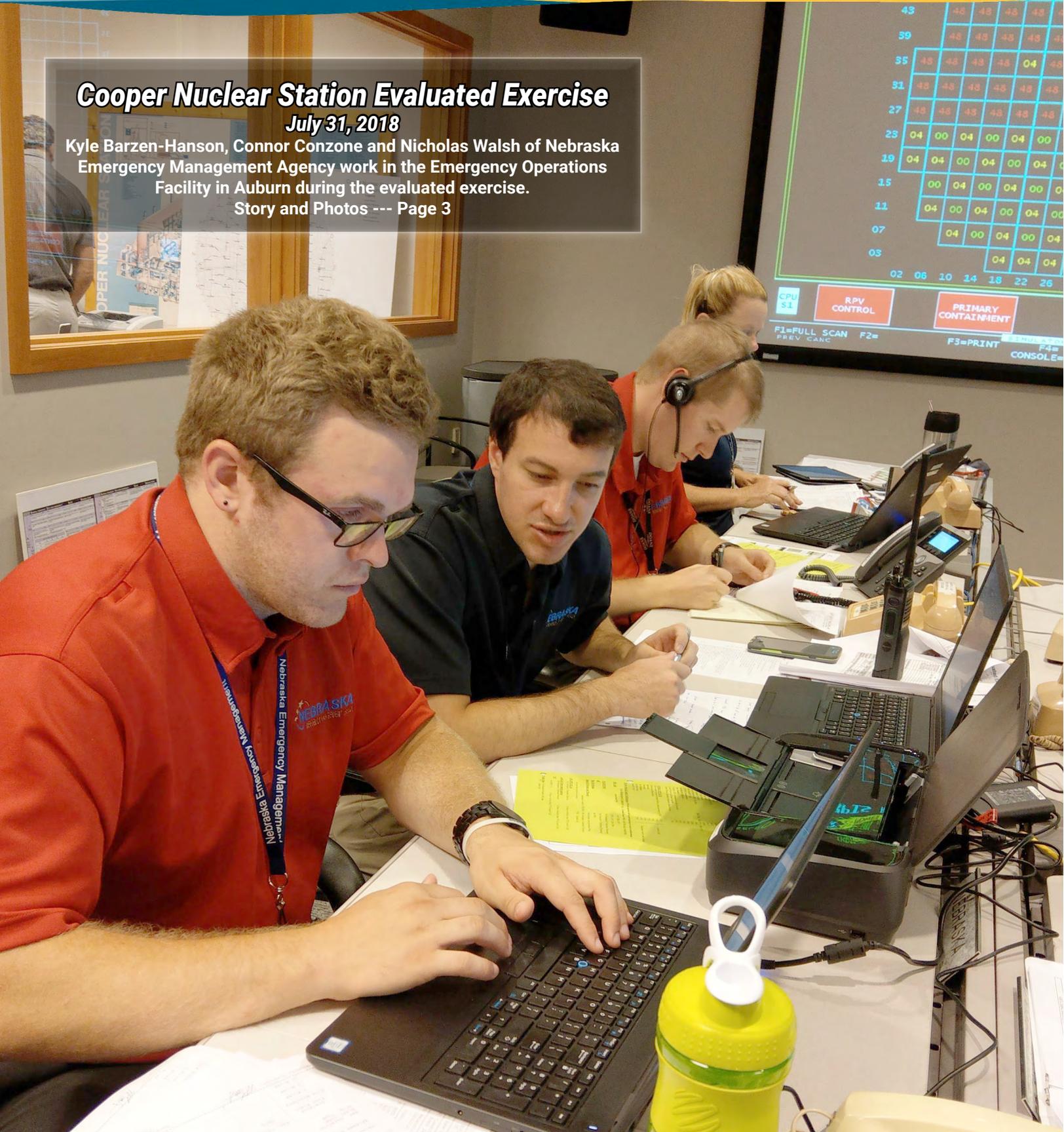


Cooper Nuclear Station Evaluated Exercise

July 31, 2018

Kyle Barzen-Hanson, Connor Conzone and Nicholas Walsh of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency work in the Emergency Operations Facility in Auburn during the evaluated exercise.

