



BUFFALO COUNTY / CITY OF KEARNEY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE 2022 SUMMARY



**COMING OUT OF THE PANDEMIC
FIRE AND ICE
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN DAMAGES**

BUFFALO COUNTY / CITY OF KEARNEY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mission Statement

To provide Buffalo County residents, businesses, 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.

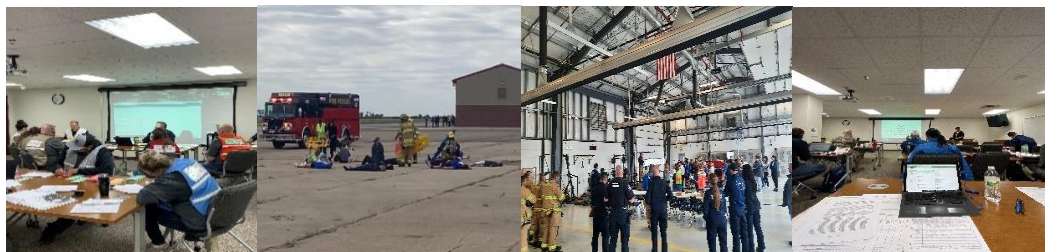
The Four Phases of a comprehensive Emergency Management program is certainly simplified in the above paragraph. In addition, the Emergency Management department is responsible for:

- 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, 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 budgets to the Sheriff, Kearney Police Chief and the county board
- Complete claims and payroll
- Work with Emergency Management partners to develop and negotiate agreements such as contracts, MOA's, MOU's, and LOA's for the emergency program.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): Emergency Operation Centers are built and designed for in person operations managing all types of disasters through response, mitigation and recovery. The EOC operations varied from full-scale operations lasting more than one operational period to the lowest levels lasting just a few hours. The Emergency Operation Center was opened 7 different times for weather type events, winter storms and blizzards to thunderstorm warnings and tornado watches and warnings throughout the year. From the entire year prior and starting on January 1st to the end of June the EOC had been in full operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of the EOC operation continued to be virtual in operation for the COVID-19 pandemic with some in person activity as the operation allowed. When the Governor of Nebraska declared the declaration of emergency to be over as of June 30th. Buffalo County went from full EOC operations to a ready standby operation for the pandemic.

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 2022, the Director sent 34 assorted local or regional training opportunities to First Responder agencies. Many training opportunities were offered in person again as the COVID pandemic slowed.

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

TRAINING/EXERCISE 2022

- State wide tornado drill-exercise
- Operations Section Chief course (5 days)
- Recovery after a disaster (2 days)
- Leadership Training
- EM Disabilities Awareness training (3 days)
- Kearney Airport Tabletop
- Mitigation for Emergency Management (3 days)
- Administration and Finance Section Chief course (3 days)
- Advanced Planning Concepts training (2 days)
- Schools Emergency Operations Plans training (2 days)
- Emergency Planning training (2 days)
- Public Information Officer training (3 days)
- Mass Fatality training (2 days)
- Juvare Software reporting tool training
- Strike Team / Task Force Leader training (3 days)
- Pipeline Safety Tabletop
- South Central Elected and Appointed officials Emergency Management 101 roles and responsibilities during a disaster workshop
- North Platte Sub-area Contingency Plan Tabletop
- Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop
- Salamander Solutions training
- Severe Weather Spotter Training

As pandemic concerns slowed, trainings and exercises have gotten back on track and increased in the region and Buffalo County in 2022.

STATE / FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Conduct or participate in a minimum of one exercise annually (per Emergency Management Performance Grant requirements) this requirement was changed in 2022 from a minimum of 3 exercise to just one.
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 regional three-year exercise calendar
4. Update Local Emergency Operations Plan on an annual basis and upload into the State BOLD planning software
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)



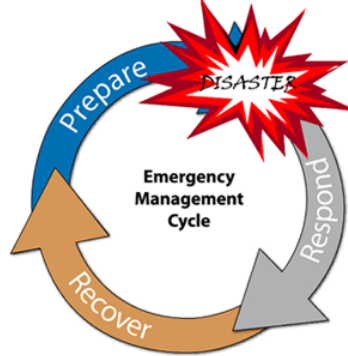
REPORTS

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 Bryan Waugh.

Most if not all of the work of the LEPC is conducted through the Emergency Management office, such as spill reporting, distribution and filing of Tier II reports to appropriate agencies and departments that would be members of the LEPC as well as distribution of emergency plans for response and recovery for review and changes. The Emergency Management office makes the changes and updates plans after reviews are conducted by the appropriate agencies and departments.

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.

- 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)
- The Andersons (Gibbon)
- Trotter Fertilizer (Pleasanton)



The Director has not received notification involving radioactive transports of spent fuel and low specific activity materials prior to the shipments entering Buffalo County for a

number of years. When notified, information is sent 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 reported to the emergency management office from 2015 to 2022.



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 opened six times during 2022, for weather events to include both winter and spring type weather. The Backup Dispatch Center was operational two times during 2022 for weather type events.

Sirens were sounded six times in Buffalo county for weather events this year. Twice in Gibbon, twice in Shelton, once in Ravenna and once in Kearney for a possible tornado, straight-line winds and large hail events.

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.

In March Buffalo County Emergency Management started the process of upgrading the outdoor warning siren activation system to a new two-way secure activation and management system. A RFP (request for proposal) was created and sent out to as many known siren activation companies as well as advertised on the Buffalo County webpage and local paper on March 8th. Upon review of the responses 4 companies were chosen for in person presentations. Through the selection process the siren activation project committee chose the American Signal Corporation as the vendor to complete the project. Due to shortages of equipment and supply chain issues the completion of the project has been delayed and should be completed in 2023.

2022 Emergency Management Overview

This is an overview of the 2022 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)	
01-06-2022	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County were conducted on January 6 th . Siren tests were not conducted during the month of January due to extremely cold temperatures.
02-03-2022	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County were conducted on February 3 rd . Siren tests were not conducted during the month of February due to extremely cold temperatures.
03-03-2022	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County were conducted on March 3 rd . There were no issues reported during the test of the sirens for the month.
04-07-2022	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County were conducted on April 7 th . There were no issues reported during the test of the sirens for the month.
05-05-2022	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County were conducted on May 5 th . There were no issues reported during the test of the sirens for the month.
06-02-2022	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County were conducted on June 2 nd . Most of the sirens in Kearney did not go off during the test. Platte Valley Communications was called to fix the issue. Platte Valley worked on the system the next day and informed us that the issue had been fixed. The signaling levels were distorted and too "Hot" (no one really knows how this happened or what the cause was). Unfortunately, the sirens were needed for the Kearney area due to a funnel cloud spotted north of town moving south. For the first time in my 19 years the sirens in Kearney did not activate when they were needed. Platte Valley came back to fix the issue again and found additional adjustments were needed. Buffalo County Emergency Management and the Communications center conducted three separate live tests to ensure

	the system was working as it should. Emergency Management got confirmation through paid personnel, volunteers and the general public that all the sirens in Kearney sounded during the tests.
07-07-2022	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County were conducted on July 7 th . The siren tests were cancelled due to Buffalo county being in a special weather statement for possible land spout tornados at the time.
08-04-2022	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County were conducted on August 4 th . There were no issues reported during the test of the sirens for the month.
09-01-2022	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County were conducted on September 1 st . There were no issues reported during the test of the sirens for the month.
10-06-2022	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County were conducted on October 6 th . There were no issues reported during the test of the sirens for the month.
11-03-2022	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County were conducted on November 3 rd . There were no issues reported during the test of the sirens for the month.
12-01-2022	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County were conducted on December 1 st . There were no issues reported during the test of the sirens for the month.

