



Upcoming Events:

CERT Monthly Training:

- Feb 2, 7pm
After The Fire Review
- Mar 2, 7pm

**CERT Basic Training
(Date Changed)**

- Feb 12 (eve.), 13, Mar 16
Lincoln Park
Fire Station, Hastings

Online at:
cert.gihams.org

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The CERT Monthly

*Grand Island-Hall County
Community Emergency Response Team*

January 2010

December 2009 NWS Winter Weather Summary

December 2009 was both cold and snowy at Grand Island and Hastings.

The average monthly temperature at Grand Island was 18.3 degrees, which was 7.3 degrees below normal and the 5th coldest December on record.

Hastings had an average monthly temperature of 18.6 degrees which was 8.1 degrees below normal and the 3rd coldest December on record.

Grand Island received 1.76 inches of precipitation, which was 1.10 inches above normal.

Precipitation at Hastings totaled 1.98 inches which was 1.25 inches above normal.

Grand Island accumulated 26.5 inches of snowfall during December, which set a new record for the month.

Hastings accumulated 30.1 inches of snowfall during December.

The majority of the snowfall came with two storm systems, the first one from December 7th through the 9th, and the second from the 23rd through the 27th.



Several records were set at Grand Island and Hastings during the month of December:

Grand Island - Dec 8. New record daily snowfall amount of 9.7 inches. The previous record was 2.2 inches set in 1948.

Grand Island - Dec 8. New record daily precipitation amount of 0.59 inch. The previous record was 0.23 inch set in 1987.

Grand Island - Dec 10. New record low temperature of -7 degrees. This tied the previous record of -7 last set in 1937.

Grand Island - Dec 23. New record daily precipitation amount of 0.27 inch. The previous record was 0.24 inch set in 1939.

Grand Island - Dec 25. New record daily precipitation amount of 0.51 inch. The previous record was 0.20 inch set in 1941.

Grand Island - Dec 25. New record daily snowfall amount of 7.8 inches. The previous record was 3.0 inches set in 1941.

How You can Help Haiti

The earthquake that struck Haiti may well rise to one of the most tragic disasters in our lifetimes.

Like the 2004 tsunami that struck countries of the Indian Ocean in 2004, this recent disaster has rendered a tragic death toll that is perfectly inconceivable to us.

Estimates include over 150,000 deaths, more than every man, woman and child in Hall, Adams and Buffalo counties.

Even though we are far away from this disaster, Nebraskans can help. Despite our economic recession, it is well within the means of

most families to do some great good by making a small sacrifice and donating to a reputable relief agency.

The Emergency Management Department encourages you to have a serious discussion in your home on what type of sacrifice you could make in order to bring valuable

relief to those in the direst of needs.

It doesn't take a lot from you to do some great good. An amount equal to the monthly cost of your cell phone, cable bill, or a few family meals at a restaurant can provide life-saving supplies to a people desperate for assistance.



A Haitian child carries a box of USAID food supplies at a refugee camp in Port-au-Prince on January, 19, 2010. (AFP)

Donate to Help Haiti Relief Organizations

There are many reliable organizations providing relief to the victims of Haiti's earthquake. To donate, here are some options:

Clinton-Bush Haiti Fund

- Online through ClintonBushHaitiFund.org.
- Text "QUAKE" to 20222 to charge a \$10 donation to the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund (the donation will be added to your cell phone bill).

American Red Cross

- Call 1-800-RED CROSS or 1-800 HELP NOW
- Text "Haiti" to 90999

Find more ways to help at usaid.gov/haiti/

Haiti Earthquake

- 3 Million Haitians affected
- Over 150,000 killed
- More than 250,000 injured

Can You Make a Small Sacrifice?

It doesn't take a fortune to make a significant donation for Haiti relief. Talk with your family about what you could sacrifice this month for those in need.

Could you give 1% of your February income? Perhaps 2% or even 5%? A relatively small sum compared to the aid it can provide.

Evacuation Plans

When community evacuations become necessary, local officials provide information to the public through the media. In some circumstances, other warning methods, such as sirens or telephone calls, also are used.

Additionally, there may be circumstances under which you and your family feel threatened or endangered and you need to leave your home, school, or workplace to avoid these situations.

The amount of time you have to leave will depend on the hazard. If the event is a weather condition, such as a hurricane that can be monitored, you might have a day or two to get ready. However, many disasters allow no time for people to gather even the most basic necessities, which is why planning ahead is essential.

More Common than You Realize

Evacuations are more common than many people realize. Hundreds of

times each year, transportation and industrial accidents release harmful substances, forcing thousands of people to leave their homes.

Fires and floods cause evacuations even more frequently. Almost every year, people along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts evacuate in the face of approaching hurricanes.

Ask local authorities about emergency evacuation routes and see if maps may be available with evacuation routes marked.

Reasons to Evacuate

There are many local hazards that may require you to evacuate your home or business:

- Flooding
- Fires
- Building damage
- Power/Utility failure
- Hazardous materials contamination

Always

Listen to a battery-powered radio and follow local evacuation instructions.

Make transportation arrangements with friends or your local government if you do not own a car.

Keep a full tank of gas in your car if an evacuation seems likely. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages. Plan to take

Gather your family and go if you are instructed to evacuate immediately.

Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.

Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.

Be alert for washed-out roads and bridges. Do not drive into flooded areas.

Stay away from downed power lines.

If time permits

Gather your disaster supplies kit.

Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection, such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and a cap.

Unplug electrical equipment, such as radios and televisions, and small appliances, such as toasters and microwaves.

Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding.

Close and lock doors and windows.

Let others know where you are going.

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Training Opportunities

CERT Basic Training

- CERT Basic Training—Lincoln Park Fire Station, Hastings
Feb 12 (7-10pm), Feb 13 (8am-5pm), Mar 5 (8am-4pm)
To register, contact sboden@acema.org or call 402-461-2360

CERT Continuous Training

Regular Hall County CERT training meetings are scheduled the 1st Tue of every month, 7pm.

- February 2, 7pm, Station #1, After the Fire Review
- March 2, 7pm, Station #1

Other Training Opportunities

Night w/ EMS — St. Francis Memorial, 2116 West Faidley Avenue. Second Mondays, 7pm.
Free admission, no registration needed. www.nemsa.org.

Feb 8 – Chest Injuries

Red Cross Training — Contact **Renae Foster at 382-3790 or Renae@giredcross.org**.
All Red Cross Training above is located at 404 E. Third St. in Grand Island.

More training opportunities and activities are found on the CERT online calendar
<http://cert.gihams.org>.

Contact Jennifer Green for information regarding Training Opportunities

CERT Email Group

If you send an email to: gicert@googlegroups.com you will effectively be emailing everyone in our CERT membership. It's a way to share information via email with the entire group, without having to know everyone's email address. Feel free to bring up topics of interest to the group, ask questions, or share information that might be of interest to the other CERT members.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Roger Hammond directly at: rahammond@charter.net

Did You Know?

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other severe weather related hazard. Never walk or drive through flood-covered roads or bridges. Water depth is never certain and the speed and volume of flow can easily sweep away pedestrians and cars of any size.