

Disaster Updates

(Available Tuesdays and Fridays)

DR 4420 NE/Severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding May 14, 2019

- Major Disaster Declaration issued March 21, 2019.
- Incident Period March 9 – April 1
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are coordinating the recovery operation.
- Disaster website: [fema.gov/disaster/4420](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4420).

Federal Disaster Assistance Is for Nebraska Renters, Too

Renters in Nebraska counties and tribal areas whose homes and property were damaged by the March severe winter storms, straight-line winds and flooding may be eligible for federal disaster assistance. For information on types of assistance available, [click here](#).

Nebraskans: There's still time to register for help. Do it now!

If you were affected by the severe winter storms, straight line winds and flooding that occurred nearly two months ago and haven't registered for help from FEMA, why wait? Do it now!

No matter why you did not register, do it now. Here's what to do to get the correct information:

- Go online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov)
- Call the FEMA helpline (voice, 711 or relay service) at 800-621-3362; (call 800-462-7585 TTY). The toll-free lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT seven days a week.
- Visit a Disaster Recovery Center. Find the center closest to you at: www.fema.gov/drc.

Homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes may also qualify for a low-interest disaster loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). If you have questions about an SBA loan call SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or **800-877-8339 (TTY)** or send an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Visit SBA's website at [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.SBA.gov/disaster).

Housing Resources for Disaster Survivors

The State of Nebraska is leading a Housing Task Force in partnership with FEMA and other agencies to address housing shortages and unmet needs in Nebraska communities affected by

flooding. A [fact sheet listing resources](#) is posted on FEMA's disaster web page: fema.gov/disaster/4420.



Obtaining permits, prior to construction, is the responsibility of the project applicant.

See Nebraska Emergency Management Agency guidelines [here](#).

Check Permit Requirements Before Rebuilding

It is important for Nebraskans to **check with local building authorities about local or state permits** that may be necessary before starting reconstruction. These may include building permits, floodplain development permits, permits for repair of septic systems, and others. To find out what state permits may be required, please visit the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources at dnr.nebraska.gov/floodplain for a list of local floodplain management contacts.

Understanding Your FEMA Letter

If you applied for assistance from FEMA, you will receive a letter in the mail or via email that explains the status of your application and how to respond. It is important to read the letter carefully. Your letter will include the amount of any assistance FEMA may provide and information on the appropriate use of disaster assistance funds.

- **If you have questions about the letter**, you may go online to DisasterAssistance.gov; call the disaster assistance helpline at **800-621-3362** or **800-462-7585 (TTY)**; or visit a Disaster Recovery Center. To find center locations and hours, go online to FEMA.gov/DRC or download the [FEMA mobile app](#).

FEMA Hiring Nebraskans to Work on Disaster Recovery

FEMA is hiring Nebraskans to help with recovery efforts. Anyone interested in temporary job opportunities should go to www.USAJobs.gov. The website is updated as new postings occur. Type "FEMA Local Hire" in the search box and put "Nebraska" in the location box.

Disaster Recovery Centers Assist Survivors

Disaster Recovery Centers are operating, or are scheduled to begin operation, in areas affected by the winter storm and flooding. More centers continue to be announced. Recovery specialists from FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will provide information on available services, explain assistance programs and help survivors complete or check the status of their applications.

Disaster Recovery Center locations and hours are:

- **Boyd County:** American Legion Post 78, 116 S. Thayer St., Spencer, NE 68777. Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closing permanently 6 p.m. May 17.
- **Dodge County:** Fremont Learning Center, 130 E. 9th St., Fremont, NE 68025. Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closing permanently 6 p.m. May 17.

- **Madison County:** Madison County Auditorium, 208 W. 3rd St., Madison, NE 68748. Open May 14, 15, 16 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Omaha Tribe:** Community Youth Prevention (Parking Lot), 457 Skunkhollow Dr., Macy, NE 68039. Open May 15, 16 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Pierce County:** Pierce Fire Hall, 106 S. 1st St., Pierce, NE 68767. Open May 14 and 15 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Sarpy County:** Twin Creek, 3802 Raynor Parkway, Suite 201, Bellevue, NE 68123. Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closing permanently 6 p.m. May 17.

Survivors can visit any open center for help. To find the nearest DRC visit: [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC), or text **DRC** along with a ZIP code to 43362 or call the Disaster Assistance Helpline at **800-621-3362** or **800-462-7585 (TTY)**.

Long-Term Recovery Help Grows for Nebraska Storm Survivors

As the focus turns toward long-term recovery from the March severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding, survivors have many resources available from local, state and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations to assist with unmet needs.

Nebraska survivors with unmet needs may contact:

- For property clean up contact the **Crisis Clean Up Hotline: 833-556-2476**
- For all other needs of assistance call **Nebraska 211**.
- To volunteer to help, please contact **United Way of the Midlands**. [Click here](#) to view, sign up and make someone's day brighter! In state, call 2-1-1 for questions (press option 6). Or
- **Contact the Fremont Volunteer Reception Center**. Volunteer opportunities are available online at <http://signup.com/go/xynaaxZ>. The Volunteer Center is at Fremont Area United Way, 445 East 1st Street, Suite 1, Fremont. Open Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. -5 p.m., or go online to fremontnebraskavrc@gmail.com.

Keep your recovery options with U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest loans

SBA loans provide the largest source of long-term federal disaster recovery funds for survivors in a major disaster declaration. To ensure you are eligible for all federal assistance available to cover uninsured and under-insured losses, you *should* register with FEMA and *apply* online with SBA before the deadline. By submitting an initial application with SBA, you will keep the option open to obtain recovery funds that you may need.

