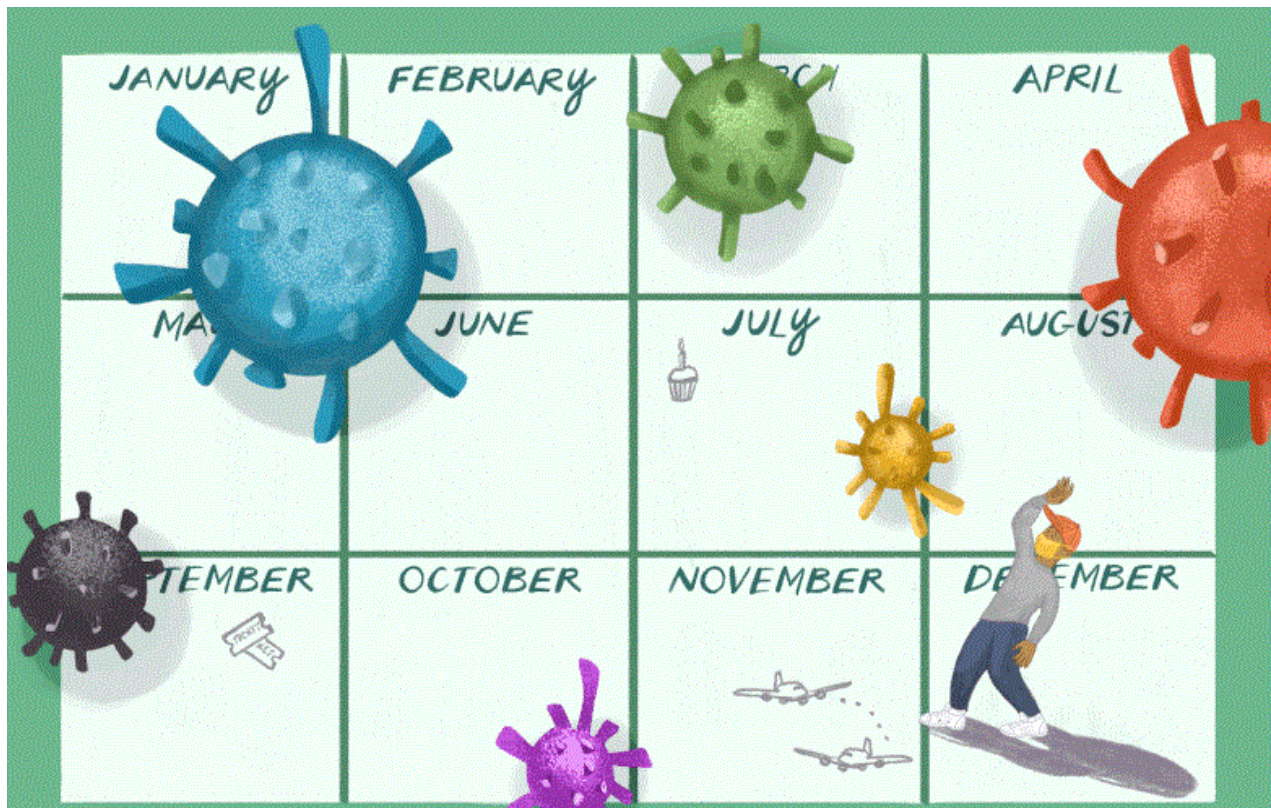




BUFFALO COUNTY / CITY OF KEARNEY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE 2021 SUMMARY



**THE PANDEMIC PART II
RINSE AND REPEAT
THE YEAR OF THE VARIANT(S)**

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 2021, the Director sent 35 assorted local or regional training opportunities to First Responder agencies. Many training opportunities were offered online and virtual due to the continued COVID pandemic.

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

TRAINING/EXERCISE 2021

- State wide tornado drill-exercise
- Disability Education Series X 5
- Effectiveness of medical and cloth masks
- TRIMRS Mass casualty (burn) tabletop
- Compassion fatigue workshop
- Whole community inclusive economic recovery
- Mitigation concepts and funding
- Spill reporting and LEPC coordination
- Disaster behavioral health table top
- Rapid needs assessment
- Ag ammonia and EPA inspections
- Volunteer and donation management
- Logistics section chief
- Procurement disaster assistance
- Safety officer
- Red slice table top (operations and finance)
- Severe Weather Spotter Training

An extensive amount of trainings and exercises were offered and conducted during 2021 while the pandemic was at a low in attempt to catch up and recover for all the trainings and exercises postponed and/or canceled due to the pandemic in 2020.

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)



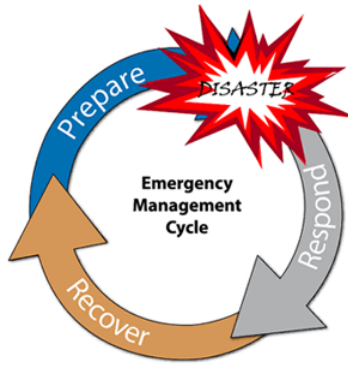
REPORTS

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 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 2021.



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 in full operation from January to June 30th for the COVID Pandemic and an additional 7 times during 2021, for weather events to include both winter and spring type weather. The Backup Dispatch Center was operational two times during 2021 for weather type events.

Sirens were sounded twice in Buffalo county for weather events this year. Once in the Pleasanton and Kearney area for a possible tornado and straight-line winds July 9th and once in the Shelton area for possible tornados and straight-line winds on Dec 15th.

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.

2021 Emergency Management Overview

This is an overview of the 2021 annual report and its purpose is to highlight the major activities of the Buffalo County / City of Kearney Emergency Management Office.

Test of Emergency Warning Systems (Alarm radios, pagers and outdoor sirens)	
01-07-2021	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted on January 7 th . There were no reports of the sirens not working in any of the Buffalo County Communities.
02-04-2021	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted on February 4 th . There were no reports of the sirens not working in any of the Buffalo County Communities.

03-04-2021	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted on March 4 th . There were no reports of the sirens not working in any of the Buffalo County Communities.
04-01-2021	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted on April 1 st . There were no reports of the sirens not working in any of the Buffalo County Communities.
05-06-2021	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted on May 6 th . There was one report of the sirens not working in one of the Buffalo County Communities. The old siren on the north side of the Ravenna overpass motor is locked up, they are looking at replacing the siren with a federal signal 2001 model and moving it to south side of the overpass for better coverage in the community.
06-03-2021	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted on June 3 rd . The old siren on the north side of the Ravenna overpass is still not operational, they are looking at replacing the siren with a federal signal 2001 model and moving it to south side of the overpass for better coverage in the community.
07-01-2021	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted on July 1 st .
08-05-2021	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers, in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted on August 5 th . The sirens in Buffalo County were not tested on the 5 th due to severe weather in the county at the time.
09-02-2021	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers, in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted on September 2 nd . The sirens in Buffalo County were again for the second month in a row not tested due to severe weather in the county at the time of the test.
10-07-2021	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers, in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted on October 7 th . There were no issues reported during the test of the sirens for the month.
11-04-2021	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers, in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted on November 4 th . There were no issues reported during the test of the sirens for the month.

12-02-2021	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios and pagers, in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted on December 1 st . There were no issues reported during the test of the sirens for the month.
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2021 Kearney Area Precipitation				
	Monthly Rain	*Monthly Snow	2021 Rain Total	2021 Snow Total
January	.04"	13"	.04"	13"
February	.08"	15"	.12"	28"
March	7.55"	0"	7.67"	28"
April	1.58"	4"	8.08"	32"
May	4.54"	0"	12.62"	32"
June	.84"	0"	13.46"	32"
July	2.68"	0"	16.14"	32"
August	3.90"	0"	20.04"	32"
September	2.18"	0"	22.22"	32"
October	1.09"	0"	23.31"	32"
November	.42"	2"	23.73"	34"
December	.02"	2"	23.75"	36"
<p style="text-align: center;">*Snow totals are approximate amounts. **Rain and snow totals are reported separately because snow is not recorded as precipitation at the Kearney Airport recording site.</p>				

2021 High and Low Temperatures					
Month	High	Low	High Average	Low Average	Overall Average
January	60	0	38	20	30
February	58	-25	24	7	15
March	78	23	56	33	44
April	91	23	62	36	49
May	89	32	69	51	59
June	102	50	86	62	75
July	94	54	85	65	74
August	95	56	86	64	74
September	98	40	82	56	68
October	84	32	67	42	54
November	74	17	56	31	43
December	72	0	47	21	34

