

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Strength.

The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



A Week of Storms From Bayard to Bellevue



Top: Home damage in Bellevue; right structural damage in Bayard and above damage in southeast Nebraska.



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.

Calibration Lab Moves to Joint Force Headquarters

All NEMA Staff Housed in One Facility

In the field of emergency management one day is never the same as the next, and the storms that hit Nebraska communities throughout the week of June 12 were a not-so-gentle reminder of that fact. NEMA staff activated the state emergency operations center, monitored storms and damage, worked with local emergency managers to survey damage and will be conducting more extensive damage assessments in the coming days. This all occurred while staff continued day-to-day work at the agency.

A significant change this month, that we all dealt with, was the last part of the technical hazards move to Joint Force Headquarters. This milestone is worthy of note because it marks the first time that all NEMA staff have ever been housed in one building. Moving the radiological calibration lab, where Mike Loftis, our radiological systems manager, calibrates radiological equipment for local agencies across the state, was no small feat. For more on the move itself, check out the story on page 11.

The reason we are making the move is to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the technical hazards program. With the decommissioning of Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Power Station, the passing of former Section Manager Jon Schwartz, Tonya's Ngotel's departure for a new position and Mike's impending retirement in September, the move just makes sense. Technical hazards is now a unit in the Preparedness section under Manager Nikki Weber. The staff changes and move to JFHQ will save the state money and will make us a more effective agency.

I recently returned from the Council of State Governments Transportation Working Group meeting held in Pittsburgh. The cross section of highway, rail and government representatives discussed radiological issues, including the potential reopening of the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in Nevada and spent fuel shipments, through the Waste Isolation Pilot Program, to Carlsbad, N.M.

I am amazed at the work our technical hazards staff is involved in concerning radiological issues.

There is never a dull moment in emergency management.

Sincerely,

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

Bryan Tuma
Assistant Director

Widespread Tornadoic Thunderstorms Cross the State

Communities Focus on Clean Up

Storms, caused as a result of an unusually strong, slow-moving low pressure area that lifted northeast from Nevada on the morning of June 12, to central Canada by the afternoon of June 16, caused damage throughout the state.

According to the National Weather Service offices that cover Nebraska, an air mass ahead of the system contained conditions conducive for the development of supercell thunderstorms.

That above average low-level moisture, combined with a favorable turning of winds in the atmosphere, produced widespread tornadoic thunderstorms across the state.

Nebraskans from Bayard to Bellevue were affected by damage caused by the system.



Nebraska State Patrol Aviation documented damage to a farm northeast of Bayard.

June 12 Tornadoes and Severe Weather Panhandle

Thunderstorms in Colorado and Wyoming steered into the western two rows of counties of the Nebraska Panhandle and spawned several tornadoes between 5-9 p.m. MDT.

Multiple supercell thunderstorms spawned numerous tornadoes while lifting northeast into the western of counties of Sioux, Scotts Bluff, Banner, Kimball, Dawes, Box Butte and Morrill.

The first tornado, an EF-4, crossed the Nebraska Wyoming boarder into Sioux County at around 5:30 p.m., severely damaging a homestead roughly 10 miles south-southwest of Harrison.

The second tornado, and EF-1, touched down in Kimball County, 10 miles north of Bushnell, and did significant damage to a barn and farm
Clean Up Continued, Page 4.

State Responds to Local Requests for Assistance

Gov. Pete Ricketts issued a proclamation declaring a state of emergency within storm-impacted areas of the state which allowed for state funds to be used in response and support of local governments.

Gov. Ricketts surveyed storm damage on a Nebraska National Guard flight on June 17 following the storms that started in western Nebraska, June 12 and continued across the state until June 16. Tornadoes and

straight-line winds caused significant damage in many communities and rural areas. Gov. Ricketts and NEMA assistant director **Bryan Tuma** also met with community leaders in Bayard and Plattsmouth.

