



Community Focus

Lincoln/Lancaster County Emergency Service

Carol K. Witfoth
Assistant Coordinator

Originally, Lincoln/Lancaster County Emergency Services was formed as part of the nationwide Civil Defense System developed in 1950 to assist in protection of civilians in the event of nuclear war. The easing of world tension changed the worldwide political climate reducing nuclear threat. Emergency Services/Civil Defense was the logical agency to assume other responsibilities.

Today Emergency Services encompasses a wide variety of activities. The first activity is severe weather responsibilities. Each spring we are involved in an extensive education program. Media packets are prepared and delivered to all media in Lincoln/Lancaster County. Annually, we give severe weather presentations for businesses, industries, schools, churches, hospitals, health care facilities and government agencies. Tornado surveys are provided upon request and we do these at no cost to requesters.

Emergency Services has an integrated warning system for severe weather. Alert receivers are placed in schools, health care facilities and businesses. These and the cable interrupt system are used to warn of the potential for severe weather. The third component of the warning system is the sirens. There are sixty throughout Lancaster County and they, along with the alert receivers and cable interrupt, are used to warn that a tornado is in the area.

Much of what we do is accomplished with the assistance of volunteers. In severe weather operations we draw from a spotters pool made up of trained volunteers who are members of the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club, REACT and E-Team. These people are trained and re-trained each spring. Attendance at these training sessions exceeds 200 persons. Their expertise is critical when there is severe weather. They are literally our eyes and ears in

the world outside our Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In the EOC, during an activation, is another group of trained volunteers. These persons belong to our Volstaff and are called upon to perform a variety of activities from plotting storms on maps to monitoring radars.

One committee, the Advisory Defense Council (ADC), meets six times a year and is a valuable source of guidance.

The Disaster Preparedness Planning Committee (DPPC) does just what its name implies. This committee with over seventy members from the health community, industry and government focuses on preparing disaster plans and testing those plans.

Many agencies need to test their plans for accreditation. Testing is accomplished primarily through three levels of exercises.

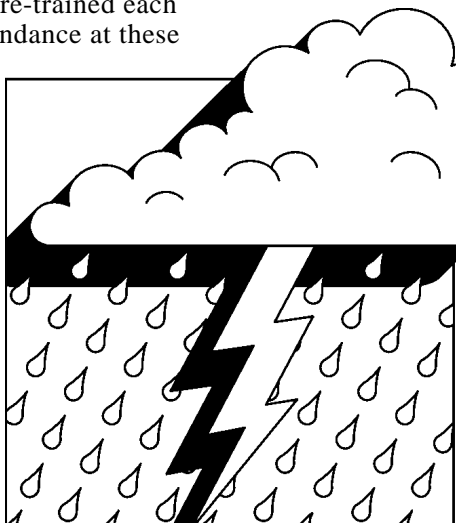
The first level of exercise is the Tabletop Exercise. This event is a low stress exercise. Following the disclosure of a scenario, participants discuss how their agency will respond.

The Functional Exercise is the next step up. Once the scenario has been presented, participants respond to additional events or messages in a time controlled environment. Obviously, this is a more stressful atmosphere.

The most elaborate, and the most difficult, exercise is the Full Scale Exercise. Full Scale Exercises involve the movement of equipment and personnel in the predetermined scenario. Once the disaster scene is prepared and victims in place, responders take part as if they are involved in a real incident. This exercise is the most stressful, most demanding and most expensive.

All of these exercises are followed by evaluations and, where indicated, changes in disaster plans. Law enforcement agencies, health care facilities and

airports are required to participate in exercises at all levels to meet accreditation requirements. Our schedule is full of exercises. (GB)



Women in Agriculture: The Critical Difference

September 11 & 12, 1997
Kearney Ramada Inn • Kearney, Nebraska

Now in its second decade, the *Women in Agriculture* conference continues to focus on women who make the critical difference on their farms and ranches. This 13th annual conference will continue the tradition of providing Nebraska's ag women with relevant and up-to-date information taught by dynamic speakers.

Ag Women take on the roles of homemaker, marketer, manager, tractor driver, "gopher," record keeper, vice-president, president, nurturer or any combination of these. You are asked to make a variety of business and personal decisions in your operation. To help you with these decisions, we offer 18 workshops that focus on the challenges that all ag women encounter.

