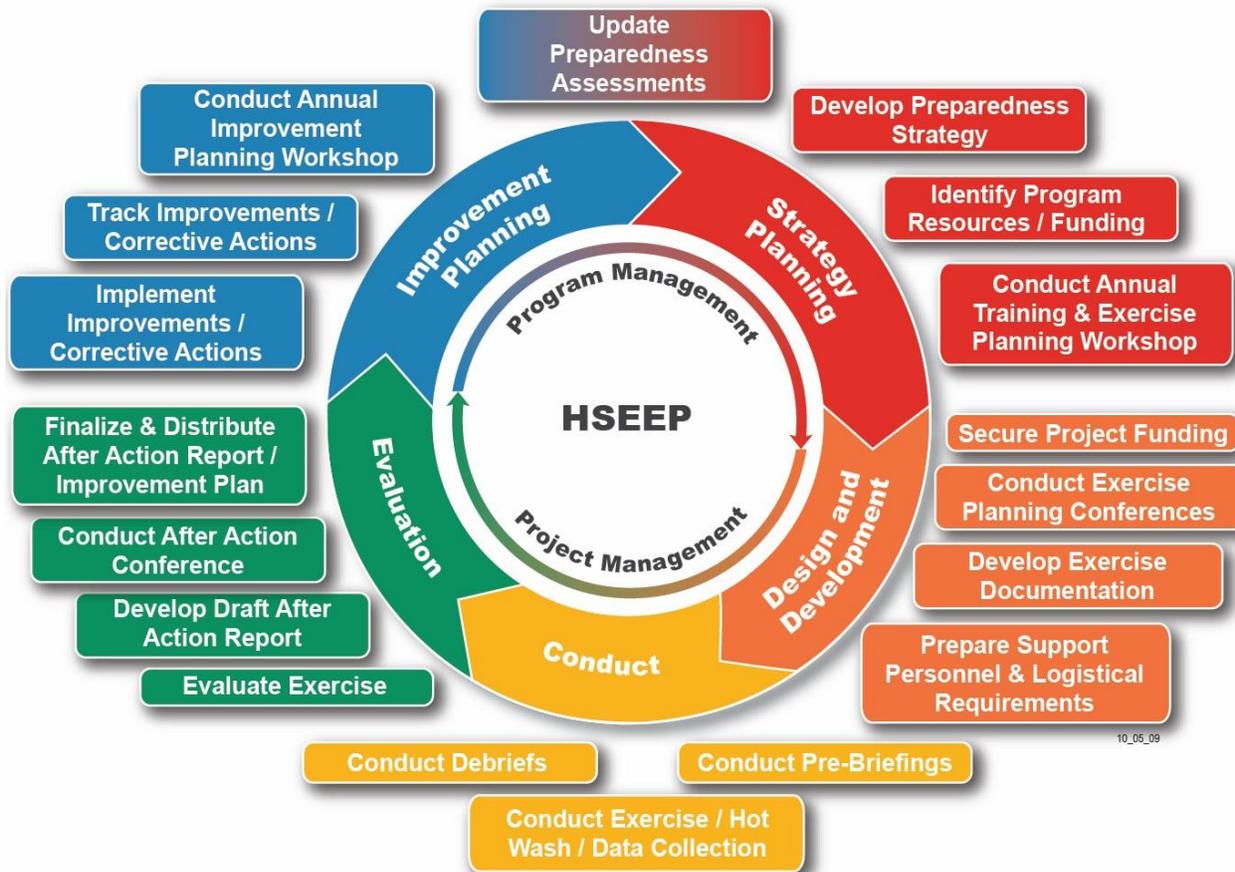




BUFFALO COUNTY / CITY OF KEARNEY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

2015 SUMMARY



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“2015”

THE YEAR OF PLANNING

BUFFALO COUNTY / CITY OF KEARNEY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mission Statement

To provide Buffalo County residents, businesses and 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 the part of 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 Supervisors 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 Supervisors 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. This past year the City of Kearney/ Buffalo County Emergency Management Office continued to focus on all four phases not only in training but real life emergency incidents, while planning and preparedness phase was the main focus due to several larger scale incidents recovery had a major focus.

