



REGION 3 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2021 Annual Report

2021 REGION 3 JOINT POWERS BOARD

Becker County: Craig Fontaine *
Beltrami County: Chris Muller *
Clay County: Gabe Tweten * (VP)
Clearwater County: Candace Coulter *
Hubbard County: Scott Williams *
Kittson County: Scot Olson * (Fiscal Agent & President)
Lake of the Woods County: Jill Hasbargen Olson * (Sec.)
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Marshall County: Josh Johnston *
Norman County: Garry Johanson *
Pennington County: Erik Beitel *
Polk County: Jody Beauchane *
Red Lake County: Mitch Bernstein *
Roseau County: Sue Grafstrom *
Red Lake Nation: Robert Neadeau
White Earth Nation: Ed Snetsinger
Crookston: Tim Froeber
East Grand Forks: Jeff Boushee
Moorhead: Chad Stangeland
2021 Region 3 JPB Planner: Jennifer Olson
Region 3 RPC: Heather Winkleblack
* Denotes Voting County Member



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

2021 Year In Review – National Weather Service, Grand Forks, ND

June 5th – 6th: A cluster of storms developed over north central North Dakota shortly after 7 PM the evening of June 5th and moved into southern Manitoba by 10 PM. Strong winds were reported in Kittson County and a brief power outage was reported in Pembina County. A line of storms then developed over far western North Dakota and moved into the Devils Lake basin shortly after midnight. Several outflow boundaries and surges of high winds were evident on radar between 1 AM and 5 AM, with wind gusts across eastern North Dakota ranging from 58 to 78 mph.

June 7th – 8th: Just after 4 pm on Monday afternoon (June 7th), several high based storms formed northwest of Cooperstown, North Dakota. These storms formed north of a warm front, which was draped south of the Interstate 94 corridor. These storms intensified as they tracked to the east-northeast, prompting two severe thunderstorm warnings from Thompson toward Crookston, for large hail.

A break then occurred until mid-evening, when additional storms developed around the Jamestown area. These storms were extremely slow moving, holding over the Jamestown to Valley City corridor for hours at a time. Eventually the storms tracked east and east-southeast, affecting the Fargo-Moorhead to Lisbon corridor in the late evening time frame. Reports came in of Hail ranging from nickel toward Baseball size in Ransom, Cass, and Wahpeton counties. Damaging winds reports came in as well, with reports of 65-75mph gusts in southeastern ND. Isolated areas saw slightly higher reports of wind. These storms rolled into lakes country Minnesota close to midnight, prompting additional severe thunderstorm warnings for portions of Becker and Otter Tail counties. These storms continued to produce higher wind gusts in excess of 65mph across portions of west central Minnesota.

After midnight (on June 8th), storms redeveloped back in the Jamestown to Valley City corridor. Once again, these storms produced golf ball to baseball size hail, with some locations getting up to 5 rounds of the large hail. Rainfall reports were spotty, but some locations picked up 4 to 8 inches.

June 11th: In the early morning hours on Friday June 11th, 2021 (3:00am) a line of severe thunderstorms moved into the Devils Lake Basin, stretching down toward the James River Valley. These storms were moving rather quickly toward the east around 50-55mph. Warnings were issued from the international border toward South Dakota, with damaging winds being the primary threat.

Heavy rainfall and numerous wind reports along and west of the Red River came in, with isolated hail reports of quarter and half dollar being reported in Cass County. Highest wind reports were in Steele County, with 80-85 mph being measured through NDAWN or local spotters. As the storms moved into the Red River Valley they began to weaken and become unorganized. Slowly storms dissipated as they moved into lake country in Minnesota. Rainfall estimates across eastern North Dakota, NW Minnesota, and West Central Minnesota ranged from 0.5 inches to just under 2.0 inches.



