



**BUFFALO COUNTY / CITY OF KEARNEY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2018 SUMMARY**



**“2018”  
COLD AIR FUNNEL  
OVER SHELTON**

# **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. The Emergency Operation Center was opened 10 different times for weather type events, from winter storms and blizzards, to thunderstorm warnings and tornado warnings throughout the year.

## 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 2018, the Director sent 10 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 2018**

- State wide tornado drill-exercise
- Severe Weather Spotter Training
- Pandemic Flu Functional Exercise (Virtual)
- Surge Exercise for Hospitals (Regional)
- Statewide Tracking and Credentialing workshop
- LEADRS animal disease Tabletop
- Public Health Functional needs workshop (Statewide)
- Community Active Shooter Tabletop
- MRC Stop the Bleed/Hands only CPR training (2)

## **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)**



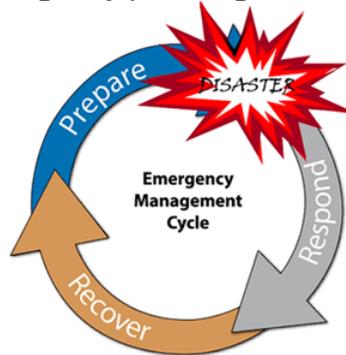
## **REPORTS**

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)

Ten 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: Farmer's Coop and KAPPA Ethanol in Ravenna have been removed from the list of required facilities for RMP.

- Darling Ingredients Inc. (Ravenna)
- Agricultural Services Inc. (Shelton)
- Aurora Coop (Buda)
- Aurora Coop (Gibbon)
- Aurora Coop (Sodtown)
- Bowie Fertilizer, Inc. (Miller)
- Bowie Fertilizer, Inc. (Riverdale)
- 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 have been no radioactive transports through Nebraska from 2015 to 2018.



## **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 10 times during 2018, and all times were for weather events to include both winter and spring type weather. The Backup Dispatch Center was operational four times during 2018 and was tested and trained on several times throughout the year.

Sirens were sounded on two different days for weather events this year. Sirens were sounded in Ravenna on June 1<sup>st</sup> for a Tornado warning. Sirens were again sounded on July 18<sup>th</sup> in the Communities of Kearney, Gibbon, Shelton, Riverdale, Odessa, and Pleasanton for Tornado warnings. Sirens were sounded for a second time in Pleasanton for large hail.

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.

## 2018 Emergency Management Overview

This is an overview of the 2018 annual report and its purpose is to highlight the major activities of the Buffalo County / City of Kearney Emergency Management office.

<b>Test of Emergency Warning Systems (Alarm radios, pagers and outdoor sirens)</b>	
01-04-2018	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.
02-01-2018	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.
03-01-2018	Platte Valley Communications conducted Preventive Maintenance on the Kearney sirens during the month. A number of sirens were identified with issues and were addressed. Most of the sirens with problems were older sirens. The Statewide Tornado Drill was on March 28 <sup>th</sup> .
04-05-2018	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should, with the exception of the Grand Ave. Siren in Kearney, this is an old siren that will be replaced in the coming month.
05-03-2018	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. The Grand Ave. Siren was replaced with a new 2001 model Federal Signal Siren this month.
06-07-2018	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.
07-05-2018	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.
08-02-2018	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.
09-06-2018	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.
10-04-2018	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.
11-01-2018	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they

	should.
12-06-2018	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. All sirens functioned as they should.

<b>2018 Kearney Area Precipitation</b>				
	<b>Monthly Rain</b>	<b>*Monthly Snow</b>	<b>2018 Rain Total</b>	<b>2018 Snow Total</b>
January	.15"	7"	.15"	7"
February	.08"	8"	.23"	15"
March	.64"	2"	.87"	17"
April	1.07"	14"	1.94"	31"
May	4.94"	0"	6.88"	31"
June	3.77"	0"	10.65"	31"
July	4.25"	0"	14.90"	31"
August	2.08"	0"	16.98"	31"
September	1.54"	0"	18.52"	31"
October	2.04"	2.5"	20.56"	33.5"
November	.41"	4"	20.97"	37.5"
December	3.49"	9.5"	24.46"	47"
*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.				