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, Recovery 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): All EOC operations were handled at the lowest Emergency Management level and were never operational through one full operational period.

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 2015, the Director sent 24 assorted local or regional training opportunities to First Responder agencies.

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

TRAINING/EXERCISE 2015

- State wide tornado drill-exercise
- Severe Weather Spotter Training
- Statewide ID credentialing card operations training (Mid-West Cards)
- COP/COG Workshop
- Kearney Airport Tabletop
- Agriculture related multi state virtual tabletop
- FEMA procurement training
- IPAWS notification training
- Mass Fatality tabletop

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)

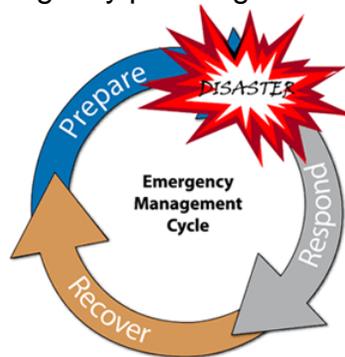


REPORTS

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 Dan Lynch.

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)

Eleven 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:

- Abengoa Bioenergy (Ravenna)
- Agricultural Services Inc. (Shelton)
- Aurora Coop (Buda)
- Aurora Coop (Gibbon)
- Aurora Coop (Sodtown)
- Bowie Fertilizer, Inc. (Miller)
- Bowie Fertilizer, Inc. (Riverdale)
- Farmer's Cooperative Association (Ravenna)
- Gibbon Packing (Gibbon)
- Optic Fertilizer, Incorporated (Gibbon)
- Trotter Fertilizer (Pleasanton)



The Director receives notification involving radioactive transports of spent fuel and low specific activity materials prior to the shipments entering Buffalo County. Notices are made to the appropriate agencies that would respond in a Hazardous Material or Radiological incident. Due to the radiation accident at Carlsbad New Mexico there were no radioactive transports through Nebraska in 2015.



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 not operational during severe weather season this last year like it was in 2014. The Backup Dispatch Center was opened twice during two tornado watches in 2015.

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. See the chart for additional information on warning tests and siren issues over the last year.

2015 Emergency Management Overview

This is an overview of the 2015 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)	
01-01-2015	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. With the exception of the UNK CTE siren not working.
02-05-2015	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. With the exception of the UNK CTE siren not working.
03-05-2015	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful.
04-02-2015	The South siren in Pleasanton (at the Fire hall) did not sound during the test; it was tested again and worked the second time.
05-07-2015	The sirens in Kearney on 3 rd street and 3 rd Ave. and on the UNK Centennial towers did not work when tested; Platte Valley was contacted to check these sirens.
06-0-2015	The sirens in Kearney on 3 rd street and 3 rd Ave. and on the UNK Centennial towers did not work when tested; Platte Valley was contacted again to check these sirens.
07-02-2015	The UNK Centennial towers did not work again during the test; Platte Valley has checked this siren several times and everything has checked out fine during their tests.
08-06-2015	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. With the exception of the UNK CTE siren not working.
09-03-2015	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. With the exception of the UNK CTE siren not working
10-01-2015	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. With the exception of the UNK CTE siren not working
11-05-15	Outdoor warning sirens test was successful. With the exception of the UNK CTE siren not working
12-03-15	The UNK Centennial towers siren was still not working at the end of the year, Platte Valley has looked at this siren several times it is believed to have a radio controller issue. The Grand Ave. siren did not work during the last test but Platte Valley fixed this issue. The siren at Cotton Mill Lake sounded by itself. This siren does this when there is a power outage or spike. It was turned off by sending the off tones from dispatch.

