



Region 44 Emergency Management 2017 Annual Report

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This report highlights activities, accomplishments and an overall review of the Emergency Management Program

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Overview & Governance

Boone County Board of Commissioners, Merrick County Board of Supervisors, and Nance County Board of Supervisors maintain an *Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Management Services* that established Region 44 Emergency Management to effectively manage emergency management function for the jurisdictions. Region 44 Emergency Management provides quarterly reports to the Emergency Management Supervisory Committee. The Emergency Management Supervisory Committee is comprised of a member appointed from each County Board. Board members of the committee is responsible for review of emergency manager performance, recommending and providing policy direction, serves as an advisory committee, governs operations of the department, liaison to resolve issues, and recommends a budget to the County Board for approval.

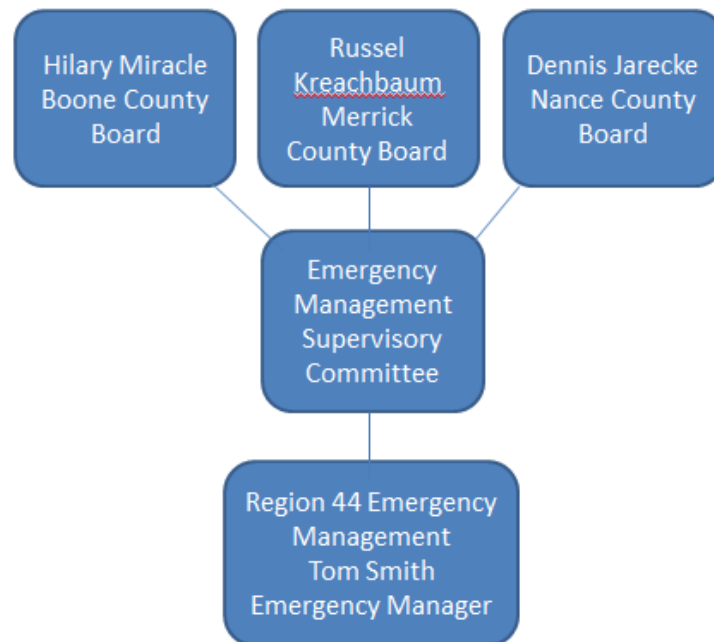


Figure 1: Governance

Mission

The mission of the Region 44 Emergency Management Program is to provide integrated and comprehensive emergency management services necessary to protect Boone, Merrick and Nance Counties from all hazards in a cost-effective, implementable, and sustainable manner.

Region 44 Partners and Stakeholders

Outside of the County Departments, Region 44 Emergency Management works with numerous organizations and departments for the region.



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2017 Annual Report Executive Summary

Planning, Exercise, Training

An aggressive calendar of planning, training and exercise events provided agencies within Region 44 and partners with considerable improvements in their own practices and procedures, while building and improving organizational relationships. Region 44 participated in the planning for process for the East Central Tactical Interoperability Communication Plan (TICP). Trainings, conferences, and exercises Region 44 Emergency Management participated in include:

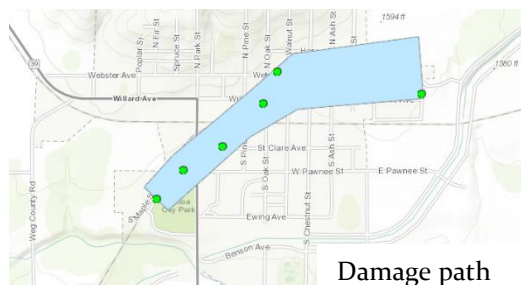
- Emergency Management Concepts for Elected Officials
- State Surge Exercise with Boone County Health Center
- Fire School Accountability Exercise
- River Rescue on the Loup
- Volunteer Reception Center-Albion coordinated, non-conduct
- Livestock Emergency Disaster Response System Conference
- ICS 402: ICS Overview for Executives/Senior Officials,
- Executives/Senior Officials Exercise
- ICS for Planned Events
- Radiological Kit Training
- Nebraska Association of Emergency Management Conference
- 3 separate NWS Storm Spotter Trainings
- Multiagency Resource Center Exercise
- Faith Workshop; Emergency Preparedness
- Virginia Smith and Davis Dam Emergency Action Plan
- Procurement under FEMA awards
- Rapid TAG training
- Integrated Weather Warning Team Workshop
- Rural Region One Medical Response planning workshop
- Merrick County Local Emergency Planning Committee Exercise
- START Triage Training
- NE DHHS Full Scale Exercise Workshop
- L-967 Logistic Section Chief Training
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Conference
- Community Organizations Active in Disaster exercise

Hazard Mitigation Projects

With the Hazard Mitigation Plan approved in 2017. The focus has been to start implementing mitigation measures to lessen the impact of the hazards within Region 44. Region 44 Emergency Management submitted nine project notice of interest for grants to receive hazard mitigation funding. Four projects were selected; generator for Petersburg fire hall, siren replacement for Belgrade, siren replacement for Fullerton, and NOAA radio program for public facilities in Boone County. Additionally, Region 44 Emergency Management supported Central City Public School's submission of a notice of interest to build a 3.1 million dollar safe room under the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation grant.

