



NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEBRASKA

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
2433 N.W. 24th St., Lincoln, NE 68524-1801

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2014, 4:45 p.m.

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Donations

Victims of the northeast Nebraska counties hit by the June 16 tornados are reminded to go to the donation centers if they have unmet needs for various items. If victims are staying with family or friends they can still get items at the donations centers. The centers have a wide variety of items including:

- Food
- Personal hygiene
- Clothing
- Laundry supplies

The Wisner donation center is located at the town auditorium, 1001 Avenue D. If you have questions call the Volunteer Helpline at 402-833-1515.

The Stanton donation center is located at the VFW Post 3602, 1106 Veterans Ave, 402-439-2113.

Be Aware of Scam Artists and Those Posing as FEMA Representatives in the Pilger Area

Be on the lookout for scam artists pretending to be employed by NEMA, FEMA or another government agency, such as the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

- Consumers should keep in mind that a FEMA or SBA shirt or jacket is not absolute proof of someone's affiliation with these agencies. The best way to verify authorized NEMA, FEMA or SBA personnel is by checking their laminated photo identification card, which they are required to wear at all times.

Other points to keep in mind to avoid becoming a fraud victim:

- Check on a contractor's licensing status with local or state licensing agencies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau, homebuilders association or trade council to see if the contracting firm has any unanswered complaints against it;
- Ask for proof of insurance. If a contractor is uninsured, you may be liable for accidents on your property. Make sure the contractor has both disability and worker's compensation insurance;
- Ask for a written estimate and check to make sure it includes all work you expect to have done, as well as taxes and other fees. Keep in mind that some contractors charge for an estimate;
- If you think you have been victimized by fraud or suspect fraudulent activity, please report it to the Nebraska State Attorney General's office at: 402-471-2682.

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

A NEMA field team and its mobile emergency operations center is working in Pilger with emergency managers in the areas affected by storms. The State Emergency Operations Center in Lincoln is open. NEMA will continue to monitor river levels and participate in daily flood updates. **Additional information, photos, and videos can be found on the following NEMA sites:** <https://www.facebook.com/nema.page>, <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheNEMAtube>, and <https://twitter.com/NEMAtweets>

Salvation Army

The Salvation has been working in Pilger since the day the tornadoes struck. Two disaster response units, one from Norfolk and the other from Lincoln, are in place to feed citizens and volunteers. The Salvation Army is partnering with Operation BBQ, the American Red Cross and UMCOR, to ensure that feeding and hydration needs are met. Maj. James Pennington is leading the operation in Pilger.

Pilger Updates

Kim Neiman, the Pilger village clerk, has a temporary office, until further notice, in a trailer in the village campground. She will plan to have someone in the trailer to take messages when she's not there.

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Nebraska State Patrol

The Nebraska State Patrol's (NSP) Mobile Command Post remains on scene with troopers continuing to provide security for Pilger. The NSP will start to scale back operations in Pilger tomorrow, but will still maintaining a presence in the area.

Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR)

Highway 15 was opened Saturday evening, message boards remain in place on Highway 15 warning motorist of heavy traffic and to reduce speed.

District 3 will continue assisting with traffic control in Pilger today as they continue with debris removal. They will also be gathering all state equipment that was used for the event and will be taking it to the WestPoint yard and getting it ready to return to the district owners. It is

anticipated that NDOR personnel will demobilize around 8:00PM this evening and will be available on call after that.

The Operations Division – Mobile Operations Team will be returning to Lincoln tomorrow (June 22, 2014).

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

The village of Pilger remains under a boil water advisory. According to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, water should be brought to a rolling boil for one minute to kill bacteria.

Tetanus vaccination clinics will continue through this week; M,T, Th, F 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Wed. from 11 a.m.-3 p.m at the Pilger Pool Bath House.