2022 Kearney Area Precipitation				
	Monthly Rain	*Monthly Snow	2021 Rain Total	2021 Snow Total
January	.04"	2"	.04"	2"
February	.00"	1"	.04"	3"
March	.21"	4.5"	.25"	7.5"
April	1.77"	0"	2.02"	7.5"
May	2.34"	0"	3.77"	7.5"
June	1.13"	0"	4.90"	7.5"
July	3.10"	0"	8.00"	7.5"
August	.15"	0"	8.15"	7.5"
September	1.91"	0"	10.06"	7.5"

October	1.10"	0"	11.16"	7.5"
November	.12"	0"	11.28"	7.5"
December	.29"	4"	11.57"	11.5"

*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.

2022 High and Low Temperatures					
Month	High	Low	High Average	Low Average	Overall Average
January	64	-7	40	14	26
February	66	-7	42	14	28
March	79	0	53	25	38
April	88	21	64	36	50
May	92	32	72	49	60
June	102	44	82	56	70
July	101	56	88	65	76
August	96	53	87	62	74
September	94	42	82	55	67
October	88	23	68	40	54
November	77	7	50	24	36
December	56	-16	24	14	36

Weather Activity 2022	
January	A good portion of Buffalo County saw 1 to 2 inches of snow in January. There were several near misses for accumulating snow in January that seemed to skirt around the area. There were two wind chill advisories in January on the 5 th and the 6 th producing close to -30 degree wind chills. Late in the month there was a fire weather watch issued on the 27 th and two red flag warnings issued on the 29 th and the 31 st .
February	There were two wind chill advisories in February on the 21 st and the 22 nd producing close to -25 degree wind chills. There was a red flag warning issued on the 8 th .
March	There was a winter storm watch issued for March 8 th and 9 th , red flag warning on the 15 th and a high wind warning on the 22 nd . March 29 th while there was no watch or warning issued, Kearney experienced a micro burst at about 7 pm that knocked out power with downed lines to

	about 900 residents also knocking out power to traffic lights in town.
April	Seems Buffalo county and the rest of the state was in a red flag warning or a fire weather watch for most of the month. Buffalo County was in a red flag warning for 18 days during the month on the 2 nd , 3 rd , 5 th , 7 th , 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th , 12 th , 13 th , 14 th , 17 th , 20 th , 21 st , 22 nd , 23 rd , 25 th , and 26 th ; a fire weather watch for 10 days out of the month on the 2 nd , 7 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th , 12 th , 16 th , 20 th , 22 nd , and the 25 th ; high wind watches and warnings on 9 different days on the 2 nd , 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th , 13 th , 21 st , 22 nd , 29 th , and the 30 th ; blowing dust advisories and warning 6 days on the 6 th , 7 th , 8 th , 12, 19 th , and the 23 rd . A dense fog advisory was issued on the 21 st . A thunderstorm watch was issued on the 21 st at 23:14, the 22 nd at 22:34. A tornado watch was issued on the 29 th at 14:14, and thunderstorm warnings were issued on the 23 rd at 02:56, the 28 th at 19:35 and on the 29 th at 16:59, 17:09, 17:11, 17:16, 17:31 and 17:48.
May	Buffalo County was in a red flag warning on May 19 th . Thunderstorm watches were issued on the 12 th at 14:14 and the 17 th at 18:10. A tornado watch was issued on the 29 th at 19:14, and thunderstorm warnings were issued on the 12 th at 14:11, 14:35, 19:20, 15 th at 04:26 and the 17 th at 21:22.
June	Thunderstorm watches were issued on the 4 th at 17:20, the 5 th at 16:15, the 6 th at 17:50, the 7 th at 18:50, the 9 th at 19:10 and the 14 th at 21:35. Thunderstorm warnings were issued on the 4 th at 18:45, 21:10, 21:45, the 5 th at 19:45, and 20:25; the 6 th at 18:40, 19:30, 22:10, 22:40, 23:25, 00:25 and 01:00; the 7 th at 19:30, the 9 th at 21:30 and 21:45; the 12 th at 05:10; the 14 th at 22:35, 22:50, 23:10, 23:45 and 23:50; the 20 th at 18:45 and the 24 th at 23:05 and 23:35. Special weather statements were issued on the 12 th at 04:30, the 14 th at 22:20 and the 24 th at 23:45 and 23:55. A flood advisory was issued on the 15 th overnight until 06:45 in the morning.
July	Thunderstorm watches were issued on the 3 rd at 19:04, the 16 th at 18:39 and the 21 st at 18:54. Thunderstorm warnings were issued on the 16 th at 19:55, 20:33 and 21:11; the 22 nd at 22:24, 23:10 and 23:42; the 23 rd at 00:29, 00:55, 01:26, 16:08, 16:25, 16:32, 16:49, 16:59 and 17:01. Tornado warning on the 16 th at 21:04. Special weather statements were issued on the 3 rd at 22:56, 4 th at 00:01, 5 th at 21:29, 7 th at 16:30 the 16 th at 21:11 and the 21 st at 21:41, 21:43 and 21:59. A flash flood warning was issued on the 22 nd at 23:52 overnight until 05:00 in the morning.
August	Thunderstorm watches were issued on the 1 st at 18:04 and the 18 th at 15:59. Thunderstorm warnings were issued on the 18 th at 16:41, 17:26, 17:45 and 18:22.

September	No watches / warnings were issued for Buffalo County during the month.
October	There was one thunderstorm warning issued on October 23 rd at 16:26 three red flag warnings were issued on the 13 th , 14 th and the 23 rd for Buffalo County during the month.
November	There was one winter weather advisory issued on November 28 th from 3 am to 6 pm.
December	There was a high wind warning issued December 2 nd from 3 PM to 10 PM. Winter weather advisory December 8 th from 05:00 to 6 pm and a windchill warning from the 21 st to the 23 rd with windchill reaching -47 and actual temperature of -16.

Emergency Activities 2022	
January	COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued into the new year through the month of January with a significant increase in number of cases in January from December and November. Due to county case numbers not being reported Emergency Management could no longer report on local COVID cases during the month. Region wide cases reported, December 1 st through December 28 th were 1,070. December 29 th through January 25 th there were 3,372 reported. The EOC remained operational through in person and virtual operations through the daily operational periods for the pandemic. Emergency Management continued to offer help in any way possible that we could.
February	COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued into the new year through the month of February. There was a significant decrease in number of cases in February from January. Region wide cases reported December 29 th through February 1 st were 4108 and February 2 nd through March 1 st there were 620 cases reported. The EOC remained operational through in person and virtual operations through the daily operational periods for the pandemic. Emergency Management continued to offer help in any way possible that we could.
March	COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued into the new year through the month of March. There was again a significant decrease in number of cases in March from February. Region wide cases reported February 2 nd through March 1 st were 620 and March 2 nd through March 28 th there were 111 cases reported. The EOC remained operational through in person and virtual operations through the daily operational periods for the pandemic. Emergency Management

	<p>continued to offer help in any way possible that we could.</p> <p>There were two Hazmat incident calls within Buffalo County during the month. One on March 7th at 5 AM and one March 31 / April 1 at 2 AM in the morning. Both were leaking diesel tanks from semi accidents and both were on the interstate. Incidents on the interstate for reporting to NDEE is completed by the State Patrol.</p>
April	<p>Very little information was distributed for the COVID-19 Pandemic. Due to the lack of information from public health COVID information could no longer be reported on within the monthly report.</p> <p>The April 29th storms caused minor to medium damage to property within the county. Sirens were sounded in Gibbon and Shelton due to high winds as well as a possible tornado spotted by trained spotters with rotation within a very large blowing dust storm. Two pivots were reported to be blown over, several train cars were derailed just west of Shelton along highway 30. No injuries were reported as a result of this storm. Spotters were called out in every community for the April 29th storm.</p>
May	<p>No possible emergency incidents were reported to the Emergency Management office during the month.</p>
June	<p>Weather related; The storms on the 6th and 7th produced heavy amounts of large hail that caused an estimated 32 million dollars of damage to personal property (homes and vehicles) in the communities of Ravenna and Shelton. There was no estimate on crop/ag damage or public damage from the USDA office. A disaster declaration was declared for the storm damage on the 6th and 7th. The storms on the morning of the 12th caused power outages in the southern parts of Kearney and rural areas north of Kearney as well as Riverdale from about 05:30 to 11:00 am.</p>
July	<p>Weather related; 3 to 5 inches of rain in a short time prompted a flash flood warning for rural areas of Buffalo county between Miller, Ravenna and Pleasanton, no damage reported. Radar indicated tornado prompted a tornado warning for the Gibbon and Shelton area. Sirens were sounded in both communities at the request of spotters, no damage reported in the area.</p>
August	<p>Kearney Fire reported two fuel spills during the month both diesel and both under the reportable quantity. One at a local gas station and one at Good Samaritan Hospital. Both fuel spills were controlled and floor dry absorbent was used to soak up the spill and left for the spiller to clean up. Both spills were contained to the concrete and none was introduced into a water source or into the ground.</p>

