



**DOUGLAS COUNTY LEPC &
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD**
111 East Eleventh Street, Unit 200
Lawrence, KS 66044-2909
(785) 832-5259

October 2, 2024

Evergy Lawrence Service Center

Chair Brad August welcomed members of the Douglas County Emergency Management Board/Local Emergency Planning Committee on October 2, 2024.

LEPC Board Members present in the meeting included:

Kathy Porsch	Derek Bland	John Harris
Mike Russell	John Mathis	Shannon Wells
Brad August	Mike Pattrick	Vince Avila
Chad Christie	Kirk Vernon	Karrey Britt
Teri Axman	Joe Hardy	

Emergency Management staff included:

Joshua Taylor	John Stipetich
Robert Bieniecki	Erin Huneke

Others attending: Patrick Bircher

Welcome

- Brad August called the meeting to order, and members introduced themselves.

Executive Committee Business:

- Vice-Chair Mindy Andrasevits left her position with Eudora Fire in September, leaving a vacancy on the Executive Committee.
 - Teri Axman was nominated to fill the role of Vice-Chair. Mike Russell moved to approve, and Chad Christie seconded. The motion carried.
 - Joe Hardy was nominated to fill the vacancy on the Executive Committee. Mike Russell moved to approve, and Teri Axman seconded. The motion carried.

Minutes of July 3, 2024:

- Teri Axman moved to approve the minutes of the July 3 Full Board Meeting. Kathy Porsch seconded, and the motion carried.

Presentation:

- Vince Avila from Evergy presented on Evergy's normal operations, plans for the future, and emergency response following major storms.

Staff Updates – Josh Taylor, Robert Bieniecki, Erin Huneke, John Stipetich

- Plans:
 - **LEOP:** The EOP has been approved by the state and adopted and promulgated by the Douglas County, Baldwin City, Eudora, and Lecompton city elected bodies. Promulgation by the city of Lawrence is pending.
 - **COOP:** EM is revisiting coordination efforts with Baldwin City and Lawrence departments.
 - **IPP:** EM has developed a new survey to track progress on identified priorities from the IPPW. Based on feedback from the workshop, we are making specific

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Plans: Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

COVID-19 Related: Unified Command (UC), Emergency Support Function (ESF), Recovery Support Function (RSF)

Procurement: Request for Proposal (RFP), Request for Quote (RFQ)

IPPW: Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop

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- selections for actionable items and incorporating this information into the IPP calendar.
- **Mitigation:** The new Region K Hazard Mitigation Plan has been submitted for promulgation to the BOCC. After county approval, the plan will be sent to the cities and participating stakeholders for adoption.
 - **Grants:**
 - **HMEP:** An After-Action Report was completed for the August Hazardous Materials tabletop exercise. We are waiting for approval for the 2024-2025 application for lithium-ion battery training. Applications for the following year will be due in early 2025.
 - **EMPG:** There will be a 10% funding cut for 2025; this cut is coming down from the federal level.
 - **ARPA Project Updates:**
 - **PPE:** The final project balance is being used to support PPE requests from Consolidated Fire District #1.
 - **EOC:** This project balance will fund an amateur radio repeater.
 - **New Siren Project:** Funds have been approved for additional upgrades of old siren equipment. This project is in progress.
 - **EM Budget:**
 - Following the July budget hearings, EM's request for permanent funding for an intern was approved. The request for an additional full-time staff position was not approved.
 - **County Code:**
 - Chapter V of the county code is being rewritten to reflect the current organization of both Emergency Management and Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical. Approval is expected before the end of the year.
 - Counsel is looking over the Joint Cities-County Resolution and the LEPC Bylaws as well, both of which have historically had overlap with each other and the code.
 - **Volunteer Groups:**
 - Kate Dinneen left her position as Duty Officer and CERT Coordinator September 17. Volunteer team management will see some changes in coming months as John Stipetich takes on many of Kate's responsibilities.
 - Accountability and EOC Support teams will meet in October.
 - The annual Volunteer Recognition event will take place on November 3.
 - **Outreach:**
 - Twelve individuals graduated from the September CERT Weekend Class. The next class will be held in April, location to be determined.
 - EM staff and volunteers participated in several outreach activities, including supporting the Community Safety Fair in August, tabling at the KU Staff Summit in September, and bringing the Wheel of Misfortune and preparedness information to a Woodlawn Elementary School family night in September.

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Information Sharing

- Patrick Bircher, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health: The Community Health Plan will be launching soon. This plan is a guiding document for all public health in the county and will be in place until 2029.
- Chad Christie, ICL: Employee Carnival will be held November 13 from 5-8pm. The community is invited. The event will include tours, food trucks, and games.
- Karrey Britt, Douglas County: The Public Information Officer group met in September and debriefed the Brandon Woods fire event, which included several takeaways for this group. In October, EM staff will attend the PIO meeting to continue this discussion.
- Joe Hardy, Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical: An After-Action Report was written for the Brandon Woods incident. The report includes many strengths as well as some areas for improvement. Several agencies came together well to respond. Since then, other places like Vermont Towers have reached out requesting walkthroughs and planning support.
- John Mathis, Consolidated Fire District #1: CFD was on backup in Lawrence during the Brandon Woods incident while mutual aid from Johnson County was on the way. Kirsten Rhoads did some training at Babcock place this summer. Chief Mathis stressed the importance of this kind of outreach before an incident takes place.
- Teri Axman, LMH Health: Laura Kelly will be at LMH West today as part of the groundbreaking ceremony on the South Lawrence Trafficway project; LMH has been affected by Hurricane Helene impacts to east coast pharmaceutical facilities; LMH Health is prepared for an accreditation visit which can happen anytime in the next 6 months; COVID-19 is high in our community right now. (Patrick Bircher added that flu is also surging. Don't wait to get your vaccine like you would have in past years.)
- Other updates: Chirs Hull is the interim chief at Eudora Fire.

Adjourn:

Brad August called for a motion to adjourn. Teri Axman so moved, and Chad Christie seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

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