

ARE YOU READY?

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Special points of interest:

- April 7, 2009, 7pm
NWS Spotter Training
- April 16, 2009 7 pm
Warned and Informed
- April 23, 2009 7 pm
NIMS 700
- April 30, 2009 7 pm
Public Hearing Mitigation Plan
- May 7, 2009 7pm
NIMS 100
- May 21, 2009 7 pm
NIMS 200

STORM SPOTTER TRAINING

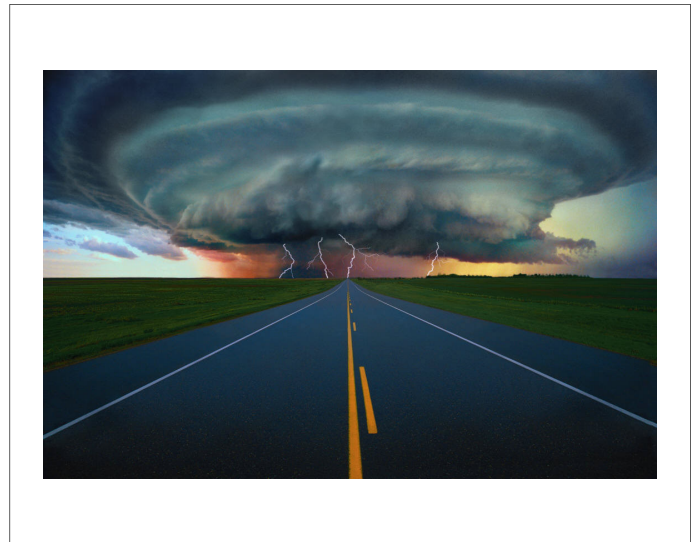
The new storm season is here and we need to be ready.

The annual NWS Spotter Training is scheduled for Tuesday night, April 7, 2009, at Zion Lutheran Church, 465 S. Marion Rd in Hastings at 7 pm.

This year's program will be 2 hours long. The first part of the program will be the general information, the things to watch for in a storm, and what to report to the weather service.

The second part of the program will be more advanced training on how to read radar. The weather service will have several examples to look at and discuss what you think you are seeing on radar and is it accurate.

We ask that as many spotters through out all our county will take advantage of this program and attend.



Is this the right spot to be sitting if you see this storm?

We encourage all our village spotters to join us for a great night of training.

The Hastings Spotter/Comm Group meeting will be held on April 29, 2009 at 7 pm at the ACEM office. This meeting will be to discuss the season coming up and discuss any

concerns you may have.

Every one with ACEM equipment should be checking their equipment at this time and report any problems or needs to the office so that we can fix those concerns now and not in the middle of the first operation.

WARNED AND INFORMED

The Adams County Emergency Management Office is sponsoring a special event on April 16, 2009 at 7 pm at the Hastings Middle School.

John Utech, an Emergency Manager from Blackwell, OK. will present a presentation entitled "Warned and Informed".

This presentation is open to everyone and will discuss safe shelters at home, business, and when you travel. He will discuss why people respond or do not respond to weather event.

Mr. Utech has presented other advanced trainings for us, and was very well received and pre-

sents in layman's terms so everyone can enjoy his presentation.

Please RSVP if possible to make sure we set up enough chairs. 402/461-2360

NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TRAINING

National Incident Management Training is required of all first responders and our elected officials.

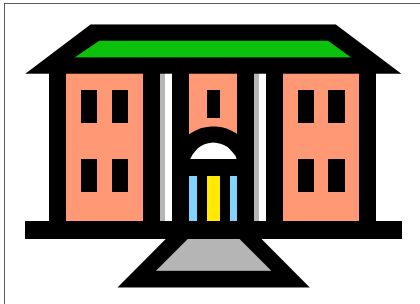
eligible for grants and disaster funding, we as a county must have NIMS Independent Study Courses 100 and 700 completed.

This Course will be offered on Thursday night April 23rd at 7 pm at the Juniata Fire Hall.

To be compliant with the federal government and remain

The first course is IS 700.

This training will last approximately 2 1/2 hours and will include a test at the end of the training.



This course includes information as to why the National Incident Management System was developed, what are some of the significant parts, and a brief introduction of the Incident Command System that should be used in times of emergencies and disasters.

What is National Incident Management?

Our communities recovery from any Disaster is only as good as the Individuals commitment to be self-reliant!

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

What is an Incident Commander? Who is in charge of an emergency or Disaster? What role does an elected official play in an emergency?

Incident Command has been used in our county for many years, but not everyone knows exactly how the system is to work. This training will give you the basics of Incident Command and the various roles that individuals carry out in an emergency.

mandatory classes that all first responders in our county are to have.

All these questions will be addressed in the IS 100 training to be offered on May 7, 2009, at 7 pm, at the Juniata Fire Hall.

This training is one of the

This training will last 2 1/2 hours and will have a written test at the end of the training.

For more information contact the ACEM office.

LEADERSHIP AND ICS

ICS 200 will be offered on Thursday night May 21, 2009 at 7 pm, at the Juniata Fire Hall.

about leadership and leadership skills. This course also talks more about unified command and defines the Incident Level Type and the resource typing system.

tional and is a good test of where each individual is in the understand of the ICS and NIM systems.

This training is for the officers of the first responders, but is also a good training for all responders. The course is a review of the principles of ICS and provides more information on statewide or federal deployment, as well as talking

This course is very informa-



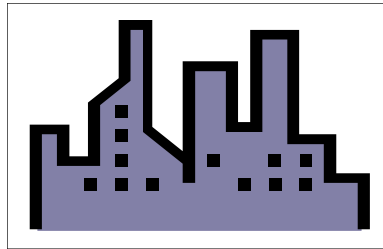
As an department officer what is your responsibility?

