



# **BUFFALO COUNTY / CITY OF KEARNEY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE 2014 SUMMARY**



**“2014”  
THE YEAR OF SEVERE WEATHER**

# **BUFFALO COUNTY / CITY OF KEARNEY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

## **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.

### 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, while planning and preparedness phase was the main focus due to several larger scale incidents recovery had a major focus.

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, Kearney Police Chief 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.

## 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 2014, the Director sent 24 assorted local or regional training opportunities to First Responder agencies.

Additional training and exercises planned, conducted and participated in this year are as follows.

### **TRAINING/EXERCISE 2014**

- Full Scale Active Shooter Pleasanton School
- Work Shop Evacuation and Take Shelter Exercise
- Functional / Full Scale “Frozen” exercise Regional Medical and Hospitals
- Table Top Kearney Lake Dam breach
- Drill State Wide Tornado exercise
- Severe Weather Spotter Training
- Volunteer Donation Management Training
- TIM Training (Traffic Incident Management)
- Senior Officials All-Hazards Preparedness Workshop
- Independent Study coarse IS-288 Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management

At the direction of the emergency management administration, the training and continuing education for the emergency management office has been reduced this past year and for the years to come.

### **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

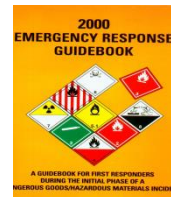
### **LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)**

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) county fire departments, county hazmat team 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.

## REPORTS

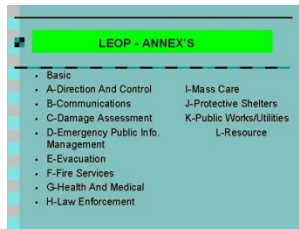


All copies of Tier II reports filed by facilities in Buffalo County, that are required by the Community Right-To-Know Act to report hazardous substances, are placed on file in the Emergency Management Director's office. The facilities are required to update the reports on an annual basis and are reviewed 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)



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 only a few notifications and schedule changes sent out to the Emergency Managers throughout the year.

Very few notifications of transportation through Buffalo County of low level waste were received by local emergency management. This is a significant decrease from the 2013 year when there were 47 notifications received by emergency management.



## EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM

The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and the Backup Dispatch Center are primary locations for weather operations supporting all of Buffalo County. The EOC was not fully operational 24 hours a day and 7 days a week during severe weather season this last year like it was in 2013. The EOC and Backup Dispatch Center was not opened and operational during all thunderstorm warnings, tornado watches or warnings. In the opinion of emergency management this has caused some issues making it more difficult for emergency management to do its job during these times. Trying to keep up on the storm activity, communicate with the National Weather Service, storm spotters, and sounding the sirens for public warning. During these times additional trained personnel should be in the EOC to support storm activities, from dispatchers, amateur radio staff, and event recorders to record weather activity and provide social media updates.

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 spring severe weather season within the Kearney area. 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. See the chart for additional information on warning tests and siren issues over the last year.

### 2014 Emergency Management Overview

This is an overview of the 2014 annual report and its purpose is to highlight the major activities of the Buffalo County / City of Kearney Emergency Management office.

<b>Test of Emergency Warning Systems (Alarm radios, pagers and outdoor sirens)</b>	
01-02-2014	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful.
02-02-2014	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful.



03-06-2014	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful.
04-03-2014	The outdoor warning sirens for Buffalo County were tested twice in April. Once at the Primary Dispatch Center and once at the Emergency Operation Center. No issues were found during the testing with the exception of the siren near the Stagecoach in Kearney on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue was reported as not working.
05-01-2014	The outdoor warning sirens near the Stagecoach in Kearney on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue and on Grand Ave (near the Valley View trailer courts) were reported as not working. Both were checked out by Platte Valley Communications and both were found to be in working order.
06-05-2014	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful.
07-03-2014	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful.
08-03-2014	On August 30 <sup>th</sup> the Cottonmill area experienced a short 15-30 second power outage. When Power came back on, the outdoor warning siren sounded at the Cottonmill Lake. Power was turned off to the siren and reset.
09-04-2014	Both of the sirens in Pleasanton were reported to not be working during the test. An individual test was conducted the following day. Both sirens worked at that time. Platte Valley Communications was called in to determine the cause as to why the sirens did not sound during the test. I am not sure an exact cause was found. The North Siren in Pleasanton was taken down by the local community to be rebuilt by Noller Electric.
10-02-2014	The North Siren in Pleasanton had been refurbished and put back up by the local community and Noller Electric. The Siren on UNK campus was reported not to be working on the last test. I will sit on this siren on the next test in November.
11-06-14	The Siren on UNK campus and the Cottonmill siren were reported not to be working on the last test. Platte Valley Communications has been contacted to look at these sirens.
12-04-14	The Siren on UNK campus was still not working on the last test, and the siren at Cottonmill Lake worked during the last test. Platte Valley Communications has been contacted to look at these sirens however had not had a chance to look at them before the December test.

### 2014 Kearney Area Precipitation

	Monthly Rain	*Monthly Snow	2014 Rain Total	2014 Snow Total
January	.01"	**2"	.01"	2"
February	.01"	2"	.02"	4"
March	.09"	4"	.11"	8"
April	1.76"	5"	1.87"	13"
May	.79"	0"	2.66"	13"
June	7.63	0"	10.29"	13"
July	.13"	0"	10.42"	13"
August	10.5"	0"	20.92	13"
September	2.30"	0"	23.22"	13"
October	.84"	0"	24.06"	13"
November	.01"	3"	24.07"	16"
December	.57"	3"	24.64"	19"

\*Snow totals are approximate amounts.

\*\*Rain and snow totals are reported separately because snow is not recorded as precipitation at the Kearney Airport recording site.