2015 Kearney Area Precipitation				
	Monthly Rain	*Monthly Snow	2015 Rain Total	2015 Snow Total
January	.06"	**0"	.06"	0"
February	.00"	4"	.06"	4"
March	.01"	0"	.07"	4"
April	2.93"	0"	3.0"	4"
May	2.43"	0"	5.43"	4"
June	5.73"	0"	11.16"	4"
July	2.19"	0"	13.35"	4"
August	2.37"	0"	15.72"	4"
September	2.70"	0"	18.42"	4"
October	.84"	0"	19.26"	4"
November	2.76"	3"	22.02"	7"
December	.80"	4"	22.82"	11"

*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.

2015 High and Low Temperatures					
Month	High	Low	High Average	Low Average	Overall Average
January	70	-3	41	17	29
February	66	-6	40	14	27
March	90	1	61	27	44
April	86	28	64	40	52
May	90	34	69	49	59
June	97	54	82	60	71
July	99	52	87	63	76
August	93	46	83	59	72
September	99	46	83	59	71
October	95	27	68	44	56
November	79	18	53	32	42
December	66	9	42	23	33

Weather Activity 2015

January	There was no severe weather to report during the month of January.
February	There was a Winter Weather Warning issued on February 1 st and 4 th and 2 winter weather advisories issued for the Kearney / Buffalo County.
March	There was no severe weather to report during the month of March.
April	Thunderstorm Watch issued on: April 1 st at 16:56 hours April 18 th at 14:42 hours Thunderstorm warnings were issued on: April 1 st at 17:32, 17:44 and 19:12 hours, April 18 th at 17:24, 17:56, 18:03, 18:27, 18:29 and 19:39 hours
May	Thunderstorm Warning issued on: May 9 th at 23:53 hours Tornado Watch was issued on: May 6 th at 14:56 hours A Flood Warning was issued on May 12 th along the Platte River Odessa to Shelton which continued through the month.
June	Thunderstorm Warnings were issued on: June 3 rd at 00:38, 00:56 hours June 4 th at 01:03, 01:30, 01:41, 13:00 hours June 6 th at 16:32 hours Tornado Watch was issued on: June 6 th at 15:38 hours A Flood Warning was issued through the entire month of June along the Platte River from Odessa to Shelton.
July	Thunderstorm Watches issued on: July 17 th at 18:31 hours July 23 rd at 15:02.hours

	<p>Thunderstorm Warnings were issued on:</p> <p>July 14th at 15:35 and 15:58 hours</p> <p>July 17th at 21:16 and 21:57 hours</p>
August	<p>Thunderstorm Watches issued on:</p> <p>August 4th at 15:43 hours</p> <p>August 7th at 21:39 hours</p> <p>August 27th at 18:38 hours</p> <p>Thunderstorm Warnings were issued on:</p> <p>August 7th at 23:48 hours</p> <p>August 8th at 00:18 hours</p> <p>August 17th at 1936, 1947, 2006 and 2017 hours</p> <p>A Flashflood Advisory was issued on August 7th.</p>
September	<p>Thunderstorm Watches issued on:</p> <p>September 10th at 14:57 hours</p> <p>Thunderstorm Warnings were issued on:</p> <p>September 9th at 11:42, 12:22, 17:11, 17,50 and 18:27 hours</p> <p>September 10th at 16:37 hours</p>
October	<p>Frost advisories issued on:</p> <p>October 16th, 28th, and 29th</p>
November	<p>There was a high wind warning issued on:</p> <p>November 11th at 14:19 hours</p> <p>Tornado Watch issued on:</p> <p>November 16th at 18:15 hours</p> <p>No damage was reported in our area do to these watches and warnings. One out building was damaged in Furnas county due to an EF-1 tornado.</p>
December	<p>There was no severe weather to report during the month of December. There was a winter weather watch issued on December 12th and two winter weather advisories issued from the 13th to the 14th and the 23rd to the 26th.</p>

Emergency Activities 2015	
June	The subdivision south of the Gibbon I-80 interchange had flood water running through it. This area was flooded twice during the month. Homes in the area were not affected. These homes do not have basements and the water was confined to running over the roads and through the yards.
December	A diesel spill was reported to the emergency management office on December 21 st from a semi truck and farm tractor accident North of Elm Creek on highway 183.

