Pilger, Nebraska

Mitch Paine, CFM
Flood Mitigation Planning Coordinator
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Pilger, Nebraska

- Interaction between multiple hazards
- State/federal agency partnerships
- Importance of substantial damage
- Role of local floodplain management
Pilger Profile

- Community of 350
- 1 city staff member
- Large farm co-op in town
- Median home value: $56,000
June 16\textsuperscript{th} Tornado

- 2 people died
- 20 injured
- 75\% of all homes damaged
- 100\% of all businesses destroyed
- 76 buildings destroyed
- 30\% of all trees gone
Floodplain

- 61 flood insurance policies
- 15% of all homes insured
- Nearly all of town in floodplain
- Average policy premium: $501/yr
- Joined the NFIP in 2004, with FIRM
- 1 village staff is floodplain administrator
Response

• Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) responded immediately
• NDNR visited village week after – substantial damage
• FEMA, SBA, etc.
Substantial Damage

• With 1 village staff who has dozens of responsibilities, substantial damage last of her concern
• State agency coordination was key
• Concern among homeowners about what substantial damage means for them
Message Coordination

• Village residents concerned that basements saved lives
• NEMA prepared presentations that focused on helping people understand opportunities/possibilities
Message Coordination

• Public meetings on:
  – Recovery
  – Flood Insurance
  – Safe Rooms
  – Disaster Assistance
  – Ongoing future planning
Long-term recovery

• Recovery strategy was prepared
• Many town halls held
• Updated comprehensive plan being done by volunteers with Nebraska APA
• Lots of agencies, organizations, individuals still working in community
Lessons Learned

• Constant training is crucial
• Substantial damage often forgotten in communities with limited staff
• Role of local floodplain champion
• Community perceptions – small town
• State agency coordination significant help