



Buffalo County Emergency Management 2010 Year End Report



INTRODUCTION

2010 started off as a mild weather year and for the most part continued that way until June and July and then was back to a mild weather pattern for the rest of the 2010 year. There were a total of 61 watches, warnings and advisories for the 2010 year. This is very comparable to the mild weather year in 2009, with a total of 55 warnings and watches issued. Winter temperatures were average; however, 32 days were recorded in the single digits, with 7 of those days being below 0 all recorded in December. There were no major winter weather advisories or storms through January, February, and March, and only two winter weather warnings in December. December produced 4 inches of snow during the warnings in the Kearney/Buffalo County area. The wind was a factor putting Buffalo County and the central part of the state in blizzard conditions for a day. June and July were the busiest and most destructive months for the year for severe weather activity. Between those two months, the Buffalo County saw high winds, flooding, hail and several tornados. There were 16 watches and 28 warnings issued for Kearney and Buffalo County during June and July. The major concern in June was the flooding in the low lying areas within Buffalo County along the creeks and rivers. There were areas along the Platte River that were 3 to 4 feet deep that were normally dry pasture and farm ground. The thunderstorm on the 17th of July produced damaging winds and possible tornados across Buffalo County. The sirens were sounded twice in the Kearney area due to high winds and a tornado spotted north of the city. Miller Fire reported a Tornado southwest of town. These damaging winds and tornados caused significant damage across Buffalo County from northwest to southeast, NPPD reported an estimated 25 million dollars in damage to transmission line infrastructure stretching 32 miles across the county. There were many other personal and public properties damaged during this event. An Emergency Declaration was signed for the Cruse Night Storms.

Several Table top Exercises were completed over the last year as well as partnering with UNK for a community wide full scale exercise.

As always throughout the year, grants have kept the Emergency Management office busy in 2010. Homeland Security Grant allocation purchased regional assets for the south central PET region. 4 remote control robots were purchased for CERT/ESU and or SWAT teams within the regions. Several Air cards have been purchased for law enforcement and Emergency Management within the regions. Eleven counties put in a public notification system for emergency alerts to cell and landline phones for GEO notifications and weather events. 7 generated emergency light trailers were purchased for the region. The VHF mobile radios purchased for Sheriff's office vehicles and additional portables for Kearney Police Department using 2007 funds were audited this year. All home land security grants through 07 have been completed and closed out. The \$200,000.00 Emergency Management Performance Grant received to help fund the new

Emergency Operation Center for the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was also closed out in 2010.

A tower has been put up at the Justice Center. \$20,000.00 has been requested out of the 2008 grants to purchase a tower shelter to be placed at the base of the tower. Homeland Security Grants continue to support the statewide communications projects and continue to be distributed at the regional levels not at the county level. Much of the first part of the year was taken up with the completion the new EOC. This office managed the grant, the bid/quote requests, invoices and purchase orders, reimbursement requests as well as the management of and over seeing the construction and implementation of the EOC itself. This included vendor orders and vendor management from deliveries to placement of equipment and technologies into the EOC area.

Public education campaign for Emergency Preparedness continues to be a number one priority for this office. Several additional speaking engagements were completed as well as PSA's for radio and TV. This is a mandatory requirement for the Emergency Management position across the state. It is felt by this office we could do a much better job in this area. The plan is to use 2010 Homeland Security grants to help the region improve in this area.

There were three hazardous material responses over the last year, requiring minor cleanup. January 25th an accident on Interstate 80 at mile marker 288 caused a Hazardous Material incident from spilt diesel from one of the vehicles involved. The quantity of the spill was unknown, and was reported as possibly a 25 to 300 gallon spill. On April 1st a Union Pacific Railroad locomotive sprung a diesel leak that started out near Antelope Road and went through Kearney to 19th and Railroad Street before the train was stopped. The UP hazmat team cleaned up the spill from Antelope to 19th and Railroad Street. August 13th 500 gallons of Liquid Nitrogen 3200 fertilizer was spilled into the ditch and roadway on 78th and Ave. N, one mile north of Kearney. Reports were completed by this office and forwarded to the appropriate state agencies for all incidents.

There was a double train derailment on September 8th east of Kearney and west of Gibbon. Between the derailments is the company Nutra-Flo, a chemical company sitting right on the rail line. The west bound train was empty coal cars while the east bound train was full coal cars, approximately 40 cars derailed between the two trains.

All but one of the 2010 goals were met and or implemented. The Mutual Aid Radio project was not met; however, much progress was made on this project during the last year. Goals are a continuation from year to year and will carry over into the next if not met in the previous year.

This annual report will highlight the major activities of the Buffalo County Emergency Management office. It is not inclusive of the everyday meetings and activities of the Emergency Management Office for Buffalo County.

Emergency Management Concept

The four phases of comprehensive emergency management are mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Each phase results from the previous one and establishes the requirements of the next. This past year the City of Kearney/ Buffalo County Emergency Management Office continued to focus on all four phases not only in training but real life emergency incidents.

The EOC (Emergency Operations Center) was opened on several different occasions throughout the spring and summer months of 2010. The EOC was opened at the readiness level on many occasions; however, it was never opened in its full operational capacity. All EOC operations were handled at the lowest Emergency Management level and were never operational through one full operational period. The EOC was operational on weather related events, ie Thunderstorm Warnings, Tornado watches and warnings, and Fire and Hazmat related events. Most all activities from the EOC on weather and Fire/Hazmat events were coordination efforts among first responder agencies and outside jurisdictions as well as acquiring needed resources at the request of first responder agencies.

