

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Strength.

May 2018



# The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



**It's Severe Weather Season.  
Are you Prepared?**

Photo by James Kulacz, Broadwate, May 10, 2018



***A Message from  
NEMA Assistant Director***

**Bryan Tuma**

*We envision safer, less vulnerable communities in Nebraska made possible through effective collaborative partnerships committed to saving lives and reducing the impact of disasters.*

*Our mission is to coordinate, support and serve Nebraska through an effective and relevant emergency management agency.*

As we move toward summer, and what is predicted to be a dry season, conducive to potential wildfire, it seems like a good time to review procedures for emergency management response. There is a possibility that dry conditions may occur in areas not typically associated with wildfire in Nebraska. If it's been a while since you looked at the "Yellow Book" now would be a great time to look it over.

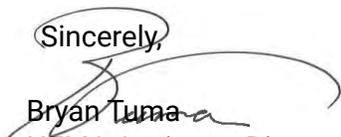
The "Yellow Book's" official title is *The 2018 Emergency Assistance for Wildfire Control* and is prepared by the Nebraska Forest Service. You can find it online at: <https://nema.nebraska.gov/files/doc/fire-yellow-book.pdf>.

The book outlines procedures for requesting aerial applicators or the single engine air tanker (SEAT). The SEAT will come on station later in the summer. The Yellow Book lists a number of aerial applicators across Nebraska who cooperate with the Nebraska Forest Service and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to provide aerial application of water and foam to combat wildfires. The aerial applicator is an initial attack tool available to a fire departments and can often get to a fire before ground crews are able.

We just want to make sure that all emergency managers understand the process. An incident commander may request aerial application but must track the accrued expense of aircraft used for suppression activities. Before the cost exceeds \$25,000, the incident commander must notify NEMA through their local emergency manager to get a governor's emergency declaration to exceed that amount. Should a wildland fire become large enough and/or threaten a community, the incident commander can request through their local emergency manager large air tankers or National Guard helicopters.

One more reminder for local emergency management directors. Please send us your incident status reports (ISRs) as soon as you are able after an event. Include all the information you have at the time. You can fill them out and submit them online at <https://nema.nebraska.gov/incident-status-report>. The Watch Center staff would appreciate a heads up on anything that could potentially need state assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Bryan Tuma  
NEMA Assistant Director

# Leadership Training Completed

**Molly Bargmann and Julie Mayers** graduated from the Nebraska Leadership Certificate Program on May 17. The program is offered to state employees recently promoted to a supervisory role or experienced managers desiring to increase leadership effectiveness. The program included 82 hours of instructor-led training spanning more than a year. Classes completed included building team morale, cultivating positive culture, building a more durable government, effective communication, effective performance management, emotional and social intelligence and ethics in government. It is a custom learning experience combining the knowledge of the most reputable national professionals and the state's own internal experts. Candidates stay connected online to instructors and each other continuously throughout the year, affording the highest retention rates of material while building a professional network that will continue to support their growth and development for the life of their careers.



Julie Mayers, NEMA grants unit supervisor, accepts a certificate of completion from Byron Diamond, director of Administrative Services and Jason Jackson, chief human resources officer.



Molly Bargmann, NEMA recovery unit supervisor, accepts a certificate of completion from Byron Diamond, director of Administrative Services and Jason Jackson, chief human resources officer.

## NEMA Staff Additions

**Kyle Barzen-Hanson** joined NEMA May 7 as a Recovery Section planning specialist.

Barzen-Hanson grew up in

Grand Rapids, Minn. He earned a bachelor of science in emergency management from North Dakota State University in Fargo.



Prior to arriving at NEMA, Barzen-Hanson had internships at Sanford Health and with the City of Rochester Emergency Management.

He enjoys fishing, hunting, biking, soccer, snowboarding, frisbee golf and most any outdoor activity. He also enjoys concerts and video games.

**Terry Miller** joined NEMA May 16 as the radiological systems manager in the technical hazards unit. (This Terry Miller is not to be confused with the Terry Miller who is Saunders County Emergency Management Director.)

