



BUFFALO COUNTY / CITY OF KEARNEY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

2016 SUMMARY



“2016”

**SOME SAY IT WAS A QUIET YEAR,
KIND OF DEPENDS ON WHO YOU ARE**

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 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 2016, the Director sent 11 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 2016

- State wide tornado drill-exercise
- Severe Weather Spotter Training
- Ice Jam Workshop
- Intergraded Weather Team Workshop
- Elm Creek School Drinking and Driving Full Scale Exercise
- Pandemic Flu Functional Exercise
- UNK Functional Exercise
- Everbridge notification training
- (SNS) Strategic National Stockpile Tabletop Exercise

STATE / FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

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

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

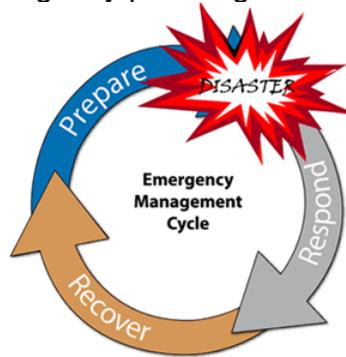


REPORTS

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 all Buffalo County Fire Departments the Buffalo County Hazmat Team and 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)

Twelve 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:

- Darling Ingredients Inc. (Ravenna)
- KAAPA Ethanol plant (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)
- Nutra-Flo-Company (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. Due to the radiation accident in 2015 at Carlsbad New Mexico there were no radioactive transports through Nebraska in 2015 or 2016. Last noted the issues at Carlsbad have been taken care of and transportation of Radiation shipments will resume in 2017.



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 operational 6 different times during 2016 three times for winter weather events, once for a Tornado watch and twice for Thunderstorm warnings. The Backup Dispatch Center was only operational once during a tornado watch in 2016.

Monthly tests of the alarm radios, pagers and outdoor warning systems were conducted throughout the year. Preventative 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.

2016 Emergency Management Overview

This is an overview of the 2016 annual report and its purpose is to highlight the major activities of the Buffalo County / City of Kearney Emergency Management office.

Test of Emergency Warning Systems (Alarm radios, pagers and outdoor sirens)	
01-07-2016	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. With the exception of the UNK CTE siren not working.
02-04-2016	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. With the exception of the UNK CTE siren not working.
03-03-2016	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. Multiple testing was conducted on the UNK Centennial towers siren by Platte Valley Communications.
04-07-2016	Annual preventive maintenance checks were conducted on the Kearney sirens. The controller panel was replaced on the UNK Centennial siren, a new relay was needed for the 11 th and M siren, and a number of other sirens had blown fuses that needed replaced. The Siren on 64 th and 4 th started going off at about 03:30 in the morning after getting a call from dispatch I located the siren and shut it down by pulling the power to it. The Siren ran for about 1 hour before it was shut down. Platte Valley communications was asked to look at this siren.
05-05-2016	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.
06-02-2016	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.
07-07-2016	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens function as they should.
08-04-2016	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. With the exception of the siren at Cotton Mill Lake did not sound
09-01-2016	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. The Siren at 64 th and 4 th Ave. was fixed; the rotator motor had gone bad. A new motor was installed by Noller Electric.
10-06-2016	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.

11-03-2016	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.
12-01-2016	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.

2016 Kearney Area Precipitation				
	Monthly Rain	*Monthly Snow	2016 Rain Total	2016 Snow Total
January	.00"	**6"	.00"	6"
February	.05"	22"	.05"	28"
March	.22"	15"	.27"	43"
April	5.22"	0"	5.49"	43"
May	1.03"	0"	6.52"	43"
June	0.43"	0"	7.01"	43"
July	2.07"	0"	9.09"	43"
August	1.03"	0"	10.12"	43"
September	.60"	0"	10.72"	43"
October	.10"	0"	10.82"	43"
November	.62"	0"	11.44"	43"
December	.35"	0"	11.79"	43"
<p>*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.</p>				