Story and Photos --- Page 3





*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.

July was an intense month for activity as NEMA conducted response activities to continuing storm fronts; participated in evaluated exercises to validate response plans for nuclear power plant incidents and accidents at the state and local level; hosted international visitors interested in learning how we conduct emergency management operations; and hosted local emergency managers for training in developing their local emergency operations plans (LEOPs), and these were just a few of the highlights from this month.

Flooding throughout the month of June meant NEMA staff and local representatives were busy scheduling and conducting damage assessments when we heard that President Trump had approved a disaster declaration for winter storms back in April. That involved coordinating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local officials in 31 counties on their projects. Nebraska has become accustomed to working on a disaster declaration as another disaster cycle begins. These compounding disasters test, if not strain, the capabilities of small agencies like NEMA to respond to all facets of a response while continuing the everyday business demands of the agency.

For example, FEMA Region VII representatives, along with the federal coordinating officer (FCO) and her staff, have entered into an agreement with NEMA to utilize space in NEMA's headquarters to write projects from the April 2018 blizzard, saving taxpayers the costs associated with renting facilities while enhancing the partnership between NEMA and FEMA to efficiently and effectively deliver resolution to the citizens of Nebraska following a disaster.

The National Emergency Management Association 2018 Biennial Report – was released recently, and has some valuable information about the state of emergency management across the nation. Important trends and information can be garnered from the findings contained in the report that include such examples as:

- One of the least recognized facts in emergency management is that the number of disasters and emergencies that are handled by state and local governments every year is significantly higher than those that require federal assistance. In FY2017, there were 36 percent more state emergencies declared than federal declarations.
- Nebraska is one of the 16 states that, in response to growing cyber-security threats, has created an Emergency Support Function ESF for a cyber response. Another 15 states are considering it.
- The federal State Homeland Security Grant Program has held steady the last four years at \$412 million, but this is approximately half the amount available in FY10 which was \$890 million. States constantly struggle to appropriately address all the current and evolving threats facing them, such as cybersecurity, active shooter incidents and homegrown extremism.

As Nebraska continually looks for ways to improve our statewide emergency management program, tools like this report provide valuable insight into developing issues and trends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Tuma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bryan Tuma
NEMA Assistant Director



Deb Robinson, planning and training specialist at NEMA, serving as exercise director for the Cooper Nuclear Station Exercise, coordinates the after-action meeting.

State Participates in Evaluated Cooper Nuclear Station Exercise

Citizens of the State of Nebraska can rest easy as state and local officials demonstrate their ability to respond to an incident or accident at the Cooper Nuclear Station in one of many exercises that are conducted over an eight-year cycle.

Coordination between the plant, local and state response organizations are demonstrated and cooperation and decision making between leadership parties are enhanced.



NEMA and emergency support function representatives work at the State Emergency Operations Center during the July 31 Cooper Nuclear Station evaluated exercise.



NEMA Assistant Director Bryan Tuma, who serves as the Governor's Authorized Representative for radiological incidents involving nuclear power plants, provides information to Public Information Officer Jodie Fawl regarding messaging relating to protective actions recommendations (PARS) that will also be discussed with local county partners. Once concurrence has been made the PARS become protective action decisions (PADS).

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Public information officers from Nebraska and Missouri along with subject matter experts from UNMC and Cooper Nuclear Station conduct a mock media briefing.



GAR Adviser Nikki Weber of NEMA confers with her counterpart from Missouri as GAR Bryan Tuma briefs exercise participants on the status of the response across a conference line.



Members of the Nebraska Joint Information Center address public inquiry questions, monitor and develop social media messages and issue news releases on the response.

Protecting the Public through Exercises

**By: Debra Robinson,
Planning and Training Specialist**

The Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) program recently conducted “out-of-sequence” exercises with the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and the National Weather Service (NWS) in Valley. A third out-of-sequence exercise is scheduled in Richardson County for its Emergency Worker Decontamination Center (EWDC) and Reception and Care Center (RCC) on Aug. 7.

