



Buffalo County Emergency Management 2008 Year End Report



INTRODUCTION

2008 started off with much less intensity than the prior of 2007 with the Ice storm. The 2008 winter was fairly mild as winters go in Nebraska. Temperatures were mild with a hand full of days up to a week at a time that saw below zero weather. There were no major winter weather advisories or storms through January, February, and March, it was shaping up to be a quiet weather year. Little did we know that April would start us off into what would quickly grow into one of the most intense storm seasons this area has seen in decades. April had a winter weather advisory on 15th that left 6 inches plus of snow in some areas of the county and then less than ten days later have us in a thunderstorm warning. May and June were the month of all months for severe weather activity. Between those two months, the Buffalo County and the City of Kearney saw it all from high winds, flooding, large hail and several tornados. There were 12 watches and 66 warnings issued for Kearney and Buffalo County during May and June. In June alone the Emergency Management office recorded an additional 96 hours just due to weather activity. The majority of the severe weather happened between May 22nd to June 8th. The flooding started on May 22nd and seemed to continue through June affecting Elm Creek, Amherst, Gibbon, Shelton and Kearney areas. May 29th was the night of the tornados for the City of Kearney and its surrounding area. 6 tornados were recorded in Kearney by storm spotters and the Emergency Management office. There were an additional 3 tornados spotted a mile north of Kearney which tracked on the ground all the way to Gibbon before lifting and dissipating. One week later, the one area of Kearney that did not get hit by the tornados was hit with hail the size of golf balls to baseballs, causing additional significant damage to the South east parts of Kearney. There was multi-million dollars of damage in and around the Kearney area due to those two storms. July brought 4 more watches and 5 more warnings. There was no other significant weather reported for the rest of the year until December where there were two winter weather advisories with about 2 inches of snow with 35 miles per hour winds and the second producing 6 inches of snow which prompted a Snow emergency for the City of Kearney.

The NRD and NEMA have come together to start the development of a Regional Mitigation plan. This office had been working on a local plan, and has now turned over all its information to the NRD and NEMA to develop the regional plan. In addition I met with every village which will be included in this plan to give them a better understanding of the plan and to gain support from each jurisdiction. Two work shops have been held with the participating jurisdictions, NEMA and the NRD to gather important information for the development of the plan. This plan is expected to be completed in early 2010.

Radio Equipment purchased from 2006 homeland security funds were programmed and installed in all the Fire department vehicles as well as providing each department with additional portable radios. The 2007 Homeland Security allocation at the regional level has now been approved locally. Buffalo County was

approved to purchase VHF mobile radios for the Sheriff's office vehicles and additional portables for Kearney Police Department. 2008 money had not yet been approved or allocated at the local level from the region.

Many of the 2008 goals have been met and or implemented. Most of these goals are a continuation from year to year and will carry over into the next.

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 focused 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. The EOC was open and operational for 7 days straight, 24 hours a day, during the May 29th tornados and the June 7th hail storm. Public Saftey, community assistance, multi agency coordination, and resource gathering were the major activities while the EOC was open. There were over 45 different agencies and departments involved in the response and recovery due to the tornados and hail storm. This does not include FEMA or the SBA that came in later to assist the citizens of Kearney and Buffalo County in the individual (personal) recovery stage.

The Emergency Management office continues to partner with many community groups and agencies involved in the area of public safety. In the year 2008, the Emergency Management Director served on the Buffalo County LEPC as the Vice Chairman; 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 for the City of Kearney; the Technician Level Hazmat Team continues to operate with the Emergency Manager serving as the administrator of this team.