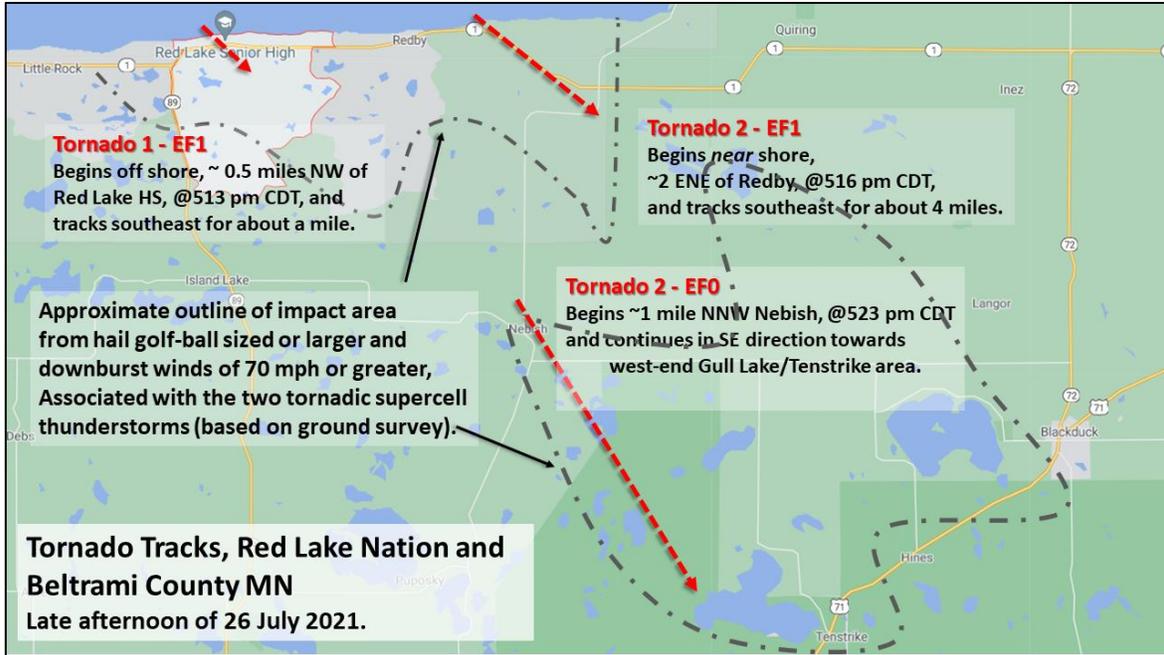
Snapped tree on top of a vehicle in Moorhead, MN (Scott Nordstrom & NWS)



Hail Photo Courtesy of Autumn Mahaffey

July 23rd: First round of clustered severe thunderstorms developed in west central and central Minnesota around 4:00pm bringing quarter to 2-inch sized hail and 55-65mph damaging winds. Warnings were issued promptly across lakes country as the storms tracked into central and northeast Minnesota. A brief break in severe activity occurred through the late evening hours before another round of thunderstorms began to develop along a frontal boundary near the North Dakota and South Dakota around 9:00pm. Storm began to affect Ransom, Sargent, and Richland counties after 10:30pm, with multiple reports of wind damage. Wind damage ranged from blown over sheds to broken trees. Storms continued past midnight into west central Minnesota where multiple reports of broken trees to displaced playgrounds were reported.

July 26th: Supercell thunderstorm formed in NW Beltrami County around 4:30pm intensifying as it worked its way over Lower Red Lake. Storm split into two storm cells as it neared the edge of the lake and formed one or more tornadoes over the lake that tracked onshore. Damaging downburst winds and very large hail accompanied these two storm cells as they continued to track SE across SE Beltrami County through 6:15pm. Near the midnight hours redevelopment happened in Mahnomon county, with a cell tracking southeast producing small hail.



August 9th: One supercell thunderstorm cluster tracked across much of the Devils Lake basin in northeastern ND and produced at least one distinct tornado along its path, in addition to areas of very heavy rain, large hail, and damaging downburst winds. Another supercell thunderstorm cluster tracked across east central ND and into northwest MN producing a persistent wall cloud feature, numerous funnel cloud and/or brief tornado events, and areas of downburst wind, large hail, and very heavy rain all along its path.



After Effects of a July 26th Supercell That Spawned 3.5 Inch Hail and 3 Tornadoes



Destroyed Pole Shed North of Fisher, MN (Source: NWS)



Downed Tree in Euclid, MN (Source: Jessica Brownsell)

August 20th: On August 20th, a strong upper wave moving through the area prompted strong and severe thunderstorms throughout the area. Heavy rain and sporadic wind gusts occurred through the afternoon and evening. Mini supercells developed as well, producing numerous wall clouds, funnel clouds, and one EF-0 tornado. The heavy rain was much needed after experiencing drought for the majority of the summer.

October 9th: A northeastward moving Quasi-linear Convective System, or QLCS Squall Line, developed in northeast South Dakota and tracked across portions of extreme southeast North Dakota, west-central Minnesota, and into southern portions of northwest Minnesota from mid-afternoon into the evening hours. The system produced a variety of downburst winds, surface squalls, and several occurrences of vertically elongated squalls which were sustained as brief tornadoes. Rainfall was also notable, with several locations receiving more than one inch.

**Tornado - Park Rapids
Hubbard County, MN**

Date	Oct 9, 2021
Time (Local)	10:35 PM CDT
EF Rating	EF-1
Est. Peak Winds	100 MPH
Path Length	0.36 mi
Max Width	150 yds
Injuries/Deaths	0/0

Summary:

This tornado touched down to the south and east of the Hwy 71 and Crocus Hill St. roundabout. It tracked first to the northwest, and across the Hwy 71 roundabout onto the Faithbridge Church property, then northward along the alley, and then northeastward onto the Park Rapids Ford property.

