



Nebraska Preparedness Workshop

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*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.

Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Expands in Nebraska Will Impact Emergency Management Response

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) has added three counties to an existing quarantine on ash tree products. **Otoe, Lancaster** and **Saunders** join **Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Washington** and **Dodge**, for a total of eight Nebraska counties under the quarantine.

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive metallic-green beetle that attacks ash trees by disrupting the flow of water and nutrients, causing the tree to die. While the quarantines can help slow the spread of the destructive beetle into non-infested areas by limiting the movement of ash trees or ash debris into non-infested counties, it won't stop the spread entirely. Some 44 million Nebraska ash trees will be lost in the coming years, according to the Nebraska Forest Service website, and there will be an impact to our work as emergency managers.

EAB spreads primarily through human-assisted movement, such as moving infested firewood and nursery stock. The quarantine order prohibits distribution of ash nursery stock from within or out of the quarantine area, and regulates the movement of hardwood firewood and mulch, ash timber products and green waste material out of quarantined areas.

It's important to note that the quarantines will impact emergency management because after a disaster event, ash tree debris in a quarantined county cannot be transported outside of the quarantine area for disposal at a landfill.

Here are some links with additional information on EAB:

www.nda.nebraska.gov/plant/entomology/eab/ and

<https://nfs.unl.edu/nebraska-eab.>

Sincerely,

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

Bryan Tuma
NEMA Assistant Director



Nebraska Preparedness Workshop Held in Lincoln

Nebraska state agency staff, local agency representatives from around the state and other agencies involved in emergency management met to complete the Threat, Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) Workshop and Training and Exercise Planning Workshop (TEPW) on Nov. 1-2 in Lincoln.

All three of the workshops are required for the state to be eligible for homeland security grant funding through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

“We had good participation in the process,” said Preparedness Manager **Nikki Weber**. “The THIRA and SPR help determine the state’s emergency management capabilities and level of preparedness, The information we gathered will be compiled, with information from other states, to determine the nation’s level of preparedness as a



Denise Bulling of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center welcomes participants to the Nebraska Preparedness Workshop.

whole.”

The TEPW gave participants a chance to review priorities.

“It is a collaborate process that

allows us to streamline our approach to training and exercise,” said Training and Exercise Unit Supervisor **Dave Reisen**.



Mark DeKraai of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center outlines the THIRA and SPR process for workshop participants.



Basic PIO students deliver a news conference during an exercise as part of the G290 course.



Gregg Goebel of Otoe County Emergency Management and Amanda Burki of Johnson and Pawnee County Emergency Management work together during a news conference.

Basic PIO (G290) held in Nebraska City

Thirty participants learned about effective emergency management public information during a two-day class sponsored by the Otoe County Emergency Management Agency.

NEMA PIO **Jodie Fawl** and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services PIO **Mike Wight**, who have both worked on many disaster responses in Nebraska, taught the course held in Nebraska City.

The class includes on-camera work,

group exercises on conducting effective news conferences and developing written products to respond to emergencies and promote preparedness.

"The best way to get better at doing media interview and writing news releases is practice and this class gives participants an opportunity to do just that," said Fawl. "It also offers a chance for collaboration with other PIOs before a disaster occurs."



Dan Swanson, news director at News Channel Nebraska presents information on working with the media.



Mike Wight discusses information on how to be a good spokesperson during the Basic PIO class in Nebraska City.



The news conference portion of G290 offers a chance for all the Basic PIO Course participants to practice skills they have learned in the class.



Governor's Task Force Prioritizes Hazard Mitigation Projects

by Patrick Conway

Recovery Section Planning Specialist

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation staff hosted the Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery on Nov. 20.

The task force is comprised of state and federal representatives from the Nebraska Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Economic Development, and Natural Resources, as well as the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

NEMA staff members were also in attendance, including **Earl Imler, Nick Walsh, John Cook, Patrick Conway, and Camille Papis.**

The task force meets at least once a year in order to prioritize hazard mitigation projects for funding through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant (PDM-C) Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program is an annual, competitive grant program that provides funding for mitigation projects nationwide. Each state is guaranteed a certain amount of money for projects, and can submit additional projects to compete for a share of a larger pool of money. This year, Nebraska's state guarantee is \$575,000.

In addition to that program, every time a state is included in a federally declared disaster, that state is allotted an additional amount of money that can be used for mitigation projects statewide.

In 2018, Nebraska had two federally declared disasters: DR-4375 (severe winter storm and straight-line winds from April 13-18) declared June 29; and DR-4387 (severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding) June 17-July declared Aug. 27.