<b>2018 High and Low Temperatures</b>					
<b>Month</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>High Average</b>	<b>Low Average</b>	<b>Overall Average</b>
January	52	-13	35	14	25
February	61	-6	34	12	23
March	75	14	52	27	40
April	84	8	56	30	43
May	96	45	77	54	66
June	99	54	88	65	76
July	96	53	84	75	66
August	92	49	83	62	72
September	94	38	77	57	67
October	93	22	60	37	49
November	63	4	45	24	35
December	51	2	38	20	29

## Weather Activity 2018

January	There was a Blizzard warning issued for Buffalo county from the 21 <sup>st</sup> to the 22 <sup>nd</sup> of January.
February	There were Winter Weather Advisories issued for Buffalo County 3 separate times during the month of February.
March	There was one Winter Weather Warning issued for Buffalo County on March 31 <sup>st</sup> at 03:30 am, for April 1 <sup>st</sup> . Kearney saw approximately 6 inches of snow on Easter day.
April	There was a Winter Weather Warning issued for Buffalo County on for April 1 <sup>st</sup> . Kearney and the Buffalo Co. area saw approximately 6 inches of snow on Easter day. A Blizzard warning was issued for the weekend of the 13 <sup>th</sup> through the 15 <sup>th</sup> , this blizzard shut down State highways and Interstate 80 from Grand Island clear into Wyoming and Colorado. The blizzard produced approximately 6 inches of snow and 60 plus mile per hour winds in Buffalo County, and closed down more than 600 miles of interstate 80 over a 36 hour period. A High Wind Warning was issued on April 17 <sup>th</sup> at 11:51, and a Thunderstorm Watch was issued on April 30 <sup>th</sup> at 17:32.
May	There was a Thunderstorm Watch issued on May 5 <sup>th</sup> at 19:52 and several Thunderstorm warnings throughout the month; May 10 <sup>th</sup> at 22:50 and 23:36, May 11 <sup>th</sup> at 01:25, 02:09, 02:11 and 02:21, May 18 <sup>th</sup> at 13:35 and May 28 <sup>th</sup> at 12:23 and 12:47.
June	There was a Thunderstorm Watch issued on June 1 <sup>st</sup> at 15:48 and 21:55 and June 30 <sup>th</sup> at 15:16 and several Thunderstorm warnings; June 1 <sup>st</sup> at 21:16, 22:06, 22:50, 22:52 and 23:02, June 9 <sup>th</sup> at 00:52, 01:58, 02:11 and 22:42, June 30 <sup>th</sup> at 21:32. A Significant weather statement was issued on June 1 <sup>st</sup> at 22:27 and 22:37, and June 30 <sup>th</sup> at 22:15. A Tornado Warning was issued on June 1 <sup>st</sup> at 22:16 which included the community of Ravenna. The Sirens were sounded in the community of Ravenna for the Tornado warning. A funnel cloud was spotted by trained spotters north of town. Funnel moved eastward without touchdown, no damage reported.
July	There were Thunderstorm Watches issued on July 2 <sup>nd</sup> at 18:16 and July 18 <sup>th</sup> at 18:05. Thunderstorm warnings on July 18 <sup>th</sup> at, 20:40, 22:06, 22:12, and July 19 <sup>th</sup> at 19:05. A Severe weather statement was issued on July 18 <sup>th</sup> at 21:33. A Tornado Warning was issued on July 18 <sup>th</sup> at 21:20 which included the communities of Pleasanton, Odessa, Riverdale, Kearney, Gibbon and Shelton. The Sirens were sounded in the all the communities for the Tornado warning and in Pleasanton for