2016 High and Low Temperatures					
Month	High	Low	High Average	Low Average	Overall Average
January	57	-8	38	20	29
February	72	10	46	25	36
March	81	16	60	31	46
April	81	27	64	40	52
May	84	34	71	48	60
June	99	48	88	62	75
July	99	57	87	65	76
August	93	50	85	63	74
September	95	32	79	55	67
October	82	28	72	43	57
November	77	21	57	33	45
December	55	-13	38	15	27

Weather Activity 2016

January	There was no severe weather to report during the month of January.
February	There was a winter weather watch issued on January 31 st and a Winter Blizzard Warning was issued for February 1 st and 2 nd . The Kearney area received anywhere from 15 to 22 inches of snow. 22 inches in the Kearney area was the most recorded in Buffalo County while the least amount of snow recorded was in the Miller area ranging from 10 to 12 inches. There were sustained winds of 40 mph with 50 mph gusts. The county Roads department reported several drifts over the roads of 12 feet or more with one drift over 20 feet high. This storm closed every state highway in and out of Buffalo County and closed more than 100 miles of interstate 80 for 32 hours.
March	There was a high wind warning issued at 05:02 on the 23 rd . There was a winter weather warning issued on March 23 rd . The Kearney area received approximately 4 inches of snow. There were sustained winds of 27 mph with 45 mph gusts. This storm closed interstate 80 west bound from Grand Island into Wyoming. At the request of Wyoming the interstate was closed at Big Springs at 09:00 am on the 23 rd , it closed at Kearney at 5 PM and at Grand Island at 7 PM. Due to all the interstate traffic coming into the Kearney area the hotels filled up quickly, Buffalo County Emergency Management in conjunction with the Red Cross opened a shelter in Kearney. The Interstate was reopened by 05:00 am on the 24 th . There was a Thunderstorm warning for the Gibbon and Shelton area on the 29 th at 06:56. No damage reported from these storms.
April	There was a Thunderstorm warning on the 26 th at 19:36 and a Tornado Watch at 19:58 on the 26 th . No damage reported from this storm however with 5 plus inches of rain fall in the west half of the county a Flood Warning was issued for the Turkey creek area from Elm Creek to Kearney for April 26 th through the 28 th . Several roads were covered and had flood waters running over the roadways including highway 30 one mile east of Elm Creek.
May	There were Thunderstorm watches on the 8 th at 17:00, 9 th at 18:25, 24 th at 23:04, 25 th at 20:32 and the 30 th at 15:21, Thunderstorm warnings on the 8 th at 20:14, 10 th at 19:25, 25 th at 00:18 and the 30 th at 20:46 and a Tornado Watch at 13:58 on the 26 th . 4 funnel clouds were spotted north and west of Kearney on May 9 th , the funnel cloud spotted west of Kearney briefly touched down in an open field north of Odessa.

	<p>No damage reported from these storms.</p> <p>The Platte River saw increasing flows and high water due to Kingsley Dam releases and increased snow melt from the South Platte.</p> <p>A Flood Warning was issued on May 12th along the Platte River Odessa to Shelton which continued through the month.</p>
June	<p>There were Thunderstorm watches on the 28th at 20:50 Thunderstorm warnings on the 17th at 19:33, and 19:38. Significant weather advisory was issued on the 28th at 11:45.</p>
July	<p>There were Thunderstorm warnings on the 5th at 17:56, the 6th at 23:14 and 23:31, the 7th at 00:04 and on the 27th at 01:26 and 20:08. High winds caused some tree and minor damage to property during the storm on the 27th to include trees being blown over and one property on the highway 183 county line sustaining roof damage.</p>
August	<p>There were Thunderstorm warnings on the 11th at 19:27, and on the 12th at 01:37. No damage reported due to thunderstorms.</p>
September	<p>There were Thunderstorm watches on the 9th at 19:32 and the 15th at 17:16 Thunderstorm warnings on the 9th at 19:32, and on the 15th at 20:07, 20:34 and 20:52</p> <p>Flash Flood Warning was issued on the 15th at 22:35 for northeast Buffalo County. No damage reported due to thunderstorms.</p>
October	<p>There was no severe weather to report during October.</p>
November	<p>There was no severe weather to report in November for Buffalo County. There were two thunderstorms recorded in Buffalo County on the 22nd and the 27th, neither of the storms were at sever levels. The thunderstorm on the 27th produced tornados in Franklin, Nuckolls and Clay counties.</p>
December	<p>There was a Thunderstorm warning issued on December 25th at 12:27 for the East half of the county. Around 12 noon areas just west of Kearney from the southern county line to a mile north of Riverdale along 30th Ave about a mile wide received 80 plus mph winds. There was damage reported in this area from snapped off trees, 2 blown over pivots, blown off shingles, trailers blown over, camper trailer destroyed, and small building being blown over. Two semis were blown over on the interstate near Kearney and Shelton. Two tornados were accounted for in Nebraska on Christmas day, one in Phelps/Kearney Counties and one in Buffalo County. The Buffalo County tornado was estimated at an EF0 with 85 mph winds. This tornado was northwest of Gibbon that knocked over 2 pivots caused shingle and roof damage to homes and destroyed</p>

