



DOUGLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD

111 East Eleventh Street, Unit 200
Lawrence, Kansas 66044-2909
Office: (785) 832-5259
Fax: (785) 832-5101

March 4, 2026

Executive Board members and Emergency Management met virtually.

- LEPC Board Members present: Teri Axman, David Ernst, Greg Gardner, Bradley August, John Mathis
- Emergency Management staff present: Robert Bieniecki, Erin Huneke, John Stipetich
- Other attendees: Natalie Gerety

Minutes – Teri Axman entertained a motion to receive the virtual meeting minutes for February 4, 2026. David Ernst made the motion to accept and was seconded by John Mathis. 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 as well as the Integrated Preparedness Plan Workshop.
- Tier II reports are due to the LEPC by the end of March. EM has been receiving reports and will report on progress at the April Full Board meeting.

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.
 - The state is replacing its online planning system. EM is participating in beta testing. This change may affect some plan structures, data requirements, and submission processes.
 - IPP: In April, EM Staff will present survey results at the full board meeting (IPPW).
 - COOP: These plans are also part of the online state planning system, changing this year.
- Grants—
 - EMPG: No updates.
 - HMEP:
 - 2025-2026 project: MCM Consulting was selected to perform the Commodity Flow Study. They will be in town in April to do site surveys and will report to the LEPC with results later this year.

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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- 2026-2027 project: Applied for a full-scale hazardous materials exercise. Robert will present on the project application to the CEPR later this week.
- FIFA World Cup Planning—
 - Algeria has announced it will use Rock Chalk Park as its team basecamp.
 - The city of Lawrence and Explore Lawrence are evaluating bids for event organizers.
 - Greg Gardner asked about numbers of expected visitors. David Ernst answered that we expect the county to be at full capacity with hotels and short-term rentals, plus camping.
- NCAA Tournament Planning –
 - If KU advances to the Elite Eight and beyond, Lawrence Police Department activation will take place at the Alternate EOC, supported by EM. The EM Trailer will be activated downtown.
 - EM Volunteers will support accountability, aid stations, and the EOC.
 - Planning has begun about how EM can best support LPD.
- Volunteers—
 - Skywarn: All volunteer radios were updated and are being reissued so the team is ready to deploy. They will participate in an activation exercise on 4/7.
 - CERT: Participated in an Alzheimer's Awareness training, taught by someone from the Kansas City Alzheimer's Association chapter. CERT will hold a CERT Weekend Class planning meeting and presentation skills training on 3/19.
 - ACT: Weekly net procedures have been updated to include testing of both UHF and VHF repeaters. On 3/31, ACT members will have a severe weather activation training.
 - EOC Support: This team meets tomorrow for a review training in the Alternate EOC.
- Outreach
 - EM is hosting an Extreme Heat Readiness Workshop on March 9.
 - Severe Weather Night is scheduled for March 12, 7pm at Capitol Federal Hall.
 - This week is Severe Weather Awareness Week, with the statewide tornado drill taking place on Wednesday, March 4 at 10am. Inclement weather may result in cancellation.
 - On 3/14, two Duty Officers will table at a burn education event at the Extension Office.
 - On 3/25, Robert and John will present at a Habitat for Humanity event for new and prospective homeowners about home preparedness.
 - The next CERT Weekend Class will be April 17-19.
- Training & Exercises —
 - EM is hosting MGT-467 Sport & Special Event Public Information & Emergency Notification course in March.
 - 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.

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- Construction—
 - Construction at the Public Safety Building is still on schedule. At the Judicial and Law Enforcement Center, connection has started between the addition and the existing building.

Close – Teri Axman

A motion was made by Bradley August to adjourn the meeting. Greg Gardner seconded. Meeting adjourned.

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