

# Nebraska Emergency Management/ Homeland Security Program



# 2019 PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES REPORT



The State of Nebraska's annual report on the priorities, goals and objectives supporting the National Preparedness Goal and associated activities funded through the Department of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Grant Program

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**State of Nebraska**  
**Office of Homeland Security**  
**2019 Status of the Nebraska Emergency Management/Homeland Security Program**

29 January 2020

Governor Pete Ricketts  
Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley  
Homeland Security Policy Group  
Legislative Appropriations Committee  
Executive Board of the Legislative Council

***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

Pursuant to Nebraska RRS 81-830, Office of Homeland Security, this is the yearly report for FY2019 program activities within the state in support of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This report contains the identified state priorities, goals, and objectives in support of the National Preparedness Goal and the associated activities funded through the DHS Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) for FY2019.

Nebraska faces similar threats from terrorism and natural disasters as any other state. Although Nebraska's central location may mitigate potential threats from international terrorism, its small, dispersed population, large agricultural and food processing industry, electrical grid, and telecommunications capabilities are potential targets that must be addressed within the context of the total state program. The challenge for Nebraska is to programmatically build an emergency management/homeland security program that effectively leverages our statewide resources and capabilities. This is an exceedingly complex task that requires regional coordination, cooperation, and a focused effort from local, tribal, state, and federal partners, the state's citizens, and private and nonprofit sectors.

Three main areas of focus for the Nebraska Emergency Management/Homeland Security Program are reflected in the FY2019 HSGP investment justifications<sup>1</sup>:

1. **Planning Exercise and Training (PET) Program/National Incident Management System (NIMS):** This program focuses on enhancing capabilities through regional, comprehensive, and progressive planning, exercises, and training. Additionally, the state continues to maintain an emphasis on the Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS), as per the governor's executive order #0502.
2. **Interoperable Communications:** The state emergency management/homeland security program is developing an interoperable public safety network, recognizing the importance of interoperable, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-agency communications during emergencies.
3. **CBRNE Cities & Emergency Response:** Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) threats exist across the state. Ten hazardous materials teams, located across the state, provide hazardous materials response through a state memorandum of understanding (MOU) and local mutual aid agreements.

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<sup>1</sup> Investment justifications are submitted to DHS and must demonstrate how proposed projects address gaps and deficiencies in current programs and capabilities. Investment justifications are part of the evaluation criteria used by DHS when allocating grant funds.

In addition to these three main focus areas, the state also submitted investment justifications for programs in four additional areas: Agriculture Response and Recovery, Law Enforcement Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and the Intelligence and Fusion Center Process, Citizen Corps, and the Metropolitan Medical Response System.

The state and local jurisdictions remains focused on the priorities and programs identified in the State Homeland Security Strategy and continue to build a strong program that is relevant, prudent for Nebraska, supportive of, and can integrate with, the National Preparedness Goal.

Beginning in FY2012, DHS linked the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) under the umbrella of the HSGP. The Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) and Citizen Corps Program (CCP) are no longer funded as distinct grant programs. However, all activities and costs allowed under the FY2011 Citizen Corps Program (CCP) and FY2011 Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) grant program were allowable and encouraged under the FY2019 HSGP. Grant rules required that 25 percent of the total funds awarded under the SHSP be distributed in support of law enforcement terrorism prevention activities linked to one or more core capabilities within the National Preparedness Goal.

### **FY2019 Homeland Security Grant Program Overview (HSGP):<sup>2</sup>**

FY2019 funds were allocated based on three factors: 1) the legislatively mandated minimum amount, 2) DHS' risk methodology, and 3) anticipated effectiveness of the projects proposed, based on the strengths of the state's investment justifications. Based upon the submitted FY2019 investment justifications and the risk analysis for the state, Nebraska was awarded the congressionally mandated base line allocation of **\$4,077,500** for the SHSP. The state had no federally-designated UASI cities in FY2019, and therefore did not receive any UASI funds.

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP): The SHSP supports state, tribal, territorial, and local preparedness activities that address high priority preparedness gaps across all core capabilities that support terrorism preparedness.

After the 2019 investment justifications were accepted by DHS, the funds Nebraska received were allocated to the local level, within 45 days, to pre-designated projects that resulted from a regional investment justifications process. A regionally-designated administrative county received the funds and oversaw program integration and progress with the assistance of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the state administrative agency (SAA).

The Nebraska 2019 HSGP investment justifications were built upon the state having a comprehensive, leveraged program approach, involving state and local program capabilities that support each other with the flexibility to integrate into the National Planning Frameworks. The 2019 investment justifications submitted by Nebraska were the result of a collaborative effort involving the 10 CBRNE hazardous materials response teams, the wide spectrum of first responders from across the state, the MMRS programs, public health departments, volunteers/citizen corps, the state planning team, and the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group.