The tornado uprooted several mature spruce trees in a convergent pattern, it tore out Hwy 71 road sign and deposited it in a hedge some 50 yards to the southwest. It tore off several large metal roof panels off of the church, and the debris loading and wind impacts snapped one wooden power pole. Additional roofing panel and siding were torn from the automobile dealership structure



Track Map of the Tornado Path in Park Rapids, MN



Damage to Faithbridge Church in Park Rapids (Source: NWS)

December 4th – 6th: A Winter Storm that transitioned to a Blizzard (for portions of the area) brought a swath of 6-12 inches of snow, mainly along the Highway 2 corridor, from 6 pm on 12/4/2021 to 6 am on 12/6/2021. Isolated areas west of Bemidji saw the highest amounts, near 14 inches. The snow was associated with strong frontogenesis and warm air advection. This band of heavier snowfall amounts was tricky to pinpoint, as the frontogenesis axis was finite, and it shifted with multiple ensemble runs. The system started out with lower wind gusts (near 30 mph at times), but these later grew to 50 to 55 mph as the surface low passed through the area. The stronger wind gusts caused whiteout conditions within the Red River Valley Sunday night, which resulted in the closure of Interstate 29. Snow began to decrease along with wind gusts early Monday morning.

Source for this section: <https://www.weather.gov/fgf> - NWS Forecast Office in Grand Forks, ND. Thanks!

OX CART FIRE

Summary of the Oxcart Fire – MNICS.ORG

During the late afternoon hours of Monday, March 29, 2021, a wildland fire was detected within the Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, approximately seven miles west of Mentor, Minnesota. Red flag conditions, including strong gusty winds, unseasonable warm temperatures amid prolonged moderate drought conditions (building since the fall of 2020), contributed to the rapid progression of the Oxcart fire. The fire consumed 12,907 acres of grassland and brush.

Initial attack response included ground wildland fire crews from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota DNR, and 12 local fire departments, along with five single-engine air tankers, a large air tanker, and a helicopter. Smoke and the rapid-fire progression prompted the temporary closures of U.S. Highway 2, State Highway 32, and Polk County Highway 45 during the evening hours as the fire jumped the U.S. Highway 2 corridor to the north, and State Highway 32 to the west.



Aircraft Utilized In The Oxcart Fire - MNICS.org

A Minnesota Incident Command Team, led by Incident Commander Ernest Schmidt, was requested to assume management of the Oxcart fire on Tuesday, March 30, 2021. The team coordinated the operational, planning and logistical support of managing the fire crews and equipment supporting the containment efforts of the fire. Spring weather conditions brought a mix of blustery conditions, rain, and freezing temps. During periods of freezing temperatures, the use of helicopter buckets could not be utilized due to equipment icing over.

The team remained in command of the fire through Saturday, April 2, 2021, when they transitioned management of the fire to a smaller local fire organization. Throughout the 2021 wildfire season, lingering pockets of peat soil heat continued to manifest within the burn scar area as conditions progressed toward extreme drought. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service monitored the burn area throughout the season, extinguishing the heat pockets as they were identified.



Oxcart Fire Activity In The Evening Hours - MNICS.org

GOODS FIRE

Summary of the Goods Fire – MNICS.ORG

The Goods Fire was detected late morning on May 1, 2021, approximately 20 miles northwest of Red Lake, Minnesota. The fire actively ran through grass, brush, and timber, threatening structures during Red Flag Warning conditions. The dry and windy conditions contributed to fire growth during the afternoon hours as the fire grew to an estimated 1200 acres threatening structures. Several aircraft, including an air attack, two Fire Boss air tankers, six single engine air tankers (SEAT), a large air tanker (LAT), and two helicopters were used for fire suppression.

Due to the size and complexity of the fire, a Minnesota Type 3 Incident Management Team (MNICS Team) B, led by Incident Commander Tom Roach, was ordered to manage the fire. Team B assumed command of the fire at 6:00 a.m. on May 2, 2021.

Fire crews scouted the fire perimeter, prepared additional fire personnel and equipment, and developed suppression actions on the initial day under the management of MNICS Team B. On the western and southwest sides of the fire, crews continued to secure the fire's edge. On the eastern side, there was some active fire in the swamp grasses. The north and northeast sides of the fire remained quiet.

Tracked vehicles were utilized throughout the fire suppression and mop up efforts to identify safe access routes and complete fire suppression work along the fire's perimeter. Both direct and indirect operations were implemented based on fire behavior and access. Pockets of burning peat were identified along the west side of the fire.



5,530 Acre Goods Fire - MNICS.org

A temporary flight restriction was ordered for the airspace above the Goods fire due to the continued use of aviation operations. In addition, three helicopters were assigned to the fire and provided bucket water drops to cool off areas of heat.

Cooler temperatures, higher humidity levels, and light rain helped fire crews gain containment efforts on the Goods Fire. Firefighters worked on securing the fire edge and cooling pockets of flames and heat as necessary around the perimeter of the fire. Most of the work was supported by tracked vehicles with water tanks and firefighters on the ground with support from helicopter water bucket drops. A series of helicopter flights with an infrared camera were completed to map the edge of the fire and mark areas of heat that helped in directing ground crew actions. By Wednesday, May 5, the fire was estimated to be 40 percent contained.

Over the next two days, firefighters and equipment continued making significant progress toward securing the fire edge and continuing to cool down pockets of heat when necessary around the perimeter of the fire. By Thursday, May 6, the fire was declared 100 percent contained.