Incident Response

On June 26th, 2017 severe weather impacted Genoa. The damage path was 0.9 miles in length, with a width between 100 and 300 yards. All of the damage was noted within the city limits. Based on eye witness accounts and radar data, the most



likely time of occurrence was 11:45 pm CDT. Several people mentioned the duration of the strongest winds was between 10 and 30 seconds. Visual evidence and radar data showed the damage in town was most likely caused by a microburst with estimated the strongest wind speed was between 90-95 mph. County and city disaster declarations were declared. City of Genoa was able to recover some costs for damage caused to public infrastructure from the State's Disaster Emergency Fund.



Genoa resident looking at damage to property from June 26th Storm

Nance County suffered from damage that occurred during Thunderstorms on August 15th, 2017 and continued through the subsequent rain showers on August 16th, 2017. The thunderstorm's precipitation and wind caused severe damage to public and private property, disruption of utility service, and endangerment of health and safety of the citizens of Nance County within the disaster area. A county disaster declaration was made in anticipation of costs exceeding the county's disaster threshold of \$13,744.80. A damage assessment determined the costs would not exceed the threshold amount.



2.5 inch hail in Fullerton



Flooding in Fullerton

October 2nd, an EF-0 tornado with an estimated wind speed of 85 mph was tracked approximately .4miles, causing damage to grain bins, a small farm outbuilding, trees, and crops. Much of the

damage was located four miles northwest of St. Edward. Region 44 Emergency Manager conducted the damage assessment with the National Weather Service Omaha/Valley Office.

From December 21st to March 3rd Region 44 Emergency Management monitored the Platte, Loup, Beaver, and Cedar Rivers for potential flooding caused by Ice Jams. The Beaver and Cedar Rivers were above average with water for the winter. Weekly checks were done at identified river sites and documented within the Region 44 Orion Damage Assessment System. Region 44 Emergency Management participated in weekly conference calls with the National Weather Service (NWS), Central Platte Natural Resource District, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and surrounding county emergency managers. Region 44 Emergency Manager responded to flooding to USGS stream gauges and requests from the NWS. Ice cleared out of all the rivers the weekend of March 3rd without incident.

January 22nd, the region was impacted by a Blizzard, closing all courthouses, schools, and impacting travel. Region 44 Emergency Management monitored the situation, coordinated between schools and county road departments on the road conditions and recovery efforts.

Region 44 Emergency Management Operational Coordination Assessment and Study

In December 2016, Region 44 Emergency Manager proposed a need for an operational coordination assessment and study of communications throughout Region 44 to the Emergency Management Supervisory Committee. The assessment provided an overview of the public safety communications current system identifying gaps and needs to enhance operational coordination and communication. Each county will receive a written report with suggestions for improvements if applicable and suggest possible alternatives if identified. Region 44 Emergency Management facilitated eleven meetings from October 2016 to August 2017 to discuss operational communication coordination and Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)/Dispatch consolidation. Region 44 Emergency Management developed request for proposals for building designs and met with multiple entities to determine costs and options for consolidation.

Budgetary Review

The budget for the Emergency Management Department and its programs features a combination of County General Fund contributions, separate Special Revenue Funds for 911-related expenses, and various grant awards. Expenses are assigned to the most appropriate and available funding source.

General Fund

All General Fund expenses and receipts are divided based on valuation between each county. By Interlocal Agreement, Nance County manages all department expenses and receipts on behalf of the Emergency Management Department. The General Fund provides funds for the majority of Emergency Management programs, including emergency management department expenses, and Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)/ Citizen Corps.

