

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Strength.

September 2018



The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



Nebraska Preparedness Partnership **WORKSHOP** See Page 2





*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.

Building Nebraska Resiliency

Nebraska Preparedness Partnership (NPP) recently offered representatives from public and private entities a chance to discuss ways to make Nebraska more resilient. at a workshop held Sept. 12. Building the readiness of private stakeholders in Nebraska to prepare for, mitigate from, respond to and recover from disaster through advocacy, training and public partnerships is the focus of NPP, a goal Nebraska Emergency Management Agency definitely supports.

Representatives from businesses, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, NEMA and local emergency management agencies were among those in attendance at the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium to learn how NPP is working to grow from its beginning in the Omaha area to a roll out to the entire state by 2021.

NPP goals and objectives fall in step with national goals to build a more resilient nation through awareness of not only businesses being prepared but of individual preparedness as well. At the workshop, we heard from representatives of the Missouri and Iowa equivalents to NPP. The Missouri Public Private Partnership (MOP3) and Safeguard Iowa emphasized that neither business nor government can effectively and efficiently respond to disasters without the other.

At NEMA, we too believe that private/public partnerships are integral to our preparedness, response and recovery efforts. Private entities can do things that government just can't do. They have resources we don't, and it just makes sense to work together to prepare for disaster.

Sincerely,

Bryan Tuma
NEMA Assistant Director



Bob Dixon, mayor of Greensburg, Kans. gave an overview of the tornado that destroyed 95 percent of Greensburg in 2007. He suggested that communities define where they want to be in 50 to 100 years. He said to realize that "state and federal agencies aren't there to make you whole. You are only entitled to an opportunity to achieve."



Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Administrator for Region VII **Paul Taylor** said "building a culture of preparedness is about making investments in our communities that better prepare our citizens for disaster." **Page One** — **Top**: NPP workshop participants listen to a speaker. **Middle**: **Nikki Weber**, preparedness manager at NEMA, moderates a discussion on cooperating business partners and emergency management agencies on responding to a disaster to help the local economy recover. **Bottom left**: **Michael Cappanari** of FEMA Region VII leads a group discussion on what Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska are each doing in the way of public/private partnerships; and **Bottom right**, **Bryan Tuma**, assistant director at NEMA discusses the disaster response and recovery process.

Registration for the Oct. 17-18 Basic Emergency Management Certification is open until Oct. 5

REGISTER ONLINE AT: <https://nema.nebraska.gov/event/nebraska-emergency-management-certification-capstone>

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is required by state law to offer Basic Emergency Management Certification to city, village, county, or interjurisdictional emergency management officials, including representatives of state government agencies and partner organizations who work directly with NEMA to provide emergency management response and support across the state.

Prior to March 7, 2018, Basic Emergency Management Certification required attending the Nebraska Emergency Management Basic Academy, a five-day course, and completing a few independent study courses.

“We reviewed the process and student evaluations and in an effort to be more efficient and effective, while reducing the out-of-office burden, we have revised the Nebraska Basic Emergency Management Certification requirements,” said **Dave Reisen**, NEMA Training and Exercise Unit supervisor.

The focus of certification will continue to be ensuring that emergency management officials are trained in the essential knowledge and skills needed, as well as reinforce the concept of professionalism and pride.

Certification will require successful completion of specific courses offered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as well as a two-day (16 hour) Nebraska Basic Emergency Management Certification Capstone course provided by NEMA.

The FEMA Independent Study (IS) Program offers a series of self-

paced courses designed for people who have emergency management responsibilities, and the general public. These IS courses are available free-of-charge to those who qualify for enrollment and provide emergency management training to enhance the capabilities of state, local, and tribal government officials; volunteer organizations; FEMA’s disaster workforce; other federal agencies; and the public and private sectors to minimize the impact of disasters and emergencies on the American public. Additional information and registration for IS courses are available at <https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx>.