September	No possible emergency incidents were reported to the Emergency Management office during the month.
October	<p>Three fuel thefts were reported during the month by drilling holes in fuel tanks of parked vehicles. At least two of these vehicles caused fuel spills in the community of Kearney, one estimated at more than 25 gallons and drained into the storm drain. This spill was reported to NDEE by this office. Kearney Fire put down absorbent and the City of Kearney street department cleaned up the residue and took it to the landfill.</p> <p>October 23rd a wildland fire was reported along Sodtown road at about 177th to 310th. This fire burned about a ½ mile wide and 2.5 miles long. The fire burned through corn stocks, standing uncut corn, pasture land and one farmstead. Several pieces of equipment/vehicles and a barn was damaged during the fire. The fire operations lasted from about 15:00 to 23:00. There were 21 departments on scene; 17 fire departments, 2 law enforcement departments, and two emergency management agencies; 44 pieces of equipment and 104 personnel. Emergency management assisted by providing the ICP and through tracking and accountability of resources during the event.</p>
November	November 29 th at 08:00 a Hazmat Spill was reported on Interstate 80 at mile marker 273. The spill was organic peroxide (not your normal peroxide), highly flammable and explosive from heat and spark. The evacuation radius is a half mile. The incident was in the Shelton fire district. Shelton Fire, Kearney Fire, Buffalo Hazmat team initially responded with an additional response from Hall County departments Woodriver Fire and Grand Island Fire and Hazmat team. A Lincoln county Hazmat clean up team was dispatched from North Platte. Part of the interstate from Woodriver to Shelton was closed down for almost 24 hours due to the spill and clean-up efforts.
December	No emergency management type incidents were reported to this office during the month. I did take several waterline break calls from citizens of Kearney during and after the extreme cold temperatures. I forwarded those call to dispatch for the on-call water/utilities of Kearney persons.

Training Opportunities Sent Out 2022	
January	2
February	4
March	3
April	2
May	3
June	6
July	4
August	2
September	4
October	2
November	1
December	2

2022 Meetings and Events Attended by the Buffalo County Emergency Management Director	
January	January; one COVID related meeting happened throughout the month. The Buffalo County Safety and Security officials meeting was the only COVID related meeting during the month.
January 5	January 5 th Buffalo County EMA hosted the Emergency Management CONFAB meeting and the South-Central PET regional meeting at the Buffalo County / City of Kearney EOC.
January 10	January 10 th Buffalo County Emergency Management hosted the NAEM board meeting at the EOC.
January 10,18,24,31	January 10 th , 18 th , 24 th , and 31 st I participated in the weekly ice jam meeting calls with the NWS for the Platte and Loup rivers.
January 15	January 15 th I hosted the Buffalo County amateur radio meeting.
January 19	January 19 th I hosted the Central NE MRC executive board meeting where elections were held for officer's positions. I retained the Chair position for another year.
January 20	January 20 th I attended the South-Central PET regional Law Enforcement meeting via Zoom.

January 21	January 21 st I participated in a Homeland Security grant audit for the Buffalo County EMPG conducted by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency via WebEx.
January 28	January 28 th I hosted the NRIN board meeting at the EOC.
January 29	January 29 th I hosted the amateur radio Winter Field day event at the EOC from 10:00 to 17:30 where the EOC amateur radios were used and exercised throughout the day.
January 31	January 31 st I participated in a group TRIMRS meeting to discuss the future and direction of TRIMRS.
February	February; one COVID related meeting happened throughout the month. The Buffalo County Safety and Security officials meeting was the only COVID related meeting during the month.
February 1, 2,6	February 1 st , 2 nd and the 6 th I attended the Central Platte NRD Hazard Mitigation virtual meetings. This meeting was to rewrite the current hazard mitigation plan that includes Buffalo County, its communities and other political sub-divisions.
February 15	February 15 th I participated in the Homeland Security regional Investment Justification project finalization meeting with Law Enforcement (LEG) representatives and several regional emergency management departments.
February 16	February 16 th I hosted two meetings at the EOC and EOC training room. Leadership training for Law Enforcement and a statewide 911 commission board meeting.
February 17	February 17 th I participated in the Buffalo County Elected and Appointed officials' safety and security meeting as well as a special meeting for the Central NE MRC group to discuss application for a \$50,000.00 sustainment grant.
February 18	February 18 th I participated in the bi-monthly TRIMRS meeting.
February 19	February 19 th I hosted the Amateur Radio club meeting.
February 22	February 22 nd I attended the budget committee meeting to discuss funding for a county wide warning siren upgrade.
February 25	February 25 th I hosted the NRIN executive board meeting at the EOC.
February 28	February 28 th I participated and hosted the NE Association of Emergency Managers executive board meeting.

March 2	March 2 nd I attended the Regional Emergency Management CONFAB and the South Central PET regional meetings both in Grand Island.
March 8	March 8 th I participated in a NWS weather webinar for possible winter weather. Buffalo county only saw about 3 inches of snow for this event.
March 10	March 10 th I participated in the applicants briefing for the federally declared disaster for the December 15 th tornados across Nebraska.
March 11	March 11 th was the first of weekly meetings with other local Emergency Managers for the hospitals, UNK and TRIMRS coordinator for exercise planning and development. These meetings took place at the City of Kearney Buffalo County EOC.
March 17	March 17 th I attended a Kearney Regional Airport meeting to start preparing for the mandatory three year airport full scale exercise, scheduled for May 20 th 2022.
March 19	March 19 th I hosted the monthly Amateur Radio meeting at the EOC.
March 22	March 22 nd the mandatory pre-proposal meeting for the Buffalo County siren project was held. This meeting was held to allow vendors the opportunity to ask questions on the project prior to providing a proposal.
March 25	March 25 th I hosted the NRIN board meeting at the EOC.
March 25	March 25 th the second local EM planning meeting was held at the EOC.
March 29	March 29 th I was invited to and attended a Buffalo County Fire department, State Fire Marshals and State WIRAT meeting to discuss the development of a Buffalo County Task Force team for mutual aid to assist in wildland fire requests.
March 31	March 31 st I participated in a second planning / table top meeting for the Kearney Regional Airport full scale exercise.
April	April; one COVID related meeting happened throughout the month.
April 1, 8	April 1 st and 8 th I met with the hospitals, public health and UNK emergency coordinators at the EOC for an exercise development planning meeting.
April 11	April 11 th I met with NEMA project manager at the Buffalo County highway department for site inspections for the 2019 damage to

