



Buffalo County Emergency Management 2013 Summary



2013 The Year of High Water

2013 Emergency Management Overview

This is an overview of the 2013 annual report and its purpose is to highlight the major activities of the Buffalo County Emergency Management office.

Looking back on 2013 once again it was a fairly quiet and slow weather year for Emergency Management in Buffalo County. There were several events that had potentially dangerous weather; however it did not cause extensive damage in most cases. There was some major damage to certain public and private buildings during some of these weather events this last year that will be highlighted later within this report. In 2012 much of the State and Buffalo County was placed in a drought emergency. In 2013 it was a slower weather year; however, the year produced close to average rain fall for the area. With torrential down pours along the South Platte River in the Colorado basin, much of September and October was dedicated to flood planning, public notifications, and monitoring the uncontrolled flood waters running in the Platte River through Buffalo County. The Emergency Management office was again able to focus on planning and preparedness efforts during much of the year. The year of 2013 has been the year of training and exercises, as well as planning and plan writing such as:

- 32 different training events sent out to responder agencies
- 12 different training events attended and/or conducted
- 13 plus exercises were either attended and/or conducted
- Approximately 25 plans were reviewed and updated
- Three new plans were completed
- Two new plans have been started
- 15 MOU's / MOA's were also completed or renewed for the SCPET Region, Deputy Director rep to SCPET Region, Central Platte NRD, Family Assistance Center and LEPC grant

The months of May and June were the busiest months of the year for severe weather activity within the Buffalo County area. Both in May and June the county encountered high winds, heavy rain, hail, and tornados. The National Weather Service issued two watches and 18 warnings in May and five watches and 12 warnings in June.

In 2013 there was significant weather damage reported due to straight line winds in Kearney. Several small out buildings and one trailer home were destroyed and three buildings on the University of Kearney Campus reported large sections of the roofs torn off. The EOC was opened, staffed, and operational 19 different times in 2013 due to weather related events. This does not include the amount of time the EOC was open during September and October for the Platte River flooding event or the time the Emergency Management was in the EOC during the remodel project at the Law Enforcement Center.

There were a total of 60 watches, warnings and advisories recorded by the Emergency Alerting System for the 2013 year. This is slightly higher than what we observed in 2012 which had a total of 47 warnings and watches for the year. The watches and warnings recorded in 2013 could be significantly skewed due to the NOAA weather repeater station at the Atlanta tower experiencing a degraded signal for nine months during the calendar year. Weather watches and warnings are transmitted from this repeater and sent to the Emergency Alerting System. With the degraded signal, the EAS was not receiving all of the weather information.

Winter temperatures were again pretty much average in 2013; however, 20 days were recorded in the single digits, with three of those days being zero or below recorded in December. December recorded the coldest day of the year at -6.

There were six winter weather advisories or storm warnings in 2013; two in February, three in March, and one in April. The month of February recorded approximately 12 inches of snow, March recorded about five inches of snow, April recorded approximately three inches of snow, and May 1st recorded two inches of snow.

The Emergency Management office grants in 2013. Homeland Security Grant allocations are broken down into three general segments.

1. Law Enforcement
2. Fire Departments (MOU Hazmat Teams)
3. General emergency management operations

The SCPET Regional Law Enforcement Agencies continued the I-PAD/MDT (mobile data) projects and Active Shooter classes in 2013. Since 2012, Homeland Security funds have gone straight to the Local Law Enforcement Agencies in Buffalo County bypassing the Emergency Management office. All Law enforcement agencies in Buffalo County are responsible for the projects, purchasing, training, and tracking of the equipment.

The MOU Hazmat Team Homeland Security funds are the same way as the Law Enforcement funds. Buffalo County does not have an MOU Hazmat Team and does not receive any of these funds.

The General Emergency Management Homeland Security Funds have all been used at the Regional level to support the public education campaign and the regional interoperable communications projects. Buffalo County does not manage or track these funds. All Homeland security grants through 2011 have been completed and closed out. The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) continues to support the Local Emergency Management offices up to 50%.

The grant process has become much more involved over the last several years, such as switching to digital and adding additional requirements of the Emergency Management office in order to receive this funding. And, this last year has been no

different because of new regulations which once again been passed down to the local level. For example, for a local Emergency Management Departments to be eligible for EMPG funding all purchases under \$100,000.00 have to have a minimum of two quotes. This is for everything used in the Emergency Management environment from equipment, office supplies, contracts, classes and exercise programs, etc. In addition, new forms have been sent out by NEMA to local Emergency Managers to track all the grant items. All grant items from 2004 to present have to be transferred over to this new document. This grant is always evolving and changing but in general this grant continues to fund less of the Emergency Management day to day operation while its funding levels continue to drop year after year.

There were nine hazardous material spills that required various levels of response from first responder agencies requiring cleanup and/or mitigation during the past year.

1. **THREE FUEL SPILLS:** In January there were three fuel spills during the month; two spills were at the Flying J truck stop at the Elm Creek interchange, January 11th and 18th, a week apart from each other. One came from a fuel filter malfunction on a semi about 20 to 25 gallons were lost most but was luckily contained to a concrete parking lot. The other was a gasoline spill due to an automatic pump shut off malfunction and this spill was also contained to a concrete parking area. The responding agency for both of the spills was by the Elm Creek Fire Department and both spills were cleaned up with the assistance of the responding fire fighters. The 3rd spill on January 28th was a semi/car accident. The semi fuel tank ruptured causing it to lose 50 to 100 gallons of diesel into a roadway ditch at Highway 30 and Dunbar Road. The insurance company worked with a cleanup crew to clean up this spill.
2. On Friday April 26th officers from Kearney PD called stating that there was a green turquoise liquid spilled on the roadway 3rd and 11th street. Kearney PD stated that they believed it was possibly a weed killer spilled by the Buffalo County Weed Department. KPD wanted to test the chemical with the Hazmat ID system; however I advised them not to because they were not properly trained, did not know what they were dealing with for sure, and did not know the proper PPE to be worn. I informed KPD responders that this was a Hazmat Fire call and Kearney Fire should be called out. In addition, I contacted the County Weed Department supervisor and had him respond to the area along with his employee that had spilled the chemical. It was determined that the chemical spill contained an approximate 5% chemical solution with 95% water. The Chemical Name was Highlight Die and Pendulum Chemical 3C with approximately five gallons that had been spilled. The Weed Department, KPD and the Kearney Fire Department determined it was safe to wash the low hazard chemical off of the roadway.