Successful completion of the following IS courses is required prior to attending the Basic Capstone course (NOTE: different versions of an IS course may be available as signified by a letter following the course number; completion of any version is acceptable):

- IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS)
- IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS), an Introduction
- IS-800 National Response Framework, an Introduction
- IS-120 Introduction to Exercises
- IS-130 How to be an Exercise Evaluator
- IS-230 Fundamentals of Emergency Management
- IS-235 Emergency Planning
- IS-240 Leadership & Influence
- IS-241 Decision Making and Problem Solving
- IS-242 Effective Communications
- IS-244 Developing and Managing Volunteers
- IS-775 Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Management and Operations
- IS-5 Introduction to Hazardous Materials

After completing the prerequisite

IS courses, those who qualify may then register to attend the two-day, Nebraska Basic Emergency Management Certification Capstone course. The course will emphasize various phases of emergency management, including requirements and expectations prior to, during and after an event or incident occurs.

Training principles for the Basic Capstone course include:

- Integrate both group and hands-on activity, using illustrative examples, activities, or videos to emphasize key instructional points.
- Foster a social and professional connection between participants and NEMA staff resulting in long term professional connections that enhance and support the emergency management profession.
- NEMA’s State Strategic Plan will be the basis for all training activities.
- Individuals who completed Basic Emergency Management Certification under previous certification guidelines will be grandfathered into the new program, however they may opt, and are encouraged, to complete the new Basic Capstone course as a refresher.
- The Basic Capstone course will be offered at least twice annually. Individuals who complete the IS Course prerequisites and the Basic Capstone course will receive Nebraska Basic Emergency Manager Certification.

Questions or comments should be directed to **Dave Reisen, Nebraska State Training Officer, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency**, dave.reisen@nebraska.gov or (402) 471-7177.



Basic Public Information

Learning ways to effectively communicate accurate and timely information following a disaster was the goal of a two-day G290 Basic Public Information Officer (PIO) Course offered at Metropolitan Utilities District in Omaha on Sept. 24-25.

The 24 students focused on writing news releases, preparing for and conducting interviews with the media, on-camera interviews, responsibilities of PIOs on the scene of an incident and how the PIO is part of command staff in the Incident Command System.



Public information officers Mike Wight of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Resources and Jodie Fawl of Nebraska Emergency Management teach Basic Public Information Officer on Sept. 25.



PIO students work on a group exercise during G290 in Omaha, on Sept. 24.



Mark Doyle of Metropolitan Utilities District welcomes students to the G290 Course.

Be Prepared Awards Recognize Volunteers

Lt. Gov. **Mike Foley** presented the 2018 **Be Prepared Awards**, which recognize volunteers and community organizations for excellence in emergency preparedness and disaster response during a ceremony at the Capitol on Sept. 17.

Lt. Gov. Foley was joined by Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Assistant Director **Bryan Tuma**, NEMA Preparedness Section Manager **Nikki Weber** and Nebraska Citizen Corps Coordinator **Ryan Lowry** to present six emergency preparedness awards.

Presented during National Preparedness Month, the Be Prepared Awards program is in its 11th year of honoring Nebraskans who volunteer their time and energy to support preparedness in Nebraska communities.

“Even though September is recognized as National Preparedness Month, the Nebraskans being honored here today understand the necessity of being prepared year-round,” Foley said. “Their commitment to preparedness helps ensure our communities are able to recover from disasters or emergencies.”

The awards are sponsored by the NEMA in partnership with the Nebraska Citizen Corps Program and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.

“It’s encouraging to see how Nebraskans from across the state work to ensure their communities are well-prepared for all kinds of disasters.” “Their efforts to promote whole-community preparedness make our state stronger and more resilient.”

A number of individuals and organizations in Nebraska provide outstanding commitment to preparedness which helps ensure that their local communities are more resilient and better able to handle any hazard or emergency said Foley at the ceremony.

“As Nebraska’s director of homeland security, one of my major duties is working with the emergency man-



Terry Mailloux, Pender fire chief, receives the Local Hero Award, recognizing extraordinary service and leadership in helping residents following the June 2018 flooding that impacted northeast Nebraska. Pender was impacted by flooding following heavy rains in June, and Mailloux led the efforts to make sure residents were well-informed and received timely information as forecasts began to indicate heavy rains. As waters rose, he worked around the clock during the initial flooding response. In addition, Mailloux was a key member of the team that had put together the local emergency operations plan. His input helped establish evacuation points and locations and to identify disaster resources that were used in all aspects of the response effort.

agers, law enforcement officers and other first responders in the planning and training for disasters and other emergency situations,” Foley said. “While trained professionals such as our police, paramedics and firefighters are absolutely essential in a crisis, the Be Prepared awards recognize the efforts of the professionals and volunteers across Nebraska who are ready

to assist at a moment’s notice due to their participation and leadership in emergency preparedness activities.