SCHOOL FOREST FIRE

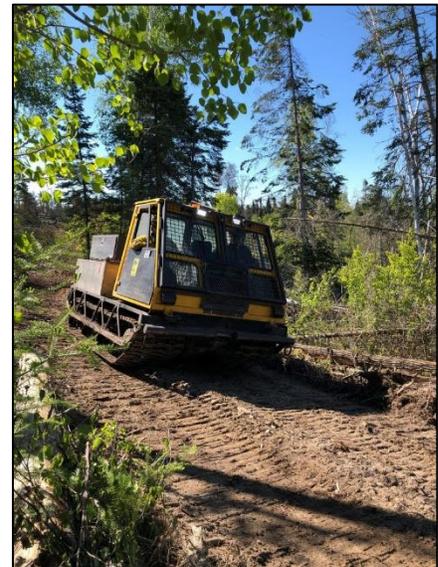
Summary of the School Forest Fire – MNICS.ORG

The School Forest Fire was detected mid-morning on Saturday, May 29, 2021. The fire was located 2.5 miles northeast of Bagley, Minnesota, along the School Forest road. Amid near-critical fire weather conditions, the fire actively ran through swamp grass, brush, timber, and logging slash. Dry fuel conditions, erratic winds, and low relative humidity allowed for significant spread and spotting to occur.

Ground suppression efforts were initially responded to by the Minnesota DNR and the volunteer fire departments from Solway and Shevlin, Minnesota. The White Earth Agency also supported the efforts by providing firefighters and engines. In addition, aircraft were critical in supplying water drops that aided ground crew efforts, cooling down the rapidly advancing flame fronts. Aircraft included an air attack, two Fire Boss air tankers, a single engine air tanker (SEAT), a large air tanker (LAT), and a helicopter. The aircraft remained on scene throughout the afternoon and evening.

By mid-afternoon of Saturday, May 29th, as firefighters worked to construct a dozer line around the majority of the fire's perimeter, a Minnesota Incident Management Team (MNICS Team), led by Incident Commander Jim Edgar, was requested to assume management of the School Forest fire. By 4:00 p.m., the fire was estimated to be 105 acres in size and 85 percent contained.

MNICS Team C assumed command of the School Forest fire on Sunday, May 30, 2021, at 07:00 a.m. The Team set out to establish the final 15 percent of the containment line, utilizing a wet line tactic – water or fire retardant drops along the fire line that serves as a temporary control to stop a low-intensity fire from spreading. Ground crews immediately began mopping up lingering hotspots from the containment line into the fire's interior.



Tracked Vehicles are utilized on fires like this due to their ability to move over difficult terrain and transport up to 300 gallons of water (MNICS.org)

An infrared flight flown over the fire on May 30th revealed eight pockets of heat that fire crews were able to cool down through mop-up efforts. Through improved mapping, the fire was determined to be 90-acres in size.



School Forest Fire - MNICS.org

The fire was fully contained by the end of shift on May 30th. After a full day of continue mop up efforts, the School Forest fire entered patrol and monitor status on Tuesday, June 1. Excavators and hand crews engaged in rehabilitating the dozer line to prevent exposed bare soil from damaging wind and water erosion.

AICHELE ROAD FIRE

Summary of the Aichele Road Fire – MNICS.ORG

The Aichele (Ike-Lee) Road fire was detected late in the morning of June 5, along the Aichele Forest Road near Beltrami Island State Forest. It was determined a lightning strike was the cause of the fire. Upon initial attack, the fire was observed to be actively running through lowland brush, conifers, and timbers. Excessive heat and windy conditions that day contributed to the fire's rapid spread.

Minnesota DNR and the volunteer fire departments from Baudette and Williams responded to the initial attack. They worked throughout the afternoon and into the night to suppress the fire while constructing a dozer line around most of the fire's perimeter. Several aircraft were also ordered, including air attack, CL-415s, CL-215s, Fire Boss air tankers and helicopters. The aircraft provided water drops throughout the afternoon and evening. Water was retrieved from Lake of the Woods near Zippel Bay State Park, fascinating weekend park visitors.

Recognizing the potential for impacted peat soils and the extended attack fire suppression needs, the Minnesota DNR made the decision on June 5, to request a MNICS Type 3 Incident Management Team to assume command.

MNICS Team A, led by Incident Commander Ernie Schmitt, took over the management of the fire on June 6. Team A ordered heavy equipment to mix peat soil with water. Track equipment, capable of transporting water into the fire, was also brought in and aided the work of ground firefighters as they identified and extinguished pockets of peat fire. Precipitation moved through the area on June 9, which increased humidity and reduced fire activity.



A Single Engine Air Tanker drops red fire retardant over active flames near powerlines - MNICS.org



A CL-415 on Zippel Bay State Park - MNICS.org

RADAR ROAD FIRE

Summary of the Radar Road Fire – MNICS.ORG

Late in the afternoon of July 13, a rapidly spreading wildfire was spotted northwest of Bemidji, Minn., in Eckles Township near Radar Road. Due to the extreme fire weather conditions and the fire's quick progression through grass and jack pine, several nearby homes were evacuated.

