



# Nebraska Association of Emergency Management

**Jim Anderson**  
**Planning Specialist**  
**Military/Nebraska Emergency Management Agency**

I started at NEMA in November 1988 and enjoy working with county emergency managers on revising Local Emergency Operation Plans. We are assigned six or seven counties each year. The LEOPs are revised on a five-year cycle.



I have a son and daughter and two grandsons who live in Cape Cod. Yearly visits at Christmas for the last 15 years have been great and I'm looking at retirement in the near future which brings the possibility of more travel and longer visits.

the launch of his 14-day repair mission.

I'm very proud of my nephew, Nebraska Astronaut Clay Anderson, and travelled to Florida in 2007 for the launch and return of his five-month mission to the Space Station and again in April of this year for

A member of the Ashland City Council for nearly 20 years, I now have served on the Ashland Planning Commission for eight years. I'm a member of the Ashland Historical Society and the Ashland Arts Council. I have donated nearly 10 gallons of blood and have taken more than one million steps in the state's Walk this Way fitness program. In addition to walking, I enjoy gardening, working in the yard and other outdoor activities.



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## Emergency Responders Exercise at Trenton Ag Products

Nearly 60 area Emergency Responders converged on the Trenton Ag Products Ethanol Plant on Saturday morning during a Full Scale Training Exercise sponsored by the Southwest Planning, Training and Exercise Region and hosted by Region 15 Emergency Management.

During the event, seven injured victims were moulaged and placed about the facility as if they had been involved in a tornado that had struck the Ethanol Plant causing a rupture in a storage tank and debris to be strewn about as well as two victims were staged at the Massacre Canyon Memorial. There was also a manikin used to count as a fatality on one of the upper levels of the storage facility to allow for some high angle rescue or a recovery in this case. The victims were triaged at the scene and three of the victims got to be decontaminated prior to being transported to the hospitals. Community Hospital ended up receiving a total of seven patients and Dundy County Hospital received two of the patients allowing for those facilities to test their internal response plans. Seven of the nine victims joining in on the exercise were from McCook Boy Scout Troop # 132 and the other two victims were volunteered from the Trenton area.

Many lessons were learned in the event and many policies and procedures were tested as well as the ability to communicate via 2-way radios which have recently been upgraded in the entire region with past Homeland Security Grants. This exercise was also funded through a Homeland Security Grant. According to Pat Gerdes, Director of the Region 15 Emergency Management Agency which serves Hitchcock County, "these exercises take a lot of time to develop to meet the proper objectives and guidelines but it is imperative that responders be ready to handle these types of situations as they all know that anything can happen at the drop of a pin and they will have to act." Gerdes commended all of the agencies that were a part of this exercise to include the design team as this has been an ongoing process since the first tabletop exercise in April of 2008 on the same incident. "In the end, lessons were learned, new relationships were developed, and resources were strengthened, so I think we met our goal", Gerdes added.

After the exercise was completed, the group had a lunch and a debriefing at the Trenton EMS Station where all involved could communicate their thoughts on the process and what kind of improvements could be made locally to better prepare for such an event.

Agencies participating in the event included Dundy County Hospital, Community Hospital, Region 15 Emergency Management, Hayes County EMS, Culbertson EMS, Trenton EMS, Stratton EMS, McCook Fire and EMS, Trenton Fire, Stratton Fire, Hayes County Fire, Hitchcock County Sheriff's Office and Dispatch, Red Willow Western Hazardous Materials Team, and Trenton Ag Products.

Emergency Manager, Pat Gerdes explains to Bill Elliot of the Red Willow Western Hazardous materials Team where they should set up their equipment for the exercise





Above: Phyllis Daugherty of Trenton EMS tends to one of the injured while working with other members of the squad on what they will do next.

Below: Trenton Fire Chief Tom Hovey, along with his Assistant Chief talk to Ralph Scott of Trenton Ag Products at the Command Post on what the situation is.



Right: -Red Willow Western Hazardous materials Team members move a victim out of the "Hot Zone"



Above: The Haz-Mat team prepared to decontaminate a victim.