### 2014 High and Low Temperatures

Month	High	Low	High Average	Low Average	Overall Average
January	66	-8	39	13	26
February	64	-15	33	13	23
March	73	-6	51	22	37
April	84	21	63	39	51
May	91	30	74	48	62
June	95	48	82	60	71
July	100	48	85	61	73
August	91	54	85	62	74
September	90	34	75	51	63
October	84	27	54	41	67
November	75	0	47	20	34
December	57	-6	37	20	29

## Weather Activity 2014

January	<p>There was a high wind advisory issued on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 15:30 hours. The Kearney area received a recorded gust at 61 mile per hour on January 16<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>In addition, on January 15<sup>th</sup> snow and ice fell which created hazardous driving conditions within Buffalo County, particularly on the interstate system.</p>
February	<p>There were two winter weather advisories during the month of February. Wind gust of 42 mph were reported and several inches of snow was predicted. However, there was very little snow fall recorded in February. The real story for February was the bitter cold temperatures with -35 degrees wind chill factor on several days.</p>
March	<p>There was one weather statement issued for high winds and a 48 mph wind gust was reported on March 26<sup>th</sup>.</p>
April	<p>Thunderstorm Watch issued on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1604 hours.</p> <p>Thunderstorm Warnings on:</p> <p>April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2001 hours          April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1721 hours</p> <p>A Tornado watch was issued on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1315 hours.</p> <p>A weather statement was issued for high winds on April 13<sup>th</sup>. There was a 44 mph sustained winds reported and 62 mph wind gust reported on April 13<sup>th</sup>.</p>
May	<p>Thunderstorm Watch issued on:</p> <p>May 7<sup>th</sup> at 1604 hours          May 11<sup>th</sup> at 0357 hours.</p> <p>Tornado Warnings were issued on:</p> <p>May 7<sup>th</sup> at 2111 hours and 2133 hours.</p> <p>The tornado warnings were issued in Buffalo County for the communities of Miller and Pleasanton. Outdoor warning sirens were sounded twice in Miller and once in Pleasanton.</p>
June	<p>Thunderstorm Watches issued on:</p> <p>June 1<sup>st</sup> at 1428 hours          June 16<sup>th</sup> at 1717 hours          June 18<sup>th</sup> at 2300 hours</p>

	<p>June 20<sup>th</sup> at 1419 hours and 2050 hours  June 27<sup>th</sup> at 1942 hours  June 30<sup>th</sup> at 0102 hours</p> <p>Tornado Watch was issued on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1412 and 1858 hours.</p> <p>Thunderstorm Warnings were issued on:</p> <p>June 1<sup>st</sup> at 1440 hours  June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2013, 2029, 2321 and 2355 hours  June 14<sup>th</sup> at 2006, 2030 2047, 2051, 2111 and 2230 hours  June 20<sup>th</sup> at 1928, 2006, 2057, 2110, 2124, 2148, and 2150 hours.</p> <p>Sirens were sounded in Gibbon due to large baseball sized hail. Hail damage occurred in Gibbon as well as wind damage in Shelton and Gibbon.</p>
<p>July</p>	<p>Thunderstorm Watches issued on:</p> <p>July 7<sup>th</sup> at 1739 hours  July 9<sup>th</sup> at 1741 hours</p> <p>Thunderstorm Warnings were issued on:</p> <p>July 7<sup>th</sup> at 1907, 1911 and 1945 hours  July 9<sup>th</sup> at 1744, 1815, 1846, 1945, 2001 and 2047 hours</p> <p>Tornado Warning was issued on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 1859 hours.</p> <p>Outdoor warning sirens were sounded in Gibbon and Shelton due to large amount hail and a tornado spotted northwest of Gibbon.</p> <p>The following damage was reported:</p> <p>Hail and wind damage occurred in Buffalo county from Ravenna to south of Gibbon.  Crops were destroyed anywhere from 2-10 mile wide swath for over 100 miles through the central part of Nebraska.  Siding, windows and roof damage was reported in Ravenna and Gibbon as well as through rural areas along the path of the storm.  Several out buildings were destroyed.  Four semi-trucks were over turned by the storm and three cows were picked up and thrown onto the interstate from over a quarter mile away.</p>
<p>August</p>	<p>Thunderstorm Watches issued on:</p> <p>August 9<sup>th</sup> at 1503 hours  August 17<sup>th</sup> at 1420 hours  August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1525 hours</p>

	<p>Thunderstorm Warnings were issued on:</p> <p>August 8<sup>th</sup> at 1947, 2053, 2130, 2209, 2235, 2308 and 2345 hours  August 9<sup>th</sup> at 0031, 1945, 2029, 2134 and 2219 hours  August 17<sup>th</sup> 1936, 1947, 2006 and 2017 hours</p> <p>A flashflood Warning was issued on August 9<sup>th</sup> due to large amounts of rain in and around the Kearney area. Approximately 3.5 to 5 inches of rain fell in about a 45 minute time frame. Kearney Streets were flooded, causing significant damage to property homes, businesses and non-profit organizations.</p> <p>As of the end of the month approximately 6.5 million dollars in damage has been recorded in the Kearney area do to the August 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> flooding event. August was a very wet month in 2014.</p>
September	<p>There was a Tornado Watch issued on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 15:33. There was .48 of precipitation recorded on this date. No significant weather was reported.</p>
October	<p>There was a Thunderstorm Watch issued on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 23:53 and Thunderstorm warnings issued on October 1<sup>st</sup> at, 19:42, 20:13 and 23:20 and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 00:16. No significant weather damage was reported.</p>
November	<p>There was no severe weather to report during the month of November.</p>
December	<p>There was no severe weather to report during the month of December. There was two winter weather advisories issued for the Kearney / Buffalo County area for the month.</p>

<b>Emergency Activities 2014</b>	
January	<p>On January 24<sup>th</sup> ice jamming issues were reported by a resident living along the North channel of the Platte River South of Gibbon on Lowell road and Kilgore road.</p> <p>Buffalo County Emergency Management checked the ice jams morning and night every day January 24<sup>th</sup> through January 31 and made the following notifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nebraska Emergency Management</li> <li>• South Platte NRD</li> <li>• National Weather Service (Hastings office)</li> <li>• Buffalo County Sheriff</li> <li>• Kearney Police</li> <li>• Kearney Fire</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided daily updates the Buffalo County Sheriff and the Kearney Police Chief.</li> <li>• Residents living along the North channel of the river were notified and informed of the ice jamming and flooding issues through flood warnings from the NWS, phone conversations with the Emergency Management office, door to door, and face to face notifications, social media through the Emergency Management Facebook page, local media and use of the Buffalo Watch notification system.</li> </ul>
February	<p>Ice Jamming issues continued through February 18<sup>th</sup> along the North channel of the Platte River Southeast of Kearney to Shelton.</p> <p>Buffalo County Emergency Management continued to inspect the river and kept an eye on the ice jamming daily.</p> <p>Emergency notifications using the Buffalo Watch notification system was used to send out flood warnings to the residents along the river.</p> <p>Residents in the Sweetwater area had flood waters around their homes causing many of the residents to take action in protecting property and pets. Many of the residents evacuated their homes for several days until the water receded.</p>
March	No Emergency Management events reported to this office.
April	<p>On Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> at about 0515 hours the Buffalo County Emergency Management Director received a phone call from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency duty officer that an aircraft emergency beacon had been activated in the Kearney area.</p> <p>The Air Force was actively looking for a missing plane in the Kearney area and the Civil Air Patrol had been activated to assist in the search.</p> <p>The Emergency Management Director contacted the Buffalo County dispatch to see if they had any information/reports and briefed them on the information received. Dispatch had no reports at the time.</p> <p>The Plane was later found and determined that the emergency beacon had been left on by the planes air crew.</p> <p>On April 18<sup>th</sup> it was reported to the Buffalo County Emergency Management office of a hazmat spill due to an accident at Amherst and 355<sup>th</sup> roads. A NPPD truck pulling a trailer hauling a diesel powered man lift turned the corner and lost the lift off the trailer. It was determined 33 gallons of diesel was spilt on the roadway and in the ditch. NPPD cleaned the spill with the supervision of a Buffalo County Sheriff deputy.</p> <p>On April 21<sup>st</sup> Buffalo County Emergency Management received a call from NDEQ that Mr. Jim Bamford reported that there was an unknown</p>