3. On June 4th an aerial applicator plane hit a power line near Hawk and 370th Road. The aircraft caused the power to go out at Riverdale and the Pleasanton Villages. Furthermore, the applicator dumped 700 plus gallons of Chaparral herbicide on an open pasture before landing the plane.
4. On June 29th dispatch called with a hazmat leak from a semi-truck at the Flying J Truck Stop at the Elm Creek interchange on Interstate 80. Elm Creek Fire was dispatched to this incident. At the request of the Incident Commander on scene the Hazmat team was called out to mitigate the leak. The leaking chemical was a cleaning compound (Potassium Hydroxide Sodium Glaciate Glycine) much of the semi-trailer had to be unloaded to reach the leaking container. The container was patched by the hazmat team, with minimal spillage at the scene and most of the chemical was caught in a container. A contract cleaning crew from Omaha responded to clean up the spill.
5. July 18th it was reported that a semi-truck at the Kearney rest area on West-bound Interstate 80 was leaking a chemical from the trailer. Kearney Fire, Buffalo County Hazmat team, Buffalo County Sheriff's office, State Roads Department, State Patrol and the Hastings Fire Hazmat team responded to this incident. Even though only one 55 gallon drum was leaking, it was located about a third of the way back in the trailer and there were 40 different waste chemicals being transported. The incident was mitigated by the responding agencies within about 3.5 hours.
6. On August 24th a call was received by dispatch at 10:56 am that approximately 150 gallons of diesel had spilled from a semi-truck on Interstate 80 between mile marker 284 and 285. First response was from the Nebraska State Patrol, Gibbon Fire and the Buffalo County Hazmat responded which mitigated the incident. The truck owner was a small transport company out of Illinois, and they contacted their insurance company to conduct the clean-up of the road ditch.
7. On November 5th there was a semi/car accident on 11th street and 2nd Ave in Kearney and approximately 30-50 gallons of diesel was released into the storm drain. Kearney Fire and the Hazmat team responded and mitigated the fuel spill.

All contacts, forms, and documents were completed and forwarded by the Emergency Management Department to the appropriate agencies for all reported Hazardous Material spills within Buffalo County that were reported to the Emergency Management office.

Emergency Management Concept

This section describes the emergency management concept but it is not inclusive of the everyday meetings and activities of the Emergency Management Office for Buffalo County.

Comprehensive Emergency Management: 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, however much of the year concentrated on the planning and preparedness phase.

The Four Phases of a comprehensive Emergency Management program is certainly simplified in the above paragraph. In addition, the Emergency Management department is responsible for:

- Reporting to a number of departments and agencies at the local, state and federal levels
- Meeting State and Federal mandates and requirements
- Maintaining outreach programs
- Grant management
- Maintaining emergency operations and equipment; for example, the Emergency Operation Center, Emergency Mobile Response unit, Recovery Unit, and Generators, etc.
- Volunteer management and coordination
- Attendance of continuing education, training, exercises and conferences
- Conducting training, drills, exercises and misc. planning activities
- Maintaining and operating a county wide ID credentialing system for County employees, Emergency Volunteers, EOC staff, county wide first responder agencies, appointed and elected officials, Jail service providers (volunteers and the Justice Center)
- Manage and maintain the county wide notification systems
- Provide annual budget to the sheriff and the county board
- Complete claims and payroll
- Work with Emergency Management partners and develop and negotiate agreements such as contracts, MOA's, MOU's, and LOA's for the emergency program.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): All EOC operations were handled at the lowest Emergency Management level and were never operational through one full operational period.

- The Emergency Management office was located in the Emergency Operation Center through much of the severe weather season. Being in the

EOC full time during this made it very easy to conduct weather activities through the weather season.

- The EOC was opened 19 times in 2013 due to weather related events which was far less than the 2012 when it was open and operational 31 times. The Emergency Manager was in the EOC for most weather operations prior to the events because my primary office was located in the EOC during the Law Enforcement Center remodel.
- There were ten tours and emergency management presentations conducted in the EOC in 2013.
- As well as several training activities, dispatchers worked out of the dispatch center in the EOC for three months during the Law Enforcement remodel project which was also very helpful when working weather events.
- Weekly preventive maintenance and operation testing was conducted on all equipment and technologies within the EOC to ensure it is always ready.

Emergency Management Office: On April 22nd the Emergency Management office moved from the Law Enforcement Center to the Emergency Operation Center due to the Law Enforcement Center remodel project. On July 15th my office was moved back to the Law Enforcement building. The Emergency Management Office continues to work with Emergency Management partners within community groups and agencies involved in the area of public safety. In the year 2013, it was involved with the Buffalo County Mutual Aid Association to work countywide with fire, EMS, and law enforcement as well as work with Volunteer organizations and private partners.

Hazmat Team: The Technician Level Hazmat Team continues to operate with the Emergency Manager serving as the administrator of this team. The sum of \$5,000.00 was added to the Emergency Management budget for support in the 2010/2011 fiscal year and continued thereafter. This funding has proven to be very beneficial to sustain this vital response team for Buffalo County. During the 2013 calendar year, a Chlorine Emergency "C" kit, Offset "T" patch kit, Rupture Seal kits and non-sparking clean-up scoops were purchased. The Emergency Management department has also provided funds for training exercise, conferences and membership dues for the Hazmat team.

Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD): COAD was developed in the Buffalo County/Kearney area in 2006 and continues to meet as an active group:

- The COAD group met quarterly over the last year. Membership involvement continues to be an issue for group meetings and planning groups.
- Tabletop exercises were continued this year when there were enough participants.
- Active members of this group continue to be the Red Cross, United Way, RYDE and the Two Rivers Public Health Department. These members have become a reliable core group for COAD.

- COAD's focus has shifted to recruiting new active member organizations as well as trying to bring some of the past members back to the group.
- Through exercise and real world events, this group recognized that the following departments and/or organizations are needed as an active participant within the COAD group: Good Samaritan Hospital, Salvation Army, University of Kearney Nebraska, Amateur Radio, State HHS, Insurance companies, large corporations (such as Walmart, etc.) Kearney Public Schools, Kearney Animal Shelter, Kearney Chamber of Commerce, Sale Barn, Fair Board member, Media, Public Works Departments (i.e. Water, Sewer, Street, Electrical), YMCA, Kearney Law Enforcement, Kearney Fire Department, Transportation agencies, TRIMRS organization, City and County Management /Offices.