	public infrastructure. John Maul from the highway department took the NEMA rep around to all the sites. I, as the appointed representative for the 2019 floods for Buffalo County, signed off on the needed paperwork for state reimbursements.
April 12	April 12 th I attended the Buffalo County board meetings for opening of the sealed bids for the 2 way secure outdoor warning activation management systems. I participated in the statewide flood hazard mitigation plan meeting via webinar and attended the county budget meeting at the Buffalo County board room.
April 16	April 16 th I hosted the Amateur Radio meeting at the EOC.
April 20	April 20 th I attended the new Buffalo County Task Force development meeting at the Gibbon Fire hall.
April 21	April 21 st was the Buffalo County officials COVID/safety and security meeting via zoom.
April 22	April 22 nd I attended via ZOOM meeting the TRIMRS meeting.
April 25	April 25 th I attended the Buffalo County Mutual Aid meeting at Kearney fire station 1.
May	May; one COVID related meeting happened throughout the month. Two Rivers Public Health reports that COVID cases are on the rise in the region over the last month 155 positive case were reported from April 28 th through May 25 th with 70 cases being reported in the last week. COVID hospitalizations have been down during the prior month with an increase in late May.
May 4	May 4 th I participated in the South Central PET meeting via zoom.
May 10	May 10 th I attended the county board meeting for the nomination of Jon Rosendlund to the NRIN board.
May 11, 12	May 11 th and 12 th there were two vendor presentations on each day for the RFP of the two-way secured siren activation system.
May 16	May 16 th I attended the annual Police Memorial presentation at the LEC. Another great tribute to all of our fallen officers.
May 17	May 17 th I attended the Buffalo County budget committee meeting at the County Board conference room where I submitted the Emergency Management budget to the committee for the coming budget year.
May 21	May 21 st I hosted the Amateur Radio meeting at the EOC.

May 23	May 23 rd I participated in a ZOOM platform renewal meeting with ZOOM representatives.
May 24	May 24 th I attended the County Board meeting to request support and acceptance through resolution for the Buffalo County Hazard Mitigation plan.
May 26	May 26 th I participated in a spend down TRIMRS meeting to help provide direction on restocking the hospital trailer.
June	June; one COVID related meeting happened throughout the month. Two Rivers Public Health reports that COVID cases are on the rise in the region over the last two months, 593 positive case were reported from June 1 st through June 28 th . With 187 cases being reported in the last week. COVID hospitalizations have been averaging 15 to 20 during the month within the TRIMRS region.
June 9	June 9 th I hosted the NRIN board meeting at the EOC.
June 10	June 10 th I participated in the NDEE Energy emergency plans review meeting hosted by Brian Tuma, for the PET region.
June 14	June 14 th I attended the Buffalo County board meeting to provide recommendation for the vendor for the 2-way secure siren activation system.
June 16	June 16 th I participated in the monthly Buffalo County officials meeting via zoom
June 17	June 17 th I attended the TRIMRS bi-monthly meeting via zoom.
June 18	June 18 th I hosted the Amateur Radio meeting at the EOC.
June 22	June 22 nd I attended a planning/strategy meeting with the American Signal vendor for the siren project at the EOC.
July	July; No COVID related meetings happened throughout the month. Two Rivers Public Health reports that COVID cases have been on the rise in the region over the last several months, 607 positive case were reported from June 30 th through July 27 th with 127 cases being reported in the last week. Noting a drop in recorded cases in the Lexington, Kearney and Holdrege areas in the last week of the month. COVID hospitalizations continue to average 15 to 20 during the month within the TRIMRS region.

July 6	July 6 th I attended the South Central PET regional meeting. The meeting was held in Aurora this month.
July 12	July 12 th I attended the Buffalo County board meeting to get approval on the contract between Buffalo County and the American Signal Corporation for the county wide siren activation upgrade project. The board approved and signed the contract. A copy of the contract was sent to ASC.
July 16	July 16 th I hosted the Amateur Radio meeting at the EOC.
July 29	July 29 th I participated in a siren activation project meeting with American Signal Corp. to review project worksheets that needed to be completed to input the data in the software part of the project.
August	August; One COVID related meeting happened throughout the month. The County elected and appointed officials meeting was held on the 18th but I was unable to attend due to training at that time. Two Rivers Public Health has stopped providing its weekly reports and risk dial due to low hospital numbers being reported in the region. COVID hospitalizations continue to average 15 to 20 during the month within the TRIMRS region, half of which continue to be in the Two Rivers Public Health region.
August 3	August 3 rd , I attended the regional Emergency Managers CONFAB meeting in Grand Island.
August 12	August 12 th , I participated in a TRIMRS meeting with the Grand Island Hospital's, Hall County EMA and Central District Health Department to discuss the Clinical Advisor position for the TRIMRS coalition.
August 19	August 19 th , I participated in the TRIMRS steering committee meeting.
August 20	August 20 th , I hosted the Buffalo County Amateur Radio meeting at the EOC.
August 26	August 26 th , I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC.
September 1	September 1 st Emergency Management hosted training for the new Juvare software that is replacing the Knowledge Center software.
September 7	September 7 th I attended the SCPET Regional meeting in North Platte.
September 8	September 8 th I participated in a Shelton / Woodriver Fire meeting to discuss calls and simultaneous dispatch for areas between the Shelton and Woodriver fire districts.

September 9	September 9 th I participated in a phone meeting to discuss Mutual Aid agreements and statewide legislation for emergency response within the state of Nebraska.
September 17	September 17 th I hosted the Amateur Radio club meeting at the EOC.
September 21	September 21 st I held a Central NE Medical Reserve Corp. meeting at the EOC.
September 22	September 22 nd I participated in an Operation Life Saver meeting at the Texas Café.
October 5	October 5 th I attended the Regional Emergency Management CONFAB meeting in Grand Island.
October 20	October 20 th I met with two representatives of the National Weather Service Hastings office at the EOC. This meeting was to go over a number of topics, from what we liked best, what worked well, what might need improvements, what we would like to see more of as well as preparing for the upcoming winter weather season.
October 21	October 21 st I participated in the TRIMRS meeting via ZOOM, I was asked to discuss the Med-4 channel that was put in the regional hospitals several years ago. What the system was for, how to use it, how it works and troubleshooting issues.
October 22	October 22 nd I hosted the Amateur Radio meeting at the EOC.
October 25	October 25 th I hosted the NAEM board meeting at the EOC. This was an all-day meeting with a workshop in the afternoon.
October 28	October 28 th I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC.
November 2	November 2 nd I attended the South Central PET Regional meeting in Holdrege.
November 3	November 3 rd I met with Regroup Mass Notification vendor to discuss their service versus the current system we use at this time.
November 8	November 8 th I met with KRMC to try and figure out issues with the TRIMRS Med-4 radio. This radio has been removed from the ED area of KRMC to be reprogrammed.
November 10	November 10 th I met with a "Storm Chaser" from Kearney in Buffalo County. Nathan Koenig is a young man that would like to help and support Emergency Management during severe weather events by

	providing information during storm events. I have directed him on some training and organizations to help him be more prepared and safe while performing such tasks.
November 16	November 16 th Central Nebraska MRC end of year meeting was held in Hastings at the Lochland Country Club.
November 17	November 17 th I participated in the Buffalo County officials meeting held on ZOOM.
November 18	November 18 th I met with the planning team and the Idea Bank representative to forward the development of some just in time videos.
November 19	November 19 th I hosted the Amateur Radio meeting at the EOC.
December 7	December 7 th I attended the Regional Emergency Management CONFAB meeting in Grand Island.
December 8	December 7 th I participated in a National Weather Service webinar for a winter weather advisory for freezing rain.
December 14	December 9 th I participated in a planning meeting for the development of several informational and just in time training videos.
December 12, 19, 27	December 12 th 19 th and 27 th I participated in the winter ice jam calls with the National Weather Service.
December 20	December 20 th I hosted a winter weather webinar with the National Weather Service at the EOC for community partners.
December 29	December 29 th I met with Idea Bank via zoom to discuss updating the Be Ready Nebraska web page.

