

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Strength.

June 2018



# The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



***Flooding  
in  
Pender***



*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.*

In an effort to reduce costs, changes are coming to the disaster recovery process in the United States.

Multiple hurricanes and wildfires in 2017 required unprecedented help for communities in need and followed eight of the most expensive years of all time for the Public Assistance Program between the years of 2007 and 2016.

Based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, released earlier this year, we can look for FEMA to promote building a culture of preparedness, improving readiness for disasters and reducing the red tape associated with disaster recovery. Community resilience, preparation for catastrophe and reducing the complexity of FEMA are objectives of the plan.

FEMA Director **Brock Long** frequently mentions his vision of a "federally funded, state managed, locally-executed disaster recovery" process. Consequently, more of the recovery processes will be streamlined or incentivized for states to play a larger role in addressing recovery program requirements. This should drive down the cost, increase efficiency and reduce the complexity of recovery programs.

FEMA is considering various options for reducing the federal government's costs through less management costs, including reducing state thresholds, providing incentives to states and local government for investment in mitigation projects and a "public assistance deductible" as an alternative to increasing the state threshold.

Management of less than catastrophic disasters is already shifting to states and local entities in an effort to reduce the federal burden of disaster costs. Where, in the past, FEMA might have opened a joint field office, now states and local entities are assuming the responsibility for preliminary damage assessments.

Recently the National Emergency Management Association and the International Association of Emergency Managers proposed a rollover of disaster management costs that they believe will increase capability and responsibility in managing disaster declarations. The two organizations believe their proposal will meet the objectives of FEMA's strategic plan by allowing grantees to use management costs across all open disasters. The way the program works now, all associated personnel costs must be tied to a specific declaration, program and project. The associations' believe it is administrative over-kill and limits flexibility. It is particularly problematic in small declarations with management costs being quickly exhausted and state funds being used to complete administration of the federal grant. In larger grants, declarations remain open for extended periods of time to ensure the expenditure of all eligible costs.

The National Emergency Management Association and IAEM are proposing an unfunded grant for public assistance and hazard mitigation that, as disasters are declared, will allow management costs to continue to be obligated by being deposited into a generic program account by allowing remaining funds after the close-out of a disaster to be available to build recovery and mitigation capacity at the state and local levels, close-out remaining disasters and build resilience for the next disaster.

FEMA currently allows 3.34 percent to grantees for management costs of public assistance and 4.9 percent for hazard mitigation management costs. The proposal would increase management costs up to 12 percent and possibly allow unused funds to be distributed across all open disasters.

Taking these actions will allow states with more robust recovery and mitigation capacity the ability to assist states with infrequent declarations and therefore less capacity (i.e. EMAC); manage the smaller declarations; and allow FEMA to focus on catastrophic events. The nation would realize an overall reduction of administrative costs and increased capability and responsibility at the state and local levels.

No matter what plans are adopted, we can definitely expect changes to the public assistance and hazard mitigation programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan Tuma".

Bryan Tuma  
NEMA Assistant Director

## Heavy Rains in Northeast Nebraska Cause Flooding



Logan Creek east of Pender

On June 26, **Gov. Pete Ricketts** surveyed flood damage caused by heavy rain in portions of northeast Nebraska. He joined members of the Nebraska National Guard to get an aerial view of the impact. The affected counties include Burt, Butler, Cedar, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Platte, Saunders, Thurston, Washington and Wayne counties among others not along the river. In addition, counties located along the Missouri River in southeast Nebraska were also affected.

Then on June 28, Gov. Ricketts signed a disaster declaration to aid the response to flooding and damage reports from across the state.

"Flooding has had a major impact on counties across northeast Nebraska," Governor Ricketts said. "This declaration allows state funds from the Governor's Emergency Fund to help our communities in their response."

Nebraska has been impacted by a sustained period of severe weather since June 1 and many other counties and homeowners across the state have experienced damage due to flooding and high winds.

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has been working with local, state, and federal officials to provide assistance to the counties in need while gauging the total damage and impact from the flooding.