These exercises are evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure the State of Nebraska and the local communities surrounding the Cooper Nuclear Station have plans and capabilities in place to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Nebraska should an incident or accident ever occur. The exercises are conducted at a time outside of the evaluated full-scale exercise, which was evaluated on July 31, because of the additional logistics



University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) staff practices receiving radiologically contaminated patients for decontamination and treatment during the Cooper Nuclear Station Exercise.

and personnel it takes to operate and evaluate such a massive effort.

These exercise are only a small portion of the requirements state and local officials are required to successfully demonstrate throughout an eight-year exercise calendar designed to address all the planning, response and recovery components that may be required if an event were to occur.

UNMC and the NWS have critical roles in both state and local radiological response plans.

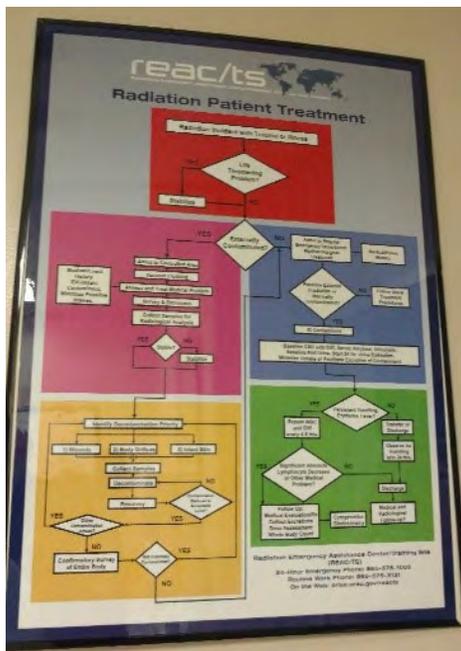
The NWS receives notification of an incident or accident from local or state officials and then must release a special message across the Emergency Alert System (EAS) which will be broadcast in the same manner as severe weather watches and warnings. The EAS message is meant to inform the public that an incident has occurred and that they need to tune into their local TV and radio stations for additional information and protective actions

coming from state officials.

The NWS also has capabilities to model plume dispersions of any release that may occur at different elevations in the atmosphere, which can then be used to help guide field monitoring and sample collection teams to map out and prioritize areas of concern for various response and recovery activities.

UNMC plays a vital role in caring for anyone who may have become injured or contaminated during a radiological emergency. They practice special patient reception techniques to minimize the potential for cross-contamination of hospital personnel and facilities, in addition to decontamination and treatment of the patient(s).

It takes an extraordinary amount of planning, training and coordination among all the departments, agencies, responders, volunteers and private industry to ensure that we have the capabilities in place to respond on a moment’s notice.



A decision tree for the treatment of radiologically contaminated patients provides guidance for UNMC medical personnel.

Preliminary Damage Assessments Underway for June Tornadoes Flooding and Severe Storms

At the request of Nebraska Gov. **Pete Ricketts**, teams of local, state and federal disaster specialists conducted federal Public Assistance (PA) Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) in 10 Nebraska counties impacted by severe storms and flooding from June 1 through July 1, 2018.

Cedar, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Harlan, Logan, Thomas, Thurston, and Wayne counties are part of the preliminary damage assessments; however, additional counties may be added to the request as damage reports are received by the state from local officials.

“These damage assessments are the first step in helping the governor determine whether the scope of the damage is beyond the state’s capabilities and if federal assistance is

needed,” said **Bryan Tuma**, NEMA assistant director.

The teams were comprised of representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and local officials.

Now that the PDAs are completed is governor will determining whether the disaster response or recovery requires federal assistance. If so, he can submit a request for aid to FEMA using results from the damage assessments and other pertinent information.

The request is then forwarded to The White House for a decision by the president.

The Public Assistance Program provides grants to state and local governments and certain non-profit

entities to assist them with the response to, and recovery from, disasters.