Earlier in the week, NEMA Recovery Section Manager **Donny Christensen** flew to Bayard with the **Col. Brad Rice**, superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol, to meet with Region 21 County Emergency Manager **Ron Leal** and assess damage in the area. In addition, the patrol's Aerial Support Division (ASD) took photos of damage during flights following the weather events. **State Response Continued, Page 4.**



Gov. Pete Ricketts speaks to Bayard Mayor Michelle Coolidge during a visit to the community to survey storm damage.

Clean Up Continued, machinery. It was on the ground for approximately seven minutes.

A third tornado formed in southwest Banner County, remained on the ground for approximately 5 minutes, but lifted without causing damage.

As these storms continued lifting northeast, periodic tornado touchdowns were observed but caused no damage.

The next area of damage was observed southeast of Harrisburg in Banner county, where damage to grain bins and a pole barn were consistent with an EF-1 tornado.

Storms continued lifting northeast, merging west of Bayard, near the Scotts Bluff/Morrill County line.

Areas in Morrill County from a few miles west of Bayard eastward along Highway 26/L62A, saw widespread damage from two separate tornado touchdowns. The first tornado touched down in the northern sections of Bayard, causing significant damage to trees in town, as well as structural damage to the Chimney Rock Villa assisted care facility (EF-1 rated tornado).

Another tornado touched down in the vicinity of Moomaw's Corner (Highway 26 and L62A) and travelled eastward. EF-2 rated damage was observed to a pre-fabricated farmhouse approximately six miles

northeast of Bayard.

This tornado continued to produce damage in Angora as well as at a warehouse at the Alliance airport.

Although the tornadic damage was in a fairly narrow swath, a larger swath of straight-line wind damage was noted to more than 50 center pivots in western and central Morrill County.

A tornado was observed north of Whitney in Dawes County during this event.

Lastly, a tornado was observed three miles west-southwest of Antioch in Sheridan County. The tornado tracked for 9.6 miles and was rated an EF-1.

**June 13 and 15
Wind and Hail event
Central and Eastern Nebraska**

The National Weather Service reports the next part of the continuing weather system was driven by a shortwave trough swinging east through the Central Plains, to the southeast of its parent, a closed low pressure system centered over Montana.

At the surface, storms developed in an explosive fashion as a dryline, pushing in from the west, encountered a very warm/unstable air mass characterized by afternoon high temperatures well into the 90s

Clean Up Continued, Page 5.

State Response Continued

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency duty officer team worked in the watch center throughout the week during tornado watches and warnings.

The State Emergency Operations Center at NEMA was partially activated June 16 and 17 to respond to the damage caused by the events of the 16th.

NEMA staff continues to gather information from local emergency managers regarding damage in more than 30 counties affected by the week of storms.

NEMA has reached out to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and has begun preliminary damage assessment. Seventeen of the more than 30 counties that sustained damage could qualify for federal declaration bases on early estimates of public damage.

Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) officers helped document damage and NSP flew over impacted areas to document damage from the air.

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) worked on debris clearance NDOR was the only state asset requested in the recovery. All disasters start at the local level and the state helps when it gets requests for assistance.

The Department of Insurance sent representatives to Bayard to assist victims of the storm with insurance questions. The Department of Health and Human Services worked to replace food lost during electrical outages for people who receive SNAP benefits.

State Response Continued page 5.



Nebraska State Patrol Aviation documented damage near Beatrice.

Clean Up Continued, and dew points in the 60s. The result was very strong winds and large hail, some as big as a grapefruit.

The eastern half of Nebraska was included in a slight risk for severe weather on June 13, while the northeast quarter of the state was in an enhanced risk. The resulting severe weather was a fairly widespread wind and hail event in south central Nebraska.

Quarter to grapefruit-sized hail fell, which led to significant damage in Adams, Boyd, Brown, Cherry,

Holt, Keya Paha, Rock, Thayer and Webster counties. Winds from 60 to 80 mph caused tree and property damage in Polk and Clay counties.

The largest hail was reported 10 miles southwest of Bassett where hailstones were measured at 4.25 inches in diameter.