To keep up to date on road closings, visit the Nebraska Department of Transportation's traveler information website at <http://www.511.nebraska.gov/> or follow NDOT on Twitter [@Nebraska511](https://twitter.com/Nebraska511).

Anyone who becomes involved in an emergency situation due to the flooding should call 9-1-1 immediately for assistance.

Areas affected by earlier storms are being impacted by rain, wind and hail from additional storms. The declaration allows the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to direct the appropriate allocation of state resources to help communities and their response.

"Nebraska has been impacted by a sustained pattern of severe weather during the month of June," said **NEMA Assistant Director Bryan Tuma**. NEMA will be assisting local officials with their assessments of damage and the impact resulting from these events so that recovery resources can be properly identified. NEMA strongly encourages local government and citizens to assess and document damage resulting from these storms. Individuals should contact their local emergency management officials to address any concerns or needs."



Highway 275 west of Westpoint.



Highway 275



Middle Creek Thurston County



Twin Creeks Golf Course north of Pender



Bridge Damage in Dakota County



Cuming County Road L south of Road 16

# Full-Scale Exercise Focuses on Response Plans, Communication

Following 14 months of planning, a full-scale exercise that included community responders, as well as state and local officials, was conducted, Saturday, June 23, at the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution.

More than 120 representatives from 12 agencies were involved in the exercise which tested individual agency emergency response plans and communication. Agency response vehicles and other equipment were also used.

“The exercise was designed to activate and utilize institutional emergency plans,” said NEMA Training and Exercise Unit Supervisor Dave Reisen.

The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services worked with staff from Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska State Patrol, Johnson County Sheriff’s Office, Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, Tecumseh Fire, Tecumseh Rescue, Johnson

County Hospital, the American Red Cross, Johnson County Commissioners, State Fire Marshal’s Office and University of Nebraska Police Department.

During planning for the event, a tabletop exercise was held to identify gaps in agency plans. The focus of the exercise was on each agency’s emergency response plan and their ability to communicate with one another. The exercise provided an opportunity for participating agencies to train together and demonstrate their response to a simulated situation at TSCI, Arrangements were made in advance to accommodate the needs of those incarcerated at the facility while the exercise took place.

“As in any exercise, participants have provided feedback on what went well, areas needing improvement and lessons learned,” NEMA Planning Unit Supervisor Sean Runge said. “The information will help improve future responses.”



The Nebraska State Patrol mobile command post was on hand for the exercise.



Johnson County Sheriff Scott Walton works inside the Nebraska State Patrol mobile command post during the full-scale exercise at the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution on June 23.



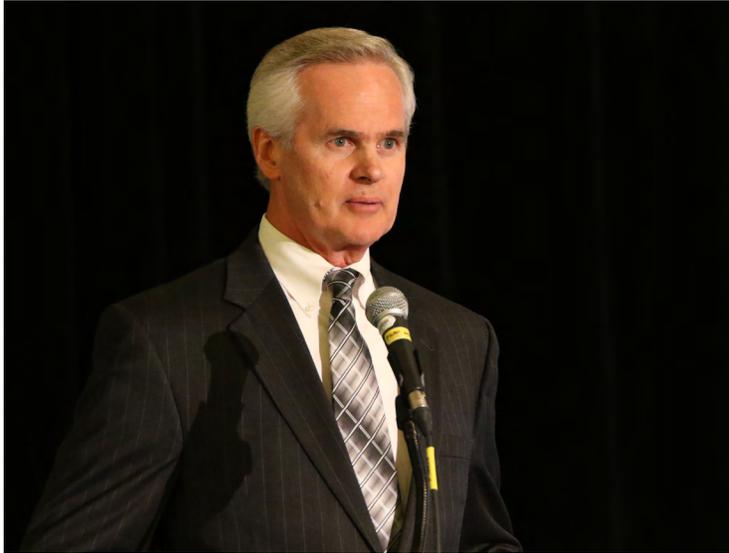
The NEMA mobile operation center was used during the exercise for check-in of all exercise participants and equipment.



American Red Cross personnel and Tecumseh Rescue also participated in the exercise.



Special response teams get ready to enter TSCI during an exercise on June 23.



