

STANTON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

2025 YEAR-END REVIEW AND REPORT

Total Hours Worked for 2025: 2,508.5
Assist Sheriff's Office: 52
Assist Fire Departments: 68
Assist Rescue Departments: 38
Agency Assists/Mutual Aid Calls: 63
Drone Missions: 149 total flights – 238 miles
Meetings/Trainings/Workshops: 90
Total Miles Logged: 41,880

Total Hours For Volunteer(s) for 2025: 77.5
Assist Sheriff's Office: 5
Assist Fire Departments: 1
Assist Rescue Departments: 0
Agency Assists / Mutual Aid Calls: 3
Meetings / Trainings / Workshops: 9
Total Miles Logged: 1,026

ASSIST SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

- The total number of callouts to assist the Sheriff's Office with traffic control, crash scene reconstruction, search and rescue, etc.

ASSIST FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- The total number of callouts for incident support, drone operations, and training. Includes ALL fire departments within Stanton County.

ASSIST RESCUE DEPARTMENT:

- The total number of callouts for incident support, patient care and/or transport, and training. Includes ALL rescue departments within Stanton County.

AGENCY ASSISTS / MUTUAL AID:

- The total number of callouts for incident support for other outside agencies, such as other counties, state agencies, or federal partners. To include law enforcement, fire, rescue, and emergency management.

DRONE MISSIONS:

- Total number of drone flights recorded through Air Data® for 2025, which includes the following: Mission Flights 102; Maintenance Flights 14; Training Flights; 33

MEETINGS/ TRAININGS/ WORKSHOPS:

- The total number of meetings, training, and workshops that were attended throughout the county, region, and state, for administrative purposes, mutual aid, operational coordination, and position requirements.

In 2025 I have been appointed or elected to the following position(s) as part of my job duties in Emergency Management and within the Northeast PET Region.

- Appointed, by County Commissioners, to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) where we review hazardous materials incidents and review annual Tier 2 reporting for companies within the LEPC. We are also responsible for hosting the annual “Hazmat Night Out” events throughout our region and updating the hazardous response plan for our area.
- Elected by the NE PET Region and County Commissioners, to the Board of Directors for the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) where I serve as a board member along with serving on their Technical Committee and representing the Northeast Nebraska Region along with another IT person from the City of Wayne.
- Appointed by the Region, as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) for the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Planning, Exercise, and Training (PET) Program. Alongside Emergency Managers representing PET Regions across the state, we participate in the review and evaluation of Department of Homeland Security Grant Investment Justifications, helping ensure projects that have been submitted align with regional and statewide preparedness priorities and goals, prior to final approval by NEMA for submission to FEMA and DHS.
- Serve on the Nebraska Department of Transportation, District 3, Traffic Incident Management (TIMS) Coalition. Reviewing accidents within our district and bettering the communications between law enforcement, fire and rescue departments, and tow companies to ensure everyone is safer during an incident. We also assist departments in setting up TIMS Training.
- Appointed, by the County Commissioners, as Stanton County’s Safety Officer to review all internal employee accidents, injuries, and near misses. I am also on the County’s Safety Committee and became the County’s CPR/First Aid/AED Instructor to train all county employees.
- Serve on the Conference Committee for the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management’s annual conference.

2025 Summary:

Throughout 2025, Stanton County Emergency Management (EMA) maintained a consistently high operational tempo, providing ongoing support and incident stabilization for local and regional first responders. This year also brought significant uncertainty at the federal level, with frequent changes affecting FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security Grant programs. While many grants applied for by Stanton County and the Northeast Planning, Exercise, and Training (NE PET) Region were initially approved, or in the final stages of approval, multiple federal delays and legal challenges nationwide prevented funds from being released to the State of Nebraska as of December 31, 2025. Additionally, the anticipated reduction of grant periods of performance from three years to one year has required extensive advance planning to ensure projects can be implemented immediately

once funds are released. Stanton County continues to await confirmation of Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding, which reimburses up to 50% of eligible salary and benefit costs. Since becoming a full-time position in 2021, Stanton County has received over \$100,000 in EMPG funding, providing critical financial support for sustained emergency management operations. In 2025, Stanton County Emergency Management assumed custodial responsibility for regional emergency management equipment previously housed in Cuming County following a staffing transition within that jurisdiction. As part of this regional support effort, Stanton County EMA has been assisting with equipment management and system administration functions, including the creation and maintenance of Salamander identification badges for Cuming County fire departments, law enforcement agencies, and county personnel. This coordination supports continuity of operations, responder accountability, and interoperability across the Northeast PET Region and is provided as a cooperative regional function, not as a replacement for local authority or operational decision-making.