Don't wait for insurance claims to be settled; it is not necessary to know how much money you may need. There is no cost to apply, or any obligation to accept funds if approved. SBA loan rates are as low as 2.063 percent for homeowners or renters, and as low as 4 percent for businesses.

Most homeowners and renters are automatically referred to apply with SBA, based on the information provided in their FEMA application. If SBA is unable to offer you a loan, you may be referred back to FEMA for potential additional grant assistance. Survivors who've been referred for low-interest loans with SBA and don't apply, will not be considered for these "other needs" grants from FEMA.

SBA has already approved \$27.1 million for homeowners and renters and \$3.6 million for businesses

and private nonprofits in Nebraska to date. To apply online or for any questions, residents and businesses can visit SBA.gov/disaster, call SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955**, or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. TTY users may call **800-877-8339**.

Free Safety and Health Consultations Available to Flood-Impacted Businesses

The Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) is offering free safety and health consultations to businesses in flood-impacted areas. Trained NDOL consultants are available to assist with mold remediation plans, provide safety and health assessments, identify electrical hazards, and perform overall risk assessment. The free consultations are available through the On-Site Safety and Health Consultation program. For more information go online to dol.nebraska.gov.

Nebraska Joint Information Center Crisis Counseling Services Available

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency was awarded a grant for more than \$400,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to make **disaster-related crisis counseling services** available. Outreach workers will be available to support emotional and psychological recoveries of Nebraskans impacted by the floods. Survivors may call the Rural Response Hotline at 800-464-0258. Callers can get tips on how to handle disaster-related distress, along with referrals to local treatment centers, support groups and community-based organizations. **For more information see nema.nebraska.gov.**

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

As of May 13, NFIP has received 1,029 flood insurance claims in Nebraska and issued \$4,850,576 in advance payments to policyholders. Total paid on all claims: \$27,978,204.

NFIP Increased Cost of Compliance Can Help with Rebuilding in Nebraska

If you have a policy with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and your home was damaged extensively by March storms, you may qualify for additional coverage under your policy, under the provisions of Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC). ICC funds can help defray the costs of elevating, floodproofing, demolishing or relocating a residential structure. For more information contact your local floodplain administrator, NFIP at **800-427-4661**, or your insurance agent.

Debris Removal a Priority for Communities after Nebraska Flooding

NEMA, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) and FEMA are coordinating cleanup efforts in Nebraska. Debris needs to be separated into categories and placed at the curb. Debris should not block the roadway. For information, go online to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality at deq.state.ne.us/.

Houses of Worship May Apply for FEMA Public Assistance Grants

Houses of worship that sustained damage from the flooding in Nebraska may apply for grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The deadline to apply is now June 20, 2019.

Agriculture News: Grants, Loans and other Programs

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture(USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cover Crops for Disaster Assistance Initiative** (soil erosion, water quality, etc.) announced a **new application deadline of August 1, 2019** to accommodate farms facing

delayed planting.

- **NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program** has processed 31 applications totaling \$50,000 to date. NRCS funding is available at the local level to assist with disaster recovery either through special EQIP signups or annual EQIP funding.
- **USDA announced higher limits now are available for borrowers** interested in USDA's farm loans. For more information, visit [USDA Farm Service Agency](#).
- **USDA Rural Development (RD) Business and Co-op Programs** have a funding opportunity for a Rural Cooperative Development Grant. Applications are due June 3, 2019. Total funding will be \$5,800,000.
- **USDA RD** delivered its [Multi-Family Housing Vacancy Report](#) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). There are 227 vacant units available across Nebraska.
- **The University of Nebraska – Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources [Nebraska Extension](#)** distributed **1,085 bales of hay to producers**.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)** provided [food benefits to 7500 low-income households](#).

27 Counties and One Tribe Eligible for FEMA Individual Assistance Homeowners and renters in Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dodge, Douglas, Hall, Howard, Knox, Madison, Nance, Nemaha, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Stanton, Thurston and Washington counties and the Santee Sioux Nation are eligible for Individual Assistance.

Individuals & Households Program (IHP)

As of May 13

- **5,765** applicants in designated counties have applied for FEMA Individual Assistance.
- FEMA has approved **\$21,940,191**.
- This includes **\$19,526,894** for housing assistance and **\$2,413,297** for disaster-related other needs.
- **Deadline to register for Individual Assistance is May 20.**

FEMA Public Assistance Program

FEMA's Public Assistance grant program provides federal assistance to state and local governments and certain types of private nonprofit organizations following a presidential disaster declaration.

Through the program, FEMA can reimburse eligible costs for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures and the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private nonprofit organizations. The Public Assistance program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

As a result of the amendment, there are now 76 Nebraska counties designated for all categories of PA assistance. Four counties and five tribes have been designated for emergency work and debris removal assistance.

For a listing of counties in Nebraska eligible for these programs, visit online <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4420>.

Information Links:

- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency: nema.nebraska.gov/
- Nebraska Impact (Volunteering): www.nebraskaimpact.com/flood
- Twitter: twitter.com/nematweets
- Facebook: facebook.com/nema.page
- YouTube: youtube.com/user/TheNEMAtube
- Flickr: flickr.com/photos/nemapics/
- FEMA: FEMA.gov
- Facebook: facebook.com/FEMA
- Twitter: twitter.com/femaregion7
- National Flood Insurance Program: Floodsmart.gov
- FEMA blog: fema.gov/blog
- SBA Office of Disaster Assistance: sba.gov/disaster.