For individuals impacted by the June and July severe storms and flooding:

- NEMA officials advise flood-impacted individuals and businesses to report damage to their local emergency management officials.
- Local officials can connect flood-impacted individuals to any services being provided by state departments and non-governmental organizations assisting with un-met needs.
- Individuals and business owners also should notify their insurance companies of damage.



A damage assessment team surveys damage in Cedar County during July following flooding that affected northeast Nebraska in June.

The Beacon – July 2018

Below are a few of the photos from preliminary damage assessments conducted in July in northeast Nebraska counties affected by flooding from June storms.



Cedar County



Cuming County



Dakota County



Dixon County



Thurston County



Wayne County



NEMA and FEMA officials meet to kick off recently declared Federal Disaster 4375 for the severe winter storm and straight-line winds, April 13-18. Pictured, from left, State Coordinating Officer Molly Bargmann of NEMA, Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer David Moore of FEMA, Federal Coordinating Officer Constance Johnson-Cage of FEMA, NEMA Assistant Director Bryan Tuma, NEMA Operations Section Manager Earl Imler and NEMA Recovery Section Manager Donny Christensen. FEMA staff is working from NEMA headquarters with local jurisdictions to begin the recovery process and to write projects.

Nebraska Disaster Declaration Approved for April Storm

Gov. Pete Ricketts issued a statement following news that **President Donald J. Trump** had approved a disaster declaration for Nebraska following a severe winter storm and straight-line winds in April 13-18.

The declaration means federal aid is available to help supplement state and local recovery efforts in 31 counties impacted by a severe winter storm and straight-line winds

in April. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will make funding available to state and eligible local governments on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and repairs of facilities damaged in the following 31 counties: Antelope, Blaine, Boone, Boyd, Cheyenne, Clay, Custer, Deuel, Fillmore, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Holt, Howard, Keith, Knox, Logan, Loup, Madison, Mer-

rick, Nance, Nuckolls, Pierce, Platte, Rock, Sherman, Valley, Webster, and Wheeler.

“Thank you to President Trump and his team for approving this declaration,” said Gov. Ricketts. “Nebraska communities pull together to overcome our shared challenges, and this assistance will help us accelerate our efforts to fully recover from the winter weather and winds we experienced in April.”

FEMA-4375-DR Summary

Declared: June 29, 2018

State: Nebraska

Incident: Severe Winter Storm and Straight-line Winds

Incident Period: April 13-18,

Date Requested by Governor: May 16, 2018

Federal Coordinating Officer:

Constance C. Johnson-Cage,
National FCO Program

State Coordinating Officer:

Molly Bargmann,
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Types of Assistance:

Individual Assistance for individuals and households was not requested.

Public Assistance: for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities approved for the following counties: antelope, Blaine, Boone, Boyd, Cheyenne, Clay, Custer, Deuel, Fillmore, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Holt, Howard, Keith, Knox, Logan, Loup, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Nuckolls, Pierce, Platte, Rock, Sherman, Valley, Webster, and Wheeler Counties. **Hazard**

Mitigation Grant Program (Assistance for actions taken to prevent or reduce long term risk to life and property from natural hazards): All areas in the State of Nebraska are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Other: Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

Building Nebraska Resiliency



Getting Business Back to Business Workshop Set for Sept. 12 in Omaha

Emergencies happen, but disastrous losses don't have to be the result, and the Nebraska Preparedness Partnership (NPP) is working to engage Nebraska businesses and citizens to build the readiness of private stakeholders in Nebraska.

NPP was established as a coalition of public and private entities forming relationships prior to incidents/disasters to build a more resilient community and state said **Sandra Hobson**, program coordinator.

Helping prepare, mitigate, respond and recover from disaster through advocacy, training and public partnerships is what NPP hopes to achieve.

Founded in 2014, the NPP structure includes a leadership committee and board of directors comprised of representatives from public, private and nonprofit sectors. Hobson said these groups have worked together alongside fire departments, law enforcement and emergency management agencies to design and initiate programs in the Tri-County area (Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington counties).