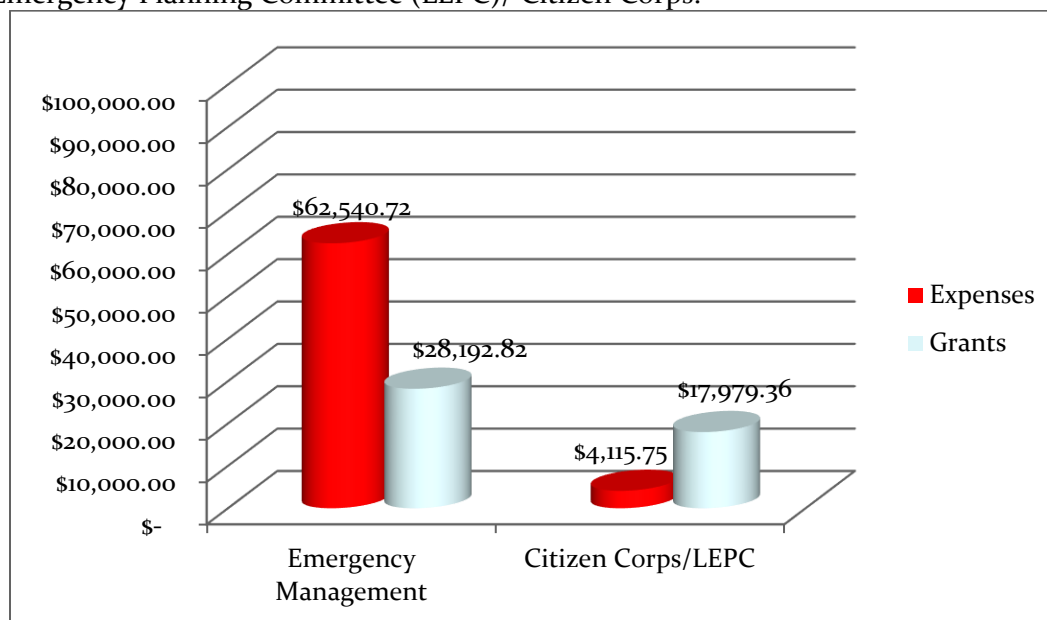


Figure 2: General Fund FY2017 (July 2017 to Mar 2018)

Emergency Management (693/696) Budget Details

The Emergency Management budget includes costs for one FTE, one paid summer internship, operational expenses, and new equipment. Operational expenses include maintenance contracts for emergency warning systems, equipment, operational systems, and supplies. The Emergency Management Program is supported by a series of Federal grants, primarily the Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG)¹, administered by NEMA².

Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG)

The EMPG provides resources to assist state and local governments to sustain and enhance all hazards emergency management capabilities. Emergency management agencies have the opportunity to use EMPG funds to further strengthen their ability to support emergency management activities while simultaneously addressing issues of national concern as identified in

¹ <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-performance-grant-program>

² <https://nema.nebraska.gov/preparedness/grants>

the National Priorities of the National Preparedness Guidelines. EMPG has a 50% Federal and 50% local cash or in-kind match requirement. In FY2017, Region 44 Emergency Management received \$39,518.57 in EMPG funding to sustain the Emergency Management Program. EMPG funds were used to offset costs of personnel, equipment, supplies, and maintenance contracts. The local 50% match is provided by the General Fund contributions by each county.

LEPC Budget (695) Budget Details

The LEPC budget provides for all expenses of the LEPC and the Citizen Corps Programs. Revenues collected in this budget include grant reimbursements from programs like Citizen Corps and the Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) grants. In 2017, Region 44 Emergency Management, through the LEPC, received support from TransCanada for \$9,300.00 for data capability expenses. Additionally, Region 44 Emergency Management received \$5,000 from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) for sheltering supplies. In general, the majority of expenses from this budget are reimbursed in part or whole by grants.

Emergency Management Equipment Budget (696) Budget Details

This budget was developed to assist with the hazard mitigation projects for the fiscal year. No hazard mitigation projects were identified prior to the 2017 budget year. The majority of expenses from this budget are reimbursed in part or whole by HMPG grants or reimbursements.

Homeland Security Grants

Homeland Security Grants are managed by a multi-county Planning Exercise & Training (PET) Region established by the State of Nebraska. Counties in Region 44 belong to the East Central Planning Exercise and Training Region (ECPET). Grant funds are allocated according to local needs that comply with State and National funding priorities. In recent years, the Homeland Security Grant has connected each County's Public Safety Answering Point/911 (PSAP) to the Nebraska Radio Interoperability Network (NRIN), as well as regular support to radio interoperability equipment allowing the PSAP dispatcher to monitor common frequencies available to agencies throughout the state. Grant Funding for Citizen Corp Program is allocated in similar process as all Homeland Security Grant projects within the State of Nebraska.

Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant (HMEP)

Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) grants are used to develop, improve, and implement emergency plans; train public sector hazardous materials (hazmat) emergency response employees to respond to accidents and incidents involving hazardous materials in transportation; determine flow patterns of hazardous materials within a state and between states; and determine the need within a state for regional hazardous materials emergency response teams. HMEP Grant supports administrative functions of each county LEPC. In 2017, County LEPCs received \$2,74.69 HMEP funding to send two people to the Region 7 LEPC Conference in Kansas City, training, and planning supplies.

Non-Region 44 Emergency Management Revenue

Region 44 Emergency Management assists agencies in receiving various revenues. This revenue does not support emergency management operating costs and is not directly used for the Region 44 emergency management program.