Updates Flooding:

Flood Information Links

<http://www.nema.ne.gov/newsroom/flooding-information.shtml>

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/flooding.aspx>

<http://www.ready.gov/floods>

<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps/flood>

Flood Stages from the National Weather Service

Missouri River, as of 2:15 p.m. Monday, June 23, 2014

Verdel – 17.95 feet, flood stage is 24 feet

Niobrara – 15.76 feet, flood stage is 21 feet

Sioux City – 18.02 feet, flood stage is 30 feet

Decatur – 27.69 feet, flood stage is 35 feet

Blair – 25.74 feet, flood stage is 26.5 feet

Omaha – 27.79 feet, flood stage is 29 feet

Plattsmouth – 29.36 feet, flood stage is 26 feet

Nebraska City – 21.85 feet, flood stage is 18 feet

Brownville – 37.73 feet, flood stage is 33 feet

Rulo – 20.53feet, flood stage is 17 feet

The following items are repeated from yesterday's (6/22/2014) release:

Pilger Updates:

Damaged Vehicle Removal, Disposal Forms Available

Damaged vehicles in Pilger are becoming a hindrance to cleanup efforts. The Village Clerk has provided a form that all vehicle owners must complete before damaged vehicle can be removed. The *Consent, Release and Waiver* is available at the check-in location and at the food pavilion in Pilger. The form is to be used by the vehicle owner (including an insurance company who acquired ownership after settlement) to transfer the vehicle to the Village for removal and disposal at no cost to the owner and with no payment or consideration to be paid to the owner. Attach documents evidencing the title to the form.

Tetanus Vaccine Clinics

The Logan Valley District Health Department will be offering tetanus booster shots for people who are not up-to-date with their tetanus shots or who are unsure about their immunization status. The clinics will be offered Monday, June 23 – Friday, June 27, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. daily at the Pilger Pool Bath House. Anyone wanting to receive a shot should bring their immunization record if possible.

Call-in Number For Pilger Recovery Efforts:

A call-in line will be in place to address all volunteer opportunities and donations in Pilger. The number is 402-833-1515 and will be in operation from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Items Needed for Northeast Nebraska Tornado Relief

The residents of the northeast Nebraska Counties hit by the June 16 tornados are very grateful for all the items Nebraskans have donated to help them recover. To help with the recovery they, and the workers helping them, need these certain items and also do NOT need certain items as they have ample supplies until further notice:

ITEMS NEEDED

- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Anti-itch (cream, lotions, sticks) for bug bites
- Kleenex tissues
- Paper towels
- Disposable razors
- Packing tape
- Sports drinks
- Telescopic magnetic pick up tools

ITEMS NOT NEEDED at this time

- Water
- Any clothing other than plus size women's clothing

Bring donated items to the Wisner Auditorium, 1001 Avenue D. **If anyone has questions, please call the Volunteer Help Center at 402-833-1515.**

American Red Cross

A shelter opened on June 20 at the Wakefield Community Schools, 802 Highland St. On 6/20/14 the population was 27 and on 6/21/14 – 25.

The shelter that was previously operating at Wisner-Pilger High School moved on June 20 to Northeast Community College, 801 E. Benjamin Ave., Norfolk. The population on 6/20/14 was 7 and on 6/21/14 – 7.

Red Cross is available to meet with those impacted by the storms at their offices in Wayne (112 E. Second St.) and Norfolk (2602 W. Norfolk Ave.) Caseworkers will be at the Red Cross Shelter in Wakefield as well.

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH)

Any Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals that have been impacted by the recent tornados, please contact the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) office to discuss any assistance they may be able to offer such as interpreting services, hearing aids, amplified telephones, assistive technology, and more.

The NCDHH can be reached through Executive Director, John Wyvill, at 402-471-3593, their website www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov, toll free: 800-545-6244, or via email at ncdhh@nebraska.gov.

Nebraska National Guard

Twenty Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers from the 189th Transportation Company from Norfolk and Wayne continue to serve on State Active Duty, where they are assisting local officials in maintaining public safety in and around Pilger following Monday's tornado. The Soldiers are working primarily at four entry control points leading into Pilger.

