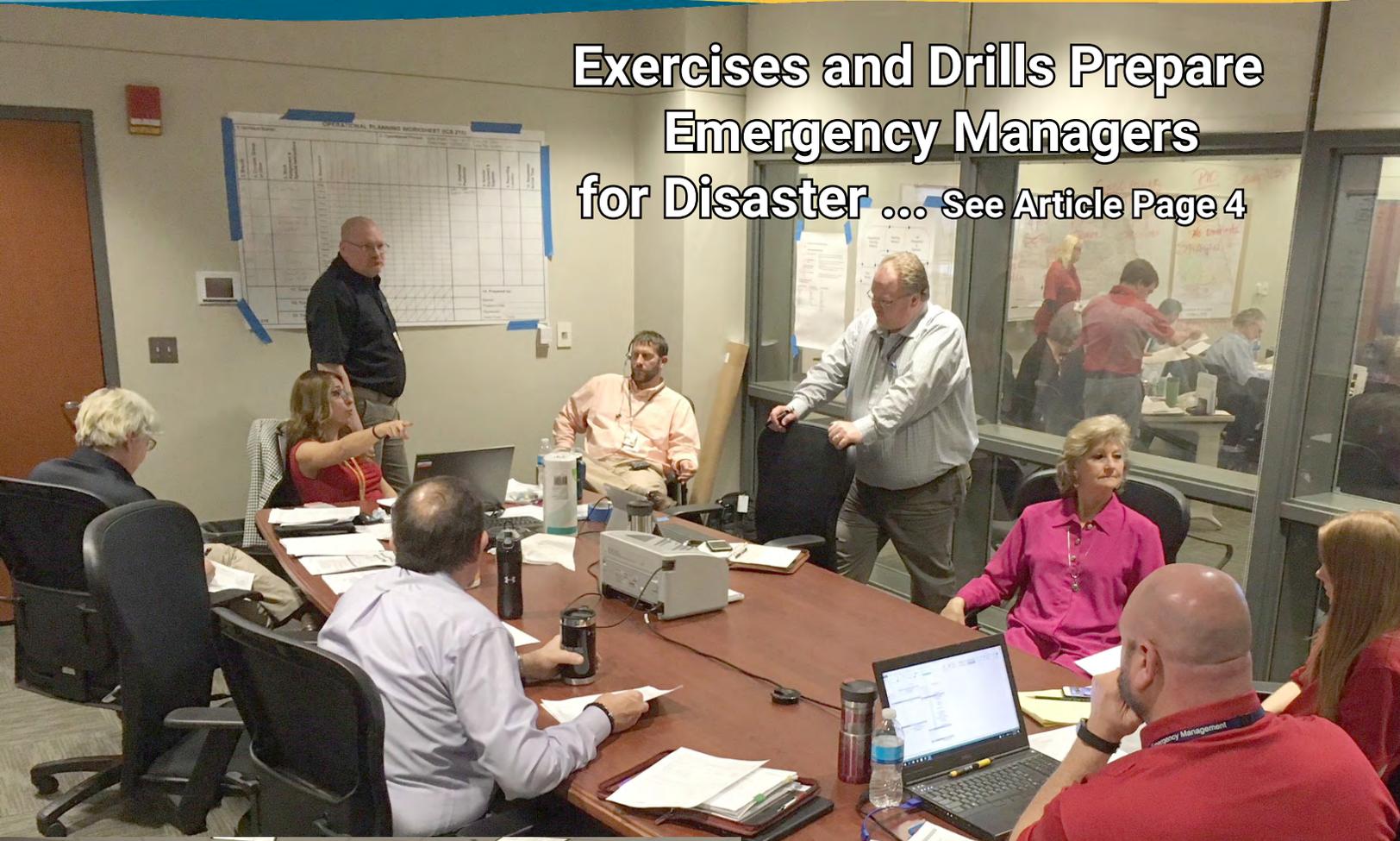


Exercises and Drills Prepare Emergency Managers for Disaster ... See Article Page 4



**Cooper Drill Starts Off
2018 Radiological
Emergency Preparedness
Exercise Schedule**



***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.

As February draws to a close, and we move into what is typically our severe weather season, we are paying especially close attention to the hazards that traditionally impact us at this time of year. The NEMA Watch Center is sending daily reports to local emergency managers and our key partners each weekday with critical information that monitors the state for potential risks.

Indications are that we will face above average temperatures and below average moisture in the upcoming weeks and that could impact potential for ice jam flooding along our rivers and the potential for wildfire in some of the dryer spots in the state. We will continue to monitor the potential for any problems and keep you informed of potential issues.

