

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Strength.

October 2017 in Review



The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



Planning Unit Supervisor
Dan Hiller
to Retire Nov. 3
After 28 years with
NEMA ... Page 3-4



*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.

Milestone is the word that keeps coming to mind during recent days at Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. The first milestone occurred, Oct. 18 when NEMA staff participated in the final exercise for the Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant. Just two days past the one-year anniversary of the day the Ft. Calhoun went offline on Oct. 16, 2016, Iowa, Nebraska, Washington County and Omaha Public Power completed the final Federal Emergency Management Agency evaluated-exercise. **(See pictures from our last exercise on Page 5 of this issue of *The Beacon*.)**

Ft. Calhoun was the smallest nuclear plant in the country, but since its dedication in 1974, the plant accounted from about one-third of OPPD's total electricity generation and was responsible, at its peak, for 700 jobs. However, low-priced natural gas has contributed to the closing of a number of nuclear plants in recent years, and OPPD too reported that Ft. Calhoun was no longer a competitive alternative.

NEMA, our partners and local emergency management offices in Washington and Douglas County practiced our plans and procedures with at least twice-yearly exercises and drills throughout the 40 plus years of operation of the plant.

All that preparedness practice was not wasted. The exercises gave state employees and local emergency managers regular evaluated opportunities to work on our response capabilities, which translates to better readiness and response for other types of disasters that could happen in Nebraska. We have all benefited from the work we did along side OPPD and it's crew over the years.

The next milestones occurred, Oct. 26, when two NEMA staff members were recognized for their years of service with the state. Planning Specialist **Patrick Rooney** was honored for 20 years of service and Operations Section Manager **Earl Imler** was recognized for 10 years of service at the Excellence in State Service event at the Capitol. **(See pictures on page 14.)**

Another milestone event for NEMA is the retirement of **Dan Hiller**, our planning section supervisor. This Friday, Nov. 3, marks the end of his 28-year career at NEMA. **A feature article with photos begins on page 3** and outlines Dan's work at the Civil Defense Agency/NEMA.

I would be remiss if I didn't publicly thank Dan for his service to the state. When a long-term employee like Dan leaves a state agency, a wealth of institutional knowledge walks out the door along with him. He's been here through many revisions of the State Emergency Operations Plan and through many disasters that have affected the state. We appreciate his years of service, wish him well in retirement and acknowledge how deeply he will be missed at NEMA for his great insight, knowledge and humor.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Buma". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "B" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.



The planning department, complete with local emergency operations plans, in 2010 included, from left, Patrick Rooney, Bill Meyer, Jim Anderson, Dan Hiller and Logan Lueking.

Hiller Looks Forward to Retirement

As supervisor of the Planning Section at NEMA, **Dan Hiller** has been planning his retirement for some time.

It's a simple plan.

1. Say goodbye.
2. Don't look back.
3. Start on some woodworking projects.

Hiller came to the Nebraska Civil Defense Agency, now Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, on Aug. 15, 1989 and will leave on Nov. 3, 2017.

Prior to coming to NEMA, Hiller owned and managed a lumber yard, Hiller Lumber, in Nelson. He was the civil defense director for Region 13 (Nuckolls, Thayer and Webster counties). He served as president of the mutual aid association for South Central Nebraska and when the town of Hardy was hit by a tornado in the 1980s he served as incident commander because so many of the local firefighters' homes were destroyed.

He worked with the Civil Defense staff and got involved at the state level following the Hardy tornado and eventually joining the staff as a hazardous materials planner.

During his time with the agency,



One of Dan Hiller's many honors included recognition from Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac.

he also served as a radiological emergency preparedness planner and taught professional development courses and the exercise design course.

He enjoyed traveling the state meeting with local emergency managers and working on disaster response.

He worked in response to tornadoes, wildfires, and flooding and just off the top of his head named the

following communities as places he has responded: Lawrence, York, David City, Schuyler, Beaver Crossing, Trent, Pilger, Hallam, Sutton, Chadron and Harrison.

One thing he noted was how amazing it is when a Type 1 or 2 Incident Management Team comes to town to aid with a response.

Continued on Page 4

“A new town shows up over night,” Hiller said. “Food trucks, showers and a tent city just arrives. It’s amazing.”

Hiller said the biggest change in emergency management occurred after 9/11.

“It changed the direction of the agency,” Hiller said. “The lessons learned from 9/11, as far as the breakdown in communications and command and control, changed the way we do business at the state and local level for the better,” Hiller said.