There has been a focused effort, since 1999, to build upon the initial State Homeland Security Strategy. Since the start of the program, funding has been utilized to meet Nebraska's identified risk, threats, and vulnerabilities, in order to strengthen capabilities, planning, training, and exercise programs across the broad spectrum of needs. Nebraska supports the National Preparedness Goal through the application of a systems-based approach, utilizing capabilities-based planning as a common, all-hazard, major-events planning process. This provides a mechanism for measuring

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<sup>2</sup> Fiscal Year 2018 Homeland Security Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity, pg. 2.

preparedness and identifying future preparedness investments. All of the emergency response processes, programs, and capabilities already in place within our state, local, tribal, and private sector homeland security programs, across all disciplines, support the National Preparedness Goal.

Nebraska's homeland security program provides a way to enhance these existing resources by networking them together more effectively. This report details how Nebraska continues to build on past successes and expand its capabilities in gap areas related to the regionalization of equipment, resources, and programs supported by previous homeland security grants.

The homeland security program, and the allocation of grant dollars at both the state and local level, supported seven primary investment justifications. What follows is a brief overview of these investment justifications. Each investment section includes a brief history of the investment, an explanation of the current status of the investment, and a description of the future of the investment with any foreseeable challenges.

**Investment Justification #1: Nebraska State and Regional Planning, Exercising, and Training (PET)**

This investment includes sustainment and enhancement of a planning, exercise, and training process that has been used for several years within the state. It sustains the current training and exercising philosophy that is built each year into the training, exercise, and planning workshop (TEPW) and integrated into the state and regional three-year exercise training calendars. It enhances the process by completing the Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) process, integrating state/regional public health and MMRS programs into planning, developing risk assessment tools for the public and private sector, and integrating technical assistance provisions from the state into the state/local/regional/tribal planning process.

In 2019, Nebraska continued the core capabilities-based PET program within the eight PET regions. NEMA continues to assist the PET regions in the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) process within their exercise programs. This process includes strategic planning, exercise design, development, evaluation, and improvement planning. Using the three-year training and exercise



calendar, we were able to align training and exercising across the regions. All training and exercises done in the regions using HSGP funds were HSEEP and NIMS compliant. This investment is intended to address capabilities at the state/local/regional/tribal level. The priority core capabilities identified at the annual training and exercise and planning workshop include operational communications, operational coordination, and situational assessment. Additionally, this investment continues to support the state NIMS program, the state/local/regional/tribal integration into, and support for, the National Response Framework, as well as the continued development of an all-

hazards incident management team. Nebraska maintains a system of online credentialing of staff and equipment; this program continues to grow, giving local jurisdictions the ability to identify people with the appropriate training and qualifications for the needed response during disasters.

### **Investment Justification #2: Nebraska Interoperable Communications**

The state has several communications initiatives that are federally funded and supported through NEMA. These grant-funded projects are managed by NEMA with oversight from a communications council.

#### **Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN)**

The NRIN project is a point-to-point microwave connection of public safety access points on a single, redundant network. When finished, NRIN will provide county officials high speed, secure transport services for data, as well as a primary or backup dispatch system. The NRIN system will continue to grow as more users realize the capabilities and benefits of the system.

The NRIN Governance Board was created to manage the network and ensure that it meets the demands that a high-speed, secure network requires. The governance board has selected a diverse group of members that have been subdivided into specific working groups. Among some of the duties for this board are sustainment of the network, educating local government officials on NRIN, leasing, and maintenance.

2019 brought many changes that assisted in sustainability and funding for materials, on-site visits and general maintenance issues. These changes were made available to all of the local entities that utilize the network and for those that are just coming on to the system. There are now 22 public safety answering points (PSAPs) that are monitoring the network 24/7.

Another advancement in 2019 was the partnership with Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) for primary technical assistance and management of the core of the network. This has been a great opportunity for both NRIN as well as NPPD.

Local law enforcement agencies are migrating onto the state's P25 digital statewide radio system (SRS) as the need to upgrade their communications technology becomes a priority. NRIN is used by several local dispatch centers to connect their upgraded console systems to the SRS core, expanding their access to shared communications resources with other state and local agencies. The state Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) operates the SRS on behalf of state, local and federal agencies, with regular outreach and training provided for agencies across the state. By making a concerted effort to follow up on small sections and finalize individual sites, the redundancy has become stronger and more robust for the entire network.

#### **Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council (NPSCC)**

Through executive order 12-01, the NPSCC was created to provide policy-level direction, leadership and promote public safety communications development and interoperability in the state. Directed by the State Homeland Security Director, the council holds periodic meetings to review grant-funded projects and activities and interoperability progress. Representation on NPSCC includes members from the Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska State Fire Marshal, Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska Public Power District, each of the eight planning, exercise and training (PET) regions, Nebraska League of Municipalities and Nebraska Association of County Officials.



