

# Daily Fact Sheet

## **DR 4420 NE/Severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding**

April 24, 2019

- Major Disaster Declaration issued March 21, 2019.
- Incident Period March 9 – April 1
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are coordinating the recovery operation.
- Disaster website: [fema.gov/disaster/4420](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4420).
- Current federal staffing: 579, including 521 FEMA employees

### **Check Permit Requirements Before Rebuilding**

#### *Local Officials Determine Whether Home Sustained “Substantial Damage”*

It is important for Nebraskans to check with local building authorities about local or state permits that may be necessary before starting reconstruction. These may include building permits, floodplain development permits, permits for repair of septic systems, and others.

To find out what state permits may be required, please visit the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources at [dnr.nebraska.gov/floodplain](https://dnr.nebraska.gov/floodplain) for a list of local floodplain management contacts. If a lagoon was breached or a septic system became inundated, repairs may need to be permitted by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Local officials in Nebraska are inspecting homes damaged by the flooding to determine whether a structure was damaged to the extent that it will have to meet current codes when it is repaired. A determination of “substantial damage” applies to a severely damaged home or other structure in a Special Flood Hazard Area, or flood zone, where the community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These determinations are made by communities. FEMA does not make substantial damage determinations.

Rebuilding a substantially damaged structure in a floodplain requires that the property be brought into compliance with local floodplain management regulations. You may decide to:

- Elevate the building to a height determined by local officials.
- Relocate the structure outside the floodplain.
- Demolish the home.
- Floodproof a non-residential structure.

### **Housing Resources for Disaster Survivors**

The State of Nebraska is leading a Housing Task Force in partnership with FEMA and other agencies to address housing shortages and unmet needs in Nebraska communities affected by flooding. A [fact sheet listing resources](#) is posted on FEMA’s disaster web page:

[fema.gov/disaster/4420](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4420).

## **27 Counties and One Tribe Eligible for FEMA Individual Assistance**

Homeowners and renters in Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dodge, Douglas, Hall, Howard, Knox, Madison, Nance, Nemaha, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Stanton, Thurston and Washington counties and the Santee Sioux Nation are eligible for Individual Assistance.

## **Individuals & Households Program (IHP)**

### **As of April 23**

- **5,153** applicants in designated counties have applied for FEMA Individual Assistance.
- FEMA has approved **\$19,986,196**.
- This includes **\$17,911,809** for housing assistance and **\$2,074,387** for disaster-related other needs.
- Deadline to register for Individual Assistance is May 20.

## **Don't Wait; Register with FEMA Now**

If you experienced losses as a result of the March flooding, don't wait for a Disaster Recovery Center to open. Register with FEMA immediately and file any insurance claims. Disaster Recovery Centers are opening in the areas affected by the disaster, but this will take time. You can register with FEMA in several ways:

- Online, visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov). On a smart phone, use the [FEMA app](#). By phone, call **800-621-3362** or **800-462-7585 (TTY)** from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Or visit a **Disaster Recovery Center** and speak to a FEMA specialist one-on-one. To find the nearest DRC, go online to [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.FEMA.gov/DRC).

Applicants for disaster assistance will need:

- Social Security number
- Address of the damaged primary residence
- Description of the damage
- Information about insurance coverage
- A current contact telephone number
- An address where they can receive mail
- Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds

## **FEMA Hiring Nebraskans to Work on Disaster Recovery**

FEMA is hiring Nebraskans to help with recovery efforts. Anyone interested in temporary job opportunities should go to [www.USAJobs.gov](https://www.USAJobs.gov). The website is updated as new postings occur. Type "FEMA Local Hire" in the search box and put "Nebraska" in the location box.

## **Understanding Your FEMA Letter**

If you applied for assistance from FEMA, you will receive a letter in the mail or via email that explains the status of your application and how to respond. It is important to read the letter carefully. Your letter will include the amount of any assistance FEMA may provide and information on the appropriate use of disaster assistance funds.

- **You may need to submit additional information** for FEMA to continue to process your

application.