The Emergency Management office continues to partner with many community groups and agencies involved in the area of public safety. In the year 2010, it was involved with the Buffalo County Mutual Aid Association to work countywide with fire, EMS, and law enforcement; worked with the Midway Amateur Radio Club to coordinate with the ARES members that serve as storm spotters as well as complete the new Amateur radio room in the EOC and make it fully functional. The Technician Level Hazmat Team continues to operate with the Emergency Manager serving as the administrator of this team. New level B-suits were purchased for the team this year, an additional \$5,000.00 has been added to the Emergency Management budget for support in the 2010/2011 fiscal year.

The 22 county (CNRI) Central Nebraska Regions for Interoperability has been an interoperable communications region since 2004. There has not been a lot of activity within the CNRI this last year. Two regional members meetings were held this year to determine the fate of CNRI now that the state and the PET regions are working to help move the communications projects along. It was voted to continue with CNRI to be the decision making powers for the communications projects in its two PET regions, even though the PET regions controlled the Homeland Security funds they would continue to provide a support role for Planning, Exercising and Training on communications systems within the CNRI regions. At the second

meeting, I stepped down as Chairman of the region. Chief Larry Thoren from Hastings PD was elected as the new Chairman of the group.

(COAD) Community Organizations Active in Disasters was developed in the Buffalo County/Kearney area in 2006 and continues to go strong with its fourth annual Public Safety Awareness Day event held at the Hill Top Mall. This event gets bigger and better every year. This year it was held on September 11th thinking it would be a good time to hold the event; however there were a lot of other things going on this day not only for the citizens of Buffalo County but the participating volunteers and organizations that participate in the event. We will most likely not hold this event on this date again. The COAD group met quarterly over the last year as well as participated in a tabletop exercise based on the operations of a volunteer coordination center.

(TRMRS) Tri-City Rural Medical Response System was developed in 2004 and in 2008 developed a group called the MRC (Medical Response Corp) for Central Nebraska. Both groups continued to work on vital plans for emergency response and recovery in 2010. TRMRS continues to work on interoperable communications for the 18 hospitals and has most of this project completed. There are a few more hospitals to complete at this time; and when this project is completed, a communications exercise is planned to finalize the project. TRIMRS and I have also been working on developing procedures for the EOC Medical Table which is designed to track patients from the incident location to the hospital or clinics, and provide information to family members at a Family Assistance Center. The other project is to develop plans and identify the right players for a Family Assistance Center. The MRC group now has over 75 volunteers; however at any given time, only have about 5 that are active. This project has seemed to stall a bit over the last year. One of the things that I have helped with is to push for a medical response trailer equipped to medical supplies to work as a mobile clinic in disasters. I have helped to provide design for the trailer the needed supplies and equipment as well as putting out a bid sheet and getting bids for the unit. This has all been turned over to the coordinator.

The CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) program was started in a regional area to include Buffalo County in 2006. The CERT program continues to assist with public education within Buffalo County through promotional items and advertisement spots. There still has not been a big community response or interest to the CERT program, which makes it difficult to hold trainings in the area. The Buffalo County Emergency Management office is trying to take full advantage of its other educational programs.

Buffalo County Emergency Management continues to work with Two Rivers Public Health. Planning for Sub-Hub operation and using and distributing the Chem-Packs and as well as receiving the National Stock pile from the CDC. These programs continue to be a high priority for our two agencies. We also continue to

work together on other projects such as COAD, TRIMRS, Emergency Response ID system, and identifying the special needs populations.

Buffalo County had a comparable year of severe weather activity to the 2009 year. The more severe weather was recorded in the months of June and July. Significant damage was reported after the July 17th storms dubbed the Cruise night storms due to 90 plus mile per hour straight winds and wide spread tornadic activity. The warning sirens in Kearney were activated twice on July 17th 2010.

Kearney and Buffalo County were placed under Severe Thunderstorm / Tornado watches or warnings 59 times, 3 winter weather advisories and several flood and flash flood advisories / warnings in the 2010. Buffalo County was right at average to below average rain fall for the year. Buffalo County and the Kearney area has received normal to above normal rain fall for the last several years removing the county from the drought status that it had been in for so many years prior. The Kearney area and Buffalo County received 30.37” of precipitation in 2007 and 36.13 inches for the 2008 year and between 19 and 22 inches of precipitation in 2009. To not differ too much from the previous year in 2009, the 2010 year produced 21.80 inches of precipitation. The average rain fall for the Kearney/Buffalo County area is approximately 24.80 inches. The precipitation report for 2010 is below average by about 3 inches. The 2010 year data could be off by an inch or two due to the missing monthly data for snowfall during the year.

MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENT

Mission Statement

To provide a prepared and capable emergency management program for Buffalo County through training, community education, and preparedness by providing information and education to the general public, area emergency responders, and volunteers.

Values Statement

Emergency Management is by function and by law a cooperative effort on the part of all levels of government and the private sector. At the local level, Emergency Management is concerned with the protection and education of the public from the hazards and risks that affect them. The credibility of the program resides in the credibility of the program advocate. The Emergency Manager should exemplify the utility of the emergency management program.

The job of the Emergency Manager is defined by law. It does, however, have a moral basis. The emergency manager must balance the duties authorized and

required by law with the moral obligation of the public employee to do everything possible to protect and preserve the safety of citizens in the city and county.