	a large garage/pole type building at Blue Sky Estates. While there was no watch or warning given an advisory was put out for icy conditions in Buffalo county on December 16 th . Slick conditions caused several accidents on with in Buffalo County and on the interstate to include 3 vehicle roll overs.
--	---

Emergency Activities 2016	
April	Semi/Car fatality accident west of Kearney on Highway 30 caused a diesel fuel spill on April 5 th 2016. Buffalo county hazmat team was dispatched to mitigate the spill. Spill was caused by a ruptured fuel tank.
May	Natural Gas Leak at a road construction site near the courthouse forced the courthouse not to open until 10:00 AM on the morning of May 27 th 2016. This office was not called for assistance for plume information, or public shelter in place or evacuation. Buffalowatch was used to notify Buffalo County employees that the courthouse would not open until 10 am.
August	<p>On August 8th there was a report of a fuel spill at 108 2nd Ave Kearney at the Speedy Mart. Over 400 gallons was lost while filling the Speed Mart fuel storage tanks from a delivery truck. Kearney Fire responded to the incident, fuel was shut off by the operator. The Speedy Mart was closed for a short time for mitigation of the spill, Kearney Streets Department assisted with sand to absorb the fuel. This office completed reports contacted the NDEQ, NEMA and spoke with the spilling party to inform them of their obligations for notifications and clean up. Clean up took place the following Monday and Tuesday.</p> <p>On August 23rd it was reported to this office by a Buffalo County Deputy there had been a one vehicle accident involving a Warner construction truck that that drove into the ditch and rolled onto its side at 62nd and 18th street west of Kearney on August 22nd. A concerned citizen reported that the truck had lost a lot of deasil fuel during the incident that was contaminating the ditch and Turkey creek. After some investigation it was discovered that the State Patrol had handled the call, and there had been no fire department response. NDEQ had not been contacted by the State Patrol but had been contacted by the concerned citizen. After a number of interviews it was determined that the vehicle while did lose some old recovered asphalt from the construction site, no fuel or hazardous materials had been spilt into the ditch or into the Turkey Creek.</p>

September	September 23 rd there was a bad semi/two car accident on the interstate just east of the Gibbon interchange in the west bound lanes near the Windmill Recreation area, Gibbon Fire, Shelton Fire, Kearney Fire, Good Samaritan EMS, Buffalo County Sheriff's office, the State Patrol and the Buffalo County Hazmat team responded to the incident. This incident was a multi fatality incident that started a fire in the vehicles and on the interstate that then affected the Windmill park recreation area. Campers and visitors were evacuated from the rec area for a short time until the fire in the rec area was under control. After the semi was rolled back over it caused a hazmat spill of 100 gallons or more of diesel fuel, with fuel tanks continuing to leak, that Hazmat team was called out to mitigate the fuel leak.
December	There were two Hazmat spills this month both Diesel fuel one from a stationary above ground 1000 gallon tank at 62 nd and Ave. N in Kearney. The other was on the interstate and caused by slick roads. A semi was flipped on its side and leaked fuel onto the interstate and road ditch. All appropriate contacts and notifications were made by this office.