“Nebraska continues to be a leader in emergency preparedness, and this is an area where Nebraskans can be particularly proud.”

Other Honorees Featured on Page 6

Dennis Mitchell of Omaha received the Excellence in Risk Communication Award for his efforts in raising awareness of risks and hazards in his community through the innovative use of amateur radio technology. Having retired from the U.S. Air Force, where he served many years as a communicators and electronics technician, Mitchell wanted to find a way to help his community with his talents. He became a licensed amateur radio operator and joined the Bellevue Amateur Radio Club. He is an active member of the club and regularly volunteers to assist with local events. He is also a member of the Tri-County Community Emergency Response



Team, and is the emergency coordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service program in Sarpy County. He routinely assists the Bellevue Police with radio assistance during various community events. Mitchell’s newest passion is to help usher in a new crop of amateur radio operators in the community. He has started teaching amateur radio classes and trained 21 newly licensed amateur radio operators in the area. His initiative to train community members to operate radio communications in a variety of disaster or emergency scenarios will help to ensure effective communication between responders the next time there is a major disaster.



Butch Hug and the University of Nebraska Athletics Event Staff received the Excellence in Community Preparedness Award, which recognizes an individual or organization committed to creating a stronger community through preparedness planning and disaster preparation. From left, **Andy Moser, Tim Henrichs, Matt Davidson, Kale Terrill, Derek Bond, Butch Hug** and **Lt. Gov. Mike Foley**. For the UNL Athletics Event Staff, their community is Husker Nation. Community, for them, extends far beyond the campus or city of Lincoln. The Event Staff has created a stronger community by exceeding their primary goal of creating an excellent fan experience, by focusing on preparedness planning and disaster preparation. The department maintains an excellent whole community relationship that includes emergency management and emergency response entities. Athletics regularly hosts and participates in training and exercises that focus on keeping fans safe and secure in all venues that host the Huskers. The inclusion of city, county and state entities in planning, training and exercise not only makes the stadium and arenas safer, but also beneficial to the community as a whole. The willingness to collaborate with the community in the areas of safety and security sets a high standard. Their policies and plans are shared across the state and across the country as best practices. Their emphasis on all-hazard preparedness is not limited to university staff. All staffing at Husker events use Incident Command System principles in the course of their duties. The Husker Athletics Event Staff trains volunteers and paid staff in the areas of emergency preparedness, including situational awareness, risk management, evacuation procedures and security. This training is not only vital to the safety of Nebraska fans, it is also essential to the community as a whole.

Tri-County Fire Corps received the Citizen Corps Partner Program of the Year which honors an agency or organization demonstrating a significant commitment to create strong partnerships with other preparedness organizations. Pictured from left, **Jesse Eret, Charlie Oborny, Jeff Strawn, and Lt. Gov. Mike Foley**. Not pictured, **Dale Tedder**. The Tri-County Fire Corps is a new volunteer preparedness program that has had a big impact in its first year. Emergency preparedness officials in Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties had been looking for ways to get youth more interested in disaster preparedness and volunteering when they decided to develop a curriculum for high school students who were interested in the fire service. Tedder with the Tri-County Citizen Corps spearheaded the effort and was able to get support from fire departments in all three counties. He also worked closely with the Boy Scouts and Metro Community College to secure resources for the course. He then helped recruit the first class of 20 students to take the 10-week course. Participants learned about fire safety, fire risks and prevention, response, and career options available within the fire service. Each week, students met at a different fire station so that they could understand how each department in the area operated. This allowed students to network with a wide range of first responders and learn about all aspects of the job. The Tri-County Fire Corps is planning a second class to begin this fall.