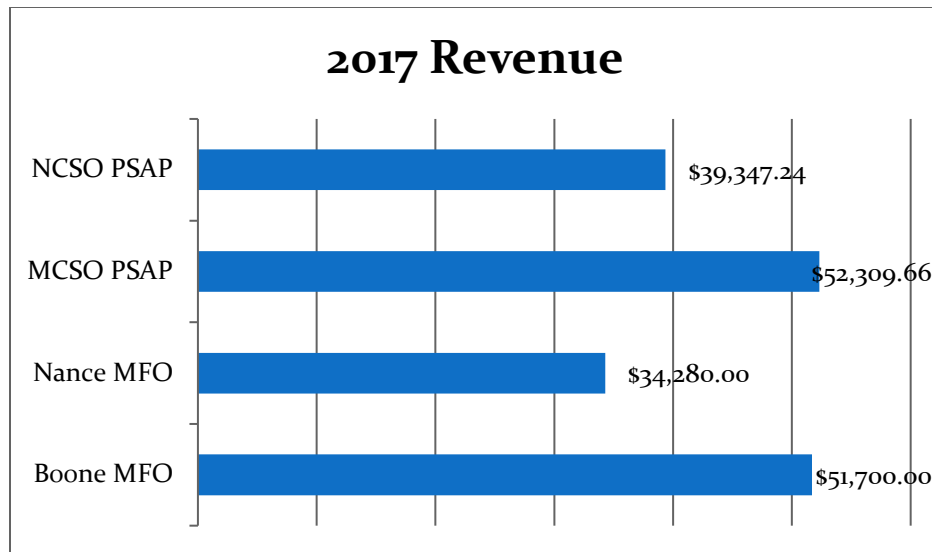


Figure 3: Non-Region 44 Emergency Management Revenue

Mutual Finance Organizations

As defined in Mutual Finance Assistance Act, a mutual finance organization (MFO) means a group of rural or suburban fire protection districts, cities, or villages which enter into an agreement pursuant to section NE Code 35-1204 to cooperate for purposes of financing operational and equipment needs for fire protection, emergency response, or training within their joint areas of operation³. The State Treasurer shall review all applications for eligibility for funds under the act and approve any application which is accurate and demonstrates that the applicant is eligible for funds.

Wireless E911 Fund (2913/2914)

Region 44 Emergency Management has assisted Merrick County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and Nance County Sheriff's Office PSAP in requesting and managing their wireless 911 funds. Wireless E911 telephone surcharges of \$0.45 per month are collected by the Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC)⁴ and distributed for use by Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) through a complex Wireless E911 Support Allocation Model. Loosely based on population, this allocation is determined by the PSC and distributed to the PSAPs in 12 monthly installments. The PSC has established a list of eligible expenses for the Wireless E911 funds that includes a number of E911-related expenses such as operating costs, dispatch personnel, 3rd party language translation services, and any training solely related to the wireless E911 system. In 2018, Region 44 Emergency Management will no longer be the primary contact for Nance Sheriff's Office and Merrick Sheriff's Office Wireless E911 budgets.

Program Reports

Regional and Statewide Interoperable Communications

The Emergency Management Department is actively involved in a number of regional and statewide projects contributing to communications interoperability between agencies, counties

³ <http://law.justia.com/codes/nebraska/2014/chapter-35/statute-35-1202>

⁴ http://www.psc.nebraska.gov/ntips/ntips_e911.html

and with the State of Nebraska. In November 2017, Region 44 Emergency Manager met with other East Central PET region representatives, NEMA, and a contractor to finalize draft of the East Central Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan. The plan is intended for use by first responders and may be used by governmental or non-governmental organizations and personnel requiring communications or coordination during an incident or planned event.

NRIN

Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) is an IP (“Internet Protocol”) microwave network using towers across the state. It will carry voice data and connect the 911 centers across the state. Currently NRIN supports the East Central 911 system connecting Boone County, Merrick County and Nance County Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). NRIN also has the potential for providing the connectivity for text to 911, state teletype, and many other data services necessary to 911 centers. NEMA is contracting on behalf of local government to build out the microwave network at more than 200 tower locations. In Region 44, there are 7 fully operational NRIN sites. In 2017, a connection was completed from the Boone County Tower to the KUSO tower to complete a redundant ring for the Boone County PSAP. The Region 44 Emergency Manager is a contact for issues with NRIN for the ECPET.

