



## NEWS RELEASE

March 9, 2015, 2:45 p.m.  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jodie Fawl, (402) 471-7428  
[jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov](mailto:jodie.fawl@nebraska.gov)

# 2015 Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest Winners Named

LINCOLN – **Natalie McNamara**, a fourth grade student from Bellevue Elementary School in Papillion (Sarpy County), earned first place in the 2015 Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest, sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management (NAEM), the National Weather Service (NWS), the Nebraska Military Department and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

McNamara’s poster depicts a lightning bolt and the phrase “When you see my flash, you better dash” with a child and adult quickly exiting a park to return to their home and safety.

The contest was open to all fourth grade students in Nebraska. The top four finishers will be recognized by **Gov. Peter Ricketts** at a proclamation signing for Severe Weather Awareness Week, at the State Capitol on Wednesday, March 18, at 10 a.m.

**Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 23-27**, and is observed to increase awareness of, and response to, severe weather hazards. A statewide tornado drill is scheduled as part of the week’s activities at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, March 25.

“We hope Nebraskans will take time during Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week to prepare for the severe weather we face in Nebraska during the spring and summer months,” said **Bryan Tuma**, NEMA assistant director. “Making a safety plan and reviewing proper safety precautions is a good practice for those of us who live in areas affected by tornadoes, floods and severe thunderstorms.”

Severe weather can result in tragic losses that preparation and planning can prevent. Through the poster contest, fourth graders from across the state encourage Nebraskans to follow weather safety precautions.

The second place poster, by **Domanick Rexroad** of Thayer Central in Hebron, cautioned “Be Aware of bullies in Dark Alleys” and featured a tornado alley.

The third place poster, “Stay alert and don’t get hurt!”, was entered by **Emma Krusemark** of Pender Public Schools and featured a tornado approaching homes. Her picture included a storm cellar with an emergency kit.

The fourth place poster, by **Kaitlyn Emanuel** of North Bend Central Elementary School, reminds people to stay inside when it is storming. It featured a lightning storm.

Posters were judged on originality, effort and accuracy. The top prize is a \$125 gift card, second is \$100 and third \$75, all sponsored by NAEM. NWS provides a \$50 gift card for fourth place. Each of the winners will receive a Weather Alert Radio courtesy of **B.J. Fictum**, Saline County Emergency

Management director. NEMA provides certificates for all the students and the Nebraska Military Department mats the posters as a remembrance for students.

**First:** **Natalie McNamara**, Papillion, Bellevue Elementary School, Sarpy County  
**Second:** **Domanick Rexroad**, Hebron, Thayer Central, Thayer County  
**Third:** **Emma Krusemark**, Pender, Pender Public Schools, Thurston County  
**Fourth:** **Kaitlyn Emanuel**, School, North Bend North Bend Central Elementary, Region 5/6  
Emergency Management

**Honorable mention in alphabetical order:**

**Garrett Bellis**, Aurora, Aurora Elementary School, Hamilton County  
**Isabelle Felber**, Pender, Pender Public Schools, Thurston County  
**Ariel Guerra-Salazar**, Crete, Crete Elementary School, Saline County  
**Payton Heffner**, Trenton, Hitchcock County Schools, Hitchcock County  
**Kirsten Jensen**, Hampton, Aurora Elementary, Hamilton County  
**Lindsay Johnson**, Hebron, Thayer Central Elementary, Thayer County  
**Dilyn Klein**, St. Paul, St. Paul Elementary School, Howard County  
**Alexa Krause**, Denton, Crete Elementary School, Saline County  
**Elsie Ottun**, Sargent, Sargent Elementary School, Custer County  
**Gabrielle Pavlik**, Verdigre, Verdigre Public Schools, Knox County  
**Storm Peterson**, Grant, Perkins County School, Perkins County  
**Taylor Pickinpaugh**, Aurora, Aurora Elementary School, Hamilton County  
**Natalie Roberts**, McCook, St. Patrick Catholic School, Red Willow County  
**Ashton Robinson**, Imperial, Chase County Schools, Chase County  
**Chance Schultz**, Carroll, Wayne Elementary School, Wayne County  
**Keira Smyth**, North Platte, Hall Elementary School, Lincoln County  
**Landon Tines**, Culbertson, Hitchcock County Schools, Hitchcock County

**For more information on severe weather awareness or preparing for severe weather visit:**

<http://www.nema.ne.gov/response-recovery/severe-storm-guide.html>

<http://www.bereadynebraska.com/preparation-101/>

*Note: Pictures of the winning posters are attached. Pictures of the winners with their posters will be sent via email March 18 following the proclamation signing ceremony.*

###