Tri-County Fire Corps received the Citizen Corps Partner Program of the Year which honors an agency or organization demonstrating a significant commitment to create strong partnerships with other preparedness organizations. Pictured from left, **Jesse Eret, Charlie Oborny, Jeff Strawn, and Lt. Gov. Mike Foley**. Not pictured, **Dale Tedder**. The Tri-County Fire Corps is a new volunteer preparedness program that has had a big impact in its first year. Emergency preparedness officials in Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties had been looking for ways to get youth more interested in disaster preparedness and volunteering when they decided to develop a curriculum for high school students who were interested in the fire service. Tedder with the Tri-County Citizen Corps spearheaded the effort and was able to get support from fire departments in all three counties. He also worked closely with the Boy Scouts and Metro Community College to secure resources for the course. He then helped recruit the first class of 20 students to take the 10-week course. Participants learned about fire safety, fire risks and prevention, response, and career options available within the fire service. Each week, students met at a different fire station so that they could understand how each department in the area operated. This allowed students to network with a wide range of first responders and learn about all aspects of the job. The Tri-County Fire Corps is planning a second class to begin this fall.



Annabelle Keene of Bellevue was recognized with the Citizen Corps Volunteer of the Year Award, for her outstanding commitment to multiple disaster preparedness and response programs and her dedication to volunteering to ensure her community is better prepared in the event of a disaster. Keene has been a registered nurse for 47 years and joined the Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa Medical Reserve Corps five years ago. She serves on the MRCs steering committee to provide a nurse's perspective and represent the unit's medical professionals. She offers advice based on nearly five decades of experience serving the medical needs of the community. Keene also serves on the MRC's leadership team. The Medical Reserve Corps is only one of the organizations in which Anne is active.



Cody Meredith of Seward received the Excellence in Preparedness Education and Outreach Award, which honors an individual or group demonstrating a commitment and dedication to the safety of the public by volunteering to train, educate and promote preparedness. Meredith has been an active member of the Gage County Community Emergency Response Team and Southeast Nebraska Medical Reserve Corps for a number of years. In October 2016, he became the Medical Reserve Corps Unit Coordinator and has been working to advance public preparedness initiatives ever since. During the last year Meredith made it a priority to offer training to local hospitals, EMS and fire departments throughout the southeast part of the state. He has also identified a need for additional disaster behavioral health volunteers in the region, particularly in rural areas. He is working to develop a team of Disaster Psychological First-Aid trainers within the Medical Reserve Corps who could be deployed to health departments, hospitals, first responder agencies and other entities to provide important disaster behavioral health training.

30 WAYS DAYS

#NatlPrep #MidwestReady

Get Prepared!

Day 1: Pick up some canned goods when your store has a sale, they'll last a long time and ensure you'll have something to eat during a disaster.

Day 2: Clean empty two-liter soda bottles and fill them with water or use bottled water.

Day 3: If it's been 6 months since you got fresh water for your kit, rotate fresh water in.

Day 4: Around the dinner table, talk to your loved ones about where you would meet in the event of weather emergencies. Use the Family Emergency Plan to decide these locations before a disaster: www.ready.gov/make-a-plan

Day 5: Make a plan. Have all members of your household help devise your emergency plan. Consider what emergencies could happen where you live; what to do if you are separated and how will you let loved ones know you are safe

Day 6: GET A KIT pack a gallon of water per person, per day; food, flashlight, battery-powered radio, batteries, sanitation and personal hygiene items, copies of important papers, cash, medical and baby supplies. [Family Preparedness List](#)

Day 7: Be Informed—Know the disasters and hazards that could affect your area, how to get emergency alerts and where to evacuate. Check out Ready.gov to learn what to do before, during and after an emergency.

Day 8: Make copies of important documents for your emergency kit (medications, medical info, proof of address, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies, etc.). Consider putting them on a flash drive as well.

Day 9: Make a checklist of everything that needs to be done in a

disaster. Divide tasks up amongst your family. That way everyone has a responsibility and nothing gets missed.

Day 10: Program "In Case of Emergency" contacts into your phone and label them ICE in front of their name.

Day 11: Teach friends and family members to text on their cell phones during emergencies instead of calling. Text messages can often get through when phone calls cannot.