Weather Activity 2021	
January	There was a high wind warning issued at 14:30 on the 13 th and a winter weather warning issued at 08:10 on the 24 th of January for the 25 th and 26 th for Buffalo County. There was 8 to 12 inches of snow and 25 mph wind gusts that caused blowing and drifting snow.
February	There was a winter weather warning issued at 14:45 on the 5 th of February and again at 03:41 on the 6 th for Buffalo County. There was about 14 to 16 inches of snow and gusty winds throughout the month. Which kept the roads and street crews very busy for three weekends in a row. The highest amount of 10 inches in a single day as well as bitter cold weather from the 6 th through the 20 th with 9 straight days of below zero temperatures causing power grid and natural gas issues throughout the Midwest from North Dakota to Texas.
March	The first thunderstorm warning of the season for Buffalo County was issued at 18:35 on the 26 th of March. A high wind warning was issued at 13:41 on the 29 th of March. Sustained winds of 42 mph and 60 mph wind gusts were associated with this warning. No damages were reported from either event. Several red flag fire warnings were issued the last week of March due to higher winds lower humidity and dead dry fuel (grass) on the ground.
April	Thunderstorm warnings for Buffalo County were issued at 19:28 on the 6 th and at 01:46 on the 28 th of April. No damage was reported to this office from these storms. Areas of the county saw anywhere from a half inch to an inch and a half of rain on the 28 th . A thunderstorm watch was issued on April 6 th at 16:46
May	While there were several thunderstorms in Buffalo County during the month, all stayed below severe levels. There were a number of significant weather advisories issued for Buffalo County throughout the month, as well as a thunderstorm watch issued on May 26 th at 18:05.
June	While there were several thunderstorms in Buffalo County during the month, many stayed below severe levels and a number of significant weather advisories were issued for Buffalo County throughout the month, as well as thunderstorm watches issued on June 19 th at 21:41, June 23 rd at 22:35 June 25 th at 15:03. Thunderstorm Warnings were issued on June 15 th at 19:27, June 25 th at 15:14, 15:46, 16:06, 17:52 and 18:12, no significant damage was reported for Buffalo County due to these storms.

July	Significant weather advisories were issued for Buffalo County on July 7 th and July 14 th as well as a thunderstorm watch issued on July 9 th at 20:44. Thunderstorm warnings were issued on July 9 th at 21:12, 21:45 and 22:17, and a tornado watch on July 30 th at 16:00 the tornado watch was canceled early. July 9 th storms produced significant damage across the state. Damage was reported in Elm Creek and Kearney during the July 9 th storms; 94 mph winds were recorded in some areas of the state. Buffalo County saw wind gusts around 80 mph, blowing down large trees and branches, downed power lines and some personal and public property damage.
August	Significant weather advisories were issued for Buffalo County on August 5 th , 22 nd , and the 28 th , as well as thunderstorm watches issued on August 22 nd at 16:58 and the 28 th at 15:58. Thunderstorm warnings were issued on August 5 th at 16:39, August 7 th at 20:46, August 22 nd at 19:38 and at 20:20. No significant damages reported do to these storms.
September	Significant weather advisories were issued for Buffalo County on September 2 nd and the 30 th , as well as a tornado watch issued on September 2 nd at 17:25, a thunderstorm warning was issued on September 2 nd at 18:13. No significant damages reported do to these storms.
October	Significant weather advisory was issued for Buffalo County on October 26 th . No significant damages reported do to these storms. 54 mph winds were recorded at the Kearney Airport weather station.
November	While there were several days of high winds through November no significant weather was reported in Buffalo county. Red Flag warnings were issued for Buffalo County on November 22 nd and 23 rd . 58 mph wind gusts were recorded at the Kearney Airport weather station during the month.
December	A good portion of Buffalo County saw 2 to 3 inches of snow December 10 th , December 15 th produced high wind warnings, thunderstorm warnings, tornado warnings and dust warnings throughout the county with the highest winds of 85 mph along the central and southern portions of the county with two EF-0 tornados being reported in the Gibbon /Shelton areas, the sirens were sounded in Shelton due to tornados.

Emergency Activities 2021

January	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued through the month of January with another significant drop in case numbers. 392 cases reported for the month of January, it was about half the cases reported in December. December recorded 702 cases in Buffalo County. The month of November recorded 1583, October recorded 862, September recorded 441 August recorded 351 cases and the month of July recorded 128 cases. The EOC remained operational through in person and virtual operations through the daily operational periods for the pandemic.</p> <p>Buffalo County Courthouse had a bomb threat early morning on the 7th, The courthouse was cleared and searched for any suspicious items. The threat was non-specific so after the entire building inside and out to include vehicles in parking lots were cleared the courthouse was reopened. It took about 2 hours and 15 minutes to evacuate, search, clear and reopen the courthouse.</p> <p>Buffalo County had been experiencing an ice jam on the north channel of the Platte River from about the second week of the month. The jam was between Gibbon and Shelton. The jam was expected to worsen as the weather remains below freezing. Emergency Management watched and checked on this ice jam daily. Notification by word of mouth had been given to individuals along the river where the ice jam was active.</p>
February	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued through the month of February with another significant drop in case numbers. There were 270 cases reported for the month of February, it was 122 less reported in January. January recorded 392 cases in Buffalo County, The Month of December recorded 702 cases, November recorded 1583, October recorded 862, September recorded 441 August recorded 351 cases and the month of July recorded 128 cases. The EOC remained operational through in person and virtual operations through the daily operational periods for the pandemic.</p> <p>Buffalo County continued to experience ice jams on the north channel of the Platte River throughout the month. The jam had backed up to the Sweetwater area with some open flowing water around the Minden, highway 10 interchange. The jam extended west 2 miles past Lowell Road where the north channels flowed back into the main channel. Emergency Management checked the ice jam daily as well as the weekends throughout the month. The last two days of the month over the weekend all dangers of the ice jam had broken up and cleared downstream.</p>

<p>March</p>	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued through the month of March with another significant drop in case numbers. There were 180 cases reported for the month of March, it was 90 less reported in February. February reported 270 cases in Buffalo County, January recorded 392 cases, December recorded 702 cases, November recorded 1583, October recorded 862, September recorded 441 August recorded 351 cases and the month of July recorded 128 cases. The EOC remained operational through in person and virtual operations through the daily operational periods for the pandemic.</p> <p>March 15th due to the large amounts of rain on the 14th and 15th flooding and flash flooding was a concern in Buffalo County. Localized area flooding was noted but nothing major reported. In addition, during this time Wyoming, Colorado and the Nebraska panhandle received several feet of snow shutting down all roadways in that area to include interstate-80 and highway 30 all the way back to Grand Island. Emergency Management assisted in traffic management, notifications and information sharing between state and local agencies as well as the hotel industry.</p> <p>The last day of March Union Pacific had about a 20-railcar train derailment in Gibbon Nebraska. It was very fortunate that there were no injuries, no significant damage to property in the community. The city of Gibbon elected and appointed officials fire department and the Buffalo County Sheriff's office responded to the incident. Emergency Management sent out a Buffalo Watch notification to the citizens of Gibbon and the surrounding area. For the most part the derailment was contained to the railroad right of way. It took several days to remove the derailed cars and repair damages to the rail line and intersecting roadways.</p>
<p>April</p>	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued through the month of April. With a small drop in case numbers there were 170 cases reported for the month of April, it was 10 less reported in March. March recorded 180 cases, February recorded 270 cases, January recorded 392 cases, December recorded 702 cases, November recorded 1583, October recorded 862, September recorded 441 August recorded 351 cases and the month of July recorded 128 cases. The EOC remained operational through in person and virtual operations through the daily operational periods for the pandemic.</p> <p>Vaccination distribution had started to plateau with right at 40% of the eligible population in the Two Rivers area being fully vaccinated. Two Rivers stopped its two-month long mass vaccination clinics and started doing mobile vaccination clinics in the smaller communities in the district.</p>