January 2022 Monthly Activities	
✓	The EOC and equipment was in full operation for fifteen months through June 30 th 2021. As of June 30 th , the EOC went from full operational emergency disaster status to functional ready status. No testing was conducted on the MRU this month. County and City IT are working together to replace the computers in the MRU, 3 laptops and one desk top computer. All computers were with city IT at this time.
✓	Meetings with a responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly and sometimes daily emails continued to go out to community

<p>leaders, mayors, community board chairs and fire departments. I stopped into Kearney Fire Station 1 to see anyone there and dropped off some goodies for the guys. I tried calling the Kearney Fire Chief, ended up leaving a message and he texted me back. I worked with Taryn Hawks, the Shelton fire chief on making the state-wide credentialing cards for equipment and personnel in salamander during the month and made a new card at the request of the Elm Creek Fire Chief that had a member with a name change. Also worked with all the fire chiefs in Buffalo County via text for weather events and a request for assistance for Broken Bow and Sargent for a grass fire.</p>
<p>✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on several different days for offices and departments for Buffalo County as well as other cards for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center card holders during the month.</p>
<p>✓ Work continued with NEMA and FEMA on the CARES Act for COVID funding as well as with a number of communities and government departments on the 2019 flooding disaster. We are still in the process of trying to close out several projects for the 2019 flood at this time. There has been some movement on the 2019 closeout for Buffalo County after I made a call to NEMA during the month to see where the close out process stands, they said they needed a couple pieces of documentation that had been sent to them several times. I had them contact Linda from the Highway Department to get things finished up. They still needed to come out and do site inspections before funding would be released from the state.</p>
<p>✓ We have been working on the Homeland Security IJ grant process throughout the month.</p>
<p>✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.</p>

<p>February 2022 Monthly Activities</p>
<p>✓ As of June 30th, 2021 the EOC went from full operational emergency disaster status to functional ready status. No testing was conducted on the MRU this month. County and City IT continued to work together to replace the computers in the MRU, 3 laptops and one desk top computer. All computers are with city IT at this time and sounded like they were making progress.</p>
<p>✓ Meetings with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly and sometimes daily emails continue to go out to community leaders, mayors, community board chairs, fire departments. I continued to worked with Taryn Hawks the Shelton Fire Chief on making the state-wide credentialing cards for equipment and personnel in salamander. I spoke with Jesse Leeling, President of Elm Creek Fire in person during the month.</p>
<p>✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on several different days for offices and departments for Buffalo County as well as other cards for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center card holders during the month.</p>
<p>✓ Work was ongoing with NEMA and FEMA on the CARES Act for COVID funding as well as with a number of communities and government departments on the</p>

2019 flooding disaster. NEMA still needed to come out and do site inspections before funding would be released from the state.
✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management hosted and participated in the 4-day Operations Section Chief training held at the EOC training room.
✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management hosted and participated in a 2-day training at the EOC for Recovery after a disaster at the local level.
✓ All Homeland Security IJ grant projects were submitted to the regional level and a select group reviewed and finalized all project. All SCPET projects were submitted to NEMA during the month.
✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.

March 2022 Monthly Activities
✓ No testing was conducted on the MRU this month. County and City IT continued to work together to replace the computers in the MRU, 3 laptops and one desk top computer. The three laptops are complete and ready to replace the old laptops however the desk top computer needed to be sent to Greg Biltz of Interop solutions to configure the computer so that it would work with the Paraclete software used for interoperable communications in the MRU.
✓ Meetings with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly and sometimes daily emails continue to go out to community leaders, mayors, community board chairs, fire departments. I had contact with all fire chiefs during the month mostly via text for wildland fire requests and met with a number of Fire Chiefs and or community representatives at the “Task Force” meeting.
✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on several different days for offices and departments for Buffalo County, as well as other cards for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center card holders during the month. I continue to work with participating fire departments on the statewide ID credentialing system. Gibbon fire is now working on these cards as well.
✓ An (RFP) Request for proposal was completed and presented to the county board for approval for the county wide Two Way Secure Outdoor Siren Warning Activation and Management system. This proposal was advertised and sent out to known vendors on March 8th with a deadline of intent to bid on the 15th and a mandatory pre-proposal meeting held on the 22nd with proposal openings at the county board scheduled for April 12th.
✓ Work continued with NEMA and FEMA on the CARES Act for COVID funding as well as with a number of communities and government departments on the 2019 flooding disaster. NEMA still had not come out and do site inspections, this is the only thing we continue to wait on before funding will be released from the state and the last of the 2019 flooding disaster can be completed.

✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management hosted and participated in the 3-day Emergency Management Disabilities Awareness training. This training was held at the Buffalo County Extension building.
✓ March 21 st through the 25 th was severe weather awareness week. Buffalo County Emergency Management posted a number of educational things on Facebook and Twitter throughout the week as well as providing information on the Talk of the Town program on KRVN. The statewide tornado drill was held on the 23 rd and a severe weather spotter training was held on the 24 th .
✓ The preventive maintenance for Kearney sirens was completed by Platte Valley Communications during the month. Two sirens were found to be inoperable. Both were repaired by Platte Valley within a week's time.
✓ Work continued on the annual report and was completed during the month. It had not yet been sent to print.
✓ Dennise Daniels, with planning and zoning, and I worked on some additional worksheets for the Central Platte NRD Hazard Mitigation plan that covers Buffalo County and its political sub-divisions.

**April 2022
Monthly Activities**

✓ No testing was conducted on the MRU this month. County and City IT continued working together to replace the computers in the MRU, 3 laptops and one desk top computer. The three laptops are complete and ready to replace the old laptops however the desk top computer needed to be sent to Greg Biltz of Interop solutions to configure the computer so that it will work with the Paraclete software used for interoperable communications in the MRU. There had been no update on the progress of the computers as of this month.
✓ Meetings with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly and sometimes daily emails continue to go out to community leaders, mayors, community board chairs, fire departments. I had contact with all Fire Chiefs this month via text for weather events and wildland fires. I spoke with all Fire Chiefs during the Task Force meetings and the Buffalo County Mutual Aid meeting.
✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on several different days for offices and departments for Buffalo County, as well as other cards for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center card holders during the month. I continued to work with participating fire departments on the statewide ID credentialing system. Gibbon fire started working on these cards as well. I printed out and delivered Shelton Fire personal ID cards as well as two typed equipment cards.
✓ Four sealed proposals were opened at the county board meeting on April 12th for the two-way secure outdoor waring activation management system. Each of the proposals were reviewed by myself and Sheriff Miller. Presentations for each proposal were scheduled for May before recommendations to the board would be made.

✓ Work was ongoing with NEMA and FEMA on the CARES Act for COVID funding as well as with a number of communities and government departments on the 2019 flooding disaster. NEMA came out to do site inspections on April 11th. I signed all the inspection documentation during the sight inspection, getting Buffalo County one step closer to closing out the 2019 flood disaster declaration.
✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management hosted and participated in the 3-day admin finance section chief training. This training was held at the Buffalo County City of Kearney EOC.
✓ Annual report was printed and distributed during the month.
✓ 3rd quarter EMPG report was completed and sent to NEMA along with the 3rd quarter EMPG, EMPG-ARPA reimbursement requests.
✓ Emergency Management participated in a table top exercise for the Kearney Regional Airport.
✓ Emergency Management attended the NAEM conference held in Grand Island. While the conference was very good, it was during one of the largest wild fires in Nebraska history that claimed the life of the Elwood Fire Chief and severely injured the Phelps County Emergency Manager.
✓ Friday evening through Saturday noon, April 8 and 9, I assisted as resource support for the 739-road fire in Gosper and Furnas counties.
✓ Emergency Management hosted and attended the Admin Finance section chief training at the EOC.
✓ I reviewed the four bid proposals for the two-way outdoor warning control systems project.
✓ During the month I visited all the Buffalo County Schools outside the Kearney District. Purpose of the visit was to distribute severe weather information to the schools.

