



**BUFFALO COUNTY / CITY OF KEARNEY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE
2017 SUMMARY**



**"2017"
THE CIRCLE OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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 Commissioners 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 Commissioners 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.

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, 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 only one EOC operations was operational through a full operational period. The Emergency Operation Center was opened 4 different times for weather type events and once for a full operational period for the Solar Eclipse.

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 2017, the Director sent 6 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 2017

- State wide tornado drill-exercise
- Severe Weather Spotter Training
- Pandemic Flu Functional Exercise
- UNK Functional Exercise
- Amateur Radio Communications Full Scale Exercises (2)
- Evacuation Plan Seminars (7)
- Surge Exercise for Hospitals statewide
- Mobile Hospital Exercise workshop and full scale
- Statewide Tracking and Credentialing workshop
- Good Samaritan Tabletop
- MRC Stop the Bleed/Hands only CPR training
- Notification Training to ESU team
- Emergency Planning Workshop to Buffalo County Long Term Care agencies

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 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 5 different times during 2017 four times for weather events and once for the Solar Eclipse. The Backup Dispatch Center was not operational during a 2017. However was tested and trained on several times throughout the year.

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.

2017 Emergency Management Overview

This is an overview of the 2017 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)	
01-05-2017	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. . The Cotton Mill siren was fixed by Platte Valley this month, moisture had gotten into the electronics box and fried a circuit board. The board was replaced and the box was sealed.
02-02-2017	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.
03-02-2017	Platte Valley Communications conducted Preventive Maintenance on the Kearney sirens late in the month. The Statewide Tornado Drill was on March 29 th a number of sirens had been found to be inoperable in Kearney and Riverdale. Two Sirens in Kearney were found to have issues after the test. one on Grand Ave. by East Lawn and Valley View Trailer courts, and one on Ave G by Kearney Cemetery. The Grand Ave siren had a bad 3 phase leg, this was fixed by NPPD, and the one by the Cemetery is not rotating and worked on by Noller electric. The Siren in Riverdale had a bad motor, and needed replaced. While Riverdale was without a siren the Buffalo Watch notification system was used for Tornado warning notifications.
04-06-2017	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should. With the exception of the Riverdale siren which still needed replaced.
05-04-2017	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. With the exception of the stage coach siren it did not go off during the test.
06-02-2017	It was reported that five sirens did not sound during the test. (Two sirens in the south central part of Kearney and 3 across the north sector of Kearney) Platte Valley checked all five sirens and found they were all in working order; it was felt that maybe it was a signal issue; Platte Valley adjusted the single level at the Dispatch Center. The new Siren for Riverdale was installed and tested. While testing it was found that the "button" to set off the siren from Dispatch was not programmed correctly. Platte Valley fixed the programming issue with the "button" that controls the Riverdale siren.

07-06-2017	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. With the exception of the siren on Centennial towers on the UNK campus.
08-04-2017	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. With the exception of the siren on Centennial towers on the UNK campus, Platte Valley looked at this Siren and found no issues with it.
09-06-2017	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. With the exception of the siren on Centennial towers on the UNK campus, did not sound again.
10-05-2017	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.
11-02-2017	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.
12-07-2017	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.

2017 Kearney Area Precipitation				
	Monthly Rain	*Monthly Snow	2016 Rain Total	2016 Snow Total
January	.03"	4"	.03"	4"
February	.00"	6"	.03"	10"
March	.87"	0"	.90"	10"
April	4.78"	4"	5.68"	14"
May	1.36"	0"	7.04"	14"
June	1.91"	0"	8.95"	14"
July	3.00"	0"	11.95"	14"
August	1.03"	0"	12.98"	14"
September	1.86"	0"	14.84"	14"
October	2.73"	1"	17.57"	15"
November	.24"	0"	17.81"	15"
December	.04"	8"	17.85"	23"
<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>				