<p>May</p>	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued through the month of May with a continued drop in case numbers. There were 68 cases reported for the month of May, it was 102 less reported in April. April recorded 170 cases, March recorded 180 cases, February recorded 270 cases, January recorded 392 cases, December recorded 702 cases, November recorded 1583, October recorded 862, September recorded 441 August recorded 351 cases and the month of July recorded 128 cases. 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 can. Over the last month there had been no requests for support from the Two Rivers Health department.</p> <p>There were two separate semi/car accidents that caused fuel spills, (hazmat incident) at each of the scenes. Both incidents were responded to by sheriff's office and fire departments (Kearney and Shelton). Both were mitigated by the fire departments and the proper reporting was completed to NDEE by this office. The first incident was on May 19th at 56th and Antelope, the second incident was on May 27th at Shelton road and 70th. Both were diesel fuel from the semi fuel tanks.</p>
<p>June</p>	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued through the month of June with a continued drop in case numbers. There was a total of 14 cases reported from May 28th to July 1st, it was 54 less reported in May. May recorded 68 cases, April recorded 170 cases, March recorded 180 cases, February recorded 270 cases, January recorded 392 cases, December recorded 702 cases, November recorded 1583, October recorded 862, September recorded 441 August recorded 351 cases and the month of July recorded 128 cases. 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.</p> <p>For the biggest news in the COVID Pandemic the State of Nebraska has declared the declaration of emergency to be over as of June 30th. With no state of emergency at the state level Buffalo County will follow suit.</p> <p>A fire started in a fertilizer storage building at about 01:30 am and took until about 10:00 am that morning to be completely out and under control at the Aurora COOP on Highway 30 and Imperial road east of Kearney. Proper NDEE personnel were contacted and cleanup mitigation efforts were initiated. Emergency Management met with the Kearney Fire Incident Command and the Safety officer for the facility to help provided direction on reporting and cleanup.</p>

<p>July</p>	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued through the month of July with a spike in case numbers in July from June. There was a total of 89 cases reported in July, there were 75 more cases recorded in July than in June. June recorded 14 cases, May recorded 68 cases, April recorded 170 cases, March recorded 180 cases, February recorded 270 cases, January recorded 392 cases, December recorded 702 cases, November recorded 1583, October recorded 862, September recorded 441 August recorded 351 cases and the month of July recorded 128 cases. 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.</p> <p>The Federal HHS administrator reinstated the Health Emergency for the Pandemic in July, however there has been no new declaration or renewal of the emergency declaration by the Governor’s office. With no state of emergency at the state level Buffalo County continued to operate as close to normal as we could with the continued and increased cases.</p>
<p>August</p>	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued through the month of August with continued higher numbers in cases in August from July. As of August, the Two Rivers Public Health department has stopped reporting county case numbers. Due to county case numbers not being reported Emergency Management could no longer report on local COVID cases during the month. July recorded 89, June recorded 14 cases, May recorded 68 cases, April recorded 170 cases, March recorded 180 cases, February recorded 270 cases, January recorded 392 cases, December recorded 702 cases, November recorded 1583, October recorded 862, September recorded 441 August recorded 351 cases and the month of July recorded 128 cases. 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.</p> <p>The Federal HHS administrator reinstated the Health Emergency for the Pandemic in July, there has been some movement on an emergency declaration by the Governor’s office. However, at this time it is only for the hospitals in Nebraska, as well as some Directed Health Measures (DHM’s) restricting some elective type surgeries and waving some regulations and statutes for staffing at some hospitals. With no state of emergency at the state level Buffalo County continued to operate as close to normal as we could with the continued and increased cases.</p>

September	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued through the month of September with continued higher numbers in cases in September from August. Region wide cases reported in August were 982 while in September were 1429. Two Rivers reported 16 additional COVID related deaths in the region from May to the end of September. County cases in July recorded 89, June recorded 14 cases, May recorded 68 cases, April recorded 170 cases, March recorded 180 cases, February recorded 270 cases, January recorded 392 cases, December recorded 702 cases, November recorded 1583, October recorded 862, September recorded 441 August recorded 351 cases and the month of July recorded 128 cases. 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.</p>
October	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued through the month of October with slightly lower numbers in cases in October from September (as of October 26th). Region wide cases reported in September were 1429 while in October (26th) there were 1282. County cases in July recorded 89, June recorded 14 cases, May recorded 68 cases, April recorded 170 cases, March recorded 180 cases, February recorded 270 cases, January recorded 392 cases, December recorded 702 cases, November recorded 1583, October recorded 862, September recorded 441 August recorded 351 cases and the month of July recorded 128 cases. 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.</p>
November	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued through the month of November with an increase in the numbers of cases in November from October. Region wide cases reported October 1st through October 26th 1282, October 27th through November 30th cases 1912. The EOC remained operational through in person and virtual operations through the daily operational periods for the pandemic. Emergency Management has continued to offer help in any way possible that we could.</p>
December	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic operations continued through the month of December with a significant decrease in the number of cases in December from November. Region wide cases reported October 27th through November 30th cases 1912, December 1st through December 28th cases 1070. 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.</p>

	<p>possible that we could.</p> <p>Tornado warnings and dust warnings throughout the county with the highest winds of 85 mph along the central and southern portions of the county with two EF-0 tornados being reported in the Gibbon/Shelton areas, the sirens were sounded in Shelton due to tornados. NPPD has reported \$400,000.00 in damage in Buffalo County alone. There was very little damage reported in the Kearney area, outside of electrical poles. On a scale of minor, medium and major damage, only minor damage was reported to public and individual property in the Kearney area. Gibbon and the Gibbon fire district saw a lot of minor individual property damage, with some medium and major damages reported. Shelton and the Shelton fire district also saw some minimal damage to individual property. There were a number of buildings i.e., garages, barns, out buildings with medium and major damage as well as several pivots overturned and at least 2 large grain bins blown over.</p>
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Training Opportunities Sent Out 2021	
January	2
February	0
March	4
April	1
May	1
June	2
July	4
August	2
September	1
October	1
November	3
December	14

2021 Meetings and Events Attended by the Buffalo County Emergency Management Director	
January	17 COVID related meetings happened throughout the month, one responder round table meeting, four Unified Command meetings, four Buffalo County officials meetings and eight state and regional vaccine planning meetings.

January 4, 11, 19, 26	I participated in the weekly National Weather Service ice jam meetings. Buffalo County experienced an ice jam on the north channel of the Platte River from about the second week of the month. The jam was between Gibbon and Shelton. The jam was expected to worsen as the weather remained below freezing. Emergency Management watched and checked on this jam daily.
January 6	I participated in the South Central PET Regional meeting where the groups went through the Homeland Security Grant Investment Justifications for the projects and training activities for funding.
January 7	I participated in a Disabilities Education in disasters webinar.
January 12	I attended the Long-term recovery group meeting; this was the last meeting of the group, closing out case work for all individuals that needed assistance for the 2019 March and July flooding. A responder's round table was held at 19:00 via ZOOM. The meeting was pretty well attended, however there are a number of conflicting meetings on Tuesdays for some communities, the next meeting will be moved to a Thursday. I participated in an After-Action Review, for the Buffalo County Bomb threat.
January 15	I participated a courthouse building security meeting.
January 19	I had a meeting with the project manager for the CARES Act and FEMA projects for Buffalo County, for the payroll reimbursements and to discuss a request for information on the FEMA projects. The RIF was for project #2 but the questions being asked were for project #1 that had already been approved. We continued to work through these issues with the Cares Act and FEMA projects.
January 20	I participated in the Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corp. meeting where nominations were held reelecting everyone for the same positions. To include myself as Chairperson of the executive board.
January 21	I participated in the Silver Jackets meeting, which is identifying flooding concerns on the Wood River. While historical data was discussed and presented, there was no real mitigation efforts identified to prevent future flooding of communities along the river from Elm Creek to Grand Island.
January 26	I participated in finalizing the Investment Justifications for the Law Enforcement group in the South Central PET Region for Homeland security grants.
February	16 COVID related meetings happened throughout the month, one responder round table meeting, four Unified Command meetings, four

	Buffalo County officials meetings and seven state and regional vaccine planning meetings.
February 1, 8, 16, 22	I participated in the weekly National Weather Service ice jam meetings. Buffalo County had been experiencing an ice jam on the north channel of the Platte River for the entire month of February. The jam was between Minden interchange and Shelton. The jam started to break up the last week of February and completely broke through the last day of the month. Emergency Management watched and checked on this jam daily.
February 1	I met with the CARES Act representative to discuss and review the last part of the presumptive payroll claims. A meeting was then held with county officials to review the CARES act claims timeline. All claims were paid through the CARES Act before the end of the month. Total payroll reimbursements from March through May of 2020 for Law Enforcement, Corrections, Dispatch and Emergency Management was right at 1.3 million dollars.
February 2	I participated in the NAEM board meeting.
February 5	I participated in a National Weather Service webinar for severe winter weather.
February 20	I hosted the first in person Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC since the start of pandemic a year ago.
February 22	I participated in the NAEM conference-planning meeting.
February 23	I participated in an Elm Creek and Turkey Creek agency scoping meeting for flood mitigation from Dawson County through Buffalo County.
February 26	I participated in a vaccine clinic-planning meeting with Two Rivers Public Health and the two area hospitals.
March	13 COVID related meetings happened throughout the month. One responder round table meeting, two Unified Command meetings, four Buffalo County officials meetings and six state and regional vaccine planning meetings.
March 3	I participated in the South Central PET meeting, the meeting was held in North Platte I attended via ZOOM.
March 9	I participated in a National Weather Service briefing on discussion of upcoming weather for the month and severe weather awareness week.