Multiple aircraft, including CL-215 water scoopers, SEATs, a Fire Boss and helicopters, were ordered to support the initial attack response. Minnesota DNR along with the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office, Beltrami Fire Department, and Solway Fire Department responded to the initial attack, working into the evening hours. Minnesota DNR made the decision to order a MNICS Type 3 Team to assume command of the fire. MNICS Team A, led by Incident Commander Ernie Schmitt, assumed management of the fire on July 14.

As mop up efforts progressed, firefighters assigned to the Radar Road fire were made available to support local DNR area forestry with a new start on July 15. Once controlled, crews returned to mop up efforts on the Radar Road fire.

NORTH NORRIS FIRE

Summary of the North Norris Fire – MNICS.ORG

Late in the afternoon of Saturday, August 14th, a wildfire was detected approximately 2-miles north of the historic Norris Camp in Lake of the Woods County, approximately 20 miles southwest of Roosevelt, Minnesota. Located within the Beltrami Island State Forest, the fire actively burned in heavy timber and brush. Several aircraft, including single engine air tankers, a large air tanker and a helicopter, were brought in to provide water and retardant drops to help slow the fire's spread. The North Norris was declared 100% contained on August 23rd and went into patrol and monitor status.



Drought, warm and windy conditions contributed to extreme fire conditions - MNICS.org

SQUARE FIRE

Summary of the Square Fire – MNICS.ORG

Early in the afternoon of Sunday, August 15th, a wildfire was detected actively burning in black spruce and bog. The fire was located in Lake of the Woods County, approximately 3 miles northwest of Graceton, Minnesota. Several aircraft, including single engine air tankers, CL-415 water scoopers and a helicopter were brought in to support the initial attack efforts delivering water and retardant drops to help slow the fire's spread. Aircraft remained on the fire well into the evening. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. The Square fire was declared 100% contained on August 24th.

BEACHES LAKE FIRE

Summary of the Beaches Lake Fire – MNICS.ORG

Late in the afternoon on October 5, a wildfire was detected east of Lancaster, Minn., within the Beaches Lake Wildlife Management Area. Dry conditions resulting from extreme drought along with steady winds contributed to rapid fire growth through grass, brush, timber, and marshland. The fire advanced north toward Kittson County Highway 4, nearing the U.S. - Canada border. A successful firing operation was conducted by the local fire departments that helped reduce the available fuel between the flame front and Highway 4. As a result, the fire was held south of the highway.



Aerial View of the Beaches Lake Fire - MNICS.org

Helicopters were brought in during the initial attack to help cool and slow the fire's progression. Fire crews from DNR and local volunteer fire departments continued to work throughout the night to establish a control line around the fire perimeter.

Fire crews immediately began mopping up brush, branches, and stumps that continue holding heat along the fire perimeter. Working with tracked vehicles, fire crews were able to bring water to the interior of the fire to mix the water with peat soil that continued to hold heat. Heavy equipment, including dozers and tracked vehicles, was used to establish, and secure a containment line around the fire's perimeter.

DNR requested a MNICS Type 3 Team to take over the fire management. MNICS Team A, led by Incident Commander Ernie Schmitt, assumed management of the fire on October 8.

More than an inch and a half of rain fell over the fire, and calmer, cooler weather conditions followed, greatly reduced the fire's activity and increasing containment. MNCIS Team A transitioned management of the fire to the local DNR area forestry fire personnel on October 13.

STATE DISASTER DECLARATIONS

State Declared Disasters in Northwest Minnesota

In 2014, Governor Mark Dayton signed legislation establishing the state's Disaster Assistance Contingency Account to assist local communities after a natural disaster, even when federal aid is not available. A certain damage threshold must be met in order to qualify. For a state disaster declaration, the county must incur eligible damages that equal or exceed 50% of the countywide per capita impact indicator. Applicants assume the responsibility for 25% of total eligible costs. In 2021, the following events qualified for a state disaster declaration:

Marshall County – May 19th – 20th, 2021

Governor Tim Walz has authorized emergency assistance for Marshall County for damage sustained from a severe thunderstorm with heavy rains and flooding on May 19-20, 2021.

“The State of Minnesota stands ready to help Marshall County,” said Governor Walz. “We will work closely with local officials to ensure they have the resources and support that they need.”

Beginning May 19 and continuing through May 20, Marshall County was impacted by heavy rains and overland flooding. The storm caused extensive damage to public infrastructure, including road washouts and overwhelmed agricultural drainage ditches, and local municipal storm sewer systems. The Department of Public Safety division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management worked with Marshall County Officials to provide assistance as directed by the Governor.

Source: <https://mn.gov/governor/news>



Examples of Damage in Marshall County From Heavy Rain and Flooding

SEVERE DROUGHT

Severe Drought Affects Northwest Minnesota

A major drought overtook Minnesota during 2021, as persistent moisture deficits combined with above-normal temperatures across the state. In some areas, the drought was as serious as anything experienced in over 40 years, though for most, it was the worst drought in 10-30 years. Although the period of greatest intensification and expansion began during the summer of 2021, dry conditions had been building in many areas during since early and mid-2020.