Day 12: Teach everyone in your home how to turn off the utilities in your house (electricity, gas, water, etc.) so they can do so in case of an evacuation.

Day 13: Become familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area. Choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in an emergency.

Day 14: It is important to plan in advance: how you will get to a safe place; how you will contact family and friends; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations.

Day 15: Identify some pet-friendly hotels in case you have to evacuate.

Day 16: Resilience is the backbone of emergency management and insurance is an important part of disaster recovery. As such, NEMA joins FEMA in reminding people to purchase insurance before there's a flood and it's too late.

Day 17: 1 inch of flooding can result in more than \$25,000 in damage to your home. Protect the life you've built with flood insurance: visit floodsmart.gov

Day 18: What's on your to-do list this week? Add getting #FloodSmart to your list. One call to your insurance agent can ensure you get the coverage that makes sense for you! floodsmart.gov

Day 19: Winging it is not an emergency plan. Sit down with your loved ones and talk through what to do in a disaster.

Day 20: Identify three places to meet family and friends in the event of an emergency. One in your neighborhood, one in your town and one out of town.

Day 21: Decide where you will go and what route to take to get there. This could be a motel, the home of a friend or relative a safe distance away, or an evacuation shelter.

Day 22: Don't forget your pets. If it's not safe for you to stay home, it's not

safe for them. Make a phone list of pet-friendly motels and animal shelters along your evacuation route. Only service animals are usually allowed in shelters.

Day 23: Get an extra set of house and car keys made for your emergency kit.

Day 24: Keep a full tank of gas in your car if an evacuation seems likely. Keep a half tank of gas in it at all times in case of an unexpected need to evacuate. Gas stations may be unable to pump gas during power outages.

Day 25: If you do not have a car, plan now how you will leave if evacuation is necessary. Make arrangements with family, friends or your local government.

Day 26: Mitigation = spending now to save later. Prevent risks from getting worse. Protect lives and property from being damaged or lost. Educate people to be aware and prepared. Work together to build a stronger, more resilient nation.

Day 27: Floods are the nation's most common and costly natural disaster, causing billions of dollars in damage each year. Floods can happen anywhere. In fact, 98 percent of counties in the United States have experienced a flood.

Day 28: Family members may not all be together if a disaster strikes. Have a plan for when disaster strikes and make sure everyone knows what to do. Know how to contact one another if apart when disaster strikes.

Day 29: There are important differences among potential emergencies that can impact decisions you make and actions you take. Consider preparing for all hazards...natural disasters; technological; terrorist hazards, pandemics and fires.

Day 30: If a disaster or emergency strikes your community, you may only have seconds or minutes to react. In those critical moments, your focus will be on your family's safety. Once the threat of harm has passed, having your homeowners or renters insurance policy, bank account information and other household records and contacts will be very important as you begin the recovery process. [The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit \(EFFAK\)](#) can help you be ready.

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 9-15

by *Walter Kirkland*, NEMA Planning Specialist

Legend has it that Mrs. O’Leary’s cow kicked over a lantern on Oct. 8, 1871 and the resulting fire killed 300 people and caused an estimated \$200 million in damage. That fire is known as the Great Chicago Fire and it has changed history.

Chicago faced a disaster of immense scale, the fire burned for three days and roughly 100,000 people were made homeless, 17,400 structures were destroyed, and 2,000 acres of land were scorched.

In 1925, **President Calvin Coolidge** proclaimed **Fire Prevention Week** a national observance.

Every year, the second week in October is celebrated as Fire Prevention Week. It is the longest running public health observance in our

The same night fire raged across Chicago, the Peshtigo Fire burned 1,200,000 acres in Wisconsin destroying 12 communities. One can only wonder how we would handle such deadly concurrent events today.

country NS has helped change our nation for the better.

Codes regarding roof construction changed to require materials to withstand burning debris landing upon them for a period of time. Children are taught fire prevention tips in schools across the nation, they get to tour firehouses, interact with firefighters, and most importantly, they learn what to do in a fire. Nowadays, it is no mystery why large scale urban fires such as the Great Chicago Fire are rare.