May 2022 Monthly Activities
✓ No testing was conducted on the MRU this month. County and City IT continued working together to replace the computers in the MRU, 3 laptops and one desk top computer. The three laptops are complete and ready to replace the old laptops however the desk top computer is still with Greg Biltz of Interop solutions to configuration for the Paraclete software used for interoperable communications in the MRU.
✓ Meetings with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly and sometimes daily emails continue to go out to community leaders, mayors, community board chairs, fire departments. I had contact with all Fire Chiefs this month via text and e-mail for weather events.
✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on several different days for offices and departments for Buffalo County, as well as other cards for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center card holders during the month. I continued to work with participating fire departments on the statewide ID credentialing system.

✓ Four vendor presentations were conducted for the two-way secure outdoor warning activation management system. In person and virtual platforms were offered to the vendors for their presentations, two were in person and two were online. After the presentations Sheriff Miller, Lt. Rob Tubbs and myself met to review each vendor presentation on a side by side comparison based off of their presentations and proposals submitted.
✓ I completed the budget proposal for the next year's budget and submitted it to the budget committee.
✓ I conducted an Emergency Management presentation for 18 boy scouts that were working on getting their emergency preparedness badge.
✓ I took the Emergency Management vehicle in for an oil change during the month.
✓ Work continued with NEMA and FEMA on the CARES Act for COVID funding as well as with a number of communities and government departments on the 2019 flooding disaster. Both events are very close to being closed out. Additional information was submitted to FEMA on the COVID cares act reimbursements for June to December 2021 during the month.
✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management hosted and participated in the 2-day Advanced Planning concepts training. This training was held at the Buffalo County City of Kearney EOC.
✓ Emergency Management participated in a Full-scale exercise for the Kearney Regional Airport.

June 2022 Monthly Activities
✓ No testing was conducted on the MRU this month. County and City IT continued working together to replace the computers in the MRU, 3 laptops and one desk top computer. The three laptops were complete and ready to replace the old laptops however the desk top computer is still with Greg Biltz of Interop solutions to configuration for the Paraclete software used for interoperable communications in the MRU.
✓ Meetings with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly and sometimes daily emails continue to go out to community leaders, mayors, community board chairs, fire departments. I had contact with all Fire Chiefs this month via text and e-mail for weather events and the siren project.
✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on several different days for offices and departments for Buffalo County, as well as other cards for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center card holders during the month. I continue to work with participating fire departments on the statewide ID credentialing system.
✓ The American Signal Corp. was chosen as the preferred vendor for the two-way secure outdoor warning activation management system. An in-person meeting was held with the vendor to review the proposal again, answer any questions we may have had and discuss timelines and strategies for the implementation of the project.

- ✓ I attended the ribbon cutting for the new public safety radio communications project, and hosted (provided the location) for the after ribbon cutting gathering for coffee and snacks for those that attended at the EOC.
- ✓ I dropped the EM vehicle at the fleet maintenance garage to have Boyd put on new breaks, rotors, and windshield wipers.
- ✓ I participated in a Nebraska Department of Education's Schools Emergency Operations Plans training.
- ✓ I participated in a TRIMRS regional evacuation functional exercise.
- ✓ Work was ongoing with NEMA and FEMA on the CARES Act for COVID funding as well as with a number of communities and government departments on the 2019 flooding disaster. Both events are very close to being closed out. There has been no additional information or progress on these two projects in the last month.

**July 2022
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ Testing was conducted on the MRU twice this month. Noted that the phone switch was not working. I will have to look at this further, if I cannot fix the issue will have to have Platte Valley look at the switch. The 3 new laptops are in place in the response unit, however the new software for the MCT would not load the user name and password page. City IT had to take a look at them to fix this issue. We are still waiting on the desk top computer to come back from Greg Biltz. Greg is programming the configuration for the Paraclete software used for interoperable communications in the MRU.
- ✓ Meetings with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly and sometimes daily emails continue to go out to community leaders, mayors, community board chairs, fire departments. I had contact with all Fire Chiefs this month via text and e-mail for weather events, the siren project and a taskforce training being held in Hastings in August.
- ✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on several different days for offices and departments for Buffalo County, as well as other cards for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center card holders during the month. Three cards were made and delivered to Ravenna during the month. I continued to work with participating fire departments on the statewide ID credentialing system.
- ✓ The statewide ID credentialing system was updated to the latest version.
- ✓ Emergency Management hosted and participated in two separate trainings during the month at the Emergency Operations Center. (Emergency Planning and Basic Public Information Officer training)
- ✓ The MRU was again used for Kearney Cruise night, however was put away early due to weather. Kearney saw high winds and heavy rains early during the Saturday evening cruise night event. Weather pretty well ended the event for the evening.
- ✓ Elm Creek received notification from a citizen that they did not hear the siren at the Elm Creek park last time it was set off. Buffalo County Emergency

Management tested the Elm Creek sirens upon their request. All sirens activated as they should.
✓ Work was ongoing with NEMA and FEMA on the CARES Act for COVID funding as well as with a number of communities and government departments on the 2019 flooding disaster. Four FEMA projects were closed out for the City of Kearney during July for the 2019 flooding.

August 2022 Monthly Activities
✓ Testing was conducted on the MRU twice this month. Platte Valley Communications was asked to look at the phone switch. The new software for the MCT on the 3 new laptops was fixed and is working as it should. Still waiting on the desk top computer to come back from Greg Biltz. Greg is programming the configuration for the Paraclete software used for interoperable communications in the MRU.
✓ Meetings with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly and sometimes daily emails continue to go out to community leaders, mayors, community board chairs, fire departments. I had contact with all Fire chiefs this month via text and e-mail for weather events. I spoke via phone with the Kearney, Gibbon and Shelton Fire Chiefs this month as well. I also spoke to the Miller Fire Chief in person.
✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on several different days for offices and departments for Buffalo County, as well as other cards for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center card holders during the month. I continued to work with participating fire departments on the statewide ID credentialing system.
✓ Emergency Management hosted and participated in one training this month at the Emergency Operations Center. (Mass Fatality)
✓ Work continued with NEMA on the funding for the 2019 flooding disaster. It's my understanding all the projects have been closed out by FEMA and we are still waiting on the state portion for the DR-4420 flooding disaster. The county had been reimbursed for all the COVID funds to date. I sent a follow up e-mail to NEMA to see where the state is on closing out the DR-4420 for Buffalo County and the City of Kearney.
✓ Annual Emergency Management inventory was completed and turned in this month.
✓ The EMPG and EMPG/ARPA quarterly report and grant reimbursements were completed and submitted to NEMA for reimbursements. There was a short fall in funding for the 4th quarter within these grants for Buffalo County. Additional funding was requested from this office and received. These documents and paperwork were completed and submitted to NEMA as well.
✓ County and City Mutual Aid resources were updated this month, some additional information is needed from a few of the departments.

- ✓ The State mandated hazardous materials plan was updated and completed during the month. This plan was completed by Emergency Management and distributed to mutual aid fire departments for review and suggestions. All suggested updates and changes were added to the plan.

September 2022 Monthly Activities

- ✓ Testing was conducted on the MRU twice this month. Platte Valley Communications had been asked to look at the phone switch. The new CPU desk top was installed and the Paraclete system was tested. It took a couple tries to get the paraclete functional but with City IT's support the system is working as it should.
- ✓ Meetings with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly emails continue to go out to community leaders, mayors, community board chairs, fire departments. I spoke via phone with the Gibbon Fire Chief and spoke with Shelton and Kearney Fire Chiefs and the Ravenna mayor in person.
- ✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on several different days for offices and departments for Buffalo County, as well as other cards for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center card holders during the month. I made 10 state credential cards for UNK PD and 2 ID cards for the City of Ravenna and Ravenna Fire.
- ✓ Work continued with NEMA on the funding for the 2019 flooding disaster. As of this month DR-4420 is closed out by FEMA. NEMA still has a few payments to the County before DR-4420 is completely closed out for the City and County.

