



Safety Shorts

General Safety, Highway, & Law Enforcement

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September is Healthy Aging Month

Healthy Aging Month is an annual observance month designed to focus national attention on the positive aspects of growing older. The mission of Healthy Aging® Month is to encourage local level Healthy Aging® events that promote taking personal responsibility for one's health... be it physically, socially, mentally or financially. Healthy aging means adopting healthy habits and making positive lifestyle choices that contribute to health and well-being as we grow older.

These habits may include:

1. **Nutrition.** Maintain a healthy, balanced diet.
2. **Physical activity.** Keep your body active by doing regular exercise.
3. **Mental functioning:** Keep your mind stimulated and get enough sleep.
4. **Social well-being:** Stay socially connected and engaged with others.
5. **Emotional well-being:** Take care of your emotional well-being, including managing stress, having a positive outlook, and seeking support when needed.
6. **Injury prevention:** Try to avoid falls and other injuries by taking precautions and practicing safe driving.
7. **Health care routine:** Keep up with regular health checkups, vaccines, and screenings; and manage any chronic conditions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONS

By Todd Duncan, Law Enforcement and Safety Specialist

Arrest & Return of Fugitives Wanted in Other States

Nebraska law enforcement officers are sworn to uphold both the U.S. and Nebraska Constitutions, including protections against unlawful seizures and the guarantee of due process. Officers—especially those near state borders—must understand the legal framework for arresting and transferring individuals wanted in other states.

Jurisdictional Limits

Except in cases of fresh pursuit (NRS § 29-215), officers may only enforce their own state's laws within their own state borders. A Nebraska warrant does not authorize crossing into another state to arrest a fugitive, nor does an out-of-state warrant allow the arrest in Nebraska and return of the fugitive to the demanding state without following proper extradition procedures.

Extradition Law Overview

Nebraska follows the Uniform Criminal Extradition Act (UCEA), which can be found in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 29-729 to 29-758. Arrest authority for out-of-state fugitives comes not from the out-of-state warrant itself, but from NRS § 29-742, which allows arrest based on “reasonable information” that the person is charged with a serious crime (punishable by over one year) in another state. Upon locating a fugitive from another state, officers must:

1. Confirm the warrant and extradition intent with the demanding out-of-state law enforcement agency via NCIC.
2. Arrest and bring the fugitive promptly before a Nebraska judge.
3. File a probable cause affidavit and complaint for a fugitive hearing.

There are two potential paths following the initial fugitive hearing:

- Waiver of Extradition (§ 29-754):
 - Fugitive may waive extradition in writing before a judge.
 - Demanding state may then retrieve the fugitive without a Governor’s Warrant.
- Governor’s Warrant:
 - If extradition is contested, the demanding state submits a formal request to Nebraska’s Governor.
 - If approved, the Governor issues a warrant authorizing custody and transfer.

Transfer Protocol

A signed extradition waiver or Governor’s Warrant is required to legally transfer custody of a fugitive to another state. Premature transfer violates habeas rights and is a Class II misdemeanor (§ 29-739).

Officer Checklist for Fugitive Arrests and Extraditions

- Confirm NCIC hit and extradition intent.
- Book fugitive locally and present to judge quickly.
- Follow one of two legal tracks: waiver or Governor’s Warrant.
- Respect habeas corpus rights—never shortcut the process.
- Keep thorough documentation: warrant, court orders, transport details.

Bottom Line

Interstate extradition is a constitutional responsibility with strict legal safeguards. Follow each step, protect rights, and coordinate with prosecutors and the demanding state for a lawful transfer.

A fugitive extradition flow chart can be viewed/downloaded [here](#).

STAY PROFESSIONAL. STAY ACCOUNTABLE. PROTECT THE BADGE.

NIRMA Member Officials, Supervisors, and Managers:

Have a human resource question or issue? Contact NIRMA’s Human Resources Helpline at (866) 896-6423.

Have a non-HR legal question or issue? Contact NIRMA’s Legal Link at (402) 742-9240 or by email at legallink@nirma.info

GENERAL SAFETY

By Chad Engle, Loss Prevention and Safety Manager

Membership Eligibility and Responsibility: A Reminder for County Officials

Beyond the universal recommendations made in NIRMA's Best Safety Practices for Members, NIRMA makes individualized recommendations by way of assessments and inspections. These include evaluations of:

- Safety Committees
- Road Sign Programs
- Highway department shop safety
- Jail policies and procedures
- Law enforcement policies and procedures

These assessments help NIRMA fulfill its responsibility to protect members and maintain the integrity of the member fund balance.