Fire prevention week is a prime example of a long term public information campaign. Children aren’t the only ones who can learn from the lessons of Fire Prevention Week. Public officials should also take note that even the smallest of events can lead to immense destruction. Are you prepared? Please contact the Citizen Corps coordinator for preparedness tips.

According to History.com, today the Chicago Fire Department training academy is located on the site of the O’Leary property where the Great Chicago Fire started. In 1997, the Chicago City Council passed a resolution exonerating Catherine O’Leary, an Irish immigrant who died in 1895, as well as her cow.

Look. Listen. Learn. Be Aware. Fire Can Happen Anywhere.

“In a fire, every second counts,” said Nebraska Fire Marshal Public Information Officer **Alyssa Sanders**. “It is important for members of your community to know what to do if there’s a fire. Fire safety education isn’t just for school children.”

This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere,” works to educate people about three ways they can reduce the likelihood of having a fire—and how to escape safely if they have one.

LOOK for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

LISTEN for the sound of the smoke alarm. You may have only minutes to escape. Go to your predetermined outside meeting place, a safe distance from you home.

LEARN two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

- Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or before going to sleep.
- Smoke outside and completely stub out butts in an ashtray or a can of sand.
- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately.
- Immediately shut off and professionally replace light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.
- Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching children that fire is a tool, not a toy.
- Place your Christmas tree at least three feet away from all heat sources, including fireplaces, radiators, and space heaters. Cooking-Stay in the kitchen when you’re frying, grilling or broiling food.

- Choose interconnected smoke alarms, so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Put smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Put alarms on every level of the home.
- Make sure your smoke alarms work. Your family is not safe if they can’t hear the smoke alarms.
- Test smoke alarms every month and replace 9-volt smoke alarm batteries at least once every year.
- Smoke alarms do not last forever. Get new smoke alarms every 10 years.
- When you hear a smoke alarm, you may have less than 2 minutes to get everyone outside and safe.

- Make a fire escape plan. Draw a map of each level of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the map with everyone who lives with you.
- Plan two ways out of every room. Choose an outside meeting place.
- Make a fire escape plan around your abilities. If you need to use a wheelchair or a cane, make sure you can get to it easily and get out quickly. If you wear hearing aids or eyeglasses, put them next to your bed while you are sleeping.
- Make sure all doors and windows open easily.
- Practice your fire escape plan by having a home fire drill at least twice a year. If there’s a fire, get out and stay out. Don’t go back inside for people, pets or things.

Shake Out. Don't Freak Out.

Great ShakeOut earthquake drills are an opportunity to practice how to be safer during earthquakes.

ShakeOut also has been organized to encourage you, your community, your school, or your organization to update emergency plans and supplies and to secure your space in order to prevent damage and injuries.

If you are inside a building, move no more than a few steps, then [Drop, Cover and Hold On:](#)

DROP to the ground,

Take COVER by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and HOLD ON to it until the shaking stops.

If you are outdoors when the shaking starts, find a clear spot away from buildings, trees, streetlights and power lines, then [Drop, Cover and Hold On:](#)

Stay there until the shaking stops.

If driving, pull over to a clear location, stop and stay there with your seat belt fastened until the shaking stops. Once the shaking stops, proceed with caution and avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged.



October 18, 10:18 a.m.

**Shake
Out™**

Register at www.ShakeOut.org

NEMA Staff Participate in Full-scale Exercise at the Airport

The Lincoln Airport Authority hosted a disaster preparedness exercise in conjunction with Lincoln-Lancaster County Emergency Management on Sept. 26.

The planned exercise, which is re-

quired every three years by the FAA, simulated a collision between two commercial aircraft on the tarmac of the airport.

The event allowed first responders, emergency management,

airport and hospital personnel to train and test systems for a mass casualty accident in as realistic an environment as possible.

NEMA representatives assisted with tracking of personnel and resources during the exercise.

Participants Included:

- Lincoln Airport Authority Police Department
- Lincoln-Lancaster County Emergency Management
- Lincoln Fire and Rescue
- Lincoln Police Department
- Lancaster County Sheriff's Office
- NEMA
- Nebraska Air National Guard Fire Department
- Bryan LGH East & West and CHI Health St. Elizabeth hospitals
- Volunteer actors, playing the roles of victims



Exercise participants attend the morning brief at the disaster preparedness exercise at the Lincoln Airport on Sept. 26.



