



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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— NEMA Update on Storm Disaster Response— Recovery Work Continues

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

Debris management is the main focus of recovery efforts in Beaver Crossing where NEMA is coordinating needed state assets for the area affected by severe weather on Sunday evening.

“Conservatively, we will surpass \$20 million in cost due to damage from the May 11th storm,” said Earl Imler, response and recovery section supervisor for NEMA said. “Damage to power lines was extensive and that is one reason the numbers are that high.”

The Nebraska Resources Accountability Team is on scene to register responders and volunteers working on the scene. NRAT is made up of local emergency managers who provide check in and identification for resources at a disaster. The team has registered more than 1,300 volunteers, responders and equipment to assist in the recovery efforts at Beaver Crossing, Sutton and Utica.

A preliminary report from the American Red Cross says 10 homes were destroyed throughout the affected area with more than 150 homes having some damage.

Some of the resources that have been sent to the scene include:

- A generator for Cordova
- A cell on wheels (COW) for Beaver Crossing to boost phone communications in the area.
- Light Towers

The key activity in Beaver Crossing is debris removal.

Speed of vehicles is a safety concern and local emergency managers are urging caution while driving in affected areas.

Emergency Worker Information

An Emergency Volunteer Center will be set up Wednesday, May 14 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Old Gymnasium in Utica, Fourth and F streets. This center will be used to register and assign any volunteers willing to assist with general cleanup following the tornado in the Beaver Crossing area. To volunteer, you must be at least 19 years old. For those interested in volunteering, please bring or wear the following:

- Driver’s License or other government photo I.D.
- Boots or sturdy leather shoes (No tennis shoes, flip flops or sandals)

- Long pants
- Gloves
- Hats
- Sunscreen
- Appropriate clothing to work outdoors
- If available, safety glasses and/or ear protection.

Additional information:

- Volunteers are asked to bring rakes or silage forks or hand tools. However, if you bring power tools and fuel you MUST report directly to the Beaver Crossing Fire Station as they can't be put on the buses from Utica to Beaver Crossing.
- Family members who want to help their relatives can report directly to Beaver Crossing but you MUST report directly to the Fire Station to receive an ID badge.

State Fire Marshal

The State Fire Marshal's Office has inspected buildings and recommended that people not enter due to safety concern. In some cases, insurance companies will need to get structural engineers in to evaluate whether buildings are safe to enter for cleanup.

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

If people have public health-related questions, they can contact their local health department. A list of local health departments is available here: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/contacts.pdf>

DHHS contacted local health departments affected and discovered that no public water issues have been reported.

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ)

A team from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) is in the field providing assistance to the community regarding proper debris management. In addition, NDEQ staff is contacting affected communities regarding any issues related to operation of their wastewater treatment facilities. More information about debris management can be found at NDEQ's website, <http://deq.ne.gov>, under the heading "Storm Recovery Environmental Guidance."

Shelter Closing

The Shelter in Utica closed today at noon .

Meals

The Salvation Army is providing hot meals on Main Street in Beaver Crossing from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The American Red Cross is providing hydration and snacks at Beaver Crossing from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Emergency Response Vehicles will be stationed throughout the town. This will also be in effect for tomorrow (Wednesday).

The Red Cross and Salvation Army in Sutton provided food today at the St Mary's Catholic Church Fellowship Hall, 312 South Saunders.

Power Company Websites for More Information on Outages

NPPD	http://www.nppd.com/
Seward PPD	http://sewardppd.com/
Norris PPD	http://www.norrisppd.com/
Perennial PPD	http://www.perennialpower.com/
OPPD	http://oppdstorminfo.blogspot.com/
	http://ww3.oppd.com/pom/default.aspx
South Central PPD	http://southcentralppd.com/