"We are working hard to make the State of Nebraska one of the most resilient, and to be a model for the remaining midwestern states in establishing their public-private coalitions," said Hobson. "With the support of public-private partnerships in neighboring states, FEMA, and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), NPP is continuing to grow with the intention of using a phased approach to roll out to the entire state by 2021."

NPP goals and objectives fall in step with national goals to build a

more resilient nation through awareness of not only businesses being prepared but of individual preparedness as well.

"We are eager to work with the Nebraska Preparedness Partnership to further prepare Nebraska for potential disasters," said NEMA Preparedness Section Manager **Nikki Weber**. "Nebraskans are known for supporting their neighbors and public private partnerships are just one example of how we can work together to improve the resiliency of our state."

Private/public partnerships are an integral part NEMA's efforts said NEMA Operations Section Manager **Earl Imler**.

"Private entities can do things that government can't do," Imler said. "They have resources we don't, and it just makes sense to work together to prepare for disaster."

Hobson said NPP works to empower businesses to integrate business resources, expertise and plans with those of government during all stages of disaster management. It is a coalition of the state's business and government leaders who share a commitment to strengthen the capacity of the state to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters through public-private collaboration.

Benefits of membership in NPP include:

- Earlier business re-entry to get businesses back to business to support economic recovery
- Representation in the Emergency Operations Centers to enhance communication and improve information sharing
- Business resource directory for

response and recovery resource sharing and support

- Mentoring on incident response
- Continuity planning and training with combined private and public knowledge and experience
- Private and public integrated exercises

"The larger the membership, the stronger our network and resiliency will be," Hobson said. "Please see our website (www.neprep.org) for more information on who we are and how you can join our membership."

One way to learn about the partnerships is to attend a workshop scheduled in September.

The Nebraska Preparedness Partnership has scheduled a Nebraska public/private partnership workshop:

Getting Business Back to Business

on Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Scott Aquarium Conference Center at the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, 3701 S. 10th St. in Omaha. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. – lunch will be provided,

The purpose of the workshop, is to emphasize the importance of building whole community resiliency to sustain economic recovery when dealing with local disasters.

How local, regional, and federal resources are available to assist businesses in preparing for a disaster before it strikes and responding to and recovering from a disaster when it happens.

Ways businesses can help rebuild the community and economy following a disaster.

Continued on page 9

8th Annual Nebraska Citizen Corps Volunteer Preparedness Conference

Education • Training • Volunteerism

August 17-19, 2018

Bellevue University Campus

812 Bruin Blvd, Bellevue, NE 68005

Date / Time:

Friday, August 17th / 8:30am - 3:30pm

Saturday, August 18th / 8:30am - 4:30pm

Sunday, August 19th / 8:30am - 12:00pm

Who Should Attend:

Disaster responders, emergency managers, volunteers, clergy, public health officials, educators, and others interested in disaster preparedness and response. Please disseminate this widely.

Conference Agenda:

8/17: Choose from two different training tracks to improve your skills!

- Track 1: CPR / Save - A - Life training (includes Stop the Bleed, Hands Only CPR, Improvised Tourniquet, and Narcan Administration)
- Track 2: Volunteer Reception Center Training

Optional evening opportunity to tour Henry Doorly Zoo and talk with officials about disaster response procedures at the zoo

8/18: Hear from local & national experts about disaster preparedness and response. Featured speakers include:

- Dr. Samantha Montano, University of North Dakota
- Chad Stover & Katrina French, Corporation for National & Community Service
- Mark Kitchens, FEMA Region VII
- Ashley Mueller, University of Nebraska Extension
- John Packett, Henry Doorly Zoo

8/19: Practice your skills with a full-scale disaster exercise

Conference Registration: Free!

Light breakfast and lunch included on Friday/Saturday

Register Now

<https://go.unl.edu/2018NECitizenCorpsConf>

Questions?

email rlowry@unl.edu or call 402-472-0108

Nebraska Preparedness Partnership

Continued from page 8

Public/private partnerships, who Nebraska Preparedness Partnership is, and what partnering with the organization means for businesses before, during, and after a disaster.