Grant acquisition and project development remained a major focus in 2025. I am currently pursuing Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for the installation of three river gauge and flood monitoring systems between Pilger and Norfolk, where a significant data gap exists. This project would be implemented in coordination with the U.S. Geological Survey, Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District, and Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment, utilizing a 75% federal and 25% local cost-share. The estimated project cost is approximately \$32,000. Additional grant successes include a \$19,000 Homeland Security award for Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) devices serving seven counties, \$49,000 to host six regional Phil Chalmers school and law enforcement training sessions, a \$28,000 Gardner Foundation grant for a thermal drone, and more than \$31,000 in cybersecurity funding to strengthen courthouse systems. We also received approximately \$5,000 in stakeholder donations supporting the development of a Mobile Operations Center. Since 2021, I have secured more than \$300,000 in grant funding, benefiting both the county and the NE PET Region.

Several major infrastructure and preparedness initiatives were successfully completed during 2025. These included the installation of outdoor warning sirens at Maskenthine Lake and Willer's Cove, deployment of two CyclonePORT weather stations through SDS Weather and Radar Omega (one fully donated), and certification as a National Weather Service, Weather-Ready Nation, Ambassador. Stanton County also received \$750 through the NIRMA Assist Grant, that I applied for, to install AEDs at each county roads shop. Drone operations expanded significantly, with unmanned aircraft systems becoming a critical asset for accident reconstruction, search and rescue, and fire operations, enhancing responder safety and situational awareness. In response to a cybersecurity shutdown affecting the county's previous alerting provider, Code Red, we proactively transitioned to Hyper-Reach for emergency notification and IPAWS messaging, ensuring continuity of public warning capabilities. Hyper-Reach is also utilized in Cedar and Knox Counties, in our region. In addition, Stanton County recently updated the Hazard

Mitigation Plan, which was approved by FEMA at the end of summer. This HMP 2025 Plan will have its next revision in 2030.

Professional development and future readiness were also key priorities in 2025. I continued intensive training toward credentialing as a Type 3 Incident Safety Officer, enabling deployment on statewide incidents and interstate responses through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). As federal policy increasingly emphasizes state-led disaster response before FEMA involvement, this shift raises important questions for local governments regarding emergency funding capacity. With potential changes to property and inheritance tax structures under discussion at the state level, counties may need to explore alternative mechanisms to establish and sustain emergency funds for infrastructure damage and disaster recovery. The cost of critical infrastructure repairs such as the multi-million-dollar restoration of the Two-Mile Bridge following the 2019 flooding—underscores the importance of long-term mitigation planning and financial preparedness. Stanton County EMA will continue to monitor these policy developments while advocating for sustainable solutions that protect local governments and residents.

As Stanton County Emergency Management looks ahead to 2026, several key priorities are already taking shape. Pending approval of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding, EMA plans to move forward with the installation of additional river gauge and flood monitoring systems to improve situational awareness and early warning capabilities along the Elkhorn River corridor. A significant portion of the year will also be dedicated to a comprehensive update of the county's Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP), which is due for full revision and adoption in 2026. This update will ensure that local plans remain aligned with current hazards, capabilities, and state and federal guidance. We also intend to complete and fully outfit the Mobile Operations Trailer, allowing it to be rapidly deployed in support of incidents, exercises, and planned events.