Emergency Management expresses a strong commitment to provide interagency cooperation and coordination of activities relating to mitigation of, prevention of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from disasters and emergencies.

ORGANIZATION

The Emergency Manager is an appointed position responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of an emergency management system in Buffalo County to save lives and protect property. Such emergency management system shall include disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response and recovery capabilities. The incumbent is charged with making certain that the components of the emergency management system know the threats to the jurisdiction, planning for emergencies, being able to function effectively in an emergency, and conducting recovery operations following a disaster.

The position requires direct responsibility for the organization, administration, and operation of the Buffalo County Emergency Management System, subject to the direction and control of the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors. The position serves as the principal advisor to the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors in disaster/emergency matters. Supervision of day-to-day activities shall be directed by the Buffalo County Sheriff and Kearney Chief of Police.

The incumbent, in discharging duties, must work with elected and appointed officials of the local governments, of the state and of the Federal government, and private sector interests.

The incumbent is given broad and extensive authority to determine program priorities, requirements and procedures so as to implement and support the local, state and national programs and objectives. Completed work is reviewed in terms of net results and the achievement of broad objectives and conformance with general policies. Job effectiveness can be determined by the ability of the Buffalo County Emergency Manager to take the lead in developing local capabilities to mitigate disasters/emergencies and conduct coordinated operations in disasters/emergencies, making maximum use of all public and private resources available.



TRAINING

As required by the Nebraska Emergency Management Act, Section 81-829.46 (6), which requires the “*Director to devote full time to the duties of emergency management, and that he/she shall be qualified and certified in accord with criteria established for the state by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency,*” all courses were completed by the Director to fulfill the Basic Certification requirement before hire. In addition to this certification, completed in 2005 was the Nebraska Emergency Management Advanced Certification for Emergency Management as well as meeting all NIMS compliances, ie. IS 100, 200, 700, and 800. In 2006, the FEMA Professional Certification was obtained. In 2007, the NIMS 300 and 400 certification was accomplished. In 2010 the NIMS 701, 702, 703 and 704 certification was accomplished.

Additionally, the Director attended or conducted the following non-NEMA courses / conferences:

- Severe Weather Spotter Training (3)
- State Wide Tornado Drill
- School Emergency Plans / Checklists Training
- Pets and Shelters training
- NAEM Conference
- COMM-L training (Communications leader training)
- Volunteer Processing training
- TRIMRS exercises (2)
- Central District Meeting
- Hazmat Decontamination Shower Training
- Amateur Radio ARES Field day exercise
- COAD Tabletop training
- COAD Safety Fair
- Interoperable Communications Responder Level Training
- PARACLETE Training
- Nebraska Hazardous Materials Association Conference
- (PIO) Public Information Officer and (JIC) Joint Information Center training

In addition there were 27 other assorted local or regional trainings sent out to First Responder agencies throughout the year.

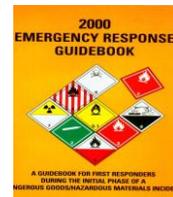
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PRESENTATIONS

- 1 2 Emergency Management presentations for UNK students
- 2 Emergency Preparedness sheltering presentations to Mount Carmel Nursing home
- 3 Presentations/Tours on the new EOC to city/county officials and public
- 4 Emergency Management overview to the ESU 10 for BuffaloWatch.net
- 5 Overview presentation on Interoperable Communications and Incident Command System to Buffalo County Mutual Aid Group
- 6 Emergency Management and Weather presentation to NPPD

LEPC

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Buffalo County LEPC is a component of the emergency management program. The Director is responsible for reviewing and maintaining Tier II reports, filing LEPC minutes from the quarterly meetings, maintaining the membership roll, maintaining spill reports, and compiling this information to send to the SERC (State Emergency Response Commission) for the Buffalo County LEPC. The LEPC has not been active in the past 2 years, and no LEPC meetings were held in 2010.

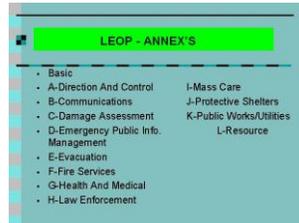


TIER II REPORTS

All copies of Tier II reports filed by facilities in Buffalo County, that are required by the Community Right-To-Know Act to report hazardous substances, are placed on file in the Emergency Management Director's office. The facilities are required to update the reports on a yearly basis and are reviewed by the Director for the HAZMAT Annex of the LEOP, and for the yearly report sent to the SERC. Members of the Buffalo County LEPC, as required by law, also complete a review of the Tier II reports. Copies of filed MSDS sheets are also available in the Director's office.

CONTINGENCY PLANS

The Director maintains all contingency plans filed by facilities in Buffalo County that are required to file the plans, or do so because they understand the importance of providing the information for emergency planning and response.



RMP (RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS)

Fourteen facilities in Buffalo County were required by law to file Risk Management Plans. This is a requirement by the EPA. The Risk Management Plans are on file in the Director's office and are also available on the secure portion of the EPA website.



The Director received notification involving radioactive transports of spent fuel and low specific activity materials prior to the shipments entering Buffalo County. Notices were made to the appropriate agencies that would respond in a radiological incident. There were no reports of radioactive transport reports to this office this last year. This does not mean that there were no transports through Buffalo County but due to transportation regulation changes on reporting requirements as well as less radioactive transports through the primary routes though Nebraska and Buffalo County the reports have be reduced to almost none.



EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM

Monthly tests of the alarm radios, pagers and outdoor warning system were conducted throughout the year. Pre-maintenance services on the sirens continued during the month of March within the Kearney area. During the year, the backup

communications center was moved from the basement of city hall to the new Emergency Operation Center. During this time there was extensive testing on the activation of the sirens from the back up center. It took three separate tests to get the activations to work properly throughout the city of Kearney and all of Buffalo County. During this time several issues were found with sirens throughout the county, from bad radio boards, blown fuses, to improper programming, all issues were fixed during this testing.

An old siren was removed from the top of the jail garage in May before the demolition of the jail garage. A new siren was put up to replace the old siren in the alley west of the garage between Second and First Avenue. The old siren was still in working order and was taken over to the UNK campus to replace a siren that was no longer working.

I attended and participated in a siren dedication at the Nebraska Youth Camp this last month. This dedication was for the four Boy Scout campers that were killed during the storm at Little Sioux camp in Iowa. This siren was specifically dedicated to a boy named Sam that frequented the camp in Kearney.



The Dialogic High Speed Notification System continues to work well for notification of the public and special groups. This system is used to call up special response units, i.e. Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, Hazmat Teams, etc. It is also used to complete general notifications to the citizens of Buffalo County for any type of emergency. From hazmat spills, a tornado warning, flash flood, evacuation, school closings, or simple road closings, the possibilities are endless. This system was used for a number of different public notifications this last year, from missing persons, YRTC escapees, and weather related events. A number of the volunteer fire departments continue to use this system to disseminate information to volunteers that serve on the departments. Law Enforcement continues to use this system for specialized team callouts and several new groups have been created this last year, including the ARES amateur radio group, Medical Reserve Corp., EOC appointed and elected officials, EOC responder agencies, Jail (CERT), Community Organizations Active In Disasters (COAD) and the Buffalo County EOC Medical Table call out. This system now has over 1000 members with 65 different groups that have been developed. 8 new groups were added in this past year. Mapping and phone number updates as well as backing up the system are performed every six months.

A new notification system was put in place this year it is called Buffalo Watch, and is a web based system owned by Cooper notification. This system allows the public to sign up for cell phone and e-mail text and SMS messages for weather notifications, from freezing rain advisories to Tornado warnings and just about every other notification in between. The public can choose all the notifications or pick and choose the ones they want. This system can also do voice and land line phones for GEO notifications and group notifications. At some point it is expected to take over for the DCC notification system we have had for 5 years.



RESPONSE UNIT ACTIVITIES

The response unit was used for the fourth time during the annual Nebraska Game and Parks Outdoor Expo in May. This was the second year it was held at the Fort Kearney recreation area. This unit provided communications to several agencies that were participating in the management of the event from Buffalo County Communications Center, Game and Parks, State Patrol, Good Samaritan hospital EMS, and the Red Cross. In addition to providing interoperable communications to these agencies, it continues to provide a good opportunity for training for the Incident Dispatch Team in a low stress environment.

The response unit was used for an Incident Command Center by Kearney PD and the Kearney Fire Department in a fatality house fire in Kearney.

The Response Unit was used for the Kearney Cruise night event to conduct surveillance and to provide crowd control assistance.

It was also used for the Wells Fargo Bank Hostage incident.

The unit was used in October at the new Justice Center for a planned power outage. While putting the unit away, one of the drivers hit the top of the door knocking off the mast camera. This broke the rotating tilt motor. A new motor was ordered but as of this report had not yet come in or been fixed.

Training with the Response Unit

The Mobile Response was used during the Full Scale exercise in April as the Incident Dispatch unit as well as the Incident Command Post.

The Mobile Response unit was also used for two planned Negotiator trainings, one of which was in a Full Scale training with the ESU team.

The Mobile Response unit was used in the Safety Fair for the COAD event.

Several individuals have been in the unit to formularize themselves with the equipment and technologies over the last year as well.

WEATHER



25 Million in NPPD damage



High Flood Waters



March Snow

The following list indicates the number of watches, warnings and winter weather advisories by the months they occurred in.

Month	Watch	Warning	Winter Weather Advisories
January	0	0	0
February	0	0	0
March	0	0	0
April	2	0	0
May	2	2	0
June	10	17	0
July	6	11	0
August	2	3	0
Sept.	3	0	0
October	0	0	1
November	0	0	0
December	0	0	2

WEATHER



Tornado Damaged outbuilding



Winter Weather on the Bricks



I'll Huff and Puff, well you know

BUDGET

The Emergency Management budget for the fiscal 2009 year stayed under budget and was closed out at 8% under budget. The new fiscal 2010-11 Budget was approved by the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee. The Buffalo County Emergency Management Department budget for 2010-11 is \$116,606.00. This is an increase of about 21% from the years previous budget, This is due to adding support to additional programs to the Emergency Management budget. The direct increase to the budget is due to supporting the Buffalo Alert program and the New BuffaloWatch.net program as well as funding for the Buffalo County Mutual Aid Hazmat Team.

The EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) for the fiscal years 2008/2009 closed out. and the 2010 grant started in June of 2010. This program is designed to reimburse the Emergency Management budget up to 50%. The program is administered through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency which will assist the Buffalo County Emergency Management budget at up to 50% for the 2009/2010 fiscal budget year. The prior 2008/2009 year was initially funded at 49%. This grant is based off of the total budget expenses at the end of the budget not the total allowable budget.

