

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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New Coordinator for West Central Medical Response System

McCook – West Central Medical Response System (WCMRS) announces the hiring of their new coordinator, Heidi Wheeler of Imperial. “Heidi brings a wealth of emergency preparedness experiences to her position,” explains Laurie Walrod, WCMRS steering committee member. “She has excelled in recruiting volunteers, developing disaster drills, and providing valuable knowledge for disaster planning. We look forward to her leadership role with the WCMRS program.”



Wheeler is currently the Emergency Response Coordinator for Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department and will retain this position in a joint capacity. She is a graduate of McCook Community College, Bellevue University and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Emergency Preparedness.

She has her certificate in Emergency Preparedness from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and is a 2012 graduate of the Great Plains Leadership Institute through the College of Public Health-UNMC.

Wheeler has been a presenter for statewide trainings and is well-known as a collaborator with numerous organizations. Heidi is supported by her husband, Brad and two children.

WCMRS serves a primarily rural area that has a population of approximately 81,130 people spread over a 14,605 square mile area. WCMRS serves the following counties: Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Keith, Lincoln, Perkins, Chase, Hayes, Frontier, Dundy, Hitchcock, Red Willow, and Furnas.

WCMRS is the sixth Medical Response System to be implemented by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services under a federally funded grant program. The purpose of the Nebraska Regional Medical Response Systems is to prepare local medical systems, in partnership and collaboration with public health, fire, law enforcement, emergency management, government entities and community organizations, for an integrated medical response to any natural or man-made source disaster.

For more information on programs at WCMRS contact Heidi Wheeler at email: wcmrs@swhealth.ne.gov or call 308-345-4223. WCMRS is committed to improving the region's response to disasters.

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