



**DOUGLAS COUNTY LEPC &  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

111 East Eleventh Street, Unit 200  
Lawrence, KS 66044-2909  
(785) 832-5259

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**January 8, 2025**

*Virtual*

Chair Brad August welcomed members of the Douglas County Emergency Management Board/Local Emergency Planning Committee on January 8, 2025.

**LEPC Board Members present in the meeting included:**

Matt Matheis	Benjamin Harris	Karrey Britt
Brad August	Mike Russell	Greg Gardner
Chad Christie	Judd Bowerman	Chad Voigt
Kyle Lewis	Lane Sekavec	Mike Pattrick
John Harris	Chris LaMar	Ethan Unfred
Shannon Wilson	Jill Jolicoeur	Scott Fewins
Mathew Faulk	Nelson Mosley	Kirk Vernon
Shannon Wells	James Druen	Shane Munsch
Tony Foster	Kay Johnson	Carmen Mills
Kathy Porsch	Jamie Hofling	

**Emergency Management staff included:**

Joshua Taylor	John Stipetich
Robert Bieniecki	Erin Huneke

**Others attending:** Greg Dillon, Lynley Sanford, Taylor Hall

**Welcome**

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

**Minutes of October 2, 2024:**

- Mike Russell moved to approve the minutes of the October 2 Full Board Meeting. Kathy Porsch seconded, and the motion carried.

**Integrated Preparedness Plan Workshop:**

- Josh Taylor presented on the Integrated Preparedness Plan Workshop (IPPW).
  - The IPPW helps develop priorities for exercises across agencies to create the Integrated Preparedness Plan which runs on a three-year cycle. This process also helps to document the needs of county agencies for grant and funding purposes.
  - Josh reviewed IPPW survey results from LEPC members.
  - Reach out to Josh Taylor for the Integrated Preparedness Plan or more info.

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

- Plans:
  - **LEOP:** Workshops have been developed and scheduled for primary contacts for the Emergency Support Functions for 2025. In these workshops, partners will review roles in the EOP, Community Lifelines, and Emergency Operations Center functions.

Common Acronyms:

Volunteers: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Auxiliary Communications Team (ACT)

Grants: Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP), Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)

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

ARPA: American Rescue Plan Act



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- **COOP:** EM is revisiting coordination efforts with Baldwin City and Lawrence departments.
  - **Mitigation:** The new regional mitigation plan has been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, Lecompton, Eudora, and USD 497. Coordination continues with Baldwin City and the City of Lawrence.
  - Grants:
    - **HMEP:** Funding for two lithium-ion batter classes was approved. Dates were selected after meeting with the Fire Chiefs Association. 2025-2026 project applications are due February 7<sup>th</sup>; we may look at a commodity flow study.
    - **EMPG:** Reimbursement application for 2024 is due February 14.
  - ARPA Project Updates:
    - All funding was spent or encumbered by the end of 2024. Amateur radio equipment purchased with ARPA funds is waiting on installation.
  - County Code:
    - Chapter V of the county code has been rewritten to reflect the current organization of both Emergency Management and Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical. The rewrite will go before the Board of County Commissioners next week.
  - Volunteer Groups:
    - The main volunteer groups have been slightly reorganized into ACT, CERT, Skywarn, and EOC Support.
      - ACT: We've replaced VHF antennas and are installing a new UHF repeater. We also replaced outdated radio equipment in the office.
      - Skywarn: Annual radio maintenance is complete; spotter and support training coming up in the following weeks; all Skywarn volunteers will also be equipped with handheld anemometers for additional data collection.
      - CERT: Slightly reorganized to better represent all activity areas; equipment for 24 standard CERT packs has been purchased. These packs will be issued during activations.
      - EOC Support: Exercised in October. Documentation and procedure development continues, including for the Alternate EOC facility.
    - The Red Cross will teach a sheltering training on January 16 for volunteers and city and county homeless support staff.
  - Outreach:
    - The next CERT Weekend Class will be April 11-13 and will be hosted at KU in the Ambler Student Recreation Center.
    - Severe Weather Night will be Thursday, March 13 from 7-9pm, location TBD.
  - Other Staff Updates:
    - FIFA Planning: Lawrence may host a team at Rock Chalk Park during the FIFA 2026 World Cup. A Unified Command group has been set up in Lawrence to plan.

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- Construction will begin on the Judicial and Law Enforcement building later this month. Parking and building access will be affected.

### **Information Sharing:**

- John Harris: Led the Skywarn net last night, a regular testing of Skywarn radios and procedure.
- Greg Dillon: The EPA has participated in an air monitoring stress test in preparation for FIFA 2026. EPA coordinated with Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical and KU Emergency Management.
- Kirk Vernon: HeadQuarters KS can now operate virtually. 988 and the Douglas County Crisis Line can now be answered remotely.
- Tony Foster: Starlink is being certified for critical infrastructure connections for radios and other services.
- Shannon Wilson: Looking forward to teaching the upcoming Sheltering Class for the Red Cross.
- Matt Matheis: An Active Threat Tabletop Exercise is scheduled for KU Administration. Looking forward to hosting Severe Weather Night and the CERT Weekend Class. Judd Bowerman is the new EM Specialist for KU.
- Mathew Faulk: the state reached out to Bert Nash to develop a mass casualty emergency response plan. They are working internally to build something that aligns with ESF 6 and 8 and their overall emergency response plan.
- Shannon Wells: Solar panels were installed at Lawrence Humane Society. This resulted in power outage, which was a good experience to test emergency procedure.
- Lynley Sanford: Lecompton superintendent Rance Roberts retired and was replaced by Ryan Davis.
- Jill Jolicoeur: the Extreme Weather Sheltering Plan was tested this past weekend. Significant challenges remain in staffing shelters.
- Karrey Britt: Lead Public Information Officers for FIFA will be from Douglas County, City of Lawrence, Explore Lawrence, and KU. This group will start to meet next week. Groundbreaking for the Judicial and Law Enforcement construction will be January 17.
- Judd Bowerman: Joining the KU Emergency Management Team as the EM Specialist. Judd comes from 13 years working for KU PD and has a master's degree in Homeland Security and Policy.
- Taylor Hall: Lawrence Transit did a risk assessment and developed mitigation planning for assaults on transit workers. This will be added to the safety plan. Thank you to drivers for the work over the past 5 days through the blizzard.

### **Adjourn:**

Brad August called for a motion to adjourn. Greg Gardner so moved, and Mike Patrick seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

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