FirstNET

A mandate of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)⁵ as an independent authority within the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA). Their charge is to provide emergency responders with the first high-speed, nationwide network dedicated to public safety. The State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) was funded to assist the states with the information sharing, stakeholder identification and planning activities necessary at the local and state levels to provide FirstNet with the information they will need to design and build this network. The State of Nebraska has initiated a three year planning project funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) through the State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP). The purpose of the grant is to assist Nebraska and its local jurisdictions with the planning phase of this project in identifying their broadband needs for the build out of this Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. Half of the grant funds are retained to be used for the states data/infrastructure information collection portion of the grant. All of which will help with the state in consultation with FirstNet in the design of the Network in Nebraska to create a design plan for FirstNet to deliver to the Governor. When complete, the FirstNet system will provide public safety agencies with high speed data which can contribute to effective statewide access for mobile terminals, VOIP communications, interagency information sharing, 911 system sharing between PSAPs, and much more. In August 2017, Governor Ricketts notified FirstNet that the State of Nebraska will Opt-In and have FirstNet and AT&T build out the network across our state. Region44 Emergency Manager is the local contact for FirstNet.

Emergency Management Program

The Nebraska Emergency Management Act⁶ states that elected officers of local government are responsible for ensuring that emergency management services are provided to their citizens. This

⁵ <https://www.firstnet.gov/>

⁶ <https://nema.nebraska.gov/sites/nema.nebraska.gov/files/doc/nebraska-emergency-management-act.pdf>

includes a requirement to establish a local emergency management organization at the city, village, county or interjurisdictional level. Region 44 Emergency Management Program is based upon standards established by NFPA Standard 16007 and the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). These elements include:

- Administration & Finance
- Laws & Authorities
- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- Hazard Mitigation
- Prevention & Security
- Planning
- Incident Management
- Resource Management & Logistics
- Mutual Aid
- Communications & Warning
- Operations & Procedures
- Facilities
- Training
- Exercises, Evaluations & Corrective Actions
- Crisis Communication & Public Information



Emergency Operations Center

Region 44 Emergency Management does not have a single designated Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide a venue for the direction and control of resources by agency representatives from each of our major emergency partners. An EOC is organized to operate according to the Emergency Support Function (ESF) model used by FEMA and NEMA. FEMA defines ESFs as “mechanisms for grouping functions most frequently used to provide Federal support to States and Federal-to-Federal support, both for declared disasters and emergencies under the Stafford Act and for non-Stafford Act incidents.” As Federal, State and local resources are coordinated in a common ESF framework, a “resource conduit” of sorts is maintained whereby agencies with related duties and resources are easily connected for more efficient communication between the different levels of government. To that end, Region 44 Emergency Manager has explored various ways to establish and maintain an EOC. In the past year, Region 44 Emergency Manager has worked with partners to share EOC and Communications equipment; this includes a mobile emergency operations center use agreement. In 2017, the State Radio system and internet boosters were installed in the mobile EOC and Region 44 vehicle.

Incident Command System Training & Incident Management Team Development

Region 44 Emergency Management is continuing its efforts to develop a Type 4 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (IMT)⁷ within Region 44, regional, and with East Central PET. The IMT is team of trained emergency response professionals that will be specifically prepared to gather during large and uncommon incidents and events to coordinate our local response. IMT members will be prepared to fill specific rolls in the incident command structure and perform the necessary ICS functions of Command, Operations, Logistics, Planning, Finance & Administration, Public Information and Liaison. The IMT will be multi-agency team of 9-15 trained personnel that

⁷ https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/imt/imt_overview.html

responds to incidents that are typically contained within a few operational periods. Each ICS position will have people trained for that position in order to allow for the rotation of staff, redundancy of skill sets, and continuity of the team. The IMT may be dispatched to manage or help manage incidents requiring a significant number of local and mutual aid resources. Incidents that a IMT may be utilized at include severe weather incidents and their cascading impacts, major structure fires, multi-vehicle crashes with multiple patients, armed robbery operations, or a hazmat spill. The IMT may also be used at public events such as the County Fairs, and events along the River.

Local personnel have received position specific training in All Hazards Incident Commander, Planning Section Chief, Logistic Section Chief and Finance/Admin Section Chief. Future efforts to develop this IMT will include exercising the IMTs as outlined in the Region 44 Emergency Management 5-year training and exercise plan.

Public Information & Outreach

Region 44 Emergency Management is committed to informing and empowering the public in order to encourage personal preparedness. Region 44 Emergency Management does this through:

1. Public education and training sessions,
2. Sponsoring volunteer opportunities through Citizen Corps programs, and
3. Aggressive information sharing on social media (Facebook, Twitter).

Region 44 Emergency Management uses a diverse set of venues in order to provide public information to the widest possible audience. Region 44 Emergency Management provides presentations to local organizations and groups and sponsors regular training sessions such as CERT and Storm Spotting.

