



NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEBRASKA

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2014, 4:50 p.m.

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

— NEMA Update on Storm Disaster Response—

Recovery Work Continues

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

NEMA's mobile operations center and a field team are located in Beaver Crossing to help coordinate the response there. More than 1,500 volunteers, responders and pieces of equipment have been registered to work on the response. NEMA is working with local emergency managers to provide resources in Beaver Crossing and other areas recovering from storms that hit the area Sunday, May 11.

Preliminary reports from the National Weather Service indicate the Beaver Crossing Tornado was an EF3 with an estimated peak wind of 140 miles per hour. It was one of six tornadoes (all other had EF1 or EF2 ratings) that struck the area.

A joint public damage assessment, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has been requested by Gov. Dave Heinemann and is scheduled to begin Monday.

Volunteer Information

"Volunteer response to the tornado emergency in and around Beaver Crossing and Cordova has been a great help," said **Gary Petersen**, director of emergency management in Seward County. "Starting Thursday, May 15, all folks wishing to volunteer are asked to call the Seward County Emergency Management office at (402) 643-4722 and leave their name and phone number. The office will then coordinate matching volunteers with work needing done in these communities."

The tornado spread large amounts of debris in the surrounding rural areas. Farmers that have tornado debris in their fields can request volunteer help to pick up that debris by calling that same number (402) 643-4722.

The Seward County Emergency Management office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and phone messages can be left. If you do leave a message, please include your name and phone number and a description of your situation.

Power Restoration

Power companies are working to restore power in affected areas. Inspections are required before power can be restored to individual residences if a power line went down from the pole to the residence. Inspections need to be requested by the utility company or the home owner. An inspector then assesses the line and connection for safety and a disaster form is completed. There is no charge for an inspection if the line is just replaced/repaired with no other re-wiring required.

Help Available for People Experiencing Stress

Eric Wiezorek, a volunteer team leader and chaplain at Hope Center Church in Beaver Crossing, said elevated stress levels are starting to affect residents and responders in Beaver Crossing and with that in mind, starting Thursday at 7 a.m. about 12 chaplains will be available for critical emotional care and stress management the City Hall Building from 7 a.m. to curfew. In addition, Crisis Response International (CRI) will also be available to assist. The chaplains expect to provide this service until at least Saturday.

(For more information reach Eric Wiezorek at (308) 520-4736.)

Prayer Vigil Scheduled

On Thursday at 7 p.m., a community-wide prayer vigil is scheduled at the City Hall. On Sunday morning at 10 a.m., a community-wide church service will be held at the Methodist Church in Beaver Crossing.

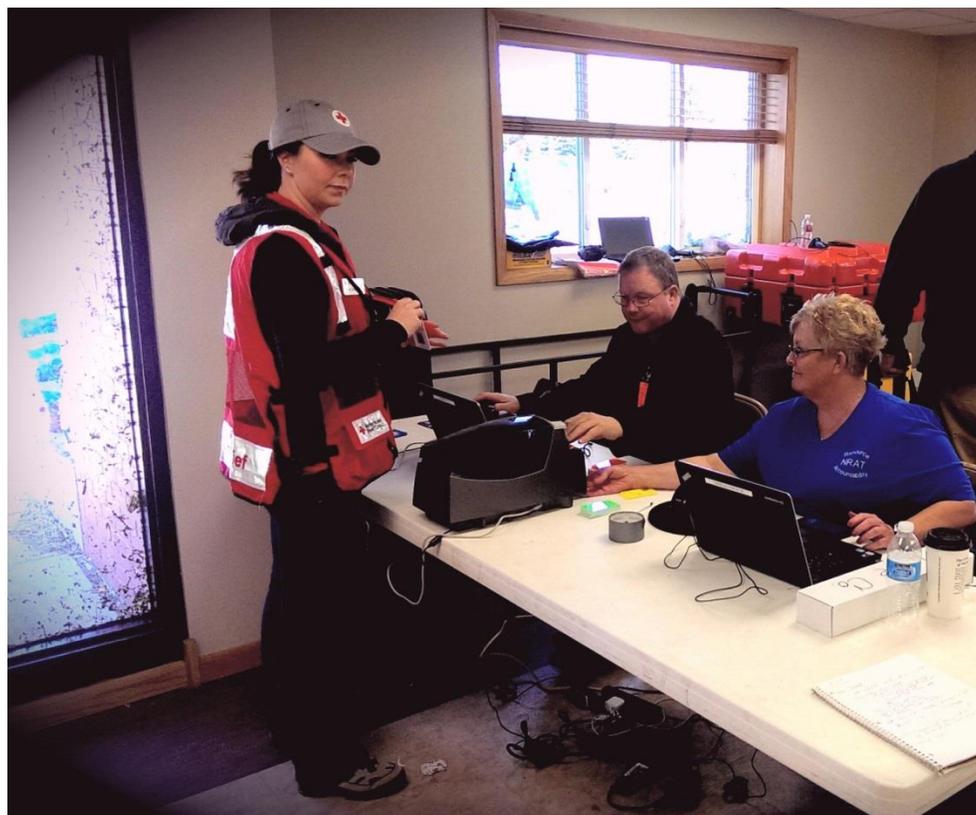
Meals and Other Services

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

The American Red Cross, more than a dozen community agencies, including The Salvation Army, United Methodists, Nebraska VOAD and Veteran's Services, are working to deliver clean-up supplies to residents of Beaver Crossing.

Four Red Cross emergency vehicles were in Beaver Crossing this afternoon to hand out work gloves, comfort kits, coolers with filled with ice, water and snacks.



Members of the Nebraska Resource Accountability Team (seated) Platte County's Tim Hofbauer and Dakota County's Deanna Beckman, check in an American Red Cross volunteer in Beaver Crossing. The team can serve as a state resource during disasters to check in equipment, volunteers and responders.