While no tornadoes were reported in Butler County, David City reported tree damage, limbs down, power outage and minor building damage on June 13.

Sherman County had heavy rainfall, which prompting a flash flood warning.

Hamilton County reported minor tree damage and temporary power outages.

Dakota County had wind damage to trees and several homes and buildings. Temporary power outages were also reported.

In Clay County, trees were uprooted by winds. Hail above 1.5 inches in diameter and wind in excess of 70 miles per hour were recorded.

On the June 15, hail and wind reports were more sporadic and confined to Thayer, Saline and Lancaster counties.

Clean Up Continued, Page 6.

State Response Continued

Additional information:

Guidance for coordination and management of debris following a natural disaster is available on the [Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality website](#).

Proper and planned management of natural disaster debris will be beneficial in preventing a threat to human health and the environment, and will also expedite recovery efforts in an impacted area.

Eastern Nebraska residents in areas impacted by Friday's (June 16) tornados and storms who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits can apply to replace food lost during electrical outages by contacting the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

NEMA has received many reports from local emergency managers in affected areas. Some of the updates include:

Plattsmouth: **Sandy Weyers**, Cass County emergency manager reported impassable roads because of major tree damage and downed power lines. A shelter was set up at the high school. Officials completed a quadrant sweep through town looking for injured individuals and additional damage in the hours after the tornado struck. There was also heavy damage in Louisville.

Beatrice: **Tim Stutzman**, Gage County emergency management director, reported that Beatrice was hit hard. Half the town is without power. In Clatonia, there was tree damage and power lines were down. In Wymore: high winds cause a lot of damage and a camper was tipped over at Big Indian Lake.

Omaha: Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) reported more than 76,000 people were without power at the peak of the outage.

Lincoln/Lancaster County: The county emergency operation center was open throughout the night. No significant damage and no major injuries were reported. A couple of semis were overturned on the highway near the airport. Lincoln Electric System reported approximately 1,200 residents without power.

Bill Pook Region 5-6 emergency management director, (Dodge and Washington County) reported power outages in Nickerson and Arlington. OPPD said tree debris blocked village and city streets. Damage to cars from tree debris and hail was also reported.

Renee Critser, Nemaha County emergency management director, reported some wind damage and playground equipment damage.

Jefferson County Emergency Management Director **John McKee** reported baseball-sized hail fell in Reynolds. Wilber was impacted by straight-line winds and power outages. Western reported a fire possibly due to a lightning strike.

Sarpy County Emergency Management Director Lynn Marshall reported damage throughout the county. The Sarpy County emergency operations center was operational and Nebraska Department of Roads crews were handling traffic control. Damage included: power outages, 24 downed power poles down and with a motorists trapped inside a vehicle as well as widespread tree and structural damage in all communities.

The National Weather Service tour affected areas June 17 to determine what type of tornadoes had struck the various communities.

Beatrice, Gage County had more than 2,000 customers without power at one point following the storms according to Norris Public Power.

Clean Up Continued

The largest hail report was two inch in diameter near Swanton. The other hail reports were of the quarter to half-dollar variety.

June 16

High wind, hail and tornadoes Eastern Nebraska

A line of intense supercell thunderstorms developed over northeast Nebraska during the afternoon hours of June 16.

These storms progressed toward the south and east through the evening, progressively morphing into a sweeping line of storms with embedded areas of both supercells and intense bow echoes.

While the entire line produced widespread reports of wind damage and hail across a large portion of southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska, the most intense activity produced hurricane-force winds of 80-120 mph, baseball-sized hail, and several tornadoes.

Damage was reported in several counties across eastern Nebraska, with significant damage to homes impacted by tornadoes and widespread, substantial power line, tree and crop damage.

Four tornados touched down in eastern Nebraska that evening. Three caused significant damage.

An EF-4 struck Bellevue, an EF-1 hit Offutt Air Force Base and another EF-1 hit the Hoskins area. There were additional reports of weak tornadoes with winds of 85 mph or less touching down on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Campus in Lincoln and near Madison and Meadow Grove. No serious damage was reported from those.

