



**DOUGLAS COUNTY LEPC &  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
111 East Eleventh Street, Unit 200  
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**October 1, 2025**

*Eudora Community Center*

Chair Teri Axman welcomed members of the Douglas County Emergency Management Board/Local Emergency Planning Committee on October 1, 2025.

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

Scott Fewins	Ben Harris	Justin Lee
Vince Avila	Carol Arnold	Shannon Wilson
John Harris	Thomas Willis	Mike Russell
David Ernst	Chad Christie	Mark Dodge
Albania Andrade	Kirk Vernon	Lane Sekavec
Carmen Mills	Rachel Grollmes	Greg Gardner
Monroe Hanson	Tony Foster	Derek Bland
Mike Patrick	Hubert White	Shawn Hanson
Karrey Britt	John Mathis	Teri Axman
James Druen	Matthew Faulk	

**Emergency Management staff included:**

Joshua Taylor	Erin Huneke
John Stipetich	Ellie Hall

**Others attending:** Randa Coate, Alyx Wood, Aleeza Saeed, Ruth DeWitt

**Welcome**

- Teri Axman called the meeting to order, and members introduced themselves.

**Minutes of July 2, 2025:**

- Greg Gardner moved to approve the minutes of the July 2 Full Board Meeting. Mike Russell seconded, and the motion carried.

**LEPC Business:**

- **Membership Approval:** In August, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved the 2025-2026 LEPC Membership and recommended it to state Commission on Emergency Planning & Response (CEPR). EM Staff then sent the membership and a copy of the bylaws to the CEPR. This is an annual, mandated process.
- **Hazardous Materials Updates:** John Stipetich provided a summary of all hazardous materials incidents and emergency calls in the past quarter, with

## DOUGLAS COUNTY LEPC & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD

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additional data provided by Tony Foster in Emergency Communications. Any LEPC member wishing to receive this list may contact John, [jstipetich@dgcoks.gov](mailto:jstipetich@dgcoks.gov).

- **Future Meetings:** EM Staff is soliciting feedback on the structure and content of LEPC meetings. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please reach out.

### **Presentation:**

- Ruth DeWitt from Explore Lawrence and John Stipetich presented on the current status of community planning for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. LEPC members may request the PowerPoint. Please contact John, [jstipetich@dgcoks.gov](mailto:jstipetich@dgcoks.gov). Discussion:
  - Greg Gardner asked about short-term rentals. Ben Harris reported that Douglas County adopted new regulations for short-term rentals last year in anticipation of this event.
  - Greg Gardner asked about funding. John reported that the state had approved money that went directly to KC2026 and will be dispersed from there. It's unclear what we will be able to get locally.
  - Matthew Faulk asked if there is any planning for vehicle rental or rideshare. Ruth shared that the Transportation branch is working on encouraging more people to drive for companies like Uber and Lyft. The big companies and gig workers are harder to communicate with for planning purposes.
  - Greg Gardner asked about road construction. Scott Fewins reported that any projects that can be adjusted or delayed are doing so to accommodate traffic flow and prioritize bike lanes and sidewalks. Some projects are federally funded, and funding deadlines prevent their postponement.
  - John Mathis asked about park & ride locations for bus routes going into Kansas City for events. John reported that the bus hub will be Central Station with no park & ride areas designated at this point.
  - John Mathis asked if local urgent care clinics had been part of the planning. John said not yet, but that the Health and Medical branch is ramping up.
  - Monroe Hanson asked if city bus routes would be changed and disrupted. Ruth DeWitt reported that they would not.
  - Kirk Vernon asked if KU would house visitors in the dorms. John said that once their normal summer operations are planned, open space will most likely be used by additional first responders or FIFA operations members.
  - Greg Gardner asked about security assessments and David Ernst reported that they are in progress for the hotel and training spaces being considered.

### **Staff Updates** – Josh Taylor, John Stipetich, Erin Huneke

- Plans:
  - EOP:
    - The third quarter ESF review took place in August. The fourth quarter review is scheduled for November.

#### 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)

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## DOUGLAS COUNTY LEPC & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD

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- Draft annexes for Drought, Flood, and Fire are now complete. Working groups are being formed to review them and they are on track to be finalized and incorporated into the EOP by the end of 2025.
- IPP: Please continue to encourage partners to complete the survey.
- COOP: No Updates.
- Mitigation: EM has collected promulgation documentation from all jurisdictions.
- Grants:
  - **HMEP:** Status remains the same. The state has approved Douglas County's application for a Commodity Flow Study in 2025-2026, but federal funding is not yet in place.
  - **EMPG:** EM has applied for reimbursement for 2025.
- Mutual Aid Resolution and Regional Resource Sharing Agreement
  - The old Mutual Aid Resolution stated that agencies and jurisdictions requesting mutual aid from Douglas County had to be under an emergency or disaster declaration, which hindered response efforts. The new resolution, passed by the BOCC on September 17, removed this language.
  - The Mid-America Regional Council has developed and approved a Kansas City Regional Resource Sharing Agreement to help ensure mutual aid can be effectively facilitated across functions. This agreement was adopted by the BOCC on September 17.
- Volunteer Groups:
  - All volunteers were able to participate in CPR & Stop the Bleed training in August.
  - ACT: Continues weekly nets. A large group of ACT members attended an open house at EM in July to check out new equipment. We are in the process of purchasing ham equipment for the EM operations trailer.
  - CERT: Volunteers have supported several events, including the Douglas County Fair first aid tent, USD 497's Kids Expo, and the Senior Resource Center's Volunteer Expo. Coming up, they will teach, mentor, and help run the CERT Weekend Class.
  - EOC Support: This group will participate in an exercise in November.
  - Skywarn: Continues monthly nets. A radar interpretation class was held in September.
- Outreach, Training, & Exercises:
  - Outreach:
    - EM is presenting at multiple libraries conferences on the Disaster Asset Concept Program.

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## DOUGLAS COUNTY LEPC & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD

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- EM presented to the Lawrence Police Camp and Teen Academy in July.
- The Fall 2025 CERT Weekend Class is coming up this weekend.
- EM continues to participate in outreach events, recently including several Elementary School family fairs, along with the events mentioned in the CERT section above.
- Trainings:
  - EM helped facilitate several trainings recently, including ICS 300 and 400, both hosted by Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical, and Risk Based Response to Ammonia Emergencies hosted at Consolidated Fire District #1.
  - EM is working on scheduling NCS4's MGT 467 "Sport and Special Event Public Information" course in March 2026.
- Exercises:
  - EM will help to facilitate a workshop with Transportation partners next week.
  - EM is helping to develop an exercise for IT staff in October.
  - An extreme heat exercise is being considered for the future.
  - EM has requested bids to design a tabletop exercise to test the active threat and mass casualty plans in April of 2026.

### **Information Sharing:**

- Teri Axman, LMH Health: A consultant has just completed a security risk assessment on all LMH Health facilities. Cameras, panic buttons, and lighting are the biggest concerns. The report provided timing and cost assessments and will be presented to senior leadership this week, with a November kickoff for improvements.
- David Ernst, Lawrence Police Department: World Cup planning is the main focus.
- Carol Arnold, American Red Cross: ARC is on stand-by during hurricane season for sheltering operations. Nationally and locally they are doing surprise practice runs to continue to think about and improve how quickly they can respond and expand. ARC continues to be available for rehydration, cooling, and sheltering operations.
- Shannon Wilson, American Red Cross: ARC is working on sheltering agreements within the county. Yesterday, Shannon went back to Brandon Woods for the reopening of the section of the building damaged in the fire in August 2024.
- Justin Lee, Eudora Fire: They will hold a community open house on Saturday from 9am-noon.
- John Mathis, Douglas County Consolidated Fire District #1: Working with Willow Springs on Firefighter 1 & 2 trainings. Chief Snodgrass continues to improve the

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## DOUGLAS COUNTY LEPC & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD

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resource management process, which can translate to more types of equipment, disasters, and planned events.

- Matthew Faulk, Bert Nash: Their internal alert system is getting updated to include a panic button app for all staff. This system comes with 24/7 monitoring. It may trigger some false alerts initially as staff learn the new process. Bert Nash is also in the process of aligning ESF 6 & 8 functions with their everyday emergency response functions to achieve better integration in respect to roles and responsibilities.
- Scott Fewins, City of Lawrence Municipal Services & Operations: They are working on getting construction sped up around the hospital. Google Fiber is moving into Lawrence; expect hits to utilities. They are working to minimize the impact of that operation.
- Vince Avila, Evergy: All locations have updated emergency action plans. They will be doing their first fire drill in a number of years in Lawrence in October. Additionally, they are working on increased physical security, both for their trucks and locations.
- Lane Sekavec, Union Pacific: They will schedule a chlorine transportation training next Spring or Fall in Kansas City.
- Mike Patrick, Baldwin City Police: The Maple Leaf Festival is around the corner; they are expecting 30,000 people.
- Rachel Grollmes, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health: They are holding an event in October where they will report on progress in objectives of the Community Health Plan.
- Karrey Britt, Douglas County & Public Information Officers Group: MyStrength, a telehealth mental health service that is provided free to Douglas County residents, has been integrated into Teladoc Health. Though the name has changed, the service is still available in the same manner. The Senior Resource Center has just been absorbed into Douglas County as a new department. Finally, a core group from the PIO Group meets weekly to discuss World Cup; be sure to push any media requests to your PIO.
- Ben Harris, Douglas County Zoning & Codes: They have applied for two grants, one is a buy-out grant and one is bank restoration, both related to flooding. They have also put out an RFQ for a full diagnostic of the zoning code.
- John Harris, Amateur Radio: Ham operators will support a bike race event on October 12 and will use Emergency Management's repeater.

### **Adjourn:**

Teri Axman called for a motion to adjourn. Greg Gardner so moved, and Lane Sekavec seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

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