	<p>substance spilt/dumped on approximately eight miles of gravel roads near 17<sup>th</sup> and Dove Hill roads Southwest of Kearney. After extensive investigation the substance was determined to be road “rock salt”.</p> <p>Over about a three day period numerous agencies were involved in the investigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buffalo County Sheriff’s Office</li> <li>• Buffalo County Emergency Management Office</li> <li>• Buffalo County Highway Department</li> <li>• Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality</li> <li>• Nebraska Emergency Management Agency</li> <li>• Nebraska Roads Department</li> <li>• City of Kearney Street Department</li> <li>• Kearney Police Department</li> </ul> <p>The substance (salt) was field tested and sent to an independent laboratory for testing. The test came back that the substance was indeed 98.5 percent per salt. There were no traces of any hazardous chemical component within the substance. Pictures were taken of the spillage. It has not been determined whether the spill was accidental or purposeful or who was responsible.</p> <p>All paper work was completed and submitted to the appropriate departments by this office.</p>
May	No Emergency Management events reported to this office.
June	No Emergency Management events reported to this office.
July	No Emergency Management events reported to this office.
August	No Emergency Management events reported to this office.
September	No Emergency Management events reported to this office.
October	No Emergency Management events reported to this office.
November	No Emergency Management events reported to this office.
December	No Emergency Management events reported to this office.

<b>Alerts and Notifications 2014</b>	
January	There were 19 Public Safety Warning test broadcasts recorded for the

	<p>month of January.</p> <p>The NOAA weather repeater at the Atlanta tower was fixed on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. There may be additional antenna issues it is working much better than it has in the past ten months.</p> <p>The Emergency Alerting System that uses the information relayed by the National Weather Service through this repeater should now function properly and receive emergency broadcasts.</p>
February	Sixteen Public Safety Warning test broadcasts recorded for the month of February.
March	<p>Thirteen Public Safety Warning test broadcasts recorded for the month of March.</p> <p>The Emergency Alerting System (SAGE EAS ENDEC) unit developed an issue during the month (sometime after noon on March 7<sup>th</sup>) by resetting the system to January 1<sup>st</sup> 1995.</p>
April	<p>Sixteen Public Safety Warning test broadcasts recorded for the month of April.</p> <p>The Emergency Alerting System (SAGE EAS ENDEC) issue of resetting itself to January 1<sup>st</sup> 1995 has been fixed. The system has a small battery that keeps the date and time. This battery had gone bad. After replacing it with a new battery the system is working properly.</p>
May	Seventeen Public Safety Warning test broadcasts recorded for the month of May.
June	Seventeen Public Safety Warning test broadcasts recorded for the month of June.
July	Twenty Public Safety Warning test broadcasts recorded for the month of July.
August	Eighteen Public Safety Warning test broadcasts recorded for the month of August.
September	Nineteen Public Safety Warning test broadcasts recorded for the month of August.
October	Twenty Public Safety Warning test broadcasts recorded for the month of October.
November	Seventeen Public Safety Warning test broadcasts recorded for the month of November.

December	Twenty Public Safety Warning test broadcasts recorded for the month of December.
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<b>Training Opportunities Sent Out 2014</b>	
January	6
February	3
March	2
April	2
May	2
June	2
July	0
August	2
September	3
October	2
November	1
December	0

<b>2014 Meetings and Events Attended by the Buffalo County Emergency Management Director</b>	
January 8	Monthly Regional Emergency Management CONFAB meeting.
January 8	South Central PET Regional meeting.
January 15	Medical Reserve Corps 2014 strategic planning meeting.
January 16	Health Actions executive board meeting.
January 17	TRIMRS planning meeting.
January 22	Participated in a regional exercise design team meeting.
January 27	Buffalo County Mutual Aid meetings
February 5	Regional Emergency Management CONFAB meeting.
February 5	SCPET meeting.
February 25	State Roads Department planning meeting with Captain Anderson of

	the Buffalo County Sheriff's office.
February 26	Nebraska Association of Emergency Management conference call meeting.
February 26	TRIMRS exercise planning meeting.
February 27	Healthy Actions Executive board meeting at UNK.
March 3	Exercise design team for the development of the Kearney Lake Dam Tabletop exercise in the Emergency Operation Center.
March 5	Emergency Management Regional CONFAB and South Central PET meeting.
March 6	NAEM executive Board meeting held at the Grand Island Holiday Inn.
March 12	Exercise planning meeting at Good Samaritan Hospital with the TRIMRS group.
March 21	TRIMRS meeting.
March 21	Monthly Daily Supervisors of Emergency Management meeting.
March 26	Exercise planning meeting at Good Samaritan Hospital with the TRIMRS group.
March 27	Central District NACO meeting held in Kearney.
April 8	Buffalo County appointed officials meeting.
April 9	Participated in an exercise design team meeting at Good Samaritan Hospital.
April 23	Attended the Buffalo County Safety meeting.
April 23	Participated in an exercise design team meeting at Good Samaritan Hospital.
April 24	Hosted the Kearney Public Schools Security and Safety meeting at the Emergency Operation Center.
April 28	Hosted the NRIN project meeting at the Emergency Operation Center.
May 2	Red Cross and the Salvation Army meeting to go over emergency preparedness plans and shelter operations for the Kearney area.