Training Opportunities Sent Out 2016	
January	0
February	2
March	2
April	0
May	1
June	2
July	1
August	2
September	1
October	0
November	0
December	0

**2016 Meetings and Events Attended by the
Buffalo County Emergency Management Director**

January 6	I attended the CONFAB meeting and the SCPET meeting they were held at in Kearney this month.
January 14	I attended a Central Platte NRD Ice Jam Planning meeting in Grand Island. This Interlocal is being completely redone.
January 25	I attended the Buffalo County Mutual Aid meeting.
January 27	I hosted the Emergency Medical table planning meeting at the EOC.
February 10	I held a NAEM executive board meeting in Grand Island.
February 22	I attended and Ice Jam Interlocal meeting in Grand Island, Emergency Management met with NEMA, CPNRD, and the Corp. of engineers.
March 2	I attended the EM CONFAB / SCPET Regional meeting it Axtell, Sherriff Miller and Chief Lynch road over and attended the meeting as well.
March 7	I held a NAEM executive board meeting in Columbus this meeting was held in Columbus to conduct a walkthrough of the hotel for the conference in April.
March 16	A regional Medical Reserve Corp. meeting was held at the Emergency Operation Center in Kearney.
March 17	I attended the Spring Central District NACO meeting in Grand Island.
April 6	I held a NAEM executive board meeting and a NAEM General Membership meeting in Columbus.
April 15	I attended a TRIMRS meeting at Good Samaritan hospital.
April 19	I attended a (CNRI) Central NE Region for Interoperability Interlocal meeting in Holdrege.
April 25	I attended the Buffalo County Mutual Aid meeting at Kearney fire station 1.
April 27	A planning meeting was held for the Buffalo County Medical Table at the EOC.
May 4	I attended the South Central PET Regional meeting in Grand Island and

	attended the Buffalo County Quarterly Safety meeting.
May 10 / 16	I attended two Buffalo County budget meetings.
May 18	I attended an MRC executive board meeting in Hastings.
May 25	A monthly planning committee meeting was held for the Buffalo County EOC Medical table plan.
June 1	The Regional Emergency Management CONFAB meeting was held in Grand Island.
June 7	An MRC meeting was held to discuss the need for a new medical director and the purchase of a tow vehicle (old ambulance) for the MRC response.
June 10	I attended a Lower Loup NRD / JEO hazard Mitigation plan rewrite meeting in Ord. Buffalo counties Ravenna and Pleasanton are in this plan. The rest of the southern communities are in the Central Platte plan.
June 14	I attended the Central Platte NRD / JEO Hazard Mitigation plan rewrite in Grand Island for the southern communities in Buffalo County. At this meeting it was decided to incorporate Ravenna and Pleasanton into the Central Platte plan so that emergency management does not have to maintain two separate plans.
June 22	The Buffalo County medical table planning meeting was held at the EOC. We started to identify all the medical community in Kearney, their space and stuff they have for emergency response.
June 24	A planning group met for the second time to start the development of plans for emergency medical transport during a disaster.
June 28	The emergency management office hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC from 10 am to 4 pm.
July 6	I attended the Regional CONFAB and the south Central PET regional meeting in Aroura.
July 8	I met with the National Weather Service in the EOC to go over event driven weather support. I signed up for several upcoming events for weather briefing to include the County Fair.
July 12	I met with the county board to get approval for the new contract with the Everbridge notification system and the MOU agreement update with Two Rivers Public Health department.

