A Match Game scenario had teams attempting to match a subject matter expert and panelists' responses. Sometimes it worked ... and sometimes it didn’t. However, everyone learned something.

If they can have radioactive spiders why not pumpkins?
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.

A preparedness grant awarded to Nebraska Medicine will benefit the entire Nebraska emergency management community by providing an exceptionally robust logging system to improve situational awareness among collaborating agencies.

The $3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) was awarded to Nebraska Medicine in an effort to demonstrate how a new Regional Disaster Health Response System could provide trauma, burn or other specialty care during a national emergency, and in turn, save more lives.

Nebraska Medicine and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston received the grants from ASPR’s Hospital Preparedness Program to conduct pilot projects that show the potential effectiveness and viability of the Regional Disaster Health Response System. They are developing national models for other jurisdictions to respond to and recover from, major disaster pandemics or disasters.

According to Shelly Schwedhelm, MSN, RN, executive director of emergency management and biopreparedness at Nebraska Medicine:

“This demonstration grant provides an incredible opportunity to further advance preparedness in our state. The activities of the grant will create a sustainable model of communication, coordination, and collaboration between Nebraska coalitions, EMS, public health, health care, emergency management and various other community organizations and resources. We have the opportunity to innovate and create a model that will not only serve Nebraskans but will be an example for others across the nation.”

As part of the communication component of the grant, Nebraska Medicine is implementing Knowledge Center, an incident management software program that provides situational intelligence for informed response in a user-friendly environment to keep all responders connected, informed and making a difference.

As part of Nebraska Medicine’s goal to improve communication, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency is assisting in the build out of the communications network for emergency management response. This will allow us to implement a very robust incident management platform. It’s a capability we would not otherwise have or be able to offer all of our stakeholders and we are grateful to be included.

We are excited about the possibilities and improvements Knowledge Center implementation will bring to Nebraska.

Knowledge Center Implementation Timeline

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<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
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<td>Discussions and demonstrations with state agencies and local emergency managers about software availability</td>
<td>Training and Beta Testing</td>
<td>Functional System, Training Continues</td>
<td>Fully Functional System</td>
<td>Full-scale Exercise</td>
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Sincerely,

Bryan Tuma  
NEMA Assistant Director
Ingestion Pathway Training takes center stage for next 16 months at NEMA

by Deb Robinson
Planning and Training Specialist

There is no margin for error when it comes to preparing for something as dramatic as a nuclear power plant incident or accident, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) along with their counter parts at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) are charged with ensuring that state and local officials are prepared to protect the health and safety of the public.

Validation is accomplished using an eight-year exercise cycle to test the state and local organization, plans and capabilities that include command, control, communications and coordination, and their ability to incorporate federal departments and agencies along with partners and stakeholders using the “Whole Community” approach.

Every minute that would come into play if an incident/accident were to occur is planned for and tested at some point during this eight-year exercise cycle. It is a serious commitment made by all who would be called upon to undertake response activities on what would be a “really bad day” in Nebraska.

The goal is simple, to protect the health and safety of the residents of Nebraska and to ensure recovery from an event as quickly as possible, if one ever were to occur.

On Jan. 24, personnel from different state departments and agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) like the American Red Cross convened for the first game day training. NEMA staff, emergency support function representatives and non-government organizations representatives participated in a game day training called Match Game Plus, a game based on the 70s game show Match Game.

Panelists attempt to match each team’s responses. Sometimes they matched the teams’ answers and sometimes they didn’t. The panelist were selected at random and they too were learning about an ingestion pathway exercise.

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Continued from Page 3

the ingestion pathway, while having some fun, but still being able to walk away having heard the correct answers to the questions.

In the end, it all proved to be successful. We garnered a lot of information to use for our future trainings and games, the participants had fun and they even managed to learn a little something in the process.

All state level departments and agencies, local emergency management agencies, and non-government agencies who have roles in a radiological response are highly encouraged to attend. There have been many programmatic and personnel changes since the last ingestion pathway exercise eight years ago, so attending the training and game days is critical to ensuring that Nebraska is able to meet the “reasonable assurance standard”, which is required in order for a nuclear power plant to maintain its operating license.

The next technical assistance (TA) training is scheduled for Feb. 19 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. with the next game on Feb. 21 also from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

The gloves come off during the tie-breaker round as more than one of the finalists had the correct answer.