	large hail as well. No damage reported from the tornado warning, however several crops from the north part of Buffalo County to the south part of Buffalo county received light to heavy damage due to hail. Pleasanton reported baseball size hail with roof and siding damage reported. Two Cold Air Funnels were reported over Shelton around 11:30 am on July 30. Spotters were called out, no touch downs or damage reported with these funnels.
August	There was a Thunderstorm warning issued on August 8 <sup>th</sup> at 19:51. No damage due to weather was reported to this office.
September	There were no Watches or Warnings issued for the month of September.
October	There were no Watches or Warnings issued for the month of October.
November	There was a Winter Weather advisory issued on November 8 <sup>th</sup> at 06:12. A Winter Weather Watch was issued on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> at 03:32 for the 23 <sup>rd</sup> at 09:30 to the 25 <sup>th</sup> at 18:00 a Blizzard Warnings issued for the 24 <sup>th</sup> at 13:02 and a Winter weather Waring was issued on the 29 <sup>th</sup> at 14:01 for the 30 <sup>th</sup> at 06:00 to December 2 <sup>nd</sup> at 18:00.
December	There were two winter storms in December. One on December 1 <sup>st</sup> through the 3 <sup>rd</sup> . A Winter Weather Warning and a Blizzard Warning was issued for this storm. There was only about 2 and a half inches of snow however high winds produced whiteouts and blizzard like conditions. The Second storm was on December 27 <sup>th</sup> . A Winter Weather Warning and a Blizzard Warning was also issued for this storm. There was about 5 inches of snow and high winds that produced whiteouts and blizzard like conditions. The interstate and highway 30 were closed from North Platte to Grand Island.

<b>Emergency Activities 2018</b>	
April	On April 3 <sup>rd</sup> The Brown Transfer Company in Kearney reported a Hazmat Leak from one of their semi-trailers in Kearney. The Kearney Fire Department and the Hazmat Team was called out to mitigate the leak. A leaking valve was discovered on one of the bulk tanks in the trailer. The biggest issue was that the leaking container was at the front of the trailer and the entire trailer had to be unloaded to get to the leaking container. The contents were an acid based liquid that had no environmental impact on the surrounding area. The hazmat team contained and stopped the leak.

October	Kearney Fire responded to a semi fire on Interstate 80 at mile marker 275 at approx. 7:20 pm October 19 <sup>th</sup> 2018. Incident Command reported approx. 200 gallons of Diesel fuel had leaked from the semi on to the shoulder of the road and into the ditch. This office completed all forms and reported to the Nebraska emergency Management Agency and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Arrangements were made for cleanup of leaked diesel.
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<b>Training Opportunities Sent Out 2018</b>	
January	0
February	1
March	3
April	1
May	1
June	0
July	0
August	0
September	0
October	1
November	2
December	1

<b>2018 Meetings and Events Attended by the Buffalo County Emergency Management Director</b>	
January 3	I attended the Emergency Management CONFAB in Aurora
January 2,8,16,22	I participated in the weekly Ice Jam Webinars
January 17	I hosted the CNMRC executive board meeting. During this meeting, officers were reelected and I will remain to be the chair of this group
January 18	I met with a representative from AlertSense to discuss the state IPAWS contract and using the system for a backup to what we currently have
January 19	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC
January 20	I hosted the Amateur radio meeting

February 13	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC
February 16	I attended the TRIMRS meeting at Good Samaritan Hospital
February 17	I hosted the Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC
February 21	I met with representatives from the St. James Church to discuss Emergency planning for the Church
February	I attended weekly Ice Jam meetings with the National Weather Service throughout the month
March 7	I attended the Emergency Management CONFAB and the South Central PET Regional meetings. These meeting also incorporated a THIRA workshop
March 9	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC and met with the IT department and a Ham Volunteer to try and get the D-Star Radio System operational. This was an informational meeting to figure out how to fix the system
March 14	I met with the Two Rivers Health Department to discuss Health Department activities and TRIMRS activities pertaining to the Central NE. MRC group and how to improve working relations and activities
March 15	I attended the Central District meeting in Minden
March 16	I met with Brian Schmidt to work on the D-Star Radio System
March 17	I hosted the amateur radio club meeting at the EOC
April 2	I met with the Kearney Airport manager and others to review the airport Emergency plans
April 13	I attended the TRIMRS meeting via conference call
April 13	I hosted a Weather planning meeting for Winter Weather and we attended the NWS weather webinar at the EOC. After the webinar, the City of Kearney, Buffalo County, Hospitals, Transportation, Law Enforcement, 911 center, Schools/UNK and other representatives conducted a planning meeting to prepare for the pending blizzard over the 13 <sup>th</sup> 14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> . Buffalo County and the City of Kearney were well prepared for this event. Some of the planning activities that took place included but not limited to were as follows; The slides were sent out to those other important agencies in the county that could not make the meeting by this office. Contact was made with NE department of Roads, for plans on highway and Interstate closers prior to the event.

