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.

Blizzards, heavy rain, rapid snowmelt and flooding capped off a long, difficult winter in Nebraska that led to the most widespread natural disaster in the state's history. The bomb cyclone and subsequent flooding overwhelmed our counties and resulted in 80 counties and 104 cities issuing disaster declarations. As we all felt the hardship of our friends and neighbors, we also mourn the loss of four fellow Nebraskans who perished in the floods.

The Platte, Elkhorn, Missouri, Loup, and Niobrara rivers reached record highs. Hundreds of miles of state and local roads suffered damage to bridges, washed out culverts and weakened road bases. In some areas, huge chunks of ice barreled down our waterways demolishing dams and obliterating bridges. Several communities lost essential functions such as drinking water and waste-water processing.

Hundreds of homes, businesses and farmsteads suffered flood damage and many were entirely destroyed. Farmers returned to several feet of sand and sediment covering their land, and others had grain bins full of crops that were compromised. Flooding, extreme wetness and cold weather conditions claimed thousands of heads of livestock. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture estimates livestock and crop losses at $840 million.

Governor Pete Ricketts recently addressed FEMA and NEMA staff at the Joint Field Office, stating: “While it was astonishing to witness the extent of the flood damage, it has been every bit as amazing to see the strength and resilience of Nebraskans in the wake of the storm.”

Nebraska is known nationwide for it’s volunteer spirit and hardworking people. Throughout the flooding response and recovery we have witnessed neighbors helping neighbors and strangers helping strangers. Over the course of several weeks, volunteers stepped up to rescue people and animals in need, often placing themselves at great risk. Some gave all to assure the safety of others.

Our Nebraska first responders and emergency managers spent long hours responding to the needs of their citizens. We have some of the finest local emergency managers we could ask for in Nebraska, and their early reports of damage helped us get a better picture of what was happening statewide. They let us know what their communities needed and worked quickly to help us gather information for an expedited disaster declaration.

Our colleagues in all the state agencies, non-governmental organizations and other emergency support function personnel who spent long hours working in the State Emergency Operations Center must also be recognized for the support they lent to the state’s effort to meet needs at the local level. The Red Cross, Nebraska Preparedness Partnership and Salvation Army were among the nongovernmental organizations that assisted. NEMA can not do it alone and our ESFs and NGOs are great partners who worked tirelessly to support the people of this state.

In addition to the many Nebraskans who responded to our disaster, our federal partners and state partners also stepped up to assist in the response. FEMA Region VII Incident Management Team members were active in the state emergency operations center before Nebraska had even received a federal declaration. Paul Taylor, Region VII administrator responded immediately to Nebraska offering any assistance needed. Representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, along with other federal agency staff, such as the Small Business Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, continue to provide support.

The states of Washington, Louisiana, South Carolina and Minnesota sent representatives to our state to help us in our response through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Their work in Individual Assistance, Public Assistance and on flights with the Nebraska Army National Guard were necessary components of our response.

All of us at the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency thank each one of these federal and state representatives who left their homes from all across the nation to provide their dedicated work and support.
Federal Coordinating Officer Constance Johnson-Cage has a motto: Communicate, Collaborate, Coordinate and Educate and it is evident from her staff’s dedication that they have taken her motto to heart. They have communicated with state and local emergency managers along with the public. Public messaging and education efforts were the result of ongoing collaboration and coordination. While the work has been difficult and the hours long, cooperation between all federal, state and local partners have produced amazing results.

I would like to thank everyone who supported Nebraska throughout this response and recovery — from those of you who manned emergency hotlines, worked overtime, travelled long distances to assist, stepped up to new roles or ensured that normal functions continued to operate — it all mattered and all was a necessary part of this response. Thank you for your continued efforts to help our state bounce back from this disaster better than before.

As we look to the future, this disaster brings with it bright opportunities to rebuild back a stronger and more resilient Nebraska. Communities can review and engage in hazard mitigation designed to reduce loss of life and property damage from future events. The actions and planning we engage in today will ensure a more resilient tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Bryan Tuma
NEMA Assistant Director

South Carolina and Louisiana emergency managers are recognized at the Capitol by Gov. Pete Ricketts for their service to Nebraska through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. They, along with staff from Washington State and Minnesota, responded to Nebraska’s request for assistance.