Betty McCracken joined NEMA as a staff assistant on Nov. 30.

Prior to joining NEMA, Betty was with State Farm for 27 years and she is brand new to the emergency management field.

She has two sons, Patrick, 23, and Jonathan, 21.

In her free time, Betty enjoys being active, watching Husker sports or sports in general. She enjoys watching her son compete in Special Olympics and spending time with her church family playing cards and board games.

Lexy Hindt joined NEMA as an intern on Jan. 7, and will be with NEMA until the end April.

Hindt is originally from Sheldon, Iowa, but has moved to Omaha.

She is a senior at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She will graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in emergency management, as well as a concentration in public administration, a double minor and certificate in fire service management and tribal management and emergency services.

In her free time, Hindt enjoys being outdoors, traveling, and cheering on the Iowa Hawkeyes.
87% of Nebraska Counties are represented by Basic Certified Emergency Managers.

53 of 61 Trained

GEF Expenditures = $775,742.24
GEF Obligations = $1,403,906.88

NEMA Outreach by Planning, Exercise and Training Region — December 2018

NEMA Hosts COML Course

Establishing the essential core competencies required for performing the duties of the communications unit leader (COML) in an all-hazards incident was the focus of a course offered at NEMA Jan. 15-17. This course addressed all responsibilities appropriate to a COML operating in a local- or state-level all-hazards incident management team (AHIMT). These responsibilities include the collection, processing, and dissemination as needed to facilitate operations of command, general staff and unit leaders within the confines of a Type 3 AHIMT. The course is an instructor-led training that supports learning through discussion, lecture, and active participation in multiple exercises.
The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) wants drivers to know there is now another resource to view road conditions during winter events. Thanks to NDOT's online Plow Tracker, drivers will be able to get a view of the roadway from plows actively working to remove snow. The resource is available at: https://plows.nebraska.gov/index.html.

The system complements the Nebraska 511 system, which informs travelers of road conditions throughout the state. Plow Tracker gives motorists access to additional information to help them make informed decisions prior to traveling.

Plow Tracker shows NDOT plow trucks on the highway through an interactive map. Click on a plow and motorists can view the roadway from the plow driver's perspective through forward-facing dashboard cameras.

Plow Tracker automatically refreshes information every minute, providing timely information regarding snow removal operations. Plow trucks are visible when on NDOT-maintained snow removal routes as designated by a blue line on the map. Roads without the blue lines are the jurisdiction of county or local entities for snow removal.

"Implementing Plow Tracker gives the citizens of Nebraska an additional tool to aid them before they head out the door," said Director Kyle Schneweis. "This is just another example of the innovation we use to help our customers make engaged and informed decisions about their travel during inclement weather."

The plow trucks also work outside of winter weather to maintain and repair roadways. Plow Tracker will also show trucks doing routine maintenance work on state highways.

"Plow Tracker will serve as a supplement to the current 511 system," said Tom Sands, NDOT operations manager. "Many other states are using similar technology and found it extremely helpful to their users. We have no doubt the citizens of Nebraska will find similar usefulness in making travel decisions during the winter months."

Motorists should be aware that weather conditions are often worse than they appear on the dash cameras. In addition, motorists should remember the views from the cameras only show a portion of the roadway. Conditions may be significantly different through a stretch of highway."

Travelers are urged to be alert, be aware and check the most up-to-date weather and travel conditions available through 511, Nebraska's Advanced Traveler Information System. The system is available at all times via phone by dialing 511, on Nebraska 511's smartphone app or online at www.511.nebraska.gov.

As a reminder, the Nebraska State Patrol Highway Helpline is available 24 hours per day for motorists in need of assistance. Drivers can reach NSP by dialing *55 from any cell phone and should call 911 for any emergency.
Above: Andra Buckley of Bryan Health teaches Stop the Bleed at NEMA; right: from left, Logan Lueking, Nikki Weber and Donny Christensen practice applying tourniquets.

NEMA staff, from left, Julie Mayers, Sean Runge, Terry Miller and Betty McCracken practice applying tourniquets during Stop the Bleed training at NEMA.

Phyllis McCown packs a wound while Karen Heath, right, looks on.

