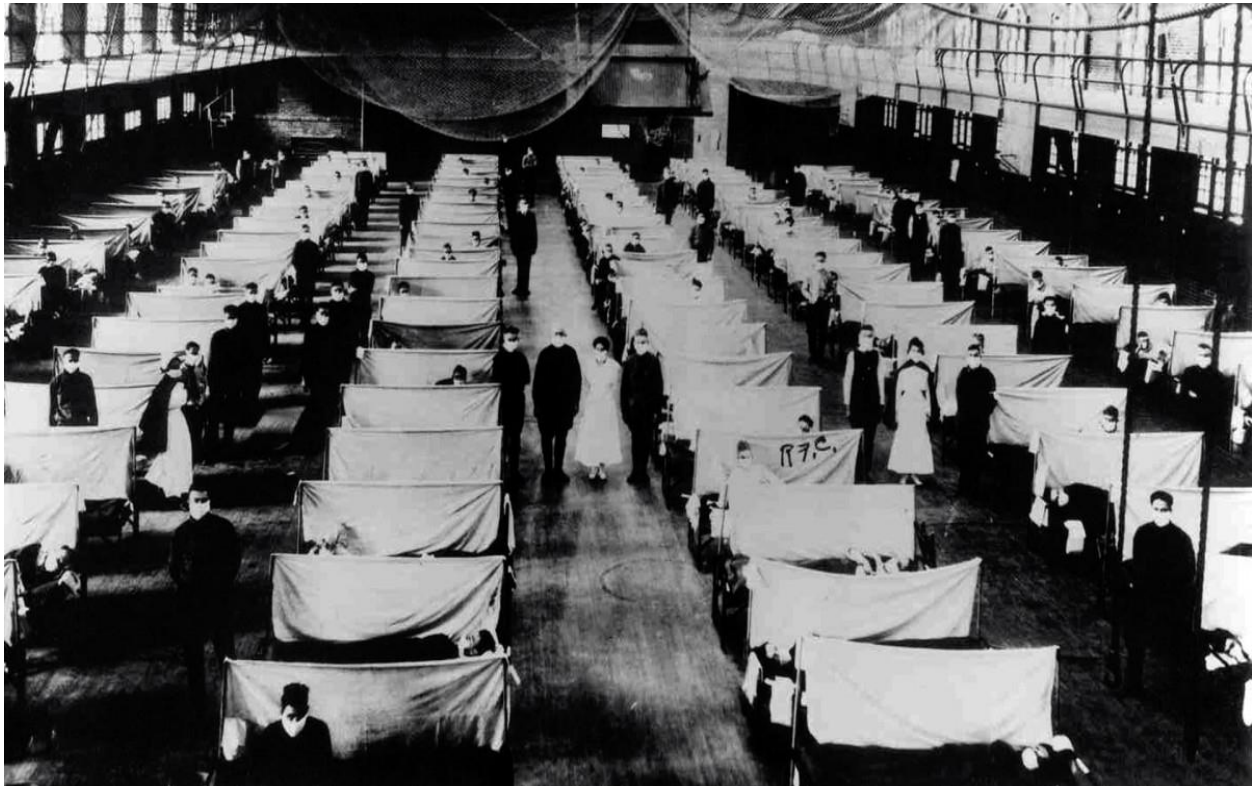




BUFFALO COUNTY / CITY OF KEARNEY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE 2020 SUMMARY



**THE YEAR OF THE PANDEMIC
WHILE NOT 1918
2020 WAS A TOUGH YEAR**

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

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): 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 9 different times for weather type events, winter storms and blizzards to thunderstorm warnings throughout the year. From about March 1st to the end of December the EOC has been in full operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the EOC was not open in its traditional sense, with a robust workforce in the EOC, it maintained operations through a virtual setting. The Emergency Operation Centers are built and designed for in person operations managing all types of disasters through response, mitigation and recovery. A pandemic possesses its own unique parameters where staying apart and away from each other is essential. While others around the state and nation found it difficult to conduct emergency operations virtually, Buffalo County and the City of Kearney EOC, found it very easy to operate virtually with the prior technologies already in place, and conducted emergency operations with no issues. In addition, the EOC provided space to the 911 dispatchers to continue to operate in a safe and or quarantined environment, Dispatchers were separated and spread out from the primary center to the back up centers where continuity of operations could be maintained in the safest environment possible helping to keep the 911 dispatch center operational.

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 2020, the Director sent 18 assorted local or regional training opportunities to First Responder agencies. After March, all training opportunities were online and virtual. No in person trainings were being conducted due to the pandemic.

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

TRAINING/EXERCISE 2020

- State wide tornado drill-exercise
- Whole Community Immersion Course with functional exercise
- Red Cross Basic Assistance Training
- PIO (Public Information Officer) Training
- MARC (Multi-Agency Recovery Center Training
- Department of Education Emergency Operations and Plans Training for Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Public and Private schools
- Building a Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Training
- Disabilities in Disaster Training
- Knowledge Center Operational Training
- Severe Weather Spotter Training

Many training and exercises were cancelled after March due to the Pandemic. All trainings offered or conducted after March were virtual or on line.

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.

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 from 2015 to 2020.

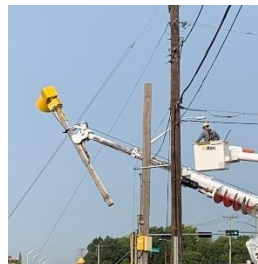
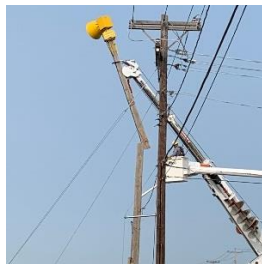


EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM

The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and the Backup Dispatch Center are primary locations for weather operations supporting all of Buffalo County. The EOC was operational 9 times during 2020, for weather events to include both winter and spring type weather. The Backup Dispatch Center was operational one time during 2020 and was fully operational for several months during the beginning and height of the pandemic.

Sirens were not sounded a single time for weather events this year. While outdoor warning sirens can be used for more than Tornados there were no Tornado watches or warnings in Buffalo County in 2020.

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.



2020 Emergency Management Overview

This is an overview of the 2020 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)	
01-02-2020	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was successfully conducted. All sirens functioned as they should.
02-06-2020	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was successfully conducted. All sirens functioned as they should.
03-05-2020	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was successfully conducted. All sirens functioned as they should.
04-02-2020	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted. Siren testing was conducted on the new radio system, there were some issues with the sirens in Kearney, several of them did not go off, this was a signal level issues that Platte Valley had to adjust. Odessa had the same issue; all other community sirens in Buffalo County functioned properly.
05-07-2020	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was successfully conducted. Siren testing was conducted on the new radio system, for the second time. Everything seemed to work as it should this time after signal adjustments were made to the Kearney sirens.
06-04-2020	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted. Siren testing was conducted on the new radio system, for the third time. The City of Kearney sirens once again had issues with less than half of them sounding during the test, after Platte Valley did some additional signal adjustments a second test was conducted for all communities in Buffalo County on June 11th. A person was placed at each of the 42 sirens during the test. Two sirens did not activate during the test. They were the one at the Kearney Water Treatment plant and one in Odessa. Both sirens were fixed within two days. The Kearney siren had a blown fuse and the Odessa siren had a bad timer board.
07-02-2020	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was successfully conducted. The two sirens at the Kearney Water Treatment plant and one in Odessa that were fixed in June worked as they should during the last test.