On their last day at the Joint Field Office, members of the Federal Incident Management team that responded to the Nebraska disaster were recognized for their work.
March
Timeline Snapshot

4420-DR-NE
Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Straight-Line Winds, and Flooding

- Multiple blizzard and flood warnings issued as rare bomb cyclone hits state.
- Gov. Ricketts declares disaster.
- Nebraska State Patrol stages light armored vehicle in Norfolk for potential evacuations.
- Missouri River has historic crests at Plattsmouth, Nebraska City, Brownville and Rulo. Historic crests also occur on the Elkhorn River at Winslow and Waterloo.
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program approved for all areas within the state.
- Offutt AFB begins to flood.
- Nebraska Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster begin receiving requests for shelter sites, bottled water and food.
- Nebraska Joint Information Center activates at NEMA.
- State Emergency Operations Center Activates.
- President Trump approves expedited federal disaster declaration two days after governor's request.
- National Guard conducts sandbagging operations at Cooper Nuclear Station.
- More than 2,682 people are in 22 Red Cross and Partner Shelters.
- Amendment 1 approved. Adds 7 Tribal Areas or Counties to Individual Assistance.
- First two disaster recovery centers open.
- First Multi-Agency Recovery Center opens.
- State Emergency Operations Center deactivates after 15 days. More than 161 staff worked more than 8,546 hours during those 15 days.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

- Sandbagging operations reported in many counties. Many county roads reported as impassable due to flooding.
- All state roads and highways in panhandle closed. I-80 closed from Kearney to Wyoming border.
- Cooper Nuclear Station declares notification of unusual event.
- 169 National Guard Soldiers deployed.
- 16 shelters open.
- 4420-DR-NE Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Straight-Line Winds, and Flooding
- Gov. Ricketts requests federal disaster declaration.
- Vice President Pence surveys damage.
- FEMA Incident Management Team Arrives.
- The registration process for the Individual Assistance Program begins.
- Three flooding deaths reported in Nebraska. Another Nebraskan dies in Iowa flooding.
- Missouri River has historic crests at Plattsmouth, Nebraska City, Brownville and Rulo. Historic crests also occur on the Elkhorn River at Winslow and Waterloo.
- Offutt AFB begins to flood.
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Public Assistance Applicant Briefings Begin.

Amendment 2 approved. Adds 50 Counties for Public Assistance C-G.

Amendment 4 to the declaration adds 9 counties for individual assistance.

Request for Public Assistance extension granted.

Nebraska National Guard has rescued 112 people and 13 animals, fed 883 head of cattle and 53 horses.

Individual Assistance housing inspectors work in all IA designated counties and operate 4 Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) and 3 Mobile DRCs.

509 FEMA staff, 47 Small Business Administration staff and 10 Washington State Emergency Management staff are among personnel deployed to Nebraska to help with recovery.

Waste Water treatment facilities in 38 counties were impacted at one point because of flooding.

State requests 4 counties to be added to Public Assistance.

Mobile Disaster Recovery Centers open with Small Business Administration and FEMA recovery specialists deployed.

Request for Public Assistance extension granted.

Joint Field Office opens.

Amendment 3 approved. Adds 12 counties for Individual Assistance.

Deadline extended for Requests for Public Assistance.

Nebraska Housing Task Force meets.

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance teams have visited 16,038 homes.

USDA crews conduct aerial surveillance to search for stranded livestock.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grants 90-day foreclosure relief.

Community public water systems in Boyd, Cass, Douglas, Nemaha, Pierce, Sarpy, Pierce, Saunders and Washington counties have been compromised by flood waters.
A Nebraska Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter, piloted by Minnesota Army National Guard pilots from the 2-211th, General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), airlift a Bobcat loader near Genoa, Nebraska, March 26. The airdrop was a part of flood recovery efforts at the Loup River diversion dam.

Nebraska National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Koan Nissen

The major disaster declaration for the State of Nebraska has been amended to authorize Public Assistance grants for six additional counties. As a result of the amendment, there are now 76 Nebraska counties designated for all categories of PA assistance. Four counties and five tribes have been designated for emergency work and debris removal assistance.