Clockwise from Top: The opening plenary meeting of the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum was held June 6 at the Doubletree Hotel in Omaha; Mark Gilbertson, associate principal deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Regulatory and Policy Affairs in the U.S. Office of Environmental Management of the Department of Energy gave the keynote address; Nebraska Lt. Gov. Mike Foley welcomed NTSF participants to Nebraska.

## National Transportation Stakeholders Forum Held in Omaha, June 4-7

The 2018 annual meeting of the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) was held, June 4-7 in Omaha, to help meet the group's goals of:

- informing states and tribes
- obtaining input and
- identifying emerging issues.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) is the mechanism through which DOE communicates at a national level with states and tribes about the department's shipments of radioactive waste and materials, as well as occasional high-visibility shipments that are nonradioactive. The purpose of the NTSF is to bring transparency, openness,



Winnebago Tribe dancers and a drum group from the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska performed at the opening of the forum.

and accountability to DOE's offsite transportation activities through collaboration with state and tribal governments.

"The NTSF forum provided great insight and information for all participants," said **Nikki Weber**, Preparedness Section manager at

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. In addition to Weber, Nebraska participants included: **Bryan Tuma** and **Brian Folts** of NEMA and **Julia Schmitt** of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The forum included a variety of small group meetings and sessions.

Topics covered including: the WIPP Transportation Safety Program; Research on Long-Term Storage and Transportation of Spent Nuclear Fuel: ENSA, Cladding, and Stress Corrosion Cracking; Risk and Crisis Communication; Transporting Radioactive Materials by Rail: Multiple Approaches to Support Safe Operations; and Transportation Safety and Security.

# FEMA EMI News Website Update

**TWO REVISED NIMS COURSES RELEASED**

<http://training.fema.gov/EMI/>

Two National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) courses were released during the last week of June.

FEMA released a revision of NIMS in October 2017 and 30 NIMS-related courses are in revision based on those updates. The first two revised courses were completed and released and the additional twenty-eight NIMS curriculum courses are in final revisions.

FEMA's National Integration Center and the FEMA Emergency Management Institute completed and approved the release of:

- **IS-100.c** – An Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100. This course introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. The course describes the history, features, principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- **IS-700.b** – An Introduction to the National Incident Management System. This course provides an overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS defines the comprehensive approach guiding the whole community - all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations (NGO), and the private sector - to work together seamlessly to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the effects of incidents. The course provides learners with a basic understanding of NIMS concepts, principles, and components.

[Read more in Training Bulletin 1417.](https://training.fema.gov/emigrams/2018/14)

<https://training.fema.gov/emigrams/2018/14>



**July 16, 2018, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** – NEMA's planning unit staff are hosting an **Emergency Managers Handbook Webinar**. Register online at: <http://events.egov.com/eventreg/NE/event.htm?name=nebraskaemergencymanagershandbookreview>.

**July 25-26, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** –

The NEMA Planning Unit staff have scheduled a **LEOP Workshop**. If you're working on your LEOP, this is a great time to get assistance from NEMA planning specialists. Register online at <http://events.egov.com/eventreg/NE/event.htm?name=leopworkshopforemergencymanagers>.

**September 27-29** – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, in cooperation with North Platte Fire Department, is hosting a **Hazardous Materials and Local Emergency Planning Committee Conference** in North Platte at the Quality Inn Sandhills Convention Center. Stay tuned for further details on registration, speakers, and training opportunities. Please pass this along to anyone who may be interested in attending.



## Prepare Your Pet this National Pet Preparedness Month

**National Pet Preparedness Month** is in June. Pets cannot plan for themselves. Use the month to make a plan for your pet's safety.

If you need to evacuate your home for any reason, do not forget your pet. The Ready Campaign offers **guidance and tips to:**

- Make a pet emergency plan.
- Prepare to shelter with your pet.
- Protect your pet during and after a disaster.
- Care for large animals.

Learn more about how to prepare your pets for emergencies at [www.ready.gov/animals](http://www.ready.gov/animals). Help spread the word about National Pet Preparedness Month via your social networks by using the [Pet Preparedness Social Media Toolkit](#).