Tri-City Rural Medical Response System (TRMRS): TRMRS 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 2013.
- Work continued on the development of the EOC Medical Table Plan. This project has slowed down in 2013 for a number of reasons, such as, other planning efforts having higher priorities and due to the lack of involvement from clinic and other community partners.
- The Family Assistance Center Plans were updated in 2013. This plan has been written as a generic plan so other Emergency Managers within the state could adopt and implement this plan with little effort. This plan has been written to support Buffalo County and its communities. The next steps will be taken in the coming year to educate, train and exercise the plan with Volunteer and responder agencies.
- The TRIMRS program among many things focused on Active Shooter planning for hospitals and clinics. Several exercises have been conducted with Hospitals and responder agencies within the TRIMRS region to include Buffalo County and the City of Kearney.
- MRC work and projects continued to move forward in 2013.
- Buffalo County Emergency Management credentialed and issued volunteer ID cards to 30 plus MRC volunteers. There are over 150 volunteers at the end of 2013.
- With the non-transport Basic Life Support license in place, the MRC trailer has become response ready in 2013. Additional supplies and equipment have been purchased (radios, generator, projector, and ruggedized laptop computer). Response plans were also updated.
- A full scale deployment exercise was held at the Kearney Training Grounds.
- MRC responding to several requests for planned events for assistance.

Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT): The CERT 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.
- CERT training continues throughout the South Central Planning Exercise Training Region. Anyone interested in the CERT program in Buffalo County can take the training within the region.
- CERT is not a program that has been well received in Buffalo County and the City of Kearney over the years, however there maybe some new enthusiasm that may spark more interest in the coming year.
- The Buffalo County Emergency Management office could and should be more involved in this program at the local level. This is a program that would be much more active within Buffalo County if the office had a full time deputy to manage the program.

Two Rivers Public Health: Buffalo County Emergency Management continues to work with Two Rivers Public Health.

- Buffalo County Emergency Manager continued, as appointed by the Buffalo County board, to sit on the executive board of the Healthy Actions Council.
- Attended a continuing education table top exercise for the Chem-Pack program.
- Partnered to develop, promoted and maintain a local/regional Functional Needs Registry. Six Functional Needs presentations were conducted throughout the year to organizations that work with Functional Needs individuals.
- Attended follow up planning meetings for the MAPP process of the Two Rivers Public Health Department.
- This office received the Two River Public Health Response plan and the plan has been reviewed and maintained in the Emergency Management office.
- Two River Public Health is a great partner to local emergency management and we work together on many projects and with many groups such as:
 - COAD
 - TRIMRS
 - Emergency Response ID system
 - Functional Needs Populations projects as well as many other preparedness and response projects

Kearney and Buffalo County Weather: Kearney and Buffalo County were placed under the following:

- Severe Thunderstorm, Tornado watches or warnings 57 times, slightly higher than 2012
- Five winter weather advisories
- Buffalo County received an average amount of rain fall for the year at 24.50 inches. NOTE: there could be up to two inches of precipitation unrecorded as this precipitation came in the form of snowfall. Snowfall is not recorded by

the recordings devices as precipitation at the Kearney Airport recording point.

- Buffalo County and the Kearney area has remained in Drought condition through 2013 due to the minimal amounts of rain fall in 2012.
- An Emergency Federal Declaration was declared for Buffalo County in 2012. The average rain fall for the Kearney/Buffalo County area is approximately 25.23 inches. As stated above 2013 year data could be off by up to 2 inches due to unrecorded precipitation of snowfall during the year. Precipitation recorded from 2007 to present date is as follows:
 - 30.37” of precipitation in 2007
 - 36.13 inches for the 2008 year
 - Between 19 and 22 inches of precipitation in 2009
 - 21.80 inches recorded in 2010
 - 31.45 inches recorded in 2011
 - 11.41 inches recorded in 2012
 - Recorded precipitation for the 2013 year was 24.50 inches.

MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENT

Mission Statement

To provide Buffalo County residents, businesses and industries, non-profit organizations, emergency responders, volunteers, and local governments the education and support necessary to reduce the loss of life and human suffering; to minimize property damage and to protect the community from all types of disasters through a comprehensive, risk-based, all-hazard emergency management program.

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.

Vision Statement

The goal of the Buffalo County Emergency Management Department is to educate the Citizens of Buffalo County about their ongoing role in preparing for emergencies through education, community outreach, and training. By creating an increased emphasis on disaster preparedness, the Buffalo County Emergency Management Department looks forward to reinforcing interdepartmental communications and cooperation throughout our county. By means of creating a community culture of preparedness and fostering partnerships with local public and private groups and businesses, it is our goal that Buffalo County will work as a community, with neighbor helping neighbor, when a disaster strikes.

ORGANIZATION

The Buffalo County Emergency Manager is an appointed position and is subject to the direction and control of the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors but is managed (supervised day-to-day) by the Buffalo County Sheriff and Kearney Chief of Police.

The position of the Buffalo County Emergency Manager is defined by law but nevertheless encompasses a moral obligation to balance his/her 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 within his/her community.

The incumbent is granted broad and extensive authority in determining program priorities and is responsible in determining the best way to support all local, state and national programs and objectives. The broad duties of this position include but not limited to the following:

- Articulate a strong commitment of interagency cooperation and work with all elected and appointed officials of all local, State and Federal governments.
- Maintain and manage the Emergency Operation Center and/or the mobile response unit.
- Provide coordination of all activities relating to the mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery from disasters and/or emergencies.
- Serve as the principal advisor to the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors in emergency incidents.
- Manage, maintain, document, and appropriately utilize public and private resources.



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.*” The Director has completed the following:

- NEMA Basic Certification before being hired and again in (2012)
- NEMA’s Advanced Certification for Emergency Management (2005)
- NIMS compliances I.S. 100, 200, 700, and 800 (2005)
- FEMA Professional Certification was obtained (2006)
- The NIMS 300 and 400 certification was accomplished (2007)
- NIMS 701, 702, 703 and 704 certification was completed (2010)

On a continual basis the Director discovers training opportunities such as continuing education, new technologies, online classes, regional training and conferences, etc. In 2013, the Director sent 32 assorted local or regional training opportunities to First Responder agencies.