08-06-2020	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was successfully conducted. All sirens functioned as they should.
09-03-2020	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was successfully conducted. The siren on 3rd and 3rd and 15th and Ave A did not go off, both with radio controller issues.
10-01-2020	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was conducted on October 1st. Reported issues during the monthly test. Siren 3rd and 3rd and 15th and Ave A did not go off, both with radio controller issues. The way they are sounded from dispatch had been rearranged to fix the issues with these two sirens. The siren on Grant Ave. is not rotating as it should. Noller Electric was called to investigate this issue. The siren on 15th and 11th Street was hit by a car, repaired, and is now back in operation.
11-05-2020	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was successfully conducted. All sirens functioned as they should. The siren on Grand Ave. could not be fixed, and was replaced with a new siren. The Ravenna fire siren was not working as it should from the backup dispatch center. It was determined that it was an antenna issue on the EOC tower. Platte Valley was scheduled to fix this issue. The siren at the bottom of the over pass in Ravenna did not go off during the monthly test. The Ravenna Deputy Emergency Manager had it fixed.
12-03-2020	The regularly scheduled tests of the alarm radios, pagers, and sirens in the City of Kearney and Buffalo County was successfully conducted. All sirens functioned appropriately.

2020 Kearney Area Precipitation				
	Monthly Rain	*Monthly Snow	2020 Rain Total	2020 Snow Total
January	.82"	2"	.82"	2"
February	.03"	1"	.85"	3"
March	1.07"	6"	1.92"	9"
April	.50"	0"	4.42"	9"
May	5.61"	0"	8.03"	9"
June	1.67"	0"	9.70"	9"
July	1.14"	0"	10.84"	9"

August	.33"	0"	11.17"	9"
September	.77"	0"	11.94"	9"
October	.02"	0"	11.96"	9"
November	.20"	0"	12.16"	9"
December	.19"	8"	12.35"	17"

*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.

2020 High and Low Temperatures					
Month	High	Low	High Average	Low Average	Overall Average
January	51	3	35	18	27
February	65	-5	44	19	31
March	74	13	53	32	41
April	83	16	63	33	48
May	86	30	66	43	53
June	95	52	88	64	75
July	95	58	86	64	75
August	94	54	87	62	74
September	96	34	77	51	63
October	87	12	62	49	49
November	82	11	56	30	42
December	68	1	42	21	31

Weather Activity 2020	
January	There was no significant weather to report for the month
February	There was no significant weather to report for the month
March	March 12th Buffalo County was put in a Winter weather watch that produced about 4 inches of snow over the region on the evening of the 13th. March 19th Thunderstorm warning was issued at 14:41 that produced heavy rain, dime to nickel sized hail that covered the ground. There was some roof and vehicle damage reported in the Kearney area.
April	April 10th a winter storm watch was issued for Buffalo County, creating slick conditions and some blowing snow. On the 11th a high wind warning was issued for Buffalo County producing wind gusts 50 to 60 mph.

May	May 25th a Flash Flood Warning at 01:05 and 06:58 was issued for Buffalo County. Some minor flooding though out Buffalo County did occur, Street flooding in Kearney and Gibbon, as well as some rural roads in the county were identified, no water ways were identified as the cause of flooding.
June	June was a busy weather month (compared to the past few months). Thunderstorm Watches were issued on the 3rd at 18:03, 4th at 19:38, 20th at 20:20, 21st at 15:17, 28th at 00:36, and the 30th at 18:32. Thunderstorm Warnings were issued on the 3rd at 20:08, 20:11, 20:42, 20th at 19:52, 21st at 18:12, 18:34, 19:04, 28th at 00:46, 00:54, 01:14, 30th at 19:57, and 20:32. A High wind warning was issued on the 9th at 08:07.
July	Thunderstorm Watches were issued on the 2nd at 19:27, 7th at 17:07, 8th at 21:37 and the 13th at 21:17. Thunderstorm Warnings were issued on the 8th at 22:25 9th at 23:17, 10th 02:03, 17:03, 17:27, 18:39, 11th 00:16, 00:39 13th at 21:54 and the 29th at 20:11.
August	Thunderstorm Watches were issued on the 16th at 14:30 and the 30th at 17:45. Thunderstorm Warnings were issued on the 16th at 17:00, 17:26, 18:00 and 18:18.
September	There was no significant weather to report for the month
October	There was one High wind warning issued on the 11th with 45 mph wind gusts.
November	There was one High wind warning issued on the 8th with 45 mph wind gusts.
December	There was a blizzard waring issued on the 23rd of December for Buffalo county. There was about 2 inches of snow and high winds that caused blowing and drifting snow, closing I-80 westbound from York to Kearney and Highway 30 from Grand Island to Kearney for several hours in the afternoon. Several winter weather advisories were issued during the month of December for Buffalo County.

Emergency Activities 2020	
February	One Emergency Management type of emergency had been reported to this office during the month. A semi-truck and trailer hauling corn mash from the KAPPA Ethanol plant lost 3.8 tons of corn mash on the county and state highways. After investigation the Sheriff's office cited

	the driver. County and state highway departments helped clear the roads and put up public safety slick road signs.
March	The first actions/response to COVID-19 Pandemic started in late February by early March the EOC had been in full operation. It was very strange to see a fully operational EOC empty during a major disaster however that's exactly what was happening here and across the state. It truly was a test of Virtual EOC operation. The EOC had been operational through multiple operational periods throughout the event and continued to be on going throughout the year.
August	A bomb threat was called into district court in the courthouse on Monday the 31st. The threat was mitigated without incident and the all clear was given in about an hour. Good Samaritan hospital experienced a Windstream phone outage on Sunday the 23rd to the incoming and outgoing call system, internal phones continued to work. I was notified of the phone outage on Monday the 24 th around 13:30 by the Two Rivers Health Department it was my understanding the phone system came back on line around 15:00 on the 24th. No direct notification came from the Hospital to this office. The EOC has remained operational through in person and virtual operations through the daily operational periods for the pandemic. August recorded the highest COVID cases at 351 in Buffalo County from the start of the pandemic. The month of July recorded 128 cases.
September	<p>Good Samaritan hospital and Richard Young hospital experienced a second Windstream phone outage on the 25th that lasted throughout the weekend.</p> <p>September 16th a car ran into a Siren pole on 11th St and 15th Ave in Kearney. The pole was damaged and NPPD had to respond to secure and cut the siren down before it fell on its own. The siren and components were removed from the pole by a local electrician. A new pole was ordered. The siren and components were put on the new pole by a local electrician, and reset by NPPD.</p> <p>September 25th a fire alarm pull station was pulled in the courthouse causing an evacuation. The fire alarm was a false alarm that had been pulled by a distressed juvenile that law enforcement had been working with. An After-Action Review was written by this office on the event.</p>
October	Good Samaritan hospital and Richard Young hospital experienced another Windstream phone outage on two different days again this month.
December	Continued Pandemic operations from the end of February with an overview of COVID-19 cases throughout the year. COVID-19

	<p>Pandemic operations continued through the month of December. With a significant drop in case numbers in December. While the case number continues to be high at 701 cases reported for the month it was less than half the cases reported in November. November recorded 1583 COVID cases in Buffalo County. The month of October recorded 862, September recorded 441 August recorded 351 cases and the month of July recorded 128 cases. The EOC had remained operational through in person and virtual operations during the daily operational periods for the pandemic.</p>
--	--

Training Opportunities Sent Out 2020	
January	2
February	2
March	0
April	0
May	0
June	2
July	1
August	5
September	2
October	1
November	2
December	1