Wayne and Dixon County Updates

Persons who want to volunteer for tornado recovery in Wayne and Dixon County should report to the Wakefield Fire Hall, 405 Main St. between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily until further notice. Suggested minimum age of volunteers is 19 years, or bring parental consent if younger.

Cedar County Update

Cleanup efforts continue. Volunteer Reception Centers have been established in the communities of Coleridge and Laurel.

The Volunteer Reception Centers and hours are as follows:

Coleridge

- Check in at the Coleridge Community Center 111 S. Main St., Coleridge.
- Crews plan to begin work at 8 a.m. and will work until late afternoon/early evening
- The Volunteer Reception Center will remain open on Saturday through 3 p.m.
- Transportation will be provided to areas to clean up. Please bring gloves and buckets.
- Sunday – Work will begin at 11 a.m. and last into the late afternoon/early evening hours. The Volunteer Reception Center will remain open through 4 p.m.

Laurel

- Check in at the Laurel-Concord Public School 502 Wakefield St.
- Sunday June 22, 2014 – Laurel Group Only – no planned volunteer effort on Sunday. The United Way of the Midlands will take calls from people who wish to volunteer but are not available this weekend.

In addition, a hotline has been established to help match volunteers with those in need

- To volunteer call 2-1-1 or 866-813-1731 if outside the area.
- If in need of volunteers call (402) 283-9111 with details of need and where volunteers are needed.

Volunteers MUST be 18 years old. Wear work clothes and gloves. Busses will run as needed to transport volunteers and eliminate parking & traffic at farmsteads.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cedar-County-NE-Emergency-Management/114052811951504>

<https://www.facebook.com/ColeridgeAreaTornado2014>

<https://www.facebook.com/laurelne>

Wakefield

Volunteers assisting in cleanup should check in at the Wakefield Fire Hall at 405 Main St. between 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily. Wear work clothes, long pants, and sturdy, closed-toed shoes. Volunteers need to be at least 19 years old or bring parental consent.

Call the hotline if you have donations or if you are a homeowner in need of assistance. The number is (402) 287-2574. Volunteers who have equipment or who can offer specialized skills, such as chainsaw and heavy equipment operation, or with trucks and trailers to haul debris, are asked to call the hotline, as well. Monetary donations may be taken to the United Way Fund through the Wayne and Wakefield area banks.

Volunteering

Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NE VOAD) is coordinating with various organizations that are volunteering to assist. Some of the organizations currently providing on-the-ground assistance include Mennonite Disaster Service, World Renew, Noah's Canine Crisis Response Dogs, Red Cross, Team Rubicon, Christian Aid Ministries, Serve Nebraska, All Hands Volunteers, Southern Baptists, the Salvation Army, and Samaritan's Purse.

Volunteers may arrive at Wisner-Pilger Junior-Senior High, 801 18th St., at 6:30 a.m. to register. Registration for the day will end at 3 p.m. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. Volunteers will work in Pilger between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Volunteers must have a photo I.D. and will be bused in to Pilger and assigned groups to perform debris removal. Volunteers must check-in each day at the Wisner-Pilger Junior-Senior High – volunteers from a previous day will **NOT** be allowed into Pilger without going to the school first. Volunteers who arrive directly in Pilger will **NOT** be allowed to enter the town.