This money comes through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and is 15 percent of the 75 percent federal share of the obligated total of the public assistance projects for



NEMA Program Specialist Nick Walsh speaks during the Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery meeting on Nov. 20.

the disaster.

Once NEMA is made aware of hazard mitigation funding becoming available, a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is sent to the local emergency managers across the state. The emergency managers then distribute the notice to any entities in their jurisdiction that may be interested in mitigation projects.

NOFOs for the PDM-C and HMGP were sent out earlier this year requesting that any entity interested submit a notice of intent (NOI) which are simple statements that include a description of the intended project, a brief explanation of why the project is necessary, and a ballpark estimate of the cost of the project. The NOIs are received by the mitigation team at NEMA, reviewed, and compiled into a list, broken down by type of project.

By the Oct. 19 deadline, NEMA had received more than 75 NOIs totaling nearly \$15 million.

Unfortunately, the available funding is far less than the total requested. That difference between requested funds and available funds leads to the need to prioritize the requests.

The Governor's Task Force meets to prioritize the requests by considering many factors, including the eligibility and feasibility of the project, the benefit-cost analysis of the project, and whether the project will benefit small and impoverished

communities.

As a result of the outstanding cooperation from other state agencies, the Governor's Task Force was able to rank 10 projects for mitigation plan updates, 36 initiative activity projects, and 30 regular projects.

Operations Section Manager Earl Imler was pleased with the meeting, saying: "the group is experienced and works very well together, with all participants having a real desire to benefit the citizens of the state."

The next step in the process will be to contact the entities whose projects were prioritized and request a complete application from them. Those applications will be reviewed by members of NEMA's recovery team, then forwarded on to FEMA Region VII for approval.

Following the meeting of the Governor's Task Force, the NEMA mitigation staff held a brief hot wash discussion during which several ideas were generated that will be used to improve the task force meetings in the future.

One of the potential improvements was scheduling. This year, scheduling conflicts earlier in the month led to the event being scheduled for the holiday-shortened week of Thanksgiving. Despite the scheduling issues, John Cook reports that a majority of the invited participants were in attendance and "successfully prioritized more than 70 projects for 2019 pre-disaster and disaster-related grants."



Nebraska Debris Management Plan Gets FEMA Approval

by Walter Kirkland,
Planning Specialist

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recently approved the Nebraska statewide debris management plan through a collaborative process involving multiple state agencies. Nineteen Nebraska counties previously received FEMA approval for their debris management plans.

Having a debris management plan prior to an event like a tornado or flood, that could create literally tons of debris, is important. The plans help us consider things we might not think of in the immediate aftermath of a storm.

Adopting the plan, and getting it approved by FEMA, means that involved Nebraska state agencies are eligible to participate in the Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Pilot Program for Debris Removal. This program allows a one-time 2 percent federal cost share increase for eligible debris removal operations performed within 90 days from the start of the incident period of a major disaster or emergency declaration.

Eventually, the local emergency operations plan (LEOP) template will include a debris management portion that counties can complete and submit for approval.

In order for communities in the county to be eligible for the 2 percent incentive they must adopt the county plan or write their own. Local debris management plans must be adopted and submitted to NEMA prior to a disaster.

A written plan can help navigate the web of decisions that need to be made following an event. The purpose of a plan is to establish a debris management program and to provide technical assistance to citizens, governments and private entities when needed.

For instance, it's important to note that temporary debris management sites must be carefully vetted before use and not all landfills are created equal. Knowing what debris can be disposed, of and where it can be disposed, is a necessity.

NEMA staff worked with the following agencies to develop the plan: Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Department of Transportation, Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska Health and Human Services, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and Nebraska Historical Society.

Any counties wanting to write a debris management plan can email me at: walter.kirkland@nebraska.gov or call: 402-471-7425.



NIMS Alert

FEMA Releases 2018 National Preparedness Report

FEMA recently released the 2018 National Preparedness Report for the seventh year, a report that summarizes the nation's progress toward becoming a more secure and resilient nation.

It highlights lessons learned from previous responses, along with findings from preparedness activities. The events and activities captured in the report allow responders and emergency managers throughout the nation to better understand capabilities, identify shortfalls and build capacity in preparation for

future large-scale and catastrophic incidents.

The 2018 National Preparedness Report also identifies gains made in preparedness across the nation and identifies where challenges remain. These findings provide insights into preparedness and informs decisions about future program priorities, resource allocations, and community actions.

