



## NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEBRASKA

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### — NEMA Update on Storm Disaster Response— Recovery Efforts Transition

#### Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

NEMA's mobile operations center and field team have been assisting with the recovery efforts. All recovery efforts will revert solely to city and county officials at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, 2014. The phone system for the Village of Beaver Crossing is back in operation and can be reached at 402-641-0860, or by emailing [villageofbc@windstream.net](mailto:villageofbc@windstream.net). Today's activity continues to be debris management and working on topping of damaged trees.

#### State Disaster Process

- There is a governor's declaration
- The governor has requested a joint preliminary damage assessment with FEMA
  - Expected to occur Tuesday – Friday
- The assessment goes to the governor
- Following a request for a federal disaster declaration from Washington, D.C., the process may take 2-4 weeks before it is determined whether or not the president will approve the request
- Small Business Administration (SBA) Declaration
  - Helps both businesses and provides low interest loans for individuals
- Public Assistance declaration
  - Provides assistance to public areas (parks, schools, government, power)

Today officials are conducting damage assessments with Small Business Administration. FEMA regional staff are expected to arrive on the afternoon of May 20 to conduct an assessment. Damage assessment does not insure individuals will receive federal funding.

#### Nebraska National Guard

Army National Guard Soldiers from the 92<sup>nd</sup> Troop Command will also be completing their state active duty on Tuesday evening. The National Guard has been assisting local emergency management officials in providing public safety support in the areas affected by the Sunday's storms.

#### Beaver Crossing Community Update

Beaver Crossing residents began their return to the community on Monday. Power restoration work is continuing at Beaver Crossing. Approximately 98 percent of the homes in the village currently have power. Non-residents and individuals who are not actively logged in as volunteers are being asked to stay

out of the recovery area. The Seward County Sheriff's Office will continue frequent patrols of the community.

### **Donation Update**

The recovery process continues to be ongoing. Individuals may continue to channel financial gifts through the following methods.

***Financial gifts for residents of Beaver Crossing directly can be given to: The Hope Center and sent c/o The Village of Beaver Crossing, P.O. BOX 116, Beaver Crossing, NE 68313.***

***Financial donations for the rebuilding of Beaver Crossing's infrastructure, pool, park etc. can be made payable to: The Village of Beaver Crossing and mailed to P.O. BOX 116, Beaver Crossing, NE 68313. Donated funds from the 501(c)3 that was established for this incident will be distributed to local residents by the Village of Beaver Crossing.***

### **Donation of Needed Items**

If you wish to donate needed items, please call Monica at (402) 641-3616 to verify the status. Please note that clothing is not on the list of needs.

### **Unmet Needs**

The reporting location for unmet needs has been relocated. Community residents with unmet needs related to the storm should go to the Methodist Church at 708 West in Beaver Crossing for documentation and processing of needs.

### **Volunteer and Community Support**

People who are not already scheduled to volunteer this week should call the Seward County Emergency Management office at (402) 643-4722 for scheduling. Only groups of individuals should make application for volunteer activity. All volunteers must be at least 19 years old.

### **Four Corners Health Department**

Four Corners Health Department reminds people doing recovery work in Beaver Crossing to make sure they have had a recent tetanus booster.

### **Airborne Particulates**

Fiberglas, sheet rock, plaster dust and other particulates may be present in homes and businesses that were damaged by the storm. Individuals are encouraged to use dust masks or respirators.

### **Behavioral Health Assistance**

Region III Behavioral Health Services and Region V Behavioral Health Systems are on the scene after the recent storms in the central and eastern parts of the state, offering resources and support for people with mental health and substance abuse issues. For Region III, people can call Beth Reynolds at (308) 237-5113. For Region V, call Kristen Nelson at (402) 441-4356. See a map of the regions and find resources at [www.dhhs.ne.gov/networkofcare](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/networkofcare) or call the Family Helpline at 1-888-866-8660.

### **Insurance Assistance**

The Nebraska Department of Insurance will be at the Village Hall in Beaver Crossing on Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 5 p.m. to answer questions. They are also available to assist with any insurance or claims issues for the tornado victims via phone at the consumer affairs division phone number, 877-564-7323.