May 15	TRIMRS exercise design team meeting to continue work on the upcoming full scale exercise.
May 21	Attended the SCPET regional meeting in Lexington.
May 29	Meeting with daily supervisors for a monthly Emergency Management activities update.
June 10	Attended an elected and appointed county budget meeting at the county board room.
June 11	TRIMRS exercise design team meeting.
June 17	Meeting with the Public Education Campaign subcommittee and the contractor to continue development of the "Be Ready Nebraska" webpage and possible new app for tablets, I-pads and smart phones.
June 18	Meeting with the Security and Emergency coordinator for Good Samaritan Hospital on Severe Weather Shelters.
June 25	TRIMRS exercise design team meeting.
June 26	Meeting with Charter Cable representatives to discuss the EAS system being used with charter cable.
June 27	Meeting with representatives of Good Samaritan Hospital and the Medical Reserve Corp. to discuss communications for medical service during cruise night in Kearney.
July 2	Attended the Emergency Management regional CONFAB meeting.
July 2	Attended the South Central PET Regional meeting.
July 16	The South Central MRC executive meeting in Hastings.
July 18	Attended the monthly TRIMRS executive planning meeting.
July 21	Meeting at City Hall with Chief Lynch for a demonstration of the new City of Kearney application.
July 22	Attended a conference call in regards to unfunded or underfunded state mandates.
July 22	Meeting with the budget committee.
July 23	Attended an exercise planning meeting.

July 24	Conducted a Ham radio operator meeting.
August 18	Participated in the NAEM meeting in Grand Island and currently serving as the Vice President of the Association.
August 21	Functional/Full Scale exercise planning meeting for the "Frozen" exercise for Regional Hospitals. KRMC is the primary player in this exercise.
August 22	Met with Amy Elwood from the Two Rivers Public Health Dept. and Chris Gaspari, who is a volunteer that is helping with the functional needs program in Buffalo County (second planning meeting).
August 27	Functional/Full Scale exercise planning meeting for the "Frozen" exercise for Regional Hospitals. KRMC is the primary player in this exercise.
September 3	Attended the South Central PET Regional meeting and the Emergency Management Regional CONFAB meeting. An introduction of the (TIM) training was conducted by the NE State Roads Department.
September 5	Participated in a Functional Needs conference call.
September 9	Attended the first planning meeting of medical surge and EOC integration meeting.
September 16	Meeting with Evon Koeppen from Midwest Medical EMS to discuss Emergency operations during disasters and large scale events. This meeting was our first meeting.
September 17	Attended the CNMRC Executive council meeting as well as attended the City of Kearney requested meeting on the Buffalo County Hazmat Team and Trailer.
September 18	NACO Central District meeting in Grand Island. The meeting this fall was hosted by Franklin County.
September 19	TRIMRS executive board meeting at Good Samaritan Hospital.
October 6	Attended an executive board meeting for the NE Emergency Management Association.
October 10	Buffalo County Payroll briefing educational meeting for upcoming changes in the payroll system.
October 13	Amherst Board meeting for the adoption of the LEOP.



October 14	Buffalo County Board meeting for the adoption of the Buffalo County LEOP.
October 15	MRC meeting in Hastings. New items have been purchased for the Emergency Medical trailer and planning has started for another full scale exercise for the volunteer team members. Local Discussion and Planning has started for a response to the Ebola virus with local and regional partners through the Buffalo County Medical Response Table committee.
October 23	Met with Bill McMullen at his request to discuss Emergency Management/board responsibilities before during and after a disaster. Bill proposed that I conduct a 15 or 20 minute presentation to the board once a month. Bill will discuss this with the rest of the board members and let me know if this will be done.
November 4	Meeting with the United Way to discuss Volunteer coordination and donation management during large scale disasters. These are areas that we need to continue to work on.
November 5	The Regional Emergency Management CONFAB and the South Central PET meeting was held in Aurora this month.
November 18	Conference call with the Cooper Notification representative to discuss IPAWS and CMAS being added to the BuffaloWatch.net notification system. Buffalo County should be live on this system by the end of the year.
November 19	Attended an executive board meeting for the Medical Reserve Corps. This meeting was held in Grand Island. The PPE kits and the Donning and Doffing procedures were reviewed as well as the new Team leader positions and the manuals that accompany each position.
November 20	Meeting with Todd Walton at Fire Station III. This was a good meeting to discuss the Mutual Aid hazmat team and the responsibilities of the fire departments and the emergency management office.
December 2	Meeting with the Central Platte NRD, NEMA and other regional Emergency Managers to review and discuss the Inter-local Ice Jam agreement for the Platte River.
December 3	Regional Emergency Management CONFAB meeting was held in Grand Island.
Dec. 9-12	Attended the NACO conference that was held in Omaha.

December 19	Monthly TRIMRS planning meeting.
December 23	Attended the County Board meeting at the request of County Board Chair.

<b>January 2014</b> <b>Monthly Activities</b>	
✓	Updates, preventive maintenance and testing was conducted three times this month on the Response Unit and the EOC. I met with County IT to work on the new computers to get the printer and cameras to work properly.
✓	ID cards were made throughout the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders. Over 200 ID cards have been made since the first of December.
✓	The BISR bi-annual federal grant reporting tool was completed and submitted to NEMA.
✓	I met with Horizon Middle School officials to ensure their NOAA weather radio was functioning properly as well as complete a severe weather safety walk through.
✓	Much of the months' time was dedicated to working on the Emergency Management Annual report. This report will be completed by the middle of February.
✓	Ice Jam issues started on the North Channel of the Platte River around the Gibbon area on the 24 <sup>th</sup> of this month and continued through the end of the month. Emergency Management has monitored the ice jam and flood throughout this time.
✓	Buffalo County Emergency Management had 13 hours of flex time left to use up at the beginning of the month. In addition, 17 additional hours of flex time was incurred due to weather related events, Platte River flooding, after hour meetings, and weekend events. During this month, 5 hours have been used to leave early or come in a little later during the month, leaving 25 hours left of flex time to be used.