October 2022 Monthly Activities

- ✓ Testing was conducted on the MRU twice this month. Platte Valley Communications replaced the phone switch. Platte Valley also installed the new DVR radio for the new radio system in the unit. We found that the printer was not working on the new computers. City IT was asked to look at this issue and has fixed it.
- ✓ Meetings with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly emails continue to go out to community leaders, mayors, community board chairs, fire departments, I spoke with the Gibbon Fire Chief and Kearney Fire Chiefs several times via the phone and spoke with Gibbon, Shelton and Kearney Fire Chiefs in person at the Sodtown fire.
- ✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on several different days for offices and departments for Buffalo County, as well as other cards for jail staff and volunteers, service

providers, and Justice Center cardholders during the month. I made 50 state credential cards for Pleasanton fire.
✓ Battle books were created by this office for each of the fire departments for tacking and accountability of personnel and resources for large scale events.
✓ At the request of the Incident Commander (Shelton Fire chief), Buffalo County Emergency Management responded to the Sometown fire for support. Emergency Management provided the ICP (Incident command post) and was asked for updated weather reports, and to track and account for personal and resources on scene.
✓ Work was ongoing with NEMA on the funding for the 2019 flooding disaster. As of this month DR-4420 is closed out by FEMA. NEMA still has a few payments to the county before DR-4420 is completely closed out for the city and county.
✓ I attended the funeral of Jan Parker a long-standing Amateur Radio volunteer for Emergency Management.
✓ The 2nd annual Elected and Appointed 401 Emergency Management workshop was held this month. This workshop was held in Grand Island.
✓ I attended the Pipeline safety meeting in Holdrege where a tabletop exercise was also conducted.
✓ This office reported to NEMA and the NDEE a fuel spill of more than 25 gallons in Kearney due to drilling fuel tanks for the theft of fuel.
✓ I participated in a virtual tabletop exercise called the North Platte River Sub-area contingency plan tabletop exercise. The exercise was response to a large oil spill in the Platte River.
✓ The 2022 fiscal year EMPG/EMPG.ARPA grant applications were completed by this office. The first EMPG quarterly report was completed and submitted to NEMA as well as the first quarter reimbursement requests.
✓ Several of the TV's in the EOC stopped receiving the Spectrum cable signal (again). A technician from Spectrum had to come out and fix the issue. It took several hours.
✓ There had been quite a bit of work completed in the amateur radio room in the EOC. Several HAM personnel have been conducting tests, updating software and fixing issues to ensure the readiness of the amateur radio communications equipment.
✓ The Amateur radio repeater 147.000 has been put back on the air at its new Ravenna tower location. It seemed to be working as it should, more testing continued on this system.

November 2022 Monthly Activities
✓ Testing was conducted on the MRU twice this month. With the switch over to the new public safety radio system two new 800 radios, one tri-band radio, six portable 900 radios and two bank chargers have been installed in the response unit. Additional testing continues throughout the next month.

✓ New overhead projectors were put in the EOC as well as a new amplifier for the NOAA weather radio system during month.
✓ Meetings with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly emails continue to go out to community leaders, mayors, community board chairs, fire departments, I spoke with the Kearney Fire Chiefs via the phone and spoke with Pleasanton Fire Chief in person this month.
✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on several different days for offices and departments for Buffalo County, as well as other cards for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center card holders during the month.
✓ Work continued with NEMA on the funding for the 2019 COVID pandemic and the flooding disaster. FEMA has added another 180,000.00 dollars for an additional 11 roads damaged in the July flooding event. NEMA still has a few payments to the county before DR-4420 is completely closed out for the city and county. DR-4521 should be closed out by December with the final paperwork being completed and signed off on by this office.
✓ I participated in an all-day statewide IPPW workshop via zoom hosted by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.
✓ I participated in a day long training for the statewide credentialing system (Salamander) in Grand Island put on by Mid-West cards.
✓ I conducted two separate EOC tours and Emergency Management presentations to the Leadership Kearney group and the Senior Coalition group of Kearney.
✓ Work and improvements continue in the Amateur Radio room in the EOC. It was noticed at the last meeting that the HF radio was being over loaded with the local AM radio station in all bands. A filter was added to the antenna feed for the HF radio. This helped reduce the interference by the AM station. Additional updates of software were completed. The next project will be to ensure all radios are properly grounded.

December 2022 Monthly Activities
✓ Testing was conducted on the MRU one time this month.
✓ Meetings with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly emails continue to go out to community leaders, mayors, community board chairs, fire departments, I spoke with the Kearney Fire Chief via the phone. And spoke with Kearney Fire Administrator Jason Whalen in person. Christmas cards were sent out to responder and volunteer agencies during the month with information about being NIMS compliant and the need to forward that information to this office.
✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on several different days for offices and departments for Buffalo County, as well as other cards for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center card holders during the month.
✓ I attended the 3 day NACO conference at the Crown Plaza here in Kearney.

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| ✓ I conducted an EOC tour and Emergency Management presentations to the representatives of Stanton county. |
| ✓ Work and improvements continue in the Amateur Radio room in the EOC. Radios and power supplies are now grounded to a ground bar, a grounding cable needs to be run from the PLC room into the Amateur Radio room to complete the project. The D-Star radio is down at this time it is believed that the server has a bad NIC, I have requested to have a new card on order. |

Notable Items

Pandemic

Buffalo County Emergency Management continued to assist Public Health and the local level as much as was requested. PPE pick up and distribution, which supported organizations and first responders in Buffalo County during the height of the Pandemic, was discontinued though this office the first part of the year. Emergency Management assisted with vaccination and testing sites by helping provide equipment and volunteers to the sites as requested.

COVID 19 lingered into 2022, with up and down positive rate tests from month to month. While there seemed to be a decline of infections and transmissions coming into 2022 there were several months of spiking positive cases within the county and the Two River’s region the first half of the year keeping hospitalizations at an average of 15 to 20 per month within the TRIMRS region, half of which were in the Two River’s Public Health region. In June the Governor’s office declared the pandemic emergency over in the state of Nebraska dropping all public health measures. While numbers were down considerably the months of May, June and July recorded 1355 positive cases in the Two Rivers Public Health region. With the pandemic emergency declared over in Nebraska in June Public Health no longer provided COVID related information direct to the Emergency Management office or to the general public. The distribution of home test kits pretty much put a stop to accurate accountability of positive tests across the USA, including Nebraska all the way down to the very local level.

The Testing Pod acquired by Buffalo County Emergency Management from the NDHHS used by Two Rivers Public Health was no longer being used for testing by the Public Health Department. Emergency Management coordinated with the Highway department to have it moved from the fairgrounds prior to fair time and placed in storage. Many thanks to several departments from the City of Kearney and Buffalo County for the support. Local Emergency Management support and coordination, fairgrounds location/lot maintenance, electricity for the testing site, buildings and grounds support for maintenance and cleaning services, Buffalo County highway

department support for parking lot maintenance and gravel. All at no cost to the Public Health Department.

With yet an abundance of caution for several months to follow, much of our communities have gotten back to pre COVID “normal”. The exception to this would be the medical field such as hospitals and clinics that seem to be following mandates and guidelines from out of state business models.

Weather Events

Significant weather events in 2022; there was only about one foot of snow recorded throughout the year. Most of which fell in March and December. January February, March and December saw 16 days below 0 temperatures with a low in January of -7 degrees with a windchill of -30, in February -7 degrees with a windchill of -25 and in December of -16 degrees with a windchill of -47 degrees.

March 29th while there was no watch or warning issued as Kearney experienced a Micro Burst, at about 7 pm that knocked out power with downed lines to about 900 residents also knocking out power to traffic lights in town.

April 29th storms caused minor to medium damage to property within the county. Sirens were sounded in Gibbon and Shelton due to high winds and a possible tornado spotted by trained spotters with rotation within a very large blowing dust storm. Two pivots were reported to be blown over and several train cars were derailed just west of Shelton along highway 30. No injuries were reported as a result of this storm. Spotters were called out in every community for the April 29th storm.