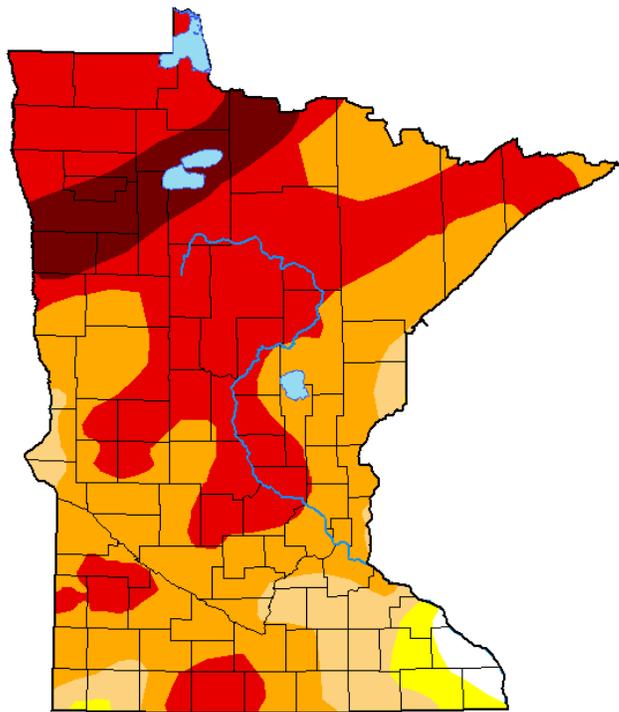
In May, most of northern Minnesota received under 1.5 inches of rain (normal is around 3 inches), and 18 counties receiving under an inch. It was one of the ten driest Mays on record throughout northern Minnesota, and the state finished 15th driest, out of 128 years. Fortunately, the temperatures were only slightly above normal.

Drought conditions expanded aggressively across Minnesota during June, thanks to an extraordinary early-summer heatwave, along with a continuation of very dry weather. It was Minnesota's third warmest and seventh driest June on record. Stations throughout the state recorded 10 or more 90-degree days during the month, while averaging a mere 45% of normal precipitation.

In July, the extremely dry weather continued, with the month finishing second driest on record on a statewide basis, and driest on record in many northern Minnesota counties. Once again, most areas received less than half of their normal precipitation. July was warm also, but lacked the heat extremes the state experienced during June.

Conditions continued deteriorating in first 2-3 weeks of August, with the precipitation shortfalls growing further over all but southeastern Minnesota. By August 10th, a swath of northwestern through north-central Minnesota was designated in Exceptional Drought (D4), marking the first time any part of the state had made it to that level of drought during the 21-year history of the US Drought Monitor. (Source: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/journal/drought-2021.html>)

U.S. Drought Monitor Minnesota



August 17, 2021
(Released Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	1.15	98.85	96.56	88.29	49.77	8.07
Last Week 08-10-2021	1.15	98.85	95.36	77.77	42.20	7.37
3 Months Ago 05-18-2021	45.43	54.57	21.61	0.78	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	1.60	98.40	23.40	0.28	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	54.95	45.05	8.39	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 08-18-2020	73.22	26.78	10.51	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

NW HEALTH SERVICES
COALITION



2021 was another year of COVID response for the NW Health Services Coalition. We took what we had learned in 2020 and were able to fill many gaps in 2021 to make the response a little more manageable. We continue to redistribute the various vaccines to facilities and monoclonal antibody therapies. Our communications platforms were adjusted as well and engaged in weekly meetings with the local emergency managers to provide updates and garner information on potential medical needs for other types of events in the region. We were able to provide cots for the regional EOC project which was determined to be very successful and something that the Coalition will be able to partner with in the future, especially now that the foundation has been developed and tested.

TRAIN DERAILMENTS

Train Derailment In Polk County

Polk County Sheriff's Office, Minnesota State Patrol and the Crookston Fire Department responded to a train derailment north of Crookston Monday night. When law enforcement and first responders arrived at the scene at Highway 75 North and County Road 252 they found multiple rail cars scattered along the tracks and ditch.

The train of 14 rail cars had nine cars derailed, said the PCSO in a media release.

"There were several cars leaking non-hazardous material, there is no concern for public safety at this time," they stated.



Train Car With A View Of Spilled Cooking Oil - Crookston Times

The dispatch call Monday night said some of the train cars were carrying cooking oil and the Times noticed a train car carrying grain had also derailed. Source – Crookston Times

The train derailed again in the same spot on March 9th. 22 cars went off the tracks.



Tanker Cars Lifted By Heavy Equipment - Crookston Times & Myron Veenstra



Tanker Cars Placed On Flatbed Trailers, Being Hauled Away - Crookston Times & Myron Veenstra

MURDER SUSPECT CAPTURED

Murder Suspect Captured Near Oklee

A man at large since July 9th was apprehended on August 4th in Red Lake County. Eric Reinbold was a suspect for the murder of his wife, Lissette. This event was exceptionally demanding of local resources and personnel, as multiple area searches and investigative work had been performed in addition to routine duties. The Red Lake and Pennington County Sheriff's Departments were heavily involved in this incident, along with Minnesota State Patrol, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and the US Marshals. Several other Sheriff and Police Departments assisted and sent personnel, including drone services provided by Polk County. (Photo courtesy of the Grand Forks Herald).