**February 2014**  
**Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted two times this month on the Response Unit and the EOC.
- ✓ ID cards were made throughout the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders. Additional cards were made for the communities of Pleasanton and Ravenna.
- ✓ Assisted the Lincoln County Interim Emergency Manager with the BISR bi-annual federal grant reporting tool this month.
- ✓ I met with Roger Nyffeler to conduct a safety walk through and plans development of a local church in Kearney.
- ✓ Worked to finish the Emergency Management Annual report. This report was completed February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Ice Jam issues started on the North Channel of the Platte River around the Gibbon area on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January and continued through February 18<sup>th</sup>. Emergency Management monitored the ice jam and flooding twice a day during this time. Notifications were made to residents that live and work within the flooding areas.
- ✓ Meeting with NPPD officials to start the Exercise planning process for a tabletop exercise to be held sometime in May.
- ✓ Participated in a COAD presentation at the Salvation Army to help get more organizations and businesses involved in the COAD process.
- ✓ Conducted a tour and Emergency Management presentation to UNK students.
- ✓ Completed the online CJIS training and test this month for the Buffalo County Sheriff's office.
- ✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management had 25 hours of flex time left to use up at the beginning of the month. 4.45 additional hours of flex time was incurred due to weather related events, Platte River flooding, after hour meetings, and weekend events. During this month, I was out of state for a week due to a family illness. All flex time has been used up plus 16 hour of vacation for this time.

**March 2014**  
**Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted three times this month on the Response Unit and the EOC. The Response Unit was used for the Citizens Academy this month. During setup it was discovered that the phone system and the VPN to the LEC were not working properly. I met with City IT for the VPN issue. City IT was able to fix the problem as well as provide two additional backup VPN's for the system. It was discovered that the contract for the VOIP phone was up in addition the power supply was bad for the unit. Sheriff Miller renewed the contract for 5 years and replaced the power supply. Both the VPN and the phone system are back up and running. Someone left Projector number 3 on in the Emergency Operation Center sometime during the month. It now has bright light specs throughout the screen. This is the second projector that has been left on that this has happened to.
- ✓ ID cards were made on three separate days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
- ✓ Assisted the Lincoln County Interim Emergency Manager with the quarterly NEMA Grant Management system as well as the upcoming scheduled NEMA grant audit. We also reviewed several e-mails and documents to determine if they pertained to Emergency Management and if any action was needed.
- ✓ An extensive amount of time was dedicated to working on the five year total rewrite of the Buffalo County Local Emergency Operation Plan. Deadline for this rewrite is June, 2014.
- ✓ A second meeting has been held with NPPD Exercise planning process for a tabletop exercise to be held on May 21<sup>st</sup>. A UNK representative has been added to the exercise planning team.
- ✓ All Tier II reports have been received by the Buffalo County Emergency Management office and has been compiled into a single report. Distribution of the Tier II's and the report will be distributed to all Fire departments, Hazmat Team, Emergency Coordinator for the City of Kearney and the SEPC.
- ✓ Conducted a tour and conducted an Emergency Management presentation to UNK students.
- ✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management started with 0 hours of flex time at the beginning of the month. Throughout the month 7.5 hours of flex time was accumulated through meetings, lunch time not taken on a few days, and staying late after 1700 hours. Three hours of flex time was used during the month for an eye appointment and coming into the office past 0800 hours on a few mornings.

Four hours of vacation time was used during the month. Leaving 4.5 hours of flex time at the end of the month.

## **April 2014 Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted two times this month on the Response Unit (MRU) and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Everything in the MRU and the EOC seem to be working properly.
- ✓ ID cards were made on three separate days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees and Justice Center card holders.
- ✓ Attended the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management conference this month. The Buffalo County Emergency Management Director Darrin Lewis was elected to the position of Vice President of the association. Director Lewis was also awarded the Emergency Management Professional of the Year award for the State of Nebraska.
- ✓ Severe Weather Spotter training was held at the Buffalo County fair Grounds this month with over 110 participants.
- ✓ Work continues on the five year total rewrite of the Buffalo County Local Emergency Operation Plan. Deadline for this rewrite is June 2014.
- ✓ Participated in a workshop to help Hospitals in the TRIMRS region to enhance and develop their evacuation and defend in place plans.
- ✓ A new emergency checklist was completed for the Buffalo County Courthouse by this office. This was about a two week process in the development and completion of this manual.
- ✓ Conducted a tour of the EOC and conducted an Emergency Management presentation to the Kearney Public School administrators and principles.
- ✓ Distributed informational pamphlets on severe weather preparedness to the public and government buildings in Kearney.
- ✓ Conducted a presentation on severe weather preparedness at the Gibbon Legion hall.
- ✓ Homeland Security Equipment grant inventories for Buffalo County agencies were completed, paperwork signed off on and submitted to the regional grant manager this month. Preparing for the grant audits that will take place in May.

- ✓ At the request of Buffalo County Sheriff Miller a new public group has been created in the Buffalo Watch notification system. This group is called YRTC Escape Notification. All citizens that live in the area of YRTC can now sign up for this group and get notified when a Juvenal escapes from YRTC.

- ✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management started with 4.5 hours of flex time at the beginning of the month. Throughout the month 31.5 additional hours of flex time was accumulated through after hour meetings, weather events, spotter training, working on holidays and staying late after 1700 hours. Six hours of flex time was used during the month for an eye appointment and taking my daughter to the airport. Leaving 30 hours of flex time at the end of the month.

**May 2014**  
**Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted two times this month on the Response Unit and the EOC. Everything in the MRU seems to be working properly during these tests. The EOC has two projectors that have gone bad; both projects had been found to be left on. The screens on both projectors have pixelated.

- ✓ Two new projectors have been purchased for the EOC and have been installed to replace the two that have gone bad.

- ✓ New storage shelving have been purchased and received for the EOC. It is planned to put them together over the next month.

- ✓ The MRU was used during the Game and Parks Expo at the Fort Kearney Recreation area on May 8<sup>th</sup> through May 10<sup>th</sup>. The first day the MRU was out at the Expo we lost generator power. I brought out a backup generator and ran the MRU with an external generator through the entire event. After the event was over I took the MRU into Cummings Diesel to have the generator looked at. The issue was a 40.00 regulator that had gone out. While in at Cumming Diesel, I had a complete service done on the vehicle and generator. The bill for generator repair and service as about \$1500.00.

- ✓ ID cards were made on five separate days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.