NPSCC achieved the goal of creating a full-time position for the statewide interoperability coordinator (SWIC) and the single point of contact (SPOC) to be employed under the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Additionally, the board is also the SME for the investment justification (IJ) process for all communications issues and requests. Their approval or disapproval of projects is the last step before the IJ moves to the Homeland Security Policy Group.

NPSCC will continue its work with the four (4) large statewide initiative, SRS, NRIN, FirstNet and, the ESINet project. A main focus will be on developing NRIN and opportunities to use the network for interoperable communications.

Priorities for Nebraska interoperable communications include:

1. Complete installation and implementation of the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network.
2. Outreach, educating and training on the national interoperability frequencies
3. Train and exercise state and local tactical interoperable communications plans (TICPs)
4. Continue outreach and training on NRIN capabilities and uses
5. Coordinate statewide communications planning through the SWIC/State HS Director, NEMA, and NSP
6. Work toward the completion of the network.

### **Investment Justification #3: Nebraska CBRNE Cities and Emergency Response Planning**

The hazmat program in Nebraska dates back to 1999, when NEMA established agreements with ten local fire departments with the goal of creating a CBRNE program that has the ability to respond, stabilize, and mitigate a hazardous materials incident within our borders.

Over the years, the program has grown and expanded. Members of the hazmat community have attended national trainings and challenges, coming back from the Los Alamos National Hazmat Challenge taking 1<sup>st</sup> place in the obstacle course in 2018. They continue to maintain their skill set while expanding into new technology. Responses continue to rise both nationally and locally.

Long term goals include the continuation of updating plans, equipment always needs repaired and replaced, and the on-going training to maintain the standards. Particular emphasis is being placed on training, as several departments have experienced significant turnover in personnel.



Nebraska has developed a robust, multi-layered strategy for responding to hazardous material incidents. The Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team (NHIT) is a joint team made up of hazmat technicians from various state agencies. They are stationed across the state for rapid response to incidents and form the first layer of hazmat response in Nebraska. The second layer is ten fire departments statewide with MOUs with the state to provide a full team of trained technicians at any location in the state. The third layer is the 72<sup>nd</sup> Civil Support Team of the Nebraska National Guard, which can provide high-level analysis and detection of potential hazards.

Members of the Nebraska hazmat response community have continued to train to the highest standards and competed in national competitions. They have also responded to real-world incidents that could have caused severe damage to life and property if not contained.

Looking forward, training remains a top priority for all teams. Turnover in departments requires new members to step forward to fulfill the role of hazmat technician. The state will ensure these responders are given the best available training to safely fulfill their mission.

#### **Investment Justification #4: Nebraska Agriculture Response and Recovery**

Beginning in 2003, Nebraska used funding from the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) to increase the state's ability to deal with threats to agriculture and the food supply. These funds continue to support two main focus areas: local planning and education and the Livestock Emergency Disease Response System (LEDRS).

The LEDRS system was developed in 2002 so private sector veterinarians across Nebraska could be activated, as needed, during a livestock emergency, and continues to provide planning and exercise opportunities to private veterinarians and other LEDRS members each year. In 2019, SHSP partially funded the LEDRS Conference, which was held in Broken Bow, August 6-7. The conference presented information on timely topics such as African Swine Fever, responding to a foreign animal disease, advances in technology and traceability, and donning and doffing PPE. LEDRS continues to get participants credentialed, according to policy for emergency response activities. This year, approximately 25 people took all the training to qualify as either a LEDRS veterinarian or licensed animal health technician. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) coordinated with Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to monitor attendance at the conference with the use of the rapid-tag software program.

This year, NDA has been focusing on planning and preparedness. NDA has been working with livestock groups on implementing the Secure Food Plans in the livestock sectors to better prepare producers in the event of a disease outbreak. With African Swine Fever rapidly spreading throughout the Eastern Hemisphere, and the recent Bovine Tuberculosis outbreaks, many producers are seeing the importance of these plans.

One of NDA's biggest challenges is being prepared for the next emergency. It became apparent during the outbreak of 2015 that our staff needed more ICS training. NDA has implemented the policy that all staff are required to take at least the basic ICS courses (100, 200, 700, and 800). Employees that are needed to fill a command or general staff position will be required to take ICS 300 and 400. It is our goal to have most ICS positions relevant to an animal disease response staffed 3 deep within our department.





## **Investment Justification #5: Law Enforcement Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and the Intelligence and Fusion Center Process**

This investment justification is a combined focus on the Law Enforcement Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Response and Planning and Intelligence and Fusion Center processes. The efforts of the fusion center and IED response are intended to further the state's ability to detect, prevent, respond to, and recover from a terrorist event, or natural disaster. The investment justification builds on the national priorities of strengthening information sharing and collaboration capabilities within the state, at the regional level, and with federal partners. The fusion center process is carried out through the Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC).