The total amount funded for the 2010 budget year is \$47,600.00. This is only about 31% of the budget this year. However, the lower percentage is due to amending and increasing the budget by 21% after the due date of the EMPG submittal for 2010. This office under went two State Audits in 2009 Homeland Security Grants NIMS compliance and the EM budget. The audit found that all of the paperwork documentation and equipment was in order.



POSSIBLE AND POTENTIAL EMERGENCIES 2010

January

An accident on Interstate 80 at mile marker 288 caused a Hazardous Material incident from spilt diesel from one of the vehicles involved. The quantity of the spill was unknown, and was reported as possibly a 25 to 300 gallon spill. Reports were completed and state agencies contacted by this office.

February

There was a hostage incident at the Wells Fargo Bank in down town Kearney. This was a Law Enforcement incident with the ESU team and the Hostage Negotiators. The Mobile Response Unit was used during this event. The event ended with no injuries and a successful resolution.

April

There was a Thunderstorm watch issued on 4-01-2010 at 21:21 and a Tornado watch issued on 4-23-2010 at 13:13. There was no significant weather activity reported out of either one of the watches.

On April 1st a Union Pacific Railroad locomotive sprung a diesel leak that started out near Antelope Road through Kearney to 19th and Railroad Street before the train was stopped. Kearney Fire was dispatched to investigate and mitigate the leak. UP personnel shut down the engine which then slowed the leak. The leak lasted about 30 minutes before it was contained and brought under control. The scene was turned over to UP personnel by the Kearney Fire Chief after the leak was contained. The spill was contained to the UP property. UP called in the UP hazmat team to clean up the spill from Antelope to 19th and Railroad Street. Reports were completed by this office and forwarded to the appropriate state agencies.

May

There were two Thunderstorm watches issued on May 23rd at 19:45 and May 24th at 19:11 and two Thunderstorm warnings issued on May 24 at 21:06 and 21:27. There was no damage reported out of either of the watches or warnings.

June

There were 6 Thunderstorm watches issued on June 6th at 13:48, 10th at 18:55, 11th at 22:39, and 22nd at 18:25. 15 Thunderstorm warnings issued on June 2nd at 00:12, 7th at 22:26, 8th at 00:01 and 01:18, 10th at 03:12, 11th at 21:47, 12th at 01:23, and 01:42, 20th at 05:42, 21st at 03:40, and 04:23 and the 22nd at 19:46, 20:19 and 22:27. 4 Tornado watches June 1st at 13:48, 10th at 18:55, 11th at 2:39 and 22nd at 18:25. 1 high wind warning issued on June 12th at 02:25, and 1 Flood warning for Buffalo County along the Platte River issued on June 13th at 20:52 lasting through Monday June 28th. There was a significant amount of flooding in most of the low lying areas along the Platte River Valley with areas as much as 3 to 4 foot under water. There was no significant damage reported out of any of the watches or warnings. The Buffalo County Highway Department reported some minor road damage due to minor flood waters running across county roads.

July

There were 6 Thunderstorm watches issued on July 10th at 13:50, 11th at 18:08, 17th at 18:13, 18th at 20:07, 19th 23:21, and the 21st at 17:02. 11 Thunderstorm warnings issued on July 10th at 22:21, 11th at 19:52, 12th at 17:36, 18:01 and 18:30, 17th at 21:13, 21:55 and 22:46, and the 20th at 02:26 and 03:07.

The thunderstorm on the 17th produced damaging winds and possible tornados across Buffalo County. July 17th was Cruise night in the City of Kearney with approximately 20,000 people lining the streets watching classic cars cruise by. Starting on the very west end of Buffalo County reports were coming in of high winds between 70 and 90 mph. Miller Fire reported a Tornado southwest of town. Because of the damaging high winds reported and the number of unprotected people on the streets of Kearney, the sirens were sounded to warn the people outside of the imminent danger and give them time to seek shelter. A storm chaser north of Kearney reported an EF-1 tornado on the ground 2 miles north of Kearney. The sirens were again sounded for the second time in the City of Kearney. These damaging winds and possible tornados caused significant damage across Buffalo County from northwest to southeast. Homes had roofs torn off, garages ripped off the sides of houses, grain bins blown off of foundations and across roads, and tree damage through out the county in every community. NPPD reported an estimated 25 million dollars in damage to transmission line infrastructure; 32 miles of NPPD transmission lines were destroyed across Buffalo County. There were many other personal and public properties damaged during this event. Dick Pierce, the Buffalo County Chairman for the Board of Supervisors, signed an Emergency Declaration for the Cruise Night Storms.

August

There were 2 Thunderstorm watches issued on August 19th at 17:28 and 30th at 15:22. There were 3 Thunderstorm warnings issued all on the same day, August 5th at 16:18, 16:42 and 17:13. August was a very quiet weather month producing good precipitation. There is no weather related damage to report for the month of August.

500 gallons of Liquid Nitrogen 3200 fertilizer was spilled into the ditch and road way on 78th and Ave. N, one mile north of Kearney on August 13th 2010. This was a total release caused by a two vehicle accident. Law enforcement responded to the incident; however, the fire department was never dispatched as the reporting party did not report the chemical spill to dispatch. All the proper notifications and documentation was completed by this office and forwarded to the proper authorities.

September

There were 2 Thunderstorm watches issued on September 13th and 14th the 13th was at 21:56 and the 14th at 22:36. There was 1 Tornado watch issued on September 13th at 14:37. September was a very quiet weather month. There was no weather related damage to report for the month.