# Phyllis Dutton Recognized for Preparedness Work

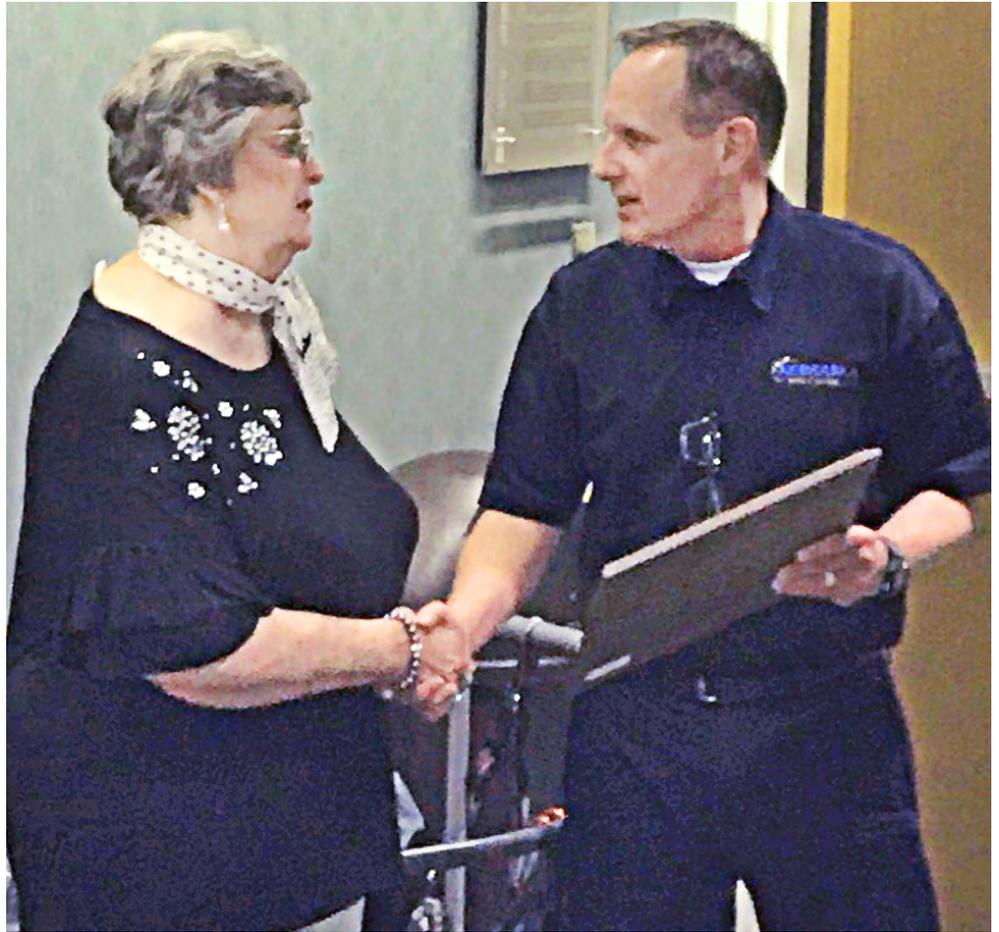
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency recognized Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System Program Coordinator **Phyllis Dutton** on the occasion of her retirement on June 13.

NEMA Planning Specialist **Patrick Rooney** presented Dutton with a recognition plaque for her years of service to the State.

Dutton was recognized for her commitment and service to NEMA and to the citizens of Nebraska through her work since the inception of OMMRS in the year 2000.

“Phyllis has diligently and tirelessly worked with the leadership of 23 committees to plan for a large-scale mass fatality or mass casualty incident during the last 18 years,” Rooney said. “Her work has advanced the state of preparedness in Nebraska.”

“She has been a positive asset and exceptional partner to NEMA and to the Department of Homeland Security Grant Program, and she will be deeply missed by all partners as preparedness efforts continue.”



*Phyllis Dutton of the Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System accepts a plaque and thanks from NEMA Planning Specialist Patrick Rooney on the occasion of her retirement.*

**NEBRASKA**  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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

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