I look forward to continued collaboration with county leadership and anticipate working closely with the next Sheriff of Stanton County to support operational readiness and pursue additional grant opportunities for law enforcement equipment and technology. Training will remain a major focus in 2026, with an emphasis on multi-agency coordination across a broad range of incidents, including natural disasters, hazardous materials incidents, and complex man-made threats. Attention will continue to be placed on active killer preparedness in schools and anti-terrorism planning for large public events. While 2026 is expected to be both challenging and demanding, it also presents significant opportunities for growth, planning, and strengthening partnerships that enhance the safety and resilience of Stanton County and the surrounding region.

MONTHLY BREAKDOWN

JANUARY 2025:

During this reporting period, Stanton County Emergency Management (EMA) conducted a wide range of administrative, planning, and coordination activities in support of county, regional, and state partners. Significant efforts focused on grant management and preparedness initiatives, including work related to the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), NRIN preparation, and continued development of training and funding programs such as the Phil Chalmers initiative in coordination with Cedar and Wayne Counties. EMA participated in multiple regional and statewide coordination meetings and workshops, including NE PET Region meetings, NAEM conference committee meetings, LEPC coordination, and National Weather Service (NWS) briefings and webinars. Additional preparedness activities included Rapid Tag training coordination in Wayne, spotter course scheduling, participation in a cybersecurity exercise, and ongoing review and updates to emergency planning documents such as the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). Administrative and technical support included procurement and setup of computer equipment for the Sheriff's Office, coordination with UNL for roads department training materials, and management of operational systems including Salamander, Rapid Tag, AFIS data collection, and WebEOC.

Operationally, EMA supported field activities and response functions related to weather monitoring, infrastructure readiness, and public safety incidents. This included ongoing monitoring of the Elkhorn River for ice jams, aerial observation flights using county drone assets with live-streaming support to the NWS, and response to incidents such as a roadside livestock hazard on Highway 15, an unpermitted controlled burn during a burn ban, and a ditch fire. Cold weather preparations were completed, including generator testing, inspection of equipment in storage, and checks of communications infrastructure such as heaters, radios, and monitoring equipment at towers, in vehicles, and at county facilities. EMA also coordinated with partner agencies and vendors to dispose of outdated equipment and update drone systems. In addition, following a staffing transition in Cuming County and with regional approval, Stanton County EMA assumed custodial responsibility for DHS-purchased regional equipment and began providing administrative support for Salamander identification management for Cuming County response agencies. Collectively, these activities reflect EMA's role in emergency response support, infrastructure readiness, interagency coordination, and year-round preparedness for Stanton County and the surrounding region.

FEBRUARY 2025:

During February, Stanton County Emergency Management (EMA) maintained a high operational tempo encompassing emergency response, grant management, training support, and system readiness activities. EMA supported multiple traffic incidents and law enforcement responses, including several vehicle accidents requiring traffic control on state highways and county roads, as well as a ditch fire response. Weather-related operations remained a major focus throughout the month, with continued monitoring of the Elkhorn River for ice jams, coordination during winter weather advisories, flood watches, and red flag warnings, and direct communication with fire chiefs regarding evolving fire weather risks. EMA conducted multiple drone flights over the Elkhorn River for ice jam observation, livestreaming imagery to the National Weather Service and providing aerial reconnaissance support to local fire departments during fire and flood-related concerns. Additional field support included assisting with unplanned holiday responses due to hazardous travel conditions, supporting neighboring counties when requested, and maintaining readiness of vehicles, trailers, lighting systems, and battery-powered equipment.

In addition to field operations, EMA devoted substantial effort to preparedness, planning, and administrative functions. This included extensive work on the Phil Chalmers training and grant initiative, such as SHSG grant finalization, curriculum development, RFQs for catering, distribution of training materials to ESUs and law enforcement agencies, and coordination with regional partners. EMA also participated in and supported multiple exercises and trainings, including NE PET Region EOC Functional Exercises, cybersecurity exercises, and LEOP workdays, followed by completion of After-Action Reports and corrective action documentation. Ongoing coordination activities included County Commissioner meetings, Village of Pilger meetings, Safety Committee and NIRMA reviews, NRIN meetings and data preparation, and weekly regional and NWS coordination calls. Technical and logistical support was provided through computer and docking station replacements for Sheriff's Office vehicles, scanner updates, AFIS unit exchanges with the Nebraska State Patrol, WebEOC setup and data entry, Salamander and Rapid Tag system updates, and preparation of EOC and training facilities. Collectively, February reflected EMA's dual role in direct incident support and the behind-the-scenes planning, coordination, and system maintenance necessary to sustain countywide and regional emergency response readiness.