Training Opportunities Sent Out 2015	
January	2
February	1
March	3
April	0
May	3
June	3
July	0
August	2
September	5
October	2
November	3
December	0

2015 Meetings and Events Attended by the Buffalo County Emergency Management Director	
January 7	Attended the South Central PET Regional and the Regional EM meeting in Axtell.
January 12	Attended a mass fatality planning meeting with planning partners in Hastings our next project is to start on the development of the disaster site plan. I am the Chairperson of this sub-committee.
January 16	Attended the monthly TRIMRS meeting at Good Samaritan Hospital.
January 21	Participated in a conference call for the Central District NRD Ice Jam

	Planning committee.
January 26	Attended the Buffalo County mutual aid meeting.
February 11	Attended a NAEM executive board meeting in Grand Island. The one hour training was held on the NAEM webpage.
February 13	Emergency management annual evaluation was conducted.
February 27	Attended a winter weather webinar at the EOC, in attendance was Kearney Street, RIDE and Good Samaritan Hospital.
March 3	Hosted a mass-fatality/casualty disaster site planning meeting at the EOC. I am chairman of this committee. We are writing a plan for mass fatality site procedures, this plan will be part of the overall MFP.
March 4	Attended the EM CONFAB meeting and the SCPET Regional meeting (it was held in Alma this month).
March 20	Attended the monthly TRIMRS steering council meeting.
March 28	Attended the NE Hazmat Association meeting representing the Buffalo County Hazmat team.
March 31	Attended the NAEM executive board meeting.
April 14	Attended the IT committee meeting at the committee's request to discuss continuity of operations and emergency funding.
April 27	Attended the mutual aid meeting which consisted of air flight rescue training. At the meeting I discussed and disseminated weather spotter SOG's and the 2015 emergency assistance for wildfire control booklets that I put together for all the fire departments.
May 4	Attended the Buffalo County safety meeting held at the Buffalo County board room.
May 6	Attended the SCPET Regional meeting in Franklin where I requested and was awarded \$46,000.00 for a tower and building purchase for Buffalo County.
May 15	Participated in a NWS webinar and hosted four responder agencies in the EOC.
May 20	Again participated in a NWS webinar for weather events and flooding issue along the Platte River in the EOC.

May 28	Took part in a conference call exercise planning meeting at the EOC.
June 4	Met with a UNK representative, (meeting held at the Emergency Operation Center) on a drone project that the Nebraska University System is working on.
June 5 and 19	Planning meeting was held with a TRIMRS representatives for the medical surge and EOC operations strategic plan development.
June 8	NAEM executive board meeting held in Grand Island. I am the President of the association this year.
June 9	Met with NEMA to review that flooding supplies provided to Buffalo County and hand receipt signature. Attended an official's budget meeting held at the Buffalo County board room.
June 10	Met with the TRIMRS coordinator and the mass-fatality morgue operations sub-committee chair for further plans development in this area.
June 16	Met with the budget committee to submit and review my budget request for the fiscal year.
June 24	Attended an MRC / Emergency Management meet and greet meeting in Grand Island. I sit on MRC executive board.
June 29	Attended an additional drone project meeting held at the EOC with first responder agencies from around the region. This meeting was held at the EOC.
July 1	Captain Anderson and I met at the Highway Department at the request of the Safety Committee to look at the steel boot policy.
July 3	The CONFAB and the SCPET regional meeting was held in Lawrence.
July 7	Medical surge and EOC planning meeting was held at the EOC
July 17	Attended the TRIMRS steering committee meeting at Good Samaritan Hospital.
July 22	Attended a Be Ready NE public education campaign meeting.
July 27	Attended the Buffalo County mutual aid meeting.
August 4	EOC medical table planning meeting held at the EOC.