Participate with experts from emergency management agencies, corporate business partners, public/private partnerships, and other local businesses in an exercise to practice what you learned in the workshop and ask questions of other participants.

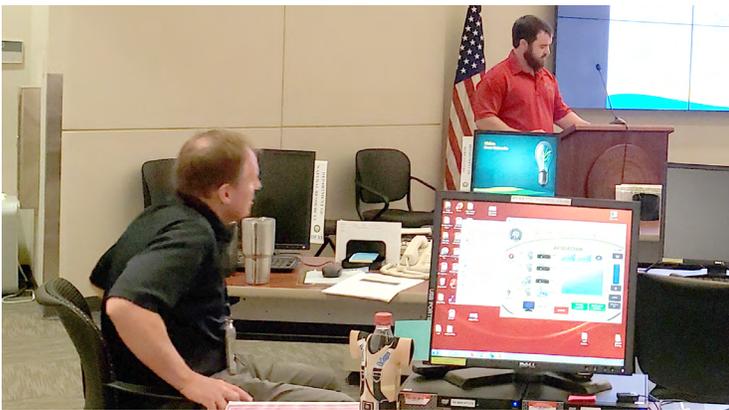
Major Topics Include:

- Emergency Preparedness for individuals, employees, and businesses
- How emergency responders, law enforcement, emergency management, and private businesses can work together to respond more effectively to local emergencies using public/private partnerships
- More rapid recovery of the community and economy following a disaster
- Participation in a local emergency tabletop exercise, prepared by Douglas County Emergency Management

The conference is designed for the following individuals:

- Small, medium and large business owners, managers, and business continuity professionals
- State, local, tribal and territorial government officials and managers
- Other business managers and personnel with business continuity and emergency responsibilities

To register contact the Nebraska Preparedness Partnership: (402) 979-7207; npp@neprep.org or visit: www.neprep.org the deadline to register is Aug. 31.



Local Emergency Operations Plan Workshop Held at NEMA

Left: Planning Specialist **Walter Kirkland** (standing) addresses local emergency managers at the start of a workshop at NEMA that focused on updating LEOPs as Planning Specialist **Patrick Rooney** looks on.

Above left, Program Specialist Leo Larkin works with Laura Hintz, director of Knox County Emergency Management on her LEOP.

Above right: emergency managers from counties due to update their LEOPs spent two days working with NEMA planning and program specialists on revising and updating plans.



International Visitors Tour NEMA

Above: Bryan Tuma, NEMA assistant director, and left, Deputy Adjutant General Rick Dalman, give international visitors an update on the Nebraska Military Department and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. The visitors were in Lincoln as part of the Lincoln Council for International Visitors and The Mayor's Committee for International Friendship. The visitors are invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. This year visitors were from: Denmark, Estonia, Montenegro, Romania and Sweden.



NEMA Assistant Director Bryan Tuma presents Chris Ulrick with his Advanced Professional Series Certificate. The Advanced Professional Series was established to motivate and challenge students to continue emergency management training and includes five required courses and five of 16 elective courses.

Chris Ulrick Joins NEMA Exercise Training Unit

Chris Ulrick joined NEMA on July 9 as an exercise training officer.

Previously, Ulrick was an emergency specialist with the Nebraska Department of Corrections for nearly nine years.

Ulrick was born and raised in Beatrice.

He is a member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Gage County.

“I joined the CERT to help out my community and learn how local organizations can help respond to disaster.”

He enjoys woodworking, working on vehicles and other hobbies working with his hands.



Tom Smith has been named the director of the Dodge County Emergency Management. He replaces Bill Pook who recently retired as Region 5/6 Coordinator. Directors have yet to be named for Burt and Washington counties. Smith previously was the director of Region 44 Emergency Management which covers Boone, Merrick and Nance Counties. His new contact information is:

402-727-2785
dodgecoema@gmail.com
435 N. Park Ave., Fremont, NE 68025

The coordinator for Regions 44 has also not been named. In the meantime, anyone needing information can contact the county sheriffs in Boone, Merrick and Nance Counties.



(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