Left: Rescuers from Trenton and Stratton use McCook Fire Departments Aerial Truck to assist in the recovery of the mock fatality from an upper level deck of the storage facility



Recently, a number of emergency managers attended the L-242 Unified Hazard Mitigation Grant Training course sponsored by NEMA's Response & Recovery Division. This training provided information regarding the aspects of a more successful grant application and allowed students to start the process of their own projects in a team atmosphere. Students also reviewed common and differing aspects of the five mitigation grant opportunities,



1. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
2. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDM)
3. Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
4. Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC)
5. Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL)



The training material was very useful for the new emergency manager learning their role in grant application and management, becoming more familiar with the roles that NEMA and FEMA play in the grant process, and introducing you to the types of projects that make the most impact on a community.

For the experienced emergency manager, this was an opportunity to review past grant applications for their comparative effectiveness, discuss future projects with State and Federal staff, and take a few steps forward on their next application.

Each of the attending emergency managers found it quite valuable and would recommend this course to others. Our appreciation to Sheila Hascall and the other NEMA staff responsible for bringing this training to Nebraska.

## Dakota County Emergency Manager Pat Foust

Dakota County Emergency Manager Pat Foust is a native of Columbus, NE and graduated from St. Bonaventure HS in a year that was long ago. Following what he calls his college circuit tour he enlisted in the Army and had duty stations in Chicago, Ft. Jackson, SC and I Corps, South Viet Nam where he did half of his entire Army time. Following military service he completed the college tour with an Associates Degree with a psychology major and a Bachelors' Degree in Management.

In late 1969 he joined the Columbus Police Department and worked as patrol officer, investigator, shift supervisor and division commander as a captain. He also graduated from the Texas A & M Polygraph Examiners Course. Some of his other duties included internal affairs investigations, firearms instructor and training coordinator. He left CPD in 1996 after having been in charge of both the Investigations Division and the Uniformed Services Division and was chief of the South Dakota State University police department in Brookings for a little more than a year and left for reasons of ethics after finding he had more than did some of the administration.

From 1997 until the summer of 2000 he lived in the Omaha area and worked in car and truck sales.

In June of 2000 he accepted an offer to become Director of the City/County Law Enforcement Center in South Sioux City with duties to include being Emergency Management Director. He was told there were a few meetings a year to attend for "that civil defense stuff." During the remainder of 2000 he reinitiated LEPC meetings and started community outreach.

In September of 2001 the dynamics changed and he went from a time split of about 70/30, LEC/EM, to about 30/70 and then it leveled off eventually to about 70/70.

In either role he answers primarily to the six-member Law Enforcement Center Board but also to the SSC council and the Dakota County Board of Commissioners. Budget proposals to three groups, three reviews, two hearings and juggling between two different fiscal years all keep it interesting.

"I liked being in sales but you don't always have a customer in front of you and those dead times were really boring. In this job the challenges present the 'keep going' push that I think is needed in any field and this has proven to be a busy field. The biggest challenge continues to be getting elected and key appointed leaders involved and getting the public actively involved. Too many officials still fall back to the old maxim of 'it's never happened here.' Pat says that's a good point – but the next time you see a pair of ostrich leather boots or an ostrich leather purse, take a good look and see if that leather includes the head or if it looks like it came from another part of the body. Hiding your head in the sand leaves a lot exposed and if the right thing happens, someone could come along and take the hide right off of your exposed part.

He lists as achievements in EM the working of the Jackson tornado after being called back from the Basic EM Academy in Grand Island (but he did have a full hour of EM training already) and hiring Deputy EM Deanna Beckman.



Wayne County Emergency Management in conjunction with the Northeast NE PET Region held NIMS 300/400 training in September. The training was held during the evenings at the Wayne Fire Hall. Todd Manns from Colorado was the instructor for the training. Refreshments for the week were provided by LeRoy Janssen, Wayne County, Laura Hintz, Knox County and Deanna Beckman, Dakota County.



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I love this time of year, colors changing, farmers harvesting, hunting season and football. I would say FALL is in the air but the unseasonably weather makes it hard to believe it is mid October. The TEPW workshop is coming fast, October 20 and 21, Net-planner and Essential Services Suites on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and LEPC conference October 22 - 24. I'm sure we all look



forward to the networking and camaraderie that these events bring. I hope to see all of you there. Enjoy the month of October and be safe!





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