There was a double train derailment on September 8th east of Kearney and west of Gibbon. Between the derailments is the company Nutra-Flo, a chemical company sitting right on the rail line. The west bound train was empty coal cars while the east bound train was full coal cars, approximately 40 cars derailed between the two trains. There have been several derailments in this 6 mile stretch over the last several years. Each time it has been very fortunate that the chemical plant has not been impacted.

November

There was a phone outage in Pleasanton during the month that lasted approximately 4 hours. Emergency Management services were not needed.

December

December 30th and 31st produced a winter weather advisory with snow and blowing snow. Approximately 3 to 4 inches of snow fell in the Kearney area and Buffalo County with winds of 20 to 25 mile per hour and 35 mile per hour gusts. This was not a significant event other than it was the first snow accumulation for the winter.

PROJECTS 2010

- With the reallocation \$200,000.00 of 2008 EMPG grant funds in 2009 from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and support from the City of Kearney and Buffalo County to match the grant at 50%, the completion of the Buffalo County/City of Kearney Emergency Operation Center became a reality. With the 2008 grant the city and the county both supported the EOC project at close to \$100,000.00 each with the grant reimbursing their expenditures at 50%. The 2008 grant also provided funding for other equipment that was purchased in 2008 that supported emergency management and operations as well as supporting the new back up communications center at 50%. With this additional grant funding the actual cost of the EOC at the local level was zero dollars. The ordering of equipment, technologies, and furniture started in mid year of 2009. However because the Justice Center project was about 2 and a half months behind schedule much of the items had to be stored off site until the construction was complete. January 31st of 2010, I was informed that there was going to be an open house for the Justice Center on February 17th. From February 1st to February 15th the EOC area went from an incomplete computer floor, minimal wiring for equipment and lighting in place, and with no doors and windows in place to a functional area. In fifteen days the room was transformed from nothing to an operational EOC with a completed carpeted computer floor, completed wiring, ceiling, all the furniture, computers, TV's, overhead projectors, video wall, phone system, intercom system, camera system, and much more. Many other things were added over the last year to make it a more complete EOC.

All equipment has been tested and kept up to date. Several other items of equipment and technology has been added including the completion of the City/County and EOC networking, Weather station, ELMO unit, Video conferencing system and the completion of the back up Communication Center in July.

A full scale exercise was conducted in April in the EOC, during this exercise many things were identified as needed added, fixed, or improved upon. Most of these items have been addressed; while there are still items that need to be completed and worked on.

After the completion of the EOC and the open house, there were tours of the area almost daily for a month and many other times over the last year.

In addition to the EOC project, there were several projects that surrounded and were in the EOC or were in direct support of the EOC, such as the back up Communications Center. I provided support for the construction of the 180 foot tower outside the EOC and Justice Center as well as putting up

antennas for the Amateur radios. Putting the Amateur radio room together was a project in itself. Many hours were put in working on this room and making sure all the radios were installed and working properly. There were some antenna issues with the HF radio that took quite a bit of time to trouble shoot and resolve. The Life Size video conferencing system was a large project as well and has taken quite a bit of time to get installed and working properly.

After the full scale exercise and after all the equipment and technology has been put in place, I have put together a step by step instruction/training guide for every piece of equipment/technology within the EOC area. After this training guide is tested for accuracy and used, an open house training schedule will be implemented in 2011 for city and county EOC staff.

- CNRI (Central Nebraska Regions for Interoperability) after 5 years of service, I resigned from being the chairman of the CNRI group at mid-year 2010, The N-COR work continues and I am still part of the appointed group by the Governor until March of 2011 when my term will be up. I have assisted in the development of the Point to Point N-RIN connectivity state wide regional projects as well as the development of policy and procedures for the use of the Mutual Aid project.
- DCC (Dialogic Communications Corporation) Public High Speed Notifications. 8 new groups have been added to the system this last year. Additional training has been provided to those that use the system as well as drills conducted over the last year to improve the proficiency of the user. There are over 1000 individuals in the Communicator at this time with more than 65 notification groups. Bi-annual updates continue for the GEO-CAST system with updated addresses and locations to stitch phone numbers to the mapping. This ensures proficiency and accuracy for the system. We have been informed that after December 2011 the company will no longer support the current system we have, we may need to look at upgrading or migrating to the new system discussed below.
- A new communication/public notification system was added to the existing High Speed notification system in 2010. The system is an internet software based system and is called BuffaloWatch.net The system is powered by Cooper notifications and works well with the existing Buffalo Alert the county already has in place. BuffaloWatch.net has several functions and when purchased the primary function was to provide SMS and text messages to e-mail and cell phones for weather notifications. This system allows the user to sign up for and manage their own accounts, for almost any type of weather event that they could be affected by in Nebraska. In addition as Emergency Management, this system can also be used to develop emergency notification groups for first responders and other emergency related personnel. This system will also provide us the ability to call out

GEO notifications to provide the public with critical information during emergency events to both landline phones as well as cell phones. The DCC server that we have been using for the last 5 years will create groups and do GEO notifications as well; however, we have received a letter from this company that this system is at its end of life cycle and will need to be upgraded at the end of 2011. Cost of this up grade could cost up to \$50,000.00. The county currently has a contract with Cooper notification for the next 5 years. The thought process at this time is to migrate the existing groups to the new BuffaloWatch.net system and let the DCC system run its life cycle and not renew at the end of 2011.