NEMA's Recovery Section is presenting a Planning for Disaster Recovery Webinar Series this April. The three-part series is designed to deepen the knowledge and skills of participants who engage in the disaster recovery process. Topics include the disaster process, recovery program requirements and preparing for recovery before a disaster strikes.

We hope that local elected officials, local health officials, county emergency managers, college/university officials, highway superintendents, city administrators, city/county clerks and city/county treasurers will all participate. We believed the webinars will benefit those who may be impacted by disaster in Nebraska. See page three for information on how to sign up for these webinars.

Community outreach and stakeholder engagement is a high priority for NEMA. We have reviewed the results of the stakeholder survey sent out in January and that information will assist NEMA with targeting issues and concerns identified by our partners in emergency management. The Adjutant General Daryl Bohac will attend the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management (NAEM) conference in March and will speak specifically to the survey.

NEMA also seeks to assist the local emergency managers with information and education opportunities for local elected officials. We have provided the EM 101 workshops in a number of locations and we would be happy to deliver this information to your local elected officials in a format deemed most appropriate by the local emergency manager. If you wish to schedule a session, please feel free to contact NEMA for further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Tuma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bryan Tuma
NEMA Assistant Director



Planning for Disaster Recovery Webinar Series

This **FREE** 3- part webinar series will deepen the knowledge and skills of participants who work and deal with the disaster recovery process. This series will be of value to those entities who wish to deepen their understanding of the disaster recovery process, disaster recovery program requirements, and how to better prepare for disaster recovery **BEFORE** a disaster strikes. Attendees could include: local elected officials, county emergency managers, highway superintendents, city administrators, city/county clerks, city/county treasurers.

WEBINAR 1 **RECOVERY 101**

Understanding FEMA/NEMA Recovery Programs

- Recovery Lifecycle and Processes
- FEMA Public Assistance Program/Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs
- FEMA New Delivery Model

DATE: Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

WEBINAR 2 **DISASTER STRIKES:**

Understanding what to do during a disaster

- Discover how to track costs and document damages
- Learn what is included in the Federal Disaster Declaration process

DATE: Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

WEBINAR 3 **BLUE SKY DAY:**

Understanding how to prepare TODAY

- Explore how to modify current processes to include FEMA approved methods
- Examine current procurement procedures for compliance
- Register for New Grants Portal System

DATE: Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER AT:

<https://nema.nebraska.gov/operations/training-schedules>

These workshops are presented by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Recovery Section

Attendees of all three webinars will receive a Nebraska Emergency Management Recovery Ready Certificate of Attendance

Course Contact: Molly Bargmann, NEMA,
molly.bargmann@nebraska.gov, 402-471-7182

Cooper Nuclear Station Holds Drill

Exercise. Exercise. Exercise.

It's the best way to improve response proficiency and that is just what Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, its state partners, local emergency management agencies and Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) did on Jan. 30 in the first nuclear power plant exercise of 2018.

Exercises are the best way to simulate emergency situations and prepare for a real event.

"Drills are a great way for us to review and test our plans and procedures," said **Brian Folts**, technical hazards unit supervisor. "Exercises also give us an opportunity to work together, which will be extremely valuable should an incident ever occur at CNS."

The drills help identify gaps in plans and training, develop skills, pinpoint resource needs and engage participants in learning what they need to do when an actual response occurs, said Folts.

Emergency preparedness programs for nuclear energy facilities and federal, state and local staff are highly coordinated and tested.

The exercise on Jan. 30 in-



The State Emergency Operation Center during the Cooper Nuclear Station drill on Jan. 30.

involved participants in Auburn, Lincoln, Falls City, Columbus and at the nuclear station.

"I was delighted to hear that many participants took this opportunity to review their plans and procedures, and discuss with other team members their responses and how they affect each other," Folts said.

The next Cooper Nuclear Station event is a "dress rehearsal," on May 22, to be held in preparation for a FEMA evaluated exercise, July 31.

After that, the next FEMA evaluated exercise will be an ingestion pathway exercise in 2020. The ingestion pathway exercise covers the post-plume phase. All counties in the 50-mile ingestion pathway zone will be encouraged to participate in that exercise.

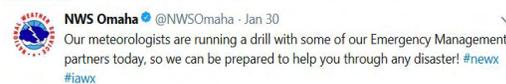
"In preparation for the ingestion pathway exercise, NEMA will be offering formalized training courses and conducting seminars and a tabletop exercise starting in 2019.

Training and Exercise

In order to minimize the impact of disasters, natural and man-made, emergency managers train and exercise so that every person knows what they should do in various emergency situations.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency's training program is designed to enhance performance capabilities of all emergency management and disaster services team members in both the public and private sectors.