The Director attended or conducted the following courses/conferences:

- ❖ Severe Weather Spotter Training
- ❖ NACO Annual and Quarterly Conferences
- ❖ NAEM Conference
- ❖ Decision Support Conference (NWS)
- ❖ Nebraska Hazardous Materials Association Conference
- ❖ BeReadyNebraska.com Website training
- ❖ Sports and Special events Incident command training
- ❖ BuffaloWatch.net notification refresher training and 25 plus operations training to appointed group managers
- ❖ Mass Fatality Planning and Response training for Morticians and Funeral Directors
- ❖ Mass Fatality Planning/Training for Local Responders
- ❖ Public Information Officer refresher training
- ❖ IPAWS/WEA emergency notification training
- ❖ (N-RAT) training Statewide Mobile Credentialing ID systems training
- ❖ (IMT) Incident Management Team Operations training
- ❖ (SRS) State Radio System Orientation Operations training
- ❖ Pipeline Education

- ❖ Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise with Good Samaritan Hospital
- ❖ Active Shooter Full Scale Exercise with Good Samaritan Hospital
- ❖ (MRC) Medical Reserve Corp. Full Scale Deployment Exercise
- ❖ Regional EOC full scale exercise
- ❖ Two Rivers Emergency Call Down Exercise

STATE / FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Conduct or participate in a minimum of three exercises annually (per Emergency Management Performance Grant requirements)
2. Meet, track, and maintain a database of all State and Federal NIMS requirements for emergency management, first responder agencies, and chief appointed and elected officials of IS courses 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, and 800
3. Annually review and update a three year exercise calendar
4. Update Local Emergency Operations Plan on an annual basis
5. Complete online grant documents (BISR, and GMS)
6. Complete performance quarterly reports
7. Annually update online NIMS-Cast documents

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

1. Ten Presentations/Tours on the EOC to city/county officials and public
2. Four Emergency Management presentations for UNK students for Emergency preparedness / Safety and Science and Technology classes
3. One Emergency Management/Preparedness Tours and presentations to Leadership Kearney
4. One tour to the Grand Island EOC staff
5. One tour to the National Weather Service team
6. One tour and presentation to the Citizens Academy
7. One tour and presentations to school groups for County Government day
8. Six Weather related and Emergency preparedness presentations to local TV and/or radio (Talk of the Town)
9. Approximately ten TV and Radio interviews were done in September due to the possible flooding and planning activities for the Platte River flooding through Buffalo County in September.
10. Preparedness presentations were conducted at the Kearney Heritage days, Game and Parks Expo, and the Old Navy Safety Day.
11. Several additional tours and emergency management presentations were conducted, for the general public and ranking officials from other communities.

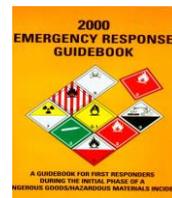
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

The Buffalo County LEPC has been a beneficial component of the emergency management program and it operated as a valuable program for all Emergency Management departments within the region. However, five years ago the LEPC committee became less and less active in Buffalo County due to a general lack of interest, low participation levels of key stakeholders and ultimately the necessary prioritization by the director. The Emergency Management Director, being an office of one, has continually faced increased time demands since the 9/11 evolution of Emergency Management. At this time, the Emergency Management Office faced a time management tipping point that demanded tough decisions of how one person can achieve the duties of this office and the decision to place the LEPC (committee) in an inactive status was reluctantly made.

It should be noted the Director still fulfills all LEPC requirements such as business walk through, required reviews; maintaining Tier II reports; creating a compilation report of all Tier II's; filing reports with the SERC (State Emergency Response Commission) and the Buffalo County Board; updates the LEOP with the report; and maintains spill reports throughout the year.

The Director believes the Buffalo County LEPC should be revitalized when it becomes possible to increase the office staff with the addition of an Emergency Management Deputy in the Emergency Management Office.

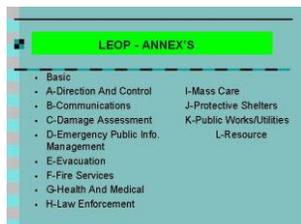
TIER II REPORTS



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 an annual basis and are reviewed by the Director for the HAZMAT Annex of the LEOP. A compiled TIER II report by the Buffalo County Emergency Manager is sent to the SERC and the Buffalo County Board Members for their review. This report is also sent to the City of Kearney point of contact, Police Chief Dan Lynch.

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)

Eleven 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 following is a list of the RMP facilities:

- Abengoa Bioenergy (Ravenna)
- Agricultural Services Inc. (Shelton)
- Aurora Coop (Buda)
- Aurora Coop (Gibbon)
- Aurora Coop (Sodtown)
- Bowie Fertilizer, Inc. (Miller)
- Bowie Fertilizer, Inc. (Riverdale)
- Farmer's Cooperative Association (Ravenna)
- Gibbon Packing (Gibbon)
- Optic Fertilizer, Incorporated (Gibbon)
- Trotter Fertilizer (Pleasanton)

Lapрино Foods in Ravenna and the Nebraska Turkey Growers Cooperative in Gibbon went out of business in 2013 and have removed all hazardous materials from the location. These two companies are no longer required to report.



The Director receives notification involving radioactive transports of spent fuel and low specific activity materials prior to the shipments entering Buffalo County. Notices are made to the appropriate agencies that would respond in a Hazardous Material or Radiological incident. There were a number of notifications and schedule changes sent out the Emergency Managers throughout the year.

A total of 47 notifications of transportation through Buffalo County of low level waste were received by local emergency management as well as one active radiological transport. In addition, there was also several empty cast transport notifications received as well. This is a significant increase from the 2012 year when there were no notifications received by emergency management.



EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM

The Emergency Operation Center and the Backup Dispatch Center are primary locations for weather operations supporting all of Buffalo County. The EOC was fully operational 24 hours a day and 7 days a week during severe weather season due to the LEC remodel project. Having dispatchers in the EOC full time during the severe weather season was very beneficial to the Emergency Management operations. The EOC and backup Dispatch Center was opened and operational during all Thunderstorm Warnings, Tornado Watches or Warnings, as well as for some winter weather events.

Monthly tests of the alarm radios, pagers and outdoor warning systems were conducted throughout the year. Pre-maintenance services on the sirens were conducted during the month of March before the severe weather season within the Kearney area. Testing and the monthly tests of the outdoor warning sirens were conducted out of the EOC, Fire Station II and the Primary Dispatch at the Law Enforcement Center.

In 2012 it was decided the Dispatch Center in the EOC was not as reliable a center as the main dispatch center to set off the outdoor warning sirens throughout the communities due to current changes and operation of the backup center. With the completion of the narrow banding project and the switching of frequencies dedicated to signaling the outdoor warning devices, as well as repeated testing, has made the backup center a reliable trust worthy warning point. The EOC and the Backup center were used exclusively as the warning point throughout the severe weather season in 2013. There were no issues with setting of sirens, communicating with the National Weather Service, or the Severe Weather Spotters during weather events.

A new paging frequency has been dedicated to setting off the outdoor warning sirens with nothing else being placed on this frequency. In the past, the siren paging system shared frequencies with other departments potentially causing issues and preventing sirens from sounding if another department was using the frequency when the alert tones were sent to sound the sirens. With a dedicated frequency this will no longer be a concern. The Kearney Sirens were switched over in 2013 while the other Buffalo community sirens should be completed in March of 2014. The narrow banding project for the siren controllers was paid for with Homeland Security grant funds that this office was able to secure.