(CNRI) Central Nebraska Regions for Interoperability was started in 2004 and has grown to include a 22 county region over the last 5 years. A lot of work has gone into the project over the last 5 years and will continue into 2009. Much of the communication has shifted to two new groups but not taking the place of CNRI. These groups are the (SCPET) region South Central Planning Training and Exercise region and (NCOR) Nebraska Council of Regions. NCOR is a Governors appointed executive board that I am part of representing the SCPET region. (CNPADC) Central Nebraska Public Access Defibrillator Coalition was developed

in 2004 and has completed its third and final year of funding as of August 31, 2007. This is a 20 county region to place AED's in public locations over three years. CNPADC has placed over 500 AED's in public locations in the past 3 year. This Coalition has been closed out.

(COAD) Community Organizations Active in Disasters was developed in the Buffalo County/Kearney area and continues to go strong with our new Second annual Public Safety Awareness Day event held at the Hill Top Mall. The COAD group came together and provided a vital response the effected citizens of Buffalo County and the City of Kearney during the May 29th tornados and the June 7th hail storm by providing a one stop shop family resource center to assist families in need.

(TRMRS) Tri-City Rural Medical Response System being developed in 2004 and as of 2008 has expanded to an MRC (Medical Response Corp) for Central Nebraska. Both groups continued to work on vital plans for emergency response and recovery in 2008. TRMRS continues to work on Interoperable communications for the 18 hospitals in its region as well as trying to coordinate regional plans and exercises for Mass fatality plans.

The CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) program was started in a regional area to include Buffalo County in 2006. This program has not completely gone away in Buffalo County although there has not been to much interest from that citizens within this area. If and when there is enough interest to hold a CERT training, the Emergency Management agency will put that training together.

Buffalo County Emergency Management and the Two Rivers Public Health continue to work closely together as a partnership in planning for Pandemic Influenza and completing the Regional Emergency Response ID system. A new project that we are now partnering on is identifying the special needs populations within our communities. This goes beyond the hospitals, nursing homes, schools and daycares.

Buffalo County had average to below average severe weather activity for most of the 2008 year although the weather activity during the months of May and June made up for the inactivity for the other months. The warning sirens in Buffalo County were activated on 3 different occasions during the summer months of 2008, once on May 22nd in multiple communities, more then once in multiple communities on May 29th, and once on June 7th.

Kearney and Buffalo County were placed under Severe Thunderstorm / Tornado watches or warnings 76 times, had 11 flash flood warnings, and 4 winter weather advisories in the 2008 year. Buffalo County was above average rain fall for the year. Although Buffalo County and the Kearney area has received above normal rain fall for the last two years with the county being in a drought for so many years prior, this continues to be a concern for Buffalo County and had a negative impact

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.

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

Severe Weather Spotter Training
State Wide Tornado Drill
Kearney Public School K through 5th grade Severe Weather (Tornado Awareness training)
School emergency plans / checklists Training
High Speed Notification Training for Dispatch
County Emergency Alerting PA system training
NAEM Conference
Command Systems and Emergency Operations Center Interface Training
Central District Meeting
Crisis communications training for PIO's
NACO Convention
Homeland Security Grant Conference
2008 Grant Training
Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise
Pandemic Influenza Town Hall meeting
Hazmat Decontamination Shower Training for LEDRS group
Amateur Radio ARES Full Scale Exercise
Amateur Radio Technician training scoring 100%
Medical Surge tabletop (UNK)
COAD Tabletop training
COAD Safety fair
PARACLETE Software training
Nebraska Hazardous Materials Association Conference
Recovery and Handling of Radiologically Contaminated Human Remains

In addition there were 23 other assorted local or regional trainings sent out to First Responder agencies throughout the year.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PRESENTATIONS

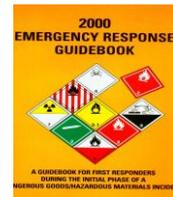
- 1 Emergency Management presentations
- 2 3 Emergency Management presentations for UNK students
- 3 I was part of 2 Panel discussions on the Disaster recovery for the May tornados in Kearney and the surrounding area.
- 4 North Ridge Assisted Living Center discussing emergency plans.
- 5 Region 3 to discuss emergency plans and protocols for sheltering in place and total evacuation.