The NIAC integrates data from many state and local data sources, including the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP), Lincoln Police Department, Omaha Police Department (OPD), North Platte Police Department, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Gothenburg Police Department, Grand Island Police Department, the Adams County Sheriff's Office, and the University of Nebraska Police Department, with the NSP providing day-to-day leadership. Among its many accomplishments this year, the NIAC was instrumental in providing intelligence products which helped thwart a potential active shooter incident on Offutt Air Force Base. Additionally, the NIAC also supported flood operations with 400 hours over 16 days from 11 personnel.

IED response and planning is used to ensure all accredited bomb squads in Nebraska have adequate capabilities and equipment for responses to explosive-related incidents across Nebraska. There are four accredited bomb squads in Nebraska that employ hazardous device technicians (HDTs). The agencies maintaining bomb squads are the NSP, OPD, Lincoln Bureau of Fire Prevention, and the Scottsbluff Police Department. While not receiving federal homeland security funds, the Nebraska National Guard's 155th Air Refueling Wing has an explosive ordinance response team comprised of full-time and part-time personnel, many of whom have combat IED experience. While their primary mission deals with ordinance, they could be used for IED response.

Since 2015, the NIAC has included non-sworn individuals into its fusion liaison officer (FLO) program, with representatives from the emergency management, fire, and public utility communities. This year, crime analysts assigned in each troop area were absorbed under the umbrella of the NIAC leadership. This structure will assist with a unified team approach to accomplish the mission/vision of the NIAC. To date, the NIAC has trained partners representing more than 64 state, local, and federal agencies. The NIAC has different product lines shared to efficiently promote situational awareness, provide tactical support and respond to requests for information from all of our state and local partners.

Nebraska's bomb squads continue to train and enhance capabilities with specialized equipment obtained through the grant process. HDTs attended and successfully completed courses put on by both the FBI and ATF this past year. Some of the locations that were attended by Nebraska bomb squads are: Huntsville, AL (basic and advance training), Winter Park, CO (Ravens Challenge), and Bloomington, MN (IABTI seminar). Along with some of the specialty courses, Nebraska's bomb squads took part in a statewide training held in Omaha this year with Federal Assets teaching the tactics of detection of nuclear type weapons. Future plans for the Nebraska bomb squads will continue training in some of the following areas: 2020 Raven's Challenge sponsored by the ATF in

Iowa, Advance Training schools with ATF/FBI, and Statewide training with the Nebraska bomb squads.

The Nebraska Information Analysis Center mission is to provide and/or enhance the usability of methods to share as much information as possible. We are working toward providing our internal and external customers the quickest, easiest, platform to enter, search, and use information. Additionally, our future direction is to provide both tactical and strategic intelligence to all public safety partners through enhanced training and collaboration. Our customers expect and need timely, relevant products in order to do their jobs safely and help ensure the safety of Nebraska citizens.

All the bomb squads are part-time squads, with the HDTs having other primary duties within their respective agencies. This creates challenges in maintaining monthly training hours in accordance with national standards/guidelines. This part-time status also challenges the bomb squads in equipment maintenance and proficiencies. Law enforcement in general, but specifically the bomb squads, are challenged in the enforcement of explosive/IED-related statutes. Nebraska currently has outdated and contradicting statutes with regard to explosives and/or IEDs, making effective prosecution and public safety a challenge. Major emergency scenes can necessitate federal, state, and local agencies working together. With this potential type of event involving so many different entities, the need to train together is imperative on a yearly basis.

**Investment Justification #6: Nebraska Citizen Corps Program**

The Nebraska Citizen Corps Program continues to actively engage the public in disaster preparedness and response, through education, training, and volunteer opportunities. Nebraska Citizen Corps programs were actively involved in the response to the 2019 Nebraska floods, as well as a number of preparedness and response activities across Nebraska. These activities included: playing an integral role in shelter setup and management during the onset of the disaster, assisting local emergency management in damage assessment, sand bagging operations, volunteer and donation management, door-to-door community outreach in disaster stricken areas, debris cleanup, volunteering at local preparedness and disaster survivor resource events, training alongside other volunteer responders, assisting with public health initiatives, and presenting at regional and national conferences.



This year, the Nebraska Citizen Corps Council's annual Nebraska Preparedness Conference was held in Bellevue. Attendees from all across Nebraska had the opportunity to receive a multitude of trainings that included: traffic incident management, hands only CPR, Act F.A.S.T. (First Arrival Simple Treatment), and rapid shelter team setup/shelter management training. Participants also were able to learn from local and national experts about disaster and preparedness response, learned how NEMA and FEMA functioned during the 2019 floods, and had the opportunity to participate in a full-scale disaster exercise in setting up a shelter.