Training programs enable jurisdictions across Nebraska to deal and cope with disaster by preparing in advance and using the skills learned to build local teams and coalitions that will respond to emergencies.



5 6 56

Severe Weather Week -- March 25-31



Poster Contest Promotes Preparedness

Judging posters in the annual Severe Weather Awareness Poster contest is a yearly highlight for staff and representatives of NEMA, Nebraska Association of Emergency Management and National Weather Service. Fourth graders submitted more than 900 posters from across the state and three from each county were forwarded to NEMA for judging. Through artwork and creative messages, students promote preparedness efforts Nebraskans should take to be safe when severe weather strikes. The winning students will be announced March 5 during the annual Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week proclamation signing at the Nebraska State Capitol.



Students at C.L. Jones Middle School in Minden were recognized at a school assembly, Feb. 7 for winning a Public Service Announcement and Infographic award in the 2017 Severe Weather Preparedness Public Service Announcement contest sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management, the National Weather Service and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Whitney Maulsby's eighth grade journalism class will use the \$200 in prize money to buy equipment for their classroom. Their video is online at: [30-60 second PSA](#) and the infographic is on page 6 of this issue of "The Beacon." Other contest winners include: Tri-Cities Schools in DeWitt, and Fairbury Schools.

What to do before there is a risk for flooding:

- make sure your house isn't in a flood plain
- If in flood plain elevate water heater
- Install check valves to prevent water from coming back in.
- have a plan of where to meet and what to do
- Understand terms: flood watch-possible
- Flood warning- is occurring or will occur soon consider evacuation
- Flash flood warning-is occurring take emergency precautions and higher ground

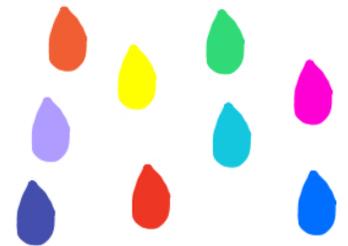
What to do during a flash flood:

- Keep in tune with weather ex. Radio
- Observe surroundings ex. Drains streams
- Take immediate action to get to safety



Safety tips:

- Don't walk through running water, find still water to cross if necessary
- Don't drive
- Abandon vehicle during flood if able to, vehicles can be swept away in the water
- Half of a foot of water will stall or render useless most cars
- Vehicles will float in a foot of water
- Two feet of water will carry away all
- Floodwater is not clean or sanitary



What to do after a flash flood:

- Floodwater may contain sewage materials or hazardous chemicals
- Always sanitize everything after a flood
- Ensure it is safe to use household outlets before plugging anything in

FEMA Updates Core Capability Development Sheets

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has updated the 48 Core Capability Development Sheets, first released in June 2017. The sheets identify tools to help organizations sustain and improve their core capabilities.

View, download, and bookmark the new version of the sheets at <https://www.fema.gov/core-capability-development-sheets>.

The improvements for February 2018 include:

- Navigation pages to improve user search and experience;
- New resource types released by the FEMA National Integration Center;
- Updated tools for Natural and Cultural Resources Core Capability; and
- Version date stamps and other minor fixes.

Applications to Join FEMA’s Youth Preparedness Council Are Due by March 18

Youth can make a difference in their communities. One way is to [join the Youth Preparedness Council \(YPC\)](#). The YPC is open to 8th – 11th graders across the nation. If you know a good candidate, please tell them to apply.

As a member of the YPC, youth can:

- Do local and national projects;
- Add a youth viewpoint on emergency preparedness;
- Help prepare their local area for emergencies;
- Meet with FEMA regularly; and
- Give input to FEMA leadership and staff.

Adults working with youth should share the [application](#). Youth should submit the completed form, provide two letters of recommendation, and their academic records.

Applications are due March 18, 2018. For more information, visit the Youth Preparedness Council website.



Local Disaster Training, Exercise Conducted

Merrick County Local Emergency Planning Committee conducted a hazardous material table top exercise in Chapman on Jan. 25. The exercise involved members of the Chapman Fire Department, Tallgrass Energy, a county supervisor, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency State Emergency Response Commission Coordinator, and the Region 44 emergency manager.

The two-hour exercise provided an opportunity for first responders to discuss responding to a hazardous materials release in the county. Participants discussed coordination between the first responders and private industry when responding to a hazardous materials release.

The Merrick County Local Emergency Planning Committee is a group of community leaders, industry representatives, and first responder agencies from across the county formed to develop and coordinate master plans for homeland security and emergency response.