Stop the Bleed Offered at NEMA

by Chris Ulrick
Exercise Training Officer

On Jan. 30, the staff of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) participated in Stop the Bleed training presented by Andra Buckley of Bryan Health in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

Stop the Bleed is a campaign to build national resilience by better preparing the public to save lives by raising awareness of basic actions to stop life threatening bleeding following everyday emergencies along with man-made and natural disasters.

Buckley told NEMA staff this is a skill that could save a life and it is a skill that everyone should know to stop severe bleeding after an injury.

Buckley has taught classes in middle schools to large organizations on this important skill that could be needed one day to prevent the loss of a life due to bleeding.

Buckley reports that an injured person can bleed out in three to five minutes, even before first responders can get to a scene.

“No one should die from uncontrolled bleeding,” Buckley said. “You are the help until help arrives. Don’t just stand by. Stop the Bleed.”

For more information visit: Bleeding-control.org for information on training contact Buckley at stopthebleed@bryanhealth.org.
Larry Fichtner, NEMA exercise training officer, teaches ICS 300/400 to the staff at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha Jan. 7-11. The Intermediate and Advanced Incident Command System Course for Expanding Incidents provides training and resources for personnel who require advanced applications of ICS.

Larry Fichtner, NEMA exercise training officer, instructs ICS 300 to students at Union College, Lincoln from Jan. 28-31. ICS-300 provides an in-depth focus on the NIMS Incident Command System (ICS) that includes the tools, practices and procedures available in ICS to effectively manage emergency incidents or planned local events at a local type 3 level.

Lancaster County’s New Emergency Operations Center Opens

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Emergency Operations Center has a new, improved and larger home in south Lincoln.

The new location, at 1200 Radcliff, is housed in the northwest corner of the Lancaster County Youth Services Center Building.

The new EOC has 28 work stations, according to Director of Emergency Management Jim Davidsaver.

The EOC was previously housed in the old police department building at 233 S. 10th St. and was 1,000 square feet smaller than the new site.

The new space is 4,500 square feet and includes 2,080 square feet reserved for emergency workstations for public safety officials and volunteers to work on emergency operations whenever the EOC is activated.

Work on the new location began two years ago in January 2017. The space was previously empty cells and was completely renovated for the new EOC. It is designed as a storm shelter and is rated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to withstand an F-5 tornado.

Lincoln-Lancaster County Emergency Management held a tour and open house on Jan. 23.
On Jan 9, UNL’s Memorial Stadium was the site of MGT 440 Enhanced Sports and Special Events Incident Management Class. The training was conducted by TEEX.

The course is a scenario-based workshop focusing on incident management, crowd and evacuation management, and risk management. It is intended to prepare participants for the response to a large-scale incident during sporting or special events.

Participants engaged in three simulation-supported, emergency response exercises designed to hone individual and team decision-making and management skills.
Southeast Region 911 Announces Text to 911 Service

Southeast Region 911 has announced that Text to 911 service is now available to the public, through most wireless carriers, in the following counties: Cass, Clay, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York.

Residents should familiarize themselves with the services limitations before using Text to 911.

Text to 9-1-1 is the next step in accessing emergency services as technology advances, however it is not meant to take the place of calling 911 using standard voice calls.

The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Text to 911 campaign reminds citizens to “Call if you can, text if you can’t.”

For those individuals who are hearing or speech impaired Text to 911 provides a more convenient method to report an emergency.

For anyone who is in a place where they cannot safely talk on the phone, are unable to speak or lack of service won’t allow for a voice call, Text to 911 can also be an important and life-saving tool.

Calling 911 is still preferred as Text to 911 has some limitations including:

- Location acquisition is much more limited and often not available, where voice 911 will typically provide very good location information as to the caller’s whereabouts.
- There is no guarantee your Text to 911 text has made it to an emergency dispatch center until you receive a reply from the emergency operator.
- Information can be obtained more quickly with a voice conversation than via text.

For information regarding Text to 911 and the need to “Call if you can, text if you can’t”, please see the Federal Communications Commission website: https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/what-you-need-know-about-text-911.

How to Text to 911?
1. Remember: “Call if You Can, Text if You Can’t.”
2. Enter the numbers “911” in the “To” field.
3. The first text message to 911 should be brief and contain the location of the emergency and type of help needed.
4. Push the send button.
5. Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 9-1-1 call taker.
6. Text in simple words – do not use abbreviations.
8. Once you have initiated a Text-to-911 conversation, do not turn off your phone until the dispatcher tells you it is ok to do so.