July 14	I met with City of Kearney officials and the contractor JEO to work on the 5 year rewrite of the hazard mitigation plan. I also attended a multi community/town hall meeting with JEO to work on the 5 year rewrite of the Hazard Mitigation plan for all communities in Buffalo County other than Kearney.
July 15	I met with Jim Davis UNK PD chief to talk about UNK emergency Management. Jim was looking for help and direction for the EM program now what Michelle Hamaker is no longer with UNK. Ted Eichholz a UNK PD officer will be handling most of the EM duties for UNK.
July 16	I hosted the Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC.
July 20	I hosted the MRC/TRMRS executive board meeting at the EOC.
July 21	The (COAD) Community Organizations Active in Disasters group met at the EOC to discuss assistance for displaced residents from the Stratford apartment fire.
July 25	I attended the Buffalo County Mutual Aid meeting at Kearney fire station 1. Election of officers was to take place however there was not a quorum, no official business could be conducted.
July 27	The Monthly EOC medical table planning meeting was held at the EOC.
August 2	I hosted the NRIN meeting in the EOC.
August 3	I attended the Emergency Management CONFAB meeting that was held in Grand Island.
August 4 / 24	A CNMRC working meeting was held at the EOC, this meeting was held to finalize the 501c3 status, bylaws, and appoint new board members for the MRC. I was appointed the President of this group. The development of other policies for the MRC has been started such as conflict of interest, travel, etc.
August 12	The MRC group met with the South Heartland Public Health Director to set the process in motion to get the SHPH to release the MRC grant funds that it had been housing for the group prior to the 501c3 status.
August 17	I hosted the Amateur radio MRC/ARES meeting in the EOC.
August 19	I participated in the TRIMRS monthly steering council meeting, and had a conference call meeting with NACCHO to discuss the transfer of the MRC grant funds to the MRC bank account.

August 22	I met with Kearney Fire, Jason Whalen and Kelly Harden, to talk about the Statewide Credentialing cards. Kearney fire is going to move to these ID cards for identification, NIMS based standards and credentials, accountability, and Mutual Aid calls. Emergency Management has already input all the Kearney fire personally in the ID system and has started identifying, NIMS credentials for each member.
September 2	I attended a MRC meeting in Hastings to move the 501c3 status forward.
September 6	I attended a TRIMRS Emergency Medical Transportation planning meeting.
September 7	I attended the SCPET Regional meeting in Holdrege.
September 15	I attended the Central District meeting in Aroura.
September 16	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC.
September 17	I hosted the Amateur radio meeting
September 21	I hosted the MRC bi-monthly meeting at the EOC and attended the Pipeline meeting in Holdrege.
September 24	I hosted a regional amateur radio meeting at the EOC for the Hastings, Grand Island and Kearney club representatives.
September 28	I hosted the Buffalo County Medical Table planning meeting at the EOC.
September 29	I met with a potential Emergency Management volunteer at the EOC.
October 5	I attended the Monthly CONFAB meeting in Grand Island.
October 13	I attended the second working meeting for the Hazard mitigation planning for Buffalo County.
October 15	I hosted the Amateur radio meeting at the EOC.
October 24	I attended Mutual Aid meeting held at Kearney Fire Station 1.
October 26	I attended a planning meeting at the EOC for the Buffalo County Emergency Medical table.
October 31	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC.
November 1	I participated in the closeout transition webinar meeting for the

	Everbridge notification system.
November 2	I participated in a Mass Fatality meeting/seminar in Grand Island.
November 3	I attended the South Central PET Regional meeting and the regional CONFAB meeting in Lexington.
November 15	I met with city of Kearney reps to review and work on the Chemical Transportation Hazard section of the Hazard Mitigation plan.
November 16	I attended the end of year meeting for the Medical Reserve Corp. where I received a certificate of Achievement award for being an active part of the MRC for 10 years. I also participated in a NWS webinar for the first winter "storm" information meeting.
November 19	I hosted the Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC.
November 23	I attended the Buffalo county medical table planning meeting at the ECO.
December 14	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC.

January 2016 Monthly Activities	
✓	Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 3 times during the month on the Response Unit and on the EOC. Everything seemed to work good during these tests and updates.
✓	ID cards were made on 4 different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
✓	ID cards were delivered to Pleasanton on January 12th.
✓	I made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
✓	I participated in 2 winter weather webinars with the National Weather Service on January 29th and 31st.
✓	I conducted 1 EOC tour/EM presentation for a number of South Korean national students for UNK.