The Nebraska Citizen Corps also continued working with Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and University of Nebraska Extension to deliver a volunteer reception center training in Ogallala.

The Nebraska Citizen Corps continues to engage with local agencies and organizations to reach as many people as possible and to take an active role in preparedness and response activities throughout the state. Nebraska Citizen Corps strives to create a stronger presence within emergency management, disaster preparedness, and response by working with the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group, and continues to promote personal preparedness through various local, state, regional, and federal activities.

### **Investment Justification #7: Nebraska Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)**

The MMRS program is specifically targeted to the Omaha Metropolitan Healthcare Coalition (OMHCC) region. Specific funds were identified for Omaha to address the medical response to an all-hazards environment and link the MMRS system to the state's homeland security program.

In 2019, OMHCC participated in a number of exercises and trainings, working with both internal and external community stakeholders. Examples include the 2019 OMHCC/NRDHRE Tabletop Exercise (TTX), the 2019 Muddy Waters OMHCC Evacuation FSE, the Coalition Surge Test (CST) and the 2019 OMHCC Ebola Tabletop Exercise (TTX). The TTX and FSE focused on the evacuation of Clarkson Tower at Nebraska Medicine and the evacuation of Children's Hospital, respectively. Participants included emergency management agencies, emergency medical services, public health departments, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other healthcare organizations and coalition partners.

The OMHCC also conducted bi-annual communications drills, participated in the Seasonal Flu Vaccine FSE, conducted a training needs assessment survey, and responded during the March flooding. The OMHCC was activated from 3/13/2019 to 4/10/2019. The AAR is available upon request.



In the last year, the healthcare coalition has implemented several changes and has restructured. The OMHCC replaced the dissolved emergency coordination center (ECC) with a new OMHCC Representative model. The new plan is to have OMHCC representatives available to be assigned, either virtually or in-person, at each of the region's five emergency operations centers (EOCs), if opened and upon request. This change is meant to

simplify and streamline OMHCC assistance to the healthcare system and emergency management in an event. The OMHCC now has two standing committees, the Executive Committee and the General Membership Committee, and seven workgroups. The forty-five OMMRS planning documents have been condensed into one OMHCC Preparedness and Response Plan. Several planning sessions were held with multiple OMHCC partners to solicit feedback on the new plan. The OMHCC has also started to implement the use of

Knowledge Center, a web-based information sharing and emergency management platform. The goal is to have one platform for all OMHCC member organizations to use to create a common operating picture in the time of an incident.

With limited funding, the OMHCC is evaluating all resources currently stockpiled. The Equipment and Resources workgroup and the Executive Committee will determine whether resources will be kept or disposed of following the 2CFR200's *Property Standards*. Due to employee turnover at OMHCC facilities, it will be an ongoing challenge to keep individuals and organizations informed and trained. The OMHCC Exercise and Training Workgroup has developed a Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan (MYTEP), is using the results of the training needs assessment survey to establish a training schedule for the coming year, and will continue to take steps to increase membership and participation. Another challenge will be the continued use of Knowledge Center by response partners. The OMHCC is working with the Nebraska Regional Disaster Health Response EcoSystem (NRDHRE) through Nebraska Medicine to develop strategies to enhance buy-in and collaboration. The OMHCC coordinator is helping to train new users on the Knowledge Center system.

The OMHCC values the SHSG and its partners within the Tri-County region. This funding is necessary in order to continue forward movement on disaster planning as it relates to the healthcare system.

## Conclusion

The Office of the Lt. Governor, and the Homeland Security Policy Group, continue to lead the overall homeland security effort for the state of Nebraska. Due to the composition and complexity of the DHS grants, many of the grant activities for FY2019 are just beginning to be implemented. However, some of the current funding is already being used to enhance and sustain existing programs. The Nebraska Emergency Management/Homeland Security Program is integrated into the Nebraska Homeland Security Strategy, and focused on long-term accomplishments and capabilities.

Planning for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating natural and manmade disasters is not a one-time event. It is not just a box to be “checked off”; it is an ongoing process designed to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska from the damage, injury, and loss of life and property associated with disasters and emergencies.

The state’s homeland security program has matured a great deal since the events of September 11, 2001. This can be seen in the continued development of the Nebraska Information and Analysis Center under a collaborative environment between the NSP and federal and local law enforcement agencies, the build-out of state and local communication systems, and the enhanced hazardous material response systems across the state. There has also been a tremendous increase in training and inter-agency cooperation, at both the state and local level, as evidenced by county emergency managers that come together and deploy to a disaster scene and assist with the tracking of volunteers and resources, and NEMA’s progress toward the creation of a type-III incident management team that can deploy to help local officials manage larger disasters. When the Nebraska program was established, decisions were made to support the program through existing state agencies and consolidate the executive requirements for homeland security under the Office of the Lt. Governor. Although we anticipate increased scrutiny at the federal level, in terms of funding support, we believe the state of Nebraska made good decisions that resulted in increased security and readiness for the entire state.