MARCH 2025:

During March, Stanton County Emergency Management (EMA) experienced a sustained period of high operational demand driven by severe winter weather, fire incidents, traffic accidents, and emergency medical responses. EMA conducted frequent monitoring of the Elkhorn River for ice jams, completed IPAWS alert testing, and carried out winter storm preparation in coordination with the National Weather Service (NWS) and NDOT. Multiple severe weather events resulted in partial Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activations, highway closures, and extensive law enforcement support. EMA assisted with numerous traffic incidents involving stranded motorists and commercial vehicles, including multiple semi-truck accidents on Highways 275, 15, and 32, diesel spill reporting to NDEE, and extended traffic control operations lasting several hours when no other resources were available. During a major winter storm, EMA coordinated shelter operations at the Pilger Fire Hall for stranded motorists, including shelter setup, WebEOC documentation, cleanup, and post-event recovery. EMA also responded to multiple fire incidents throughout the month, including brush fires during Red Flag conditions, controlled CRP burns requiring pre-flight and monitoring, and significant structure fires—most notably a fully involved residence with a propane tank explosion that required multi-agency mutual aid from Stanton, Pilger, Norfolk, Battle Creek, and Madison departments. Drone operations were utilized extensively for search efforts, situational awareness, weather monitoring, and controlled burn reconnaissance, including assistance with searching for a suicidal subject at Wood Duck. In addition to emergency response operations, EMA conducted extensive preparedness, coordination, and system support activities. These included CPR/AED instruction for county employees and deputies, and EMS protocol updates.

EMA worked closely with fire and rescue agencies on Salamander identification management, Rapid Tag inventory and deployment readiness, and equipment maintenance and repairs, including radios, antennas, vehicle computers, siren controllers, and lighting systems. Grant and planning efforts continued throughout the month, including coordination of Phil Chalmers training, preparation of the Rapid Response Trailer, siren procurement planning for Maskenthine Lake and Willers Cove, and finalization of engineering and infrastructure reports. EMA also participated in numerous regional, state, and national coordination meetings, including NDOT Emergency Relief training, NACO District meetings, NRIN technical committee meetings, LEPC and mutual aid meetings, and NAEM Conference planning. Weather operations remained constant, with frequent spot forecasts, Fire Weather Watches, Red Flag Warnings, severe thunderstorm monitoring, tornado drill participation, and blizzard response coordination. Collectively, March represented one of the most operationally intensive months of the year, highlighting EMA's role in large-scale incident management, interagency coordination, infrastructure support, and sustained readiness during prolonged multi-hazard conditions.

APRIL 2025:

During April, Stanton County Emergency Management (EMA) transitioned from prolonged winter and early spring response operations into an intensive period of training delivery, regional exercises, and preparedness activities, while maintaining response readiness during multiple weather and incident events. EMA attended the National Association of Emergency Managers (NAEM) Conference in Kearney, which included travel and coordination with statewide and national emergency management partners. Training efforts dominated much of the month and included delivery of storm spotter classes in coordination with the National Weather Service, multiple Phil Chalmers training events held in South Sioux City, Pender, and Norfolk, and direct support to an active shooter functional exercise in Burt County. These events required extensive logistical coordination, transport of Rapid Tag and command equipment, setup and teardown of training facilities, and post-event cleanup. EMA also supported the RROMRS FY25 Medical Surge Functional Exercise in Wayne and participated in severe weather exercises and briefings with the NWS. Despite the training focus, EMA responded to operational incidents throughout the month, including a fire response on Highway 24 with Norfolk Fire, aerial drone support for county officials related to road conditions, and sustained monitoring during tornado watches, air quality alerts, red flag warnings, and severe weather threats.