2020 Meetings and Events Attended by the Buffalo County Emergency Management Director	
January 2	Emergency Management participated in an Everbridge Webinar to discuss University of Kearney (UNK) emergency notification coverage, what options the Everbridge solutions could provide and at what cost.
January 6	Emergency Management attended the Buffalo county board meeting for discussion and approval of and memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Great Plains United Methodist. This was tabled until after the County Attorney could review and make recommendations.
January 8	Emergency Management attended the South Central Planning Exercise and Training Regional (SCPETR) and Regional Emergency

	Management CONFAB meetings in Kearney.
January 10	Emergency Management hosted the NRIN meeting at the Emergency Operation Center (EOC).
January 13	Emergency Management met with representatives of UNK, Sheriff Miller and Lt. Tubbs to offer possible solutions and direction on the Everbridge notification system for UNK. This discussion and fact finding continued.
January 15	Emergency Management attended the Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corp. (MRC) executive board meeting in Kearney. Funding options, contract renewal, and monthly activities were discussed. No action was taken at the time, as there was no quorum for the meeting.
January 16	Emergency Management participated in an Everbridge survey call and an Everbridge / IPAWS protocol SOP webinar.
January 17	Emergency Management attended the Long-Term Recovery group meeting at the United Way office. The LTR coordinator has been hired and was at the meeting (Brook Johnson) two new case managers have also been hired to review and assist those Buffalo County survivors of the 2019 floods.
January 18	Emergency Management hosted the Amateur radio meeting at the EOC.
January 22	Emergency Management held a Buffalo County Medical Table Meeting at the EOC where we reviewed and revised the Medical Table emergency plan. Our Medical Table Chairperson has taken a different position and has stepped down as Chair of the group. A new Chairperson needs to be appointed to this group.
January 23	Emergency Management hosted the Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) meeting at the EOC where we reviewed the draft copy of the After-Action review for the COAD flood response, recovery and activities. participated in a Red Cross conference call to review preparedness activities for Buffalo County when it comes to mass care and mass feeding. Buffalo Counties plan is to rely on and work with ESF # 6 for these functions.
January 27	Emergency Management attended the Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers (NAEM) board meeting held in Grand Island. There much of the discussion was on membership tracking and the agenda for the April Conference.

January 28	Emergency Management participated in the first scheduled webinar for the flood outlook potential for Nebraska. While it was very early on in the spring flooding season and information was all over the board for predictions and potential flooding it was a good place to start for the rest of the year.
January 30	Emergency Management attended the Opioid Task Force meeting held at Richard Young Hospital. I was invited to discuss the potential use of the Buffalo Watch notification system for Medical type alerts to the Medical community. How it would work, what it would look like, how to get registered and who should be in the notification groups.
February 5	Emergency Management attended the Regional CONFAB meeting in Grand Island we met with FEMA region 7 EPA reps.
February 11	Emergency Management attended the Active Shooter app demonstration at the county boardroom.
February 14	Emergency Management participated in a short Investment Justification webinar put on by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency for Homeland security grants.
February 15	Emergency Management hosted the monthly Amateur radio meeting in the EOC.
February 18	Emergency Management attended a Nebraska Association of Emergency Management meeting in Grand Island.
February 19	Emergency Management participated in a Community Health Assessment webinar conducted by the Two River Public Health Department. I also attended the Long-Term Recovery Group meeting at the Kearney area foundation.
February 21	Emergency Management participated in the TRIMRS webinar and hosted the NRIN meeting at the EOC.
February 24	Emergency Management had a conference call with the Everbridge (Buffalo Watch) rep to discuss researching and recovering archived notification data.
February 27	Emergency Management met the Exercise team for the Good Samaritan Hospital to discuss the tabletop exercise and the full-scale exercise that was scheduled for March and April.
February 3,10,18,24	Emergency Management participated in the weekly Ice Jam webinar put on by the National Weather Service Hastings Office. The 24th was the last call for the season, with no additional Ice Jam issues or concerns for the rest of the winter season.

March 2	Emergency Management met with Chief Waugh for the first meeting to discuss COVID-19 activities and events. Attended a virtual NAEM board meeting.
March 4	Emergency Management attended the Regional CONFAB and South Central PET regional meeting in Hastings.
March 6	Emergency Management participated in a virtual planning strategy meeting with Two Rivers Public Health to discuss COVID-19 this was a City / County official and emergency management meeting.
March 9	Emergency Management participated in an EMS COVID-19 virtual planning strategy meeting.
March 10	Emergency Management met with Chris Gaspari to discuss a Volunteer, Volunteer Coordinator position. Chris will be working with Emergency Management to put together a robust volunteer program in Buffalo County through the Emergency Management Office.
March 12	Emergency Management met with IT and other officials to discuss upgrading EOC computers over the next couple of years. A plan was developed, computers chosen, and funds identified. With the exception of city input, City IT had something come up and was unable to attend. There will be further discussion on the purchase and implementation of the new EOC computers. I met with UNK students to discuss EOC operations, equipment, technology and networking in the in the Emergency Operation Center. This was the last in person meeting held in the EOC or for emergency management for the rest of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
March 13	Three virtual meetings were held. One with Two River Public Health with COVID-19 updates. One with the Hastings office National Weather Service on the winter weather event. One with Two River and all community partners in Buffalo County to discuss COVID-19 activities and planning process.
March 17	A COAD meeting was held to bring the COAD group up to speed on the COVID-19 pandemic, discuss what each agency/organization was doing in light of the unfolding events, what it was the COAD could do as a group, to help both in the short and long term. I also participated in a local emergency management call to discuss COVID-19 and how it was affecting each jurisdiction. This meeting was to discuss best practices and to learn what others were doing, if we were missing or should be doing something that others were already doing.
March 18	A virtual meeting was held with the Central Nebraska MRC, a normal

	business meeting was held, as well as extensive conversation on the pandemic and how the MRC could assist or volunteer.
March 20	A Safety and Security Buffalo County Officials zoom briefing was initiated to discuss the activities of each office as the county takes steps to protect the citizens and staff surrounding COVID-19. This zoom meeting became a reoccurring Friday meeting supported by Emergency Management at the EOC. A second meeting was held on the 27th.
March 24	Two virtual meetings were held. First, a Two Rivers Unified Command Meeting with potential partners in the TRIMRS Regions, Public Health, Hospitals and Emergency Management. A second COAD meeting was held for updates on the pandemic. This group is vital to assist the communities not only for today but in the foreseeable future.
March 25	Emergency Management attended a virtual NAEM board meeting, with the conference being postponed to a later date, next steps and processes were discussed on how this group continues to work support the statewide Emergency Managers and conduct virtual business.
March 30	A virtual meeting was held by the South Central PET region emergency management to keep up on what is happening in central Nebraska. This meeting became a standing 10 am Monday morning call in until mid-year. A Long Term Recovery group meeting was held to discuss recovery efforts for last spring and summers flooding. Progress is being made in support of those that still need financial help in recovering from the flood damages.
March 31	Emergency Management participated in two virtual meetings, both with the Two River Public Health. One was with local and regional city and county officials. The other was a Unified Command Meeting.
April	A total of 41 Various COVID related meetings happened throughout the month with COAD groups, TRIMRS, Unified Command, Buffalo Co Safety and Security, COVID-19 Tack force, Regional Emergency managers, NEMA, Buffalo Co Healthcare Coalition, Two Rivers Health board, Long-term care/clinics and assisted and independent living and more.
April 13	Emergency Management participated in a Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers virtual Zoom meeting.
April 22	Emergency Management attended the Buffalo County Budget