March 10	I hosted the monthly virtual community and responders round table meeting. This meeting was a pretty short meeting as there were not very many participants. It was decided to forgo the April meeting and hold the next meeting in May.
March 17	I hosted the bi-monthly Central Nebraska MRC meeting where our newest member of the executive board was welcomed, Dr. Hervert as our area Medical Director for the MRC.
March 20	I hosted the Amateur Radio club meeting at the EOC, it was a very good meeting with the most members we have had in quite some time.
March 22	I participated in the NAEM meeting, much of this meeting was dedicated to finishing up some of the last minute NAEM conference planning.
March 25	I participated in a web presentation for people with disabilities during emergency management disasters. It was a very good presentations, 2 hours long, we are not doing nearly enough in this area in Nebraska.
March 30	I had a conference call with the Everbridge representative (Buffalo Watch) to review changes to the system and contract renewal. I was not pleased with the additional charges and the change in business decisions on their end, it may lead to looking at other vendors for this notification service in the future.
April	7 COVID related meetings happened throughout the month, one Unified Command meeting, four Buffalo County officials meetings and two regional vaccine planning meetings.
April 8	I met with the Everbridge Rep. to review and discuss their new business model and changes to our current contract that is up for renewal.
April 13	I attended the Buffalo county officials annual budget meeting.
April 26	I attended the Buffalo County Mutual Aid meeting. This was the first in person Mutual Aid meeting in over a year.
April 27	I participated in a Nebraska Emergency Management, disabilities in disaster presentation.
April 28	I participated the Nebraska department of Education presentation for Law Enforcement, Fire Departments and Emergency Managers for school safety and emergency plan development.

May	5 COVID related meetings happened throughout the month, one Unified Command meeting, two Buffalo County officials meetings and two regional vaccine planning meetings.
May 5	I attended the South-Central PET regional meeting in Hastings.
May 7	I met with the new chairperson of the Buffalo County amateur radio club, to discuss the direction and future of the club for MARC and ARES. Both look to have a strong standing in the club as it moves forward.
May 14	I hosted the NIRN meeting at the EOC I also attended the Police Memorial ceremony at the LEC. This was a very nice tribute to our fallen officers as well as those that continue to service today.
May 15	I hosted the Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC.
May 17	I attended the NAEM board meeting held in Grand Island.
May 19	I hosted the Central NE MRC executive board meeting at the EOC.
May 25	I attended the county board meeting to present the Emergency Management annual report and review the new contract for the Buffalo Watch system.
May 26	I participated in a National Weather Service webinar for pending severe weather.
June	2 COVID related meetings happened throughout the month, one Unified Command meeting, one Buffalo County officials meeting. The county officials meeting has been changed to Safety and Security meetings and have gone to once a month.
June 7	I met with a company called C Squared to look at solutions for siren notification reporting.
June 17	I met with the budget committee and submitted the 21/22 budget for the Emergency Management office.
June 18	I participated in a TRIMRS meeting.
June 23	I attended a NAEM meeting held in Grand Island.
June 25	I hosted the monthly NRIN meeting at the EOC.

July	2 COVID related meetings happened throughout the month, one Two Rivers hot wash meeting on the handling of the Pandemic in the region, one Buffalo County Safety and Security officials meeting.
July 1	I attended and participated in the South-Central Law Enforcement PET Regional meeting via ZOOM call.
July 7	I participated in the Buffalo County officials Safety and Security monthly meeting. I also attended the monthly Emergency Management regional Confab meeting and the South-Central PET regional meeting in Aurora.
July 8	I attended the Central Platte NRD kick off meeting for the Mitigation plan rewrite project.
July 13	I participated in the Two Rivers Regional Hot wash meeting for the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.
July 16	I participated in a NEMA call for damage reports across the state for the July 9th and 10th storms.
July 17	I hosted the Amateur Radio club meeting at the EOC.
July 20	I participated in a Spill Reporting and LEPC coordination webinar with the EPA and FEMA Region 7. I also participated in an Everbridge/Buffalo Watch webinar to go over some issues with the notification system.
July 23	I met with Central District Health Department and the two Grand Island hospitals to discuss public health and the TRIMRS coalition.
July 26	I had a meeting with a subcommittee of the South-Central PET regional members to develop an agenda for the proposed elected and appointed workshop in Emergency Management.
July 27	I attended the county board meeting to submit the MOU with the Red Cross and approval for Emergency Management to sign the agreement. I met with County Planning and Zoning to discuss the rewrite project for the Hazard Mitigation plan.
August	4 COVID related meetings happened throughout the month, one Two Rivers Unified Command check in meeting, and clinical advisory public meeting as well as two Buffalo County Safety and Security officials meetings.
August 3	I attended the Two Rivers Board of Health meeting via ZOOM.
August 4	I attended the Regional Emergency Managers CONFAB meeting in Grand Island.
August 10	I met with the Assistant Director of NEMA and the Incident Commander or NDHHS to discuss the distribution of walk up and driver through Rapid on demand portable medical platforms.

August 12, 16, 19, 25	I participated in four Central Platte NRD Mitigation plan rewrite planning meetings.
August 20	I hosted the NRIN board meeting at the EOC. I participated in a TRIMRS grant meeting with the Grand Island hospitals and the Nebraska Department of HHS.
August 21	I participated in the Buffalo County Amateur radio club meeting held at the EOC.
August 23	I participated in the NAEM board meeting with NEMA representatives to discuss the new grant regulations at the federal, state and local levels.
September	Two COVID related meetings happened throughout the month two Buffalo County Safety and Security officials meetings.
September 1 and 15	I hosted the Buffalo County officials Safety and Security/COVID meetings via ZOOM. I attended the SCPET Regional meetings held in North Platte.
September 3 and 14	I participated in a ZOOM meeting with Central District Public Health, Hall County Emergency Management and the two Grand Island hospitals to discuss TRIMRS activities and the upcoming TRIMRS meeting.
September 9	I participated in a ZOOM meeting to discuss the Elm and Turkey Creek flooding mitigation efforts.
September 15	I held a Central NE MRC executive board meeting at the EOC and ZOOM. Due to the funding stream being reduced to zero from TRIMRS and the HCC grants several changes were discussed in other funding opportunities and the level of continued support to the TRIMRS region.
September 16	I met with the TRIMRS coordinator at the Extension building to go over the venue for the TRMIRS meeting.
September 17	I participated in the TRIMRS meeting at the Buffalo County fairgrounds where discussion was had to continue to maintain both medical response trailers and to restock the second trailer as funds are available. Second topic was to make the coordinator position for TRIMRS a contract position as it was in the past rather than it being an employee of the Two Rivers Public Health department. Both items of discussion were voted on and passed.

September 18	I hosted the Buffalo County Amateur radio club meetings at the EOC.
September 19, 20, 21	I participated in the wild fire briefings via ZOOM for the wildland fires in the Panhandle. Three of the Buffalo County Fire departments responded to these fires. (Gibbon, Elm Creek and Kearney)
September 24	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC.
September 29	I hosted the NAEM executive board meeting at the EOC.
October	Three COVID related meetings happened throughout the month, two Buffalo County Safety and Security officials meetings and one Two Rivers Board of Health meeting.
October 5	I attended the Two Rivers board of health meeting.
October 6	I attended the Emergency Management regional CONFAB meeting in Grand Island.
October 8	I participated in an EMPG quarterly reporting workshop, via the web.
October 12	I participated in a statewide Flood Hazard mitigation meeting, via the web.
October 16	I hosted the Amateur radio club meeting at the EOC.
October 17	I met with Heidi Gillespie at the EOC to pick up NRIN conference supplies for the dispatcher conference in Lincoln.
November	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.
November 4	I met with the Grand Island Hospitals, local Emergency Managers and public health to discuss TRIMRS.
November 10	I participated in a winter weather transportation meeting at the City of Kearney and Buffalo County EOC with community partners, regional Emergency Managers, NDOT, State Patrol, City and County law enforcement, county highway and city street departments and the National Weather Service. The regional Emergency Management and South-Central PET meetings were held in Kearney at the EOC.