	An offsite Face to Face meeting with Red Cross and Salvation Army was held to identify shelters that would be opened and personnel needed if the Shelters were opened. A Call was made to a predeveloped group using the Buffalo Co. Notification system, (Buffalo Watch) to the Hotels in Kearney, providing them information on possible I-80 closings and room availability and the need to contact 911 when about 75% full. Planning was conducted with the Viaero event center, the High School and the Arch Way for Truck traffic coming off the interstate in the event it closed prior to the event. The agreements were already in place but double checked to make sure it was still ok with these venues. Kearney Street and County Highway departments staged loaders and graders at the hospitals and the fire department in the communities, for emergency calls if needed. Constant communication was kept with a number of these organizations around the clock during the event (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) by the Buffalo County Emergency Management office
April 17	I met with a Two Rivers Public Health hired strategists consultant to discuss future planning activates of and for the Two Rivers Public Health Department
April 18	I met with the Buffalo County Administrative Assistant to discuss the next fiscal year's Emergency Management budget
April 21	I hosted the Amateur Radio meeting at the EOC
April 23	I attended the Buffalo County Mutual Aid meeting at Kearney Fire Station 1
April 25	I hosted the Buffalo county Emergency Medical Table Planning meeting
May 1	I met with an Amateur Radio Volunteer and County IT to discuss updates and progress on the D-Star System
May 2	I attended the CONFAB and South Central PET regional meeting. These meetings were held in Kearney this month
May 4	I attended the Two Rivers Public Health Stakeholders meeting held at the Kearney Library to discuss mass shooting prevention, breaking the chain of violence, reporting before something happens, collaboration between agencies, and available organizations for people to get help. This is a grant funded coalition through Homeland Security, and HHSS
May 8	I met with NPPD at the old Grandpa steakhouse to discuss the moving of an existing siren, also had a meeting with UNK, and the Everbridge representatives to discuss adding UNK as a group to the notification

	system
May 16	I held a CNMRC executive board meeting at the EOC
May 18	I attended the TRIMRS steering council meeting, I also participated in an Everbridge webinar to get updated information on search capabilities and weather parameter updates
May 19	I hosted the Amateur radio meeting at the EOC
May 29	I attended the Budget committee meeting at the County Boardroom for elected and appointed officials
June 6	I attended the monthly Emergency Management CONFAB in Grand Island
June 15	I attended the TRIMRS steering committee meeting in Hastings
June 16	I hosted the Amateur radio meeting at the EOC
June 19	I met with and submitted the Emergency Management budget to the Budget committee
July 5	I met with UNL, Hall County EMA and Hot Meals USA in Grand Island for a meeting on the development of videos and promotion for the Volunteer Hot Meals USA feeding in disasters campaign
July 11	I attended the Regional EM CONFAB and the South Central PET Regional meeting held in Alma this month
July 13	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC
July 21	I hosted the Amateur radio meeting at the EOC
August 1	I attended the Emergency Management CONFAB in Grand Island. Topic of discussion was changing the SCPET Regional Siren policy due to Grand Island having issues using it for more than just tornados, and having difficulties with informing/training the population that outdoor warning sirens are used for more than tornados. It was recommended by several EM's and the National Weather Service the policy stay as is
August 10	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the Emergency Operation Center and participated in a conference call with the New Everbridge/Buffalo Watch Support representative
August 13	I met with Janet Payne to discuss the Baptist Church Volunteer organization and their capabilities. Janet is the new regional