2017 High and Low Temperatures					
Month	High	Low	High Average	Low Average	Overall Average
January	61	-17	35	18	27
February	79	9	51	25	38
March	84	15	55	30	43
April	81	27	63	40	52
May	88	34	72	48	34
June	99	50	87	62	75
July	100	54	90	66	78
August	90	49	81	59	70
September	98	42	81	55	68
October	82	15	65	40	53
November	76	17	52	29	41
December	65	-19	35	16	27

Weather Activity 2017	
January	There were two winter weather warnings issued on January 14 th at 15:37 and 22:47. This storm was mostly rain and ice for the Buffalo County area. Buffalo County saw about a quarter of an inch of ice accumulation which made for slick conditions.
February	There was one winter weather advisory issued for February 23 rd and 24 th . This storm was mostly rain and snow with 25 to 40 mph winds for the Buffalo County area, Buffalo County Kearney area saw about 3.5 inches of snow accumulation while the northern part of Buffalo county saw slightly more.
March	There were two Thunderstorm Warnings issued on the 23 rd at 20:46, 21:12. High winds were recorded in these storms; Buffalo County recorded 64 mph wind at the Kearney Regional Airport, with some areas receiving higher winds. These storms produced a dust storm across the county that caused some tree, sign and personal property damage. A pole barn was reported blown into the road at 115 th road north of Kearney.
April	There were three Thunderstorm Warnings issued on the 23 rd at 17:20, 17:34 and 17:59, two Thunderstorm Warnings on the 14 th at 18:32 and 20:40. A Winter Storm Warning was issued on the 29 th from Sunday to Monday until 09:00 am. No major damage was reported to this office due to storms.

May	There was one Thunderstorm Watch issued on the 15 th at 18:45 two Thunderstorm Warnings on the 16 th at 18:56 and 18:58. While there was no warning issued on the 15 th there were damaging winds within Buffalo County knocking over large trees, blowing over farm buildings and damaging signs.
June	There were Thunderstorm watches on the 28 th at 20:50 Thunderstorm warnings on the 17 th at 19:33, and 19:38. Significant weather advisory was issued on the 28 th at 11:45.
July	There was one Thunderstorm Warning issued on the 8 th at 19:44. No major damage was reported to this office due to storms.
August	There were a number of Thunderstorm Warnings issued in August. Aug. 3 rd at 10:42 am, Aug. 9 th at 16:36, Aug. 12 th at 21:06, Aug. 13 th at 15:53, 20:31, 21:05, 21:53, Aug. 16 th at 01:40 Aug, 19 th at 21:46 21:53 Aug. 27 th at 03:37 and 04:24, Thunderstorm Watches August, 15 at 16:58, Aug. 19 th at 17:36 Major damage was reported to this office due to storms in the Ravenna community however no warning was issued for these damaging winds by the National Weather Service.
September	There were a number of Thunderstorm Warnings issued on September 15 th at 18:38, 19:38, 20:22, and 20:52. No major damage was reported to this office due to storms.
October	The first and only Tornado Watch was issued for Buffalo County on October 1 st at 17:55. Thunderstorm Warning was issued on October 1 st at 21:24 and on October 2 nd at 21:48. A Thunderstorm Watch was issued on October 2 nd at 19:53. No major damage was reported to this office due to storms.
November	There was no severe weather to report in November for Buffalo County.
December	There were winter weather advisories issued for Buffalo county from the 23 rd through the 27 th of December, which resulted in high winds and about 8 inches of snow during this time period.