Homes in Bellevue lost roofs and second stories, and trees and power lines were knocked over. More than 76,000 customers were out of power in Omaha Public Power District area.

Homes and facilities at Offutt were damaged and the City of Omaha's sewage treatment plant in Bellevue was temporarily disabled.



Trees were hit hard in Butler County from a storm June 13.

American Red Cross Continues to assist residents in recovery process

The American Red Cross closed its reception center at First Baptist Church Community Center in Bellevue on June 21. The center opened on June 20 to assist families in the area who were affected by severe property damage and extended power outages. On June 17, a shelter was opened at the Plattsmouth High School.

The Red Cross offered sheltering, feeding and clothing in Morrill and Sioux counties.

Red Cross disaster action volunteers responded and will continue to help in the recovery process where needed.

"With the possibility of severe weather this time of year, the Red Cross urges people to be prepared," said **Jill Orton, CEO** for the American Red Cross in the Kansas, Nebraska, SW Iowa Region. "By taking a few simple steps ahead of time, you can help ensure that all of your household

members know what to do and where to go when severe weather occurs."

Download the free Red Cross Emergency app which contains tips on how to assemble an emergency kit and how to create a plan so all household members will know what to do in case they can't make it home or they have to evacuate.

"Family Safe" is a unique feature that allows users to notify loved ones who are in an affected area. They can also use the app to let people know that they are safe. The app has a map with open Red Cross shelter locations and a toolkit with a flashlight, strobe light and alarm. Preparedness content is available in English and Spanish. Download the app in your app store or by going to <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/mobile-apps>



Damage in Bellevue's Rising View neighborhood between 33rd and 36th streets on Capehart was captured in these photos by Stephanie Lowry.

The National Weather Service offices have webpages featuring information on the storms that have struck the state:

[June 16 Storms Omaha-Valley NWS](#)

[June 13 Storms Omaha-Valley NWS](#)

[June 13 Storms Hastings NWS](#)

[June 12 Cheyenne, Wyo. NWS](#)

[Photos of damage](#)

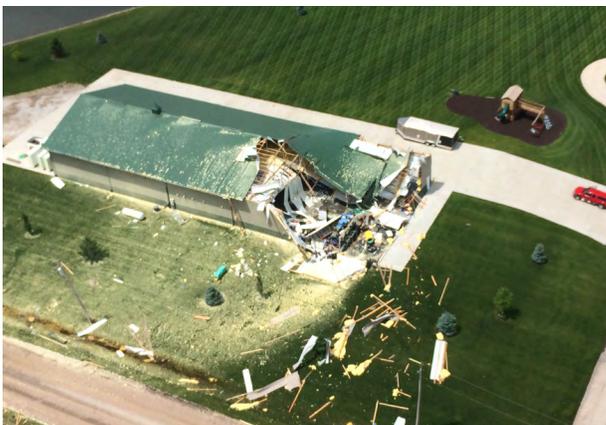
A Disaster Occurs: What Now?

Following a disaster the best place to get information on the response in individual communities is through the county emergency management agency. Local emergency management directors work with communities on its response and have the most up-to-date information on the response because all disasters occur at the local level.

Locally, communities and counties across the state submit disaster declarations when they have events that exceed their ability to respond.

A disaster request is the first step in the recovery process as it allows government entities to spend money to provide for recovery of public infrastructure.

The state provides assistance to local entities when they have exhausted their resources. In turn, the state may apply for federal assistance when its ability to respond has reached its limit.



Clockwise from above left, roof damage in La Platte, the debris pile in Plattsmouth continues to grow, roof damage in Cass County.