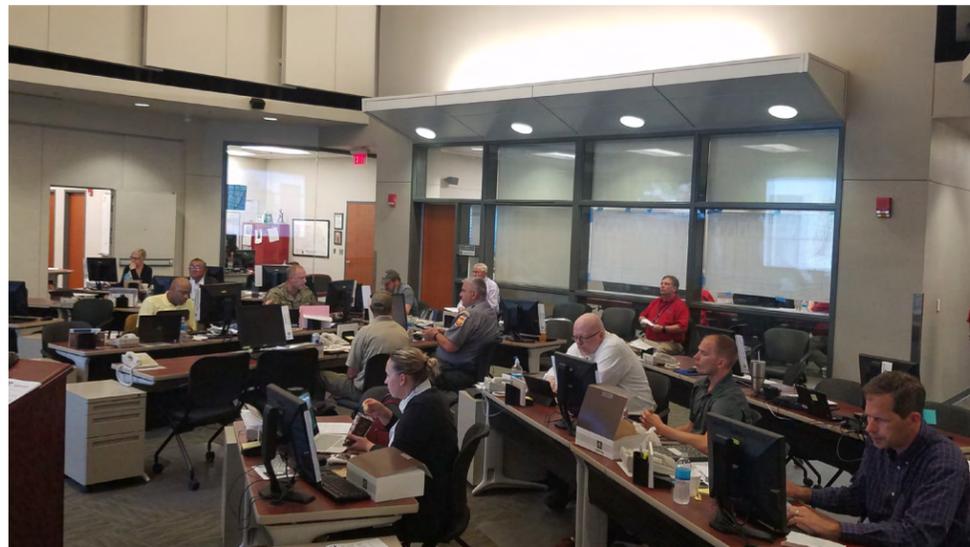
Miller came from Environmental Health and Safety at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, in the radiological and the environmental universal waste department. Prior to that, Miller worked as a radiographer in nondestructive testing.

Miller and his wife, Lisa, have two sons, Bryce,

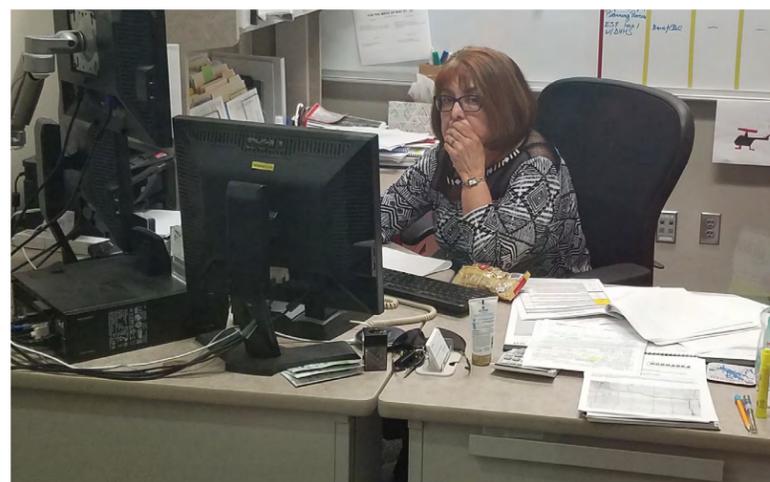
24, who is in law school at Creighton and Austin, 19, who is studying electrical engineering at Doane University. Miller enjoys fishing and traveling.



Assistant Director **Bryan Tuma** presents Program Specialist **Mary Baker** with a certificate for her years of service to the State of Nebraska. Baker left the agency on May 4 to pursue other opportunities. She worked in the Recovery Section as the state hazard mitigation officer.



# COOPER DRESS REHEARSAL



In preparation for an evaluated exercise in July, Cooper Nuclear Station held an exercise on May 22 that included NEMA staff, other Nebraska State Agencies, ham radio operators and other players at the State emergency Operations Center in Lincoln, the Joint Information Center in Auburn, the Emergency Operations Facility in Auburn and the Nemaha, County and Richardson County emergency operation centers. The dress rehearsal exercise helps participants practice their role should a response be necessary because of an event at the Cooper Nuclear Station.





ESF 1 – Transportation  
ESF 3 – Public Works & Engineering  
Nebraska Department of Transportation



ESF 2 – Communications  
Office of the Chief Information Officer



ESF 4 – Fire Suppression  
Nebraska State Fire Marshal



ESF 7 – Infrastructure Protection  
Administrative Services



ESF 9 – Urban Search and Rescue  
Nebraska Task Force One



ESF 10 – Environmental Quality  
Department of Environmental Quality



ESF 11 – Agriculture  
Department of Agriculture

# Emergency Support Function Training

NEMA held a series of training sessions with Emergency Support Function Coordinators during May to help all participants in disaster response understand their role and who else they would be working with during an emergency.



