



DOUGLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD

111 East Eleventh Street, Unit 200
Lawrence, Kansas 66044-2909
Office: (785) 832-5259
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February 4, 2026

Executive Board members and Emergency Management met virtually.

- LEPC Board Members present: Teri Axman, David Ernst, Greg Gardner
- Emergency Management staff present: Robert Bieniecki, Erin Huneke, John Stipetich
- Other attendees: Lane Sekavec, Monroe Hanson, James Chiselom

Minutes – Teri Axman entertained a motion to receive the virtual meeting minutes for December 3, 2025. David Ernst made the motion to accept and was seconded by Greg Gardner. The motion carried.

Executive Committee Business – Erin Huneke

- April Full Board: The next Full Board meeting will take place at Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Station and will feature a presentation by Mindy Andrasevits on Lithium-Ion batteries.

Staff Updates – Robert Bieniecki, John Stipetich

- Planning –
 - EOP:
 - 2026 ESF reviews will focus on gap analysis.
 - Progress was made on the County Department/Facility Emergency Response plan and is in the facility mapping phase.
 - IPP: In April, EM Staff will present survey results at the full board meeting (IPPW).
 - COOP: EM is part of the beta testing program for the State's replacement for the BOLD planning system.
- Grants—
 - EMPG: No updates.
 - HMEP:
 - 2025-2026 project: An RFP went out for a Commodity Flow Study and only one bid was received. The deadline was extended and 2 more bids are expected.
 - 2026-2027 project: Applied for a full-scale hazardous materials exercise.
- FIFA World Cup Planning—
 - Lawrence2026 Unified Command leaders presented to the Lawrence City Commission on 1/20.
 - Lawrence MSO, Lawrence Transit, and downtown partners are looking at downtown beautification projects, a transportation hub, and welcome activities for fans.
 - Explore Lawrence is moving forward with planning for watch parties and community events.

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), Emergency Support Function (ESF)

IPPW: Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop

EOC: Emergency Operations Center

KDEM: Kansas Division of Emergency Management



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- No official word yet from FIFA on whether Lawrence is hosting a World Cup team. An announcement is expected by 2/11.
 - Volunteers—
 - Radio Etiquette training for all volunteers was held on 1/13.
 - Skywarn basic Spotter training was held last night, with training for support personnel next week.
 - ACT volunteers drafted new net procedures which EM is finalizing. They include weekly testing of both VHF and UHF repeaters.
 - Erin ran and recorded an IS-2200 training for EOC Support volunteers that can be used in future.
 - CERT will attend an Alzheimer's Awareness training later in February.
 - Outreach, Training, & Exercises—
 - EM is hosting MGT-467 Sport & Special Event Public Information & Emergency Notification course in March.
 - EM is hosting an Extreme Heat Readiness Workshop on March 9.
 - Severe Weather Night is scheduled for March 12, 7pm at Capitol Federal Hall.
 - Severe Weather Awareness Week will be March 2-6, with the statewide tornado drill taking place on Wednesday, March 4 at 10am.
 - The next CERT Weekend Class will be April 17-19.
 - An Active Threat Tabletop Exercise is planned for April 9. Along with this exercise will be an optional IAP training on April 8 and a PIO Social Media virtual exercise in late April.
 - John Stipetich, Josh Taylor, and Kari Wempe attended a pipeline safety awareness training in January.
 - Other Updates—
 - Construction at the Public Safety Building is still on schedule.
 - On 2/2, EM supported Consolidated Fire District #1 while they responded to a structure fire in a rural part of the county.

Close – Teri Axman

A motion was made by Greg Gardner to adjourn the meeting. David Ernst seconded. Meeting adjourned.

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