August 5	Attended the emergency management regional CONFAB meeting in Grand Island.
August 7	Attended a TRIMRS medical surge and EOC planning meeting.
August 18	Attended a Statewide MRC Council meeting at the EOC; I sit on the Central Nebraska MRC executive board.
September 2	Attended the emergency management CONFAB and SCPET Regional meeting held in North Platte.
September 4	Medical surge and EOC planning meeting was held at the EOC.
September 8	Participated in a county/UNK Law Enforcement meeting to discuss notification options for UNK.
September 9	Attended a Buffalo County safety meeting held at the court house. It was proposed to make changes to the footwear policy for the highway department.
September 10	Attended an executive board meeting for the Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers.
September 16	Attended and hosted an MRC meeting at the EOC.
September 17	Attended the Central District meeting held in Kearney: the serving of alcohol at this meeting was voted down by a vote of 19 to 3. This was an issue brought up by the regional emergency managers lead by Hall County Emergency Manager Jon Rosenlund.
September 23	Attended an EOC medical table planning meeting held at the EOC.
September 30	Attended a National Weather Service annual regional informational partnership meeting.
October 2	Attended an EOC / medical surge planning meeting at Good Samaritan Hospital.
October 6	Met with the UNK Emergency Management Director to discuss collaboration, planning and sharing of resources, before, during and after a disaster.
October 21	Attended the annual state roads winter weather meeting in Grand Island. Attended the county safety committee meeting the majority of this meeting was used to discuss the findings of the building safety inspections for the county.

October 26	Attended the Buffalo County mutual aid meeting.
October 28	Attended the Buffalo County EOC medical planning meeting at Richard Young Hospital.
November 3	Met with Kendra Hansen the new emergency coordinator for the Two River Public Health Department. Kendra wanted to get some insight on the roles of the Public Health Department working with local EM's on a day to day bases, as well as disaster planning, response and recovery.
November 4	Attended the South Central PET Regional meeting.
November 6	Attended a planning meeting for the medical surge and EOC emergency plans development.
November 12	Attended the statewide NRIN meeting hosted at the EOC.
November 13	Attended the annual ice jam inter-local agreement meeting with the NRD and other counties along the Central Platte River.
November 16	Attended the NAEM meeting held in Grand Island.
November 18	Attended the last MRC meeting for the 2015 year. Statistically the Central NE Medical Reserve Corp. has been more active, participated in more events, conducted more exercises, not only in Nebraska but nationwide.
December 18	Attended a TRIMRS executive board meeting.

<p>January 2015</p> <p>Monthly Activities</p>	
✓	Updates, preventive maintenance and testing were conducted three times during the month on the Mobile Response Unit (MRU) and the EOC. The new DVR for the MRU was installed. The DVR worked for two days and quit working. It has been sent back to the vendor for a second time. County IT worked to get the system back operational. The Satellite internet was having issues. I spent 2.5 hours on the phone with Tech support to get this system back working. The DC power button was working properly. I had Chuck to look at this and replace the toggle switch, if needed. Other than a few computer issues in the EOC that have been taken care of by County IT, everything seems to be working in the EOC.
✓	Conducted an Emergency Management presentation in Ravenna.
✓	Conducted an Emergency Management presentation and safety walk through for the St. James Catholic Church in Kearney.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Attended Card EX training in North Platte on the 13th and 14th of January. This training was for the Mid-West Credentialing system that the State of Nebraska supports as the primary system for the State. There are four systems in the SCPET Region with Buffalo County being the latest addition.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A number of emergency plans had been reviewed during the month, as well as several LEOP updates completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ID cards were made on six different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees, and Justice Center card holders. New ID cards were issued to the following county offices this month, Zoning, Veterans, Election, Assessors, IT, District Court and the Sheriff's office.

<p>February 2015</p> <p>Monthly Activities</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Computer updates, preventive maintenance and testing were conducted three times this month on the mobile response unit (MRU) and the EOC. A second new DVR for the MRU was installed and is now working properly. The mast camera has developed on screen scrolling vertical lines through it. It was determined that the DC power supply was the issue and a new was ordered.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ID cards were made on 4 different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees and Justice Center card holders. New ID cards have been issued to most of the county offices over the last two months. The ID system was taken to the highway department, all the highway department and weed control personnel were completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The notification system was worked on and updated with Lynn during the month for county employees in the system.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TV interview was conducted on siren usage and protocol with 10/11 North Platte.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The 2014 EMPG grant review was conducted by NEMA, all documentation and needed information was in order.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Emergency management office annual report was completed during the month. A total of twenty-five hard copies were printed and distributed to the County Board Members Fire, EMS, villages and community partners.