ESF 15 – Military Support  
Nebraska National Guard



ESF 12 – Energy  
Department of Energy

Not Pictured  
ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services  
Department of Health and Human Services



ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security  
Nebraska State Patrol



# FIRE SCHOOL

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff—**Dave Reisen, Sean Runge, Roger Conrad** and **Larry Fichtner** worked with emergency management staff from across the state to support the 81st annual State Fire School in Grand Island this month. The weekend of training includes a variety of classes for nearly 1,200 students. The emergency managers used the Salamander accountability system to keep track of students participating in training. EM volunteers included:

**Amanda Burki**, Johnson/Pawnee County  
**Steve Cody**, Otoe County  
**Evie Flessner**, Region 21  
**Kevin Garvin**, Cedar County  
**Tim Hofbauer** and Command Vehicle, Platte County

**Nic Kemnitz** and Command Trailer, Wayne County  
**Shannon McVaney**, UNL Police Department  
**Mark Rempe**, Custer County  
**Matt May**, Winnebago Tribe  
**Michelle Woitalewicz**, Howard County





# Remembering Bruce Marxsen

by Ryan Lowry,  
Citizen Corps Coordinator

Nebraska's disaster preparedness volunteer force lost one of its most passionate members when **Bruce Marxsen** of Lincoln passed away, May 17.

If you knew Bruce, you would know his accomplishments are too long to list here. But for those of you who didn't know him, here is just a small fraction of his impressive resume.

Bruce was a founding member of the Southeast Nebraska Medical Reserve Corps. He was vice president, safety and training officer and head instructor. He was passionate about developing presentations he could take to the community and spread the word about disaster preparedness and public safety.

He had a knack for identifying a need in the community and coming up with ways to fill that need. And Bruce was always

willing to volunteer his time for training, exercises and public outreach events.

Bruce was a dedicated member of Civil Air Patrol with nearly 40 years of service and had achieved the rank of colonel. Bruce served as commander of the North Platte squadron and commander of the Nebraska Wing Civil Air Patrol. He was a long-time member of the 155<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron in Lincoln.

Bruce was passionate about search and rescue and thrived on teaching cadets and senior members the skills they needed to be mission-ready. Bruce also led the team that won Civil Air Patrol's national search and rescue competition.

On real-world missions, Bruce was credited with 12 lives saved. He was working with the 155<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron to develop an Extended Community Outreach (ECO) program.

Bruce was part of the inaugural cohort of My Youth Preparedness Initiative (MyPI) participants in Lincoln. He was among the instructors to lead this first group of students through several weeks of disaster preparedness training and community service projects. He shared his dedication to service with these youth, knowing it would help instill a lifetime of volunteerism.

Bruce Marxsen will be remembered as a tireless volunteer, compassionate community member, and most of all as a good friend. As one MRC volunteer put it: "From the moment we met, Bruce treated me as if he had known me all of his life...and welcomed me to the MRC."

He will be greatly missed by his Nebraska Citizen Corps family, and the best way we can think of to honor him is to continue giving our time to make our communities safer and more resilient.



## There's A Lot to Consider Before Using a Drone for Emergency Management

Drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), seem like an inexpensive tool to capture video, photography and situational awareness for any all-hazard operation; however, have you given thought to policy, liability and the roles associated with UAV operations?

A May 22 workshop at the Omaha Fire Training Center focused on these areas as well as safety requirements.

**Todd Manns** of the Blue Cell and **Tom Simmons** of Aerial Horizons, were instructors for the course that also featured emergency managers, law enforcement, firefighters and utility district staff.

"The class gave me better insight into the possible liability issues associated with UAV use," said NEMA's **Leo Larkin**. "When you have a UAV, you may now think you're a "pilot" but you really need to understand your role, consider the airspace you are operating in and determine whether you are complying with federal air regulations."

~Photos by Leo Larkin





Gov. Pete Ricketts was joined at the State Capitol by representatives from Nebraska's aviation industry (including NEMA's Leo Larkin) to celebrate General Aviation Appreciation Month. General aviation and community airports are vital to the Nebraska economy and play a key role in the continued flow of commerce, tourists, and visitors to the state. Governor Ricketts has been a constant advocate for infrastructure in the state, including supporting advancements at general aviation airports throughout Nebraska. Larkin works with the Single Engine Air Tanker program in the state. It is designed help local firefighters fight wildfires, before they get too large, by using aerial application, during the driest months of the year.