In addition to training and response operations, April involved substantial administrative, planning, and infrastructure support activities. EMA completed and submitted EMPG documentation to NEMA, coordinated grant activities with the NE PET Region, and continued outdoor warning siren planning efforts, including zoning and floodplain permitting, quote development, and finalization of purchase paperwork. EMA supported county operations through preparation and deployment of AEDs for county shops, unloading and commissioning a new county plow truck, coordinating shop upgrades, and assisting with contractor oversight. Regulatory and planning activities included LEPC meetings with review of hazardous materials response plans and Tier II reporting, NRIN technical meetings, NADC-related coordination, and follow-up with legal counsel. Technical and logistical support tasks included replacement and troubleshooting of vehicle docking stations and computers, scheduling service work for county vehicles, managing equipment inventories, organizing office records, and preparing CPR documentation for submission. The month concluded with continued severe weather monitoring, grant development efforts, and coordination with regional partners, reflecting EMA's ongoing role in training delivery, emergency preparedness, infrastructure readiness, and interagency coordination across Stanton County and the surrounding region.

MAY 2025

During May, Stanton County Emergency Management (EMA) supported a broad range of emergency response operations with a strong emphasis on law enforcement assistance, drone deployments, and severe weather monitoring. EMA was requested by the Nebraska State Patrol to deploy a thermal drone in Hoskins to assist in the search for a missing three-year-old autistic child, who was successfully located in a field northeast of the residence. EMA also responded to multiple traffic incidents requiring traffic control and drone-based accident mapping, including several two-vehicle crashes and coordination of a funeral procession with the Sheriff's Office. Drone operations were utilized extensively for accident reconstruction, infrastructure documentation, and hazard mitigation surveys. Fire response support included assistance during a wind-driven power-line fire and coordination during periods of elevated fire danger. Throughout the month, EMA remained actively engaged in severe weather monitoring, coordinating with local responders during tornado watches, wind advisories, and other high-risk conditions.

In addition to response activities, EMA dedicated significant time to preparedness, infrastructure support, and administrative operations. Vehicle and equipment readiness efforts included acquiring and outfitting a new Durango for the Sheriff's Office, decommissioning older units, installing air suspension on county vehicles, replacing radios, addressing AFIS computer issues, and managing GPS asset trackers for the Roads Department in coordination with Verizon. EMA advanced outdoor warning siren planning efforts at Maskenthine Lake and Willers Cove through site marking, property owner outreach, and coordination of locates. Grant and planning work continued throughout the month, including siren funding, cybersecurity grants, drone program funding, and follow-up on federal and state grant opportunities. Training and outreach included CPR/AED instruction for county, roads, and city employees; Part 107 drone pilot recertification; drone training support for Wayne County; and coordination with partners on equipment needs and insurance documentation. EMA also supported shop operations, trailer maintenance, equipment inventory, and regional workdays, reinforcing sustained readiness and long-term operational capability for Stanton County and regional partners.

JUNE 2025

During June, Stanton County Emergency Management (EMA) managed a sustained mix of emergency response operations, severe weather monitoring, and law enforcement assistance while maintaining a high level of operational readiness. EMA responded to multiple fire, rescue, and medical incidents, including a fire near 570th and Golf Course Road, a fully engulfed truck fire on Highway 275 involving a secondary medical emergency with a pregnant bystander, several structure and field fires in Pilger, and multiple vehicle accidents requiring traffic control, extrication assistance, and drone-based accident mapping. Rescue responses included medical calls in Stanton at Ivy Manor with assistance to Norfolk Rescue, and on-scene support during a serious injury crash involving a child. EMA also supported multiple missing-person searches using drone assets, including successful thermal searches for an autistic child in Hoskins at the request of Wayne County and the Nebraska State Patrol. Severe weather operations were frequent, with EMA monitoring repeated rounds of thunderstorms, extreme heat conditions, flood watches, and funnel cloud reports, while coordinating with the National Weather Service and conducting river and flood checks along the Elkhorn River and Maple Creek.