NEMA staff learned about the event of 9/11 like by watching the news.

“I remember telling coworkers to go outside on top of the bunker on the day following the attacks because it would be the only time they wouldn’t see airplanes in the sky. It would be the most like a sky from Pioneers days.”

Some of the biggest changes in emergency management were improved regional communication and the addition of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact for states to provide aid to one another.

He is especially proud of NEMA earning accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

“It made us a better agency, improving our ability and awareness.”

As far as the planning unit, Hiller is proud of the improved format for



Dan Hiller, second from right, enjoys comments by Bob Wilhelm, standing, along with Nikki Weber and Mardell Hergenrader all of the 2009 NEMA preparedness staff.

the SEOP and LEOPs and maintaining the 5-year cycle for updating the LEOPs.

Hiller says he has enjoyed all the people who have come and gone throughout the years at NEMA as well as staff at other state agencies and in local jurisdictions.

He said he is going to “trick out” his summer “man cave” in his garage. His basement “man cave,” the one he uses in the winter, is complete and ready for the coming season.

“I will resume my carpentry work and enjoy spending time with my wife of 41 years, Mary, our daugh-

ters, Emalea and Rebecca and our granddaughters Hannah, Halea and Ruby.”

Nikki Weber, manager of the preparedness section said Hiller would definitely be missed at NEMA.

“Dan’s ability to take a very chaotic situation and provide a simple and calm solution has been noted countless times throughout the years,” Weber said. “We all aspire to that kind of response. He has always reminded us of the importance of planning and of remembering where responsibilities lie.”

Best wishes, Dan Hiller, from all your colleagues at NEMA.



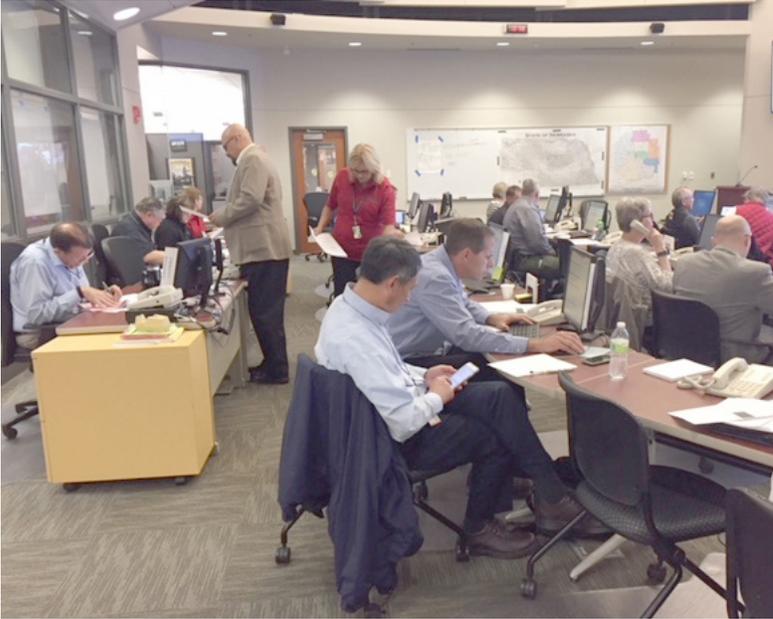
Dan Hiller, addresses participants in a workshop.



Dan Hiller participates in a nuclear power plant exercise.

The End of an Era...

The State's Last Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant Exercise



The State Emergency Operations Center...



The Emergency Operations Center...



The Emergency Operations Center....



Nebraska and Iowa representatives at the Joint Information Center with the FEMA evaluator...



The Governor's Authorized representative and staff...



and Washington County and Douglas County staff at the Washington County Emergency Operations staff on the last Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant exercise on Oct. 18.



FEMA

This Certificate of Appreciation has been awarded to

**All the Volunteers who have participated in the Fort Calhoun
Final Plume Exercise**

This 20th day of October 2017

In recognition of your partnership with FEMA in the REP Program.

**Your knowledge, professionalism, and outstanding teamwork has helped to ensure the
Health and Safety of the Public living near the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station in Region VII.**

**Charles (Chuck) Gregg
Radiological Assistance Committee
Chairman**

Governor's Weekly Column: Delivering Better Customer Service

Gov. Pete Ricketts recently highlighted successes for attacking waste and improving performance across state government during a news conference and in his weekly column. ([Click here for the Governor's Oct. 31 column.](#))

NEMA staff, along with other state agency staff, are committed to improving the operations of state government and working to make state government more effective and efficient.

