

# Emergency Management October 2025 Newsletter



## Individual Preparedness

### How can one person possibly prepare for so many unknowns?

The truth is, preparedness doesn't have to be overwhelming—it's about taking practical steps that add up to resilience. It can be as simple as learning CPR, knowing where to go during a tornado, or recognizing the signs of a pipeline leak and understanding how to respond. It might mean fireproofing your home, keeping extra food and water on hand, or making sure your car is stocked with winter supplies. Preparedness also means looking out for each other—knowing your neighbors, especially those who may need extra help when disaster strikes. Every action, no matter how small, strengthens your ability to protect yourself, your family, and your community when it matters most.

### WINTER IS COMING

Prepare Early, Prepare Complete!

- Emergency kits for vehicles
- Emergency power outage kits for the house
- Cold Weather Gear (get it out of storage)
- Clean & test your heating source (furnace )
- Check your carbon monoxide detector



*“Preparedness isn’t about expecting the worst—it’s about giving yourself, your family, and your neighbors the best chance to weather any storm together.”*

## Agricultural Preparedness Facts

**Feed & Water Storage** – Livestock need at least **3 days of feed and clean water** stored safely in case deliveries or access are disrupted.

**Back-Up Power** – A generator can keep critical systems like milking machines, water pumps, and climate control running during outages.

**Livestock Evacuation Plans** – Identify high-ground pastures or alternate shelter areas for animals in case of flooding or wildfire.

**Crop Protection** – Keep extra tarps, sandbags, and water diversion tools on hand to protect seeds, stored grain, or vulnerable crops.

**Communication Tools** – Radios, cell phone backups, and access to mass notification systems (like EVERBRIDGE) are essential for rural areas.

**Winter Preparedness** – Stockpile salt, fuel, and hay in advance of blizzards or deep freezes; road closures can delay supply deliveries.

**Farm Records & Insurance** – Keep updated digital and paper copies of livestock counts, equipment lists, and insurance policies in a safe location.

**Community Resilience** – Know your neighbors' strengths and needs. Cooperation during disasters—such as sharing equipment or labor—can reduce losses for everyone



## Ready or Not, Disasters Will Come

Whether we are prepared or not, disasters have a way of striking when we least expect them. The difference lies in how much we've done to prepare—because even small steps can lessen the impact.

On March 13, 2019, the Midwest was hit with a weather phenomenon few had ever heard of before: a “*bomb cyclone*.” What began as an intense winter blizzard quickly turned catastrophic. Heavy snow and rain triggered massive flooding, ice jams toppled levees across four states, and dams were breached.

One Nebraska rancher took the warnings seriously. He moved his cattle to higher ground and ensured they had feed in advance of the storm. Despite his efforts, he still lost calves—but without preparation, the losses would have been far greater. His story is a reminder that while preparation cannot prevent every hardship, it can reduce the toll and save lives.

The storm left devastation in its wake. Nebraska alone declared states of emergency in 81 of its 93 counties and across five tribal areas. Entire towns were evacuated, hospitals and retirement homes relocated patients, and some communities were cut off by floodwaters. In places where dams failed, ice and water flattened everything in their path. Damage to infrastructure, homes, farmland, and livestock totaled an estimated **\$1.9 billion** in Nebraska alone. Roads were washed out, crops couldn't be planted, and stranded livestock had to be airlifted to safety.

One of the most important lessons learned: **communication saves lives**. Emergency managers used every tool available—radio, social media, phone alerts, even town whistles. But still, not everyone received the message on time.

Here in Phillips County, we pride ourselves on being tough, resourceful, and neighborly. But resilience starts with connection. That's why we encourage all residents to sign up for **EVERBRIDGE, the county's mass notification system**. Through EVERBRIDGE, our Emergency Management Office can deliver urgent alerts straight to you—whether it's a tornado warning, an evacuation order, or other critical information. You can also choose to receive weather notifications tailored to your needs.

**Stay connected. Stay prepared. Protect what matters most.**

Register today:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/311578402488623>

*“Preparation today is the quiet courage that protects tomorrow.”*