Emergency Activities 2017

January	One Hazmat spills reported this month to this office by the Kearney Fire department. The quantity was below reporting levels to the NDEQ and EPA. Material spilled was Diesel fuel from a vehicle accident on the interstate. Several semis were involved in an accident near Odessa during slick conditions.
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August	An Emergency Declaration was created and submitted for the community of Ravenna to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency by this office. This declaration was a result of wind damage in the community to trees, personal and public property to include electrical power loss to the community. There were approximately 110 mph straight line winds in the Ravenna area.
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Training Opportunities Sent Out 2017	
January	0
February	0
March	1
April	1
May	1
June	0
July	0
August	0
September	0
October	2
November	1
December	0

2017 Meetings and Events Attended by the Buffalo County Emergency Management Director	
January 4	I attended the CONFAB meeting and the SCPET meeting in North Platte.
January 18	I met with the MRC executive board at the EOC.
January 21	I hosted the Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC
January 23	I hosted the Statewide NRIN governance board meeting at the EOC and attended the Buffalo County Mutual Aid Meeting.
January 27	I attended an Ice Jam planning meeting hosted by the Central Platte NRD in Grand Island.
February 1	I attended the Emergency Management CONFAB and an American

	Red Cross webinar in Grand Island.
February 9	I participated in a conference call with Mike Jefferies and Mike Thome on communications for the Kearney Game and Parks expo.
February 14	I met with the County Board for the Buffalo County building evacuation plan for review and approval.
February 17	I attended the monthly TRIMRS meeting.
February 18	I hosted the Amateur radio meeting at the EOC.
February 22	I hosted the monthly Medical Table planning meeting at the EOC.
March 1	I attended the monthly CONFAB and the South Central PET Regional meeting held in Holdrege. Sheriff Miller attended these meeting with me.
March 17	I attended the monthly TRIMRS planning meeting at Good Samaritan hospital.
March 20	I met with UNK representatives to discuss partnering with Buffalo County for the Everbridge/Buffalo Watch notification system.
March 24	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the Buffalo County / City of Kearney EOC.
March 27	I participated in a National Weather Service webinar for event based weather information.
March 30	I participated in the Be Ready Nebraska App Webinar to discuss the needed updates to the App with the company that is providing this service to the region.
April 5	I attended an Airport Emergency Plan review meeting.
April 15	I hosted the Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC.
April 18	I had a phone meeting with Everbridge to discuss updated information, new Everbridge representative for Buffalo county, and review of the quote for the new year's contract.
April 19	I met with Lynn the County Board Administrative assistant for a preliminary budget meeting.
April 26	I met with the EOC medical Table Planning group to go over updated plans. I also met with Red Cross to discuss Red Cross expectations and the remodeling of how Red Cross is structured.

May 3	I attended the South Central PET Regional meeting in Grand Island.
May 5	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC.
May 9	I attended an elected and appointed official's budget meeting.
May 17	I met with the Two Rivers Emergency Coordinator at the EOC.
May 20	I hosted the Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC.
May 23	I met with the budget committee to submit the Emergency Management budget for 2017.
May 24	I held an MRC executive board meeting at the EOC.
May 26	I met with Jan Parker at the EOC to discuss resent Amateur radio activities.
June 7	I attended the CONFAB meeting in Grand Island.
June 17	I hosted the Amateur Radio club meeting at the EOC.
June 23	I hosted the NRIN statewide wireless meeting at the EOC.
June 26	I met with Dustin Handley from the Two Rivers Health Department at the EOC to discuss a TRIMRS, the MRC, and other continued Emergency Management collaborative efforts.
July 5	I attended the Regional CONFAB and the south Central PET regional meeting in Aroura.
July 12	A MRC executive board meeting was held at the EOC.
July 13	I met with several long term care facilities at the Good Samaritan Society location, to discuss emergency planning, exercising, training, new CBO regulations that long term care has to meet. As well as how the long term care can fit in with and work with the TRIMRS coalition.
July 15	I hosted the amateur radio meeting at the EOC.
July 18	I met with Sarah Focke to find out what kind of planning was happening for the upcoming eclipse, I was invite to the next planning meeting.
July 24	I attended the Mutual Aid meeting at Fire Station 1.
July 25	I attended an Eclipse planning meeting at the Visitors bureau.