ICYMI

In case you missed it

SOCIAL MEDIA

Not sure who to follow on Twitter? [Check out the lists NEMA curates or follows.](#)



NSP Troop E @NSP_TroopE · 5h
Rural Morrill County northeast of Bayard was also hit hard last night. We are still not aware of any serious injuries from the storm. [pic.twitter.com/1tSIDWqad](#)

NSP Troop E @NSP_TroopE · 5h
Rural Morrill County northeast of Bayard was also hit hard last night. We are still not aware of any serious injuries from the storm. [pic.twitter.com/1tSIDWqad](#)

NSP Troop E @NSP_TroopE · 17h
The tornado in Kimball County snapped telephone poles and overturned a lot of objects. No known injuries at this time. [pic.twitter.com/86eSJ7QYWY](#)



Nebraska State Patrol added 6 new photos.

June 17 at 7:10pm · 🌐

Finishing our statewide tour with Governor Ricketts in Plattsmouth. Thanks to NEMA, NSP personnel and all local responders for all their work.

Best news: No serious injuries despite 16 tornado warnings from border to border in Nebraska this week.



Dave Reisen shared Mayor David P. Black's photo.

June 20 at 1:55pm · 🌐

Jodie Fawl



Mayor David P. Black

June 18 at 10:02pm · Papillion · 🌐

👍 Like Page

Perspective of the wind... wonder why power might still be out in some areas south of Hwy 370. I did not take this specific picture (it is Cass County), but it is sort of what the poles down 84th also looked like. Thank you #OPPD for the work you continue to do!



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency added 3 new photos from June to the album: June 16 Storm Damage — with Molly Ilene Bargmann in Bellevue, Nebraska.

Published by Jodie Fawl [?] · June · 🌐

NEMA damage assessment team is in Bellevue June 21.



Register now for Nebraska Preparedness Conference

Registration is open for the 2017 Nebraska Preparedness Conference. The conference will be held in conjunction with the Nebraska Disaster Behavioral Health Conference and will focus on *Back to the Basics: Psychological Skills for Disaster Responders*.

Funding is available to cover registration and hotel costs for day one of the conference. Day two reservations/hotel are the responsibility of the participant.

Register online at: https://unl.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bgCXhGTu26ZnMNV

Direct questions to: ryan.lowry@nebraska.gov (402) 471-7424.

Hastings Rotary Funds Resources for Medical Reserve Corps

The Hastings Rotary has agreed to partner with the Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corps (CNMRC) on its “Stop the Bleed” and “Until Help Arrives” initiatives.

The Rotary will fund a wall kit which includes 4 FAST kits (tourniquet, sheers, gauze, gloves and information card) for all 15 Hastings School.

With those wall kits the CNMRC will provide train-the-trainer and educational courses to school faculty in the fall.

“This means that with our partnerships, Hastings area schools, Hastings Fire and Rescue, Mary Lanning Hospital, Hastings Police, Adams County Sheriffs and the Nebraska State Patrol will all be carrying or have access to “Stop the Bleed” and “Until Help Arrives” supplies and education,” said **Ron Pughes**, CNMRC coordinator.

If you would like to assist in your area of residence, send Pughes an email at centralnebraskamrc@gmail.com and he will work with you on the same initiative for your MRC county.

Keep Your Cool in Hot Weather

As summer heats up, learn how to prepare for high temperatures.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), sickness from the heat occurs when your body cannot compensate and properly cool you off. However, heat-related illness and death are preventable.

Before the next heat wave, outdoor activity, or Fourth of July celebration, follow these protective actions from the CDC and stay cool this summer:

- Stay in an air-conditioned location as much as possible.
- Drink plenty of fluids even if you do not feel thirsty.
- Take several breaks from the heat, especially midday when the sun is hottest.
- Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing, and sunscreen. Remember that you



should reapply sunscreen every three to four hours.

- Take cool showers or baths to cool down.
- Check on friends or neighbors during extremely hot days and have someone do the same for you.
- Never leave children or pets in cars.
- Check the local news for health and safety updates.

Find more information on extreme heat preparedness at www.ready.gov/heat.