The Center for Operational Excellence (COE) is working with state agencies to train the state workforce on how to improve the operations of government, identify waste, and deliver better customer service.

Lean Six Sigma, a private sector process improvement philoso-

phy, serves as the basis for the trainings.

All state teammates are receiving basic process improvement training. The training includes learning how to map the number of steps it takes to complete a process, how to reduce the amount of time it takes to deliver a service, and how to communicate about changes to service delivery with other members of their team.

"By providing this training to all state teammates, we are creating a culture in state government that puts the focus on delivering better service to Nebraskans," Ricketts reports. "I'm happy to report that our State of Nebraska teammates are embracing this change, and are working every

day to lead change in their agencies. All these improvements, big or small, allow us to spend less time worrying about paperwork and outdated processes, and spend more time making state government work for you."

According to Gov. Ricketts, when state agencies operate efficiently and effectively, it supports the private sector as it grows.

"Whether you're trying to get back to work or obtain an important professional license, we will continue to look for new ways to better serve you," Ricketts said.

Suggestions on how the state of Nebraska can better serve its taxpayers can be shared by calling the governor's office at (402) 471-2244 or by emailing him at pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov.

State Emergency Response Committee Quarterly Meeting Held

The Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission held its quarterly meeting Oct. 3, in Lincoln.

The SERC includes members from state and local government, including fire, law, public health, schools, industry, transportation, and the public.

Bruce Okamoto of the Nebraska State Patrol and **Nate Jones** of the Columbus Fire Department gave an overview of Nebraska's participation in the annual Hazmat Challenge at Los Alamos, N.M., in July. The multi-day event involved completing various hazmat tasks.

The SERC bylaws were reviewed and updated.

Two vacancies on the commission, in the agribusiness and highway transportation areas, were discussed. Members of the SERC are appointed by the governor and are requested to supervise and coordinate activities of the local emergency planning committee (LEPC), and to approve members of the LEPC.

In addition, the SERC conducted its annual strategic planning retreat, laying a path for future hazmat planning and response activities in Nebraska.

The next meeting will be scheduled in January. For more information, contact SERC Coordinator **James Rashilla** at NEMA (402) 471-7421.

In Other SERC News

■ The Region VII Environmental Protection Agency office in Kansas City has developed an online risk management training program that covers requirements of CAA 112(r) (7) for regulated facilities. While geared for chemical facilities management, the training is also useful for local emergency planners. Visit the [risk management training seminars](#) online.



■ In April, the D.C. Circuit Court vacated an EPA rule exempting farms from reporting air releases of hazardous substances from animal waste. Farms must begin reporting these releases by Nov. 15. The EPA is developing guidance. Visit [CERCLA and EPCRA Farm Reporting Requirements](#)

■ The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant was received by NEMA to be used for the planning and training of first responders for hazardous materials incidents. Grant guidance and documentation will be issued to local emergency managers and LEPCs in the coming weeks.



The Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team participated in site exploration training at a sentinel lab at the Kearney Fire Training Center on Oct. 17.

Academy Teaches Emergency Management Basics

The essentials of emergency management and fundamental elements of planning for, responding to, recovering from and mitigating against disasters were covered in a week-long class at Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, October 2-6.

The NEMA Basic Certification Course or “Basic Academy” included sessions on the history of emergency management, local and state emergency operations plans and the National Incident Management System.

Coursework also included weather spotting, individual and public assistance, hazard mitigation, grant management, public information and social media.

One evening, participants also had the opportunity to tour the University of Nebraska Memorial Stadium’s emergency operations center.



NEMA's Conner Conzone addresses fellow students at Basic Academy.



NEMA's Patrick Rooney discusses planning.



NEMA Public Information Officer Jodie Fawl discusses the Joint Information System.



A panel discussion with local emergency managers offered a local perspective on emergency management and included James Davidsaver of Lancaster County, Mark Robertson of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and of Tim Hofbauer of Platte County Emergency Management.

Basic Emergency Management Academy - 2017



Graduates of the Fall 2017 Basic Certification Class for Emergency Management pose for a group photograph in the State Emergency Operations Center.



Basic Academy students participate in an exercise development portion of the class.