	representative
August 14	I met with Jeremy from Two Rivers to discuss moving the fiscal agent for the TRIMRS organization from Central District Health department to the Two Rivers Health department
August 15	I participated in the Medical Reserve Corp. executive board meeting held at the Emergency Operation Center
August 17	I attended the TRIMRS steering committee meeting held at Good Samaritan Hospital
August 18	I hosted the Amateur Radio meeting at the emergency operation center. Lynn Miller, the club treasurer, had passed away Sunday August 12 <sup>th</sup>
August 31	I participated in a Homeland Security planning conference call for an active shooter table top exercise
September 4	I attended the Kearney Violence Prevention meeting held at the Kearney library hosted by the Two Rivers Health Department
September 5	I attended the Emergency managers CONFAB and SCPET Regional meetings held in Axtell this month
September 11 12	I attended a Public Health Workshop at the Good Samaritan hospital as a guest speaker for functional needs and how can public health assist during a disaster.
September 12	I was on Talk of the Town talking about emergency preparedness for emergency preparedness month and I attended the See Something, Send Something workshop at UNK. This event was hosted by Kearney PD and Buffalo County Sheriff's Office
September 14	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the Emergency Operation Center
September 15	I hosted and participated in the Amateur radio club meeting
September 18	I participated in a community wide exercise planning team meeting at Good Samaritan hospital
September 20	I attended the fall central district meeting held in Kearney
September 25	I attended a National Weather Service meeting at the Hastings office
October 1	I met with the Community exercise design team for the community table top exercise scheduled for December 11 <sup>th</sup>

October 2	I and the Amateur radio chairman (Jan Parker) met with KRMC to discuss mounting a new antenna on the hospital for better emergency communications coverage. (New Antenna and Feedline are now in place)
October 3	I attended the monthly Regional Emergency Management CONFAB
October 4	I participated in a webinar meeting for the planning process of the community table top exercise with Homeland Security representatives
October 9	I participated in the LEC generator replacement meeting
October 12	I hosted the NIRN meeting at the EOC
October 19	I attended the TRIMRS meeting at Good Samaritan hospital
October 20	I hosted and participated in the Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC
October 22	I attended the Buffalo County Mutual Aid meeting and I participated in the planning meeting for the community table top exercise
October 24	I attended the winter operations meeting with NDOT in Grand Island
October 26	I participated in a second LEC generator replacement meeting
October 30	I met with the new director of the United Way Nikki Erickson.
November 6	I attended the Eaton Emergency preparedness meeting
November 8	I attended a webinar table top exercise planning meeting with the planning team and Homeland Security
November 9	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC
November 17	I hosted the Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC
November 19	I attended an Emergency Snow rout events meeting for the new Veterans home at the Kearney Library
November 20	I participated in a webinar with Everbridge notification systems
November 21	I attended the end of year meeting for the Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corp. in Grand Island
November 30	I participated in a Full Scale exercise meeting at Good Samaritan Hospital

December 3	I attended the Kearney violence prevention meeting held at the Kearney Library
December 8	I hosted the quarterly Central NE MARC Amateur radio meeting at the EOC
December 10	I attended an annual National Weather Service meeting at the Hastings Library, I also attended and helped set up for the community wide tabletop at the event center
December 14	I hosted the Monthly NRIN meeting at the EOC
December 15	I hosted the Monthly NRIN meeting at the EOC
December 19	I participated in a renewal County Storm Ready meeting with the NWS, local Emergency Management, and UNK
December 21	I attended the first Ice Jam meeting of the season at the Central Platte NRD in Grand Island
December 31	I participated in an Ice Jam webinar meeting

<b>January 2018 Monthly Activities</b>	
✓	Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 1 time on the Response Unit and 2 times at the EOC. The VOIP lines are not working in the EOC
✓	Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; I spoke with Shelton Fire Chief Jason Weihl via phone on January 16 <sup>th</sup> and in person with Jason Whalen on January 17 <sup>th</sup>
✓	ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders
✓	Several updates were made to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that had sent changes for the city/county personnel. A significant number of updates were requested by Buffalo County employees after the snow storm
✓	I assisted on working on the D-Star System with Brian Schmitt this month, the system is still not on the air we continue to work out the issues. We are now waiting on County IT to get back with us for networking concerns
✓	Buffalo County Emergency Management received a new ID printer for statewide ID cards this month, and new print key was loaded on the computer in the Deputies office in the EOC for the operation of this printer