November 12	I participated in the by monthly TRIMRS meeting.
November 17	I participated in the Buffalo County Safety and Security meeting. I participated in the year end Medical Reserve Corps meeting held at Cunningham's on the lake.
November 18	I participated in the NPP (Nebraska Preparedness Partnership) meeting via the web.
November 19	I hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC. An additional Grand Island/local Emergency Management and public health meeting was held before an emergency TRIMRS meeting.
November 20	I participated in and hosted the Amateur radio meeting at the EOC.
November 23	I participated in and hosted the NAEM meeting at the EOC.
November 30	I participated in an "emergency" TRIMRS meeting to discuss the hiring of the new contract coordinator. I participated with Kearney Police Department in a presentation by PAMEE which is supposed to be an emergency planning tool. I don't think anyone on the call found much value in the platform.
December	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.
December 1	I participated in the monthly Emergency Management CONFAB meeting held in Grand Island.
December 3	I met with Kraig Johnson the Two Rivers Emergency Coordinator. Kraig has been in the position for several months but up until this meeting we had not had the opportunity to have a face-to-face meeting.
December 7	I hosted the NAEM executive board meeting at the EOC.
December 8	8th through the 10th was the NACO conference.
December 14	I participated in statewide Flood Hazard Mitigation planning meeting via ZOOM.
December 15	Was the Buffalo County officials monthly COVID/safety and security meeting. I participated in an NWS webinar for the expected wind event for the day.

December 17	I attended and participated in the TRIMRS meeting via ZOOM where the new TRIMRS coordinator Matt Larson was introduced.
December 20	I met with Matt Larson at the EOC for our first face to face introduction meeting. We met for about 4 hours.
December 21	I participated in a ZOOM meeting for the development and rewrite of the Central District NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan.
December 27	I participated in the first seasonal Ice Jam meeting with the NWS.
December 30	I participated in a NWS webinar for the pending snow event for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

<p>January 2021 Monthly Activities</p>	
✓	The EOC and equipment has been in full operation for ten months. There was one update and testing done on the MRU during the month. The Sierra modem continued to have failover switching issues that could not be resolved. A new Pep-Wave had been ordered and installed by City IT. Two of the last four new computers had been installed, the two office computers were the last two that need installed and programmed for the EOC.
✓	The MRU was deployed for a missing person on the 7th from about 20:00 to 23:00. The individual was found on the property deceased.
✓	The cell booster for the EOC and basement area had gone bad the first part of the month, a new booster was ordered and replaced. An additional antenna was requested to be installed at some point in the future for additional coverage in the hallways and staff breakroom areas.
✓	Meeting with responder agency Chiefs or Command Staff; throughout the month, I continued to speak with almost every community leader, mayor, community board chair, fire department and more all by e-mails. During the month, we held a responder roundtable meeting via ZOOM where a number of fire and law enforcement officials logged in. I spoke with Jason Whalen with Kearney Fire in person.
✓	The 2nd quarterly EMPG report and grant requests were completed during the month and sent to NEMA.
✓	ID cards; I made additional ID cards for offices and departments for Buffalo County, other cards were made as well for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center cardholders several times throughout the month. With the Pandemic, I had been holding off on calling the general public in for Justice Center cards.
✓	The COVID-19 Pandemic mitigation and response continued, a few more COVID related meetings throughout the month (17) due to the continued COVID illnesses,

<p>hospitalizations and deaths. As well as planning and administering the COVID vaccines to the Phase 1A and 1B groups. Work continued with FEMA and the CARES Act. The reimbursements for dispatch, corrections and Emergency Management had been at a standstill for about a month, seemed much of this was waiting on team review and approval and a transition of our project manager. After several weeks of prodding, I finally had this process moving back in the right direction. We should see reimbursements for this project the first part of February. Additional funding had been requested through FEMA from July until the end of December. I continued to work with a number of communities and government departments as well as the State and Federal governments.</p>
<p>✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.</p>
<p>✓ After the winter weather and the courthouse bomb threat several updates to the notification system had been made. About 25 people working for state and county government had been added to the notification groups and over 100 past employees had been removed.</p>
<p>✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management hosted the Winter Field Day event at the City of Kearney/Buffalo County Emergency Operation Center on Saturday the 30th. The event started at 10 am and lasted until after 6:30 pm.</p>
<p>✓ Throughout the month of January, I continued to go weekly to Holdrege to pick up and distribute PPE for agencies in Buffalo County. This schedule changed to bi-weekly starting in February.</p>
<p>✓ Throughout the month, Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 21.5 hours for meetings and weather events, working on holidays/weekends and staying late after 17:00. 1.5 hours of that time was used during the month.</p>

<p>February 2021 Monthly Activities</p>
<p>✓ The EOC and equipment had been in full operation for eleven months. There was one update and testing done on the MRU during the month. The Sierra modem had been replaced with a new Pep-Wave installed by City IT. This device still needed to be tested before it is switched over to first net. One computer remained to be installed in the Emergency Management office in the EOC. There were still a few items that need to be fixed in the new computers in the EOC. County IT was supposed to be back over some time to fix these issues.</p>
<p>✓ Meeting with responder agency Chiefs or Command Staff; throughout the month, I continued to speak with almost every community leader, mayor, community board chair, fire department and more all by e-mails. During the month, we held a responder roundtable meeting via ZOOM, where a number of fire and law enforcement officials logged in. I spoke with Jason Wiehn from Shelton Fire in person. And Rick Brown from Gibbon fire via phone.</p>
<p>✓ ID cards; I made additional ID cards for offices and departments for Buffalo County, three new cards were made for the city of Ravenna. Other cards were</p>

made as well for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center cardholders several times throughout the month. With the Pandemic, I had been holding off on calling the general public in for Justice Center cards.
✓ The COVID-19 Pandemic mitigation and response continued, COVID related meetings throughout the month (16) due to the continued COVID illnesses, hospitalizations, deaths and vaccination planning. Work continued with FEMA and the CARES Act. The reimbursements for dispatch, corrections and Emergency Management had been completed this month. Funding had been requested through FEMA from March until the end of December. I continued to work with a number of communities and government departments as well as the State and Federal governments.
✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.
✓ During the month Emergency Management gathered and put in an excel spreadsheet of critical infrastructure locations by address and contacts throughout the county for the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency for the Bold Planning project.
✓ Throughout the month of February, PPE pickup and distribution had been reduced to every other week for agencies in the Two Rivers Health District.
✓ Throughout the month Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 25.5 hours for meetings and weather events, working on holidays/weekends and staying late after 17:00. 0 hours of that time was used during the month.

March 2021 Monthly Activities
✓ The EOC and equipment had been in full operation for Twelve months. There were two updates and testing done on the MRU during the month. The new first net pep-wave installed by City IT had to be reconfigured as it did not work as it should when tested on the first test run. After City IT reconfigured the pep-wave and the MRU was tested again everything worked as it should. All computers had been installed in the Emergency Management office in the EOC. There were still a few items that need to be fixed in the new computers in the EOC. County IT had been back several time to work on these issues. The most glaring issue is after the new computers were installed Emergency Management lost the local administrative rights to these computers after 10 years. So now when updates and new programs for EOC operations need to be installed County IT has to be called or a ticket put in to have this done. This becomes an issue when working on a Saturday morning, or a late Thursday evening and the program isn't working, or you find wasn't transferred over or needs updated and is needed for operations at that moment.
✓ Meeting with responder agency Chiefs or Command Staff; throughout the month, I continued to speak with almost every community leader, mayor, community board chair, fire department and more all by e-mails. During the month, we held a