Summer Hazards Update

Summer is an important season to know your risks when outdoors, to be prepared and to take appropriate action. Information on the National Weather Service [Summer Safety Campaign](#) can help you prepare. Here are a few summer hazards:

Lightning: Historically, the most lightning deaths occur in the months of June and July. The most important message everyone should know is if you can hear thunder, you are in danger. Remember the slogan: “When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors”. Visit weather.gov/lightning for lightning safety content.

Extreme Heat: Always look for ways to reduce exposure to extreme heat and ensure young children and pets are especially protected. Visit: www.nws.noaa.gov/om/heat/index.shtml.

Thunderstorms: Severe thunderstorms are officially defined as storms that are capable of producing hail that is an inch or larger or wind gusts over 58 mph. When a severe weather watch or warning is issued close to your location but does not include your county, you should still remain alert. The atmosphere rarely follows straight lines, and thunderstorms do not always remain within the man-made boundaries we create around them. For more information visit: www.nws.noaa.gov/os/thunderstorm/

Tornadoes: Be weather ready. Sign up for notifications. Create a communications plan, practice your plan, prepare your home and help your neighbor. Visit: [Weather Ready Nation](#) for details.



Quick Action and Mitigation Make a Difference

Minatare Public Schools Superintendent Tim Cody reports that the new saferoom at the school came in handy June 12 while a number of tornadoes were in the area.

A school board meeting was being held in the safe room when community members started to arrive because of the bad weather. Cody said: "It was the biggest board meeting we have had in a while."

Among the people sheltering in the safe room were travellers from Minnesota who were passing through the area on the highway and who stopped to find some shelter from the tornadoes.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provided funds for the recently completed safe room; HMGP is FEMA funded and the grant is managed and administered by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

"We were pretty fortunate," Cody said. "We just had some high winds and rain but there were twisters touching down all around us."

Bayard, which is nine miles away, is cleaning up after a tornado that touched down there and tore the roof off the nursing home and part of the high school.

"Our shelter provided safety for members of our community for approximately two hours as the sirens went off twice in our community," Cody said. "About 150 people gathered within the building to await the all clear from our local police."

"Thanks again for all the effort that your organization did in bringing to fruition the structure that we could rely on," Cody wrote to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer **Mary Baker**. "Little did we know we would use it so soon from completion. It was surely a Godsend for

those that sought shelter during the time of need. Again, all my thanks to yourself and your organization for your hard work and dedication."

Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VII Acting Administrator **Kathy Fields** included the story in FEMA's blog.

Fields wrote: "What a great job by the folks up there all around: local emergency management officials making sure to monitor the weather and sounding the sirens to provide notice, the school in getting the word out that the shelter was ready to be used, and the citizens in taking quick action to keep safe."

Baker summed it up, "It's awesome to see a safe room that we helped build protect and save lives. This just shows why hazard mitigation projects are so important to our communities."



Load ‘Em Up, Move ‘Em Out!

NEMA’s Radiological Lab Moves to Its New Home

*By: Debra Robinson
Planning and Training Specialist
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency*

After many months of planning and coordination meetings between the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ), Nebraska Military Department, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the 72nd CSTs, the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) and Lincoln Police Department, the day finally came to move NEMA’s Radiological Lab to its new home at JFHQ.

No move is pleasant. The sorting, the packing, the tossing and identifying what needs to be surplused. The list and tasks are endless. Now imagine having to coordinate a move that involves radiation sources, radiation equipment, thousands of parts, calibration equipment, repair stations, racks, shelves, and yes, the kitchen sink... and having to do it through traffic and the requirements of a license to boot. This is exactly what **Mike Loftis**, NEMA’s radiological systems manager, had to plan for and execute in this move.

As you would expect, radiological sources must be accounted for at all times; and moving them requires extensive preparations and coordination between, parties who provide oversight for the license and/or are involved in radiation safety and law enforcement. No detail is left to chance.

As expected, the extensive planning and coordination efforts paid off. The move was completed without a hitch. The transport caravan moved from the old office to the



The transport caravan for moving calibration lab equipment included Nebraska State Patrol, Lincoln Police and Nebraska Military Department staff.