	Committee meeting, via Zoom.
May	In May 28 Various COVID related meetings happened throughout the month With COAD groups, TRIMRS, Unified Command, Buffalo Co Safety and Security, COVID-19 Tack force, Regional Emergency managers, NEMA, Buffalo Co Healthcare Coalition, Two Rivers Health board, Long-term care/clinics and assisted independent living and more. Just a little over half of what last month was, mostly because a number of the meetings were able to be consolidated into other meetings.
May	Emergency Management attended two Buffalo county board meeting via the Zoom platform.
May 6	Emergency Management attended the South Central PET regional Meeting.
May 13	Emergency Management participated in the NEMA Spring Emergency Management update meeting.
May 19	Emergency Management attended the National Weather Service Hastings Office spring meeting and severe weather discussion.
May 20	Emergency Management held the Central NE MRC meeting, to discuss COVID response, TRIMRS contracts and the MRC coordinator contracts for the coming year. The MRC had a number of requests within the 23 county region, from large PPE sub-hub sorting and distribution tent set up for drive through testing, contact surveillance assistance and more.
June	There were 17 Various COVID related meetings that occurred throughout the month with COAD groups, TRIMRS, Unified Command, Buffalo Co Safety and Security, COVID-19 Tack force, Regional Emergency managers, and Long-term care/clinic. Many of the COVID meetings have either stopped, gone to bi-weekly, and/or once a month.
June	Emergency Management attended one Buffalo county board meeting via the Zoom platform.
June 19	Emergency Management participated in the monthly TRIMRS meeting.
June 20	Emergency Management hosted the Buffalo County Amateur radio club meeting.
July	Nine various COVID related meetings happened throughout the month with COAD groups, TRIMRS, Unified Command, Buffalo Co Safety and Security, COVID-19 Task force, Regional Emergency

	managers, and Long-term care/clinic. Many of the COVID meetings have either stopped, gone to bi-weekly and or once a month.
July 1	The South Central PET region met via zoom.
July 7	Emergency Management conducted an interview with the Kearney Hub on the anniversary of the 2019 floods.
July 15	Emergency Management held a Medical Reserve Corp meeting.
July 20	Emergency Management attended the NAEM meeting.
July 27	Emergency Management participated in the Kearney Area Long Term Recover group meeting for the 2019 Flood recovery efforts.
July 28	Emergency Management attended an in-person County Board meeting to have the IPAWS MOU renewed.
August	Seven various COVID related meetings happened throughout the month with COAD groups, TRIMRS, Unified Command, Buffalo Co Safety and Security, COVID-19 Task force, Regional Emergency managers, and Long-term care/clinic. In addition, a new group formed that probably should have been formed months ago, the Buffalo County Joint Information Center (BCJIC). Many of the COVID meetings have either stopped, gone to bi-weekly and or once a month.
August 4	Emergency Management attended the virtual Public Health Board meeting for the Two Rivers district.
August 6	Emergency Management participated in the Unified command meeting for the COVID pandemic. I participated in our first Buffalo county JIC meeting. The BCJIC has met weekly with community PIO's on Thursdays since the date of the 6th.
August 18	Emergency Management participated in a live Zoom to Facebook presentation for a Question and Answer session on COVID related topics for businesses and schools.
August 21	Emergency Management participated in the TRIMRS meeting a new coordinator was hired and the budget was submitted for review.
August 24	Emergency Management met with Scott Stemper with the Department of Education to discuss the upcoming Emergency operations planning meeting for the ESU 10 schools in Buffalo county.
August 26	Emergency Management met with the CARES Act representative for

	the state of Nebraska to go over reimbursement details.
September	Three COVID related meetings happened throughout the month one Unified Command meeting and two Buffalo County JIC meetings. Many of the COVID meetings have either stopped, gone to bi-weekly and or once a month.
September 2	A virtual South Central PET meeting was held.
September 3	An After-Action Review meeting was held for the Courthouse Bomb Threat on August 31st.
September 8	Emergency Management hosted the Buffalo County/City of Kearney radio project meeting at the EOC. Presented by Sheriff Neil Miller and a Motorola representative.
September 10	Emergency Management met with COVID reimbursement representatives/contractors for the State of Nebraska to go over payroll CARES Act program for first responders. Also participated in a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities webinar with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.
September 11	Emergency Management participated in the second follow up meeting for the Courthouse Bomb threat.
September 15	Lynn Martin, Board Administrative Assistant, Steve Gaasch, Buildings and Ground Supervisor, and Emergency Management met to review and make changes to the Buffalo County Emergency Action Plan.
September 16	Emergency Management participated in a Community Engagement webinar.
September 21	Emergency Management participated in a zoom NAEM meeting.
September 25	Emergency Management participated in a Homeland Security Grant monitoring call with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agencies for the 2019 EMPG grant, no deficiencies were found. Third follow up Bomb threat meeting was held. Lynn Martin, Steve Gaasch and I met with county officials to go over new updates in the Buffalo County Emergency Action Plan, and help start the discussion on them writing internal emergency office plans and provide them with a template on what is needed in their plans.
September 28	Emergency Management met with Lynn and Steve for an After-Action Review on the September 25th Courthouse fire alarm incident.

September 29	Emergency Management participated in a Hastings Office National Weather Service webinar. A number of related subjects were covered, from past flooding, current drought, hot spot fire notifications, and upcoming winter weather predictions.
October	Four COVID related meetings happened throughout the month one Unified Command meeting and three Buffalo County Official's meetings.
October 1	Emergency Management participated in a National Weather service meeting and attended a Two Rivers Public Health Unified command meeting.
October 6	An Official's meeting for development of Office emergency plans was scheduled. I only met with 2 officials to help with the development of emergency plans.
October 7	Emergency Management attended a Department of Education workshop for the development of emergency plans for schools.
October 9	Emergency Management met with Chuck Row, Shelton Board Chair Person and the Shelton Attorney to discuss COVID related concerns, with a number of the Shelton staff under Isolation and quarantine status.
October 13	Emergency Management participated in the Long-term committee meeting for the assistance of 2019 flood victims in Buffalo County.
October 16	Emergency Management participated in the bi-monthly TRIMRS meeting and attended a Buffalo County COVID task force meeting.
October 20	Emergency Management attended a Buffalo County Officials meeting related to COVID.
October 30	Emergency Management attended the renewed 3rd Buffalo County Officials meeting.
November	Seven COVID related meetings happened throughout the month. One Responder RoundTable Meeting, one Community Awareness Meeting, two Unified Command meetings and three Buffalo County Officials meetings. COVID meetings have picked up over the last few months due to the spike in the COVID-19 numbers in the district.
November 4	Emergency Management participated in a South Central PET Regional meeting.