<p>responder roundtable meeting via ZOOM, were a number of fire and law enforcement officials logged in. I spoke with Glenn Brown, Amherst Fire Chief; Rick Brown, Gibbon Fire Chief; Brock Elsen, Miller Fire Chief; Chad Dixon, Pleasanton Fire Chief; Gibbon Mayor Deb VanMeter and Gibbon City Administrator Larry Holman via phone.</p>
<p>✓ ID cards; I made additional ID cards for offices and departments for Buffalo County, Other cards were made as well for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center cardholders several times throughout the month. With and Pandemic numbers on the decline I was able to get caught up on making general public cards for volunteers, private attorneys and service providers.</p>
<p>✓ The COVID-19 Pandemic mitigation and response continued, COVID related meetings throughout the month (13) due to the continued COVID illnesses, hospitalizations, deaths and vaccination planning. Work continued with FEMA and the CARES Act. Funding being requested through FEMA from March until the end of December has not seen much movement from FEMA. With the new administration there had been a change in FEMA reimbursements for 75% to 100% which has put a halt on things until the Federal and State governments can rework and reissue paperwork and funds through the new process. I continued to work with a number of communities and government departments as well as the State and Federal governments.</p>
<p>✓ Over the last month I had been able to work with the state to get processed funding for several projects for Buffalo County and the City of Kearney for the March and July 2019 flooding. Several projects still needed to be paid by the Federal Government and none of the projects had been paid by the State of Nebraska at the time.</p>
<p>✓ Preventive maintenance checks on the Kearney sirens were conducted by Platte Valley Communications during the month, all sirens were reported to be in good shape and working order.</p>
<p>✓ I took the Emergency Management vehicle in for an oil change and had new tires put on. The old tires lasted right at 50,000 miles.</p>
<p>✓ A number of mass vaccination clinics had been conducted in Kearney over the last month. I assisted in the planning and helping to get volunteers for the operation.</p>
<p>✓ The Statewide tornado drill was conducted in Buffalo County and all its communities during the Severe Weather Awareness week March 22nd through the 26th.</p>
<p>✓ The D-Star Amateur radio system in the Emergency Operation Center had not worked for quite some time, after doing quite a bit of trouble shooting and finding a number of issues such as internet connection problems (using two separate internet providers with no static IP address), IT closing all ports it needed to communicate with other servers outside out network, water causing damage to the control repeater through a feed line in the PLC room; all issues have been fixed and back on the air. This digital VHF (2 Meter) radio connects through the internet and can talk anywhere in the world. This is a huge communications asset to the EOC.</p>

✓ Winlink software was also added to the HF radio in the EOC that allows a person to send data, ICS forms, e-mail and pictures through "RF".
✓ Kearney Fire informed me that the Emergency Management light plant stored at station 3 at the Airport needed refueled. I picked up the light plant, fueled it and brought it back to station 3.
✓ At the request of the St John's LTC director I conducted a walk through, to review plans for severe weather and tornado procedures.
✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.
✓ PPE pickup and distribution had been reduced to every other week for agencies in the Two Rivers Health District starting in February. I picked up and distributed twice during the month.
✓ Throughout the month Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 10.5 hours for meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends and staying late after 17:00. 5 hours of that time was used during the month.

April 2021 Monthly Activities
✓ The EOC and equipment had been in full operation for thirteen months. There was one update and testing done on the MRU during the month. There are still a few items that needed to be fixed in the new computers in the EOC. A new pepwave first net device has been configured and installed in the EOC for the D-Star Digital radio system. All is working as it should at this time.
✓ Meeting with responder agency Chiefs or Command Staff; throughout the month, I continued to speak with almost every community leader, mayor, community board chair, fire department and more all by e-mails. During the month. I spoke with Glenn Brown, Amherst Fire Chief; Tyler Hilmer, Elm Creek Fire Chief; Jason Whalen and Todd Walton from Kearney Fire in person.
✓ ID cards; I made additional ID cards for offices and departments for Buffalo County. Other cards were made as well for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center cardholders several times throughout the month. Two new cards were made for Elm Creek fire.
✓ The COVID-19 Pandemic mitigation and response continued, COVID related meetings throughout the month (7) due to the continued COVID illnesses, hospitalizations, deaths and vaccination planning. Work continued with FEMA and the CARES Act. I continued to work with a number of communities and government departments as well as the State and Federal governments on both the 2019 flooding disaster and the COVID pandemic.
✓ A number of mass vaccination clinics had been conducted in Kearney over the last month. I continued to assist in the planning and helping get volunteers for the operation. Over the last month getting volunteer support for these clinics became increasingly difficult. Two Rivers has stopped the mass vaccination clinics and gone to community mobile clinics, serving less people at a time and leading to the need of less personnel for the administration and delivery of the vaccine.

✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.
✓ The Severe Weather Spotter Guide was reviewed and updated and sent out to all responder agencies for the severe weather season.
✓ A new microwave has been purchased for the EOC kitchen. The old one quit working several months ago.
✓ I participated in a regional web-based burn mass casualty tabletop exercise.
✓ PPE pickup and distribution had been reduced to every other week for agencies in the Two Rivers Health District. I only picked up and distributed once during the month April.
✓ Throughout the month Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 4.5 hours for meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends, and staying late after 17:00. 4 hours of time was used during the month. 40 hours of vacation was taken in April.

May 2021 Monthly Activities
✓ The EOC and equipment had been in full operation for fourteen months. There was one update and testing done on the MRU during the month. There were a few connectivity issues with the newly installed PepWave in the EOC, signal level wasn't the greatest in the basement. This PepWave was moved to the EOC tower building and has worked well with no issues since the move.
✓ Two additional Cat 6 cables and LMR 400 antenna cables were run from the EOC tower building into the EOC this month. The new cat cables are to support the D-star system and the antenna cables are to support the Amateur radio operations out of the EOC.
✓ Meeting with responder agency Chiefs or Command Staff; throughout the month I continued to speak with almost every community leader, mayor, community board chair, fire department and more all by e-mails. During the month I spoke with almost all the Fire chiefs in Buffalo County several times by phone and text due to severe weather and the possible need of weather spotters.
✓ ID cards; I made a couple of ID cards for offices and departments for Buffalo County, Other cards were made as well for jail staff and volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center cardholders several times throughout the month.
✓ The COVID-19 Pandemic mitigation and response continued, COVID related meetings throughout the month (5) due to the continued COVID illnesses, and vaccination operations. Work continued with FEMA and the CARES Act. I continued to work with a number of communities and government departments as well as the State and Federal governments on both the 2019 flooding disaster and the COVID pandemic.
✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.
✓ I ordered and received two bank chargers for the new radio project. These chargers will be placed in the MRU for cash radios. I have also ordered 3 APX900

portable radios that will be part of the cash radios for the Emergency Management new radio project.
✓ I conducted a preparedness walk through at the request of one of the local hotels in Kearney. I have done several of these walk throughs throughout the years for schools, churches and businesses in Buffalo county.
✓ The MRU was serviced at Cummings Diesel during the month.
✓ PPE pickup and distribution had been reduced to every other week for agencies in the Two Rivers Health District in April. I picked up and distributed twice during the month May.
✓ Throughout the month Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 13.5 hours for meetings and weather events, working on holidays/weekends and staying late after 17:00. 2 hours of time was used during the month.

June 2021 Monthly Activities
✓ The EOC and equipment had been in full operation for fifteen months. There was one update and testing done on the MRU during the month. County IT came over to the EOC and helped adjust the overhead projectors so that we can get the best quality picture out of them, this seemed to have helped. One of the projectors needed to be moved, County buildings and grounds came over to move the projector in the ceiling.
✓ As of June 30th, the EOC went from full operational Emergency disaster status to functional ready status.
✓ Meeting with Responder agency Chiefs or Command Staff; throughout the month, I continued to speak with almost every community leader, mayor, community board chair, fire department and more all by e-mails. During the month I spoke with almost all the Fire chiefs in Buffalo County several times by phone and text due to severe weather and the possible need of weather spotters.
✓ I participated in a half day FEMA emergency alert notification webinar training.
✓ ID cards; I made a couple of ID cards for offices and departments for Buffalo County. Other cards were made as well for jail staff and volunteers, service providers and Justice Center cardholders several times throughout the month.
✓ While the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency declaration for the state has ended, I continued to work with NEMA and FEMA and the CARES Act for COVID funding as well as I continued to work with a number of communities and government departments the State and Federal governments on the 2019 flooding disaster.
✓ I participated in a PER-386 FEMA Whole Community Inclusive Economic Recovery training. This training is held several times throughout the next several months. I had shared this training opportunity with all the communities in Buffalo County.
✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.
✓ I picked up and distributed PPE twice during the month June.

- ✓ Throughout the month, Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 10 hours for meetings and weather events, working on holidays/weekends and staying late after 17:00. 0 hours of time was used during the month.