Nebraska National Guard base with no incidents or concerns along the way. Rolling traffic restrictions at intersections ensured the transport caravan moved without interruption and without major disruptions to traffic.

Moving the lab was only half the battle. The other part of the process requires the decommissioning of not only the old lab, but the entire office and all common spaces where the sources were housed. This process is done to ensure that there is absolutely no trace of radiation (other than natural background) or threat of radiological contamination to the facility once it is vacated.

The building had two grid patterns of either 1 sq. ft. or 1 sq. meter laid out depending upon the activities that took place in each given section. Each grid was first surveyed to assess the potential for contamination. Then each grid was sampled to ensure there was



Mike Loftis, radiological systems manager, prepares to move calibration equipment into the Joint Force Headquarters.

no contamination present. Once the sampling was completed, each grid was surveyed again as a final verification that no contamination from our operations was present or left behind. The building must be certified as “clean” in order for it to be decommissioned and returned to the owner for their continued commercial use.

Continued on Page 12.

Continued from page 11.

I have moved around the country several times in my life for my career. I wish my moves could have gone as smoothly as this did. It goes to show you what a good plan and great support from all cooperating agencies can accomplish when they work together.

While Loftis orchestrated the move, he said he owes a lot of people his appreciation for its completion. He got a lot of help from all the people involved.

“I would like to thank everyone who helped complete a very suc-

cessful move of the Radiation Calibration Facility to JFHQ,” Loftis wrote. “Everyone involved contributed to the success of the move.”

He offered thanks to the Nebraska State Patrol and Lincoln Police for providing security for the move, to the 72nd CST for validating 40 years of leak testing, to the JFHQ staff who prepared the new room for the calibration lab, base security for a smooth and seamless transition onto the base and also to the technical hazards unit staff who worked with him in preparation for the move.

Left: Mike Loftis of NEMA surveys the storage room at the old location for the calibration lab on west Van Dorn Street. Surveying the room was the final step in a three-step process that ensures no contamination (above natural background levels) was left behind. In this picture, a 1 sq. meter grid pattern was used for readings and samples to be taken. Recordings for each grid were taken and maintained in records. Next, samples were taken for each grid spot to ensure that no contamination is found or if any is found that the area can be decontaminated. The last step was to survey each grid again to validate the previous findings, ensuring the areas are free and clear of any radiological contamination.



Members of the 155th Composite Squadron of the Nebraska Wing Civil Air Patrol, commanded by Maj. Leo Larkin, conducted a stretcher lift exercise for their skills qualification task books on June 12 at the Nebraska Air National Guard Communications Flight Building. The 20 cadets accomplished their skills testing thanks to Mike Loftis and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency for letting the cadets use the agency's backboard.



Hidden Secrets: Part 2

The Center for Radiological Nuclear Training

By: Debra Robinson

Planning and Training Specialist

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

As I noted in my article last month, police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management and public health professionals have the unique opportunity to receive high level training through special schools and courses from member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium.

Counterterrorism Operations Support (CTOS) training is funded and provided by and through the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), Center for Radiological/Nuclear Training, Counterterrorism Operations, in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Training and Education Division (NTED) within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

In this month's article, I would like to highlight the Center for Radiological Nuclear Training (CTOS) at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). It is fitting that some of the nation's top training opportunities for radiological and nuclear preparedness and response takes place where America entered the nuclear weapons age at the NNSS.

The NNSS is noted for originally being established to test America's nuclear weapons and today is recognized as the only place where first responders train and gain experience in a real-world WMD environment.