July 26	I hosted the EOC Medical table meeting at the EOC.
August 15	I attended an Eclipse planning meeting. This was the last meeting before the eclipse.
August 16	I hosted a TRIMRS long term care emergency plans planning meeting.
August 18	I attended the TRIMRS executive board meeting at the Good Samaritan hospital.
August 19	I hosted the Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC
August 24	I met with the Central Power District Dam plan management for the Lake Kearney dam as well as the Kearney channel.
September 1	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC.
September 6	I attended the SCPET Regional meeting and the Regional CONFAB in Lexington.
September 7	The MRC Coordinator, the Public Health / TRIMRS coordinator and I met to go over a number of items and the work plans for the annual MRC contract.
September 12	I met with NPPD and BD construction for the Northeast school siren relocation needs do to construction on the school.
September 13	I held the Executive board meeting for the Central NE MRC meeting in the EOC.
September 16	I hosted the Amateur radio meeting at the EOC
September 21	I attended the Central District NACO meeting at the Kearney Holiday Inn
October 3	I attended the Monthly CONFAB meeting in Grand Island.
October 4	I attended the second working meeting for the Hazard mitigation planning for Buffalo County.
October 5	I attended the annual Pipeline meeting in Holdrege.
October 13	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the Emergency Operation Center.
October 18	I met with Public Health and the TRIMRS coordinator to go over the Central Nebraska MRC and the TRIMRS contract.

October 19	I met with Frontier reps. to go over the Emergency management phone bill. This was due to higher billing rates and rates fluctuating on what should be a pretty standard/consistent billing over the last year.
October 20	I attended the TRIMRS board meeting in Grand Island.
October 21	I hosted the Amateur Radio meeting at the EOC.
October 25	I hosted and participated in the Buffalo County Medical Table Planning meeting at the EOC.
November 1	I attended the State roads winter operations meeting in Grand Island and attended the Emergency Management CONFAB and the South Central PET Regional meeting held in Hastings this month.
November 8	I attended the Central Power Annual Dam meeting in North Platte.
November 14	I attended the Eaton Emergency Preparedness meeting and tour with Captain Bob Anderson and Kearney Fire Reps.
November 15	I attended the year end meeting for the Central Nebraska MRC executive board in Kearney.
November 17	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC.
November 18	I hosted the Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC.
November 20	I attended a meeting with Hot Meals USA in Grand Island to discuss their volunteer ability to feed up to 10,000 meals a day in the aftermath of a disaster.
December 6	I attended the Emergency Management CONFAB in Grand Island.
December 13	I hosted the NAEM board meeting at the EOC.
December 15	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC.
December 16	I hosted the Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC.
December 18/26	I participated in an Ice Jam webinars at the EOC
December 26	I attended the County Board meeting for approval of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan was approved by the board.

**January 2017
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted two times during the month on the Response Unit and the EOC was operational for a number of things during the month.
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff: I had face to face conversations with, Adam Pickle from Elm Creek Fire, Fire Chief Chad Dixen from Pleasanton, Todd Walton from Kearney Fire, Fire Chief Glenn Brown from Amherst, Fire Chief Jason Weihn from Shelton and PD Chief Ryan Kegley from Ravenna. I also spoke with Todd Walton, from Kearney Fire, Fire Chief Jason Weihn and Assistant Chief Marlin Schroder, PD Chief Ryan Clark and Assistant Clerk Janice Emal from Shelton, Chief Rick Brown from Gibbon Fire and Assistant Chief Scott Schubert via the phone this month.
- ✓ The National Weather Service Hastings office started having weekly ice jam briefing/webinars each Monday. I checked the Platte River prior to the meetings for flooding and ice jam issues. While there had been slight ice jamming on the Platte through Buffalo County there had been no real flooding concerns during the winter.
- ✓ ID cards were made on five 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 sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
- ✓ A winter field day amateur radio communications full scale exercise was conducted at the EOC on Saturday January 28th. This exercise lasted about 7 hours to include set up and tear down time.
- ✓ I made the Statewide credentialing ID cards for Elm Creek fire; they were given to Adam Pickle for distribution.
- ✓ I participated in a preparedness walkthrough of the Darling Plant in Ravenna.
- ✓ An Emergency evacuation plan was written for all Buffalo County owned buildings by this office. It will be submitted to the County Board for approval in February.
- ✓ I conducted an EOC presentation for UNK students.
- ✓ I attended the SCALES meeting to discuss the Counter Violent Extremism Grant.