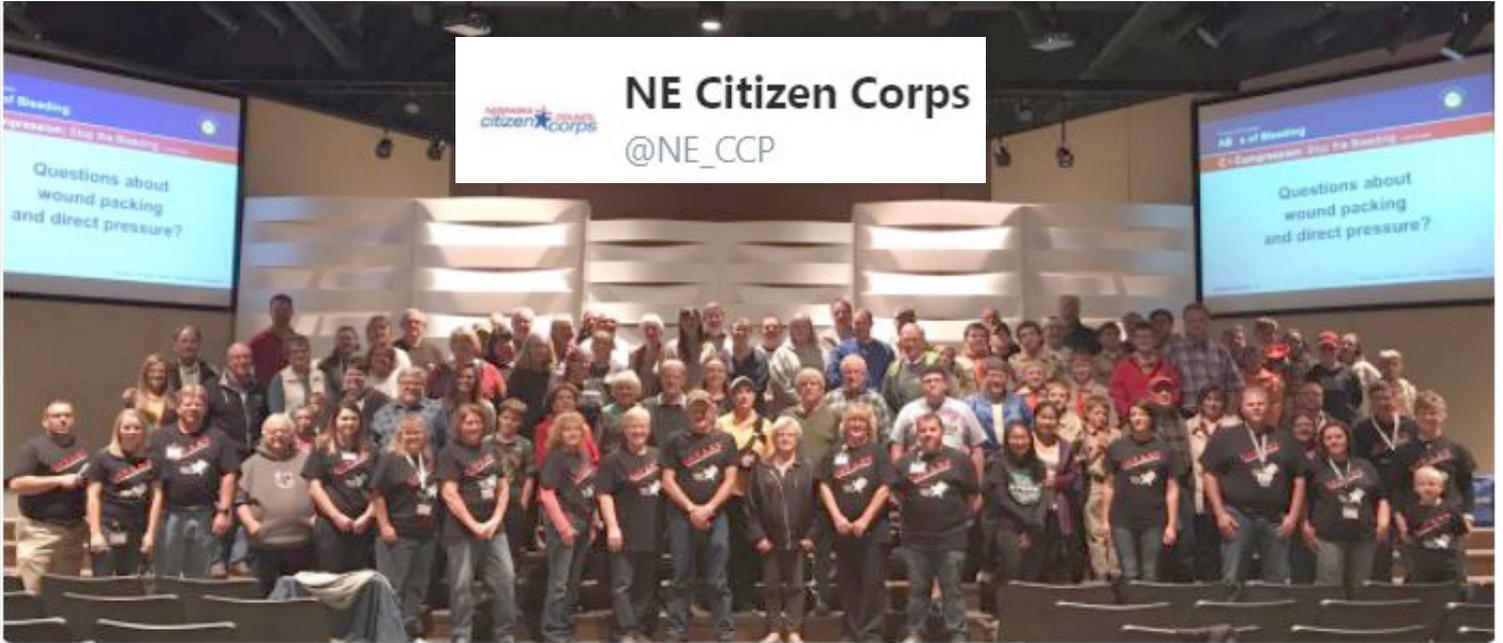
Molly Bargmann, recovery unit supervisor discusses disaster recovery.

ICYMI

SOCIAL MEDIA

In case you missed it

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



More than 100 #StopTheBleed trained individuals. Thanks to @CenNebMRC and Hastings Fire for providing this very important training. Basic training was provided on what to do when you come across a medical emergency. Visit <https://www.dhs.gov/stopthebleed> for more information.

NE Citizen Corps @NE_CCP · 1h

Great turnout for the #UNO Campus CERT kick-off. Thanks to @UNOEMGT for supporting disaster preparedness and response on campus!



Tri-County CERT @Tri_County_CERT · Oct 21

Congrats to all the graduates of the Basic #CERT course! We hope to see you soon.
#TriCountyCERT



NE Citizen Corps @NE_CCP · Oct 23

At the Save-a-Life training in Hastings hosted by Fire Dept and @CenNebMRC



Nebraska Silver Jackets Hold Dam Safety Tabletop at NEMA

Simulation of a multi-agency response to dam safety threats, as well as review of and familiarization with Emergency Action Plans (EAP), was part of a U.S. Army Corps (US-ACE) of Engineers day-long tabletop at the State Emergency Operations Center at NEMA, Oct. 26.

The training and exercise explored the potential for a widespread regional flood emergency simultaneously affecting many dams, levees and other critical infrastructure across Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy and Saunders counties.