March 2015
Monthly Activities

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance and testing were conducted four times this month on the MRU and the EOC. A new power solenoid that runs the DC power in the MRU was installed.
- ✓ ID cards were made on 3 different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees and Justice Center card holders. New ID cards were issued to most of the county offices.
- ✓ Updates were made to the notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent changes (both on the county and city). A callout drill of the weather spotters was conducted using the notification system.
- ✓ Two media interviews were conducted on the statewide tornado drill.
- ✓ The statewide tornado drill was conducted on March 25th during the severe weather awareness week. The drill went well and all communities reported hearing the outdoor warning sirens. Several businesses, schools and other agencies participated in the drill practicing their severe weather plan.
- ✓ Conducted a tour of the EOC at the request of the Sheriff for some attendees of the First Net conference being held in Kearney and a tour / Emergency Management presentation to a UNK class.
- ✓ Visited Emergency Operations and the National Weather Center in Norman OK.
- ✓ The Tier II reports were compiled; a report was completed through this office and sent out to all the Buffalo fire departments, the Kearney police chief, mutual aid hazmat team, county board and the SEPC.
- ✓ Assisted the negotiator team during the month by walking through the startup and shut down procedures for the MRU. In addition, we set up a file on each of the computers for documents and websites and other software for the team to help them during an event.

April 2015
Monthly Activities

- ✓ Updates, preventive maintenance and testing were conducted two times this month on the MRU and the EOC.
- ✓ ID cards were made on five separate days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees and Justice Center card holders.

✓ Updates were made to the notification system for those individuals and offices that have sent me changes (both on the county and city). Several employees were removed from the city call list for leaving city employment and a few were added for new hires.
✓ Two media interviews were conducted, one with Talk of the Town and one with the Kearney Hub. Both encompassing weather preparedness.
✓ Participated in the Kearney regional table top exercise.
✓ The EMPG quarterly report was completed and submitted to NEMA.
✓ 15 Wildfire Control booklets were made for dispatch and fire departments.
✓ The COOP/COG and sections of the LEOP plan was reviewed and updated.
✓ Conducted a tour of the EOC / Emergency Management presentation to a UNK class.
✓ Attended the Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers this month, as the Vice President of the association and at the conclusion of the conference I moved into the President's position.
✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management became a Weather Ready Nation Ambassador.

May 2015 Monthly Activities
✓ Computer updates, preventive maintenance and testing were conducted during the month on the MRU and the EOC. Everything seemed to work good during these tests and updates. A new Cell amplifier has been installed in the EOC for 4G connectivity.
✓ ID cards were made on 4 different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees and Justice Center card holders.
✓ Updates to the Notification system for those individuals and offices have been made for the city.
✓ Buffalo County Emergency Management once again participated in the annual State Game and Parks Expo at the Fort Kearney recreation area on May 7th through the 9th. The MRU was used throughout the 3 day event. Buffalo County Emergency Management helped with coordination, weather reports and communications to the event participants.
✓ Five media interviews were conducted on the Platte River flooding over the course of the month, for TV, radio and newspapers.
✓ A written agreement with Cummings of Kearney to supply generators to disaster areas within the county, if needed, as well as a price list for time and usage was

completed.
✓ The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency distributed flood supplies to local emergency management agencies along flood prone areas. Buffalo County Emergency Management was able to secure 200 large sling load sandbags with sling straps, ten rolls of river wrap and several lifejackets for water rescue. Items are being stored at the county highway department and the EOC.
✓ The 2015 EMPG grant was applied for and sent in to NEMA. The emergency management budget had to be completed to submit for the grant. A draft of the emergency management budget was completed.
✓ The oil was changed in both the EM vehicle and the MRU.
✓ Much of my time during month was spent on flood monitoring for the Platte River and public notification for preparedness, planning and response.