- 6 Kiwanis group discussing Emergency Management and Homeland security
- 7 Boy Scout troop in Kearney to talk about Preparedness and Emergency Management.

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 been derailed in the past year and only 2 LEPC meetings have been held in 2008.



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)

Thirteen 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. The transport reports continue to be down this year. This is due to transportation regulation changes on reporting requirements as well as less radioactive transports through the primary routes though Nebraska and Buffalo County.



EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM

The Director, Communications Supervisor, and Communications Officers conducted monthly tests of the alarm radios, pagers and outdoor warning system throughout the year. During the scheduled tests, there were minimal reports of sirens failures. I contribute this to conducting pre-maintenance services on the sirens during the month of March within the Kearney area. Five sirens were found to be in failure at that time and were repaired by Platte Valley Communications.



The Dialogic High Speed Notification System continues to be a good addition to the notification process. 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 emergency that a person could imagine. From hazmat spills, a tornado warning, flash flood, evacuation, school closings, or simple road closings, the possibilities are endless. This system was used extensively during the tornados to inform citizens to stay off the streets and of general information during the disaster as well as flood warnings and other weather related events throughout the year. This system now has over 950 members and 57 different groups that have been developed. 11 new groups were added in this past year.



RESPONSE UNIT ACTIVITIES

The response unit was used during the Nebraska Game and Parks Outdoor Expo in Kearney in the month of April. This unit provided communications to several agencies that were participating in the management of the event from Game and Parks, State Patrol, Kearney Police Department, Buffalo County Sheriff's office, and Good Samaritan hospital EMS. In addition to providing interoperable communications to these agencies, it also provides a good opportunity for training for the Incident dispatch team in a low stress environment.

The Phelps County Emergency Management director requested the Mobile Response unit to provide Incident command and communications to the Holdrege Air show in June.

The response unit was used for a two vehicle accident near Miller late evening during an icing / snow event in October.

Additional activities updates are almost a weekly event on almost every Friday. Three new cameras were installed. Two were added to the outside of the unit, one on the left rear and one on the right front of the unit. The third camera was installed inside the unit at the front looking to the back. Video can now be sent back to any location to be viewed by commander at the EOC from the Incident scene. One new VOIP phone (Magic Jack) was installed in the unit. This now gives the unit 3 phones without connecting to any landline phone. A new network was installed in the unit that did not work very well and was unreliable. The new network was removed and we went back to the old solution that continues to work well.

WEATHER



Buffalo County Fairgrounds



Stratford Apartments



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	1	1	1
May	5	15	0
June	7	51	0
July	4	5	0
August	0	0	0
Sept.	0	0	0
October	0	0	1
November	0	0	0
December	0	0	2

WEATHER



BUDGET

The Emergency Management budget for the fiscal 2007 year stayed under budget and was closed out. The new fiscal 2008 Budget was approved by the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee. The Buffalo County Emergency Management Department budget for 2008 is \$96,168.00. This is an increase of \$2,823.00, less than a 3% increase from the 2007 budget.

The EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) for the fiscal years 2006, 2007, and 2008 was a three year grant and was approved in early 2007. This program is designed to reimburse the Emergency Management budget up to 50%. The program is administered through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency which assisted the Buffalo County Emergency Management budget at 43% for the 2007/2008 fiscal budget year. This is based off of the total budget expenses at the end of the budget not the total allowable budget.



POSSIBLE AND POTENTIAL EMERGENCIES 2008

February 18th Ravenna Fire and Deputy Emergency Manager reported a fuel leak on one of the Burlington Northern Railroad Engines. It was thought that less than 25 gallons was lost in the Burlington Northern Ravenna rail yard.