This course is a 3 hour course and requires the passing of a written test at the end of the course.

MITIGATION PLAN

For the last year the Adams County Emergency Management Office has been working with 8 other counties, the Little Blue Natural Resource District and Ollson's and Associates to develop a Mitigation Plan.

tion plans that the participants of the plan feel are needed to prevent such damage from occurring together in the future, and the priority that each participating member ranks them.



What improvements can you make know

The Mitigation Plan begins with a section on data collection information. This part of the plan defines the types of disaster the region has experienced in the past, the likelihood of future damage, and the average amount of loss experience with such disasters.

A public hearing on the draft plan will be held on Thursday April 30, 2009 beginning a 7:30 pm, at the Hastings Police Department Auditorium.

rank them in priority of need.

The goal is to be able to submit the final plan to the federal government by late fall. This plan must be in place to receive mitigation grant dollars in the future.

The plan then defines mitiga-

At this meeting the public will have a chance to review the current plan and put priority to the identify projects and

REGIONAL MASS FATALITY PLAN

What would be the plan of action if the amount of deaths in a disaster overwhelm any community?

develop a plan to meet those needs is the purpose behind a four day regional mass fatality training that occurred for two days in March and will conclude with another two days in training on May 12-13, 2009 in Kearney.

work with templates from the class and develop a workable plan for our 15 county region.

Adams County has a local plan but what if we need to go beyond are local needs?

We thank Mike Butler for serving on this committee as a representative of the funeral directors, and Mike has been part of the committee working on a state response team.

To identify those needs and

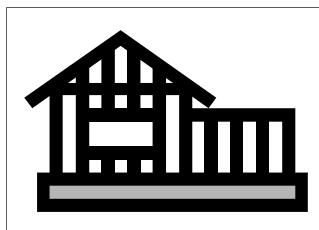
After the workshop is over a regional team will begin to

*Do you have your
Disaster Preparedness
Kit Ready?*

DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Adams County Emergency Management Office is working with all the departments in the county to develop a Debris Management Plan.

hazardous materials, electronic goods, and white goods such as refrigerators, dishwashers, washers and dryers.



Where would you take the various Debris from a destroyed home?

reimbursement from the federal government.

The debris management plan would designate pre-disaster locations for the various types of materials that need to be removed after a disaster.

By participating in the plan the community is eligible for 5% increase in

The draft of the plan is being work on at this time and we hope to have the final draft written and approved by late

fall of this year.

This includes wood waste,

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Were on the WEB!

www.acema.org

*Lending a helping hand in times of
disaster!*



*The most discouraging
statement that I hear
is, "Oh, it will never
happen here!". The
truth is it can happen
here. "Are YOU
Ready?"*

ARE YOU READY?

By Loren Uden, ACEM Director

In the middle of the night, a train derailed releasing dangerous gas into the community. When you look outside all you can see is a fog of hazardous gas and there is no emergency message being aired on the radio or TV. Are you ready?

A tornado has hit your community and destroyed several homes, including your own home. Are you ready?

A pandemic flu has affected the community and you are asked to practice social distancing, (staying at home, not going to large gatherings). Are you ready?

In any of these situations, what if you call 9-1-1 or a non emergency number of the police department, or Adams County Emergency Management, or South Heartland District Health Department and all you get is a continuous busy signal. Are you ready?

Ever since the beginning of the Department of Homeland Security, the catch phrase you have been exposed to is ARE YOU READY? If I asked you that question today could you answer with a YES? I wish I could tell you, as your Emergency Management Director, that the majority of you are ready, but the truth is most of you are not.

The Midwest is known for personal independence. When times get rough, we pull up our boot straps and neighbors help neighbors. But what would happen if you were asked to shelter-in-place to protect you family from exposure to a chemical release? Do you have the simple items of duct tape and plastic to protect your family? Do you have a three day supply of food, water, dry clothes, if you were trapped in your basement due to a tornado? Can you show self resiliency or will you be one that thinks you can solely depend on your local government to take care of you in these types of Disasters?

Please be assured that the Emergency Management Agency, the Adams County Local Emergency Planning Committee, the National Weather Service and South Heartland District Health Department will continue to provide the best education and information available in dealing with natural, manmade, and health emergencies.

We especially want the public to be aware that emergency notification could be given in a variety of ways depending upon the particular circumstances.

The outdoor All Hazards Warning Sirens will be used to alert the public of the need to seek shelter for a particular emergency. Upon hearing of the sirens, citizens are encouraged to seek inside shelter as soon as possible. Citizens already inside are expected to stay inside and seek emergency instruction being broadcasted on radio or television. Citizens are also strongly advised not to go outside to look around, as this would increase their risk of injury or death.

If radio and TV stations are on the air, it is likely that emergency messages would be broadcasted through this media. However, it may take some time for appropriate instructions to be developed. Thus, Are You Ready, to protect yourself until information is available?

All hazard weather alert radios (aka weather radios) provide an even better source of emergency information for not only severe weather but also for chemical spills, terrorist attack, Amber alerts and all other types of threats to our communities. They include battery backup and emergency messages can be broadcasted through the National Weather Services. They are not just weather radios any more. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency encourages all Nebraska citizens, corporations, private non profits, etc. to purchase all hazard weather alert radios and use them as their primary all hazards warning devices.

I hope that every one of us will continue to seek information to better educate ourselves as how to respond to all types of disasters and will take advantage of the upcoming events to better prepare.

Other sources of information can be obtained at the websites of the local agencies listed above and the federal government website ready.gov.

My hope is that when I ask citizens "ARE YOU READY?" I hear a resounding YES!