Molly Bargmann and Nick Walsh of the NEMA Recovery Section were honored this month by NEMA Director Daryl Bohac for completing the Advanced Professional Development Series. The series include five required courses and five elective courses and was established to motivate and challenge students to continue emergency management training that develops practical skills from the whole spectrum of emergency management and disaster duties.



Nebraska Emergency Management Agency hosted AWR-327 REP Exercise Controller and PER-314 REP Exercise Evaluator courses May 7-11. The courses covered the roles, responsibilities and conduct of REP exercise controllers and information regulations and guidelines for evaluating REP exercises.



Bill McPherson (third from left) was honored at a retirement party at the Thayer County Courthouse on Thursday, May 31. McPherson, also pictured at right, is retiring as director of Thayer County Emergency Management where he has worked since 2010. Also pictured are John McKee of Jefferson and Saline counties, Jodie Fawl of NEMA and Jim Dunker of Fillmore County.



Second graders in Missy Schere's class at Hamlow Elementary School in Waverly researched emergency preparedness kits and what to do in case of a variety of disasters. They then invited Lancaster County and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency officials and their parents to school to see what they learned. NEMA Preparedness Section Manager Nikki presented each of the students with a Bad Day Bag so they could have their own personal preparedness kit.



**Colt Farringer** was named director of Thayer County Emergency Management effective June 1 following Bill McPhersen's retirement from the position.

Farringer has been a welder for the last year 15 years until March of this year when he started working for Thayer County.

Farringer grew up in Boone, Iowa, and lived in Hickman and Lincoln before moving to Deshler.

He's been a member of the Deshler Volunteer Fire Department, and that sparked his interest in emergency response and emergency management and was the reason he applied for the emergency management position in Thayer County.



**Dawna Whitcomb** has been named Interim Emergency Management Director for Adams County. Chip Volchek left the position to pursue other opportunities in Lincoln.

## State Agencies Work Together on Statewide Radio Communications

Communication at the Nebraska Game and Parks 2018 Fort Kearny Outdoor Expo on May 12 was enhanced by the work of the state commo unit.

**Troy Harris**, radio systems communication coordinator at NEMA, and **Cory Simmons**, state network coordinator of the Office of the Chief Information officer (OCIO), who are both credentialed Type 3 Comm-T and Type 3 Comm-L trainees, set up equipment and programmed radios for the event.

“We set up the mobile State



Radio System site on wheels for the Ft. Kearny Outdoor Expo to provide enhanced communication for state and local law enforcement and area staff,” Harris said. “We would use

this at a disaster so setting it up at an event like this provides the state Communications Unit a chance to practice in a low-stress environment.”



From left, Cory Simmons and Troy Harris raise the antenna on the SRS site on wheels.



From left, Troy Harris of NEMA and Cory Simmons of the OCIO, program radios for use during the 2018 Fort Kearny Outdoor Expo at Fort Kearny State Recreation Area.

## FCC Schedules EAS, WEA Webinar for June 21

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is conducting a webinar on June 21, at 2 p.m. EDT (at 1 p.m. CDT and noon MDT for state and local government officials regarding the use of Emergency Alert Systems (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA).

The free webinar will focus on issues relevant to these emergency alerting systems that affect state and local governments, such as how these systems work, who

is eligible to initiate alerts, and the targeting of messages to particular geographic areas, as well as the latest developments at the Federal Communications Commission. The webinar will help ensure state and local governments are ready and able to use these alerting systems when they are needed. The webinar will also give participants an opportunity to ask questions of FCC staff.

To register for the WebEx

webinar visit: [this FCC page](#). On the event information page, click on the registration link, provide the required information and then click on “submit” to complete your registration. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the event, the password, and the link for the meeting.

For more information about the webinar checkout the [FCC public notice](#).



### Johnny "The Jet" Rodgers visits NEMA

Husker legend Johnny Rodgers stopped by NEMA May 29 and gave NEMA staff a pep talk. He thanked NEMA staff for all they do and reminded them that you don't win a Heisman trophy alone, win national championships alone or respond to emergencies alone. He also taught the NEMA staff the Heisman stance.



**NEBRASKA**  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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

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