June; The storms on the 6th and 7th produced heavy amounts of large hail that caused an estimated 32 million dollars in damage to personal property (homes and vehicles) in the communities of Ravenna and Shelton. There was no estimate on crop/ag damage or public infrastructure damage. A disaster declaration was declared for the storm damage on the 6th and 7th.

The storms on the morning of the 12th caused power outages in the southern parts of Kearney and rural areas north of Kearney as well as Riverdale from about 05:30 to 11:00 am.

July; 3 to 5 inches of rain in a short time prompted a flash flood warning for rural areas of Buffalo county between Miller, Ravenna and Pleasanton, no damage reported. Radar indicated tornado prompted a tornado warning for the Gibbon and Shelton area. Sirens were sounded in both communities at the request of spotters, no damage reported in the area.

Wildland Fires

Much of Nebraska was in an extreme drought through 2022. With high winds through the spring and summer, it caused the state to experience more than normal amounts of wildland fires throughout the state. Some of the larger fires recorded in 2022 in Nebraska that required Mutual Aid and State assistance are the Road 739 Fire April 7 (Gosper County) with 35,000 acres burned, several responder injuries and one responder fatality; April 22, Cheyenne Co. Lodgepole Fire with 650 acres burned; April 22 the Road 702 Fire (Furnas/Red Willow Counties) with 44,000 acres burned with one responder fatality; May 16-24 the Halsey Fire with 4,200 acres burned; July 30 Carter Canyon Fire Panhandle with 15,630 acres burned; September 13 Smokey Fire Panhandle with 4,500 acres burned; October 2nd Bovee Fire Halsey into the Sandhills with 19,000 acres burned; October 23 Road 3100 Fire Franklin and Nuckolls counties, two fires burned a total of 10,240 acres; October 23 Saline and Lancaster county fires had about 4,000 acres burned in 3 fires. There were widespread smoke impacts in the Lincoln area. The 709 fire is on record to be the 5th largest wildland fire in the United States. There were more than 20 other wildland fires reported in the state in 2022.

Buffalo County was in fire weather watches/warnings and red flag warnings 37 different times throughout the year, most of which were in the spring.

Buffalo County was not spared from wildland fires during the year either. There were two larger wildland fires in Buffalo County. On April 7th at 46th and Dunbar road, this fire was in the Elm Creek fire district however required Mutual aid from surrounding fire departments to include Kearney Fire. The departments were able to contain this fire within a one-mile section. Several departments responded to this fire to include law enforcement for traffic control. Emergency Management assistance was not requested for this fire. On October 23rd the Sodtown road fire was in the Shelton/Ravenna Fire districts and burned approximately 1500 acres. A wildland fire was reported along Sodtown road, at about 177th to 310th. This fire burned about a ½ mile wide and 2 ½ miles long. The fire burned through corn stocks, standing uncut corn, pasture land and one farmstead. Several pieces of equipment/vehicles and a barn was damaged during the fire. The fire operations lasted from about 15:00 to 23:00. There were 21 departments on scene; 17 fire departments, 2 law enforcement departments and two Emergency Management agencies with 44 pieces of equipment and 104 personnel. Emergency Management assisted by providing the ICP and through tracking and accountability of resources during the event.

Hazardous Material Incidents

Several localized hazardous material incidents occurred throughout the year that required Emergency Management assistance, input or direction.

There were 2 hazmat incident calls within Buffalo county during the month of March. One on the 7th at 5 AM and one the 31st /April 1st at 2 AM. Both were leaking diesel tanks from semi incidents and both on the interstate. Incidents on the interstate for reporting to NDEE are completed by the State Patrol.

In October three fuel thefts were reported during the month by drilling holes in fuel tanks of parked vehicles. At least two of these vehicles caused fuel spills in the community of Kearney, one estimated at more than 25 gallons and drained into the storm drain. This spill was reported to NDEE by this office. Kearney Fire put down absorbent and the City of Kearney street department cleaned up the residue and took it to the landfill.

In August Kearney Fire reported two fuel spills during the month, both diesel and both under the reportable quantity, one at a local gas station and one at Good Samaritan Hospital. Both fuel spills were controlled and floor dry absorbent was used to soak up the spill and left for the spiller to clean up. Both spills were contained to the concrete and none was introduced into a water source or into the ground.

November 29th at 08:00 a Hazmat Spill was reported on Interstate 80 at Mile Marker 273. The Spill was Organic Peroxide (not your normal peroxide) highly flammable and explosive from heat and spark. The evacuation radius is a half mile for this chemical. The incident was in the Shelton Fire district. Shelton Fire, Kearney Fire and Buffalo Hazmat team initially responded with an additional response from Hall County departments, Woodriver Fire and Grand Island Fire and Hazmat team. A Lincoln County Hazmat clean up team was dispatched from North Platte. Part of the interstate from Woodriver to Shelton was closed down for almost 24 hours due to the spill and clean-up efforts.

Emergency Communications

Amateur Radio took quite a blow in the Buffalo County area with the passing of Jan Parker, past president of the Midway Amateur Radio Club and Emergency Coordinator for the (ARES) Amateur Radio Emergency Services. With the passing of Mr. Parker ARES struggled to stay active as a spotter activation group. It was eventually decided to disband the ARES in Buffalo County by the members of the Midway Amateur Radio Club leaving Buffalo County and the City of Kearney without volunteer spotters from the club. The club was hoping to establish spotter activity under a new response system such as Sky warn or REACT but as of the end of the year nothing was in place.

There was quite a bit of work and maintenance completed in the Amateur Radio room throughout the year. The D-Star radio server developed a NIC card issue and

was off line for several months waiting on a new NIC to be ordered and come in. Once the new NIC was reinstalled the D-Star radio came right back on the air.

It was found that the power supplies and radios in the room were not properly grounded. New grounding wire and a grounding bar was purchased. The installation was completed by some of the Amateur Radio volunteers, Emergency Management and the Buffalo County Buildings and Grounds department.

It was also discovered that one of the local AM radio stations was causing a lot of interference in all the HF bands on the HF radio. A filter was purchased and installed by Emergency Management. This cleared up the interference on the radio.

Several new pieces of software were downloaded on the computers in the Amateur Radio room to support emergency operations out of the EOC for day to day and disaster operation.



RESPONSE UNIT ACTIVITIES (MRU)



- On July 16th the unit was used during the Kearney Cruise Night.
- On October 23rd the unit was used as the incident command post for the Sodtown Wildland fire. Operations was conducted out of the unit as well as tracking and assignments of personnel and equipment on scene.
- With the new 800 digital trunked public radio system being put in place in Buffalo county many updates to the radio system were also conducted in the MRU. Five new radios were installed in the MRU replacing some of the older UHF and VHF radios.

- The unit received all new computes through the year, three laptops and one desk top computer. The phone switch was also replaced do to the phone switch going bad.
- Testing and updates were conducted throughout the year. The MRU was ready at a moment's notice for response to any additional calls if it had been needed.

NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS



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

The Everbridge system provides notifications through cell phone, text, e-mail and SMS messages for weather notifications, voice and landline phones for GEO notifications and pre-developed group notifications, and is IPWAS, WEA capable. Monthly test of the IPAWS system continued through the year.

There were 7,170 total notifications sent out by the system to subscribers of Buffalo Watch in 2022. Of those sent 7,072 were various weather notifications, most of which were lightning and hail alerts. 86 emergency alerts were sent out by the 911 dispatch center and other community administrators to a variety of different groups such as law enforcement, fire, communications, volunteer organizations, City/County employee groups and community wide public emergency announcements. As administrators and users of the system we are continually finding more creative ways to use the system to communicate with the people we serve.

Public notification groups such as; Medical Community Alert, Fraud Alert, Buffalo County Inmate Escape, Emergency Alerts, Endangered Missing Advisory, YRTC Escape and Amber Alerts are available for signup by the general public.

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 4,535 followers and when emergencies 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 290 individuals and/or groups following at this time.