Beyond emergency response, June involved extensive technical, planning, and infrastructure-focused activity essential to countywide readiness. EMA conducted budget planning for the 2025–2026 fiscal year and worked on multiple grant applications, including NIRMA funding for both EMA and the Sheriff's Office. Infrastructure efforts included utility agreements and land surveying coordination for new outdoor warning sirens at Maskenthine Lake and other proposed sites. Communications and systems work remained a priority, with repeater troubleshooting and replacement at the water tower, radio programming and firmware updates for Sheriff's Office units and partner agencies, scanner reprogramming for Nebraska State Patrol Troop B, drone firmware updates, and coordination with Tri-State and Verizon for radio and GPS system upgrades for county roads equipment. EMA also managed weather station maintenance and expansion, including hub replacements, equipment shipping, tower coordination, and preparation for new installations. Additional responsibilities included LEPC meetings and Hazmat Night Out coordination, TIMS Coalition and NRIN technical meetings, project management for county shop upgrades, trailer preparation for deployments, CPR support, equipment inventory, and administrative coordination with county leadership. Collectively, June reflected EMA's ability to manage overlapping response incidents while advancing long-term infrastructure improvements, communications reliability, and operational readiness.

JULY 2025

During July, Stanton County Emergency Management (EMA) maintained a high operational tempo centered on severe weather monitoring, flood response, public safety support, and extensive drone operations. Early in the month, EMA prepared county vehicles and supported traffic control and safety operations for the Fourth of July parade in Stanton, including street closures, barricade placement, and post-event reopening. EMA responded to multiple public safety incidents, including assisting rescue for an injured child, responding to a trash can fire, and supporting search and rescue operations using drone assets for injured and missing individuals. Severe weather activity was frequent and persistent, with EMA monitoring and responding to multiple tornado watches, severe thunderstorm watches and warnings, flood advisories, and extreme heat warnings. EMA conducted extensive river, creek, and roadway checks throughout the county, including Union Creek, Maple Creek, the North Fork, and the Elkhorn River, documenting flood conditions, marking washouts, checking campers at Maskenthine Lake, and providing real-time situational reports to the National Weather Service and regional partners. Drone operations were heavily utilized for flood surveillance, damage assessment, missing person searches, and law enforcement assistance, including accidents and incidents, and fairgrounds alerting support for Madison County at the request of their Sheriff.

In addition to response activities, July involved significant planning, technical, and coordination work critical to county and regional readiness. EMA completed installation and troubleshooting of the new weather station and weather camera at the Stanton Telecom site, coordinated tower work, and addressed wet-bulb thermometer and enclosure issues. Grant and reporting responsibilities continued with EMPG quarterly reporting, Phil Chalmers grant development for upcoming training in November, siren grant updates to NEMA, and documentation related to Terracon and NDEE. EMA participated in numerous regional and state coordination meetings, including NE PET Region meetings, NRIN board and technical committee meetings, TIMS Coalition meetings, and coordination with NEMA regarding flood recovery projects. Training and preparedness activities included radio communications training with the Sheriff's Office, drone maintenance and continuing education coursework, joint training with Nebraska Game and Parks and Pilger Fire and Rescue, and capability development using UAS platforms. Despite scheduled vacation and compensatory time periods, EMA remained actively engaged in follow-up coordination, weather monitoring, and response readiness during peak summer hazard conditions.

AUGUST 2025

During August, Stanton County Emergency Management (EMA) maintained active operational support across law enforcement, rescue, public health, and weather-related incidents while conducting the agency's annual inventory and systems testing. EMA assisted the Sheriff's Office with accident mapping, missing person searches, traffic control, and vehicle location efforts, including injury accidents, minimum-maintenance road searches, and assistance in locating a downed aircraft later confirmed in Madison County. EMA supported multiple medical and rescue calls across Stanton County and Woodland Park, assisted stranded motorists, and provided traffic control at crash scenes. Weather monitoring remained consistent throughout the month, with EMA tracking severe weather threats, minor flooding along the North Fork of the Elkhorn River, and overnight storm activity in coordination with the National Weather Service. EMA also provided public safety support for planned events, including deployment of the Rapid Response Trailer and mobile EOC support for the Thunder by the River event in Wisner.