November 10	Emergency Management participated in an Everbridge best practices webinar.
November 12	Emergency Management participated in a follow up meeting for the Department of Education Schools Emergency plan workshop.
November 17	Emergency Management met with the Buffalo County Emergency Response Team (ERT) to review individual office emergency plans. Suggestions were recorded to help enhance individual plans and a timetable was set for plan revisions, training on the Buffalo County Emergency Response plan and a full-scale exercise. I participated in the Long Term Recovery group meeting for helping those survivors affected by the March and July flooding in Buffalo County.
November 18	Emergency Management participated in an Amateur radio club meeting from 19:30 to 20:30.
November 20	Emergency Management participated in a National Weather service briefing with other local Emergency Managers.
November 24	Emergency Management participated in the CARES Act Presumptive Payroll Review hosted by the contract agency Deloitte.
December	16 COVID related meetings happened throughout the month one responder round table meeting, four Unified Command meetings and three Buffalo County Officials meetings. Five Vaccine planning meetings and many other COVID funding meetings.
December 1	A Responder's Round Table was held at 19:00 via zoom. Responder agencies and communities were doing well, some responders agencies were getting low on PPE, I was able to get them the link were to order additional PPE. Those agencies did order and was able to get their needed supplies. I met with Deloitte representatives to discuss the CARES Act and the pay roll reimbursements.
December 3	Unified Command meeting with Two Rivers and Regional hospitals and EM's. I participated in a Disabilities webinar for people with disabilities in disasters. I met with Wesley Chang with Deloitte again to work on CARES Act and FEMA reimbursements.
December 4	Emergency Management had an Officials meeting for Buffalo County.
December 7	Emergency Management participated in a planning meeting with City/County reps for Snow emergencies and road closures i.e., I-80 and other Highways.

December 8	Emergency Management attended the county board meeting via zoom. I participated in the NAEM board meeting.
December 9	Emergency Management participated in a TRIMRS Vaccine planning meeting.
December 10	Emergency Management attended the Two Rivers Regional Unified command meeting. I participated in a Winter Weather Webinar briefing with the National Weather Service. I attended the NACO business meeting via zoom.
December 11	Emergency Management participated in the Buffalo County weekly Officials meeting. I met with the new Central NE VA home director Vail Oleson. Captain Mike Young also attended this meeting.
December 14	Emergency Management attended the Mobile Broadband presentation/meeting for ATT and First Net.
December 15	Emergency Management attended the State HHS Incident Command Vaccination Planning meeting, discussing the Phases 1 A, B and C and all the tiers in those phases, where the vaccines are going, who has gotten it and who is next to get the vaccine. This meeting is a strategic overview of the statewide vaccinations for the State of Nebraska.
December 16	Emergency Management attended the Amateur radio meeting at 19:30 via zoom.
December 17	Emergency Management participated in the Regional Two Rivers Unified Command Meeting.
December 18	Emergency Management participated in the Buffalo County Weekly Officials meeting.
December 22	Emergency Management attended the State HHS Incident Command Vaccination Planning meeting. Providing updates on the Vaccine distribution in the state.
December 23	Emergency Management attended a Two Rivers follow up meeting to the HHS vaccine meeting. This meeting breaks down the Vaccine distribution and updates from the state level to the regional level in our area. The Courthouse closed at noon due to a blizzard I worked until after 17:00
December 24	Christmas Eve holiday Emergency Management worked from 08:15 to noon.

December 28	Emergency Management participated in a winter weather webinar with the National Weather Service.
December 29	Emergency Management attended the State HHS Incident Command Vaccination Planning meeting. Providing updates on the Vaccine distribution in the state.
December 30	Emergency Management attended a Two Rivers follow up meeting to the HHS vaccine meeting. This meeting breaks down the Vaccine distribution and updates from the state level to the regional level in our area. I participated in the weekly Ice Jam meeting with the National Weather Service.

January 2020 Monthly Activities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing were conducted in the EOC. There were no updates and testing done on the MRU during the month. ✓ Meetings were had with a Responder Agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, I spoke with the fire chief from Elm Creek and Gibbon via the phone during the month. ✓ ID cards were made on 5 different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders. ✓ Work continued on disaster recovery activities for the March event and the July event of 2019 through the COAD, LTRG, FEMA, as well as other groups and agencies. 23 families out of 480 plus have been crossed off the unmet needs list, which was a step in the right direction making families whole again and bringing things back to normal before the flooding events. ✓ The Quarterly EMPG report was completed and submitted to the NEMA grant manager during the month. ✓ EMPG reimbursements were submitted to the grants management portal. ✓ Work has started on the Emergency Management annual report this month. ✓ I made updates to the Kingsley and Johnson County Dam plans. ✓ Two recall notification drills were conducted for the COAD group during the month. ✓ A whole community immersion course was held at the Buffalo County EOC, there were approximately 35 attendees. ✓ Tier II reports started coming into the Emergency Management office as these reports came in this office compiled the information to be completed the end of March.
--

- ✓ A Functional exercise was held that the EOC that exercised the EOC and all of the ESF's (Essential Service Functions) # 1-15. This was a very good exercise for our responders and community partners to go through to get a better understanding of job responsibilities in the EOC during and after a disaster. As well as how an EOC should operate and how it supports the Incident Command structure during a disaster.

February 20 Monthly Activities

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing was conducted in the EOC. There were no updates and testing done on the MRU during the month.
- ✓ Meetings were had with a Responder Agency Chief or Command Staff throughout the month. I spoke with the Fire Chief from Elm Creek via the Phone and in person twice, I also had the opportunity to speak with Kelly Harden, Dave Krueger and Jason Whalen from Kearney fire in person and Gibbon Fire Chief Rick Brown via the phone during the month.
- ✓ ID cards were made on 4 different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
- ✓ IPAWS monthly test was successful conducted during the month.
- ✓ I conducted an interview with the Talk of the Town in Kearney during the month to discuss last year's flooding events, and the upcoming severe spring weather season.
- ✓ The next Emergency had come to the forefront, in the United States and has started trickling down to the local level. I had been working with Public Health and first responder agencies, on planning and preparedness for the COVID-19 Corona Virus. (the start of the pandemic)
- ✓ Started working on a special project for the (ESF) Emergency Service Functions, at the Federal level translating them to the local level. Giving EOC staff a better understanding of what each agency and or departments roles and responsibilities are in a disaster incident as they coordinate from the EOC to ICS.
- ✓ This office had been working on a tabletop exercise for the set up and operation of a Volunteer Reception Center. This exercise was scheduled to be conducted on April 3rd for the NAEM conference members. However, do to the pandemic the conference was canceled.
- ✓ It was discovered that the Everbridge (Buffalo Watch) notification system only archives notification data for 18 months; this does not meet the Nebraska freedom of information act for storing public documents. To fix this issue I have set up a six-month schedule to download and store this information on our local servers. The last 18 months of data was also archived.
- ✓ I assisted with the writing of the South Central PET Regional Law Enforcement Investment Justifications for the 2020 homeland security grants.
- ✓ The Emergency Management 2019 annual report was completed this month it was

sent to the Administrative assistant to review before going to print.
✓ Judging was conducted on the 3 rd grade severe weather poster contest during the month. An invite was sent out to local officials in Buffalo County and the City of Kearney to judge the posters and visit the EOC. Unfortunately, it was a very poor turnout. Only about 5 people came for the judging and EOC visit.
✓ Tier II reports continued to come into the Emergency Management office as these reports came in this office is compiled the information to be completed the end of March.
✓ I made several updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that sent me changes for the city/county personnel throughout the last month.
✓ Throughout the month Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 7.5 hours for meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends, and staying late after 17:00 hours. 3 hours of that time was used during the month.

