



**DOUGLAS COUNTY LEPC &  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
111 East Eleventh Street, Unit 200  
Lawrence, KS 66044-2909  
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**April 1, 2026**

*Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Station 5*

Chair Teri Axman welcomed members of the Douglas County Emergency Management Board/Local Emergency Planning Committee on April 1, 2026.

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

|               |              |                 |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Lane Sekavec  | Karrey Britt | John Mathis     |
| Monroe Hanson | Kay Johnson  | Chad Voigt      |
| Chad Christie | Hubert White | Terry Elmer     |
| Teri Axman    | Brad August  | Carol Arnold    |
| Mike Pattrick | Justin Lee   | Felice Lavergne |
| Derek Bland   | Tony Foster  | Kay Johnson     |
| Vince Avila   | Mike Russell | Matthew Faulk   |
| Ben Harris    | David Ernst  |                 |
| James Druen   | Shaun Hanson |                 |

**Emergency Management staff included:**

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Robert Bieniecki | Erin Huneke     |
| Josh Taylor      | Aourell Le Guen |

**Others attending:** Bud Waugh, Devin Waugh, Natalie Gerety

**Welcome:**

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

**Minutes of January 7, 2026:**

Bradley August moved to approve the minutes of the January 7 Full Board Meeting. Chad Christie seconded, Mike Russell abstained, and all others voted in favor to approve.

**Presentation:**

Mindy Andrasevits from the National Fire Protection Association presented on Lithium-Ion Battery safety.

**LEPC Business:**

- **Hazardous Materials Updates:** Robert Bieniecki 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 Stipetich, [jstipetich@dgcoks.gov](mailto:jstipetich@dgcoks.gov).

## DOUGLAS COUNTY LEPC & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD

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- **Tier II:** Erin Huneke gave a review of the Tier II process and 2025 reporting.

### **IPPW:**

- Josh Taylor presented the 2026 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:**

- Plans:
  - EOP:
    - EOP and ESF reviews for 2026 will focus on gap analysis.
    - DCEM is participating in the state's beta testing effort of the platform to replace the current BOLD planning system. The new system will roll out in summer 2026.
  - COOP: These plans will also be affected by the state's shift away from the BOLD planning program.
  - Mitigation: No updates.
- Grants:
  - **HMEP:** The 2025-2026 project, a Commodity Flow Study, is underway with contractor MCM Consulting. They will be working on-site later this month. The 2026-2027 project, a full-scale exercise, was approved for \$80,000.
  - **EMPG:** No updates.
- Events:
  - NCAA planning was underway until KU left the tournament.
  - FIFA World Cup: Local agencies continue to meet with regional planning groups, KC2026, and FIFA representatives. Site security and escort plans are being finalized for Rock Chalk Park and Algeria's team hotel, as well as security plans for the central bus station which will be a shuttle hub. Explore Lawrence is working with local event coordinators to plan watch parties. Visit [score.lawrence.com](https://score.lawrence.com) for local information.
- Construction Updates: EM expects to move in the week of May 19. If the facility is not ready on time, the Alternate EOC facility will be the hub for World Cup.
- Volunteer Groups:
  - All volunteers met for a radio etiquette and damage assessment training in January.
  - ACT met in March about the State of Kansas RACES program and new severe weather activation procedures. They will meet in May for Event Support.

#### 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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- CERT members attended an Alzheimer's Awareness training in February, and planned for the CERT Weekend Class in March.
- Skywarn members completed basic spotter training and support personnel training in January. Next week they will play in an activation exercise.
- New EOC Support members took a virtual IS 2200 course presented by Erin in February and the whole team attended an Alternate EOC training in March. In late May they will attend an orientation at the new EOC.
- Outreach, Training, & Exercises:
  - Outreach:
    - EM coordinated an Extreme Heat Preparedness Workshop with many local partners on 3/9.
    - Severe Weather Night took place on 3/12 at KU with a presentation from the National Weather Service and preparedness tabling.
    - On 3/25, Robert and John presented on Preparedness and Fire Safety to a group from Habitat for Humanity.
    - In April, EM will participate in or present/teach at a variety of events, including a World Cup Community Resource Fair, You Are the Help Training, the Spring 2026 CERT Weekend Class, Douglas County Discovery Day, and a resource event with the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.
  - Trainings:
    - In March, EM hosted the Sport and Special Event Public Information Class.
    - In April, the contractor Ascenttra will put on an Incident Action Plan training course.
  - Exercises:
    - On 4/6, EM staff will participate in the Douglas County Tornado Drill (delayed from the Statewide Tornado Drill in March due to weather).
    - On April 9, the contractor Ascenttra will facilitate an Active Threat/Mass Casualty tabletop exercise with many county partners, focusing on the World Cup.
    - On April 13, EM staff and partners from several county agencies will participate in a World Cup tabletop exercise put on by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.
    - On 4/28, Ascenttra will present a virtual Social Media Drill focused on World Cup for area Public Information Officers.

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### **Information Sharing:**

- Nathalie Gerety, Kansas Division of Emergency management – a new State Emergency Operations Center space will be ready in May. The state will work to catch up on pre-requisites for training once the FEMA site opens back up.
- Vince Avia, Evergy – Working on repairs ahead of the World Cup, replacing poles and transformer structures in downtown Lawrence. They completed an annual storm tabletop exercise a head of schedule to be ready for severe weather season.
- Robert Bieneicki, Emergency Management – EM has a new intern, Aourell Le Guen, and two more interns will start in May. Erin's last day with EM will be 5/11 and a new Program Specialist will be coming on in the next week or two.
- Shaun Hanson, USD 497 – Centennial is currently being renovated, and both high school tracks will be renovated over the summer.
- Chad Christie, ICL – Thank you to Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical who participated in an unannounced drill at their facility. They are looking to bring in all of the stations for tours next year.
- John Mathis, Consolidated Fire District #1 – We are halfway through grassfire season. Working on bringing an EMT class to the county that would be open to all county fire departments.
- Lane Sekavec, Union Pacific – the state is hosting an ammonia class in Wichita on 4/6, Scott City on 4/8, and Beloit on 4/11.
- Carol Arnold, American Red Cross – The ARC can support not only victims of housefires, but also first responders at grassfires. Remember to reach out.

### **Adjourn:**

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

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