May 29th produced several tornados within the City of Kearney and Buffalo County that created multi-million dollars in damage, from minimal damage to total destruction of buildings and property. There were many other Emergency Management incidents during the May 29th tornados including two train derailments. One was a 40 car derailment in the southwest part of the county, and one was a single car derailment in the southwest part of the county. There were two Hazardous Material Spills both caused or related to the storm. One was caused by cleaning up building debris at the Airport that was on top of and around an aircraft. Jet fuel began leaking out of one of the fuel tanks in the wing of the aircraft. The Hazmat Team was called out for response to that incident. The wing was patched by the Hazmat team and the fuel was pumped off by airport personnel. Approximately 100 gallons spilt on the ground. Foam was put down on the spill by the Kearney Fire.

The second hazmat spill was on Highway 30 and Ave I that was spread to 35th and Ave B. Clean up crews from the Street Department put sand down on the spill. The Hazmat team was not called out for this spill. Kearney Fire responded.

Military ordinance was delivered to one of the National Guard troops that were directing traffic out at the industrial park. The City of Kearney PD and Buffalo County Sheriff department responded to the incident. It was determined that the State Patrol Bomb Squad should be called into dispose of the ordinance. The Military (round) was disposed of without incident.

Additionally but not limited to, there was hail and crop damage north of Amherst, flooding in Gibbon, north of Gibbon and Shelton, north of Amherst and north of Kearney, and road damage and Lift station damage in Gibbon.

A week after the tornados, Kearney was stuck by hail that affected the Southwest and Southeast of Kearney. There was extensive damage to houses and cars within this area.

More information on the May 29th tornados can be found within this report.

PROJECTS 2008

- The 2007 Homeland Security Grants were applied for. \$250,752.00 was requested for 5 different projects within Buffalo County. Additionally 2 Regional grants were written through this office covering 15 counties in the amount of \$823,000.00. No grant money was awarded at the local level in 2007. Rather than awarding grant funds at the local level for specific projects, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency awarded what they are calling block grants to each of the regions all to be used for the State Interoperability project. No action has been taken on this grant to date within this region. All Homeland Security grants from past years have been closed out for Buffalo County.
- With the bond being passed for the new Justice Center, an Emergency Operation Center as been included within this project. The new EOC will be in the basement of the justice center. I have been appointed as the Project Manager for this portion of the project. And EOC taskforce has been developed from members of the City and County to help design the EOC as well as insure the right technology and equipment is in the EOC. I and several other members of the EOC taskforce have taken a trip to other EOCs within the Midwest to gather ideas for layout, design and technology for the Buffalo County / City of Kearney EOC. Grant funds have been sought for the funding of this project, much of the continuation of work and progress will be determined with the ability to acquire grant dollars. This will be an on going project that should be completed in 2010.

- CNRI (Central Nebraska Regions for Interoperability). Great progress has been made within the CNRI project. 15 counties now have the Paraclete system, with 7 more counties coming on board by 2009. The State of Nebraska has adopted the Paraclete system and is now training to get the other regions on board to spread the system through out the state. The State Patrol has the system in place at each of the troop headquarters but has not yet started using it as the training has not been completed. The first 10 counties continue work toward completing the third and final phase of the project by implementing the statewide Mutual Aid Channels within the 10 CNRI counties. This area seems to have come to a stand still as this portion of the project has been taken over by the State of Nebraska. Many things have been changed and or modified within the phase three project, The state is now trying to figure out the configuration for the channels, footprint and other issues across the state. This has put a halt to CNRI moving any further on this phase until the state has a better handle how these Mutual Aid frequencies are going to work for all players within the state of Nebraska. The User group and Policy group continue to meet every other month to work out issues and develop protocols for the use of the system.

- CNPADC (Central Nebraska Public Access Defibrillator Coalition). The 20 county area has completed its third and final year. Over 500 AED's have been placed within the first 20 county area. The grant has been closed out and the coalition has been disbanded. There had been issues with the hired coordinator not keeping good records of placement or the number of AED's that needed placed that were still in the possession of CNPADC. This was rectified by letting the coordinator go at the end of the contract and paying the Red Cross to finish out the placements, and develop a tacking tool for the placement locations of every AED.