**February 2016
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times during the month on the Response Unit and on the EOC. Everything seemed to work good during these tests and updates.
- ✓ ID cards were made on 2 different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
- ✓ I made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
- ✓ Buffalo county Emergency Management along with the (NWS) National Weather Service and (NAEM) Nebraska Association of Emergency Management sponsored the first annual Intergraded Weather Team workshop in Kearney. This was an all-day event at the Buffalo County Fair Grounds.
- ✓ I conducted 1 EOC tour/EM presentation for IT/networking students from UNK.
- ✓ I conducted a presentation on Emergency Management to the Criminal Justice students from UNK at UNK.
- ✓ Several Web solutions for webinars and web meetings were reviewed and tested during the month; more reviews and testing were also conducted in March before a product was decided on.

**March 2016
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times during the month on the Response Unit and on the EOC. Everything seemed to work good during these tests and updates.
- ✓ ID cards were made on 3 different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders. I went out to the Highway department on March 1st to do ID cards for a number of new employees.
- ✓ EM Annual report completed this month, it was sent to print, posted on the Buffalo County webpage, and sent to the deputy overseeing the sheriff's office annual report so he can pull items out of the EM report for the Sheriff's office annual report.
- ✓ I went to the State Capital on March 9th for the Governors Severe Weather Awareness proclamation, as well as to present and acknowledge the four severe weather poster contest winners.
- ✓ I made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
- ✓ I hosted a winter weather webinar in the EOC for the city of Kearney and Buffalo county partners.
- ✓ Statewide Tornado drill was conducted on Thursday March 24th; this drill was postponed one day due to the winter weather on the 23rd.
- ✓ A Severe Weather spotter class was held March 30th at the Buffalo County Fair Grounds there were 80 in attendance.

**April 2016
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times during the month on the Response Unit and on the EOC. Everything seemed to work good during these tests and updates.
- ✓ ID cards were made on 4 different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
- ✓ I made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
- ✓ The 3rd quarter EMPG grant report and reimbursement request was sent into NEMA during the month.
- ✓ I attended a 3 day NAEM conference this month, I turned over the NAEM presidency to the incoming president during this conference and now sit as the past president for NAEM.
- ✓ I participated in the Elm Creek, DWI / high school full scale exercise on the 11th.
- ✓ I conducted an EM/EOC presentation to UNK students at the EOC.
- ✓ Buffalo Watch owned by Eaton's corporation has partnered with Everbridge notification systems. Buffalowatch.net will be moving to the Everbridge platform in the near future. I have sat through two of several more webinars to come over the last month.
- ✓ I conducted six interviews with TV, radio and newspaper, on emergency preparedness, storm flooding and YRTC escape notifications.
- ✓ I participated in a Functional exercise for Pan Flu at Good Samaritan hospital. Included in this area exercise were 23 counties, 19 hospitals, and 16 emergency management agencies.
- ✓ I assisted in the Medication take back program on the 30th of the month, I took the MRU to the hospital and set it up. I stayed for the program and helped with tagging and packaging the medication back at the (LEC) Law Enforcement Center.

**May 2016
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times during the month on the Response Unit and on the EOC. Everything seemed to work good during these tests and updates. The EOC was opened 2 times for weather this month.
- ✓ The MRU was used during the annual Game and Parks Expo at the Fort Kearny recreation area May 5th, 6th and 7th. The unit was used for interoperable communications between State Game and Parks, Kearney Fire, Sheriff's Office and Good Samaritan EMS as well as situational awareness and severe weather updates.

✓ ID cards were made on 3 different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
✓ I made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
✓ The 2016 EMPG grant request and Quarterly worksheet was completed and submitted to NEMA during the month.
✓ The Emergency Management budget was completed and submitted to the Budget committee this month.
✓ I participated in a UNK Functional exercise May 11th by being the lead controller for the simulation room.
✓ I conducted 1 interview with the Kearney Hub newspaper, on weather and siren activation due to funnel clouds spotted north and west of Kearney.