Sheriff Mitch Bernstein Standing Near Where Eric Reinbold Was Apprehended

REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)

Regional EOC Has Debut Activation

The advantages to first responders, government and the community of activating an Emergency Operations Center are numerous. Above all, it allows incident command the ability to focus on incident needs and problem resolution; it provides a central location where government can provide interagency coordination, resources and executive decision making; and facilitates long-term operation improving continuity. If a request has been made, an incident overwhelms/impacts a local area or if resources/personnel/facilities are not available – a regional EOC may be utilized.

The purpose of the Regional EOC during an event is in support of the Incident Commander (IC), and the Incident Command Post/Posts (ICP). This support could include securing additional resources, coordinating response from outside agencies, managing information (collect, evaluate and share), reviewing legal, policy and financial issues, forecasting long-term response and recovery needs, damage assessment, and anticipating indirect impacts of the event. This can be activated for any

natural, terroristic or hazardous materials incident, and provides a way for trained, local individuals to assist other localities during times of need.

County and city emergency management directors, assisted by local, county, regional and state partners, staffed the Northwest Regional Emergency Operations Center in the summer and fall of 2021. There were over 15 incidents that required Regional EOC support, spread out over 30+ days.



Regional EOC in Polk County



Regional EOC in Thief River Falls, Pennington County

TRAVELERS GAIN ACCESS TO CANADA

US Residents Gain Access To Canada on August 9th

United States residents regained the ability to travel into Canada in 2021. Officials said the 14-day quarantine requirement will be waived as of Aug. 9 for eligible travelers who are currently residing in the United States and have received a full course of a COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in Canada. (Minnesota Public Radio)



Roseau County Partnering With Public Health To Help People Get a COVID Test To Travel Into Canada

In addition to being fully vaccinated, travelers must be asymptomatic and have a valid pre-arrival COVID-19 molecular test result that was taken in the United States. Antigen tests were not accepted.

NEW MOBILE COMMAND CENTER

New Mobile Command Center for Clearwater County

The Clearwater County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management recently put their new mobile command center on display. A 2009 Thomas 84 passenger bus was purchased last year and has been retrofitted into a mobile command post.



The first five rows of seats were left intact to allow transport of inmates in the jail in the event that the county needed to evacuate the jail due to an emergency. The seating also will allow for transporting first responders if needed for an emergency or for search and rescue. There is plenty of storage under the bus for equipment and supplies. Inside the bus there are two dispatching stations with large monitors and radios as well as a printer. The dispatch center could be temporarily moved to the bus in the case that the current site had to be shut down for an emergency or due to the pandemic.

The bus can be powered by a 7000-watt generator or plugged into a power source like an RV. This bus will replace the existing 1996 camper trailer that the county has used for over 20 years. Funding for this mobile command post came from the CARES Act funding from the federal government last year and no local taxpayer dollars were needed. We are very grateful to the Clearwater County Commissioners who allowed this project to be completed. It will definitely be a great resource for the Emergency Management and Sheriff's offices or other agencies within Clearwater County. The uses for this vehicle are endless.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Best Practice Award – Amy Card, NW RHPC. This award recognizes best practices by an individual or agency in one of the functional areas of emergency management (Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, or Recovery) during the award year. Amy is currently the Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coordinator for Northwestern Minnesota.



Scott Williams (Hubbard County) Accepting An AMEM Award On Behalf of Amy Card

Advocate of the Year Award – Tony Guerra, Former American Red Cross (Northland). This is awarded by AMEM for exceptional support of emergency management by an elected official, media outlet, volunteer, or other person or organization that furthered the goals of the Association within the region. Tony served portions of Northwestern Minnesota for many years when he was employed with the Red Cross.



Tony Guerra Accepting His Advocate of the Year Award - AMEM

Craig Fontaine Retirement – Craig Fontaine retired from Becker County at the end of 2021. In addition to being the emergency manager, Craig was also involved with the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) and other local groups too numerous to mention. Craig helped prepare, mitigate, respond and recover from multiple hazards and will be missed!

New Members – Region 3 welcomes new emergency management!

- ✚ Robert Neadeau is the new emergency management director for the Red Lake Nation.
- ✚ Dan Davidson is the new emergency management co-director for Roseau County.