The deadline to file for Individual Assistance was extended to June 19. There are 27 counties and 1 Tribe designated for Individual Assistance.

The U.S. Corps of Army Engineers is working to collect orphaned containers that floated away during flooding. These propane tanks, drums and totes may hold hazardous substances. USACE has covered 625 river miles and collected 1,017 containers to date. Their mission is 78 percent complete.

According to the National Center for Environmental Information, it was the wettest May in Nebraska since record-keeping began 125 years ago.

The Nebraska Department of Transportation has opened all but 11 miles of State Highways and 12 bridges. More than 189 miles of roadway have been repaired and reopened. NDOT report plans are now completed for repairs or replacement on 27 bridges affected.

The Plattsmouth water treatment plant is still flooded as Platte River levels remain high.

Repair work on Boyd County Rural Water District continues. Water temporarily provided by private wells.

Peru is using a temporary mobile water treatment plant.
To date volunteers have provided spiritual care to more than 4,500 survivors. They have helped muck out more than 700 flooded homes. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) teams have clocked more than 20,000 volunteer hours to help Nebraskans.

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) teams have clocked more than 20,000 volunteer hours to help Nebraskans.

Long-term recovery groups have formed in six counties (Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington) and two regions: East Central Long-Term Recovery Group representing Boone, Butler, Colfax, Nance and Platte and Heartland Disaster Recovery Group representing of Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick. The counties of the Boyd, Holt and Knox county groups are in the process of forming.

The National Flood Insurance Program has received 1,027 flood insurance claims in Nebraska and paid $35.5 million to policyholders.

U.S. Small Business Administration has approved 720 home loans and 54 business loans totaling $40,500,700.

6,109 people have applied for Individual Assistance totaling $2,342,548

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development has successfully rehoused six displaced household.

482 request for Public Assistance have been received.

The Voluntary Agency Liaisons (VALs) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coordinated summits the first week of June for leaders and donors from nonprofits, communities, and faith-based organizations to focus on the unmet needs of survivors. These summits were organized with the help of the Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

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Holt County is added to the disaster for Individual Assistance. Homeowners, renters and business owners can now apply for Individual Assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for losses.

NEMA and FEMA hold Procurement Training for counties, municipalities and state entities.

Timeline Snapshot

June

4420-DR-NE
Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Straight-Line Winds, and Flooding
Highway 92 Douglas County

Gov. Ricketts later thanked FEMA and NEMA staff at an all-hands meeting at the Joint Field Office for the speed and quality of the emergency management response.

“Thanks to our emergency preparedness, we were able to get a federal disaster declaration issued in record time. FEMA and NEMA worked together to get the disaster declaration in shape so that we could expedite its processing and submit it to the White House for President Trump to sign. The Trump Administration turned it around in just two days. The timely declaration allowed Nebraskans to tap into federal resources very shortly after they had experienced property damage and loss. Shortly after the declaration, we had hundreds of FEMA people on the ground assessing damage. From the moment FEMA hit the ground in Nebraska, the partnership between FEMA and NEMA has been remarkable. This Joint Field Office (JFO) is truly a joint effort with state and federal partners working cooperatively together.”
Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers used a CH-47 Chinook helicopter with Company B, 2-135th General Support Aviation Battalion, to secure multiple bales of hay, March 20, and air drop them to cattle isolated by historic flooding across the state. The Nebraska National Guard supported the ongoing response in Eastern Nebraska following massive flooding on the state’s river systems which began March 13, 2019 and has caused catastrophic damage to the state’s infrastructure, agriculture and personal property.

*Nebraska National Guard photos by Spc. Lisa Crawford*
Gov. Pete Ricketts and agency directors brief the media and emergency support representatives at the State Emergency Operations Center at NEMA on March 14 as snow, rain and flooding affect the entire state.

Federal Coordinating Officer Constance Johnson-Cage of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, addresses media at a news conference at the capitol as NEMA Assistant Director Byran Tuma and Gov. Pete Ricketts look on.