March 2020 Monthly Activities
✓ Updates, preventive maintenance, and testing was conducted in the EOC. There was two updates and testing done on the MRU during the month.
✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, I spoke with almost every community leader mayor, community board chair fire department and more all by phone as well as a number of e-mails.
✓ ID cards were made on 2 different days early in the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders.
✓ IPAWS monthly test was successful conducted during month.
✓ I conducted a phone interview with NTV about the tents we were able to acquire for the drive-up testing sights for the COVID-19 pandemic.
✓ Work continued on disaster recovery activities for the March event and the July event of 2019 through the COAD, LTRG, FEMA, as well as other groups and agencies.
✓ The COVID-19 Pandemic has taken up almost every waking hour of my days throughout March. All day long at work, in the evening hours at home and throughout the weekend. There is very little time for anything else.
✓ The Annual Report is completed, still waiting to go to print.
✓ Tier II reports continued to come into the Emergency Management office as these reports came in this office is compiled the information to be completed the end of March.
✓ Public Information Officer (PIO) training was held on March 5 th this was the last training held in the EOC, several other trainings were canceled for the year.
✓ I made several updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel throughout the month.
✓ Throughout the month, Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 43 hours for meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends,

and staying late after 17:00 hours mostly related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. 8 hours of that time was used during the month.

April 2020 Monthly Activities

- ✓ The EOC and equipment has been in full operation for two months. There were no updates and testing done on the MRU during the month.
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, I spoke with almost every community leader mayor, community board chair fire department and more all by phone as well as a number of e-mails.
- ✓ One ID card was made during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center cardholders.
- ✓ IPAWS monthly test was successfully conducted this month the new credentials were put into the Buffalo Watch system for the live side of the IPAWS notification system.
- ✓ Work continued on disaster recovery activities for the March event and the July event of 2019 through the COAD, LTRG, FEMA, as well as other groups and agencies.
- ✓ The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to take up almost every waking hour of my days throughout April. All day long at work, in the evening hours at home and throughout the weekend. There continues to be is very little time for anything else.
- ✓ I made several updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel throughout the month.
- ✓ I have gone twice during the month to Holdrege to pick up and distribute PPE for agencies in Buffalo County. This will turn into a weekly event do to the shortage or PPE available to clinics, Long-term care, hospitals, and responder's agencies.
- ✓ I was able to get 250 gallons of hand sanitizer for responder agencies, clinics, hospitals, long-term care and assisted living facilities. I filled one-gallon bottles the last two weeks of April. There was only about 50 gallons left.
- ✓ Throughout the month, Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 37 hours for meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends, and staying late after 17:00 hours mostly related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. 1.5 hours of that time was used during the month.

May 2020 Monthly Activities

- ✓ The EOC and equipment has been in full operation for three months. There were no updates and testing done on the MRU during the month.
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder Agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, I spoke with almost every community leader mayor, community board chair

<p>fire department and more all by phone as well as a number of e-mails. In person spoke with Jason Whalen from Kearney Fire, Jason Wiehn, Shelton Fire Chief, Carol Jorgensen, EMS Captain Elm Creek Fire. Peg Dethlefs Ravenna Major and EMS Captain Ravenna Fire, Glenn Brown Amherst Fire Chief, and Chad Dixon, Pleasanton Fire Chief.</p>
<p>✓ ID cards; I started making ID cards for offices and departments for Buffalo County that did not have them for the opening of the courthouse in June. The County COVID task force decided that every employee that worked in the court house needed to be readily identifiable to the public. Close to 60 County ID cards were made for county employees. Other cards were made as well for jail volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center cardholders.</p>
<p>✓ IPAWS monthly test was successful conducted during the month.</p>
<p>✓ Work continued on disaster recovery activities for the March event and the July event of 2019 through the COAD, LTRG, FEMA, as well as other groups and agencies. While recovery efforts continue, much of the work has been completed, flooding recovery and reimbursements are coming to a close.</p>
<p>✓ The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to take up almost of my time throughout May. All day long at work, in the evening hours at home and throughout the weekend. This month has been a bit less stressful and has allowed time for other Emergency management business.</p>
<p>✓ I have made several updates to the notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel over the last month.</p>
<p>✓ Throughout the month of May I have gone weekly to Holdrege to pick up and distribute PPE for agencies in Buffalo County.</p>
<p>✓ The third quarter EMPG report and the grant reimbursement request was completed and submitted to NEMA.</p>
<p>✓ While the Annual report was completed in late February it was not sent to print until May, this report was distributed to NEMA, Kearney Police Chief, Kearney City Administrator, the Sheriff's office, the County Clerk's office, the County Board administrator's office and the County Board members. The report was also posted on line on the county webpage.</p>
<p>✓ ESF (Emergency Service Functions) responsibilities were created for the Federal and Local levels, and laminated for use in the EOC.</p>
<p>✓ Throughout the month, Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 7 hours for meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends, and staying late after 17:00 hours mostly related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. 4.5 hours of that time was used during the month.</p>

<p>June 2020 Monthly Activities</p>
<p>✓ The EOC and equipment has been in full operation for four months. There were no updates and testing done on the MRU during the month. One of the EOC</p>

computers developed a black screen after updates were conducted, a fix it ticket was put into County IT to have it repaired, rather than fix the older computer IT replaced it with a newer computer that had been purchased for the computer update project for the EOC.
✓ ID cards; I made some additional County ID cards for county employees and 12 new ID cards were made for Elm Creek fire, other cards were made as well for jail volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center cardholders.
✓ IPAWS monthly test was successful conducted during the month.
✓ Work continues on disaster recovery activities for the March event and the July event of 2019 through the COAD, LTRG, FEMA, as well as other groups and agencies. While recovery efforts continue, much of the work has been completed, there were only a few outstanding projects left for the City of Kearney and Buffalo County.
✓ The COVID-19 Pandemic continued to take up most of the workdays throughout June. However, with less meetings throughout the month it has allowed for a number of other Emergency management projects to be completed or get started.
✓ The Tier II report has been completed during month.
✓ The new 2020 Emergency Assistance for Wildfire Control link was sent out to Emergency Managers by NEMA, (The Yellow Book) was downloaded, printed, assembled and distributed to the 911 centers. 20 Yellow books were made for distribution to the fire departments.
✓ I conducted a phone interview with News 4 on the past flooding and pending summer severe weather season.
✓ All 260 gallons of hand sanitizer had been distributed through the last several months, I was able to get another 120 gallons for agencies that still needed more in the coming months.
✓ I made several updates to the notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent changes for the city/county personnel during the month.
✓ Throughout the month of June I continued to go weekly to Holdrege to pick up and distribute PPE for agencies in Buffalo County.
✓ Throughout the month, Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 14.75 hours for meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends, and staying late after 17:00 hours splitting time between Weather and the COVID-19 Pandemic. 6.25 hours of that time was used during the month.