**July 2021
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ The EOC and equipment was in full operation for fifteen months (June 30th 2021). As of June 30th, the EOC went from full operational emergency disaster status to functional ready status.
- ✓ There were three updates and testing done on the MRU during the month. The MCT software needed to be updated on two of the laptops in the MRU. City IT corrected this issue and the MCT computers are now working as they should. The projector that needed to be moved in the EOC was moved by Buildings and Grounds and County IT came over to readjust it. One of the emergency/disaster ID credentialing computers hard drive crashed during a functional exercise. County IT was asked to put a new hard drive in this computer.
- ✓ Meetings with responder agency Chiefs or Command Staff; throughout the month, I continued to speak with almost every community leader, mayor, community board chair, fire department and more all by e-mails and text. During the month I spoke with almost all the Fire chiefs in Buffalo County several times by phone and text due to severe weather and the possible need of weather spotters. I spoke with Kearney Fire Administrator Jason Whalen and Fire Chief Glen Brown from Amherst Fire in person.
- ✓ ID cards; I made a couple of ID cards for offices and departments for Buffalo County, Other cards were made as well for jail staff and volunteers, service providers and Justice Center cardholders several times throughout the month.
- ✓ We continued to work with NEMA and FEMA and the CARES Act for COVID funding as well as continued to work with a number of communities and government departments on the 2019 flooding disaster. We were in what seemed to be a very long process to close out the 2019 flooding recovery process with FEMA and NEMA. Seems we have started over from the beginning on several occasions due to new contractors coming on board with the State and Federal government to “help” close out the projects.
- ✓ I participated in a continued series of Disability in disaster educational trainings via webinars.
- ✓ I have uploaded the annual and 6 month Buffalo watch notifications that have been sent out through the system. This is done to comply with a 3-year record keeping regulation. The Everbridge system removes the notifications after a 13 month time frame.
- ✓ I updated the “Command” software in one of the ID credentialing computers. (not the one with the crashed hard drive)

✓ I participated in mitigation concepts and funding training presented by FEMA region 7 and NEMA via the web.
✓ I worked on the Buffalo Watch notification system during the month, I uploaded new white and yellow page numbers into the system and made some changes to some of the weather notifications. With the “new business model” of Everbridge the calling and texting is no longer unlimited. The calling is based off of a credit system. So, to reduce some over usage of some of the notifications we made some modifications on those that are not emergency related.
✓ I readied the MRU for use for Cruise Night Friday evening, which meant unplugging it and pulling it out of the building. Late Saturday afternoon/evening I assisted in getting the unit running and functional. At one point we had training to get the CSO’s trained to drive and operate the MRU. We need to continue work to get the new CSO’s trained on this unit both on the city and county side. There is currently only one CSO trained to drive and operate this unit at this time.
✓ I returned the Decon trailer that was being used to pickup and delivery PPE back to Kearney fire so they could use it to haul items to the county fair and back.
✓ I participated in a spill reporting and LEPC coordination training presented by EPA through a webinar.
✓ I participated in a virtual table top exercise for disaster behavioral health.
✓ I participated in a compassion fatigue training presented by Region 3 Behavioral Health through the web.
✓ I hosted and participated in a one-day rapids needs assessment training at the Buffalo County/City of Kearney EOC.
✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.
✓ I picked up and distributed PPE once during the month July.
✓ Throughout the month, Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 18 hours for meetings and weather events, working on holidays/weekends and staying late after 17:00. 2 hours of that time was used during the month.

August 2021 Monthly Activities
✓ The EOC and equipment was in full operation for fifteen months through June 30th 2021. As of June 30th, the EOC went from full operational Emergency disaster status to functional ready status. County IT fixed the emergency/disaster ID credentialing computer by replacing the hard drive and reinstalling the operating system. I was able to get the Rapid Tag software loaded back on the computer. The system is now back operational. I ordered a USB extender for the EOC, County IT and I are going to try and mount the Owl video system from the ceiling, in the EOC. There was one update and testing done on the MRU during the month. County and City IT are working together to replace the computers in the MRU, 3 laptops and one desk top computer.

<p>✓ Meetings with responder agency Chiefs or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly and sometimes daily emails continued to go out to community leader, mayor, community board chair, fire departments. During the month I spoke with almost all the Fire chiefs in Buffalo County several times by phone and text due to severe weather and the possible need of weather spotters. I spoke with Gibbon Fire Chief Rick Brown in person during the month.</p>
<p>✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on 4 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.</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 in the process of trying to close out several projects for the 2019 flood at this time. NEMA has requested some additional contract documentation in which we have provided.</p>
<p>✓ I participated in a continued series of Disability in disaster educational trainings via webinars.</p>
<p>✓ The annual inventory was completed for the Emergency Management office and turned into the Clerk's office this month.</p>
<p>✓ A justification request for the walk up Rapid on demand portable medical platforms was completed by this office and submitted to NEMA and NDHHS. This request was approved by NDHHS. Buffalo county was one of 7 out of 15 counties that were granted one of these (POD's)</p>
<p>✓ Emergency Management participated in an Agricultural Ammonia and EPA inspections webinar training.</p>
<p>✓ Emergency Management attended the two-day local volunteer and donation management training held at the EOC.</p>
<p>✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.</p>
<p>✓ Throughout the month, Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 15 hours for meetings and weather events, working on holidays/weekends and staying late after 17:00. 6 hours of that time was used during the month.</p>

<p>September 2021 Monthly Activities</p>
<p>✓ The EOC and equipment was in full operation for fifteen months through June 30th 2021. As of June 30th, the EOC went from full operational emergency disaster status to functional ready status. After ordering a USB extender for the EOC, County IT ran new cat 6 cable through the ceiling and the floor and mounted the Owl video system from the ceiling in the EOC. It seems to be working well. There was no testing done 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 are with City IT at this time.</p>

<p>✓ Meetings with responder agency Chiefs or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly and sometimes daily emails continued to go out to community leaders, mayor, community board chair and fire departments. During the month I spoke with almost all the Fire chiefs in Buffalo County several times by phone and text due to severe weather and the possible need of weather spotters. Spotters were called out on the 2nd in Elm Creek, Kearney, Gibbon and Shelton.</p>
<p>✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on 2 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.</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 continued to work through the long process of trying to close out several projects for the 2019 flood at this time.</p>
<p>✓ Emergency Management and Planning and Zoning worked on the rewrite Hazard Mitigation worksheets together during the month. After completion the worksheets were sent to JEO consultants.</p>
<p>✓ I participated in a radio interview for the talk of the town on the 15th, “topic” everything emergency management.</p>
<p>✓ The walk up Rapid on demand portable medical platforms was delivered on the 22nd of the month. Both City and County worked on this unit to make it usable for COVID testing and vaccines. The unit came with no electrical hook up, the city electrician hooked up the electrical. The doors would not open and close properly after the unit was set on the ground. County facilities has been working on the flooring, the doors, some counter top works spaces as well as making the unit ADA accessible.</p>
<p>✓ I picked up the 147.000 amateur radio repeater from Ed Holloway, he went through the repeater to make sure everything was working as it should before we install it at the new Ravenna tower.</p>
<p>✓ Elected and Appointed officials workshop presentation was conducted on the 30th. I conducted the tabletop exercise in the afternoon.</p>
<p>✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.</p>
<p>✓ Throughout the month, Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 9 hours for meetings and weather events, working on holidays/weekends and staying late after 17:00. 9 hours of that time was used during the month.</p>

<p>October 2021 Monthly Activities</p>
<p>✓ The EOC and equipment was in full operation for fifteen months through June 30th 2021. As of June 30th, the EOC went from full operational emergency disaster status to functional ready status. Testing was conducted twice on the MRU during the month. County and City IT continued working together to replace the</p>

computers in the MRU, 3 laptops and one desk top computer. All computers are with City IT at this time.
✓ Meetings with responder agency Chiefs or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly and sometimes daily emails continue to go out to community leaders, mayor, community board chair and fire departments.
✓ ID cards; I made ID cards on 3 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. Five new cards were made for the City of Ravenna.
✓ 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 continued to work through the long process of trying to close out several projects for the 2019 flood at this time. There had been no movement on the 2019 closeout for Buffalo County in the last month.
✓ With a short turn around during the month of October Emergency Management applied for EMPG and EMPG ARPA grant funding was approved. GAN's completed, signed and sent back to NEMA, Quarterly report forms received and completed and reimbursements submitted for the first quarter and sent to NEMA for the fiscal year all before October 15 th
✓ Emergency Management assisted with Law Enforcement appreciation week, by providing the MRU for display and tours during the week.
✓ The walk up Rapid on demand portable medical platforms was delivered September 22 nd . After a significant amount of work by a number of city and county departments the unit was put in use for a COVID testing site October 11 th . Testing was conducted 2 days a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 09:30 to 12:30. Buffalo County and the City of Kearney have continued to support this site through; Emergency Management assets for testing, Local Emergency Management support and coordination, fairgrounds location/lot maintenance, electricity for 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.
✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.
✓ Throughout the month Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 16 hours for meetings and weather events, working on holidays/weekends and staying late after 17:00. 1 hour of that time was used during the month. Was out of the office for vacation time between October 25 th through the 29 th . 40 hours of vacation time was used.