- The Buffalo County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) was under a total revision in 2009, and was submitted in October of that year. However it was not sent back to this office from the state print shop until February of 2010. When new LEOP was received approximately 75% of the Binders were broken and unusable. New binders were received and the LEOP document was transferred from the broken binders to the new ones. During this time between the October submittal and the transfer of the LEOP's to the new binders many changes had occurred within the documents. Additional revision were made locally and inserted into the LEOP's . The LEOP's were then submitted for a resolution of acceptance to each of the community boards and/or councils. Upon approval of the LEOP's, they were distributed to all the stakeholders. This was completed by mid July.
- All of the 2010 Tier II reports were sent to this office; all reports were logged and submitted to the SEPC.
- Several projects have come to fruition through the South Central Planning Training and Exercise Region (SCPETR). 4 remote control robots were purchased for CERT/ESU and or SWAT teams within the regions. Law enforcement developed a training guide and have conducted training with the units. Several Air cards have been purchased for law enforcement, and Emergency Management within the regions. This was to increase the officer's ability and communications in the field as well as to help access the fusion center. Eleven counties put in a public notification system for emergency alerts to cell and landline phones for GEO notifications and weather events. Only a few of these counties are actively using and promoting this system at this time. 7 generated emergency light trailers were purchased for the region. Buffalo County Emergency Management acquired one of these trailers and is sharing it with Kearney County.
- Mobile Response / Communications vehicle has responded to 5 events both planned and unplanned over the last year. There have been 5 training events in this unit for dispatchers, negotiators, fire, law enforcement and incident command over the last year as well as training additional drivers and individuals in the set up and operation of the unit. A new dish network

dish was placed outside the door of the overhead door in at the old reserve center where the response unit is being stored. New cable was run in the response unit from the communications closet to outside the response unit so that it could hook to the dish outside of the building. This was done because when the response unit is stored inside the building it loses connectivity with the satellite. Each time the unit was brought out of the building, The Dish Network company would have to be called to reconnect the service to the system. Now that the new dish and wiring is installed, when the unit is stored in the building it is connected to the outside dish. It now maintains connectivity and no longer loses service.

- The Buffalo County Emergency Management continued to sit on the steering committee for TRIMRS which covers a 21 county area, the MRC (Volunteer Medical Response Corps), and the Hospital to Hospital communication project that were started in 2008 continued in 2010. Much work has been completed in these areas over the last year with additional protocols, procedures, and strategic plans being developed for the MRC with funding acquired to move forward with the communications projects for the hospitals. The MRC continues to grow with now over 75 volunteers. Buffalo County continues to conduct all back ground checks on MRC volunteers and provides notification to the group as an in-kind donation. Bid specifications were developed by this office and submitted on behalf of the MRC for the purchase of a medical response clinic/trailer. A vendor has been chosen and the project has been turned over to the MCR coordinator for completion. Much work has been completed on the Regional Mass Fatality plan over the last year particularly with the Medical Table and Family Assistance Center sections.

- (NIMS) National Incident Management Systems compliance continues to be a full time project for the Buffalo County Emergency Management office. This office continues to work with all first responders as well as appointed and elected officials to maintain (NIMS) compliance. After the 2009 state audit for the 2006 grant, it was suggested that Buffalo County Emergency Management start a single excel spread sheet tracking all of the first responder NIMS training. This recommendation was implemented to track training in the IC 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704 and 800 all required IS courses for first responder and volunteer agencies at the local level. We also track new members and members that have left the departments as well as keep an accurate account of who has and has not yet completed training. The NIMS reminder post cards continue to be sent out to each of the agencies to make sure that this information is being delivered to this office. Most all responder agencies are at 65%-75% trained in NIMS. Through the implementation of these two documents, it is felt that we have met the NIMS standard and compliance in Buffalo County.

Volunteer organizations, large businesses, and schools are being targeted by Homeland Security to become NIMS compliant. This continues to be a huge undertaking by this office and could be a full time position just making sure all agencies are and stay compliant. It is still up to each agency to decide if they wish to continue to stay compliant within the NIMS standards.

- The COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) is now in its 5th year. The Safety Fair in September 11th of 2010 was once again a success. We continue to find things that we can improve on and make the Fair a better experience and success for the future. The COAD continues to be great asset to the Emergency Management Agency. Emergency Management continues to rely heavily on the volunteers and community organizations of this group during large scale events within Buffalo County.
- 2010 was an election year for the 4 year term electors. One of the extra duties of Emergency Management is to provide ID cards for county employee's IE new employees, promoted, or employees that may move from one department to another. In addition during the 4 year election years, every county employee is given a new ID card. New cards are made and new pictures are taken if needed. A total revision was made to county employee ID cards. A new picture of the new front of the court house replaced the old courthouse picture on the card. In addition, the Sheriffs office has a special ID card for Law Enforcement; changes were made to these cards as well. A new protocol was made by the sheriff's office and an application was created to get an ID card. No employee of the Sheriff's office can obtain an ID card from Emergency Management without the completion of this application, the Sheriff's signature, and the emergency manager's signature. All new cards were completed for the Sheriff's office, with new information provided and new pictures taken.

