



NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEBRASKA

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Jodie Fawl, NEMA Public Information Officer, 402-326-3179, jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov

Preliminary Damage Assessments

As communities continue the work of cleaning up after the tornadoes, work will begin to assess the damage. Preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) are designed to gather general information about the disaster's impacts. They provide a big picture of the extent and scope of damage so that state officials can determine what resources are needed to help individuals, businesses and local communities recover. The assessments, while general in nature, will allow state officials to determine whether disaster recovery is within the state's capabilities or whether federal disaster assistance may be needed. In addition to statutory monetary thresholds that must be met, specific impacts must be shown that necessitate assistance.

If the governor deems that the disaster response or recovery requires federal assistance, he can submit a request for aid to FEMA using the damage assessments and other pertinent information. FEMA then forwards the request to the White House for a decision by the president. Despite the possibility of federal assistance, affected business owners, homeowners and renters should report damage to their insurance companies.

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

A NEMA field team and its mobile operations center continues operations in Pilger to work with emergency managers in the areas affected by storms. The State Emergency Operations Center in Lincoln has reduced operation to normal staffing. NEMA will continue to monitor river levels, however, at this time, it appears that the water levels are going down.

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, feeling lost and overwhelmed is normal. But as recovery goes on, stress can cause physical symptoms, like upset stomach, headaches, and muscle tension. Signs and symptoms of stress overload include moodiness, anxiety, irritability, constant worrying, the inability to relax, feeling overwhelmed, a sense of loneliness or isolation, and feelings of depression.

Trauma from a disaster can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health problems, and can put victims at higher risk of substance abuse.

Posttraumatic stress disorder syndrome (PTSD) is a serious condition that can develop after a person has experienced or witnessed a traumatic or terrifying event in which serious physical harm occurred or was threatened. PTSD is a lasting consequence of traumatic ordeals that cause intense fear, helplessness, or horror, such as the unexpected death of a loved one or a

natural disaster. Families of victims can also develop PTSD, as can emergency personnel and rescue workers.

Support for victims may be needed immediately after the event causing the trauma and also over an extended time as recovery takes place.

To help people cope with stress and trauma, mental health and substance abuse resources for the region are available at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/networkofcare> .

People can also call Region IV Behavioral Health System's office at (402) 370-3100 or the Rural Response Hotline at (800) 464 0258.

Local Updates

Stanton County residents who have lost driver's licenses or state IDs should contact the Stanton County Office of Emergency Management at 402-439-2900.

Pilger

- Test results for water samples in Pilger have tested negative for coliform, so the boil alert for Pilger has been lifted. Residents should briefly run water from the tap to flush out the line as a precautionary step.
- **The Knights of Columbus Columbus Council 938** will be hosting a lunch in Pilger at the village park on Saturday at noon. Volunteers and citizens of Pilger and the six rural Stanton families affected by the tornado are invited to attend.
- **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.
- **Updated contact information is needed from residents of Pilger** displaced by the storm. Please contact the Village Clerk at 402-396-3563 or by stopping at the temporary Clerk's office in the village campground.

Special School Board Meeting Scheduled

The Board of Education of Wisner-Pilger Schools of District 30 in Cuming and Stanton Counties is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, June 30 at Wisner-Pilger Junior-Senior High School. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss school demolition and construction projects in preparation for the 2014-15 school year and the progress on the 60-day plan.

Voluntary Agency Relief Efforts

Unmet Needs--People who have unmet needs should meet with American Red Cross representatives who will be able to then refer them to all the various agencies in the affected area. The Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) which was located at the Wisner-Pilger High School has been relocated at the Wisner Fire Hall, 1055 Ave. D. Agencies, including: The Salvation Army, American Red Cross, All Hands, Billy Graham Crisis Outreach, Veteran Services and more, will be there to assist those impacted by the storms. Hours will be Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Shelters--Shelters continue to be available at Wakefield Community School and at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

Feeding--Thanks to the agencies that have and continue to step forward to provide food to volunteers and those working in the recovery response efforts. The American Red Cross (ARC), Salvation Army, and United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Salem Lutheran Church will continue feeding in the impacted areas through Sunday.

Volunteer Assistance is still being accepted

Individuals desiring to volunteer for recovery efforts in **PILGER** should **report to the Pilger Swimming Pool** for check-in and assignments between the hours of **8 a.m. and 3 p.m.** A call-in line remains in place to address all volunteer opportunities for Pilger. The **call-in-line 402-833-1515** can be reached between the hours of **8 a.m. and 5 p.m.**

STANTON COUNTY needs volunteers to assist with debris clean up at farms in Stanton County. Volunteers can check in at the Stanton County Courthouse between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to receive work assignments. Volunteers who have ATVs available are desired. If volunteering as a group, please call 402-658-5060 in advance. General questions can be answered at 402-439-2900.

Individual desiring to volunteer for recovery efforts in the **WAKEFIELD AREA** are being asked to **report directly to the Wakefield Fire Station** for check-in and assignments between the hours of **8 a.m. and 5 p.m.** Volunteers can call **402-287-2574** during the aforementioned time.

Distribution Centers

All victims from any of the communities and rural areas of the northeast Nebraska counties hit by the June 16 tornados are reminded to go to the distribution centers if they have unmet needs. Victims who are staying with family or friends can still get items at the distribution centers. The centers have a wide variety of items including:

- Food
- Personal hygiene
- Clothing
- Laundry supplies

The **Wisner distribution center** is located at the **Wisner Auditorium**, 1001 Avenue D. If you have questions call the Volunteer Helpline at **402-833-1515** between the hours of **8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

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

Wakefield distributions are being distributed from two different locations.

- **Meals and Food** are available at the **Salem Lutheran Church**, 411 Winter St., phone **402-287-2681**.
- **Clothing** is available at the **Nearly New Store**, 303 Main St., phone **402-287-8700**.

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.
P.O. Box 886
Norfolk, NE 68702-0886

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
P.O. Box 437
Stanton, NE 68779

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
P.O. 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.

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