



DOUGLAS COUNTY
Local Emergency Planning Committee
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Douglas County Public Safety Building
3605 East 25th Street
Lawrence 66046

July 1, 2026

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

LEPC Board Members present in the meeting included:

Greg Gardner	David Ernst	Monroe Hanson
Teri Axman	Mike Patrick	Ethan Unfred
Chad Christie	Chris Johnston	Mike Russell
Scott Fewins	Vince Avila	John Harris
Jamie Holting	Shaun Hanson	John Mathis
James Druen	Hubert White	Ethan Unfred
Shannon Wells	Tony Foster	Shannon Wells
Kerry Britt	Justin Lee	

Emergency Management staff included:

Joshua Taylor	John Stipetich
Robert Bieniecki	Grace Gutierrez
Eliza Fewins	Molly Adams
Aourell Le Guen	

Others attending:

Cori Wallace	Taylor Mah
Natalie Gerety	Lindsay Bishop
Taylor Zook	Ruth DeWitt
Kim Anspach	

Welcome

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

Minutes of April 2, 2025:

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

- Teri Axman moved to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2026 Full Board Meeting. Mike Russell seconded, and the motion carried.

2026 Preparedness Partner Awards:

- Each year, the LEPC presents awards to community agencies or individuals who demonstrate a strong commitment to emergency preparedness and partnership over the past year. This year's awards were presented to:
 - Individual: Ruth DeWitt, Explore Lawrence
 - Organization: Lawrence Police Department

Executive Committee Business:

- The 2026-2027 Executive Committee was presented for approval. TERI moved to approve the committee membership and Mike Russell seconded and the board voted to approve.
 - 2026-2027 Executive Committee:
 - Chair: Greg Gardner
 - Vice Chair: John Mathis
 - Teri Axman
 - David Ernst
 - Tony Foster
- Teri Axman was recognized for her service as chair.

Bylaws Update: There were no changes to the bylaws.

Staff Updates – Josh Taylor, John Stipetich

- **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP):**

EOP reviews are complete for 2026, except for some final Q&A with ESF 6 (09 July). Updates to ESFs are finishing up, and EVERBRIDGE contacts are being updated. Development of a Mass sheltering plan (Complete) and work group's first meeting (10 June). Research and Development/Update of adjacent plans to the aforementioned plan (Disaster Recovery Shelter) has been initiated for Shelter (severe weather and warming/cooling), Point of Distribution (POD), Logistical Staging Area (LSA), Feeding Site(s), Resource Center, Volunteer Reception Center (VRC), and Family Assistance Center (FAC).

Expect EOP updates in Q4 when the State switches in September to a new system/platform (GIS) and format (no more KSPlanning/BOLD system). There will also be changes to the State's planning standards. Expect emails with possible questions as applicable to said changes.

Significant progress was also made on the County Department/Facility Emergency Response Plan. The project has transitioned from development into the facility mapping and early implementation phase. Plan templates and department-specific folders are now available on the County Intranet, and initial distribution to departments

and facilities is underway. Additional department engagement is still planned for Q4 2026 as facilities begin applying the framework.

- **Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP):**

The IPPW is complete and has been uploaded to KETS. The next full IPP(W) workshop and planning cycle is scheduled for 2027, with implementation in 2028. EM continues to encourage LEPC member participation in Priority Tasks and coordination activities. Quarterly surveys will continue in 2026 to maintain visibility on progress and sustain partner coordination.

- **Continuity of Operations (COOP):**

Coordination with the State of Kansas is ongoing as Douglas County participates in the rollout of the 2026 COOP Beta program. EM will continue to identify potential impacts of updated State COOP requirements and assess transition considerations for departments and partners. Note: No more KSPlanning/BOLD system by September.

- **Mitigation Plan:**

No significant mitigation planning actions are anticipated beyond records maintenance and coordination as needed. A notice of funding for BRIC grants has been released by the State and sent to partners (no applications from DGCO at this time).

- **Outreach:**

EM has received multiple outreach requests and continues to meet with and provide information as requested.