July 2020 Monthly Activities
✓ The EOC and equipment has been in full operation for five months. There were two updates and testing done on the MRU this month. Replacement computers for the EOC came in several months ago County IT was supposed to start replacing the older computers with the new computers during month however, this project had been postponed. The new touch screen computers for the EOC have been in,

and at the IT department for a year.
✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, I spoke with almost every community leader, mayor, community board chair, fire department and more all by phone as well as a number of e-mails. In person spoke with Jason Whalen from Kearney Fire, Bob Reineke Elm Creek Fire Chief.
✓ ID cards; I made additional 20 plus ID cards for offices and departments for Buffalo County that did not have them for the opening of the courthouse in June, 3 new ID cards were made for the City of Ravenna, other cards were made as well for jail volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center cardholders.
✓ IPAWS monthly test was successful conducted during the month.
✓ Work continues on disaster recovery activities for the March event and the July event of 2019 through the COAD, LTRG, FEMA, as well as other groups and agencies. While recovery efforts continue, much of the work has been completed, there are only a few outstanding projects left.
✓ All 480 gallons of hand sanitizer had been distributed through the last several months through the Emergency Management office. Another 40 gallons was obtained in July with only 4 gallons remaining.
✓ I made several updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel during the month.
✓ Throughout the month of July, I continued to go weekly to Holdrege to pick up and distribute PPE for agencies in Buffalo County.
✓ The 1 st of July Emergency Management downloaded the last 6 months of notifications from the Buffalo Watch system. The archives of messages are stored on the shared drive under the EM file.
✓ The Emergency Management response and recovery system Rapid tag and Command software was updated in July.
✓ I worked with NEMA and the Board Administrators office throughout the month to submit pandemic related reimbursements through FEMA and the CARES act.
✓ After trying to get a JIC (Joint Information Center) started for Buffalo county, throughout the Pandemic, we were finally able to initiate the JIC on the 30 th of July. PIO's (Public Information Officers) throughout the communities, clinics, hospitals, local government agencies, the Incident Command Two Rivers Public Health and more were able to work together to put out one unified message through many voices. This helped keep the communities better informed as well as help with rumor control.
✓ The 4th quarter EMPG grant was completed and submitted to NEMA.
✓ The 4 th quarter Grant activity report was completed and submitted to NEMA.
✓ An additional funding for 2019 EMPG was compiled and sent to NEMA in the amount of 32,445.81. No additional funding was allotted to Buffalo County.
✓ The 2020 EMPG grant was completed and submitted to NEMA for approval.
✓ Throughout the month, Buffalo County Emergency Management worked an additional 11.5 hours for meetings, weather events, working on holidays/weekends, and staying late after 17:00 hours splitting time between Weather and the COVID-19 Pandemic. 5.5 hours of that time was used during the month.

August 2020 Monthly Activities

- ✓ The EOC and equipment has been in full operation for six months. There was one update and testing done on the MRU during the month. Several computer updates were conducted on the EOC computers. The old phones for the old phone system have been removed from the EOC workstation and placed on the center conference table to county IT to pick up. A new county IP phone system was put in place over the last month.
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, I spoke with almost every community leader, mayor, community board chair, fire department and more all by phone as well as a number of e-mails. During the month I spoke with Jason Whalen from Kearney Fire, Bob Reineke Elm Creek Fire Chief, Jason Wiehn Shelton Fire Chief, Chuck Roe Shelton Assistant Chief and Board chair, Glenn Brown, Amherst Fire Chief, Brock Elsen Miller Fire Chief, Rick Brown Gibbon Fire Chief and Chad Dixon Pleasanton Fire Chief.
- ✓ ID cards; I made additional ID cards for offices and departments for Buffalo County, other cards were made as well for jail volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center cardholders several times throughout the month.
- ✓ IPAWS monthly test was successful conducted during the month.
- ✓ Work continued on disaster recovery activities for the March event and the July event of 2019 through the COAD, LTRG, FEMA, as well as other groups and agencies. While recovery efforts continue, much of the work has been completed, there are only a few outstanding projects left for the City of Kearney and Buffalo County.
- ✓ The COVID-19 Pandemic mitigation and response continues with much less meetings throughout the month. This continues to allow for a number of other Emergency management projects to be completed or get started. Work has started for the reimbursement process through FEMA and the CARES act. I worked with a number of community and government departments in Buffalo County as well as the State the Federal governments on this process.
- ✓ I made several updates to the notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel. The Board Administrators office sent a number of employee names that no longer work for the county, these employees were removed from the county notification groups.
- ✓ The Buffalo county Emergency Management Inventory was completed and delivered to the county clerk's office.
- ✓ I attended a virtual MRC, Multi-agency Resource Center training.
- ✓ Throughout the month of August, I continued to go weekly to Holdrege to pick up and distribute PPE for agencies in Buffalo County. The PPE distribution has doubled and tripled in size over the last month.
- ✓ 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 hours splitting time between Weather and the COVID-19 Pandemic. 0.0 hours of that time was used during the month.

September 2020 Monthly Activities

- ✓ The EOC and equipment has been in full operation for seven months. There was one update and testing done on the MRU during the month. Several computer updates were conducted on the EOC computers.
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, I spoke with almost every community leader, mayor, community board chair, fire department and more all by e-mails. During the month I spoke with Jason Whalen from Kearney Fire, Bob Reineke Elm Creek Fire Chief in person.
- ✓ ID cards; I made additional ID cards for offices and departments for Buffalo County and the City of Ravenna, other cards were made as well for jail volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center cardholders several times throughout the month.
- ✓ IPAWS monthly test was successful conducted during the month.
- ✓ Work continued on disaster recovery activities for the March and July events of 2019. The last of the County projects had been completed and submitted and the city of Kearney submitted extensions for projects and has been approved through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. A number of working groups continue to work to assist the communities through the COAD, LTRG, as well as other groups and agencies.
- ✓ The COVID-19 Pandemic mitigation and response continues, far less meetings throughout the month (3) continued to allow for a number of other Emergency management projects to be completed or get started. Work has started for the reimbursement process through FEMA and the CARES act. I continue to work with a number of community's and government departments as well as the State and Federal governments on the reporting and reimbursement process.
- ✓ The 2020 Emergency performance grant was approved by the NE Emergency Management Agency for Buffalo County EMA, information was submitted and completed in the States Grants portal for 2020 EMA reimbursements.
- ✓ Worked with Jenni from the Sheriff's Office to complete and upload the Public Safety Payroll information in the State Grant Portal for the CARES act reimbursement program.
- ✓ I made several updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
- ✓ I assisted in the review and rewrite of the Buffalo County Emergency Action Plan.
- ✓ Throughout the month of August, I continued to go weekly to Holdrege to pick up and distribute PPE for agencies in Buffalo County.

**October 2020
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ The EOC and equipment has been in full operation for eight months. There was two updates and testing done on the MRU during month. The MRU was used during the Kearney Cruse night, everything seemed to work as it should, one camera was damaged during the event. County IT upgraded all the computers in the EOC, 4 more computers need to be installed and programed.
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief or Command Staff; throughout the month, I spoke with almost every community leader, mayor, community board chair, fire department and more all by e-mails. During the month, I spoke with Rick Brown Gibbon Fire Chief, Jason Wiehn Shelton Fire Chief and Chuck Row Assistant Chief and board chair for Shelton.
- ✓ ID cards; I made additional ID cards for offices and departments for Buffalo County, other cards were made as well for jail volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center cardholders several times throughout the month.
- ✓ Work continued on disaster recovery activities for the March and July events of 2019. A number of working groups continued to work to assist the communities through the COAD, LTRG, as well as other groups and agencies.
- ✓ The COVID-19 Pandemic mitigation and response continues, far less meetings throughout the month (4) continues to allow for a number of other Emergency management projects to be completed or get started. FEMA and the CARES Act had a number of additional questions for the reimbursement process through FEMA and the CARES act during the month. At that time all of those questions had been answered and uploaded in to the FEMA and CRAES Act portals. We then started working on the next round of payroll reimbursements for Dispatch, corrections and Emergency Management. I continued to work with a number of community's and government departments as well as the State the Federal governments.
- ✓ The 2020 Emergency performance grant 1st quarter reimbursement request and quarterly report was submitted during the month.
- ✓ The After Action Review was completed and distributed to county officials on the fire alarm incident.
- ✓ Throughout the month of October, I continued to go weekly to Holdrege to pick up and distribute PPE for agencies in Buffalo County.