June 2016 Monthly Activities
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times during the month on the Response Unit and on the EOC. There was an issue with the VoIP phone, the internet Satellite and the Dish network in the MRU all three items were fixed through some trouble shooting.
✓ ID cards were made on 2 different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
✓ I made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
✓ The 2015 4th quarter EMPG grant reimbursements and Quarterly report was completed this month.
✓ I met with the NEMA grant monitor to review the 2015 EMPG grant process in the Buffalo County Emergency Management office. No discrepancies were found during the audit.
✓ A final draft of the Emergency Management budget was completed and resubmitted to the Assistant administrator's office based off of the changes requested by the board.

July 2016 Monthly Activities
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 3 times during the month on the Response Unit and on the EOC. All the EOC computers were updated to windows 10, a new printer was added to the resource center, and printers were added to all the computers for all the log on screens. Dish network changed the way they send the signal for the dish antennas. This made the Kingdome antenna nonfunctioning. A new system was purchased through Platte Valley Communications.

✓ I assisted in the setup of the MRU for the Kearney Cruse night.
✓ Updates and revision of the LEOP were started during the month.
✓ Major outside events in the county were added to the NWS event driven weather reports. Each day I provided event weather information to the fair board for the County fair.
✓ The 5 year updates for the Buffalo County/NRD Hazard mitigation plans were started during the month. I have attended several meetings to get with JEO and community leaders to get this process started.
✓ ID cards were made on 2 different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders. I also started working on the statewide credentialing cards for Elm Creek Gibbon and Kearney Fire departments.
✓ I made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.

August 2016 Monthly Activities
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times during the month on the Response Unit and on the EOC. Installation was completed for the new Dish network system, this included removal of the old Kingdome antenna, antenna wiring, Dish receiver and cabling. The New Pathway antenna and two Wally receivers were installed and activated. In addition the old TV's were removed and new 24" smart TV's were installed with new mounts.
✓ New ID cards/Statewide Credentialing cards were started for Gibbon, Kearney and Elm Creek all personnel have been put in the system. We are now waiting for pictures for each person to complete the cards. Additional ID cards were made during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders. I have also started working on the statewide credentialing cards for Elm Creek Gibbon and Kearney Fire departments.
✓ I made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel. .
✓ I participated in a Saturday event for the Children's Museum called Roadway Hero's. This was a big truck/equipment event for young kids. I set up the MRU for the event. This was a good event and was well attended.
✓ I participated in a Public Health Tabletop Exercise for the SNS system for Emergency Management and Public Health. This exercise was held here in Kearney. I was the only one from Kearney that attended.

**September 2016
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times during the month on the Response Unit and on the EOC. Dish Network shut off one of the receivers and it took quite a while to get it functioning again.
- ✓ ID cards were made on four different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders. I also continue to work on the statewide credentialing cards for the fire departments within the county.
- ✓ I have made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
- ✓ I participated in a Pipeline Workshop Exercise while attending the Pipeline association meeting.
- ✓ I participated in the Talk of the Town radio program to discuss Emergency Preparedness month.
- ✓ Everbridge training was contacted twice during the month, additional training will continue through webinars as we move forward in the switch over from the old notification system to the new notification system.
- ✓ I participated in a "MyEM-APP" webinar for our regional Be Ready Nebraska APP. This webinar was to go over the improvements and add new features to the APP.
- ✓ I picked up the TRIMRS Medical/Hospital response trailer from Lexington and brought it to Kearney for storage. This trailer is to provide additional resources to hospitals and or outside hospitals at alternate locations, this is one of two we have in the TRIMRS region.
- ✓ I picked up some additional tarps from USA Outdoor. These tarps can be used to cover damage to homes, out building, vehicles, etc. after a disaster. They would be given to the public for free as long as they lasted.