**February 2017
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted three times during the month on the Response Unit and the EOC. The MRU has internet Satellite issue this month it lost its "Flash" (software) in the modem, through tech support and about a week's work I was able to get it back up and operational.
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff: I spoke with Jason Whalen Fire Administrator in person and with Assistant Fire Chief Chuck Row from Shelton via phone.
- ✓ ID cards were made on three 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.
✓ I conducted an EOC / MRU tour and presentation to the UNK Leadership class February 1st.
✓ I conducted two interviews with NTV during the month, one on Siren protocol and usage and one on government run storm shelter myths.
✓ I conducted 7 workshop/seminar trainings for the Buffalo County Evacuation plan that I wrote and was approved by the county board.
✓ A new HF radio ICOM 7300 was ordered and arrived during the month; this radio was hooked up and tested by myself and Brian Schmidt, an Amateur radio club member.

March 2017 Monthly Activities
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted two times during the month on the Response Unit and the EOC. The Response unit was having issues with the Dish Network losing connection while stored in the garage. Working with Sheriff Miller and Platte Valley Communications this issue has been rectified; a second coax cable still needed to be run into the MRU for the second receiver it was accomplished in March. While testing the phone system in the EOC, it was found that the VOIP lines were not working for the outgoing fax and the backup phone lines. IT was working on this issue. In addition the dial out 9/8 lines were not working as well. A new DVR had been purchased for the EOC and was installed by myself; this system is up and running after being down for almost a year.
✓ New Tires were put on the front of the MRU during the month; there was a slipped belt on the front passenger side.
✓ The 2016 Emergency Management Annual report was completed during the month.
✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff: I spoke with Jason Whalen Fire Administrator and with Assistant Fire Chief Chuck Row in person and a number of community representatives Clerks and Board/Council members in all the communities during the month via phone.
✓ ID cards were made on four different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
✓ I have made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
✓ I conducted an EOC tour and presentation to the UNK networking students.
✓ I conducted an interview with Talk of the Town this month, on severe weather awareness and emergency preparedness.
✓ I hosted the Severe Weather Spotter Training class at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds put on by the Hastings National Weather Service. 86 people participated in this training.

✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management participated and went through a 2016 EMPG Grant Audit.
✓ I updated the Buffalo County section of the Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) during the month and sent changes to the regional chair. There were many changes made in the Buffalo County section.
✓ I attended the Central District spring meeting held at the Kearney Holiday Inn during the month.
✓ Statewide Tornado drill was conducted during the month, Buffalo County participated in this drill as we do every year. The sirens were sounded twice during this drill to test the primary and back up sites.
✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management hosted and participated in the Buffalo County Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC.
✓ I conducted an Emergency Management Preparedness presentation at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds for a food service business conference. There were approximately 40 in attendance.

April 2017 Monthly Activities
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted three times during the month on the Response Unit and the EOC. While testing the phone system in the EOC, in the prior month it was found that the VOIP lines and the 8/9 lines were not working. IT continued working on these issues; to date the VOIP lines have not yet been resolved. The MRU and generator were serviced during the month.
✓ The MRU was used during the month for the drug take back program.
✓ The MRU was used for communications testing at the Fort Kearney recreation area. It had been discovered that the Paraclete system was having a patching issue. A new temporary antenna mount was been put on the MRU for amateur radio use during the upcoming Game and Parks expo.
✓ I attended the Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers in Columbus.
✓ Preventive maintenance was completed on the Kearney sirens during the month and all issues identified were fixed. A new Siren for Riverdale was ordered.
✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff: I met with the Riverdale board this month.
✓ I conducted two weather awareness presentations for Mount Carmel nursing home during the month.
✓ I attended an all-day Platte River Drought seminar at the Ramada Inn in Kearney.
✓ ID cards were made on three 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.