- DCC (Dialogic Communications Corporation) Public High Speed Notifications. The high speed notification system is up and running well. 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 930 individuals in the Communicator at this time, with more than 57 notification groups. There has been several updates completed to maps for the GEO-CAST system this year with updated addresses and locations to stitch phone numbers too. This improves the proficiency and accuracy for the system greatly. This system has been used a great deal this last year for a number of different emergency incidents both on the Geo-Cast side and the Group notification side.

- All of the 2008 Tier II reports were sent to this office; all reports were logged and submitted to the LEPC and the SEPC.

- The Regional PET calendar has been updated for the (SCPET Region) South Central Planning Exercise and Training Region. One scheduled regional exercise was completed August of 2008 in which Buffalo County Emergency Management participated in. There continues to be a great deal of planning conducted for communications, exercise development, 2008 grant guidelines, regional governance, etc. The group continues to work with the NEMA and the Public Policy group to conduct a regional exercise and continued planning efforts within the SCPET region.
- Mobile Response / Communications vehicle has responded to 4 events both planned and unplanned over the last year. This unit could have and should have been used more for other emergencies particularly on the fire side of the response system. The Response Unit was on display in Lincoln at a state wide Mobile Communications Rodeo. Although I am partial to the Response unit, I would say the Response unit shined above and beyond anything else that was at the Rodeo. There was bigger and newer units there, but none as functional.
- The Buffalo County Emergency Management continues to sit on the steering committee for TRIMRS which covers a 21 county area. Last years new project was the TRIMRS MRC (Volunteer Medical Response Corps). The Buffalo County Emergency Management also sits on this committee as well. The MRC continues to grow with now over 50 volunteers. Buffalo County performs all back ground checks on volunteers and has developed a Notification group for the MRC all done as an in-kind donation for the project. Two new projects for TRIMRS are the Interoperable Communications for Hospital to hospital, as well as the development of the Regional Mass Fatality plan. The Buffalo County Emergency Manager sits on both of these committees as well.
- The Buffalo County Emergency Management office has worked with all first responders as well as appointed and elected officials to get them all (NIMS) National Incident Management Systems compliant. The deadline for compliancy at the local levels was December 2006. It is felt that we have met this deadline in Buffalo County. Volunteer organizations and large businesses are now being targeted in the Buffalo county area to become NIMS compliant as well as City, Town and Village entities. This is a huge undertaking by this office and could be a full time poison just making sure all agencies are and stay compliant, new tracking and notification tools will be implemented in 2009 to help ensure that all agencies are or are not in compliance. It is up to each agency to decide if they wish to continue to stay compliant with in the NIMS standards.
- The COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) has continued to grow over the last 3 years. It is felt that the Safety Fair in August of 2008 was a huge 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 is a great asset to the Emergency Management Agency. The COAD came together for the May 29th Tornados and the June 7th Hail storm to create a Family Resource Center for a one stop shop for families in need during the disasters. We have and will continue to rely heavily on the volunteers and community organizations of this group during large scale events within Buffalo County.

- NCOR (Nebraska Council of Regions) is a Governors Executive appointed group in which I have been appointed to that is responsible for the State Wide Communications Plan, Regional Communications, and the development of State wide Mutual Aid Channels protocol and procedures.

Long Term Projects Started/Continued in 2008

- CNRI (Central Nebraska Regions for Interoperability) 22 County area
- CNPADC (Central Nebraska Public Access Defibrillator Coalition) 20 county area (closed out)
- COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) Safety Fair
- TRIMRS (Tri-City Medical Response system)
- Regional Hospital Communication
- Regional Mass Fatality plan
- MRC (Medical Response Team)
- NIMS (National Incident Management System)
- Buffalo County Mitigation Plan
- Recovery Unit
- SCPETR (South Central Planning Exercise Training Region) 15 county Area
- Design building and procuring grant dollars to assist in the New Emergency Operation Center
- NCOR (Nebraska Council of Regions)
- Identification of the Special needs and vulnerable population groups
- Purchase of Mobile and portable radios for all Fire Departments in Buffalo County

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.