There were several sirens scattered throughout Kearney that developed an issue; when there was a power surge or a power outage in one area of the community and when it came back on, the siren would automatically sound. This actually happened 5- 6 different times through the spring and summer months. It was believed that switching the radio controllers to the new mandated narrow band frequency had something to do with them being set off when power came back on to them, however this was never proven. Each siren having the issue was identified and tracked. An Electrician was hired to look at each of these sirens to determine the problem and fix the issue. Several of the sirens were found to have a grounding issue. The electrician fixed the grounding issues and installed surge protectors/lightning suppressers on each of the identified sirens. In February of 2012 the UNK siren failed. In addition, five other sirens in Kearney throughout the year were reported as not working but all five sirens were fixed. All five sirens had issues with blown fuses.

The 1930s model siren quit at Davis Park in Gibbon. The purchase and project management of this siren was coordinated by the emergency management office to assist the City of Gibbon. The siren was installed and operational in late fall.

The Sirens were sounded both in Gibbon and Shelton on the 19th of May at approximately 1600 hours due to baseball sized hail being reported by the National Weather Service. Baseball to softball sized hail fell one mile north of both communities. No damage reported in Shelton or Gibbon due to hail. The sirens were sounded once again for a tornado warning on June 23rd at 0259, 0336 0405 until 0430 hours. Sirens were sounded in Kearney, Elm Creek, Odessa, and Riverdale due to the warning.



The Cooper Notification System called BuffaloWatch.net has been in place for 3.5 years now and is a web based hosted system. This system is used for cell phone, text, e-mail, and SMS messages for weather notifications as well as voice and landline phones for GEO notifications and pre-developed group notifications. There are 2,660 cell phones signed up for the weather notification at this time with a total of 23,840 landline phones in the system. There are 94 different groups built in the system in categories of County departments, City of Kearney departments, opt in media groups, Cooper notification groups, fire departments, volunteer groups, emergency management groups, law enforcement groups and schools. There were over 15,000 weather notifications sent out and 61 group notifications sent out last year. A department head for each group was made an administrator for each of their groups. Buffalo County Emergency Management trained each one of these administrators to be able to use the system for group notifications, as well as add and remove individuals to their groups. Over 25 different trainings were held on the system.

The Buffalo Alert Computer Desktop alert was upgraded again in 2013; however, the radar map still has issues by not loading properly because high-speed internet is needed to run this feature. The map allows a person to zoom in to a desired level but when it updates it still goes back to the default setting. In addition, this radar map is pulling its information from several sources and is causing some anti-virus software systems to see the Buffalo Alert as a virus. The desktop app was changed to a much smaller version taking away much of the local "flavor." Now, the only item the app now displays is the local temperature. It no longer shows wind direction, speed, humidity, etc. as the old app did. In addition, most of the links to the local web pages have been removed and the notification crawl no longer works, and most of the control to local administrators for county notification has also been removed. Buffalo County Emergency Management pays \$3,500.00 a year for this contract. It is felt that this product is no longer a viable system and it no longer supports what Buffalo County intended it to do. It is the recommendation of the Buffalo County Emergency Management office to terminate and not renew the contract for this desktop application.

I-PAWS and WEA Federal Emergency Alerting system: Buffalo County continues to be one of the only counties authorized to use this system at the local level in the state of Nebraska. All documents have been completed and approved and regulations met for the use of this system. Buffalo County has been waiting for the vendors and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to upgrade the systems we have in place capable to use the I-PAWS and WEA system. Buffalo County would be using the BuffaloWatch.net notification system and the Interoperable Communications System (Paraclete). Both of these systems have the capability, however Cooper notifications has to upgrade BuffaloWatch.net system and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency update the Paraclete system. As soon as these two systems have been updated Buffalo County will be fully operational with I-PAWS and the WEA systems.

Buffalo County Emergency Management entered the social media world in 2013. Emergency Management developed a Facebook (FB) page in June. This new way to reach the general public has been extremely helpful to the Emergency Management program. The FB page is used for general emergency management notifications, emergency alerts, daily weather information, emergency preparedness education as well as general emergency management activities. This new page has also been used to promote other emergency management systems such as the Buffalowatch.net notification system. At least a thousand new users for the notification system can be contributed to the promotion of this system on Facebook.



RESPONSE UNIT ACTIVITIES

The response unit was used for the sixth straight time during the annual Nebraska Game and Parks Outdoor Expo May 9th through the 11th. This was the fifth 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 and Good Samaritan Hospital EMS.

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. Furthermore, the response unit was used at the following events:

- The response unit was used during Kearney Heritage days, for the COAD Safety Fair on June 1st. The response unit was used to promote emergency preparedness and help teach the general public how to make different types of emergency preparedness kits.
- The response unit was requested for use by the Phelps County Emergency Management for the Holdrege Air Show on June 14th through the 16th. The unit was used as a command post and an interoperable communications system in support of the air show.
- The response unit was also used for Kearney Cruise Night on July 12th. The unit was used by the Mutual Aid Law Enforcement agencies and operated by the Buffalo County Dispatch and Emergency Management. The unit also

was used as a test site for a new communications system/technology from Interop-Solutions during this time.

- The response unit was again used for a COAD Safety Days event at the Hill Top Mall sponsored by the Old Navy Department Store on August 8th. In addition, it was used to educate the general public how to make different types of emergency preparedness kits and how to promote emergency preparedness.

The response unit was used only one time for a non-planned event/emergency incident in 2013. On November 14th the unit was used by law enforcement southwest of Kearney for a death and possible homicide. The unit was used to assist the investigating officers during the time of investigation and processing the incident.

- All four computers were upgraded in the response unit this year. It took several months to work through this process to ensure all the software was transferred to the new computers as well as ensuring the new computers worked on the existing network.
- The interoperable communications Paraclete system quit working in the unit. This too took several months to fix. A newer version was loaded on the new desktop to fix the issues. After loading the new software it took several man hours to get the settings correct and the system working properly.
- The old cell phone system was upgraded in the unit to a Straight Talk cellular device.
- A Verizon cellular home base system was also added to the unit with two new cordless phones.
- In addition, the VOIP phone was also updated, the newer VOIP phone (magic jack plus) is much more stable than the older device. The unit now has two cell phones, one VOIP phone and one Satellite phone, giving the unit 4 different ways to communicate through the phone system. The landline system within the unit is also still intact and operational if needed.

Training with the Response Unit

In 2013, two Dispatchers had the opportunity to work and train in the response unit. One dispatcher worked half a day in the unit during the Game and Parks Outdoor Expo, and the dispatch supervisor worked a full shift in the unit during the Kearney Cruise Night event. No other training was conducted in the response unit in 2013.