- ✓ Work continued on the five year total rewrite of the Buffalo County Local Emergency Operation Plan. Deadline for this rewrite is June 2014.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ I have distributed additional informational pamphlets on Severe Weather Preparedness to the public / government building in several of the communities within Buffalo County.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ I conducted a walk through and presentation on severe weather preparedness/safety at the New Life Church in Kearney.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The TRMRS coordinators and I met with and conducted a walkthrough of the new Kearney Surgical Center. We discussed emergency preparedness and the opportunity to add them as an additional clinic in the planning process within the TRMRS region.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Homeland Security Equipment grants audit for Buffalo County agencies was completed with no discrepancies found.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Participated one day of a two day full scale exercise at the Pleasanton Schools, mostly as an observer.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ I lead a table top exercise in conjunction with NPPD and UNK on the Lake Kearney Dam. This exercise was held at UNK there was one representative from Kearney PD and one from Kearney Fire.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A preliminary Emergency Management budget was completed this month so that the 2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant could be completed and submitted to NEMA before the May 16<sup>th</sup> deadline. This grant was submitted to NEMA before the deadline.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Meeting at the EOC with a Wheelchair contractor to get the process started to order and install the wheelchair lift in the EOC stairwell.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Attended the Region 26 Emergency Operations Center open house on May 30th.</li> </ul>

<p><b>June 2014</b></p> <p><b>Monthly Activities</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 3 times this month on the Response Unit and the EOC. Everything in the MRU seems to be working properly during these tests. The two projectors that have gone bad the EOC have been replaced, and the shelving purchased for the storage area have been started to be put together.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ID cards were made on four separate days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The 5 year rewrite of the Buffalo County Local Emergency Operation Plan has been completed by this office submitted to NEMA and has been approved to go to print. This may take a couple of months to get completed as those responsible for sending the LEOP to the state printers are working on tornado damage in several communities of Nebraska at this time.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ New amplifiers have been ordered and installed for the Meadowlark Golf Course siren.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ I conducted an Emergency Management presentation to a local Business group in Kearney on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management started with 32 hours of flex time at the beginning of the month. Throughout the month 42 additional hours of flex time was accumulated through after hour meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends, and staying late after 17:00 hours. 34 hours of flex time was used during the month for personal time. Leaving 40 hours of flex time at the end of the month.</li> </ul>

<p><b>July 2014</b></p> <p><b>Monthly Activities</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times this month on the Response Unit and the EOC. Everything in the MRU seems to be working properly during these tests. In addition the MRU was used during Kearney Cruise night. It was found that the Satellite phone was not working, the issue was tracked down to being a bad power supply. A new one has been ordered.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ I attended the State Veterinarians LEDRS conference on July 8<sup>th</sup>, and assisted the SCPET regional Emergency managers in a three day credentialing, check in and checkout exercise.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ I participated in the Regional THIRA project with the SCPET Regional Emergency Managers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ New storage shelving was put together in the EOC throughout the month. This project has been completed.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Assisted in the oversight of the installation of the new Wheelchair lift in the EOC stairwell.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conducted Damage assessments in Gibbon and Ravenna as well as throughout</li> </ul>

the rural areas on July 10 <sup>th</sup> after the July 9 <sup>th</sup> storms.
✓ ID cards were made on three separate days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
✓ During the Month I worked with the National Weather Service Hastings Office on a Flood Plain Mitigation Project along the Platte River. After several months of planning and working with several agencies, two members of the National Weather Service and myself surveyed the river and the flood plain levels at each bridge location from east to west through Buffalo County. A flood gage was painted on each of the bridges as well as identifying the Flood Stage in each location.
✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management started with 40 hours of flex time at the beginning of the month. Throughout the month 20 additional hours of flex time was accumulated through after hour meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends, and staying late after 17:00 hours. 21.25 hours of flex time was used during the month for personal time. Leaving 38.75 hours of flex time at the end of the month. 24 hours of Funeral Leave was used this month due to the passing of my father in-law.

<b>August 2014 Monthly Activities</b>
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 3 times this month on the Response Unit and the EOC. Everything in the MRU seems to be working properly during these tests. The Satellite phone has been fixed, and the power supply was replaced. The new modem is working well.
✓ The MRU was used in Negotiator training this month. The training worked well; however, the negotiators cannot run their system through the MRU phone system at this time as they need the conversation to be recorded. We are going to look in to how the MRU can accommodate this need.
✓ Damage assessments in and around the Kearney area have been coming in all month for the August 8 <sup>th</sup> flooding, work has been ongoing collecting data, providing information to the general public and submitting information to NEMA.
✓ I conducted an interview with NTV news on the July and August storms. Providing damage report information and informing the public to submit damage reports on the August 8 <sup>th</sup> storms, two Press releases indicated the needed damage reports, and Social media was used and updated as well.
✓ ID cards were made on three separate times during the month for jail volunteers,

service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ During the Month July I worked with the National Weather Service Hastings Office on a Flood Plain Mitigation Project along the Platte. The first part of August I checked the last two bridges for the project. Due to the amounts of rain we have seen in July and August the water level has risen not allowing the completion of this project. As soon as the water goes back down this project is anticipated to be completed in September.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ I conducted an Emergency Management talk to business owners at the Hill Top Mall, on Social Media in emergency management, types of Apps and warnings available within Buffalo County and the City of Kearney for early warning detection.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ After many months of exercise planning for regional hospitals the Frozen exercise was completed. I assisted in conducting this exercise as well as evaluated and participated in the exercise. Kearney Regional Medical Center in Kearney was the Primary player.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management started with 38.75 hours of flex time at the beginning of the month. Throughout the month 24 additional hours of flex time was accumulated through after hour meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends, and staying late after 17:00 hours. In addition, 18 hours of flex time was used during the month for personal time, leaving a total of 41.75 hours of flex time at the end of the month.</li> </ul>

<p><b>September 2014</b></p> <p><b>Monthly Activities</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted three times this month on the Response Unit and the EOC. While conducting updates in the MRU the neutral safety switch broke so a new part was ordered through the EM office. The vehicle was fixed by Chuck and me. The DVR for the cameras in the MRU is not working. Someone turned the unit off for a reason unknown. IT has been contacted to take a look at the DVR when the IT department has time. Digital cable boxes were finally installed in the EOC at the end of the month. The Wheelchair lift in the EOC stairwell is inoperable at this time. Parts have been ordered to fix the unit.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ On Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> the MRU was used during the Old Navy Kids Safety days. Emergency Management participated in the safety day promoting the Response Unit, Emergency preparedness and the importance of and how to put together an Emergency Kit for the home and car.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Damage assessments in and around the Kearney area were compiled and submitted to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Although there was approximately 6.5 million dollars in damage reported, the agency stated that there was not enough damage from the flooding for State and Federal assistance. It is estimated that the 6.5 million dollars is a low number, as many of the residents did not report the damage they sustained.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The NIMSCAST information for the year was completed and submitted to NEMA. The forms show how Buffalo County is NIMS compliant, working towards NIMS compliance, or not in compliance. Some communities and Jurisdictions are doing very well, while others are in need of improvement.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Five year Exercise calendar was updated and submitted to NEMA.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ I conducted follow up interviews with NTV news, several Radio media, and the Kearney Hub on the damage assessments from the July and August storms. In addition, I was on Talk of the Town discussing Emergency Preparedness as September was National Emergency Preparedness month.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ID cards were made on two separate times during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The new updated LEOP's came in, there are about 50 of these plans. I have started distributing these plans throughout the county jurisdictions and emergency management partners.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management started with 41.75 hours of flex time at the beginning of the month. Throughout the month 8.25 additional hours of flex time was accumulated through after hour meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends, and staying late after 17:00 hours. A total of 31 hours of flex time was used during the month for personal time. Leaving 19 hours of flex time at the end of the month.</li> </ul>