Currently, funds received by the state support 100% of the state’s administrative homeland security program and 20% of the costs to programmatically carry out the state’s homeland security and emergency management program. These funds also support up to 80% of the local emergency management programs across the state. It is almost certain that in future budget cycles, the state will be asked to determine the level of support we should continue to give toward the state’s homeland security program, based upon the changing environment for funding support from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Such reductions in funding would eventually lead to extended timelines for the completion of on-going communication projects and reductions in homeland security programs within NEMA, negatively affecting the state’s ability to enact and carry out the state emergency management and homeland security program.



Daryl Bohac  
Major General  
NEMA Director



Bryan Tuma  
NEMA Assistant Director  
DHS State Administrative Agent

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**Attachments:**

Acronyms and Terms

List of Members of the Homeland Security Policy Group

Nebraska PET Regions/MOU Hazardous Materials Response Teams Regional Map

2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program Totals

Executive Order 12-01

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## Acronyms and Terms

**CBRNE:** Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear and Explosive

**CCP:** Citizen Corps Program

**DHS:** United States Department of Homeland Security

**FEMA:** Federal Emergency Management Agency

**Fusion Center:** an intelligence-gathering and analysis center used to promote sharing of information among local, state and federal agencies as well as non-governmental business partners

**Haz Mat:** Hazardous Materials

**HDT:** Hazardous Device Technician

**Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP):** a capabilities and performance-based exercise program that provides a standardized methodology and terminology for exercise design, development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning<sup>1</sup>

**Homeland Security Policy Group:** led by the lieutenant governor, this group assesses strategic alternatives and recommends broad courses of action for the development of comprehensive homeland security strategies

**HSGP:** Homeland Security Grant Program

**IED:** Improvised Explosive Device

**Incident Command System (ICS):** consists of a standard hierarchical organization and procedures used to manage incidents

**Investment Justification:** method by which the state explains its planned use for Homeland Security grant funds

**MMRS:** Metropolitan Medical Response System

**MOU:** Memorandum of Understanding

**National Incident Management System (NIMS):** a framework used in the United States for both governmental and non-governmental agencies to respond to natural or manmade disasters at the local, state, and federal levels of government

**National Planning Scenarios:** Fifteen all-hazards planning scenarios for use in preparedness activities. They represent the range of natural and manmade disasters

**National Preparedness Goal:** The President directed the development of a National Preparedness Goal (or Goal) in Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-8. The Goal reorients how the Federal government proposes to strengthen the preparedness of the United States to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. The Goal establishes a vision, capabilities, and priorities for national preparedness.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> HSEEP Website, <https://hseep.dhs.gov/>

<sup>2</sup> National Preparedness Goal, iii

**National Priorities:** 8 national priorities that are to be used to help guide preparedness goals and reflect major themes and issues identified through national strategies <sup>3</sup>

**NEMA:** Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

**PET:** Planning, Exercise and Training

**SHSP:** State Homeland Security Program

**State Homeland Security Strategy:** identifies a strategic direction for enhancing the State of Nebraska's capability and capacity to detect, prevent against, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats or incidents of terrorism, disasters, and major emergencies.<sup>4</sup>

**Target Capabilities List:** 37 specific capabilities that communities, the private sector, and all levels of government should collectively possess in order to respond effectively to disasters.<sup>5</sup>

**UASI:** Urban Area Security Initiative

**Universal Task List (UTL):** 1,600 unique tasks that can facilitate efforts to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from the major events that are represented by the National Planning Scenarios. It presents a common vocabulary and identifies key tasks that support development of essential capabilities among organizations at all levels.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> National Preparedness Guidelines, 1

<sup>4</sup> 2009 Nebraska Homeland Security Strategy and Goals, 1

<sup>5</sup> National Preparedness Guidelines, iii

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

# Members of the 2019 Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group

## Appointed Members

Lt. Governor Mike Foley  
Homeland Security Director

Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac  
Adjutant General, Nebraska Military Department

Colonel John Bolduc  
Superintendent, Nebraska State Patrol

Chancellor Jeffrey Gold  
Chancellor, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Christopher Cantrell  
Nebraska State Fire Marshal

Steve Wellman  
Director, Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Dannette Smith  
Chief Executive Officer, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Ed Toner  
Chief Information Officer

Bryan Tuma  
Assistant Director, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Gary Anthon, MD  
Chief Medical Officer, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Cheryl Wolff  
Governor's Policy Research Office