New plans or reports

Monthly EM reports

EMPG quarterly

Debris plan

Mass Fatality

Protocol for the Med-4 TRIMRS channel

MOU for RYDE transport and Kearney public schools buses
After action report on 5 county exercise completed and compiled by this office for the SCPET region

Updates

Emergency contact

LEOP Additional resources have been developed and added to the resource list

TICP

Siren Protocol

Weather spotter communication plan

Weather alerting procedures for dispatch

CNRI Response unit usage

2008 Exercises

- ✓ Medical Tabletop UNK
- ✓ PIO JIC training UNK
- ✓ DCC Dispatch Proficiency Training.
- ✓ Decontamination Shower exercises.
- ✓ Statewide Tornado drill was conducted in Buffalo County
- ✓ Severe Weather Spotter training was conducted for spotters in Buffalo County
- ✓ Region exercise 5 counties including Buffalo County Emergency Management
- ✓ Training and exercise quarterly program has been put in place for testing the Hazmat ID system
- ✓ Kearney Public School K through 5th grade Severe Weather (Tornado Awareness training)
- ✓ School emergency plans / checklists Training
- ✓ County Emergency Alerting PA system training
- ✓ Command Systems and Emergency Operations Center Interface Training
- ✓ Crisis communications training for PIO
- ✓ Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise
- ✓ Hazmat Decontamination Shower Exercise for LEDRS group
- ✓ Amateur Radio ARES Full Scale Exercise

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 2007/2008 year were met, and it is anticipated reaching and accomplishing all the goals set for the 2009 year. Goals that were not met in 2008 will continue to be goals for 2009.

Goals 2008

1. Work with the SCPETR to develop and conduct Incident Management Interoperable Communications Training at the end user level. This training will be conducted for the all Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement Agencies.
2. Conduct a Full Scale exercise for the CNRI region and test the interoperability of the communications system.
3. Complete the Recovery Unit and have it ready and on stand-by at all times for any Buffalo County response. Find multiple uses for the unit.
4. Conduct more educational classes, trainings, and talks on emergency management and emergency preparedness to local groups.
5. Hold a number or workshops for the Interoperable Communications System for administrators and communications supervisors within the region.
6. Train all dispatchers within the region on how to use Spark.
7. Help complete the 5 county Interop installation.
8. Move forward to have in place and operational the Mutual Aid frequencies within the CNRI region.
9. Work to improve the Buffalo County Hazmat team through training exercises, conferences and equipment.

Goals 2009

1. Work with the SCPETR to develop and conduct Incident Management Interoperable Communications Training at the end user level. This training will be conducted for the all Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement Agencies.
2. Conduct a Full Scale exercise for the CNRI region and test the interoperability of the communications system.
3. Conduct more educational classes, trainings, and talks on emergency management and emergency preparedness to local groups through Radio Television and other large media type events.
4. Hold a number or workshops for the Interoperable Communications System for administrators and communications supervisors within the region.

5. Move forward to have in place and operational the Mutual Aid frequencies within the CNRI region.
6. Get approved to be a Storm Ready county from the National Weather Service; the application is in at this time, we are now waiting for approval.
7. Work to improve the Buffalo County Hazmat team through training exercises, conferences, and equipment.
8. Buffalo County Emergency Management will work with local jurisdictions and the Regional NRD in the development of a Mitigation Plan. This was started in 2008 and will be completed by mid 2010.
9. Continue to work toward a completed fully operational EOC by the beginning of 2010.
10. Identify and document at least 80% of the Special Needs populations within Buffalo County including but not limited to Schools, Nursing homes, Daycare Centers, agency and privately owned homes.