Emergency Warning Systems

Since December of 2014, Region 44 Emergency Management has contracted with AlertSense to provide internal and public mass notifications. Through AlertSense, Region 44 Emergency Management has the ability to notify internal staff and volunteers, as well as residents who have voluntarily registered for wireless alerts, including voice, text or email. In addition to wireless phone alerts, the AlertSense system provides access to FEMA's Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS). Federal, State, territorial, tribal and local alerting authorities can use IPAWS and integrate local systems that use Common Alerting Protocol standards with the IPAWS infrastructure. IPAWS provides public safety officials with an effective way to alert and warn the public about serious emergencies using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, and other public alerting systems from a single interface. Region 44 Emergency Management offers this capability to PSAPs, Sheriff's Office, City Administrators, and First Responders.

In addition to AlertSense, Region 44 Emergency Management supports city, village, and fire district outdoor warning siren projects. In March 2016, Region 44 Emergency Manager reached out to community clerks, administrators, and fire chiefs to gauge interest in a siren replacement project. Region 44 Emergency Management has identified only one siren owned and maintained by a county. All other sirens are owned, maintained, and operated by a city or village or fire district. Region 44 Emergency Management does not have operational control for any sirens within the area.

Planning, Exercise and Training

Maintaining a regular schedule of Planning, Exercises and Training (PET) opportunities is a primary mission of Region 44 Emergency Management. The process of maintaining a regular cycle of PET activities will allow local agencies to routinely update their plans and procedures, increase their technical skills and capabilities, and demonstrate the efficacy of their training through exercises. Exercise and training is outlined in the multi-year training and exercise plan. Each of these PET activities requires close and regular coordination with our local partners and each exercise is typically preceded by 6 months to a year of planning and training. Region 44 wrote an East Central Region Homeland Security Project Investment Justification to support Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) planning efforts. The project proposed \$175,000 COOP planning support for each county and PSAP in the East Central Region.

Region 44 Emergency Management assisted schools in meeting Nebraska Department of Education Title 92, Chapter 10, 011.01D requirements on reviewing safety and security plans. Region 44 Emergency Management is developing an internal process to meet the schools needs to develop comprehensive security and safety programs.

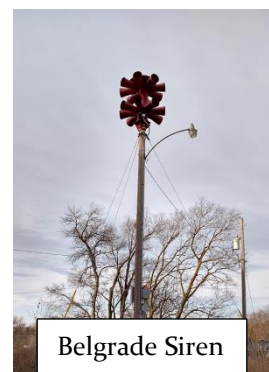
In 2017, new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) emergency planning requirements took place for Long Term Care Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities. These facilities are now required to develop emergency plans with their local emergency management office and exercise them yearly. Region 44 Emergency Management has assisted local facilities with planning and exercise development.

Hazard Mitigation Projects

Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. It is most effective when implemented under a comprehensive, long-term mitigation plan. Local governments engage in hazard mitigation planning to identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters and develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events. The 2017 Hazard Mitigation Planning process identified the following top hazards for each County;

Boone	Merrick	Nance
Dam Failure	Chemical Spills	Dam Failure
Severe Winter Storms	Drought	Drought
Severe Thunderstorms	Flooding	Extreme Heat
Hail	Hail	Flooding
Drought	Severe Thunderstorms	Severe Thunderstorms
Chemical Spills-Fixed Site		Severe Winter Storms

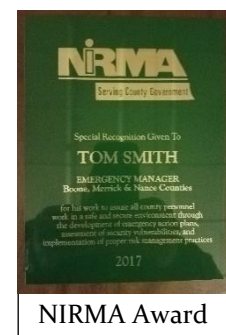
Throughout 2016 and early 2017, Region 44 Emergency Management has collaborated on, completed, and submitted updated documentation for Boone County, Merrick County, and Nance County. Multiple mitigation projects have been identified. In 2017, Region 44 Emergency Management completed applications for the Petersburg Generator (\$26,788.85), Fullerton Siren (\$23,338.88), Belgrade Siren (\$23,338.88), and Boone County All Hazard Radios (\$478.95). These projects were approved by the Governor's Task



Force for Disaster Response to submit to FEMA. Additionally, Emergency Management was approached by Central City Public School Superintendent to build a community safe room. Region 44 Emergency Management assisted in developing the notice of interest for the project for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant submission.

County Safety Programs and Planning

Region 44 Emergency Manager is a representative on each of the county Safety Committees. Region 44 Emergency Manager attended the 2017 NIRMA Conference to receive special recognition for the planning efforts done in all three counties. Emergency Action Plans for all three county courthouses were finalized. In 2017, Region 44 Emergency Management coordinated NIRMA fire extinguisher training in Merrick and Boone, facilitated three county emergency drills, presented safety plan orientation to Merrick County employees, applied for \$2,367.00 in NIRMA Assist funding, and participated in each county's safety meetings.