## February 2018 Monthly Activities

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 1 time on the Response Unit and 3 times at the EOC. The VOIP lines are still not working in the EOC. The Response unit was going to be used for the Kearney Citizens academy however when the time came to use it the vehicle batteries were dead. After a little investigation it looks like it may have been unplugged and or the shoreline switch was turned off, which shuts of the trickle charger for the vehicle batteries. This issue was been rectified
- ✓ ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders. The new ID card printer was set up and is operational. The laminator did not working correctly upon set up however after working with Tech. support the issue had been fixed
- ✓ Several updates had been made to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that had sent changes for the city/county personnel
- ✓ An Ice Jam was reported to this office near Elm Creek and Odessa on the Platte River. I reported to the NWS, and monitored the jam for about two weeks throughout the month, there was low land flooding associated with this jam however no infrastructure was impacted
- ✓ Met with Troy Harris from NEMA on the D-Star System during the month; Troy brought another server for the system to see if it would help bring the system back on line. The system was still not on the air. County IT had been requested to look at the system the prior month however they had not gotten to it
- ✓ Three winter weather webinars were held at the EOC during the month with City, County and State officials. (Schools, UNK, Responder agencies, Street, roads and others)
- ✓ Two IT/EOC presentations with UNK students were conducted during the month at the EOC, County IT assisted
- ✓ Early during the month I went around to all the Schools in the county, outside of the Kearney Public school district, to promote Severe Weather Awareness and encourage participation in the severe weather poster contest, as well as deliver a severe weather poster 2018 calendar to each school. Kearney public schools information and calendars were taken to Central office.
- ✓ Four schools participated in the state wide poster contest from Buffalo County. 3 of the best posters were chosen from these schools and sent to NEMA for final judging by NEMA the Nebraska National Guard and the Emergency Managers Association representatives

**March 2018  
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times on the Response Unit and 3 times at the EOC. The VOIP lines are still not working in the EOC
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; I met and spoke in person with the Fire Administrator for Kearney (Jason Whalen) twice during the month once during the THIRA workshop and during the Boy Scout program for emergency preparedness. I stopped in and spoke with Chief Jim Tacha for Kearney Fire on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> and spoke with Chief Dixon from Pleasanton fire via the phone on the 27<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ ID cards were made on three different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders. New Statewide credentialing responder cards were made during the month for the entire Pleasanton fire department
- ✓ I attended and participated in a regional THIRA workshop (Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment)
- ✓ The Buffalo County communities participated in the Statewide Tornado drill
- ✓ Buffalo County Emergency management hosted the annual severe weather spotter training during the month
- ✓ Several updates had been made to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that had sent changes for the city/county personnel
- ✓ The Annual report was completed for 2017 this month; and sent for review before going to print
- ✓ An Emergency preparedness presentation was conducted to about 20 boy scouts with the help of Kearney Fire, Kearney Police Department and the Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corp
- ✓ I assisted with an Active Shooter workshop for the Heartland surgical center with Kearney Police Department
- ✓ I attended the NAEM (Emergency Managers) conference during the month
- ✓ We made good progress on the D-Star System during the month; County IT was able to resolve a port issue. The system still is not stable due to some IP address conflicts. IT worked to resolve the provider flip flopping issue

**April 2018  
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 1 time on the Response Unit and 2 times at the EOC. The VOIP lines are still not working in the EOC. The windows defender program is not updating on the EOC computers and there are 2 TV's that had lost cable connection
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; I met and spoke in person with the Miller Fire Chief Brock Elsen, Amherst Assistant Chief Cody Freeze,

and Ravenna EM Deputy Russ Crowell, and spoke with Elm Creek Fire Chief Doug Hild and Shelton Fire Chief Jason Weihl via the phone this month. In addition there were several E-mail correspondences with all the Fire chiefs and other officials in the county for Weather information throughout the month
✓ ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders
✓ Several updates were made to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that had sent changes for the city/county personnel
✓ Central NE, MRC training, (Stop the Bleed and Hands only CPR) was conducted at the New Life Church for the general public in Kearney during month. This training was also put out to responder agencies in Buffalo County. No one from any of the responder agencies attended or participated in the training
✓ I participated in the Region wide TRIMRS Hospital evacuation / surge exercise during month
✓ Work continued on the D-Star System during the month. After working with the Internet issues to prevent it from switching providers, and not working or fixing the issues, we went back having two providers without interruption. The system seems to be stable and is working as it should at this time