- **If you have questions about the letter**, you may go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov); call the disaster assistance helpline at **800-621-3362** or **800-462-7585 (TTY)**; or visit a Disaster Recovery Center. To find center locations and hours, go online to [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC) or download the [FEMA mobile app](#).
- If you disagree with FEMA's decision, or the amount of assistance, you may **submit an appeal letter** and any documents needed to support your claim, such as a contractor's estimate for home repairs.
  - Appeal letters and supporting documents may be submitted to FEMA by fax or mail, in person at a Disaster Recovery Center, or online if you have a FEMA online account. To set up a FEMA online account, visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov), click on "Check Status" and follow the directions.
  - You must file your appeal in writing to FEMA. In a **signed and dated letter**, you must explain the reason(s) for your appeal. Include: your full name; disaster number; address of the pre-disaster primary residence; your current phone number and address; and your FEMA registration number on all documents.
  - **By mail:** FEMA National Processing Service Center, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-7055. **By fax:** 800-827-8112, Attention: FEMA.

### **Disaster Recovery Centers Assist Survivors**

Disaster Recovery Centers are operating, or are scheduled to begin operation, in areas affected by the winter storm and flooding. More centers continue to be announced. Recovery specialists from FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will provide information on available services, explain assistance programs and help survivors complete or check the status of their applications.

**Disaster Recovery Centers are closed on Sundays.** Locations and hours are:

- **Boyd County:** Spencer Community Hall, 108 W. Main St., Spencer, NE 68777. Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Butler County:** Bellwood Volunteer Fire Department, 752 41st Road, Bellwood, NE 68624. Open April 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed April 26 for Arbor Day.
- **Custer County:** United Methodist Church, 1000 S. 3rd Ave., Broken Bow, NE 68822. Open April 24, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open April 22, 23, 25, 26, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Dodge County:** Fremont Learning Center, 130 E. 9th St., Fremont, NE 68025. Open Monday-Saturday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Douglas County:** Valley Veterans Club, 111 E. Front St., Valley, NE 68064. Open Monday-Saturday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Hall County:** Wood River City Clerk, 108 W. 10th St., Wood River, NE 68883. Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Howard County:** Oak Street Manor (Housing Authority), 222 E. Oak St., Dannebrog, NE 68831. Open April 23, 25, 30, May 2, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Richardson County:** City Auditorium, 312 W. 17th St., Falls City, NE 68355. Open April 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Santee Sioux Nation:** Santee Health and Wellness Center (Lower level, shelter room), 110 S. Visiting Eagle St., Niobrara, NE 68760. Open April 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- **Sarpy County:** Twin Creek, 3802 Raynor Parkway, Suite 201, Bellevue, NE 68123. Open Monday-Saturday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Stanton County:** Parish Hall of St. Peter's Catholic Church, 1502 Ivy St., Stanton, NE 68779. Open April 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Survivors can visit any open center for help. To find the nearest DRC visit: [FEMA.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC), or text DRC along with a ZIP code to 43362 or call the Disaster Assistance Helpline at **800-621-3362** or **800-462-7585 (TTY)**.

### **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Update**

SBA has approved \$17,667,100 in low-interest disaster loans as of April 23. For homeowners and renters, SBA has approved 295 loans for \$15,765,500; for businesses and private nonprofits, SBA has approved 15 loans for \$1,901,600. For information, businesses and residents can visit [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster), call SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955**, or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). TTY users may call **800-877-8339**.

SBA is operating a Disaster Loan Outreach Center in Cass County in the **Plattsmouth Community/Senior Center at 308 S 18th Street, Plattsmouth, NE 68048**. Hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; SBA continues operating a Business Recovery Center in Sarpy County at **Bellevue University, John Muller Administrative Services Building, 812 Bruin Blvd., Bellevue, NE 68005**. It is open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. No appointment necessary.

**Debris Removal a Priority for Communities after Nebraska Flooding** NEMA, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) and FEMA are coordinating cleanup efforts in Nebraska. Debris needs to be separated into categories and placed at the curb. Debris should not block the roadway. For information, go online to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality at [deq.state.ne.us/](https://deq.state.ne.us/).

### **FEMA Teams Going Door to Door**

FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams are working in impacted neighborhoods to help survivors register for assistance and to identify immediate and emerging needs. Teams are active in: Antelope, Boyd, Cuming, Custer, Dodge, Douglas, Howard, Knox, Madison, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Sarpy and Thurston counties, the Santee Sioux Nation and the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska.