When a county or county related public agency joins NIRMA, it accepts a shared duty: to prevent avoidable losses and protect fellow members from financial harm. Every recommendation from NIRMA is designed to reduce risk and safeguard the program's financial health-not to "check a box," but to uphold meaningful risk management.

As stated in NIRMA's Mission Statement:

"NIRMA, in partnership with its member Nebraska counties and other select public agencies, leads the way in providing innovative and cost-effective insurance coverages, sound risk management strategies, and comprehensive loss prevention and safety services."

NIRMA's recommendations are not legal mandates; we trust that our members are committed to actively managing risk. However, when re-inspections and assessments reveal a lack of engagement, it raises concern. Poor risk management is proven to increase losses, costs, legal liability and has a negative impact on the pools.

Criteria 3 of the NIRMA Membership Eligibility Criteria is strongly linked to active risk management and states that the member presents a good risk profile based on the regular activities and functions of the agency, has acceptable claims experience, and is accepting of the risk management and loss control approaches employed by NIRMA.

NIRMA values each member, and the work of the staff serving the program is aimed at protecting the collective well-being of the program. That is why we urge all officials to recognize the importance of and follow the recommendations made during individualized assessments and inspections. Every member of the pool plays a critical part in helping to control losses and manage risks.

Feel free to reach out to me at chad@nirma.info or (402) 450-2417 with questions or training.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

By K C Pawling, Road Safety and Loss Prevention Specialist

A Reminder of NIRMA Road Department Safety Training Opportunities

NIRMA is committed to helping counties reduce risk, improve safety, and protect employees through comprehensive training programs. Moving into the late season, (I don't want to commit to saying our fourth season quite yet) this is a reminder that NIRMA makes no-cost safety training available to its members. Keep in mind, our loss prevention staff are able to bring sessions to you, in person, at your county facility. This gives us an opportunity to develop a relationship with your department and answer questions.

Our Road Department Safety Training offerings are specifically designed to address the unique challenges faced by road and bridge crews, shop personnel, and heavy equipment operators. Below is an overview of the training opportunities available to your team. A complete Loss Prevention Training Catalog is available on our website, just look under the Resources menu and click on Training.

Core Safety & Compliance Training

- **Work Zone Safety & Signing** – Best practices for safe construction zones.
- **Sign Management** – Inventory, inspections, and compliance programs.
- **Certified Flagger Training** – Ensuring safe traffic control.
- **Drug & Alcohol Testing Requirements** – Understanding policies and procedures.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – Proper choice and use.
- **Heat & Cold Weather Safety** – Protecting workers in extreme conditions.
- **Accident Investigation** – Proper documentation for property and injury incidents.
- **Global Harmonization System (GHS)** – Hazard communication standards.

Shop & Facility Safety

- **Shop Safety & Audits** – Identifying and mitigating hazards.
- **Slips, Trips & Falls** – Prevention strategies.
- **Fuel Facility Safety** – Handling and storage protocols.
- **Hoist Safety** – Inspection and operation guidelines.
- **Fire Extinguisher Use** – Inspection and emergency response.

Road & Bridge Maintenance

- **Snow Removal Safety** – Emergency routes and equipment checks.
- **Excavation & Stockpile Safety** – Safe construction practices.

- **Gravel Road Maintenance** – Design standards to reduce liability.
 - **Culvert Installation & Asphalt Patching** – Proper techniques for durability and safety.
 - **Crack Sealing & Load Securement** – Application and compliance.
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Heavy Equipment Training

- **Operation & Safety** – Loaders, graders, excavators, backhoes, skid loaders, dozers, scrapers, and more.
 - **Bucket Trucks & Cranes** – Inspection and safe operation.
 - **Roadside Mower Safety** – Tractors and mowers.
 - **Preventive Maintenance** – Extending equipment life and ensuring safety.
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Specialized Topics

- **Confined Spaces & Fall Protection**
 - **Utility Installations on County ROW**
 - **Carrier Enforcement & Engineering Studies**
 - **Anger Management & Safety Culture**
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We regularly update our training sessions to reflect regulatory changes and member feedback. We also offer flexibility to tailor sessions to your county's specific needs. So, if you are ready to get a training scheduled, you can contact me at NIRMA to learn more or to set up a session for your team. I can be reached via email at kcpawling@nirma.info or 402-310-4417.