Joint Information Center staff work at NEMA on March 13. Pictured from left Spc. Lisa Crawford of the National Guard, Alyssa Sanders of the State Fire Marshal’s Office, Patrick Rooney of NEMA, Mike Wight of the Department of Health and Human Services and Lori Arthur of Natural Resources. Many other state PIOs helped in the response.

Federal Emergency Management and NEMA staff hold the command and general staff meeting at NEMA on March 23. All Photos by NEMA Public Information Officer Jodie Fawl

Maj. Gen. Rick Dalman recognizes Lexy Hindt, at the time NEMA’s Intern, for her work during the disaster. Hindt has since been hired by NEMA as a planning specialist in the recovery section.
Gov. Pete Ricketts looks on as NEMA Recovery Section staff are recognized at the all hands meeting. The staff have worked long hours on the recovery. Pictured from left, Ricketts, John Cook, Kyle Barzen-Hanson, Patrick Conway, Lexy Hindt, Nicholas Walsh, Colton Baker and Ashton Tennis.

Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac and Gov. Pete Ricketts thank NEMA's Molly Bargmann and Donny Christensen Recovery Unit supervisor and manager, respectively, for their work on the disaster.

Congressional staffers get a briefing in the situation room at the Joint Field office.

Applicant Briefings like this one in Wayne were held in many communities across the state. Photo by Nic Kemnitz.
Long-Term Disaster Recovery Groups Forming in Nebraska

During the first week of June, a series of summits were held to help donors and leaders from nonprofits, communities, and faith-based organizations learn about long-term recovery for survivors following the devastating floods in March.

The Voluntary Agency Liaisons (VALs) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coordinated presentations for attendees as they focus on the unmet needs of survivors. These summits were organized with the help of the Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

Long-term recovery groups have already formed in six counties (Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington) and two regions (East Central Long-Term Recovery Group and Heartland Disaster Recovery Group). The Heartland group includes representatives from the counties of Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick. The Platte group includes those from Boone, Butler, Colfax, Nance and Platte counties. More groups are forming.

To date, volunteers have provided spiritual care to more than 4,500 survivors. They have helped muck out over 700 flooded homes. VOAD teams have clocked more than 20,000 volunteer hours to help Nebraskans.

“Flood recovery across Nebraska could last two to three years – maybe longer,” said Mike Pickerel, VAL team lead from FEMA. “After the initial response, communities need to come together to ensure that where there is on-going need, help is available”, he added.

One valuable resource is the Disaster Leadership Team, a group of community leaders who have been through the recovery process. The team offers personal support and guidance to communities in establishing long term disaster recovery groups.

The whole-community approach to recovery simply involves people helping people. When needs go beyond the scope of city, state and federal partners capabilities, oftentimes it’s neighbors, business owners, as well as nonprofits that step in to fill the gap.

The summit featured experts speaking on a wide range of topics, including:

- Roles and responsibilities for participants in a disaster recovery group
- Utilizing national disaster expertise
- How to provide emotional and spiritual care to recovery group leaders
- Whether to hire a grants writer and a volunteer coordinator
- How to match the repair and/or rebuilding of homes to workers and supplies
- How to save money by asking for in-kind donations of materials
- How to talk to children about disasters
- How to find funding for recovery efforts
- FEMA’s Individual Assistance program.

Residents can contact their local emergency manager to form a long-term recovery group in their community or volunteer for an existing group.

For more information about volunteer efforts in Nebraska, go online to https://nevoad.community.org.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4420

On March 21, 2019, Federal Disaster Declaration DR-4420-NE was signed for a severe winter storm, straight-line winds, and ongoing flooding. This declaration opens up funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) at a 75% federal share.

Hazard Mitigation is the long-term planning and implementation of strategies and projects aimed at reducing the risk to life and property from hazards such as high winds and flooding. Examples of these projects include: Community safe rooms; acquisition, relocation, or elevation of buildings in flood damaged areas; structural and non-structural retrofitting of facilities against wind, ice, or flood hazards; and localized flood reduction/control such as culverts or channel improvements.

Property acquisitions or relocations in flood prone areas have been identified as the State’s top priority. Therefore an expedited HMGP Process has been established to get homeowners back into homes as quickly as possible.