Donations

Monetary donations continue to be the best way to help citizens affected by the storm. Multiple funds have been established. **Please contact NEMA with additional fund information to be added to future news releases.**

Pilger financial donations can be made at any Midwest Bank branch, referencing the "Pilger Emergency Fund." Checks may be mailed to:

Pilger Emergency Fund
Midwest Bank, Norfolk Branch
2501 West Benjamin Ave.
PO Box 886
Norfolk, NE 68702-0886

Pilger and Stanton survivors, financial donations can be made at the Stanton State Bank, referencing the "Pilger/Stanton Tornado Relief Fund." may be mailed to:

Pilger/Stanton Tornado Relief Fund
Stanton State Bank
PO Box 437
Stanton, NE 68779

Donations for Six rural Stanton families can be made at the Stanton State Bank, referencing the "Stanton Tornado Relief Fund." Checks may be mailed to:

Stanton Tornado Relief Fund
Stanton State Bank
PO Box 437
Stanton, NE 68779

Laurel Tornado Relief can be made at Security Bank, Laurel, 202 E. Second St., Laurel, NE 68745 during regular business hours.

Coleridge Tornado Relief can be made at Security Bank – Coleridge, 101 W Broadway, Coleridge, NE 68727 during regular business hours.

Those who would like to help by making a donation to **American Red Cross Disaster Relief** can do so by visiting www.redcross.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or texting the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

A collection site for **material donations** (no clothes or shoes) has been set up at the Wisner Auditorium. This site will be open from June 22 to July 2. Items will be used by people directly affected by the storm.

Nebraska State Fire Marshal

State Fire Marshal, Jim Heine, has received inquiries from homeowners wishing to begin burning houses destroyed by the storm. He urged residents to contact their insurance agents before proceeding.

Fire Marshal staff continues to be available to perform damage assessment of commercial and residential structures. Contact the State Fire Marshal's main office at 402-471-2027 for more information.

Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director Greg Ibach continues to encourage producers who suffered livestock losses to keep detailed records documenting those losses.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) to determine what type of documentation might best fit their circumstances.

Ibach also encourages individuals who have sustained crop damage in recent weeks to share that information with their local Farm Service Agency for any federal programs that might be available.

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ)

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) has been visiting property owners in affected rural areas around Pilger and Wakefield. NDEQ is providing property owners with debris management guidance and reminding them to talk with their insurance companies before disposing of any materials.

Residents are encouraged to contact their local fire chief or emergency manager for specifics about debris removal policies in their local area. A wide selection of information regarding storm recovery can be found on NDEQ's website at <http://deq.ne.gov>. On that page, look for a link in the bottom right box labeled "Storm Recovery Environmental Guidance."

Nebraska Energy Office

The Nebraska Energy Office has monetary assistance available in all sectors to help finance energy efficient projects through the Dollar and Energy Savings Loan Program. Projects submitted in the affected areas will be expedited in support of the recovery efforts.

Nebraska Energy Office staff is also available to provide free technical assistance related to energy efficiency code questions and blueprint reviews.

Please call the Nebraska Energy Office at 402.471.2867 or visit the Energy Office's website at <http://www.neo.ne.gov> for more information.

Nebraska Department of Insurance

The Nebraska Insurance Department offers these tips for individuals affected by recent storms:

- Contact your insurance company or agent as soon as you can.
- Take temporary measures to reduce further damage **but do not dispose of damaged property or make permanent repairs until your insurance company has inspected the damage**. Keep copies of expenses related to temporary repairs.
- If you need to relocate, keep receipts for your temporary living expenses.
- Maintain copies of all correspondence and take notes of your telephone conversations, including date and time of contact and name of person to whom you spoke.
- Obtain references, written estimates, proof of insurance and your insurance company's approval before authorizing a contractor to begin repairs.

If people have insurance-related questions or concerns, please call the Department of Insurance on its toll-free consumer hotline at 1-877-564-7323 or visit the Department's website at <http://www.doi.nebraska.gov>.

Nebraska Department of Revenue

The Nebraska Department of Revenue will work with businesses and individuals on any taxes due, including sales tax returns due June 20, 2014, if you do not have access to your computer, files, or tax records. The Department is also willing to abate penalties and interest.

Information is available online at revenue.nebraska.gov about what to do if your records are destroyed, temporary places of business, and real property valuations and damage due to natural disasters. If you are having difficulty filings returns or paying taxes that are due, please contact the Department for assistance at 800-742-7474.

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