They have visited more than 15,407 homes.

### **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

As of April 22, NFIP has received 1,011 flood insurance claims in Nebraska and issued \$4,324,902 in advance payments to policyholders. Total paid on all claims: \$15,190,725.

### **Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available**

Information about DUA can be found at [dol.nebraska.gov/UIBenefits/Programs/DUA](https://dol.nebraska.gov/UIBenefits/Programs/DUA).

### **Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (D-SNAP)**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture approved Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Children and Family Services' request to implement D-SNAP for qualified individuals in

the following counties: **Antelope, Boyd, Burt, Cuming, Hall, Howard, Madison, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Saline and Stanton.**

Registration for this program is available through April 26 for these counties.  
For more information, go to [Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services](#).

### **Assistance for Landowners, Farmers, Ranchers and Producers**

The USDA says higher limits now are available for borrowers interested in USDA's farm loans. For more information, visit [USDA Farm Service Agency](#).

### **USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service**

- To help manage cropland damaged by Nebraska's severe spring weather, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing **funds to plant cover crops** on cropland acres.
- Producers are encouraged to apply at their local USDA Service Center by May 17, 2019. After that deadline, there is a second opportunity to apply, ending June 21, 2019.
- This funding is available statewide to assist recovery work on cropland acres directly impacted by the severe weather in March. The highest priority cropland includes **land that is unable to be planted with a cash crop and/or harvested in 2019.**

### **Tax Relief for Nebraska Survivors**

Individuals may qualify for [federal tax relief](#) following a disaster.

### **HUD Assistance for Nebraska Survivors**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is providing support to homeowners and low-income renters. Find information at [hud.gov](#).

### **FEMA Public Assistance Program**

FEMA's Public Assistance grant program provides federal assistance to state and local governments and certain types of private nonprofit organizations following a presidential disaster declaration. Public Assistance (PA) can help communities quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies.

Through the program, FEMA can reimburse eligible costs for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures and the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private nonprofit organizations. The Public Assistance program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

Counties eligible for Categories A-B (emergency protective measures, debris removal):

- Adams, Antelope, Banner, Blaine, Boone, Box Butte, Boyd, Brown, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Cherry, Cheyenne, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dakota, Dawes, Deuel, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Franklin, Fillmore, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Garden, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Harlan, Holt, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Keya Paha, Kimball, Knox, Lancaster, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, Madison, Merrick, Morrill, Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Phelps, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Rock, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Scotts Bluff,

Seward, Sheridan, Sherman, Sioux, Stanton, Thayer, Thurston, Valley, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wheeler, York.

- Tribes: Omaha Indian Reservation, Ponca (TDSA), Sac and Fox Indian Reservation, Santee Indian Reservation, and Winnebago Indian Reservation.

Counties eligible for Categories C-G (permanent work):

- Adams, Antelope, Banner, Blaine, Boone, Box Butte, Boyd, Buffalo, Brown, Burt, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Cheyenne, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dakota, Dawes, Deuel, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Franklin, Fillmore, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Garden, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Harlan, Holt, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Keya Paha, Kimball, Knox, Lancaster, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, Madison, Merrick, Morrill, Nance, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Phelps, Pierce, Platte, Richardson, Rock, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Sheridan, Sherman, Sioux, Stanton, Thurston, Valley, Wayne, Washington, Webster and Wheeler.

### **Information Links:**

- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency: [nema.nebraska.gov/](http://nema.nebraska.gov/)
- Nebraska Impact (Volunteering): [www.nebraskaimpact.com/flood](http://www.nebraskaimpact.com/flood)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/nematweets](https://twitter.com/nematweets)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/nema.page](https://facebook.com/nema.page)
- YouTube: [youtube.com/user/TheNEMAtube](https://youtube.com/user/TheNEMAtube)
- Flickr: [flickr.com/photos/nemapics/](https://flickr.com/photos/nemapics/)
- FEMA: [FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/FEMA](https://facebook.com/FEMA)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/femaregion7](https://twitter.com/femaregion7)
- National Flood Insurance Program: [Floodsmart.gov](http://Floodsmart.gov)
- FEMA blog: [fema.gov/blog](http://fema.gov/blog)
- SBA Office of Disaster Assistance: [sba.gov/disaster](http://sba.gov/disaster)

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