WEATHER



Dustnado near Riverdale



Now that's a Weather Map



It a baby but it grew up fast

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

<u>Month</u>	<u>Watch</u>	<u>Warning</u>	<u>Winter Weather Advisories</u>
January	0	0	0
February	0	2	2
March	0	4	0
April	0	8	1
May	2	18	0
June	5	12	0
July	3	2	0
August	0	0	0
Sept.	0	3	0
October	0	0	0
November	0	0	0
December	0	0	0

WEATHER



Trip to the National Weather Center



Winter Weather on the Bricks



A flash of Light, there is a tornado in there somewhere

BUDGET

The Emergency Management budget for the fiscal 2012-13 year stayed under budget and was closed out at 6% under budget. The budget closed out under budget in part due to much of the conferences, meetings and trainings were in the local area, cutting down on travel, fuel, hotel, conference and training expenses. The new fiscal 2013-14 Budget was approved by the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee. The Buffalo County Emergency Management Department budget for 2013-14 is \$126,027.00. This is an increase of 0.95% from the previous year's budget. A couple notable changes in the 2013-14 budget is the Emergency Management Director dropped the county health care which was a savings of almost \$7,500.00 in the new budget year. In addition there was an increase of \$15,000.00 for carry over money for a new Emergency Management vehicle in the 2014-15 budget years.

The EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) for the fiscal year 2012 closed out and the 2013 grant started in June of 2013. 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 2013/2014 fiscal budget year for salary, office/EOC equipment, support and supplies. The prior 2012-13 year was initially funded at 38% of the budget (\$46,564.00) with an additional \$6,450.00 requested and received to support the emergency management budget. The two amounts totaled \$53,021 and ended up being 44% of the budget for the year. This grant percentage support 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 2013-14 budget year is \$42,723.00. This is only about 34% of the budget this year. The EMPG funds granted to the State of Nebraska for the fiscal year 2012-13 was \$3,737,581.00 and in 2013-14 was \$3,656,935.00 this is \$80,646.00 less from the year prior.

This office underwent one State Audit in 2013 on Homeland Security Grants, NIMS compliance and the EM budget for the years of 2010, 2011 and 2012. The audit found that all of the paperwork, documentation and equipment were in order with the exception of not having an annual evaluation on file for the Emergency Manager. This discrepancy was rectified in September of 2013.



POSSIBLE AND POTENTIAL EMERGENCIES 2013

January

There was no weather activity to report for the month of January. There was only .05 of precipitation recorded for the month with wind gusts of 39 miles per hour on the 30th.

February

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- Winter Weather warning issued on the 19th, 20th, 20th and 21st. Kearney and the Buffalo County area received 12 inches of snow for the month. This was approximately .60 in precipitation recorded for the month with 47 mile per hour wind gusts on the 5th.

March

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- Blizzard Warning was issued on the 9th at 0739 and 1512 hours
- Winter Storm Warning issued on the 22nd
- Thunderstorm Warning issued on the 29th at 2145 hours

Typical transitional weather for March were both a Winter Storm Warning and a Thunderstorm Warning was issued in the same month. There was blowing snow with 46 mile an hour winds with a total accumulation of five inches of snow.

There was a power spike in the City of Kearney on March 16th that affected the K-Mart and the siren behind K-Mart, on 48th & 4th Ave. K-Mart was without power for most of the day. The siren was sounded and had to be shut down manually by Kearney PD. The siren sounded for about 30 minutes straight. Platte Valley was informed and asked to check out this siren to ensure it was still in working order after the power spike. It should be noted that the public was never in danger after this power spike.

April

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- 5 Thunderstorm warnings, 3 Tornado warnings, and a Winter weather advisory all on 8th and 9th

The Sirens were sounded twice in Miller and once in Pleasanton. The Kearney area saw damaging winds during this time, with small buildings blown off of foundations, destruction of a trailer home at County Side mobile home park, community wide power outage, as well as damage to buildings on UNK campus, roof damage to the Fine Arts Building and the Library and some of the resident halls were damaged as well. Buffalo County saw thunderstorms while the temperatures were at 21 degrees which is very rare.

May

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- 1-2 inches of snow recorded on May 1st
- Thunderstorm warnings on May 18th at 1900 through 0001 hours
- Thunderstorm warnings on May 19th at 1530 through 1845 hours
- Thunderstorm warnings on May 24th at 2130 through the 25th at 0500 hours
- Thunderstorm warnings on May 25th at 1930 through 0035 hours
- Thunderstorm warnings on May 26th at 1600 through 2330 hours
- Thunderstorm warnings on May 27th at 1630 through 2330 hours
- Tornado watch and eight thunderstorm warnings on May 29th before 1300 hours (storms started at 0830 and with through 2200 hours).

The Sirens were sounded both in Gibbon and Shelton on the 19th at 16:00 due to baseball sized hail being reported by the National Weather Service. Baseball to softball sized hail fell one mile north of both communities. No damage reported due to hail.

June

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- Thunderstorm warning June 14th at 1814 hours
- Thunderstorm watch June 16th at 1855 and 1919 hours
- Tornado warning issued June 16th for Elm Creek and Kearney at 1859 hours
- Thunderstorm watch June 21st at 2215 until 0400 hours
- Thunderstorm warning June 21st at 0337 until 0430 hours
- Tornado watch June 22nd at 1805 until 0100 hours
- Thunderstorm warning 22nd at 0130 until 0200 hours
- Thunderstorm watch June 23rd at 2037 until 0600 hour
- Thunderstorm warning June 23rd 0259, 0336, 0405 until 0430 hours. Sirens were sounded in Kearney, Elm Creek, Odessa, and Riverdale due to the warnings.

On June 4th an Aerial applicator plane hit a power line near Hawk and 370th Road. The aircraft took the power out to both Riverdale and the

Pleasanton Villages. In addition, the applicator dumped 700 plus gallons of Chaparral herbicide on to an open pasture before landing the plane. All appropriate agencies were contacted and all documentation was completed and submitted by this office to all agencies.

July

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- Thunderstorm watch issued July 7th at 2040 until 0030 hours
 - Thunderstorm watch issued July 9th 0210, 1800 until 0100 hours
 - Thunderstorm warning issued July 9th 1814 until 1840 hours.
- There were several other thunderstorms throughout the month; however, they did not reach the severe level.

August

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

There were several thunderstorms throughout the month; however, they did not reach the severe level.