**November 2020
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ The EOC and equipment has been in full operation for nine months. There was one update and testing done on the MRU during the month. The camera that was damaged during Kearney Cruse night was fixed by myself this month. The 4 new computers still had not been installed and programed for the EOC during the month.

- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief 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, were a number of fire and law enforcement officials logged in. I spoke with Rick Brown Gibbon Fire Chief, Jason Wiehn Shelton Fire Chief and Chuck Row Assistant Chief and board chair for Shelton. I spoke with Jason Whalen with Kearney Fire in person during the month.
- ✓ ID cards; I made additional ID cards for offices and departments for Buffalo County, other cards were made as well for jail volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center cardholders several times throughout the month. With the Pandemic and the rise in COVID case over the last several months I held off on calling the general public in for Justice Center cards.
- ✓ Work continued on disaster recovery activities for the March and July events of 2019. A number of working groups continue to work to assist the communities through the COAD, LTRG, as well as other groups and agencies.
- ✓ The COVID-19 Pandemic mitigation and response continues, a few more COVID related meetings throughout the month (7) due to the continued increase in COVID illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths. Work continued with FEMA and the CARES Act. We uploaded the next round of payroll reimbursements for dispatch, corrections and Emergency Management. I continued to working with a number of community's and government departments as well as the State the Federal governments.
- ✓ IPAWS monthly test was successful conducted during month.
- ✓ I made several updates to the notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
- ✓ Throughout the month of November, I continued to go weekly to Holdrege to pick up and distribute PPE for agencies in Buffalo County.

**December 2020
Monthly Activities**

- ✓ The EOC and equipment has been in full operation for ten months. There was one update and testing done on the MRU during month. The Pep Wave Verizon cellular data devise has been switched out to a Sierra modem first net cellular data devise. There seemed to be some fail over switching issues with the new modem that still need to be worked out. If theses fail over issues cannot be resolved, we may have to go back to a pep wave device. The 4 new computers still needed to be installed and prograded for the EOC this has been postponed until after the first of the year.
- ✓ Meeting with a Responder agency Chief 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 all Fire Chiefs by phone over the last

month. And spoke with Jason Whalen with 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 volunteers, service providers, and Justice Center cardholders several times throughout the month. With the Pandemic and the rise in COVID case over the last several months I have continued to hold off on calling the general public in for Justice Center cards.
✓ I sent out a survey to responders and other essential personal to determine how many individuals were interested in getting the vaccine when offered. The individuals would get the vaccine prior to the general population. Surprising to me there was a very low number of people who were willing to get the vaccine. This information was then forwarded to the NE National Guard and NDHHS.
✓ A number of working groups continue to work to assist the communities through the COAD, LTRG, as well as other groups and agencies The LTRG is expected to wrap up at the end of this month. Closing out the assistance for survivors of the 2019 March and July flooding events.
✓ The COVID-19 Pandemic mitigation and response continues, a few more COVID related meetings throughout the month (16) due to the continued increase in COVID illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths. As well as planning and administering the COVID vaccines to the Phase 1A groups. Work continues with FEMA and the CARES Act. We had been approved for the Law Enforcement funding and the reimbursements for dispatch, corrections and Emergency Management were in the last phase of the approval process. Additional funding had been requested through FEMA from July until the end of December. I continued to work with a number of community's and government departments as well as the State the Federal governments.
✓ IPAWS monthly test was successful conducted during the month.
✓ I made several updates to the notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes for the city/county personnel.
✓ Throughout the month of December, I continued to go weekly to Holdrege to pick up and distribute PPE for agencies in Buffalo County.

Notable Items

2020 Pandemic

Undoubtably the most notable item for 2020 is the worldwide Pandemic. While 2019 flooding recovery activities continued throughout the 2020 year, the COVID-19 pandemic took the forefront and priority over everything else in Emergency Management if not every aspect of life of every person.

The first indication that there might be a pandemic concern was in late February, but by early March Emergency Management and the Emergency Operation Centers across the state were in full operation. Early on many struggled across the state and the

nation on how to operate a functional EOC with no onsite staff. I feel Buffalo County was an exception to this struggle as technology and equipment already in place made it quite easy to function and communicate in a virtual EOC.

Because a pandemic is not your typical disaster in so many ways, there was not a good understanding of who this disaster “belonged to” in the first few months local and state emergency management agencies did what they normally do and took the bull by the horns and started working through the response, mitigation and finding needed resources to the local communities and at the state level. At some point there came direction from the Governor’s office and the State Health and Human Services that this was a public health emergency and the regional health departments were responsible for this disaster.

Very early in the disaster public health leaned very heavily on local emergency management for guides and assistance, helping to develop the Incident command structure, respond to local hot spots, provide resources and assist with local communications to the public, responders and volunteer organizations. After a short time when regional health departments got their feet under them and became more functional and found additional staff to respond and mitigate through the pandemic, less support was requested from local emergency management offices.

Buffalo County and the City of Kearny was one of the first to set up a drive through/drive up testing sight for COVID-19 through Family Practice in Kearney. The emergency management office provided resources for tents through the National Guard and the Central Nebraska medical reserve corp. The initial protocol was to test for everything else (for upper repository) before testing for COVID-19, this was mainly due to the lack of COVID test kits.

Emergency Management continued to work behind the scenes in a support role, working with every level of government from the smallest communities, Cities, County, State and Federal. Providing direction, information and resources to first responders, volunteer organizations, public health and the general public as a whole.

One of the bigger roles Emergency Management was able to fulfill in assisting the public health departments with pick up and distribution of PPE (personal protective equipment) to local agencies, responders, clinics, hospitals, and long term care facilities, this was done once a week throughout the year.

There were a number of volunteer organizations that came together to assist individuals especially early on in the pandemic when everything was shut down schools and businesses such as fast food, restaurants and bars. Hot Meals USA came together and served thousands and thousands of meals to the general public out of the Mona

parking lot. They did this for several months until businesses were allowed to open back up and at least provide curbside service. There were a number of other volunteers that came together to provide food boxes and delivery to those that could not get out of their home.

When the pandemic was first declared in the United States and disaster declarations were declared at the state and local levels there was very little activity in case rates in Buffalo County. In the first 4 and a half to 5 months there were only a handful of cases recorded. But by the time July came around cases started increasing and hospitalizations and deaths continued to increase. Monthly case numbers are recorded earlier in this report. Buffalo County's first recorded cases were from a couple working in Gibbon but were from the state of New York.

By the end of December Buffalo County, the Two Rivers Public Health Region and the entire state were still struggling to get the pandemic illnesses under control. With the first of the vaccines becoming available in December it is hopeful the year 2021 will have a better and brighter outcome.



RESPONSE UNIT ACTIVITIES (MRU)



- The MRU was used March 12th for a presentation for the networking IT preceptorial UNK class.
- On October 17th the unit was used during the Kearney Cruise Night event this event had been postponed from July to October due to the pandemic.
- Do to the cancelation of many events throughout the last year the MRU was used very little for the normal preplanned events. Testing and updates were conducted throughout the year. The MRU was ready at a moment's notice for response to any calls if it had been needed.

NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS



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

The Everbridge system provides notifications through cell phone, text, e-mail, 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 595 various weather notifications sent out by the system to subscribers of Buffalo Watch. In addition, there were 131 notifications and emergency alerts 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 exists 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 3900 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 about 280 individuals and/or groups following at this time.