The 2018 Report considers select 2017 real-world incidents that tested the nation's capabilities, preparedness trends from state,

tribal and territory perspectives and an overview of activities and investments to build and sustain capabilities. As a result, it provides in-depth evaluation of five core capabilities identified in previous reports as facing persistent preparedness challenges— infrastructure systems, housing, economic recovery, cyber security and operational coordination.

The 2018 National Preparedness Report can be downloaded at: <https://www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-report>.

MyPI Nebraska instructors receive state volunteerism award

The ServeNebraska Step Forward Awards recognize outstanding people and groups for their time and service. Award winners and finalists are selected by the governor in tribute to the significant contributions made within the state through volunteerism. Winners and finalists are recognized during an awards ceremony.

This year's winner in the **disaster volunteer category** is the Lincoln instructor cohort for MyPI Nebraska. **Soni Cochran, Wilma Gerena, Tom Guilford, Leo Larkin, Joy Mace and Bruce Marxsen** (posthumously) were recognized for their efforts to deliver Nebraska Extension's teen preparedness program. The volunteer instructors provided area teens with a valuable and impactful educational experience. They collaborated to plan and lead MyPI Nebraska classroom sessions and hands-on experiences like fire suppression, CPR/AED certification, first aid, and search and rescue techniques. They engaged teen participants in emergency preparedness efforts, and they promoted teamwork, communication, leader-

ship, self-esteem, civic responsibility, family cohesion, and positive decision making among the participants, often leading with excitement and by example.

Under the leadership and guidance of the volunteer instructors, nine teens graduated from MyPI Nebraska in Lancaster County in the spring. Each teen worked with seven families to prepare emergency communications plans and to develop disaster kits. In terms of impact, there are 63 Nebraska families who are now more prepared for emergencies and disasters.

The volunteer instructors are passionate about readiness, serving their community, and volunteerism. All of them are active members of the local Civil Air Patrol, where they give their time and talents to advance the mission of CAP. They embrace the "whole community" approach to emergency management, as evidenced by their dedication to ensuring youth have the same opportunities as adults to prepare themselves and their families for emergencies and disasters.

The volunteer instructors were



MyPI Nebraska instructors from Lincoln were honored with a 2018 Step Forward Award from ServeNebraska. (L to R) Wilma Gerena, Joy Mace, Tom Guilford, Soni Cochran, and NEMA's own Leo Larkin.

honored at this year's Step Forward Awards, which was held on Oct. 26 at Quarry Oaks Golf Club in Ashland. MyPI Nebraska was started in 2017. It is a component of the National Youth Preparedness Initiative, MyPI National, which is a partnership of 16 states delivering the program with 13 additional states or territories beginning the program in 2019.

For more information on MyPI Nebraska or ways to get involved, visit mypinebraska.org or contact Ashley Mueller at 402-727-2775 or ashley.mueller@unl.edu.



Baker Joins Recovery Section

Colton Baker joined NEMA as a Recovery Section planning specialist on Oct. 29.

Baker was born in Duncan, Okla. and raised in New Mexico.

Prior to joining NEMA, Baker served in the Coast Guard for six years and worked as a drone pilot and research technician in agricultural technology.

Baker has a bachelor of science degree in international rescue and relief from Union College.

In his spare time, Baker enjoys playing board games.



Tennis Named Planning Specialist

Ashton Tennis joined NEMA as a Recovery Section planning specialist on Nov. 19. He was born and raised in Charlotte, NC.

Tennis recently graduated from Western Carolina University with a bachelor of science in emergency disaster management.

He enjoys watching sports, playing sports, especially golf and outdoor activities including hiking, kayaking and fishing.

Camille Papis Joins Recovery Section

Camille Papis joined NEMA as a Recovery Section planning specialist on Nov. 5. Papis has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in public administration with a focus on public management and leadership.

Papis has more than 16 years' experience working in acute hospitals, long-term acute hospitals and community mental health clinics providing program and case management, service coordination, discharge planning, and counseling in the nonprofit and private sector.

Originally from southeastern Michigan, Papis has spent the last 17 years in California.



Brent Curtis

has been reclassified as the NEMA Watch Center Supervisor. The name change from Administrative Assistant III more accurately reflects his job duties.

Brent Curtis



Logan Lueking

has been promoted to the position of Emergency Management Program Specialist II to more accurately reflect the work he does for the agency.

Logan Lueking



Nicholas Walsh

has been promoted to Emergency Management Program Specialist I in the Recovery Section at NEMA. He will primarily be working with hazard mitigation.

Nicholas Walsh



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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.

www.nema.nebraska.gov