Expedited Application Process

- Complete a Notice of Interest (NOI) form by July 1, 2019
  - The NOI form is attached to this email, available on the NEMA website (https://nema.nebraska.gov/recovery/nebraska-state-hazard-mitigation-program), or from a NEMA Hazard Mitigation Specialist (402.471.7421).
  - Completed NOI need to be returned to NEMA’s Recovery Section via nema.hazardmitigation@nebraska.gov.
- NOIs will be reviewed and prioritized by the Governor’s Taskforce for Disaster Recovery July 16, 2019.
- Selected applicants will be notified by July 26, 2019.
- Selected applicants will then have until August 30, 2019 to complete an application for review and approval by NEMA and FEMA.

Any Notice of Interest’s submitted after July 1, 2019 will be stacked for the next round of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds.

Eligibility Information

Eligible sub-applicants for this grant include state agencies, county and city governments, public power districts, certain 501c private non-profits, and tribal governments. To participate in the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, entities must have fully participated in a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan. No entity can submit an NOI for a project that would benefit an entity that did NOT partake in the hazard mitigation planning process (i.e. a county cannot submit a siren project for a city that did not participate in a hazard mitigation plan).

FEMA has Flood Insurance and Hazard Mitigation outreach professionals available for community events is available. Please contact NEMA to submit a request for an outreach team.

If you have any questions, please email nema.hazardmitigation@nebraska.gov, or contact one of the Hazard Mitigation staff at 402-471-7421.
The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) approved more than $40 million in federal disaster loans for Nebraska businesses and residents impacted by the severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding that occurred March 9 to April 1.

According to Tanya Garfield, director of the SBA disaster field operations center-west, SBA has approved $6,278,900 for businesses and $33,753,500 for residents.

"SBA’s disaster assistance employees are committed to helping businesses and residents rebuild as quickly as possible," said Garfield.

Businesses and residents in the Santee Sioux Nation; and Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dodge, Douglas, Hall, Holt, Howard, Knox, Madison, Nance, Nemaha, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Stanton, Thurston and Washington counties in Nebraska who sustained damages and registered prior to the June 19, deadline with the Federal Emergency Management Agency were eligible.

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations were eligible to borrow up to $2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets.

The SBA can also lend additional funds to help businesses and residents with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

Disaster loans up to $200,000 were available to homeowners to repair or replace their damaged or destroyed primary residence. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to $40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

These low-interest federal disaster loans are available in the Santee Sioux Nation; and Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dodge, Douglas, Hall, Holt, Howard, Knox, Madison, Nance, Nemaha, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Stanton, Thurston and Washington counties in Nebraska.

The deadline to apply for economic injury is Dec. 23, 2019.

Interest rates can be as low as 4 percent for businesses, 2.75 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 2.063 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela.

Applicants may call SBA’s Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email: disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call (800) 877-8339.

Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.
76 Counties
Catagories A-G
5 Counties
Catagories A-B
80
Counties
5
Tribes
approved for some type of public assistance
28
Nebraska counties and one Tribal area designated for Individual Assistance
$23,342,548
in Individual Assistance dispersed
490
FEMA Staff in Nebraska
32 Other Federal Staff
5,640 LOANS
from U.S. Small Business Administration totaling
$40,500,700
National Floodplain Insurance Program
$35,505,349
Paid on 1,029 claims
As of 6-26-19
Disaster Preparedness Makes Good Business Sense for Nebraskans

A survey commissioned by Nationwide insurance company in 2015 found that three in four small business owners do not have a disaster recovery plan in place. But more than half of those surveyed said it would take at least three months to recover from a disaster.

In Nebraska, more than 1,000 businesses were affected by the winter storm that resulted in a major disaster declaration in March 2019. While still assessing damage from the recent spring floods, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) urge all business owners and managers to prepare now for the next disaster.

“The sooner the private sector bounces back after a disaster, the quicker the whole community recovers,” said Constance C. Johnson-Cage of FEMA, who is the federal coordinating officer for the March storm. “Survivors need to feed their family, fill their gas tank and get back to work.”

“Better yet, businesses that can weather a storm can supply vital resources, minimize hardships and jump start recovery,” said Earl Imler of NEMA, who serves as the state coordinating officer. “Those businesses that have a disaster preparedness plan—and implement it—have less damage, loss and downtime than those without a plan.”