**October 2016
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times during the month on the Response Unit and on the EOC. Dish Network shut off one of the receivers again. It takes quite a while to get it functioning again, so I have purchased a new Dish to put outside the garage where the unit is stored to help prevent this from happening.
- ✓ Started working on homeland security inventory from 2008 to 2016. Most of the equipment that needs to be inventoried is MTD type I-pads from law enforcement.
- ✓ I completed planning documents for the hazmat mitigation plan for Buffalo County and sent them off to the contractor.
- ✓ I met with a couple different potential volunteers for Emergency management this month at the EOC.

✓ ID cards were made on three different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders. I also continue to work on the statewide credentialing cards for the fire departments within the county.
✓ I made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
✓ I participated in two more Everbridge webinar trainings during the month and in addition, I have trained a number of "USERS" for the system so they can send messages to their authorized groups. The New system went live on the 31st of the month.

November 2016 Monthly Activities
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times during the month on the Response Unit and on the EOC.
✓ The homeland security equipment inventory from 2008 to 2016 was completed and submitted to the regional fiscal agent this month.
✓ An MRC volunteer training was held at Yanney Park on the 5th.
✓ ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
✓ I made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
✓ Additional funding request and documents were completed for the 2015 EMPG grant. This brought additional reimbursement funds into the county at about 20,000.00 dollars.
✓ I attended the Ravenna school active shooter seminar put on by the Buffalo County Sheriff's Office.
✓ I conducted a presentation for Leadership Kearney on the 9th and to UNK students on the 17th over the EOC and Emergency Management.

December 2016 Monthly Activities
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times during the month on the Response Unit and on the EOC.
✓ ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
✓ I attended the NACO convention the 14th through the 16th held here in Kearney.
✓ I made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.

Notable Items

RESPONSE UNIT ACTIVITIES (MRU)



- On April 30th, The MRU was used for the Medication take back program in the parking lot of Good Samaritan Hospital. THE MRU was also used in a Scout out day during a presentation.
- On May 5th, 6th and 7th the MRU was used during the Game and Parks Fort Kearney Outdoor Expo.
- On June 13th the MRU and Emergency Management participated in an all-day Trucks and Heroes of the road event put on by the Children's Museum.
- On July 16th the unit was used during the Kearney Cruise Night event.
- The MRU was also used during a number of presentations throughout the year for UNK students for Safety classes, UNK Leadership, and networking IT preceptorial classes.

NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS



There have been big changes in the BuffaloWatch notifications system this year. During the first part of the year the company that we had, (Cooper Notification) informed Emergency Management that they had partnered with the Everbridge Company and that our notification system would have to switch from the "RSAND" platform to the Everbridge platform. During the transition there were some growing pains but overall the transition went pretty smooth. I attended a number of webinar training sessions, and

then trained the users, i.e. group managers and notification senders. Most that have been trained have liked the new system and felt it was much easier to use.

The new BuffaloWatch system provides the same type of notifications as the old system provided through cell phone, text, e-mail, SMS messages for weather notifications, voice and landline phones for GEO notifications and pre-developed group notifications, and is IPWAS and CMAS capable. One big change in the system is that there is no longer a charge for voice calls from the system.

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 1799 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 186 individuals and/or groups following at this time.



The emergency management budget for the fiscal 2015-16 year stayed under budget. The new fiscal 2016-17 budget was approved by the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee. The Buffalo County Emergency Management Department budget for 2014-15 was \$146,492.00. The 2015-16 approved budget was \$111,682.00 The budget was reduced by \$34,810.00. This was due to the purchase of a new emergency management vehicle in the prior budget that was not included in the current budget. The vehicle line item had \$5,000.00 put in it to increase by 5000.00 each year in an escrow/roll over account for future replacement vehicles.

The EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) for the fiscal year 2015 closed out and the 2016 grant started in June of 2016. This program is designed to reimburse the emergency management budget up to 50%. The total amount funded for the 2015-16 budget year is \$45,054. This was only about 35% of the budget for this year.

This office underwent one State Audit in 2016 on Homeland Security Grants, NIMS compliance and the EM budget for the 2015 year. The audit found that all of the paperwork, documentation and equipment were in compliance. No discrepancies were found by the auditor.



Darrin Lewis,
Buffalo County Emergency Management