<b>May 2018 Monthly Activities</b>
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 3 times on the Response Unit and 3 times at the EOC. The VOIP lines are still not working in the EOC. I spent about a week and half, (half days) working on the installation of the new satellite internet system. The system as of this month is operational and functional. The system also came with VOIP capability; this function has been configured and is operational as well
✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; I met and spoke in person with Jason Whelan Kearney Fire Administrator on the 30 <sup>th</sup> to discuss emergency plans, for the City of Kearney. This meeting focused on Hazard Material and Tornado type events. This meeting was about an hour and a half long
✓ ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders
✓ Several updates had been made to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that had sent changes for the city/county personnel
✓ I assisted with the Fort Kearney Expo at the Fort Kearney Rec area, the 10 <sup>th</sup> through the 12 <sup>th</sup> . The MRU was used for event communications support and weather information support for the 3 day event
✓ I met with Charter to fix the cable connection issues in the EOC
✓ The oil was changed in the Emergency Management Vehicle
✓ Central NE, MRC training, (Stop the Bleed and Hands only CPR) was conducted for several Boy Scout troops and parents during the month. Training was conducted at

the Fork Kearney Recreation area
✓ I participated in the Region wide TRIMRS workshop held at the Kearney Holiday Inn
✓ Work continued on the D-Star System this month. A (NIC) was ordered for the server we are going to use for the upgrade to the new operating system for D-Star. The goal is to getting this completed and moved to the Amateur radio room in the EOC. Moving it from the equipment building from under the tower

<b>June 2018 Monthly Activities</b>
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times on the Response Unit and 3 times at the EOC. The VOIP lines are still not working in the EOC. 2 new projectors were ordered for the EOC. Some of the networking issues have been worked out in MRU. I worked with City IT to help configure the network for the Cell data and the Satellite internet. The Pep-wave devise that manages the two systems stopped working on the Cellular side. City IT was able to reconfigure another Pep-wave to get both systems on line. Other minor adjustments were made to some of the devices on the network to insure everything worked properly. The one thing that is not working at this time is the DVR for the camera system. I requested assistance from County IT to help resolve this issue
✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; I stopped in and spoke with some of the Kearney Fire personnel on June 29 <sup>th</sup> I spoke with Fire Administrator Jason Whalen, Fire Inspector Terry Eirich, Mandi Steel and Gisel Theis
✓ ID cards were made on three different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders. Once after hours from 5 to 7 pm for Jail staff
✓ ID cards (Statewide Credentialing cards) were made for 21 Kearney Fire personnel and delivered. Additional Prox type cards will be created after each of the delivered cards are proofed for accuracy
✓ Several updates had been made to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that had sent changes for the city/county personnel
✓ A new siren was ordered for the City of Kearney through the Emergency Management office
✓ The oil was changed in the MRU and the generator for the unit
✓ June was a pretty active month for weather type events both during the day and after hours

**July 2018  
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 3 times on the Response Unit and 3 times at the EOC. The VOIP lines are still not working in the EOC. The 2 new projectors ordered for the EOC came in. A new DVR for the camera system in the MRU was ordered and installed. The GPS was working in the mapping system for MCT in the Mobile Response Unit. City IT was informed. We will be looking at installing new cameras in the near future. The cameras we are using now are 8 to 10 years old
- ✓ The MRU was used during the month for the Kearney Cruse night event, the unit was staged at 10:30 am Saturday morning after the Amateur radio meeting and then reported back to the unit for startup and get it operational at 18:00 and manned the unit until 23:30
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; I spoke with the Ravenna Major, Ravenna Emergency Management deputy/council member, and Fire Chiefs from Elm Creek, Pleasanton, Gibbon, and Shelton multiple times via phone for weather related events during the month. I spoke in person with Fire Chief and assistant fire chief for Shelton and the Assistant Fire Chief for Amherst
- ✓ ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders
- ✓ ID cards (Statewide Credentialing cards) were made for 20 Amherst Fire personnel and delivered during the month
- ✓ Several updates had been made to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that had sent changes for the city/county personnel
- ✓ July was once again a pretty active month for weather type events both during the day and after hours