Lincoln Fire and Rescue participants await the beginning of the exercise.

Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alerting Systems Postponed to Oct. 3

In coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Federal Emergency Management Agency postponed the nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) until Oct. 3 due to ongoing response efforts to Hurricane Florence.

The WEA portion of the test commences at 1:18 p.m. CDT, and the EAS portion follows at 1:20 p.m. CDT.

The test will assess the operational readiness of the infrastructure for distribution of a national message and deter-

mine whether improvements are needed.

Oct. 3 was the previously scheduled back-up date for the test, which was originally set up for, Sept. 20.

A backup date is always planned in case of widespread severe weather or other significant events on the primary test date.

The test was postponed due to response efforts following Hurricane Florence in parts of North Carolina and South Carolina.

For further information on the test, go to <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-alert-test>.



Volunteers wait for a bus to arrive to take them to the scene of the simulated airplane crash.

Firefighters from 27 departments train for wildland fires; exercise benefits land, animals, hunters

The Gering Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) and Nebraska Forest Service hosted the Western Nebraska Engine Academy, a live fire safety training that included a controlled fire and used resources to put it out safely, Sept. 8-9.

More than 100 firefighters from 27 different departments used 40 pieces of equipment to complete tasks on fuel mitigation, working initial attacks on fires, aerial resources and heavy equipment.

Volunteer fire departments and firefighters from the states of Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado made their way to the Buffalo Hills Wildlife Management Area and Wildcat Hills Estates for the exercise.

The Region 21 Emergency Management, the State Fire Marshal's Training Division and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency also participated.

Before starting the fire, firefighters ignited small test fires throughout the Wildcat Hills to determine wind direction and make sure they were comfortable with the conditions.

A Black Hawk helicopter pre-treated some of the surrounding area to stop the fire from spreading. The helicopter is capable of carrying 600 gallons of water. A single-engine air tanker (SEAT) also dropped 500 gallons of water during the academy exercises.

The exercise served multiple purposes by providing training opportunities for firefighters, reduced some of the vegetation overflow through fuel mitigation, so fires cannot escape the area, and supported wildlife and hunters by maintaining the area. The prescribed burning of grasses reduces the risk of catastrophic fires.

Nebraska Emergency Manage-

ment Exercise and Training Unit Supervisor **Dave Reisen** said exercises like this allow fire departments and other entities involved in wildfire response to practice needed skills

before an actual event occurs.

"There were 52 organizations, 131 responders, 42 pieces of equipment and 2,187 hours of training during the event," Reisen said.

Scenes from Western Nebraska Engine Academy



Severe Weather PSA Contest Underway

The winter severe weather season is quickly approaching and it's time for a new Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness/Preparedness Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest.

The contest is sponsored by Nebraska Association of Emergency Management, the National Weather Service and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

The purpose of the PSA contest is to receive a variety of multimedia products from sixth through eighth grade students that promote preparedness, storm readiness, tornado safety, fire safety or other emergency topics.

The PSA contest is open to all sixth, seventh and eighth grade media classes in public and private schools and combined home school students. The infograms, short videos (3-5 minutes) and PSAs (30 sec. to one min.) should be on anything regarding preparedness including, home fire safety, home disaster preparedness (kits, plans, drills), and safety tips for severe weather (tornadoes, severe winter weather, lightning, flooding).

The winning class infogram will receive \$100, the winning class PSA will receive \$250, and the winning class short video will receive \$500. The prizes will be awarded to the teacher for use in the classroom.

Entree form available at: <https://nema.nebraska.gov/press/2018-nebraska-severe-weatherpreparedness-psa-contest>



Applicant Briefing

Applicants for public assistance for DR-4387 -Nebraska severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding that occurred in June attend a briefing in Pender on Sept. 6. NEMA staff shared information and instructions on the public assistance application process. The Grants Portal process was introduced and several applicants submitted initial requests for assistance. Tom Perez, Thurston County emergency management director hosted the briefing at the Pender Community Center.



(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