June 2015 Monthly Activities
✓ Computer updates, preventive maintenance and testing were conducted twice this month on the MRU and the EOC.
✓ ID cards were made on three separate days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees and Justice Center card holders.
✓ Updates to the notification system for those individuals and offices that sent changes both for the city and county personnel were completed.
✓ Seven media interviews were conducted (mostly on the Platte River flooding). However, our weather notification system had a computer glitch that sent out a Tornado and Thunderstorm warning for our area on June 29th around 10:15 pm when there was no severe weather in the area. After checking the radar, and with the NWS, a retraction of the warning was sent out on the system to everyone that got the warnings. Three interviews were conducted on this issue. The issue was fixed by the next morning.
✓ Much of my time during the month was spent on flood monitoring for the Platte River and public notification for preparedness, planning and response. There was a subdivision that had flood water running through it just south of the Gibbon I-80 interchange. This area was flooded twice during the month. Homes in the area were not affected. These homes do not have basements and the water was confined to running over the roads and through the yards.

July 2015
Monthly Activities

- ✓ Computer updates, preventive maintenance and testing were conducted four times this month on the MRU and the EOC. Everything in the MRU seems to be working properly during these tests. There was some work done on the laptop computers to get some software and VPN to work properly. The MRU was used for Kearney Cruise Night during the month.
- ✓ ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees and Justice Center card holders.
- ✓ Updates to the notification system were made for those individuals and offices that sent me changes both for the city and county personnel.
- ✓ Conducted an emergency management presentation at the EOC for about 16 boy scouts and their parents during the month.
- ✓ Worked on securing grant funds for the Elm Creek tower.
- ✓ The 3rd and 4th quarter EMPG grant funds were requested for the emergency management budget and additional \$12,000.00 was secured at the end of the 4th quarter for additional EM budget support.

August 2015
Monthly Activities

- ✓ Computer updates, preventive maintenance and testing were conducted twice this month on the MRU and the EOC. Everything seemed to work good during these tests and updates.
- ✓ Preparedness brochures were delivered to the Villages of Amherst, Miller and Elm Creek.
- ✓ ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees and Justice Center card holders.
- ✓ Updates to the notification system were made for those individuals and offices that sent me changes for both city and county personnel.
- ✓ Conducted an emergency management presentation at the EOC for about 20 Rotary Club members.

September 2015	
Monthly Activities	
✓	Computer updates, preventive maintenance and testing were conducted twice this month on the MRU and the EOC. Everything seemed to work good during these tests and updates.
✓	ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees and Justice Center card holders.
✓	Updates to the notification system were made for those individuals and offices that sent me changes for city and county personnel.
✓	September was preparedness month. I conducted an interview with Talk of the Town.
✓	Participated in a FEMA workshop webinar on procurement regulations during and after a disaster.
✓	Participated in webinar training for IPAWS on our cooper/Buffalo Watch system.
✓	Conducted an emergency management presentation at the EOC for the Good Samaritan EMS squad.

October 2015	
Monthly Activities	
✓	Computer updates, preventive maintenance and testing were conducted twice this month on the MRU and the EOC. Everything seemed to work good during these tests and updates.
✓	ID cards were made on three different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees and Justice Center card holders. The ID card system computer went down during the month and was down for about 3 weeks. County IT had to move the software and documents to another computer, as the original computer screen quit working.
✓	Updates to the Notification system were made for those individuals and offices that sent me changes for the city and county personnel.
✓	Lead a building safety inspection for all Buffalo County owned occupied buildings on three separate afternoons during the month. Lynn Martin and Stave Gaasch were on the inspection team as well.
✓	Sat in a FEMA conference call on homeland security grants with Chief Lynch, regional law enforcement, NEMA, FEMA and regional emergency managers were on the call.
✓	Attended a mass fatality table top exercise held in North Platte during the month.