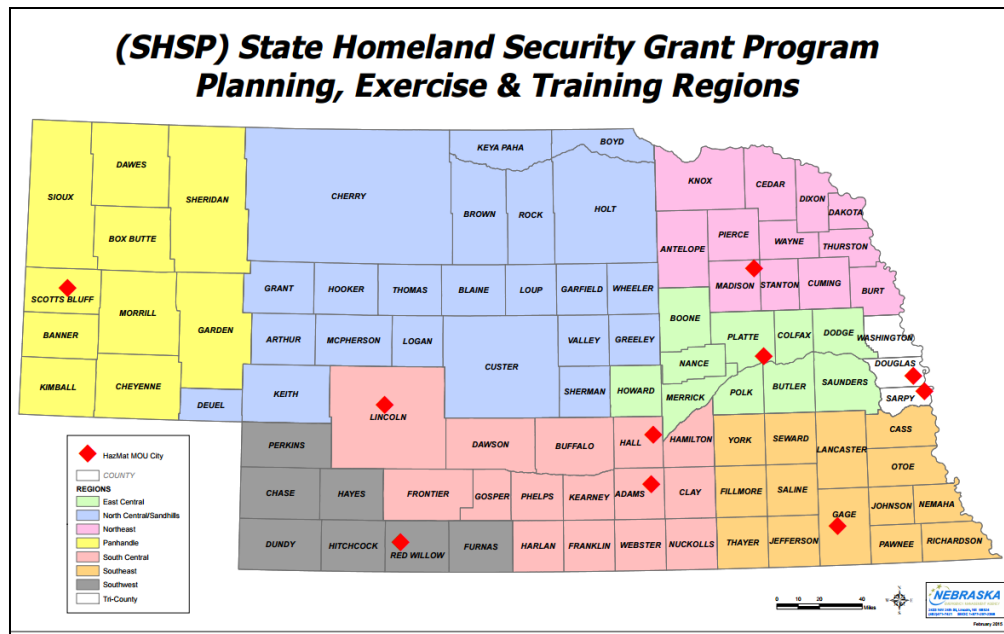


Regional Coordination

ECPET

Region 44 Emergency Management plays an active role in a number of regional emergency planning efforts in order to establish economies of scale, overcome geographical boundaries and logistical challenges, and to establish valuable working relationships with neighboring jurisdictions. The East Central Planning Exercise and Training Region (ECPET) was established by the State of Nebraska in 2007 and includes 10 counties from Howard to Dodge. The primary role served by the ECPET is management of the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP) for the jurisdictions within its 10 counties. Through the ECPET, local and regional projects are identified and submitted for funding by the SHSP. Successfully funded projects will align with State and National Homeland Security priorities and are carried out by the Region for the benefit of each affected jurisdiction. Examples of recent ECPET projects benefiting Counties within Region 44 Emergency Management include:

1. Purchase of Night Vision Goggles for County Sheriff's Office and the equipment building at the Boone County Tower Site.
2. Maintenance and rental costs for NRIN.
3. Law Enforcement tactical training, IMT position specific, exercise templates, and Advanced Professional Series Training Courses.
4. Purchase of equipment and software for ID credentialing and resource management through the Statewide Resource Manager program. The system allows local agencies to maintain an inventory of personnel, equipment and other resources with information regarding current training, credentialing, resource typing, and on-scene tracking.