November 2021 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. Testing was conducted once on the MRU during

<p>the month. County and City IT continued working together to replace the computers in the MRU, 3 laptops and one desk top computer. All computers remain with city IT at this time.</p>
<p>✓ Meetings with responder agency Chiefs or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly and sometimes daily emails continue to go out to community leaders, mayor, community board chair and fire departments. I have been working with Levi Dexter, Elm Creek Fire President to get all new ID cards completed, and have spoken with Rick Brown the Gibbon fire chief to get them some additional PPE this 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 cardholders during the month. 23 new cards were made for the Elm Creek Fire.</p>
<p>✓ The After-Action Review and the Improvement Plan was completed in November for the exercise conducted in September.</p>
<p>✓ I participated in a procurement Disaster Assistance Training November 1st.</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 continued to work through the long process of trying to close out several projects for the 2019 flood at this time. There had been no movement on the 2019 closeout for Buffalo County in the last month.</p>
<p>✓ I conducted a Severe Weather plans review and walk through for Kearney Head Start.</p>
<p>✓ I participated in a statewide Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop November 9th.</p>
<p>✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.</p>
<p>✓ Throughout the month Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 6 hours for meetings and weather events, working on holidays/weekends and staying late after 17:00. 2 hours of that time was used during the month.</p>

<p>December 2021 Monthly Activities</p>
<p>✓ The EOC and equipment was in full operation for fifteen months through June 30th 2021. As of June 30th, the EOC went from full operational emergency disaster status to functional ready status. No testing was conducted on the MRU during the month. County and City IT continued working together to replace the computers in the MRU, 3 laptops and one desk top computer. All computers remained with city IT at this time.</p>
<p>✓ Meetings with responder agency Chiefs or Command Staff; throughout the month, weekly and sometimes daily emails continue to go out to community leader, mayor, community board chair, fire departments. I have spoken with Rick Brown the Gibbon fire chief and Taryn Hawks the Shelton fire chief in person as well as</p>

several other fire chiefs via phone and text in Buffalo County for weather events and PPE.
✓ 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.
✓ 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 continued to work through the long process of trying to close out several projects for the 2019 flood at this time. There had been no movement on the 2019 closeout for Buffalo County in the last several months.
✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month.
✓ Buffalo County hosted the safety officer training this month.
✓ At the request of Cpt. Young, I sat through a presentation of what was supposed to be a planning and plans development tool from PAMEE. I don't think it was really what any of us expected it to be, with all the other things we have in place especially in the Emergency Management realm it wasn't something we found that would be useful. The biggest take away was that it was a large mining tool for commercial/private resources.
✓ Throughout the month and the coming month, I had been working with communities and incident commanders on damage assessments and reports from the December 15 th wind/tornado event. NPPD had reported \$400,000.00 in damage in Buffalo County alone. At this point that is just about the extent of the public damage. There was very little damage reported in the Kearney area, outside of electrical poles. On a scale of minor, medium and major damage, only minor damage was reported to public and individual property in the Kearney area. Gibbon and the Gibbon fire district saw a lot of minor individual property damage, with some medium and major damages reported. Shelton and the Shelton fire district also saw some minimal damage to individual property. There were a number of buildings i.e. garages, barns and out buildings with medium and major damage as well as several pivots overturned and at least 2 large grain bins blown over.
✓ Throughout the month, Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 2.5 hours for meetings and weather events, working on holidays/weekends and staying late after 17:00. I used 16 hours of sick leave during the month.

Notable Items

Pandemic

The Pandemic of 2019 and 2020 continued to spill over into 2021 with the continued mutating variants of other counties making their way to the United States. Illness and deaths related to COVID-19 continued. As of December 31, 2021, Nebraska has had 336,426 positive cases reported; 2,781 deaths related to COVID-19, and

64.6% of Nebraska's total eligible population had been vaccinated. There were large ups and downs as the variants swept across the US. The local areas were no different seeing the decline in positive cases and deaths in the second quarters of the year, to a large spike in cases in the 3rd and 4th quarters of the year.

Buffalo County Emergency Management continued to assist Public Health and the local level as much as was requested. PPE pick up and distribution continued through this office to support those agencies, organizations and first responders in Buffalo County. Emergency Management assisted with vaccination sites by helping provide equipment and volunteers to the sites.

After submitting a justification letter to the State of Nebraska (NDHHS and NEMA) Buffalo County Emergency Management was one of seven areas in the state to receive a walk up Rapid on demand portable medical platform (POD). It was delivered on September 22nd. After a significant amount of work by a number of city and county departments the unit was put in use for a COVID testing site October 11th. Testing was conducted 2 days a week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 09:30 to 12:30. Buffalo County and the City of Kearney continued to support this site through; Emergency Management assets for testing, Local Emergency Management support and coordination, fairgrounds location/lot maintenance, electricity for 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.

Weather Events

Significant weather events in 2021; there was approximately 3 feet of snow recorded throughout the year. Most of which fell in January and February. February saw 9 straight days of below zero temperatures between the 6th and the 20th causing power grid and natural gas issues throughout the Midwest from North Dakota to Texas.

July 9th brought on storms that produced significant damage across the state. Damage was reported in Elm Creek and Kearney during the 9th storms, 94 mph winds were recorded in some areas of the state. Buffalo County saw wind gusts around 80 mph, blowing down large trees and branches, downed power lines with some personal and public property damage.

December 15th produced high wind warnings, thunderstorm warnings, tornado warnings and dust warnings throughout the county with the highest winds of 85 mph along the central and southern portions of the county with two EF-0 tornados being reported in the Gibbon/Shelton areas. The sirens were sounded in Shelton due to tornados. NPPD reported \$400,000.00 of damage in Buffalo County. There was very

little damage reported in the Kearney area, outside of electrical poles. On a scale of minor, medium and major damage, only minor damage was reported to public and individual property in the Kearney area. Gibbon and the Gibbon fire district saw a lot of minor individual property damage, with some medium and major damages reported. Shelton and the Shelton fire district also saw some minimal damage to individual property. There were a number of buildings i.e., garages, barns and outbuildings with medium and major damage as well as several pivots over turned and at least 2 large grain bins blown over. 28 tornados were recorded across Nebraska on the 15th of December

Ice jam issues on the Platte River between Kearney and Shelton was a concern throughout the months of January and February particularly on the farthest north channel. The ice jams caused some localized flooding along the river however did not impact public or private infrastructure. Emergency Management kept an eye on the jammed areas daily until the jams broke up and moved down stream.

Train Derailment

Union Pacific had about a 20-railcar train derailment in downtown Gibbon Nebraska. It was very fortunate that there were no injuries or significant damage to property in the community. Emergency management sent out a Buffalo Watch notification to the citizens of Gibbon and the surrounding area. For the most part the derailment was contained to the railroad right of way. It took several days to remove the derailed cars and repair damages to the rail line and intersecting roadways.

Hazardous Material Incidents

Several localized Hazardous material incidents occurred throughout the year that required Emergency Management assistance, input, or direction. There were three separate fuel spills caused by traffic accidents that required reporting and clean up.

A fertilizer storage building at the Aurora COOP on Highway 30 and Imperial Road east of Kearney caught fire at about 01:30 am and took until about 10:00 am that morning to have completely out and under control. Emergency Management met with the Kearney Fire Incident Command, the facility managers and NDEE for reporting and cleanup mitigation efforts.

By the end of December Buffalo County had three open federally declared disasters that this office continued to work with local communities, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2019 floods, COVID-19 Pandemic and the December 15th tornados.

Emergency Communications

The D-Star Amateur radio system in the Emergency Operation Center had not worked for quite some time, after doing quite a bit of trouble shooting and finding a number of issues such as internet connection problems (using two separate internet providers with no static IP address), IT closing all ports it needed to communicate with other servers outside out network, water causing damage to the control repeater through a feed line in the radio room all issues have been fixed and back on the air. This digital VHF (2 Meter) radio connects through the internet and can talk anywhere in the world. This is a huge Amateur Radio Emergency communications asset to the EOC.



RESPONSE UNIT ACTIVITIES (MRU)



- The MRU was used January 7th for a missing person near Odessa during night operations. This person was unfortunately found deceased on their own property
- On July 17th the unit was used during the Kearney Cruise Night.
- 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 sixth year using Buffalo Watch on the Everbridge platform.

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 5,551 total notifications sent out by the system to subscribers of Buffalo Watch in 2021. 5,435 of those were various weather notifications, most of which were lightning alerts. 116 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.

As a recap the following public notification groups exist in the system: Medical Community Alert, Fraud Alert, Buffalo County Inmate Escape, Emergency Alerts, Endangered Missing Advisory, YRTC Escape and Amber Alerts.

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 3,966 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 287 individuals and/or groups following at this time.

The social media and the Buffalo Watch system were integral vital parts in notifying and providing information to Buffalo County residents throughout the year for weather notifications, emergency events and other community information such as COVID-19 and boil water orders in some communities in Buffalo County.