November 2015	
Monthly Activities	
✓	Computer updates, preventive maintenance and testing were conducted three times this month on the MRU and the EOC. Everything seemed to work good during these tests and updates.
✓	ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees and Justice Center card holders.
✓	Updates to the Notification system were made for those individuals and offices that sent me changes for all city and county personnel.
✓	Participated in three winter weather webinars with the National Weather Service on November 24th, 25th and the 29th.
✓	Conducted 2 EOC tours/EM presentations for the Kearney leadership on the 18th and for UNK safety class on the 23rd.

December 2015	
Monthly Activities	
✓	Computer updates, preventive maintenance and testing were conducted twice this month on the MRU and the EOC. Everything seemed to work good during these tests and updates.
✓	ID cards were made on two different days during the month for jail volunteers, service providers, county employees and Justice Center card holders. ID cards were delivered to Pleasanton.
✓	Attended the NACO conference on December 9th through the 11th.
✓	Participated in a Pan-Flu work shop.
✓	Updates to the Notification system were made for those individuals and offices that sent me changes for the city personnel.
✓	Participated in two winter weather webinars with the National Weather Service on December 12 th and the 28 th .
✓	Conducted one EOC tour/EM presentation for UNK Safety class.

Notable Items

RESPONSE UNIT ACTIVITIES (MRU)



- On March 30th, training was conducted for the startup and shut down of the MRU for ESU Negotiator Team.
- On May 7th, 8th and 9th the MRU was used during the Game and Parks Fort Kearney Outdoor Expo.
- On July 18th the unit was used during the Kearney Cruise Night event.

NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS



BuffaloWatch.net is a system used for cell phone, text, e-mail, SMS messages for weather notifications, voice and landline phones for GEO notifications and pre-developed group notifications. The big news for the notification system is that it is now IPWAS and CMAS capable. These two integrated FEMA based systems will allow Buffalo County to reach a larger group of people during any life threatening event.

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 1214 followers and when emergency's 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 only has about 170 individuals and/or groups following at this time.



The emergency management budget for the fiscal 2014-15 year stayed under budget. The new fiscal 2015-16 budget was approved by the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee. The Buffalo County Emergency Management Department budget for 2014-15 was \$140,105. The 2015-16 approved budget is \$146,492 (an additional \$15,000 for a total of \$45,000 for carry over money for a new emergency management vehicle in the 2015-16 budget years). This was the only increase in the EM budget this year. Several areas within the budget were reduced while other areas were maintained at a 0% increase.

The EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) for the fiscal year 2014 closed out and the 2015 grant started in June of 2015. This program is designed to reimburse the emergency management budget up to 50%. The total amount funded for the 2014-15 budget year is \$43,685. This was only about 30% of the budget for this year.

This office underwent one State Audit in 2015 on Homeland Security Grants, NIMS compliance and the EM budget for the 2014 year. The audit found that all of the paperwork, documentation and equipment were in compliance. No discrepancies were found by the auditor.

2015 Goals

1. Continue to work with the SCPETR on regional projects to improve the region's ability to respond to, mitigate and recover from large scale events by providing needed equipment, training and exercises to first responder agencies, volunteer organizations, elected and appointed officials across the South Central Region.
2. At a minimum of once per month, contact by phone or in person, of which at least half need to be in person, with a chief or command member of each first responder group in Buffalo County.
3. Continue good working relationships with all emergency management agencies, responder agencies, volunteer organizations, private and public organizations, elected and appointed officials, the general public at the local, state and federal levels.

4. Re-establish working relationships between Emergency Management and Fire Departments in Buffalo County.
5. Re-evaluate all the training identified and justify why these are imperative and serve the interest of the County. Identify all planned training. Request authorization to attend and justify all training to supervisors before attending emergency management training.
6. Hold or participate in at least three exercises in 2015.
7. Continue public education campaign for 2015.
8. Work with the National Weather Service and the State Roads Department to order and install Storm Ready Signs on major highways at the borders of Buffalo County.
9. Work with the Sheriff and the Kearney Police Chief to develop a table top exercise for both agencies.
10. Continue working on the process of creating a full-time EM Deputy position (Plans Review Specialist, Volunteer Coordinator, CERT and LEPC coordinator, and NIMS manager).



Darrin Lewis,
Buffalo County Emergency Management