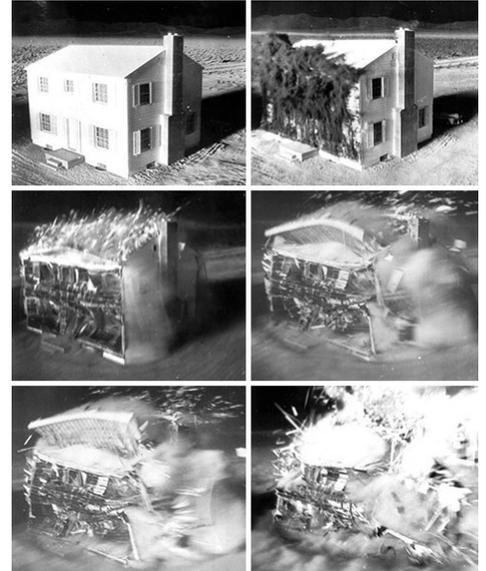
Located northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada, CTOS provides first and emergency responders with the most realistic and authentic radiological training available. Training at CTOS focuses on equipment, their

capabilities, limitations and applications and prepares the responders to respond to radiological incident or accidents, including terrorist attacks.

This training prepares responders to take immediate, decisive action to prevent or mitigate terrorist use of radiological or nuclear WMDs such as improvised nuclear devices (INDs) and radiological dispersal devices (RDDs or dirty bombs).

There are three methods of delivery for training programs that are available from CTOS. Some of the basic classes can be completed through their web-based campus. The largest portion of their courses are offered on-site at the NSS and there are a number of trainings that can be brought to state and local departments and agencies through mobile training teams.

Live agent training using radioactive material is available for all courses except the awareness level courses and the web-based (online) trainings. The radiation sources that are used are low enough to be safe but sufficient to ensure responders are able to practice using proper techniques with their instrumenta-



Then-Apple House during Nuclear Testing.

tion.

Like the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), training provided by CTOS is free of charge for public service personnel, first and emergency responders. Private sectors personnel can attend sessions pending availability of space, however, there are fees associated with their training.

For more information on available training at CTOS, visit: www.ctosnnsa.org.



Now-Apple 2 House Radiological Training Class for First Responders



Molly Bargmann, recovery unit supervisor with NEMA, speaks in Kearney at the accounting and financing conference attended by city officials from across Nebraska. She addressed more than 180 attendees on documentation needed for the disaster application process.

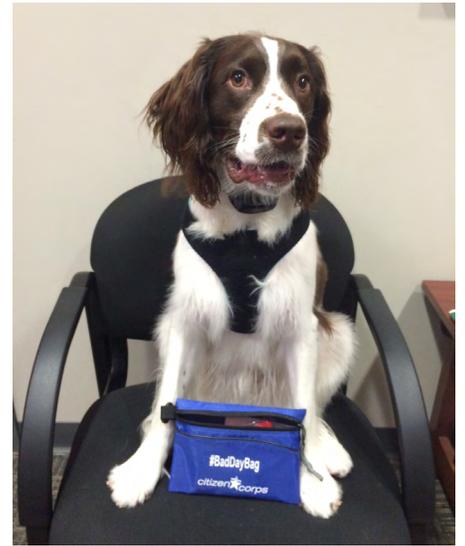
Get Your Pets Ready

June is National Pet Preparedness Month and a perfect opportunity to learn how to plan for your pet's safety during an emergency.

If you need to evacuate your home for any reason do not forget to plan for your furry, scaly or feathered friends.

The Ready Campaign offers guidance and tips with regard to:

- Making a pet emergency plan.
- Preparing shelter for your pet.
- Protecting your pet during a disaster
- Caring for them after a disaster
- Protecting large animals in the event of a disaster.



Learn more about how to prepare pets for emergency situations at www.ready.gov/animals.

Add Some Apps to Your Digital Go Bag

Digital Go Bag

Take the first step toward emergency preparedness by downloading some applications on your smartphone to keep you better informed about disasters.

The [Disaster Information Management Research Center](#) compiled a list of appropriate and trustworthy applications including those from the Federal Emergency

Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Red Cross that could be added to a digital go bag.

These apps cover:

- Family reunification
- Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and hazardous substances
- Medical and health information
- Responder support and safety including field operations

guides

- Psychological health tools for staying emotionally healthy
- Surveillance and alerts such as disease outbreaks and severe weather warnings

Visit <https://sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/disasterapps.html#a0> to see what preparedness and planning tools can be at your fingertips.



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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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