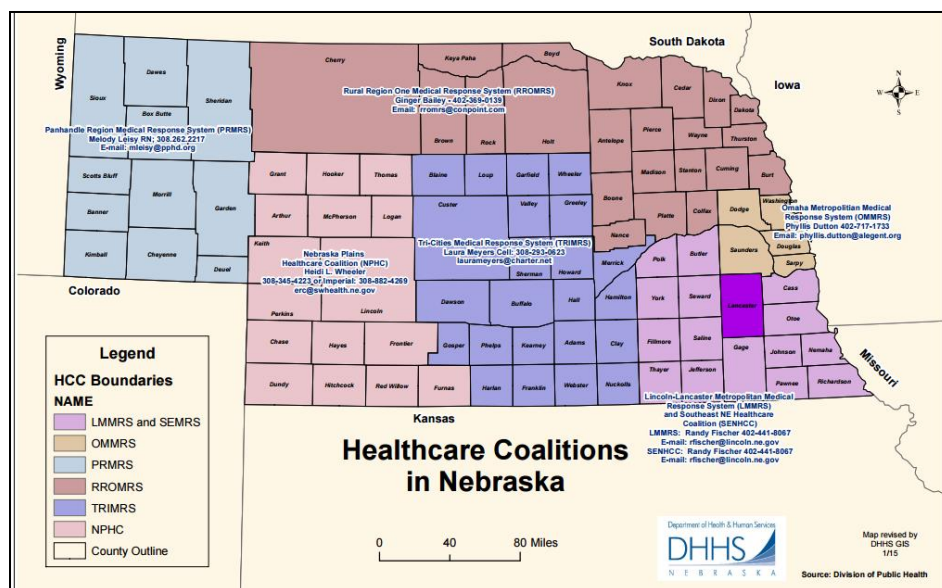


PET Regional Map

Medical Response System

The Medical Response System (MRS) was created to enhance the State of Nebraska's ability to respond to emergent and public health situations that involve a large number of people and/or disruption of services⁸. MRS acts as a catalyst to facilitate communication and cooperation among entities, allowing them to better plan for and respond to these situations through collaboration of efforts. In addition, MRS provides resources for training, education, exercises and communication enhancement as well as development of Medical Reserve Corps and assistance in the development of protocols for responding to surge capacity situations. The State of Nebraska is divided into six MRS regions each with its own steering committee which sets the goals and activities largely based upon the unique needs of the region. Region 44 Emergency Management collaborates with two MRS groups; Rural Region One Medical Response System (RRMRS) covers Boone and Nance Counties and Tri-Cities Medical Response System (TRIMRS) which covers Merrick County. Boone County is the custodian of RROMRS emergency hospital trailer and the RROMRS emergency hospital exercise trailer. Region 44 Emergency Management is the contact for use of RROMRS trailers.

⁸ [http://hptc.unmc.edu/nevolunteers/partners.htm#Nebraska Medical Response System](http://hptc.unmc.edu/nevolunteers/partners.htm#Nebraska%20Medical%20Response%20System)



Medical Response System Map

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Region 44 Emergency Manager services as the Information Coordinator, liaison to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)⁹, and fiscal agent for each County LEPC. Each County LEPC is a gathering of representatives in the county that have an



interest in hazardous materials safety. Members include representatives from the fire department, law enforcement, health care, schools, local industry, public health, others. As a group they identify potential risks that our community faces from hazardous chemicals stored in and/or transported around the community and assist in the updating and revision of the Local Emergency Operations Plan's (LEOP) Hazardous Materials Annex. The LEPCs seek ways to help minimize these risks, prevent accidents, and assist in the development of plans to deal with a chemical emergency.

Another core component of an LEPC is public education. Through the LEPC, the public can seek out information about chemicals in their community and establish safety plans at home and in the workplace. In 2017 Region 44 Emergency Management was nominated by the Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission and received the Nebraska-Small Population Award at the Region 7 LEPC Conference.



Citizen Corps Council & COAD

The use of volunteers has proven critical to emergency management. Both individual volunteers and established volunteer groups offer a wealth of skills and resources that can be used prior to, during, and after an emergency. Mobilizing the private sector can add significantly to emergency management programs. An important factor following a disaster; FEMA allows sub-grantees (city / town) to utilize volunteer time and donated resources to offset the local disaster cost share

⁹ <https://nema.nebraska.gov/tech-hazard/serc-state-emergency-response-commission>

(normally 25%) up to 100% of the disaster costs. In June 2017, Region 44 Emergency Management Coordinated with Corporation for National and Community Service to train local volunteers on how to organize volunteers following a disaster. The training was not conducted due to lack of sign-ups from the training.

COAD

Working together with local organizations, Emergency Management established a new group called the Region 44 Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD). COADs are used nationwide to coordinate the non-governmental and community organizations that have an active role, resources, or responsibilities to assist the public following a disaster. The COAD determined a mission statement, value statement, and bylaws. Regular meetings also allowed for members to introduce themselves to each other, define their resources capable of emergency response, and invited new organizations to the group. Region 44 COAD received support from the American Red Cross to host an April 2017 COAD table-top exercise and the June 2017 Volunteer Reception Center Training. Since the June training was not conducted, Region 44 worked with the American Red Cross to purchase brochures for the COAD.

Citizen Corps Council (CERT)

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors such as number of victims, communication failures and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate lifesaving and life sustaining needs¹⁰. In 2017, Region 44 CERT program



began its third year into the program plan. TheR44 CERT team trains monthly on activities to assist in developing core capabilities. CERT volunteers are issued emergency gear, participate in additional training and exercise opportunities, and are available for deployment in an incident. Region 44 is the East Central PET Region's representative on the State Citizen Corp Council and writes the East Central Region Homeland Security Project Investment Justification to support the PET region's volunteer programs.

Trainings completed by Region 44 CERT

- Orion Damage Assessment
- Storm Spotter Training
- Rapid TAG/Accountability
- START Triage
- Animal Rescue
- ICS/NIMS
- Leveraging and Cribbing
- Evaluating Victim
- EOC/ICS Interface

¹⁰ <https://www.fema.gov/about-community-emergency-response-team>

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