<p><b>October 2014</b></p> <p><b>Monthly Activities</b></p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 3 times this month on the Response Unit and the EOC. The DVR in the MRU is still broken and has not yet been replaced; we are in the process of looking for a replacement at this time. The Wheelchair lift in the EOC stairwell was fixed the last part of this month. Both Slingboxes are back in operation thanks to the assistance of the Sheriff.</li> </ul>
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<p>✓ The MRU was used during a Good Samaritan Hospital and ESU training this month.</p>
<p>✓ I conducted an interview with the Kearney Hub on the Notification system called BuffaloWatch.net.</p>
<p>✓ ID cards were made one time during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.</p>
<p>✓ The new updated LEOP's came in, there are about 50 of these plans. I have continued to distribute these plans throughout the county jurisdictions and emergency management partners. There are about 5 more plans that need to be distributed.</p>
<p>✓ I completed the IS coarse 288, Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management.</p>
<p>✓ I attended a Senior Officials All Hazards Preparedness workshop at UNK. Senior Officials within Buffalo County and the City of Kearney were invited to this workshop, County Board Chair Bill McMullan attended.</p>
<p>✓ The Regional SCPET Emergency Managers are working on an Emergency Management Application for Be Ready Nebraska. This contract has been awarded and work on the app is expected to start before the first of the year.</p>
<p>✓ I attended a two day training in Norfolk on Volunteer and Donation Management during a disaster.</p>
<p>✓ Training was set up through this office for first responder agencies with the NE State Roads Department called (TIM) Traffic Incident Management. Four separate trainings were set up I attended one of these trainings.</p>
<p>✓ I participated in a Webinar with the National Weather Service Hastings office this month. The webinar was over changes with the weather service as well as winter weather outlooks.</p>
<p>✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management started with 19 hours of flex time at the beginning of the month. Throughout the month 9 additional hours of flex time was accumulated through after hour meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends, and staying late after 17:00 hours. 2 hours of flex time was used during the month for personal time. Leaving 26 hours of flex time at the end of the month.</p>

**November 2014**  
**Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted two times this month on the Response Unit and the EOC. The DVR in the MRU has been ordered this month and the solid state hard drive has come in.
- ✓ ID cards were made four times during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
- ✓ I conducted an Emergency Management presentation for the Leadership Kearney group. This presentation was on the EOC and emergency management operations.
- ✓ The new updated LEOP's were delivered to Kearney Public schools, Red Cross, United Way and the Community of Elm Creek. Leaving just the Communities and Miller and Riverdale to be delivered.
- ✓ The 6.5 Generator for the Recovery Unit has been taken to Buffalo Power to be fixed. The carburetor was leaking fuel.
- ✓ On November 24<sup>th</sup> it was reported to the Emergency management office that the Platte River south of Gibbon was flooding low land areas do to ice jamming. In checking the river in this area it was found to be high but going down. It was checked over the next several days with continual ice reduction and better flows.
- ✓ Captain Kirkwood and I conducted a walkthrough of the CPS chemical plant in Kearney. This was an annual walkthrough of the facility. Very little had changed maintaining the same chemicals as last year.
- ✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management started with 26 hours of flex time at the beginning of the month. Throughout the month, 4 additional hours of flex time was accumulated through after hour meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends, and staying late after 17:00 hours. A total of 20 hours of flex time was used during the month for personal time. Leaving 10 hours of flex time at the end of the month.

**December 2014**  
**Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted once this month on the Response Unit and twice for EOC. The DVR and the state hard drive for the MRU have come in this month. County IT is working to get his system back

operational.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Shelving, 12 volt battery and five level A hazmat suits have been purchased this month for the Hazmat team out of the Buffalo County Emergency Management Budget. A new battery was also purchased for the Regional emergency management light plant. This light plant is now being stored at the Kearney Fire station 3. The light plant was used during the Gibbon packing plant incident on December 15<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ID cards were made three times during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The 6.5 Generator for the Recovery Unit has been fixed and back at the county garage.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management started with 10 hours of flex time at the beginning of the month. Throughout the month, 1 additional hour of flex time was accumulated through after hour meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends, and staying late after 17:00 hours. 7 hours of flex time was used during the month for personal time. Leaving 4 hours of flex time at the end of the month.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Vacation time was taken from December 26<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015.</li> </ul>

## Notable Items

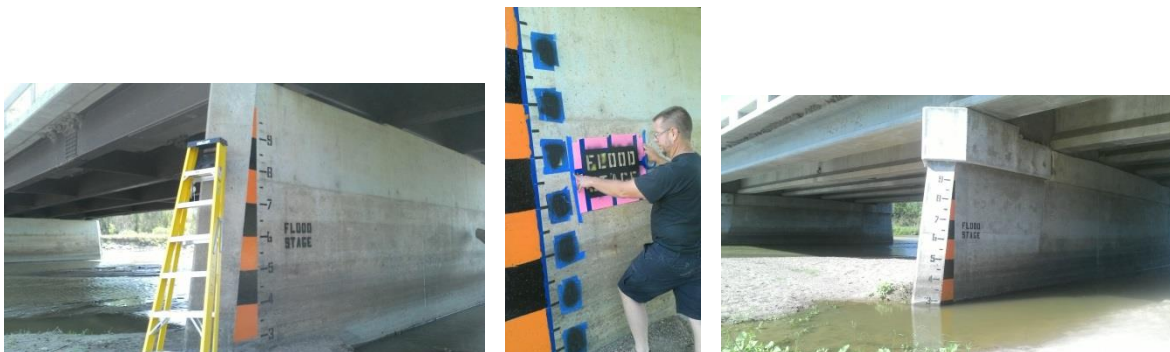
### RESPONSE UNIT ACTIVITIES (MRU)