To promote both readiness and resilience, Nebraska formed a coalition of leaders from key state agencies and businesses called the Nebraska Preparedness Partnership (NPP) in 2014. NPP offers training, exercises and networking for businesses of all sizes.

“A disaster preparedness plan protects people, property and data,” said Sandra Hobson, the director of NPP. “A plan must ensure continuity of operations for a wide range of scenarios—even total destruction. Provisions should be made to relocate to a pre-identified site, retrieve business records and carry on with minimal staff.”

To make your enterprise more resilient, Hobson advises business owners:

■ Conduct a risk assessment to identify potential hazards.
■ Develop procedures to quickly evacuate or shelter in place. Then run drills to practice.
■ Back up your records and critical data. Keep a copy off site or in the cloud.
■ Create a crisis communications plan to keep your employees, customers, vendors and the public up to date on your operations.
■ Install a generator for your building’s essential electrical circuits in case of a power outage.

For more information on disaster preparedness, please visit: NEprep.org/preparedness/make-a-plan, or NEMA.nebraska.gov/operations/business or FEMA’s ready.gov/business.

FEMA’s mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

For disaster updates from the State of Nebraska, visit Nebraska’s website at NEMA.Nebraska.gov. You can also follow @NEMAtweets on Twitter, and www.facebook.com/nema.page on Facebook. Follow FEMA online at www.fema.gov/disaster/4420.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has faced discrimination, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362, voice/711. Multilingual operators are available. TTY users may call 800-462-7585.

The U.S. Small Business Administration is the federal government’s primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. For more information, applicants may contact SBA’s Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955. TTY users may also call 800-877-8339. Applicants may also email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or visit SBA at www.SBA.gov/disaster.
This is a view looking north towards a Boyd County road that leads to Naper. The bridge north of Stuart over the Niobrara River was destroyed by large ice chunks and flooding.

Boyd County

An aerial view of the flooding at the Camp Ashland, Nebraska on March 17. The levee to the north of the camp broke and water from the swollen Platte River poured thousands of gallons of water into the low-lying area trapping vehicles on the high ground and damaging buildings. Nebraska has experienced its worst flooding ever, displacing hundreds of people and causing millions of dollars in damages to homes, farmland, and cities.

Camp Ashland

Nebraska National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Herschel Talley
Partners discuss Radiological response at TTX

NEMA hosted an tabletop exercise for its local, state and federal partners on June 27. The event was facilitated by NEMA’s Radiological Planning and Training Specialist Deb Robinson. The event focused on roles and responsibilities during a response to an incident/accident at Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS). More than 50 personnel worked through specific scenario injects to test and validate lines of communication, coordination and resourcing. Representatives participated and answered questions as if it was a real-world response. The table top was a facilitated activity with time jumps and other controls in a modified game/TTX format.

More pictures on page 19

National Weather Service staff added much to the conversation during the tabletop exercise.
NEMA and Office of the Chief Information Officer staff discuss communication.

SEOC staff discuss their role in an event at Cooper Nuclear Station.

Federal officials, Nebraska Public Power employees, University of Nebraska Medical Center and county emergency managers participated in the tabletop at NEMA.

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Recovery Section Supervisor and State Hazard Mitigation Officer discuss the challenges for infrastructure already impacted by recent events.

American Red Cross Serving Nebraska and Southwest Iowa and Nebraska State Patrol discuss operations.

Nebraska Natural Resources and Nebraska Department of Agriculture staff discuss their responses.

NEMA staff discuss SEOC activities with Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy representatives.
Knowledge Center
Training held across State of Nebraska

Emergency Support Function coordinators receive training from Contractor Pam Pizzi at the State Emergency Operation Center on June 25. Local emergency managers, state partners and health officials across the state are receiving training on the logging system which will be fully implemented statewide in the near future and allow better communications between response organizations.

Nebraska Medicine was awarded one of two $3 million grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response to conduct pilot projects that show the potential effectiveness and viability of a Regional Disaster Health Response System.

The grant will create a sustainable model of communication, coordination, and collaboration between Nebraska coalitions, EMS, public health, health care, emergency management and various other community organizations and resources.
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