



**DOUGLAS COUNTY LEPC &  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
111 East Eleventh Street, Unit 200  
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**January 7, 2026**

*Baldwin City Golf Course Clubhouse*

Chair Teri Axman welcomed members of the Douglas County Emergency Management Board/Local Emergency Planning Committee on January 7, 2026.

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

Lane Sekavec	Vince Avila	Karrey Britt
Monroe Hanson	Scott Fewins	Shannon Wilson
Chad Christie	Ben Harris	Rachel Grollmes
Teri Axman	James Druen	Kay Johnson
Mike Pattrick	Dustin Deathe	Hubert White
John Harris	Chris LaMar	
Derek Bland	Thomas Willis	

**Emergency Management staff included:**

John Stipetich	Ellie Hall
Erin Huneke	

**Others attending:** Mark Dodge, Megan Bridges, Natalie Gerety

**Welcome:**

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

**Minutes of October 1, 2025:**

- Lane Sekavec moved to approve the minutes of the October 1 Full Board Meeting. Vince Avila seconded, and the motion carried.

**LEPC Business:**

- **Hazardous Materials Updates:** John Stipetich provided a summary of all hazardous materials incidents and emergency calls in the past quarter. Any LEPC member wishing to receive this list may contact John, [jstipetich@dgcoks.gov](mailto:jstipetich@dgcoks.gov).
- **Compliance Survey:** The annual LEPC compliance survey was sent to EM staff by the state. Staff completed the survey in December, certifying that our LEPC is complying with activity requirements.

**Presentation:**

- Chief Mike Pattrick of the Baldwin City Police Department provided a presentation about large-scale event planning, citing Baldwin City's multiple large annual events. Chief Pattrick highlighted the importance of planning and shared how they have responded to different challenges.

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## **Staff Updates:**

- Plans:
  - EOP:
    - The fourth quarter ESF review cycle was completed in November.
    - The Drought, Flood, and Fire annexes were completed and were incorporated into the EOP.
    - Significant progress was made on the County Department/Facility Emergency Response Plan, and this work will continue in 2026.
    - DCEM will be participating in the state's beta testing effort of the platform to replace the current BOLD planning system.
  - IPP: Please continue to encourage partners to complete the survey. We will hold the annual IPP Workshop at the April Full Board meeting.
  - COOP: Many COOPs will also be affected by the state's shift away from the BOLD planning program.
  - Mitigation: No updates.
- Grants:
  - **HMEP:** DCEM received its award for the 2025-2026 project, a Commodity Flow Study. An RFP will go out in early January. Applications are now being accepted for 2026-2027 projects
  - **EMPG:** The level of the reimbursement award for 2025 remains uncertain due to delays at the federal level.
- FIFA World Cup Planning:
  - The full Kansas City match schedule and teams are now available.
  - Team base camp decisions are expected late January.
  - The Culture & Experiences branch is working on plans for community events centered around matches.
  - The KC2026 Connector Bus will be running from Lawrence Central Station to Fan Fest in downtown KC every 20 minutes.
  - DCEM is working on an EOC activation plan for this event.
- Construction Updates: EM expects to move in mid-May. Staff met with IT to discuss how and where to move technology.
- Volunteer Groups:
  - In 2025, EM welcomed 16 new volunteers. In total, we had 58 team members perform about 975 hours of service in training and outreach.
  - 4 current volunteers earned their technician class license and have joined the Amateur Communications Team. EM is developing new severe weather activation procedures for ACT.
  - Skywarn and CERT have several trainings coming up in January and February.

### 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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- Outreach, Training, & Exercises:
  - Outreach:
    - In October, EM staff and volunteers participated in Prairie Park Elementary's Trunk or Treat event, as well as the Judicial and Law Enforcement Center's Trick or Treat event.
    - In December, Josh Taylor presented to a Missouri libraries conference on the Libraries as Disaster Assets program.
    - Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 2-6, with the Statewide Tornado Drill occurring on Wednesday, March 4 at 10am.
    - Severe Weather Night will be held on March 12 at KU's Capitol Federal Hall, featuring a storm talk by the National Weather Service.
    - The Spring CERT Weekend Class will be April 17-19 in Lawrence.
  - Trainings:
    - EM is hosting several upcoming trainings, including G2300 and MGT 467. A follow-up email with all training info will be sent after this meeting.
  - Exercises:
    - Staff and the contractor Ascentra have held initial meetings to plan the active threat/mass casualty tabletop exercise, planned for April 9.
    - Staff are working with agency partners to coordinate an Extreme Heat Preparedness Seminar/Tabletop Exercise for local businesses, parks and rec departments, and other leaders March 9 at the Fairgrounds.
  - Other Updates:
    - The Operations Trailer has had two amateur radios and one 800 mhz radio installed. It is now fully operational for activation.
    - Personnel Updates:
      - In October, EM welcomed Kirsten Rhoads as a new Duty Officer.
      - Ellie Hall is finishing up her internship next week.
      - Erin Huneke will be transitioning to a new role in the county in May.

### **Information Sharing:**

- Teri Axman, LMH Health: The hospital is very full with COVID and flu cases; Incident Command has been activated since late 2025. Teri stressed the importance of planning and after action reviews during the height of COVID for this kind of circumstance.
- Mike Patrick, Baldwin City Police Department: The 2026 Baldwin City Independence Day event will take place on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

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- John Harris, Amateur Radio/EM: Updates in the EM offices, the trailer, and to the repeaters mean that we have excellent backup options for radio.
- Natalie Gerety, Kansas Division of Emergency Management: Natalie is now the regional coordinator for our area.
- Shannon Wilson, American Red Cross: Winter has been busy for the ARC so far due to home fires due to space heaters.
- Karrey Britt, Douglas County Public Information Officer: Lawrence2026.com is up and running as the central website for all things World Cup.
- Tom Willis, Eudora Police Department: Eudora is experiencing a huge amount of building right now (homes and apartment units).
- James Druen, KU Police Department: Focusing on finishing up basketball season.
- Ben Harris, Douglas County Zoning and Codes: They are getting a lot of questions about using farm fields as RV sites during World Cup, so they are meeting with the City of Lawrence and MSO to discuss limitations and options in order to create standards for such possibilities. They have also hired a company for a diagnostic study to review the entire code to find ways to strengthen it.
- Vince Avila, Evergy: In preparation for World Cup, Evergy is bolting down manhole covers in downtown KC and testing substation equipment. Large parking lots like at Arrowhead stadium are used as staging after large storm events, but won't be available for long periods next summer, so Evergy is working on alternate plans.

### **Adjourn:**

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

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