In addition to field operations, August involved extensive administrative, technical, and preparedness work critical to county operations. EMA conducted comprehensive annual inventory activities across EMA facilities, vehicles, and partner departments, including Salamander ID creation for county employees, fire departments, and regional agencies. EMA advanced multiple infrastructure and communications projects, including siren electrical installations and final testing at Maskenthine Lake and Willers Cove, coordination with Blue Valley and Applied Connective on tower cameras and radio systems, and installation of radios in the Rapid Response Trailer and county vehicles. A significant public health response occurred following a City of Stanton water emergency and boil order, during which EMA coordinated with the State Watch Center, issued IPAWS alerts, maintained WebEOC updates, distributed bottled water to schools, nursing homes, and residents, and assisted with public information messaging. EMA also participated in numerous regional and state meetings and trainings, including NE PET Region calls, NRIN board and technical meetings, TIMS Coalition coordination, IMAT exercise participation, and instructor certification coursework. Collectively, August reflected EMA's role in sustained operational support, infrastructure readiness, public health coordination, and regional emergency management leadership.

SEPTEMBER 2025

During September, Stanton County Emergency Management (EMA) supported a combination of public information coordination, emergency response, and complex multi-agency exercises and deployments. Early in the month, EMA worked closely with the City of Stanton to manage and conclude the municipal water boil order, coordinating public information for test results, updating NEMA, WebEOC, and public messaging platforms, and obtaining briefings from local officials. EMA assisted with multiple public safety incidents, including rescue and medical responses, false alarm investigations, motorist assists, and traffic-related calls. EMA also supported accident mapping requests for Stanton and Cuming Counties, assisted with animal bite responses, and provided law enforcement support through roadside checks and scene assistance. Weather monitoring continued throughout the month, alongside routine alerting and siren testing. EMA conducted and supported daytime and nighttime airboat and water-rescue training operations on the Elkhorn River and Wood Duck area with Pierce, Stanton, and Pilger Fire Departments, Nebraska Game and Parks, and regional drone teams.

In addition to operational response, September involved extensive preparedness, planning, and regional coordination activities. EMA planned and executed a functional exercise focused on emergency water operations, including scenario development, interagency coordination, siren and IPAWS testing, and post-exercise follow-up. EMA attended and presented on IPAWS at the TIMS Coalition meeting and attended multiple regional and statewide meetings, including NE PET Region meetings, NACO district meetings, and SID and Village of Pilger board meetings. Technical and logistical work included decommissioning sheriff patrol cars and preparing vehicles and equipment, maintaining the Rapid Response Trailer, transferring and configuring drone systems for the Sheriff's Office, and completing lighting and vehicle maintenance. EMA also provided sustained support during the Missouri River Outdoor Expo in Ponca, delivering command, communications, drone, and Rapid Tag capabilities over multiple days in assistance to Dixon County, followed by demobilization of regional assets. Grant and administrative work continued throughout the month, including siren grant finalization, remediation reimbursement coordination, body camera grant review, and preparation for upcoming exercises and trainings.

OCTOBER 2025

During October, Stanton County Emergency Management (EMA) continued active operational support while emphasizing fire weather readiness, emergency response, and major project closeouts. EMA assisted with multiple fire and rescue incidents, including vehicle fires, hay bale fires requiring drone overwatch, structure and grass fires within Stanton County and the Clarkson Fire District, and rescue calls involving patient transport and first aid. EMA provided law enforcement support through accident standby operations, funeral escorts, motorist assistance, and investigation of reported incidents that were later determined to be non-emergent. Fire weather operations remained a focus throughout the month, with EMA issuing fire weather forecasts during periods of high fire danger, conducting final siren testing for the year across all warning systems, and maintaining situational awareness during elevated risk periods. Drone operations supported response and planning activities, including fire mapping, accident scene support, night mapping training, and search-related overwatch.