May 2017 Monthly Activities

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted almost every day during the month on the Response Unit and three different times on the EOC. The 8/9 lines issue has been resolved in the EOC. The MRU was used during the three day Game and Parks Expo. After the Expo it seemed as if everything went downhill from there. The Paraclete system developed an issue and would not patch or transmit, the Internet Satellite would not connect, the Back TV would not connect to Dish network, one of the laptop computers would not connect to the internet, the engine batteries went bad in the MRU, and the generator would only run for about 20 minutes and die. The Paraclete was a mic issue; I have worked almost every day on the Satellite Internet to get it working, it connected but it was still not right. We looked at replacing this system however it's at the cost of about \$10,000.00 or more. I had Platte Valley look at the connectivity issue on the Dish Network, this issue had been fixed. IT fixed the connectivity issue with the Laptop, the three batteries were purchased and replaced through the fleet maintenance garage, and Cummings looked at the generator and found a busted belt.
- ✓ The MRU was used this month for the three day Game and Parks Expo program.
- ✓ I conducted and participated in a number of communications checks for the Expo.
- ✓ We did an upgrade to the statewide credentialing system computers, this was only partially successful, as one of the computes would not take the new programming and had to be wiped and have a new operating system installed on it. This computer was given to county IT.
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff: I went over to Kearney fire and met with the fire administrator Jason Whalen, and Cindy and Gisele, and spoke with Doug Hild Fire Chief from Elm Creek on the phone this month.
- ✓ I reviewed and made suggestions to an all hazard emergency plan and met with the Row sanctuary to go over and discuss the plans.
- ✓ I participated in a Functional surge exercise at the EOC the EOC was used and exercise within the event.
- ✓ I picked up the Mobile Hospital exercise trailer in Grand Island and brought it back to Kearney for a full scale exercise and workshop June 8th and 9th.
- ✓ I completed the budget for the EM office for fiscal 2017 during the month.
- ✓ The new siren and pole was been delivered to the community of Riverdale.
- ✓ 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.

**June 2017
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted four different times during the month on the Response Unit and three different times on the EOC. While it still takes longer than it should to connect the internet satellite, it is working. Every things else seems to be working properly in the unit.
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff: I went over to Kearney fire and met with the fire administrator Jason Whalen, and Cindy and Gisele, and George Wiedel, head/team leader of the Technician hazmat Team and spoke with Rick Brown Fire Chief from Gibbon on the phone this month. I also have E-mail contact with most all Fire Chiefs several times during the month.
- ✓ I took the Mobile Hospital trailer to the Ramada Inn and set up part of the mobile hospital.
- ✓ I participated in a Medical Surge workshop at the Ramada Inn. After the workshop was over I helped take down the mobile hospital and took the trailer back to the impound lot.
- ✓ I took the Mobile Hospital exercise trailer to Gothenburg for a mobile hospital setup exercise on June 20th.
- ✓ Oil Change was completed on the emergency management vehicle.
- ✓ I completed and submitted quarterly reimbursements for the EMPG grant to NEMA this month.
- ✓ A new Mobil Satellite for internet service was purchased this month and has arrived, the old satellite has started to have continuous issues and tech-support does not want to support fixing the issues as it is an older system that has been phased out.
- ✓ The Riverdale siren has been installed and is operational.
- ✓ ID cards were made on three 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.

**July 2017
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted four times on the Response Unit and three different times on the EOC. The mast camera has developed lines in the video again I worked on this to try and get it fixed over the next several months. The camera system is old and needs replaced. Every things else seemed to be working properly in the unit.
- ✓ The MRU was used during the Kearney Cruse night and was staged at 3rd Ave. and 25th Street at 10:30 and then set up for operation at 17:00 and maintained operation until 01:15.

✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff: I went over to Kearney fire and met with, George Wiedel, head/team leader of the Technician Hazmat Team and Terry Eirich the City of Kearney Fire inspector. I spoke in person with the Shelton Fire Chief Jason Weihl, Ravenna Fire Chief Dewayne Thomsen, Pleasanton Fire Chief Chad Dixon, and Miller Fire Chief Brock Elsen.
✓ ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
✓ I completed the Quarterly report and EMPG 4th quarter reimbursement request and submitted to NEMA, in addition I request another \$35,000.00 in grant support that was not covered during the 2016 fiscal year.
✓ I made updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.

August 2017 Monthly Activities
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted two times during the month on the Response Unit and the EOC. The MCT mapping GPS system was not working properly, this was due to a couple of windows updates that were preventing it from loading properly. City IT fixed this issue. Every things else seems to be working properly in the unit.
✓ The MRU was used for the Roadways Hero's event August 12 th .
✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff: I spoke via phone with Fire Chiefs, from Miller (Brock Elsen), Elm Creek (Doug Hild), Amherst (Glen Brown). (storm related) I spoke in person with the, Ravenna Police Chief Ryan Kegley, City Clerk Kellie Crowell, Mayor Peg Dethlefs, EM deputy/Council member Russ Crowell, Pleasanton Fire Chief Chad Dixon. I spoke too many of these people on the phone as well.
✓ ID cards were made on three 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.
✓ I conducted an Emergency Management presentation to the Boy scouts.
✓ I picked up 50 additional tarps from USA outdoor for storm damage.
✓ The EOC was open and operational for the Solar Eclipse.
✓ I conducted three interviews on the damage in Ravenna with NTV, Kearney Hub and KHAF radio.
✓ I met with two Amateur radio volunteers to look at the 147.000 repeater at the Kearney water tower.

**September 2017
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted two times during the month on the Response Unit and the EOC. County IT worked on some Windows 10 issues on all the computers in the EOC. The Internet Satellite no longer has connectivity; the plan was to remove the old system in October. With the exception of the camera every things else seemed to be working properly in the unit.
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff: I spoke via phone with Fire Chiefs, from Miller (Brock Elsen), Elm Creek (Doug Hild), Amherst (Glen Brown), Pleasanton (Chad Dixon) Shelton (Jason Weihh) Gibbon, (Rick Brown) from Gibbon number had been changed. I left a message on his city phone, and EM deputy/Council member Russ Crowell, (storm related) I spoke in person with the Kearney Fire Chief Jim Tacha at Jim Downing's retirement gathering.
- ✓ September 1st to the 16th at the Request of the Adams County Emergency management I covered Adams County while he was out of the state.
- ✓ I participated in the talk of the town interview, to discuss Emergency preparedness month.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ I met with an Amateur radio volunteer at the 147.000 repeater at the Kearney water tower and did some additional troubleshooting. We found that there was something in the water tower that is causing some interference; we placed a filter on the repeater. This seemed to help but did not fix the issue entirely.
- ✓ I requested addition grant funding for the 2016 fiscal year Emergency Management budget, an additional 12,500.00 was granted by NEMA. Grant documents and claims were submitted during the month and NEMA issued the additional funds to the county.

**October 2017
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted one time on the Response Unit and three times on the EOC during the month. The VOIP lines are still not working in the EOC. The mast camera has developed lines in the video again.
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff: I had one phone conversation with the Ravenna Mayor, no direct contact with fire or community officials, I did have a number of texting and e-mails conversations with fire and community officials. (Kearney Fire chief, Fire administrator, and Ravenna EM deputy and council member.