Committees – HSEM Region 3 represent NW Minnesota proudly by taking part in the following:

- ✚ AMEM Audit Committee – Jill Hasbargen Olson
- ✚ AMEM Past Presidents – Garry Johanson & Chris Muller
- ✚ AMEM Treasurer – Chris Muller
- ✚ AMEM Region 3 Representative – Craig Fontaine & Ed Snetsinger
- ✚ AMEM Region 3 Alternate Representative – Ed Snetsinger & Tim Froeber
- ✚ AMEM Government Affairs/Legislative Committee – Garry Johanson
- ✚ RAC Vice Chair – Chris Muller (Beltrami)
- ✚ Primary RAC Representative (Beltrami) – Chris Muller
- ✚ Primary RAC Representative (Clay) – Gabe Tweten
- ✚ Primary RAC Representative (Clearwater – Candace Coulter
- ✚ Primary RAC Representative (Hubbard) – Scott Williams
- ✚ Primary RAC Representative (Lake of the Woods) – Jill Hasbargen Olson
- ✚ Primary RAC Representative (Roseau County) – Sue Grafstrom
- ✚ Alternate RAC Representative (Roseau County) – Dan Davidson
- ✚ Alternate RAC Representative (Red Lake County) – Mitch Bernstein
- ✚ NG911 Committee – Jill Hasbargen Olson
- ✚ IPAWS Committee – Sue Grafstrom



Garry Johanson (Norman County) Addressing AMEM Participants

- ✚ Grants Work Group – Chris Muller
- ✚ Wireless Broadband Committee – Sue Grafstrom
- ✚ Alternate to the NW Regional Emergency Communications Board (Kittson County) – Scot Olson
- ✚ Alternate to the NW Regional Emergency Communications Board (Roseau County) – Sue Grafstrom
- ✚ Primary to the NW Regional Emergency Communications Board (Lake of the Woods) – Jill Hasbargen Olson
- ✚ User Representative to the NW Regional Emergency Communications Board – Chris Muller
- ✚ Representative to the Northwest Health Coalition – Josh Johnston

TRAINING & EXERCISES

The following events, exercises and trainings were planned by or had participation from members of HSEM Region 3

Governor's Conference & AMEM – Region 3 Emergency Management attended the virtual version of the Governor's Conference this year, as well as the Association of Minnesota Emergency Management Conference at Breezy Point.

Regional EOC Functional Exercise – The Region 3 Joint Powers Board planned for and participated in a functional exercise involving the opening and operation of a Regional Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The exercise tested many functions including notification, resource logistics, EOC organization/operation and communications.

PLANNING

The following documents planning projects and events that incorporated members of HSEM Region 3.

All Hazard Mitigation Planning – Counties are in the process of completing their 5-year update for the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The All-Hazard Mitigation Plan lists actions that are taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risks to people/property. Having an approved mitigation plan is also an important pre-requisite for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance.

- ✚ 2020-2021 Hazard Mitigation Updates include Mahnomon County and the White Earth Nation.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) – Clay County and Moorhead Emergency Management worked together to enhance their local EOCs, including setting up at an alternate location, testing activation, procedures and developing an Incident Action Plan. This was done in anticipation of the potential for civil unrest relating to the Derek Chauvin verdict, as well as other local natural and hazardous materials incidents that could require an enhanced response/recovery effort.

Public Education – Public education has been done by all Emergency Management Directors within Region 3 periodically throughout the year. Specific periods of public education included Winter Hazard Awareness Week (November 15–19, 2021) and Severe Weather Awareness Week (April 12-16, 2021).

Credentialing/Badge Printing – Credentialing of emergency response partners has been occurring in order for use during emergency response/sheltering events. This is to aid in the ensurement of the identification of authorized personnel and safety for all those affected.

Regional Planning Services – Utilizing State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funding, the HSEM Region 3 Emergency Managers Joint Powers Board continued a relationship with the Northwest

Regional Development Commission to provide regional planning related services to the 14 counties and two tribal nations in Northwestern Minnesota. Planning accomplished include:

- ✚ EOC Position Planning
- ✚ Mass Fatality Planning
- ✚ Virus/Bioterrorism Planning
- ✚ Mass Gathering Planning
- ✚ Regional Credentialing
- ✚ Unrest Recovery
- ✚ Regional Exercise

Coronavirus Planning – Emergency Management performed planning throughout 2021 in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Tasks performed include (but not limited to):

- ✚ Continuity of Operations Planning
- ✚ Pandemic and emergency operations planning
- ✚ Personal Protective Equipment procurement
- ✚ Resource identification and location
- ✚ Public information sharing
- ✚ Grants and funding
- ✚ Participation, planning and coordination with multiple state, county, tribal and city agencies/departments
- ✚ Coordination and engagement with business, health, education and community leaders



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lots of exciting events coming in 2022!

Governor's Conference – Due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, the Governor's Conference is being held virtually throughout the month of February. The conference will address current and critical topics in emergency management, incident response and disaster recovery for Minnesota.

Under One Roof - The Under One Roof Conference is held at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. Participation will provide attendees with opportunities to connect with regional preparedness and response partners, learn innovative and effective techniques for future activities, and share lessons learned from recent responses. This event may be impacted by the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

AMEM - The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers Conference is being held at the Breezy Point Resort in September. The conference features discussions and presentations on existing and essential emergency management topics, training opportunities, a tabletop exercise and multiple breakout sessions. This event may be impacted by the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic.

Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 4th - 8th, 2022.

Winter Hazard Awareness Week is November 14th – 18th, 2022.