In addition to response operations, October involved substantial administrative, technical, and training efforts critical to long-term readiness. EMA completed Salamander inventory updates, finalized and closed out siren grant projects with NEMA, and coordinated zoning and mapping reviews related to road damage and for permitted construction activity. EMA supported Pilger Fire and Rescue with EMS training coordination, assisted with certification processes for 24/7 EMS classes, and participated in regional meetings and workdays focused on interagency coordination. Technical support included vehicle and equipment maintenance, scanner and antenna replacements, docking station troubleshooting, radio and scanner installations with Tri-State, improvements to weather radio reception at local facilities, and training on new mapping platforms. EMA planned and supported regional exercises, including an evacuation exercise at Northeast Community College, and prepared extensively for advanced training by assembling a Safety Officer deployment kit. The month concluded with attendance at the O-305 Type 3 Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) Safety Officer course in North Platte, marking a significant professional development milestone that enhances EMA's deployable capacity for complex incidents.

NOVEMBER 2025

During November, Stanton County Emergency Management (EMA) supported a wide range of emergency response activities while providing extensive assistance to law enforcement, fire, and rescue partners. EMA responded to multiple incidents including motorist assists, vehicle unlocks, grass and structure fires, kitchen and trailer fires, and medical responses involving patient falls and transport. Law enforcement support included accident response assistance, and search efforts involving juveniles operating UTVs recklessly on county roads. EMA also provided mutual aid to Pilger and Leigh Rescue, supported power-line-related incidents, and maintained readiness during periods of elevated fire danger. Drone operations and equipment readiness were maintained through scheduled maintenance and standby support, ensuring continuity of response capability as winter conditions approached.

Beyond emergency response, November involved substantial administrative, technical, and coordination work essential to countywide preparedness. EMA supported multiple Phil Chalmers training events, including travel to Ponca for a law enforcement session and delivery of school and law enforcement classes in Norfolk, while managing logistics, training materials, and technical support. Communications and technology upgrades were a major focus, including new computer installations for the Sheriff's Office, scanner and radio programming, GPS troubleshooting, updates to Command and Rapid Tag systems, and decommissioning of sheriff patrol vehicles for trade-in. EMA conducted grant research and administration, including NIRMA Assist and SLCGP efforts, and advanced implementation of a new mass notification platform through meetings and contract development with Hyper-Reach. Additional coordination included County Commissioner meetings, NE PET Region and TIMS Coalition meetings, NRIN technical committee participation, vendor coordination with Verizon, SDS Weather, and Applied Connective, and winterization of response equipment and trailers.

DECEMBER 2025

During December, Stanton County Emergency Management (EMA) supported multiple law enforcement, rescue, and mutual-aid operations while maintaining readiness during winter conditions and year-end transitions. EMA assisted the Sheriff's Office with traffic-related incidents including vehicle unlocks, stranded motorists, car-versus-deer crashes, and multiple injury and non-injury crash responses requiring on-scene assistance and drone-based accident mapping. EMA responded to medical emergencies involving unconscious individuals and assisted with vehicle recoveries from ditches. Mutual aid included deployment to Burt County for a large-scale search and rescue operation utilizing the Rapid Response Trailer, side-by-side, and field EOC capabilities; the subject was later located deceased. EMA also supported response efforts in Wayne County for Wayne County Sheriff's Office and Nebraska State Patrol and remained on call for drone operations for Stanton and Madison Counties for New Years Eve. Routine winter monitoring continued with ice jam checks along the Elkhorn River and monitoring of seasonal burn activity.

In addition to response operations, December involved extensive administrative, planning, and technical work to close out the year and prepare for 2026. EMA finalized and implemented the Hyper-Reach emergency notification contract and completed IPAWS documentation and outreach planning. Grant and planning efforts included Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) applications for river monitoring and flood warning systems, coordination with NEMA on siren project closeouts, and continued FEMA mitigation planning. EMA supported communications and equipment upgrades including camera system troubleshooting at the communications tower, radio and GPS installations at the south shop, scanner and lighting upgrades for Sheriff's Office vehicles, printer and charger installations, and decommissioning of older units. EMA also assisted partner agencies with Salamander ID system setup and training, coordinated N95 mask distribution with the Health Department, participated in County Commissioner and Rural Fire Board meetings, attended the NACO Conference in Kearney, and provided technical support to county offices. Collectively, December reflected EMA's role in sustaining operational readiness while closing out grants, deploying new systems, modernizing equipment, and positioning the county for a smooth transition into the next operational year.

END OF REPORT