

Daily Fact Sheet

DR 4420 NE/Severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding
May 2, 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.
- Current federal staffing: 515, including 442 FEMA employees

Long-Term Recovery Help Grows for Nebraska Storm Survivors

As the focus turns toward long-term recovery from the March severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding, survivors have many resources available from local, state and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations to assist with unmet needs.

Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COADS) in Boone, Butler, Colfax, Howard, Nance and Platte counties are converting to a regional Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG). LTRGs are organizing and beginning work in Dodge, Washington and Platte counties, while Boyd, Saunders, Douglas and Sarpy county LTRGs are in the planning stage.

FEMA VALs support the effort by participating in meetings between volunteer groups and communities and by providing technical support and suggestions on how best to coordinate their current recovery efforts locally.

Nebraska survivors with unmet needs may contact:

- For property clean up contact the **Crisis Clean Up Hotline: 833-556-2476**
- For all other needs of assistance call **Nebraska 211**.
- To volunteer to help, please contact **United Way of the Midlands**. [Click here](#) to view, sign up and make someone's day brighter! In state, call 2-1-1 for questions (press option 6). Or
- **Contact the Fremont Volunteer Reception Center**. Volunteer opportunities are available online at <http://signup.com/go/xynaaxZ>. The Volunteer Center is at Fremont Area United Way, 445 East 1st Street, Suite 1, Fremont. Open Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. -5 p.m., or go online to fremontnebraskavrc@gmail.com.

SBA to Close Business Recovery Center in Bellevue

Director Tanya N. Garfield of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Disaster Field Operations Center-West announced that SBA will close its Bellevue Business Recovery Center at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 3. Until the center closes, SBA representatives will continue to meet with business owners to answer their questions, help them apply for a disaster loan and close their approved loans. No appointment is necessary.

**Bellevue University, John Muller Administrative Services Building,
812 Bruin Blvd., Bellevue, NE 68005.**

Open Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Closes permanently Friday, May 3 at 6 p.m.

SBA representatives continue to meet with business owners and residents at the Disaster Recovery Centers and SBA Disaster loan Outreach Center in the disaster area. At these [centers](#), SBA representatives answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process, [and help each applicant apply and close their approved loans.](#)

Houses of Worship May Apply for FEMA Public Assistance Grants

Houses of worship that sustained damage from the flooding in Nebraska may apply for grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The deadline to apply is May 20, 2019.

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program provides grants to certain kinds of nonprofit organizations. Among these are faith-based organizations that provide essential social services to the public. Only organizations with state or IRS tax-exempt status may be considered. More information about eligible essential and critical service providers can be found on FEMA.gov by viewing the table on page 13 of FEMA's [Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#).

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is conducting briefings for applicants. Organizations can find the schedule of briefings and information on how to apply by going online to the NEMA website: nema.nebraska.gov/.

Nebraska Joint Information Center

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency was awarded a grant for more than \$400,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to make disaster-related crisis counseling services available. The crisis counseling program funds outreach workers who will be available to support emotional and psychological recoveries of Nebraskans impacted by the floods

Survivors who live in Butler, Cass, Colfax, Dodge, Douglas, Nemaha, Sarpy, Saunders, and Washington counties may call the Rural Response Hotline at 1-800-464-0258. Callers can get tips on how to handle disaster-related distress, along with referrals to local treatment centers, support groups and community-based organizations. **For more information see nema.nebraska.gov.**

Check Permit Requirements Before Rebuilding

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 for a list of local floodplain management contacts.

NFIP Increased Cost of Compliance Can Help with Rebuilding in Nebraska

If you have a policy with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and your home was damaged extensively by March storms, you may qualify for additional coverage under your policy, under the provisions of Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC). ICC funds can help defray the costs of elevating,

floodproofing, demolishing or relocating a residential structure. For more information on general flood insurance questions, contact your local floodplain administrator, NFIP at **800-427-4661**, or your insurance agent.

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.

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 May 1

- **5,470** applicants in designated counties have applied for FEMA Individual Assistance.
- FEMA has approved **\$21,124,216**.
- This includes **\$18,823,000** for housing assistance and **\$2,301,216** 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. 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.

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 and 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. 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; 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 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, 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. Disaster Recovery Center locations and hours are:

- **Boone county:** St. Edward Fire Hall, 1302 State Highway 39, St. Edward, NE 68660. Open May 2, 3, 4, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Boyd County:** Spencer Community Hall, 108 W. Main St., Spencer, NE 68777. Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Burt county:** Tekamah City Auditorium (Dining room), 1315 K. St., Tekamah, NE 68061. Open May 2, 3, 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. **Closing 7 p.m. May 4.**
- **Hall County:** Wood River City Clerk, 108 W. 10th St., Wood River, NE 68883. Open May 2, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Closing 6 p.m. May 2.**
- **Howard County:** Oak Street Manor (Housing Authority), 222 E. Oak St., Dannebrog, NE 68831. Open May 2, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Knox county:** Center Community Center 207 Main St., Center, NE 68724. Open May 2, 3, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Nance county:** City Auditorium, 313 Willard Ave., Genoa, NE 68640

Open May 2, 3, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- **Saline County:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 805 Hawthorne Ave., Crete, NE 68333 Open May 2, 3, 4, 6, 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.

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 topped more than \$25.7 million in approved low-interest disaster loans as of May 1. For homeowners and renters, SBA has approved 432 loans for \$22,594,800; for businesses and private nonprofits, SBA has approved 21 loans for \$3,176,700. 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. 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 will continue to operate its Business Recovery Center **UNTIL COB on Friday, May 3** in Sarpy County at **Bellevue University, John Muller Administrative Services Building, 812 Bruin Blvd., Bellevue, NE 68005**. It is open from 9 a.m. - 6 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/.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

As of May 1, NFIP has received 1,024 flood insurance claims in Nebraska and issued \$4,684,595 in advance payments to policyholders. Total paid on all claims: \$21,127,606.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available

Information about DUA can be found at dol.nebraska.gov/UIBenefits/Programs/DUA.

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](https://www.usda.gov/farm-service).

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**.
- 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.

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/
- Nebraska Impact (Volunteering): www.nebraskaimpact.com/flood
- Twitter: twitter.com/nematweets
- Facebook: facebook.com/nema.page
- YouTube: youtube.com/user/TheNEMAtube

- Flickr: [flickr.com/photos/nemapics/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/nemapics/)
- FEMA: [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/FEMA](https://www.facebook.com/FEMA)
- Twitter: twitter.com/femaregion7
- National Flood Insurance Program: [Floodsmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov)
- FEMA blog: [fema.gov/blog](https://www.fema.gov/blog)
- SBA Office of Disaster Assistance: [sba.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster).

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