Sarpy County Hold ICS 300

Thirty-three students participated in ICS 300 Feb. 17-18 in Sarpy County according to Emergency Management Director Lynn Marshall. Pat Borer, bottom left, and Lloyd Mueller, bottom right, were instructors for the course. The class was held at the Gretna Fire Station No. 2. ICS 400 is scheduled for March 17-18 at the same venue. “The class is full and we have a wait list for future classes,” Marshall said.

MY YOUTH PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE NEBRASKA



INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018
8 AM - 3:30 PM

Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center

University of Nebraska Omaha
6400 South, University Drive Road North

\$25 workshop fee

Includes curriculum notebook
and lunch

Register online: regonline.com/mypi

Registration deadline March 16



About MyPI Nebraska

MyPI Nebraska is an innovative disaster preparedness curriculum for teens. Participants build life-saving skill sets, learn about careers, and develop emergency kits and family communication plans.

Who should attend the workshop?

The MyPI Nebraska instructor workshop is for any teacher, teen group leader, or out-of-school program coordinator who wants to incorporate disaster preparedness and safety in course offerings or programs.



For more information

Visit the MyPI Nebraska website: mypinebraska.org

Contact the coordinators: Ashley Mueller, ashley.mueller@unl.edu

Ryan Lowry, ryan.lowry@nebraska.gov

Preemptive Strike Workshop Prepares for Full-Scale Exercise

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff were among those participating in a Department of Health and Human Services Preemptive Strike on Pandemic Workshop in Grand Island, Feb. 6

According to **Kathy Bolkovac**, public health emergency preparedness response, training and exercise coordinator, the workshop was held in preparation for a 2019 Nebraska Public Health full-scale exercise.

“DHHS is gaining the advantage by taking the initiative to prevent further harm to Nebraska families and first responders,” Bolkovac said. “During a time of heightened situational awareness and a need for more advanced protection, we are reaching out to statewide healthcare coalitions, key leadership, program managers, emergency management services, law enforcement, the Center for Disease Control and Nebraska Public Health Lab to prepare and respond.”



Representatives from the U.S. Marshal's Office, Nebraska National Guard, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, local emergency management and local law enforcement advised public health on communication and resource capabilities.

“This was a great opportunity for the Health Care Coalitions (HCCs) to maintain a clear situational assessment and common operating picture throughout the state and

to keep stakeholders informed in the event of an ongoing response,” said **Sean Runge**, exercise training officer, NEMA. “The workshop was a benefit for all involved.”



L550--Continuity Planner's Train-the-Trainer course was offered Jan. 30 to Feb. 1 in Lincoln. The course provides continuity training for program managers at the federal, state, local, and tribal levels of government. It provide information on developing continuity plans and programs that facilitate the performance of essential functions during any situation which may disrupt normal operations. The goal of the training was to provide tools and hands-on experience necessary to improve a department's or agency's continuity plan. This training includes a train-the-trainer module to equip the managers to facilitate the course to others.



African-American Heritage Celebration

Motivational speaker, author and seminar leader, Aaron Davis, asks Nebraska Military Department employees to make one small change that would make a difference in their lives this year. Davis, a member of the 1994 National Championship Nebraska football team spoke as part of the department's 2018 African-American Heritage Celebration at Joint Forces Headquarters.





Nazy Chinifourishan accepts a certificate of appreciation from NEMA Assistant Director Bryan Tuma for her work at NEMA as radiological emergency preparedness program specialist. Chinifourishan accepted a new position as emergency management coordinator for the city of Palmdale, Calif.



Lincoln Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief William "Brad" Thavenet speaks with NEMA staff about Nebraska Task Force One. The taskforce is a federal and state asset and deploys for urban search and rescue missions.

Spotter Training Schedules

- North Platte: <http://www.weather.gov/lbf/spottersched>
- Hastings: <http://www.weather.gov/gid/SpotterInformation>
- Omaha/Valley: <http://www.weather.gov/oax/spotter>
- Goodland, Kan. <http://www.weather.gov/gld/spotter-training-schedule>
- Sioux Falls, S.D.: <http://www.weather.gov/fsd/spottercalendar>
- Cheyenne, Wyo. <http://www.weather.gov/cys/spottertalks>

Register Online

2018 NAEM CONFERENCE

March 21-23

Boarders Inn and Full Circle Venue/
Conference Center in Grand Island



<http://www.naem.us/event-2776151>

Registration does not include hotel reservation at the Grand Island Boarders Inn. Call 308-384-5150 to make hotel reservations and make sure to indicate you are attending the NAEM Conference.

Conference Registration – \$85.00



(402) 471-7421

Toll Free: (877) 297-2368

Fax: (402) 471-7433

Governor Pete Ricketts

State Homeland Security Director

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.

www.nema.nebraska.gov

