

# Disaster Update

Published Tuesday and Friday

## **DR 4420 NE/Severe winter storm, straight-line winds and flooding** May 17, 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://fema.gov/disaster/4420).

## **Individual Assistance Now Available Until June 19 for Nebraskans**

At the request of Governor Pete Ricketts, homeowners, renters and business owners in Nebraska counties designated for federal assistance now have until June 19 to register for federal assistance. See [News Release](#).

## **All Nebraska Disaster Recovery Centers Close Today**

Effective Friday, May 17, all the State of Nebraska and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) will close. See [News Release](#).

## **Help remains after Disaster Recovery Centers close**

After the DRCs close, help is just a mouse click, phone call or a tap on the FEMA app away. Individuals and businesses in counties included in the Nebraska federal disaster declaration can still get help by:

- Logging into their account at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov).
- Calling the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362** (voice, **711/VRS**-Video Relay Service) (TTY: **800-462-7585**). Multilingual operators are available (press **2** for Spanish).
- Downloading the **FEMA app**, available for **Apple** and **Android** mobile devices. To download visit: [fema.gov/mobile-app](https://fema.gov/mobile-app).
- For more information on Nebraska's disaster recovery, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4420](https://fema.gov/disaster/4420).

Business owners and residents can visit [SBA.gov/disaster](https://SBA.gov/disaster), call U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or email

[disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). TTY users may call **800-877-8339**.

**Disaster Recovery Center locations and hours** are:

- **Boyd County:** American Legion Post 78, 116 S. Thayer St., Spencer, NE 68777. Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closing permanently 6 p.m. May 17.
- **Dodge County:** Fremont Learning Center, 130 E. 9th St., Fremont, NE 68025. Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closing permanently 6 p.m. May 17.
- **Madison County:** Madison County Auditorium, 208 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Madison, NE 68748. Open 17 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Omaha Tribe:** Community Youth Prevention (Parking Lot), 457 Skunkhollow Dr., Macy, NE 68039. Open May 17 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Sarpy County:** Twin Creek, 3802 Raynor Parkway, Suite 201, Bellevue, NE 68123. Open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closing permanently 6 p.m. May 17.

**Two Disaster Recovery Centers in Dodge and Sarpy Counties Will Transition to Disaster Loan Outreach Centers**

The Disaster Recovery Centers in Fremont and Bellevue, operated by the State of Nebraska and FEMA, will close at 6 p.m. May 17, and reopen Monday, May 20, as Disaster Loan Outreach Centers operated by the SBA.

The Dodge County Center location will reopen at **Fremont City Auditorium - Community Room, 925 N Broad St., Fremont, NE 68025. Open Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

The Sarpy County location will remain at **3802 Raynor Parkway, (Suite 201), Bellevue, NE 68123. Open Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

SBA customer service representatives will be available at the center to meet individually with businesses, homeowners and renters to answer their questions, explain SBA's disaster loan program, help them complete their applications and close their approved loans.

**Federal Disaster Assistance Is for Nebraska Renters, Too**

Renters in Nebraska counties and tribal areas whose homes and property were damaged by the March severe winter storms, straight-line winds and flooding may be eligible for federal disaster assistance. For information on types of assistance available, [click here](#).

**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](http://fema.gov/disaster/4420).

**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](http://dnr.nebraska.gov/floodplain) for a list of local floodplain management contacts.



**Rumor:** FEMA contractors are going door to door to sign people up to fix their homes.

**Fact:** FEMA does not send building or repair contractors. The job of a FEMA housing inspector is to verify damage. FEMA does not hire or endorse specific contractors to fix homes or recommend repairs. If someone comes to your door and says that your home is unsafe, do not believe them and do not let them in. An unethical contractor may actually create damage to get the work. When in doubt, report any suspicious behavior to your local authorities.

*Obtaining permits, prior to construction, is the responsibility of the project applicant.  
See Nebraska Emergency Management Agency guidelines [here](#).*

### **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.

- **If you have questions about the letter**, you may go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov); call the disaster assistance helpline at **800-621-3362** or **800-462-7585 (TTY)**.

### **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](http://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.

## **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.

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](mailto:fremontnebraskavrc@gmail.com).

## **Keep your recovery options with U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest loans**

SBA loans provide the largest source of long-term federal disaster recovery funds for survivors in a major disaster declaration. To ensure you are eligible for all federal assistance available to cover uninsured and under-insured losses, you *should* register with FEMA and *apply* online with SBA before the deadline. By submitting an initial application with SBA, you will keep the option open to obtain recovery funds that you may need.

Don't wait for insurance claims to be settled; it is not necessary to know how much money you may need. There is no cost to apply, or any obligation to accept funds if approved. SBA loan rates are as low as 2.063 percent for homeowners or renters, and as low as 4 percent for businesses.