Hazmat 04/01-06/30

- 3/30: Assisted LPD with an unknown substance investigation.
- 4/7: Contacted by a fraternity house near campus for 5 gallons of degreaser dumped by a cleaning contractor in their lawn.
- 5/20: 700 Block of Maine Street, suspected Sodium Hydroxide leaking from a utility truck. Leak stopped and runoff mitigated before reaching storm drain.
- 6/18: Kaw Water Treatment Plant, activated carbon offloaded from transport vehicle. Product was non-toxic, originally called out as a structure fire because it looked like black smoke.
- 6/30: Chemical suicide using Helium in Lawrence.
- Others
 - CO Alarm: 6
 - Fuel Spill: 4
 - Gas Leak: 28
 - Gas Odor: 20

FIFA World Cup

- Team Algeria was in town 6/7-6/30

- Supported 18 large community events, including watch parties and annual community events in Eudora, Baldwin City, and Lawrence
- 2 more watch parties this week

Volunteer Groups

- All:
 - 5/28 New EOC open house
 - Operations Trailer deployment drills scheduled for August
- ACT:
 - Reworked the on-call net control schedules, added more people to the net control rotation.
 - 5/19 Event Support training
- CERT
 - 5/7 Med Ops review training
- Skywarn
 - 4/7 Activation Exercise
 - 3 activations in May

Outreach

- 4/9 World Cup Community Resource Fair at Carnegie Building
- 4/17 You Are The Help training at KU
- 4/17-4/19 CERT Weekend Class
- 4/21 Douglas County Discovery Day
- 6/12 Watkins Museum Weather Preparedness Talk with NWS
- 7/13 LKPD Teen Police Academy
- 7/31 LKPD Kids Camp
- 8/8 USD 497 Kids Expo

Training and Exercises

- IAP Training 4/8
- Active Threat/Mass Casualty TTX 4/9
- Social Media Drill 4/28
- EOC training for ESF Partners 5/15

Information Sharing:

- Teri Axman reports LMH Health is busy but is business as usual.
- John Mathis reports Douglas County Consolidated Fire District #1 is participating in a lot of planning which translates into the greater needs of the community. They have an EMT class open to the community, the first one hosted in Douglas County in years. They're working on creating official documents on how organizations interact in cases of water rescues. They're also developing codes for response to battery storage incidents.
- Vince Avila reports Evergy is nine years into a twelve-year pole inspection plan, with significant poles being changed supporting resilience and improved reliability.

- John Harris plans to deploy EM trailer and check radio equipment in different locations across Douglas County.
- James Druen reports University of Kansas Police Department is prepping for football and move-in season and possibly concert on the hill in October.
- Shannon Wells reports Lawrence Humane Society is collaborating with Josh Taylor on the mass sheltering plan and that the animal shelter is having its having fire system replaced.
- David Ernst, University of Kansas Police Department, reports that if Team Algeria returns to KC they want to return to Lawrence but that some logistical hurdles may prevent that. Ernst reports that no significant incidents occurred while the Algerian team was here; no arrests; LPD “did it the Lawrence way.”
- Kerry Britt reports that the Joint Information Center has been meeting weekly, next Public Information Officer meeting is scheduled for July 9th. She highlights the Lawrence/Algeria connection, stating the Lawrence story is the only base camp story nationally, with other team stories focusing on match sites.
- Mike Patrick reports that Baldwin City Police Department is anticipating more visitors for the Independence Day celebration than in years past and is working on a traffic plan to avoid gridlock after the celebration. They don’t have enough officers for every street and appreciate mutual aid in the event. The Maple Leaf Festival is coming up in October.
- Justin Lee reports that Eudora is installing five heated and lighted community boxes with AEDS, Stop the Bleed Kits and Narcan. The boxes are locked and can be unlocked via a code obtained from calling dispatch.
- Jamie Hofling reports that Douglas County Sustainability is expanding the use of solar energy to mitigate climate change, with some panels being installed at Public Works, the Judicial and Law Enforcement Center, and the Public Safety Building. They also have heat event preparedness and cold weather training to come.
- Scott Fewins with City of Lawrence MSO reports ongoing FIFA planning, construction on Iowa Street, offers Baldwin the use of some traffic barriers, and is on track to move to a new facility this fall.
- Ethan Unfred reports business as usual with Black Hills Energy but notes trees have fallen from recent storms.
- Monroe Hanson of United Way of Kaw Valley reports they are working on heat safety preparedness and recommends branded ice packs for tabling at events. They’re also co-leading the Douglas County Back-to-School drive through the first week of August.
- Tony Foster reports Emergency Communications Center has had an eventful 90 days. They successfully moved a live 911 center without missing a single 911 call. He also noted that they experienced some challenges regarding radio channel uses during multiple simultaneously occurring events in the county.
- Robert Bieniecki reports Douglas County Emergency Management currently has 44 outdoor warning sirens but has identified a space west of Lawrence that

necessitates an additional siren due to population increases.

Adjourn:

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