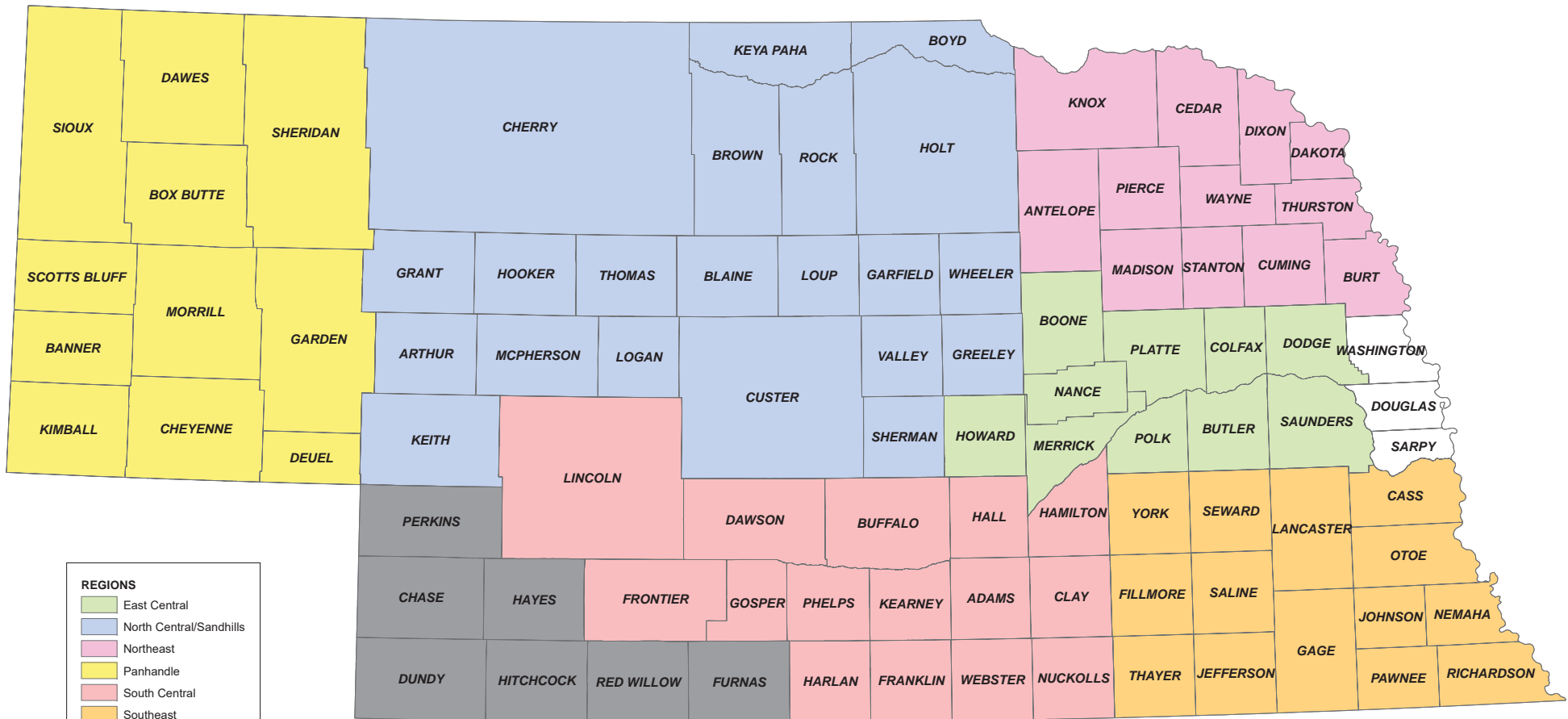
Jason Kruger, MD  
Public Health/Medical Response Preparedness

## Ex Officio Members

Chairperson, Government, Military and Veteran Affairs Committee  
Nebraska State Legislature

Chairperson, Appropriations Committee  
Nebraska State Legislature

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**REGIONS**

- East Central
- North Central/Sandhills
- Northeast
- Panhandle
- South Central
- Southeast
- Southwest
- Tri-County

# Regional PET

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Region	Citizen Corps	Hazmat MOU Team(s)	LETPP	Comm	PET	Cyber	Total
East Central	\$ 950	\$ 20,000		\$ 15,000	\$ 35,033	\$ 4,200	\$ 75,183
North Central	\$ 8,000		\$ 29,250	\$ 108,255	\$ 135,526	\$ 16,000	\$ 297,031
Northeast		\$ 20,000		\$ 116,219	\$ 52,336		\$ 188,555
Panhandle	\$ 9,200	\$ 20,000	\$ 18,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 76,500		\$ 139,200
South Central	\$ 24,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 74,881		\$ 60,000		\$ 203,881
Southeast	\$ 25,000			\$ 11,900	\$ 27,500	\$ 75,000	\$ 139,400
Southwest	\$ 3,000	\$ 20,000		\$ 40,000	\$ 19,000		\$ 82,000
Tri-County	\$ 46,054	\$ 40,000	\$ 102,654	\$ 305,000	\$ 128,700		\$ 622,408
							\$ 1,747,658

Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team*	\$ 19,981	
Agriculture**	\$ 55,000	
Citizen Corps Program***	\$ 123,286	
Fusion Center†	\$ 302,890	
Hazardous Device Technicians††	\$ 278,450	
Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network†††	\$ 715,235	
Metropolitan Medical Response System‡	\$ 19,500	\$ 1,514,342

Total Award to Local Units of Government **\$ 3,262,000**

(\*Funds transferred via MOU from the East Central Region)

(\*\*Funds transferred via MOU from the Northeast Region)

(\*\*\*Funds transferred via MOU from the Panhandle Region)

(†Funds transferred via MOU from the Panhandle Region)

(††Funds transferred via MOU from the Panhandle Region)

(†††Funds transferred via MOU from the East Central and South Central regions)

(‡Funds transferred via MOU from the Tri-County Regions)

Remaining 20% Kept at the State Level per Grant Guidance **\$ 815,500**

NEMA: \$611,625 (funds allocated to the PET program and Maintenance and Administration)

NSP: \$203,875 (funds allocated to the Nebraska Fusion Information Network (NFIN))

Total Award Amount **\$ 4,077,500**

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EXECUTIVE ORDER  
No. 12-01  
ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS –  
Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council

WHEREAS, Nebraska recognized the importance of public safety and protection of public and private property throughout the state: and

WHEREAS, efficient emergency response is paramount to the safety of Nebraska's citizens and visitors, and for the protection of public and private property throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, emergency responders commonly rely upon radio frequencies and technologies that are often not planned or configured to be interoperable with other systems; and

WHEREAS, interoperable public safety communications between and within jurisdictions is critical to the mission of public safety; and

WHEREAS, the attainment of interoperable communications requires statewide coordination and leadership,

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Nebraska, I hereby establish the "Nebraska Public Safety Communications Council (hereinafter "NPSCC"). The NPSCC will function as a Council to operate under the guidance and direction of the State Homeland Security Director / State Wireless Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) with the following purposes and charges:

1. Provide for the policy level direction related to the planning and decisions regarding development, operation and sustainability of inoperability in the State of Nebraska;
2. Provide leadership regarding the development of public safety communications within Nebraska;
3. Adopt bylaws for the operation of the Council;
4. Promote interoperability for public safety communications within Nebraska, and with border states;
5. Provide recommendations for the development of protocols, standard operating procedures and guidelines for use of public safety communications systems in Nebraska;
6. Coordinate and provide planning, training and exercise opportunities related to communications interoperability for all necessary and authorized public safety practitioners;
7. Establish working groups, as required, to meet the needs of providing interoperability within Nebraska. NPSCC will provide guidance on recommendations that come from these working groups; and
8. Develop recommendations and strategies for best utilization of public funds, including grants, to improve public safety communications in Nebraska.

The NPSCC shall be comprised of a representative who has been vested by the appointing authority to represent the following agencies or organizations:

- a. A Nebraska State Patrol representative, who shall be appointed by the Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol;
- b. A Nebraska Game and Parks Commission representative, who shall be appointed by the Commission's Executive Director;
- c. A Nebraska Fire Marshal representative, who shall be appointed by the State Fire Marshal;
- d. A Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer representative, who shall be appointed by the Chief Information Officer;
- e. A Nebraska Emergency Management Agency representative, who shall be appointed by the Adjutant General;
- f. A Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) representative, who shall be appointed by the NPPD Chief Executive Officer;
- g. One Representative of each Nebraska PETCom Regions, who shall be appointed by their respective region;
- h. A Nebraska League of Municipalities Representative; and
- i. A Nebraska Association of County Officials Representative.

No members serving in any capacity on the NPSCC shall be entitled to any compensation or reimbursement for expenses incurred due to their membership on the NPSCC.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency will provide administrative support to the NPSCC. The NPSCC shall prepare an annual report for the Governor and the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. Such report shall contain a current assessment of the status of interoperability of public safety in Nebraska, as well as recommendations regarding improvements and enhancements to Nebraska Public Safety Communications.

I hereby order and direct that Executive Orders #08-03 and #08-04 be rescinded, effective as of 12:01 a.m. on October 18, 2012. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2012.



*Dave Heineman*

Dave Heineman, Governor  
State of Nebraska

Attest:

*John A. Gale*

John A. Gale, Secretary of State  
State of Nebraska