

## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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### **Dundy County Receives Local Hero Award from Lt. Governor**

McCook–Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) Emergency Response Coordinator, Heidi Wheeler recently nominated Dundy County and their Community Preparedness Committee for the Local Hero Award which was presented by the Nebraska Lt. Governor.

Elaine Frasier, retired Emergency Manager for Dundy County accepted the award on behalf of all those involved with the Amtrak derailment on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> during the Lt. Governor’s Be Prepared Awards ceremony.

“Dundy County deserves this recognition for their outstanding community preparedness efforts during the 2011 Amtrak derailment that happened near Benkelman,” states Wheeler. “It was estimated there were 500 volunteers and 5,000 volunteer hours from three states and 10 counties that joined together to handle this emergency.”

The Lt. Governor’s Be Prepared Awards celebrate excellence by Nebraskans in making their communities safer through service focused on preparedness, response, recovery, leadership, and assistance related to disaster, emergency and/or crisis.

This serves as another reminder that SWNPHD is celebrating National Preparedness Month in September and encourages all residents to “be prepared”.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins and Red Willow counties. For more information call Heidi Wheeler at 308-345-4223 or email: [erc@swhealth.ne.gov](mailto:erc@swhealth.ne.gov). SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, McCook – one block north of Arby’s. You can also follow us on our website at [www.swhealth.ne.gov](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov) or Facebook & Twitter.

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