Long Term Projects Started/Continued in 2010

- CNRI (Central Nebraska Regions for Interoperability) continues to be a statewide project I'm no longer part of
- COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) Safety Fair
- TRIMRS (Tri-City Medical Response system)
- Regional Hospital Communication (Med-4 almost complete) (Sat. radios started, and Sat phones turned in)
- Regional Mass Fatality plan (Plans being written for Family Assistance Center and EOC Medical Table)
- MRC (Medical Response Team) (75 volunteers strong, Mobile MRC project started)
- NIMS (National Incident Management System) (701, 702, 703 and 704 added to the 2010 requirements)

- Buffalo County Mitigation Plan. The plan has been submitted to FEMA for approval
- Recovery Unit (Lettering and decaling needs to be completed)
- SCPETR (South Central Planning Exercise Training Region) 15 county Area (focusing more and more on regional projects)
- New Emergency Operation Center and back up communication center exercised, tested, improvements made, and training guide development (completed)
- NCOR (Nebraska Council of Regions) (ongoing work on N-RIN and policies for Mutual Project)
- New tower project (tower is up and antennas on, tower is in use, concrete needs to be poured around the base, working on a shelter at this time)
- Emergency preparedness education campaign (on hold regionally but continues locally)
- PR2C mapping tools for EOC and response vehicle (installed and working well)

Reports/ Emergency Manuals/Plans/SOG/SOP and MOU's

Below is a list of reports, Emergency manuals, plans and MOU's that have either been created or updated throughout the last year.

Plans or reports written and reviewed

Monthly EM reports

EMPG quarterly /Work plan

Debris plan

Mass Fatality

Family Assistance Plan

Medical Table plan

TICP (Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan)

SCIP (State Communications Interoperable Plan)

CNRI Interoperable Communications plan

Amateur Radio Emergency plans and constitution

LEOP (Local Emergency Operation Plan) complete revision and distribution

Wildfire control plan

Severe Weather Siren protocol

Dam Failure plans

Protocol for the Med-4 TRIMRS channel

Protocol for the Mutual Aid plan

Training guide for EOC

Training guide for Response Unit

After action report on full scale exercise and 3 table top exercises completed and compiled by this office.

2010 Exercises

- ✓ Decontamination Shower exercises
- ✓ Statewide Tornado drill was conducted in Buffalo County
- ✓ (3) Severe Weather Spotter training was conducted for spotters in Buffalo County
- ✓ Table Top exercise was conducted on Unified Command
- ✓ Table Top exercise was conducted on Hazmat /ICS structure
- ✓ Table Top exercise was conducted on Mass Casualty/Decon incident
- ✓ Full Scale exercise conducted on KADS incident for response, mitigation and recovery to an explosion on UNK property, the the New EOC and Response Unit were exercised for the event.
- ✓ PIO and JIC training
- ✓ Training and exercise / testing the Hazmat ID system
- ✓ School emergency plans / checklists Training
- ✓ Hazmat Decontamination Shower Training for Fire/EMS
- ✓ Amateur Radio ARES Field day Exercise
- ✓ Pipeline explosion table top exercises

Annual Goals

Below are the goals for the past year and the upcoming year. The Buffalo County Emergency Management is pleased that many of the goals for the 2009/2010 year were met, and it is anticipated reaching and accomplishing all the goals set for the 2011 year. Goals that were not met in 2010 will continue to be goals for 2011.

Goals 2010

1. Complete a successful Full Scale exercise in 2010.
2. Hold three table top exercises in 2010.
3. Complete the EOC/backup communication center before the end of severe weather season in 2010.
4. Bring at least 6 more hospitals on line with the Med-4 channel and or the Satellite radios.
5. Implement the Mapping tools into everyday Emergency Management operations.
6. Continued education on Paraclete communications and planning tools.
7. Receive grant funding for continued Public Emergency Preparedness education campaign.

8. Have in place and operational the Mutual Aid frequencies within the CNRI region by the end of the year.
9. Review and revise plans and SOP's for large scale Emergency Management events, i.e. debris management, mass fatality/casualty plans, etc.
10. Continue training in the operation of the new EOC for elected and appointed officials for the city of Kearney and Buffalo County.

Goals 2011

1. Continue to work with the SCPETR on regional projects to improve the region's ability to respond to, mitigate, and recover from large scale events by providing needed equipment, training and exercises to first responder agencies, volunteer organizations, and elected and appointed officials across the South Central region.
2. Conduct a Full Scale Exercise for public and private organizations within the city of Kearney and Buffalo County. Testing response mitigation and recovery from a mass casualty / mass contamination incident in a rural setting.
3. Complete an informational procedures and operational manual for the Emergency Management office for the County Board Supervisors.
4. Continue to improve and provide public education on emergency preparedness before during and after an emergency event through media events, speaking engagements, handouts, notification systems and the annual safety fair.
5. Work on having complete plans in place for Buffalo County on the EOC Medical Table and the Family Assistance Center by the end of the year.
6. Maintain, operate, manage, and continue to improve on the new Emergency Operation Center and the response unit.
7. Implement a monthly open house training for elected and appointed officials using the newly developed step by step instruction guide for the EOC.
8. Review, update and distribute sections Annex A, B, E, F and I of the LEOP as mandated by the state.

9. Work to improve the Buffalo County Hazmat team through training exercises, conferences, and equipment.
10. Have a completed mitigation plan in place by the end of the year for Buffalo County and its participating jurisdictions.
11. Continue good working relationships with all emergency management agencies, responder agencies, volunteer organizations, private and public organizations, elected and appointed officials, and the general public at the local, state and federal levels.
12. Revisit with the Weather Service to make Buffalo County a Storm Ready County. Information was obtained and submitted at one time; however, this project did not move forward for one reason or another.