✓ ID cards were made on three 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 first quarter EMPG report was completed and sent to NEMA, as well as the first quarter reimbursement request were completed and sent to NEMA.
✓ I participated in a State credentialing and resource tracking training in Grand Island.
✓ I participated in the Good Samaritan Table top exercise that was held at the EOC.
✓ I participated in an Amateur Radio Full Scale communications exercise that was community and county wide. This exercise lasted about 6 hours from start to finish.
✓ I participated in a nationwide Emergency Management survey conducted by the University of North Dakota.
✓ I was part of a Stop the Bleed / Hands only CPR training put on by the Central Nebraska MRC that trained about 150 people.

November 2017 Monthly Activities
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted two times on the Response Unit and two times at the EOC. A new VHF State radio was installed and the Old internet satellite has been removed during month.
✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; I spoke in person with Kearney Fire Chief Jim Tacha, Kearney Fire administrator Jason Whalen, and Kearney Fire inspector Terry Eirich.
✓ 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.
✓ Training was provided to the ESU team on the group call out and management of personal information within the Buffalo Watch system.
✓ I conducted an Emergency Planning Workshop for the Long Term Care facilities within Buffalo County as well as some medical centers. This workshop was held at the EOC.
✓ I conducted an Emergency Management/EOC presentation with Sherry Morrow for Kearney Leadership.
✓ During month I put together a document showing the meetings held and the usage of the Emergency Operation Center over the last year at the request of Sheriff Miller to provide information to the county board.

December 2017 Monthly Activities

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted two times on the Response Unit and two times at the EOC during the month. No major issues to report during the months training.
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; I spoke with all Buffalo County Fire Chiefs via phone on December 21st.
- ✓ ID cards were made on three 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.
- ✓ I attended the NACO conference held in Kearney.

Notable Items

RESPONSE UNIT ACTIVITIES (MRU)



- On April 17th the MRU was used to conduct communications checks at the For Kearney Recreation area for the upcoming Kearney Outdoor Expo.
- On April 29th, the MRU was used for the Medication take back program in the parking lot of Good Samaritan Hospital.
- On May 11th, 12th and 13th the MRU was used during the Game and Parks Fort Kearney Outdoor Expo. The MRU was also used by the local HAM club for back up communications at the Expo event.
- On July 15th the unit was used during the Kearney Cruise Night event.
- On August 12th the MRU and Emergency Management participated in an all-day Trucks and Heroes of the road event put on by the Children's Museum.
- 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



This is the Second year using Buffalo Watch on the Everbridge platform. While the Everbridge Notification system is a very good product, it is estimated that during the switch over from Cooper notification to Everbridge, Buffalo County Emergency Management lost at least 1000 people that were on the system prior to the switch over. This is due to people not reregistering for the new system. This is even after advertising, promotions and direct emails to those people.

The Everbridge system provides notifications 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.

Two new groups have been added to the Buffalo Watch system in the last year to improve public and first responder notification. In 2017 the Emergency Alerts group was added for general emergencies within Buffalo County and the Endangered Missing Advisory alerts were added to support the state initiative to get help from the general public when a person is missing that may not meet the Amber Alert criteria. This alert was originally named Silver Alert within the Buffalo Watch system, which was designed for missing elderly persons. However has now been expanded for all age groups that may be missing and endangered.

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 2156 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 has about 203 individuals and/or groups following at this time.



The emergency management budget for the fiscal 2016-17 year stayed under budget. The new fiscal 2017-18 budget was approved by the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee. The Buffalo County Emergency Management Department budget for 2016-17 was \$1111,682.00. The 2017-18 approved budget was \$113,751.00. This was an increase of approximately 2000.00 from the prior year. The line item for vehicles of \$5,000.00 was put in it to increase by 5000.00 each year in an escrow/roll over account for future replacement vehicles however this increase was not approved in the 2017-18 budget request.

The EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) for the fiscal year 2016 closed out and the 2017 grant started in June of 2017. This program is designed to reimburse the emergency management budget up to 50%. The total amount funded for the 2016-17 budget year is \$36,210.60. This was only about 32% of the budget for this year.

This office underwent one State Audit in 2017 on Homeland Security Grants, NIMS compliance and the EM budget for the 2016 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