**August 2018  
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times on the Response Unit and 3 times at the EOC. The VOIP lines are still not working in the EOC. The 2 new projectors for the EOC have been installed by myself. The GPS that was not working in the mapping system for MCT in the Mobile Response Unit had been fixed by city IT. I have gotten two bids on the MRU camera replacement/upgrade. We will be installing new cameras in the near future
- ✓ I attended a one and a half day LEADERS conference held in Kearney
- ✓ I conducted an Emergency Management presentation and EOC tour to the PD new hires
- ✓ New updates to the state credentialing system were completed this month for the Rapid tag and the Command systems
- ✓ I met with the Pain Treatment Center in Kearney to discuss exercises for their facility
- ✓ I conducted a School safety walkthrough with Megan Schmidt at the Emerson

Elementary school
✓ A new outdoor warning siren came in during the month however it was damaged in shipping, it was sent back to Federal Signal, and was replaced with a new one
✓ Two sirens in Kearney were having reliability issues when tested; two new radio controllers were replaced on these sirens this month. This should fix the reliability issue with these sirens. (UNK Centennial Towers siren and the YRTC siren)
✓ ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders
✓ Several updates have been made to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that had sent changes for the city/county personnel

<b>September 2018 Monthly Activities</b>
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times on the Response Unit and 2 times at the EOC. The VOIP lines are still not working in 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
✓ Several updates had been made to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that had sent changes for the city/county personnel

<b>October 2018 Monthly Activities</b>
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times on the Response Unit and 2 times at the EOC. The VOIP lines are still not working in the EOC
✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; I met in person with Kearney Fire, Jason Whalen, Gisel Theis, Mandy Steele, Terry Eirch, Todd Walton, I spoke via phone with Fire Chief Jim Tacha. I also spoke in person with Amherst Fire Chief, Glen Brown, Gibbon Captain Marty Neilson, Ravenna Fire Russ Crowell and Elm Creek Assistant Chief Bob Reineke
✓ ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders
✓ Several updates have been made to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that had sent changes for the city/county personnel
✓ I had been working with community partners throughout the month to help develop a Community wide tabletop exercise and a full scale exercise
✓ EMPG quarterly reporting was completed as well as request for quarterly reimbursements to NEMA during the month

**November 2018  
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 2 times on the Response Unit and 3 times at the EOC. The VOIP lines are still not working in the EOC
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; I spoke with the Shelton Fire Chief and the Ravenna Mayor in person, and spoke with Gibbon Fire Chief and the Assistant Fire Chief for Elm Creek during the month
- ✓ ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders
- ✓ Several updates had been made to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that had sent changes for the city/county personnel
- ✓ I continued to work with community partners throughout the month to help develop a Community wide tabletop exercise and a full scale exercise
- ✓ I conducted an emergency management/EOC presentation with Sherry Morrow to the Kearney leadership group at the EOC
- ✓ I hosted a NWS Winter weather webinar at the Buffalo County City of Kearney EOC for the winter storm for December 1<sup>st</sup> through the 3<sup>rd</sup>

**December 2018  
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted 1 time on the Response Unit and 3 times at the EOC. The VOIP lines are still not working in the EOC
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; I spoke with the Kearney Fire Administrator Jason Whelan several times and the new Ravenna PD officer in person, and spoke with Kearney Fire Chief Jim Tacha and the Fire Chief Scott Shubert for Elm Creek during the month
- ✓ ID cards were made on three different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders
- ✓ Several updates had been made to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that had sent changes for the city/county personnel. With additional updates for the county after the blizzard and the system was used for the courthouse closure
- ✓ I continued to work with community partners throughout the month to help develop and put on the Community wide tabletop exercise. The Exercise was held on December 11<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ December 26<sup>th</sup> I hosted a NWS winter weather webinar at the Buffalo County City of Kearney EOC for the winter storm for December 27<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ I attended the NACO conference held here in Kearney from December 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>

## Notable Items

### RESPONSE UNIT ACTIVITIES (MRU)



- On May 9<sup>th</sup> the MRU was used to conduct communications checks at the Fort Kearney Recreation area for the upcoming Kearney Outdoor Expo.
- On May 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.
- A new Satellite internet system was purchase for the MRU. The old system was removed and the new system was installed and configured by myself. Saving the county and tax payers several thousand dollars in removal and installation costs.

### NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS



This is the Third year using Buffalo Watch on the Everbridge planform.

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.



This office underwent one State Audit in 2018 on Homeland Security Grants, NIMS compliance and the EM budget for the 2017 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