The variety of workshops attests to the different roles that ag women fill in their operations. We strive to recognize and acknowledge the critical difference that you make in your operation. For two days, at our conference, you are the most important person in Nebraska.

It does not matter if you are a first timer or a regular attendee, the information that you gain at the conference you will put to use the next day. This conference is designed especially for you, a Nebraska Ag Woman!

KEY BENEFITS:

- Learn practical management skills
- Enhance the well-being of your family
- Improve your management expertise
- A forum to learn from other ag women

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- All women who want to learn more about farm/ranch management
- Women who are involved in day-to-day business and family decisions
- Women land owners

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Fee: The conference fee, if paid before September 6, is \$55.00 per person; after September 5, the fee is \$60.00. This fee includes workshop materials, registration, breaks, lunch and dinner on Thursday and lunch on Friday.

Cancellations: The registration fee is fully refundable up to September 5, 1997. A \$35.00 cancellation charge will be assessed after that date.

Lodging: Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Kearney Ramada Inn by calling 1-800-248-4460. Their special rate is \$47.00 per room with occupancy for 1-4 persons. The hotel is holding a block of rooms until September 1 for the *Women in Ag* conference.

Tax Deductible: The expenses of continuing education when taken to maintain and improve professional skills are tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor for information.

This conference is presented by the Department of Agricultural Economics, Nebraska Cooperative Extension, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For more information, contact Deb Rood, Programs Coordinator at 472-3401, for a schedule and registration form. Or to register by phone, call 1-800-535-3456. (GB)

Diversity resource information—on-line

Internet/web resources

Multicultural books for children:

- *Picture books for children from traditional cultures world over* <http://www.barefoot-books.com/>
- *Multicultural children's books* <http://www.redblack.com/multiki.htm>
- *Circle of friends—multicultural books for children* <http://www.cofbooks.com/cof-select.html>
- *The Teachers Net Lessons Exchange* <http://teachers.net/lessons>

Provides teachers a medium to exchange lesson plans and curriculum ideas. Teachers.Net encourages educators from around the world to contribute their ideas, approaches and lesson plans to the Exchange.

Jewish Holocaust and History Sites:

- March of the Living <http://www.motl.org>
- Occurs annually in Warsaw bringing together Jewish teens from all over the world to Poland on Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. Retraces the death march of Auschwitz to Birkenau.
- *To Save a Life: Stories of Jewish Rescues* <http://www.humboldt.edu/~rescuers>
- Including the stories of the people they rescued.

Native American Resources:

- *Games & Quizzes* <http://www.bluemountainarts.com/eng/nativeamer/NativeAmer.html>
- *The Native American Relations Video and Audio Cassette Series* <http://www.kifaru.com>

Award winning programs on contemporary issues such as American Indian religious freedom, the Native American Sobriety Movement, Indian leadership issues and the attempt by Indian people to heal themselves from what is now being called, The American Holocaust.

- *Dreamcatchers* <http://www.dreamcatchers.org>

A non-profit organization which assists Indian people in the fields of film making, religious freedom, sobriety, and language preservation.

- *The Ethnic Heritage Council* <http://www.eskimo.com/~millerd/ehc> in Seattle

Promotes ethnic diversity and cross-cultural understanding in the Pacific Northwest

- *National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME)* <http://www.inform.umd.edu/CampusInfo/Committees/Assoc/NAME/> (you may have to click on the logo to go into the complete page)

Global Resources:

- *The Web of Culture*

<http://www.worldculture.com>

Leading source of cross-cultural communications information. Over 400,000 visitors have perused this site full of valuable resources in such areas as business protocol, world religions and email exchange. Includes bookstore, curriculum information, quizbooks, languages, holidays and gestures.

- *International Holidays* <http://www.go-global.com/cgl-local/holidays.p/>

Approximately 70% of the holidays celebrated around the world each year change dates from year to year. Knowing International Holidays around the world is a courtesy among friends and a necessity in business. Go-Global offers a list of holidays celebrated in each country around the world.

The holidays' list includes the holidays that businesses and government offices will be closed. The list includes all international countries.

For more information about international travel, visit website: <http://www.Go-Global.com>

Resources and Web-Sites relating to Diversity Issues prepared by the Cooperative Extension Service National Center for Diversity, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, Kentucky. (GB)