Most homeowners and renters are automatically referred to apply with SBA, based on the information provided in their FEMA application. If SBA is unable to offer you a loan, you may be referred back to FEMA for potential additional grant assistance. Survivors who've been referred for low-interest loans with SBA and don't apply, will not be considered for these "other needs" grants from FEMA.

SBA has already approved \$28.1 million for homeowners and renters and \$3.9 million for businesses and private nonprofits in Nebraska to date. To apply online or for any questions, residents and businesses can visit [SBA.gov/disaster](http://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**.

## **Free Safety and Health Consultations Available to Flood-Impacted Businesses**

The Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) is offering free safety and health consultations to businesses in flood-impacted areas. Trained NDOL consultants are available to assist with mold remediation plans, provide safety and health assessments, identify electrical hazards, and perform overall risk assessment. The free consultations are available through the On-Site Safety and Health Consultation program. For more information go online to [dol.nebraska.gov](http://dol.nebraska.gov).

## **Nebraska Joint Information Center Crisis Counseling Services Available**

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. Outreach workers will be available to support emotional and psychological recoveries of Nebraskans impacted by the floods. Survivors may call the Rural Response Hotline at 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](http://nema.nebraska.gov).**

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

As of May 16, NFIP has received 1,029 flood insurance claims in Nebraska and issued \$5,129,287 in advance payments to policyholders. Total paid on all claims: \$30,919,573.

### **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 contact your local floodplain administrator, NFIP at **800-427-4661**, or your insurance agent.

### **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/](http://deq.state.ne.us/).

### **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 now June 20, 2019.

### **Agriculture News: Grants, Loans and other Programs**

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture(USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cover Crops for Disaster Assistance Initiative** (soil erosion, water quality, etc.) announced a **new application deadline of August 1, 2019** to accommodate farms facing delayed planting.
- **NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program** has processed 31 applications totaling \$50,000 to date. NRCS funding is available at the local level to assist with disaster recovery either through special EQIP signups or annual EQIP funding.
- **USDA announced higher limits now are available for borrowers** interested in USDA's farm loans. For more information, visit [USDA Farm Service Agency](http://USDA Farm Service Agency).
- **USDA Rural Development (RD) Business and Co-op Programs** have a funding opportunity for a Rural Cooperative Development Grant. Applications are due June 3, 2019. Total funding will be \$5,800,000.

- **USDA RD** delivered its [Multi-Family Housing Vacancy Report](#) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). There are 227 vacant units available across Nebraska.

## **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 16**

- **5,818** applicants in designated counties have applied for FEMA Individual Assistance.
- FEMA has approved **\$22,136,219**.
- This includes **\$19,691,889** for housing assistance and **\$2,444,330** for disaster-related other needs.
- **Deadline to register for Individual Assistance is May 20.**

## **FEMA Public Assistance Deadline Extended to June 20**

Under FEMA's Public Assistance grant program, applicants may be eligible for reimbursement for debris removal and emergency protective measures as well as the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain private nonprofit organizations such as houses of worship at a federal cost share of 75 percent.

Government entities are encouraged to submit a request for public assistance to FEMA. RPAs must be submitted in Grants Portal. If you have not received an email for the Grants Portal, please call (402) 429-3389.

There are several categories of work eligible for FEMA reimbursement:

- (Categories A-B) the cost of emergency services and debris removal; and
- (Categories C-G) for roads and bridges, water control facilities, buildings and equipment, utilities, parks and recreational areas.

For a listing of counties in Nebraska eligible for these programs, visit online

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4420>.

## **Announcement of Initial Public Notice**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is required by law to provide public notice of its intent to provide federal assistance and grant opportunities via the Public Assistance (PA), Individual Assistance (IA), or Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP) programs.

The public notice for the Nebraska recovery mission is posted on the following websites:




- <https://nema.nebraska.gov/sites/nema.nebraska.gov/files/doc/fema-ipn4420.pdf>
- <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/notices/initial-public-notice-dr-4420-ne>

## BEWARE *of* FRAUD *when Seeking* DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams and home inspectors are often sent to rural areas to help disaster survivors, but not all individuals offering assistance are who they say they are.

Don't take a financial hit from scams during your recovery process!

### BEFORE YOU ENGAGE, FOLLOW THESE TIPS:

-  FEMA representatives and inspectors from other agencies will always have identification.
-  Do NOT give cash. Government workers never ask for a fee or payment.
-  Do NOT give personally identifiable information over the phone.

If you believe you are the victim of fraud, contact the Disaster Fraud Hotline to report scams or fraud in your area.

 [disaster.leo.gov](mailto:disaster.leo.gov)

 National Center for Disaster Fraud  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909

 (866) 720-5721



### 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).