- On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> the MRU was used during the Game and Parks Fort Kearney Outdoor Expo.
- On July 19<sup>th</sup> the unit was used during the Kearney Cruse Night event.
- On August 26<sup>th</sup> the Unit was used for Negotiator training at the Kearney Fire Training Grounds
- On September 20<sup>th</sup> the Unit was used in conjunction with the Annual Safety Day at the Hill Top Mall
- On October 22<sup>nd</sup> the Unit was used for Emergency Service Unit (ESU) training with Good Samaritan Hospital



## FLOOD GAGE MITIGATION PROJECT



After several month of preplanning with the Nebraska State Roads Department, the National Weather Service Hastings Office Buffalo County received permission to proceed with the flood gage project along the Platte River through Buffalo County. Working with the Hastings Weather Service six locations along the Platte River were surveyed for flood stage and depth elevation. After proper elevation was established depth markers with flood stage were stenciled and painted on six bridges from Shelton to Elm Creek. These gages have already proven useful over the last year.

## NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS



BuffaloWatch.net a system used for cell phone, text, e-mail, and SMS messages for weather notifications, voice and landline phones for GEO notifications and pre-developed group notifications. The system has had 545 new subscribers during the year. A new public notification group was created this year, for notifying subscribed citizens of Escapes from the juvenile center in Kearney (YRTC). There are 204 residents signed up for this group notification. The desk top alert called Buffalo Alert was discontinued this year, throughout the last and prior year the company providing the desk top alert had made several changes and updates to the alert. When doing so they took much of the local flavor from the product we had originally purchase. Much of what the company was offering could be found for free on the internet. Several notifications had been sent out to the systems users letting them know of the discontinuation before the Alert was no longer available. This office did not receive any calls or concerns that this product was no longer being offered.

Buffalo County Emergency Management continues to use and improve social media notifications and information through Facebook and Twitter. The Emergency Management Facebook page now has 947 followers and when emergency's and incidents happen thousands of people within Buffalo County are reached. The page is used for weather notification, educational, planning, preparedness and recovery information. The twitter account is mainly used for weather type notification and only has about 125 individuals and/or groups following at this time.

## EMERGENCY DECLARATION

- January and February 2014 Platte River Flooding Ice Jams



In the North Channel of the Platte River south of Gibbon on Lowell road and Kilgore road west to Sweetwater. Residents living along the North Channel of the river were notified and informed of the ice jamming and flooding issues through the flood warnings from the NWS, phone conversations with the emergency management office, door to door and face to face notifications, social media through the emergency management Facebook page, local media as well as through the use of the [www.BuffaloWatch.net](http://www.BuffaloWatch.net) notification system. Residents in the Sweetwater area had flood waters around their homes causing many of the residents to take action in protecting property and pets. Many of the residents evacuated their homes for several days until the water receded.

- July 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 Hail and Tornado damage from North of Ravenna through South of Gibbon



Sirens were sounded in Gibbon and Shelton this month due to large amount hail and a tornado being spotted northwest of Gibbon. Hail and wind damage occurred in Buffalo county from Ravenna to South of Gibbon. Crops were destroyed anywhere from a two mile to a ten mile swath for over 100 miles through the central part of Nebraska. Siding, windows and roof damage was reported in Ravenna and Gibbon, as well as through rural areas along the path of the storm, several out buildings were destroyed, four semi's were over turned by the storm and three cows were picked up and thrown onto the interstate from over a quarter mile away.

➤ August 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 Flash Flooding In Kearney and Surrounding area



Approximately 3.5 to 5 inches of rain fell in about a 45 minute time frame. Kearney Streets were flooded, causing significant damage to property homes, businesses and non-profit organizations. There was approximately 6.5 million dollars in damage recorded in the Kearney area do to the August 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> flooding event.



## BUDGET

The emergency management budget for the fiscal 2013-14 year stayed under budget. The new fiscal 2014-15 budget was approved by the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee. The Buffalo County Emergency Management Department budget for 2013-14 was \$126,027.00. The 2014-15 approved budget is \$140,105.00 (an additional \$15,000.00 for a total of \$30,000.00 for carry over money for a new emergency management vehicle in the 2014-15 budget years). It is expected that another 15,000.00 will be added to the 2015-16 budget before purchasing a new EM vehicle, this was the only increase in the EM budget this year. Several areas within the budget were reduced while other areas were maintained at a 0% increase.

The EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) for the fiscal year 2013 closed out and the 2014 grant started in June of 2014. This program is designed to reimburse the emergency management budget up to 50%. The total amount funded for the 2013-14 budget year is \$42,723.00. This was only about 34% of the budget for this year. The total amount fund for the 2014-15 budget years is \$37,518.00. Even though local budgets continue to go up the grant (EMPG) continues to go down. Funding for the 2014-15 budget is only 27% this only covers the salaries and benefits of the emergency manager, while in the past office support and equipment were supported by the grant as well.

This office underwent one State Audit in 2014 on Homeland Security Grants, NIMS compliance and the EM budget for the 2013 year. The audit found that all of the paperwork, documentation and equipment were in order. No discrepancies were found by the auditor.

## **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.

## 2015Goals

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. At a minimum of once per month have contact by phone or in person, of which at least half need to be in person, with a Chief or command member of each first responder group in Buffalo County.
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. Re-establish working relationships between Emergency Management and Fire Departments in Buffalo County.
5. Re-evaluate all the training identified and justify why these are imperative and serve the interest of the County. Identify all planned training. Request permission to attend and justify all training to day to day supervisors before attending emergency management training.
6. Hold or participate in at least three exercises in 2015.
7. Continue public education campaign for 2015.
8. Work with the National Weather Service, State Roads Department to order and put Storm Ready Signs up on major highways at the borders of Buffalo County.
9. Work with the Sheriff and the Kearney Police Chief to develop a table top exercise for both agencies.
10. Continue working on the process of creating a full-time EM Deputy position (Plans Review Specialist, Volunteer Coordinator, CERT and LEPC coordinator, and NIMS manager).



Lastly I would like to take the opportunity to toot my own horn if I may. It is not something that I'm good at or do very often, but felt it important enough to list in this report. The Buffalo County Emergency Management Director was nominated and awarded the Emergency Management Professional of the Year for the State of Nebraska through the Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers. It is the Second time I have received this award in ten years and is very much appreciated for the recognition of my hard work and dedication over the years by my peers.



Darrin Lewis,  
Buffalo County Emergency Management