“Nationally, historic rainfall, flash flooding and subsequent dam failures have raised questions about what would happen if such an event occurred over eastern Nebraska,” said **Tony Krause**, chief of flood risk and floodplain management at the USACE Omaha District. “Would we be ready?”

The morning session focused on the potential for flooding in eastern Nebraska and the potential failure modes associated with the 53 high hazard potential dams in Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy and Saunders counties and many miles of levees along major rivers and streams. Failure of any of these dams or levees could have a devastating effect on our communities.

New breach inundation mapping below the Corps of Engineers high hazard dams and their associated emergency action plans was reviewed.

The regional tabletop exercise in the afternoon focused on interagency communication and cooperation during a flood emergency.



Training in the morning session (top photo) addressed flooding issues in eastern Nebraska; In all other photos: representatives from a variety of agencies participated in the tabletop exercise to which focused on interagency collaboration in a heavy rail storm event.





Faithful Readiness Workshop Held in Grand Island, Oct. 3

Houses of worship and faith-based organizations are a key part of the emergency management team and a recent day-long workshop addressed the issue at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Grand Island.

Federal, state and local representatives participated in the workshop which included information on:

- The importance of individual and family preparedness within houses of worship;
- An overview of the emergency operations planning process;
- Discussion about active shooter scenarios in a house of worship;
- Building a collaborative planning team;
- Getting Involved, finding the best fit and serving together;
- FEMA's booklet, "Developing a High Quality Emergency Operations Plan for your House of Worship";
- Connecting with new partners ready to help your house of worship to prepare for emergencies.



"The workshop inspired ideas for the faith-based community to develop outreach and engagement efforts," said Brent Curtis, administrative assistant III for NEMA. "We discussed what it means to engage the whole community in emergency management and response and shared ideas on how all groups can work together for a more effective response to disaster."



The Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery met Oct. 30 at Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to prioritize disaster funding. State Hazard Mitigation Officer Mary Baker addresses the task force.

THIRA, SPR, TEPW Set Priorities for Year Ahead

NEMA hosted the 2017 Threat, Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), State Preparedness Report (SPR) Workshop and Training and Exercise Planning Workshop (TEPW) Oct. 26-27, in Lincoln.

State agency staff and local agencies from around the state met to complete the THIRA, SPR and TEPW, all of which are required for the state to be eligible for homeland security grant funding through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

“We were glad to see all the involvement in the process,” said Preparedness Manager, **Nikki Weber**. “The THIRA and SPR are part of an effort to determine the state’s emergency management capabilities and level of preparedness. The information gathered will be compiled, along with information from the rest of the states, to determine the nation’s level of preparedness as a whole.”

The TEPW gave participants a chance to review priorities.

“Each year the TEPW serves as a time to collaborate and streamline our approach to training and exercise,” said Training and Exercise unit Supervisor, **Dave Reisen**.





Operations Section Manager **Earl Imler**, center, was honored for 10 years of service, at the Capitol, by NEMA Assistant Director **Bryan Tuma**, left, and **Lt. Gov. Mike Foley**, right, at the annual years of service recognition on Oct. 26.



Planning Specialist Patrick Rooney, center, was honored for 20 years of service with the state, at the Capitol, by NEMA Assistant Director **Bryan Tuma**, left, and **Lt. Gov. Mike Foley**, right, at the annual years of service recognition on Oct. 26.

Debris Management Plans can help with Disaster Recovery

by **Walter Kirkland**
Planning Specialist
Preparedness Section

Planning is one of the biggest challenges for anybody. Whether you're planning for retirement, your daily activities or for an upcoming vacation, planning ahead can make a difference in the success of the project.

Local emergency managers have to plan for many contingencies and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency would like to assist in devel-

oping debris management plans.

Having a FEMA approved debris management plan in your arsenal allows you to take advantage of a one-time 2 percent cost incentive from FEMA. The plan means FEMA will pay 77 percent of debris removal costs.

Additionally, a debris plan will help facilitate the recovery from disaster. Disasters can produce an immense amount of all kinds of debris which must be separated and disposed of appropriately. Not

all debris can be taken to an average landfill. A FEMA approved plan would address procurement policies, prequalified contractors, debris storage locations, public information purposes and various other components.

It's better to know what to do before hand than to scramble to find resources after the event.

For more information on the assistance available through NEMA, please call: Walter Kirkland 402-471-7425.

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.

www.nema.nebraska.gov