September

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- Thunderstorm warning issued Sept. 27th at 2059, 2215, & 2240 hours. Due to the heavy amounts of rain in the South Platte River basin in Colorado Western and Central Nebraska, including Buffalo County, preparations were made for a possible 500 year flood along the Platte River. The Emergency Management office, along with volunteer organizations, spent several days notifying individuals about the potential for flooding of low land areas throughout Buffalo County along the river. In addition, numerous interviews with local TV, radio and news print were conducted as well as local press releases. And the emergency management department provided daily updates to the citizens of Buffalo County through social media. Daily checks of the river were also conducted from Elm Creek to Shelton for a little over a week. Low land flooding was reported in Buffalo County from Elm Creek to Shelton but no major damage was reported to the Emergency Management office due to this flooding.

October

The following watches and/or warnings were issued:

- There were four thunderstorms recorded during the month of October. None of them achieved severe levels and no warnings were issued. Thunderstorms recorded for the month of October were on the 2nd, 3rd, 14th and the 30th.

November

There was no weather activity to report for the month of November.

December

There was no weather activity to report for the month of December.

PROJECTS 2013

Only one new project was started and completed in 2013. All other projects were continuations from previous years. The progress of the projects through 2013 is reported below:

The D-Star Amateur radio project has been an ongoing project across the State of Nebraska since 2011. With the installation of the repeater, computer and antenna system at the EOC tower in late fall, this project has been completed in Buffalo County. However, additional operational training will still needs to be conducted through 2014.

All equipment and technologies in the EOC and the Mobile Response Unit have been tested and kept up to date. Preventive maintenance testing and updates are conducted once a week, and is conducted on Fridays as my schedule permits.

Emergency Public Notification continues to be a high priority in Buffalo County in 2013. Buffalo County provided emergency notifications to the general public and first responder / volunteer organizations through the BuffaloWatch.net system, NOAA weather radios, interfacing NOAA radio and the internet, outdoor warning sirens, general media outlets and social media.

The BuffaloWatch.net Notification system has been in place now for about 3.5 years. The internet software based system powered by Cooper Notifications has been purchased by the Eaton Corporation this last year. All 911 phone data updates were completed in 2013. This allows Buffalo County to notify the public by landline and cell phones. Dispatchers and group management personnel were trained in 2013 with over 25 different training sessions were conducted on the operation of Geo notification and the management of the group notification systems.

I-PAWS and WEA is a Federal notification system used to alert US citizens. It can be used for Federal (nationwide), State and local notifications. The system will alert through all the major Emergency Alerting Systems already in place, such as TV and radio as well as cell phones that fall within the alerting area. Buffalo County Emergency Management continues to be the only county in Nebraska to date approved and authorized to use the I-PAWS/CMAS system by FEMA. There are three other agencies in the state that have been approved to use the system,

the National Weather Service, NEMA and the Nebraska State Patrol. Buffalo County is still waiting on NEMA to update the Interoperable Communications System (Paraclete) and Cooper Notification to upgrade the Buffalowatch.net to provide emergency management the tools needed to use the notification system. It is hoped that both systems will be updated and usable in 2014.

Several Emergency Plans have been started, completed and/or and reviewed in 2013. The Buffalo County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) under went a complete review in 2013. In addition, 25 different plans have been reviewed, three new plans were completed, and two new plans have been started.

Buffalo County and the TRMRS organization continue to work on mass fatality planning. The Family Assistance Center Plan has been written and completed for the region and Buffalo County. Several MOU's have been sent out to participating groups and many of them have come back. When all agencies are on board, Emergency Management intends to exercise the plan.

The planning and writing of the EOC Medical Table is still on going and the Morgue Operation Plan and recovery plans have been started.

The Debris Management Plan and the Emergency Government Continuity of Operation Plans for Buffalo County and the City of Kearney have been written. At this time, only the Public Works department has signed off on these plans. There are several other departments that need to review and sign off on the plans.

All 2013 Tier II reports were sent to this office and all reports were logged and submitted to the SEPC. In addition, a completed report and all Tier II reports were placed in a binder and put in the Technician Level Hazmat Team trailer.

The demand for the creation, development, and production of ID cards through the Buffalo County Emergency Management office continues to increase. The emergency management office makes ID cards for jail volunteers and service providers, the Justice Center, Buffalo County employee's, first responder agencies, law enforcement, volunteer fire departments, and all volunteer organizations that support the EOC, Elected and Appointed officials within Buffalo County. This process continues to be very time consuming for the emergency management office.

Work continues with all the emergency managers within the South Central Planning Training and Exercise Region (SCPETR). The public education campaign continues to be a large project that Buffalo County Emergency Management worked very long and hard to get going. There have been several paid Public Service Announcements ran on our local TV and radio channels in 2013. In addition, two booth displays were purchased in 2013 for additional promotions of public preparedness.

The Regional Statewide Wireless backbone project (NWIN) has fallen into the lap of the PET regions. Most Regional Homeland Security grant funds not earmarked for Law Enforcement and Fire Hazmat MOU cities continue to be used for this project. Leasing towers has become an issue that needs to be addressed. One solution is to build and own towers in strategic locations to offset the ongoing costs of high priced lease costs.

When funding is available, training and exercises continue to be a priority for the SCPET Region but they must meet the allowable funding criteria. Several trainings were funded in 2013 with Homeland Security funds.

The Mobile Response/Communications vehicle was used five times for planned events over the last year. The unit was used for the annual Game and Parks Expo, Kearney Heritage Days, Kearney Cruise Night, Holdrege Air Show, and the Old Navy Store Safety Days. Two of these events provided training for dispatchers and incident command over the last year. This unit was used one time for a non-planned event/emergency incident in 2013. On November 14th the unit was used by law enforcement Southwest of Kearney for a death and possible homicide. The unit was used to assist investigating officers during the investigation and processing the incident. All four computers were upgraded in the unit in 2013.

National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) 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. The emergency management offices in the State have been identified as the tracking agent for all first responder agencies and volunteer organizations within their jurisdiction. This directive was implemented to track training in the IC 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 800, and all required IS courses for first responder and volunteer agencies at the local level. We continue to 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.

Responder agencies in Buffalo County vary in levels of training of the Federal required NIMS courses. Through the implementation of these two documents, it is felt that we continue to meet the NIMS standard and compliance in Buffalo County. The 300 and 400 NIMS courses continue to be held in the region and throughout the State for local responder agencies to attend. The NIMS 300 and 400 training have been mandated as a required course for any individual that could be put in the position to be in command or be the Incident Commander of a type III or higher event.

Volunteer organizations, large businesses and schools continue to be targeted by Homeland Security to become NIMS compliant. This continues to be a time consuming task for this office and could be a full time position just making sure all

agencies are and remain compliant. It is still up to each agency to decide if they wish to continue to stay compliant within the NIMS standards. Agencies choosing not to meet these Federal standards and requirements will soon find they will no longer be eligible for Homeland Security Grant Funds.

The Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) is now in its 7th year. Two Safety Fairs were held in 2013. The COAD group partnered with different venues over the last year to educate and train the general public in many areas of emergency preparedness. A tabletop exercise was developed and held for the COAD group in 2013. More exercises were planned; however, due to low meeting attendance the exercises were not conducted. COAD members helped hand out fliers and notify residents that lived along the Platte River informing them of possible flood event in September.

A new siren was installed at the Davis Park in Gibbon. This siren replaced an old 1950's era siren that quit working. The new siren was placed in the same location but installed higher to increase the notification range.

Becoming a Storm Ready County has been a goal of the emergency management office for a number of years and in 2012 it finally made it. One of the main things that helped make Buffalo County a Storm ready county is having a complete operational, walk-in ready and functional Emergency Operation Center. In the coming year the Buffalo County Emergency Management office wants to put up storm ready signs at the Buffalo County borders on the major thoroughfares to inform citizens that we are an approved Storm Ready community/county. This is common practice with Storm Ready counties and communities. This project was completed at the end of 2012 but remaining a Storm Ready community requires updating and maintaining the certification annually.

In 2013, Buffalo County Emergency Management continued to work with the Two Rivers Public Health Department on two projects specific to the health department and emergency management. I work with the health department along with many other organizations and agencies on the MAPP process (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships). One of the committees, as a result of the MAPP, is the Healthy Action Committee and the Buffalo County Emergency Management Director was appointed to this committee by the Buffalo County Board at the request of the Two Rivers Public Health Director. The other project is the Functional Needs Registry that helps identify functional needs individuals before, during, and after a disaster. The promotional and educational campaign for this project has been taking place over the last two years.

Long Term Projects Started/Continued in 2013

- Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) two Safety Fairs
- Tri-City Medical Response system (TRIMRS) (continued)
- Regional Mass Fatality planning (continued)

- Family Assistance Center plan (completed)
- EOC Medical Table (continued)
- Morgue Operations planning (continued)
- Storm Ready County (continued)
- Public Health Healthy Actions program (appointed Board Member 2nd year)
- Specific Local Emergency Operations Plans MFP, FAC, EOC Med table, LEOP, COOP, COG, DMP, etc. (continued)
- Medical Response Team (MRC) (Mobile MRC) making (MRC response ready) (continued)
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) IS 701, 702, 703, 704, 300 and 400 training (continued)
- South Central Planning Exercise Training Region (SCPETR) 15 County Area focusing more and more on regional projects and preparedness (continued)
- Emergency Preparedness Education campaign Social Media “Be Ready Nebraska” (continued)
- Social Media Emergency Management Facebook page (started)
- Public Education Campaign Preparedness commercials (continued)
- I-PAWS and CMAS ready public notification project (continued)
- Migration from DCC notification to BuffaloWatch.net notification and conduct training (completed)
- Functional Needs registration / campaign (continued)

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 and reports written and or reviewed

- Daily EM reports
- Monthly EM reports
- Annual EM reports
- Tier II reports
- By-laws for several of the groups and organizations under Emergency Management
- Kearney Airport Emergency plan
- Several local business/industry emergency plans
- EMPG quarterly /work plan
- COOP (Completed for Buffalo County and the City of Kearney)
- Debris plan (Completed for Buffalo County and the City of Kearney)
- Mass Fatality
- Family Assistance Plan (the plan is completed; most MOA’s are in Place)
- EOC Medical Table plan still in the draft planning process
- Amateur Radio Emergency plans

- LEOP (Local Emergency Operation Plan) complete review/updated 2 separate times over the last year
- Wildfire Control plan
- Siren protocol for Severe Weather and other emergency notifications
- Severe Weather Spotter Guide
- Five Dam Failure plans
- Protocol for the Mutual Aid plan
- Training guide for EOC (updated)
- Training guide for Response Unit (updated)
- ICS Forms Manuals
- Spontaneous Volunteer Management Plan
- Hazardous Mitigation plan for the Central Platte River Valley
- Ice Jam Interlocal
- SCPET MOU
- EAS standard Operation Guide
- I-PAWS MOA, COG agreement Ruled of Behavior Contract

2013 Exercises

- ✓ Statewide tornado drill was conducted in Buffalo County
- ✓ Amateur Radio ARES Field Day exercise
- ✓ Pipeline explosion table top exercises
- ✓ Active Shooter tabletop exercise with Good Samaritan Hospital
- ✓ Active Shooter full scale exercise with Good Samaritan Hospital
- ✓ (MRC) Medical Reserve Corp. full scale deployment exercise
- ✓ Regional EOC full scale exercise
- ✓ Two Rivers emergency call down exercise
- ✓ COAD tabletop exercise
- ✓ FAC tabletop exercise
- ✓ EOC/IMT functional exercise
- ✓ Sports and special events ICS tabletop exercise
- ✓ Mass Fatality for funeral home directors tabletop exercise

Annual Goals

Below are the goals for the past year and the upcoming year. Many of the goals from 2013 were accomplished and those that are continued have been rolled into 2014. This does not mean that they were not met in the prior year. Many of the goals were goals that needed to continue into 2014 or had made good progress on and are expected to be completed in 2014.

Goals 2013

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, elected and appointed officials across the South Central region.
2. Implement monthly open house training for elected and appointed officials utilizing the newly developed step-by-step instruction guide for the EOC.
3. Review, update, and conduct the five year revision of the Buffalo County LEOP.
4. 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.
5. Hold or participate in at least three exercises.
6. Continue the public education campaign for 2013.
7. Maintain, operate, manage, and continue to improve on the Emergency Operation Center and the response unit.
8. Put Storm Ready signs up on major highways at the borders of Buffalo County.
9. Spend more time in the Buffalo County / City of Kearney Emergency Operation Center.
10. Start working on the process of creating a full-time Deputy position (Plans Review Specialist, Volunteer Coordinator, CERT and LEPC coordinator, and NIMS manager).

2014 Goals

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, elected, and appointed officials across the South Central Region.
2. Complete the five year revision of the Buffalo County LEOP.
3. 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.
4. Hold or participate in at least three exercises in 2014.
5. Continue public education campaign for 2014.
6. Put Storm Ready Signs up on major highways at the borders of Buffalo County.
7. Work with the National Weather Service, State Roads Department and the USGS office to install depth markers on all the major bridges in Buffalo County along the Platte River.
8. Start working on the process of creating a full-time Deputy position (Plans Review Specialist, Volunteer Coordinator, CERT and LEPC coordinator, and NIMS manager).
9. Transfer all old Homeland grant information from 2004 to present to the new required form put out by NEMA.

Darrin Lewis,
Buffalo County Emergency Management

